



# Bethersden Bulletin

NEWSLETTER 6  
26<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2021

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

## Headteacher's message

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Last week's attendance

94.45%

This week's attendance

94.87%

Year to date  
attendance

95.39%

We are aiming for  
excellent attendance.

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Thank you for the generosity you have shown over the last two weeks with Children in Need (see page 6) and today's sweets and chocolate non-uniform day for our 'Santa's Sleigh of Sweets' Christmas raffle. I am sure whoever wins the prizes will be eating sweets until next Christmas. FOBS, our Parent and Teacher Association, will be sending out the raffle tickets shortly so keep your eye out for them in book bags. The draw will be made during our Christmas dinner on 15<sup>th</sup> December and winners will be announced on Twitter (@BethersdenSch), if you need more tickets please email [families@bethersden.kent.sch.uk](mailto:families@bethersden.kent.sch.uk) and we will send them home in your child's book bag.

Tickets for the Bumblebee, Owl and Deer Christmas plays have been very popular and we are heading for 'sell-out' audiences at all performances. If you have not completed your ticket request please do so as soon as possible. Tickets will be placed in book bags a few days before the performances. I appreciate that many of you would have liked additional tickets but I am sure you will understand the reasons for limiting them on this occasion - hopefully next year we can squeeze you all in again like we have in the past. For those family members who will not be able to join us for the live performances we will be recording and uploading them to our YouTube channel as quickly as possible and we will send out links for you to share via ParentMail.

We are also busy planning our first school visit to St Margaret's Church for 2 years as we introduce a Christingle Service to our Christmas calendar of events. On 15<sup>th</sup> December each child will learn about and make a Christingle which they will then take to the church as we sing carols and think about the meaning of Christmas with Rev Mike. More details to follow soon.

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Best wishes,

Mr Stuart Gawthorpe

Headteacher

## What's been happening at Bethersden Primary School

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*What have Bumblebee, and Owl Class been learning?*

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**Bumblebee Class** have had a wonderful time the last two weeks learning about how people help us. We loved learning all about the army, how they help us and what equipment we would need to create a shelter. We loved having a visit from Mr Gawthorpe to learn all about being an optician and we loved pretending to be one.

In our Phonics lessons we have been working hard with our writing, we have been focusing on our letter formation and how to write words independently. We have also blown our teachers away with how incredible our reading is as we are now starting to be able to read sentences. We have been super learners in our Maths lessons as we now know what one less is of a number. We have also been busy learning our number bonds to 5 and how to use a part-part whole model. During our child initiated time we have been very busy pretending to be in the police and catching all the robbers and putting them in the prisons we have created from our polydron and blocks. We have also loved playing in our new sand tray where we have been building sand castles and exploring how it flows out of different jugs.

As we head towards Christmas, **Owl Class** have been busy continuing their learning across the curriculum. In Maths we have been thinking about fact families, we have also been practising our addition and subtraction strategies. In English, as well as working hard in RWE, we have been planning our Christmas stories. In DT we have been thinking about structures, we have been exploring what shapes are the strongest and using this knowledge to build tall towers! In History we have been thinking about the toys that children used to play with in the 1930's, they are very different from today's toys! Mrs Proctor brought in some of her Fathers toys for us to (carefully) explore! In Science we are exploring materials and considering what materials would be good for different items as well as learning some luscious language such as 'transparent'! We are also working hard on our Nativity, Mrs Green was blown away by how well we knew the songs!

## What's been happening at Bethersden Primary School

What a couple of weeks it has been for our 'Delightful **Deer Class**'. Our learning in English has been focusing on writing a newspaper report based on the book 'Tuesday' by David Wiesner. Our imaginations went into overdrive to explain what had happened. In Maths, we have been deepening our understanding of addition and subtraction, using different methods to solve the problems. A highlight of our Wider Learning has been the building of our bridges in Design Technology using the skills we have been learning. In Science, our new topic is Humans including animals and we have been looking at why animals need food and what happens if they don't eat. Our rehearsals for the Christmas play are now well underway and we can't wait for you to see the performance of it (Keeping everything tightly crossed).

Last week, **Otter Class** started studying The Iron Man in our English lessons. We imagined we were a fisherman (or woman) out at sea in a violent storm, witnessing The Iron Man step from the top of the cliff, tumble down and break into pieces... Our goal was to write a descriptive narrative, to "paint a picture" for the reader, using devices such as similes and personification. This week, we have started work on our Christmas stories to enter into the Rotary Christmas Story Competition, exploring interesting themes to build a story around and how the tale might unfold. In Maths, we have been solving problems involving addition and subtraction, including representing problems using bar models, part-whole models and number lines. This week we are beginning the new topic of Perimeter. Our Science learning last week saw us investigating gases, exploring whether or not gases have weight by weighing a fresh carbonated drink, then weighing it again when it was flat (so gas had escaped). Our next lesson will involve melting chocolate at different temperatures. Our Netball skills are developing to the point where we are now playing some successful small-sided games, whilst in Computing we have revised key coding skills from Year 3. In RE we have started to consider how and why people of different faiths see life as a "journey", including thinking about important milestones in our own lives so far. Away from the classroom, Otters have really enjoyed visits from Fantastic Fred and our special day for Children In Need, whilst obviously we are looking forward to all of the excitement that Christmas activities bring. We are working on our Christmas hoop decoration this week, which will involve some fantastic, festive, Santa-themed otters (any donations of newspaper would be gratefully received if you have any spare). In Geography, we have developed our understanding of how different mountains are formed, as well as the harsh reality of living in mountainous areas. We have completed some excellent work on "mood boards" in Art and are hoping to have working models in DT ready by the end of term... Fingers crossed!

