



Bethersden Bulletin

NEWSLETTER 3
4TH OCTOBER 2021

Bethersden Primary School, School Road, Bethersden, Ashford, Kent, TN26 3AH

Headteacher's message

Last week's attendance

96.03%

This week's attendance

94.70%

Year to date
attendance

96.36%

We are aiming for
excellent attendance.

It has been another couple of exciting weeks in school with so many interesting lessons being taught. Our new Bumblebee Class are continuing to build their confidence and learning behaviours well. We have welcomed Buster Gibbons back to school and this year he is teaching Badger Class how to play the ukulele, we look forward to hearing them perform later in the year.

On Wednesday, 6th October, I am delighted to say that the Friends of Bethersden School (FOBS) will be holding their Annual General Meeting in the school hall at 2pm. I would really encourage you to join us as we look at the fundraising opportunities and priorities for the year ahead. All of this has been on hold over the last year and a half so it is really important that we have a positive year ahead. FOBS provide funds to buy things for the children that we simply do not have the money in the school budget for. In the past this has included trips to the pantomime, rewards and funds for classes to name a few. Every parent and family member is automatically a member and therefore invited to attend the meeting and have your say. Please do come along at 2pm, by attending you will not be 'roped in' to running stalls or attending events - we hope that you will be enthused by the plans and want to help out.

On Friday of this week we will be holding a Harvest Giving Day. Children are invited to come to school in their own clothes in return for a donation of food for the Ashford Food Bank. Items that we would like you to donate include tinned goods, dried pasta and toiletries such as toothpaste and deodorants. Thank you in advance for donating generously to support those in need at this time, this act of giving is important in developing children's understanding of charity and compassion.

Looking forward to seeing you on Wednesday at the FOBS meeting.

Best wishes,

Mr Stuart Gawthorpe

Headteacher

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Headteacher's message
- 2 What's been happening at Bethersden
- 3 What's been happening at Bethersden
- 4 What's been happening at Bethersden
- 5 Excellence Awards
- 6 Bethersden Literacy Stars
- 6 Birthdays
- 7 Dates for your diary

What's been happening at Bethersden Primary School

What have Bumblebee, and Owl Class been learning?

Bumblebee class have had a very busy few weeks filled with plenty of fun and lots of learning. We have been doing some incredible work in Maths, learning all about our numbers up to 5 and how to write them. We have also been looking at more and less. We have also been working very hard in our Read Writing Excellence lessons, where we have been continuing to learn new sounds and we have become very quick with our speed sounds. We have already reached a very exciting mile stone as we are now learning to blend and we are starting to be able to read some CVC words. We have also been focusing on our letter formation. In our wider learning, we have been looking at the 'Enormous Turnip' and how team work makes the dream work. We then looked at 'Little Red Riding Hood' and learnt that we must not talk to strangers. We have also had some fantastic adventures on the field looking for signs of autumn.

Owl Class have been busy settling into their new routines and it is wonderful how they all join us with a smile each morning. Learning begins as soon as they enter the classroom with fun activities designed to develop their fine motor skills. In Maths we have been busy learning about greater than and less than and the symbols that represent this. We have also been ordering numbers correctly and learning about ordinal numbers such as first, second, third etc. In our Art lesson this week we made some amazing "crazy hair" pictures and used a variety of patterns to decorate our hair, we looked very crazy! We enjoyed listening to the story of the Three Little Pigs this week and had great fun acting the story out to each other and sequencing the story in our books. On a Friday children have the opportunity to practise their writing skills with an 'Inspired to write' task, most recently we have been thinking about beautiful Autumn days! In Science we have been thinking about how the weather changes through the seasons and have taken our first set of recordings to compare as the year progresses.

What's been happening at Bethersden Primary School

Deer Class have continued to learn with enthusiasm and dedication, so much so that they were awarded an Excellence certificate as a whole class in assembly last week. We were very proud of them and the certificate has pride of place in the classroom.

In English, we have been looking at non-chronological reports and their key features. We have been writing and publishing our own on the capital cities of the UK, so linking nicely to our work in Geography too.

A highlight was also the visit to the church with Reverend Mike, as part of our RE learning on Christian places of worship.

In Science our focus this term is the topic of Light. We have been looking at how shadows are made and we even went on a shadow hunt around school. Luckily, the sun (our light source) was present for most of it.

It has also been exciting to start learning a new language, French. We have spent some time learning how to ask how someone is and also how to reply. We can't wait to practise some more!

What have Deer and Otter Class been learning?

