



Bethersden Bulletin



NEWSLETTER 5
12TH NOVEMBER 2021

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

Headteacher's message

Last week's attendance

97.18%

This week's attendance

94.09%

Year to date
attendance

95.97%

We are aiming for
excellent attendance.

It has been a busy start to Term 2, my favourite of the year. We are starting to hear the children in Bumblebee, Owl and Deer Class practising for their nativities which we hope you will be able to join us for. Before then we have lots more to enjoy and learn.

Today we welcomed 'Fantastic Fred' in to school, an interactive, live performance led mental health roadshow for children. Each class took their turn in the 'Fantastic Fred' performance truck to learn how to keep themselves 'mental health safe'. Through role play and discussion the children have learned age appropriate signs to look out for that someone needs support and also ways of helping themselves with strategies and techniques to promote their own well-being.

Yesterday, Badger Class represented our school at the War Memorial in Bethersden to lay a wreath and to read out the names of those from the village who gave their life in service to our country. The rest of the school also fell silent to remember them.

Next Friday we will be supporting 'Children in Need', you can find further details on page 6 of this bulletin. The following Friday, 26th November we will be holding a non-uniform day for FOBS when we would be grateful to receive your donations of sweets and chocolates ready for our 'Santa's Sleigh of Sweets' raffle to be held in December. Further information will be sent out shortly.

If you have not yet made payment for our trip to the pantomime could I please remind you this is now due, if you are having difficulty paying please do speak to me.

Finally, we will shortly be sending out information about how we will be hoping to welcome you to our nativities in school and our Christingle Service to be held in St Margaret's Church, please look out for these on ParentMail in the coming weeks.

Best wishes,

Mr Stuart Gawthorpe

Headteacher

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What's been happening at Bethersden Primary School

What have Bumblebee, and Owl Class been learning?

Bumblebee class have had a wonderful start to our new term and have loved exploring our new construction, especially making houses using our new XL Polydron. We have also started to learn some of our wonderful songs for our nativity and we are already sounding fantastic. To start our new 'Superhero' topic off with a bang all the children came dressed in their fantastic superhero costumes. We loved talking about what superhero we would like to be and we practised our superhero moves to help Supertato defeat the Evil Pea. We then moved on to look at firefighters and we were very lucky to have a visit from Fireman Archie who came in and spoke to us about fire safety and what firefighters need to wear to keep safe. We then looked at what fires look like and how we can put fires out. In our Phonics lessons, we have continued to learn some more sounds and focused on being able to blend them to read a word more independently. We have also been practising our letter formation and focusing on carefully forming each sound. In Maths, we have looked at the properties of 2D shapes and what 2D shapes are hidden in 3D shape. We are now investigating one more of a number up to 5.

Owl Class have come back to school full of enthusiasm to learn! We have loved joining in with the whole school writing competition on mythical creatures. We had some lovely, creative entries! We have also written some fabulous firework poems! In Maths we have been using part/whole models to find missing numbers in calculations and we are busy practising our number bonds to 10. We have just started our History unit and are thinking about our own personal timelines. In Science, we are thinking about the properties of materials, we have thought of lots of lovely language to describe different items, is it hard, squishy or even tickly! In Art we have been mixing Primary colours, it feels like magic when a new colour appears! We have been thinking about the festival of Diwali and have made some rangoli patterns. As well as all of this we have had a special visitor - a fireman! This fits in with the unit on 'people who help us' which we explored last year. It is so wonderful to be able to have special visitors in school again!

What's been happening at Bethersden Primary School

What a start to Term 2 **Deer Class** has had! We kick started the term with a week packed full of mythical creatures. In English we had a go at designing our own mythical creature, using our illustrations to inspire our creative writing. In Design Technology we have begun our design process, as we are planning and designing our own bridges. Next week we will begin building our models using our planned sketches. We cannot wait! In French we have been looking at colours, as we are beginning to develop a broader vocabulary. Let's not forget the all-important nativity rehearsals have officially begun! Song practises are well underway and the stage has now taken form ready for us to take centre stage showing off our acting skills. It's been so lovely to see how many children have been actively learning their lines in preparation. Well done Deer!

Otter Class really were thrown into the deep end on their return to school last week! Our English lessons revolved around writing information texts about a mythical creature of our own creation. We used existing mythical creatures such as griffins, dragons and gorgons for inspiration to draw fantasy animals of our own, before spending the week's lessons describing their appearance, diet, habitat and backstory. The children worked really hard to produce a large volume of good quality writing and they should be proud of their efforts. In Maths, we have been developing our skills in addition and subtraction using the column method, including exchanging between numerous columns where necessary. Otters are really growing in confidence with this approach and are also building greater understanding of how to choose the most efficient method to solve a problem; columns are great, but they aren't always the right choice for a particular situation. In PE, we have begun to practise Netball skills - Year 4 have taken to this well, as they have applied many of the same principles as in our Handball lessons last year. Our Science topic for the term is States of Matter and our area of learning in Geography is all about Mountains; units that we have just started to investigate this week. In exciting, out-of-the-ordinary news, each Otter has had a go at designing a new mascot for Ashford FC as part of a competition they have organised - if one of us were to win, our design would actually be made and would become the real mascot for the football club! On a similar theme, considering recent events in football, Year 4 have also started to think about how money could be raised for the school to purchase a defibrillator. We have formulated some initial plans and made posters to demonstrate our ideas - hopefully we will be able to contact everyone at a later date with a final plan of action for how to raise money for this vital piece of life-saving equipment. It has been a busy start to the term and we're not even thinking about anything Christmas-related yet! It's a pleasure to see all of the children back in school after what we hope was a thoroughly enjoyable half term.