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*What have Deer and Otter Class been learning?*

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## What's been happening at Bethersden Primary School

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*What have Badger and Fox Class been learning?*

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What a busy time it has been for **Badger Class** over the last couple of weeks. Although we have missed Mr Clark and are looking forward to him being back, we have been working hard and are looking forward to sharing our learning with him. In English, we are continuing to enjoy reading 'Goodnight Mr Tom' and have been delving into the main characters' emotions and feelings, finding evidence to support our thoughts. In Maths, our focus is multiplication and division and we have been looking at multiples, factors and prime numbers! We must keep practising those times tables though... maybe a TTRockstars battle is incoming?

In History, to link with our class text, we have been looking at evacuation and what that involved for everyone - including what the evacuees were allowed to take with them. The topic of weather has been our focus in French; we are developing our listening skills to understand what the weather is on certain days and we may even write our own weather reports. We have also enjoyed our Art, developing our use of tone, tint and shade to create atmosphere in landscape painting.

**Fox Class** have been hard at work over the last few weeks. In English, we have revised the features of letters, writing as Ishmael about his first whale hunt. We have also learnt to use PEE (Point, Evidence, Explain) to help us with analysing a text - a very tricky skill! In Maths, we have started work on fractions, initially revising skills from last year. We have found equivalent fractions through simplifying and expanding, reminded ourselves how to convert between mixed numbers and improper fractions and have practised ordering and comparing fractions. In Science, we have been building circuits including a range of components (buzzers, bulbs, motors and switches) and have learnt how to represent these using symbols. The manufacturing process in DT is going well, as we near completion of our whaling ships. We have learnt to use hacksaws and glue guns safely. We have also carefully applied our knowledge of whaling ships to ensure the boats are accurate, including: figureheads, crows-nests, rigging and more. In Art, we have been learning about Pop Art. After researching Roy Lichtenstein, we have tested out Ben-Days dots and have considered the use of colour to express emotions. Our dance work over the last few weeks in PE has resulted in some wonderful motifs; representing fireworks using shapes, levels and pathways. As a class, we also enjoyed the 'Fantastic Fred' well-being session, learning about the importance of food, rest, and exercise and using devices 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. **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

Maevi, Sam, Teddy & Zara

### Owl Class

William, Jaxon, Elijah & William

### Deer Class

Oliver, Matilda, Shawn & Alexis

### Otter Class

Rosemary, Owen, Charlie & Harvey

### Badger Class

Lyla, Tommy, Sadie & Archie

### Fox Class

William, Rudi, Harry & Lola

## Birthdays

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

Frankie  
George  
Annabelle  
Autumn



## Children in Need 2021 – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November

Thank you to everyone who donated to this year's Children in Need non-uniform day last Friday. As a school we raised £157.64 by dressing up in sporty clothes. We also welcomed the Homewood 'Dance Dash' who treated the school to two performances of specially choreographed dances. As we were in the mood, Mrs Moss and the House Captains led the school in our own dances - just for the fun of it - which was really enjoyable.



## Fantastic Fred

On Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November the whole school took part in visits to the Fantastic FRED mobile classroom. There were interactive performances on how children can look after their own mental health in a fun and memorable way. Each class was treated to a fantastic performance about the importance of:

- Food - a balanced, healthy diet
- Rest - the importance of a good night's sleep
- Exercise - keeping fit and healthy
- Devices - managing screen time



If you would like any advice on any of the topics above please make an appointment to see Lucy Henshaw, Family Liaison Officer by emailing [flo@bethersden.kent.sch.uk](mailto:flo@bethersden.kent.sch.uk)

## Colder weather and warm clothing

As we enter the colder months please remember to send your child in to school in warm clothing. We are heating the school, however, we still need to ventilate the building to help minimise the risk of infection.

Last year we introduced school fleeces for children to wear in the classroom on cold days which are available from [County Print and Embroidery](#) or [myuniform.com](http://myuniform.com). Priced at £12.99 they are warm and comfortable. Alternatively, children can wear a plain blue fleece available from many supermarkets.



## Literacy Stars Mythical Creature Competition

In the Literacy Stars competition, we had to design our own mythical creatures. We had many incredible entries - so that made it extremely hard to pick the true stars of the competition.

Each teacher had to pick their favourite three, and then their entries came to us. We looked at them and picked our favourite from each class. Then came the hard part! We blind voted to pick the winner and two runners-up. The runners up were Joshua (Year 5) and Dakota (Year 6) and in first place was Ava (Year 1). Their mythical creatures were stunning!

All the entries were amazing and we applaud everyone for participating, and thank you to FOBS for donating the book voucher prizes for the winners.

Thank you for reading.

Tillie (Year 6)

## Pantomime

Thank you to everyone who has so far paid for the trip to see Jack and the Beanstalk at The Marlowe Theatre in less than 3 weeks' time. If you have not yet confirmed your child's place please could we ask that you do so by 9<sup>th</sup> December at the latest. If you are having difficulty with the payment please get in touch, we really want everybody in school to enjoy this opportunity.



## Dates for your diary

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

<b>December</b>	
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Bumblebee Class Nativity - 2pm
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Owl & Deer class Nativity - 2pm
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Owl & Deer class Nativity - 5pm
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas dinner and Christmas jumper day Christingle Service in St Margaret's Church Christmas Raffle Prize Draw
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup>	School trip to Pantomime - Marlowe Theatre
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Last day of term
<b>January</b>	
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> Jan	First day of Term 3 - Children return to school
<b>February</b>	
	Half term holiday from Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> to Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> February