Otter Class have continued to enjoy learning about "The Lost Thing" in our English lessons over the past two weeks. We have focused particularly on using speech punctuation correctly to write conversations between characters, and write from different characters' viewpoints. Our descriptive language and understanding of narrative writing is developing well and we are enjoying the many different facets of the story. In SPaG-focussed lessons, we have used comparative conjunctions to link our ideas and have been introduced to the present perfect tense - something we've used before without even realising it! In Maths, we have continued to study place value, though we had an interesting detour into Roman numerals! We have worked on rounding to the nearest ten and hundred, adding and subtracting thousands, and representing four-digit numbers in different ways. Our Mental Maths starter sessions have explored number sequences and different techniques for subtracting. Our Science work has seen us make our own primitive telephones using string and plastic cups! We have learnt more about how sound travels through vibrations, explaining as best we could how our friend was able to hear our voice when we spoke into one cup and they held another to their ear. In Geography, we have continued to discuss how settlements and land use have changed over time - this week, we used Google Maps to get a bird's eye view of different ways in which land is used in Bethersden. Next week, we hope to be able to explore this for ourselves, in person. In Athletics, we have thought about our own strengths and weaknesses, to take part in small team events involving different disciplines: sprinting, long distance running, jumping and throwing. This has not only been good fun but has allowed us to apply the skills and techniques we have practised in previous sessions. In Computing, we have experimented with different ways of formatting a Word document. This has involved simple skills such as changing font size and colour, to more advanced functions such as adding a watermark to a piece of work, or writing in superscript. The term seems to be flying by, so we must be having fun!

What's been happening at Bethersden Primary School

Badger Class are making the most of the sunny weather we've had over the last couple of weeks, with as much outdoor learning as possible. In Science, the children have been filming videos of various characters from history explaining their geocentric and heliocentric theories of the solar system, including early humans, Galileo and Newton. In PE we have been developing our team building skills combined with basic map reading as part of orienteering. The map reading skills also linked to Geography work on the local environment and resources, with a field trip to Bethersden on Monday to find examples of man-made and natural features. We are also adopting a musical focus as we have embarked on learning the ukulele, with weekly lessons now scheduled throughout the school year.

What have Badger and Fox Class been learning?

It has been another busy few weeks in **Fox Class**. In English, we have started our new class text: 'Moby-Dick'. Having spent time examining the book cover, we were then introduced to our narrator. We analysed the introduction, and learnt that Ishmael is a determined and courageous man with a passion for the sea. We also found out about whaling. We used quotations from the text to write about the significance of this "big industry" within the story. In Maths, we have been revising the use of column addition and subtraction to answer problem solving questions. We have also been developing our competence using written methods for multiplication and division. As part of our Science work, we have been learning about inheritance. We created Mr Men families with inherited characteristics and have examined the adaptations of bird's feet. In Art, we have been developing our drawing technique. We have explored the way light effects a surface and have also used a range of techniques to show texture. We have all enjoyed our Music lessons: learning about, singing and writing our own verses to sea-shanties.

Excellence Awards

We are delighted that we are now meeting together outside (when the weather allows) to celebrate the successes of the children and present them with their Excellence Awards. If it is raining a member of the Leadership Group goes around the classrooms. **As many out of school activities have restarted please do remember to send certificates, badges and awards in to school on a Friday so that we can celebrate excellence and achievements from outside school.** Below are the children who received Excellence Awards in the last two weeks.

Bumblebee Class

Danny, Harriet, Archie and Evelyn

Owl Class

Skylar, Matilda, Ava, Rex

Deer Class

Aggie, Alfie, Lexi, Phoebe Jane

Otter Class

Amelia, Arlo, Tyler, Harrison

Badger Class

Evelet, Delta, Joshua, Riley

Fox Class

Erica, Poppy, Kitty, Ryan

Bethersden Literacy Stars



Our Key Stage 2 *Literacy Stars* have been hard at work thinking of ways they can promote reading within the school. They have already spent time sharing stories with Bumblebee and Owl class, and will soon be sharing information about a writing competition!

In the meantime, can you identify the book titles based on the emojis?



Have a go! Create your own emoji book title, email it to families@bethersden.kent.sch.uk and it may be included in our next bulletin!

Birthdays

We would like to wish a very happy birthday to the following members of our school:

Jaxon
Owen
Lilly-Anne
Caleb
Delta-Louise

Mr Gawthorpe
Miss Bennet



Dates for your diary

Please also check the website for new additions: <https://bethersden.kent.sch.uk/calendar-2/>

October	
Wednesday 6 th 2pm	FOBS Annual General Meeting – all parents welcome
Friday 8 th	Harvest Giving Day – non-school uniform in return for food item
Monday 11 th – Thursday 14 th	Parents evening telephone appointments 3.30pm – 6pm
Friday 15 th	Year R to Year 6 Flu nasal vaccination
Wednesday 20 th	Last day of term
Thursday 21 st and Friday 22 nd	Inset days – no children in school
November	
Monday 1 st	First day of Term 2 – children return to school
December	
Monday 13 th	Nativity – 2pm
Tuesday 14 th	Nativity – 5pm
Wednesday 15 th	Christmas dinner and Christmas jumper day
Friday 17 th Dec	Last day of term
January	
Tuesday 4 th Jan	First day of Term 3 - Children return to school