What have Deer and Otter Class been learning?

What's been happening at Bethersden Primary School

What have Badger and Fox Class been learning?

Badger Class returned to school full of beans (and Halloween treats) to find ourselves only one month ('ish) away from Christmas. The thought of this had obviously affected Mr Clark so much that he needed an extended half-term break to get used to the idea and left Mrs Leggat, Mrs Moss and Miss Mexter in charge, much to everyone's delight. The class (belatedly) marked Black History Month and combined this with Remembrance commemorations with an extended study of Walter Tull, Britain's first ever black infantry officer and former professional footballer. This also set the scene for the children to research the fallen from Bethersden whose names appear on the local war memorial. On the 11th November, the children represented the school by reading their names and laying a poppy wreath after a talk and short service by the Rev Mike. Badgers have really impressed their teachers by developing their music skills, using their voice to sing an 80's classic and have also enjoyed learning the recorder alongside this. Mrs Moss has also enjoyed teaching French and hearing them use the language around school.

Fox Class have had a busy start to Term 2. In English, we have finally met the legendary monster of the deep, Moby-Dick. We spent time analysing extracts from the text, using evidence to help us understand the character. We then created our own backstories between the bitter enemies of Captain Ahab and Moby-Dick. In Maths we have been learning about the order of operations. Having learnt the acronym BIDMAS, we then practised using brackets to structure calculations. We have also worked hard on improving mental calculations. We considered occasions where mental calculations might be useful (simple rounding, non-exchanging etc), and have used these in calculations involving money. In Science, we have started a new topic of 'Electricity.' Our first lesson was spent designing and pitching a scarecrow with electrical components. These included moving parts using motors and switches triggering warning buzzers. Our Humanities lessons this term have a History focus. Having been introduced to Ancient Civilisations as a whole, we then focused in on the Shang Dynasty and where this fits within our history timeline so far. In DT, we have started production of our whaling ships, taking measurements and learning to use a glue gun safely.

Excellence Awards

We are delighted that we are now meeting together 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

Autumn, Evie

Owl Class

Bella, Sam

Deer Class

Mia, Sophie

Otter Class

Shelby, Evan

Badger Class

Frankie, Ester

Fox Class

Harrison, Jamie

Birthdays

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

Harley
Erica
Marine
Harvey
Lola
Shelby
Ava



Children in Need 2021 – Friday 19th November

Following a meeting of our House Captains, the theme for this year's Children in Need non uniform day will be 'Sporty' so children are invited to come to school in their sports kit for the day in return for a donation for Pudsey Bear. So, if your child plays cricket, football, dance, netball, rugby etc. then they can come to school in their favourite team's kit or even that of the team they play for. Please do make sure they will be warm enough for the day.

We will also be welcoming the traditional 'Dance Dash' from Homewood School. Pupils from their Performing Arts subjects perform a dance to the children in local primary schools throughout the day and invite us to make a donation for their performance so please send your child in with a donation. It is always good fun for the children and who knows, one day it could be your child taking part in the 'Dance Dash'

Film Night

Last week 100 children enjoyed the first FOBS Film Night of the year watching either Hotel Transylvania or The Addams Family whilst munching on hotdogs and popcorn washed down with a drink. It was huge success raising around **£400** to provide resources and experiences for the children in the school. A huge thank you to the members of FOBS and the school staff who stayed and made this event possible.

FOBS is the school PTA, which is a charity manned by parent volunteers working to raise funds for the benefit of the children, such as paying for the coaches to the Christmas Pantomime. Events like this are an important way such funds are raised whilst also giving the children a great evening, and we are always looking for volunteers to help out at such events so they can be put on more often. If you would like further information about how you can support please email fobs@bethersden.kent.sch.uk or let a member of the school team know and we will be happy to pass on your details.

Goodbye and good luck

After nearly 8 years of service, next Friday we say goodbye to Mrs Smith who is leaving us to take up a new challenge. Mrs Smith has worked in school as a Learning Support Assistant and has also led Breakfast Club in the past. She leaves with our best wishes for every success in the future.

Dates for your diary

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

November	
Friday 19 th	Non-uniform day - Children in Need (see page 6 for more details)
Friday 26 th	Non-uniform day - sweets/chocolates for raffle prizes
December	
Thursday 9 th	Bumblebee Class Nativity - 2pm - ticket details to follow
Monday 13 th	Owl & Deer class Nativity - 2pm - ticket details to follow
Tuesday 14 th	Owl & Deer class Nativity - 5pm - ticket details to follow
Wednesday 15 th	Christmas dinner and Christmas jumper day Christingle Service in St Margaret's Church
Thursday 16 th	School trip to Pantomime - Marlowe Theatre
Friday 17 th Dec	Last day of term
January	
Tuesday 4 th Jan	First day of Term 3 - Children return to school
February	Half term holiday from Monday 14 th to Friday 18 th February