



Bletchingley Village Primary School & Nursery

Newsletter: 18.10.24

Autumn 1 – October 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our first newsletter of this academic year. It has been a pleasure to lead the school for the last half-term, seeing the dedicated staff team helping the children settle into their new classes and engage with their learning.

There will be regular communication via Arbor and letters, but once a half-term we will be producing a Newsletter that will keep you updated on all the learning that has taken place in each year group.

It was a pleasure to see so many of you at the Parent Consultations this week. We are very keen to promote a partnership approach to your child's learning and seeing so many of you at the Open Afternoon and the Parent Evenings is a very good start. Chatting to you in the playground has also enabled me to start to get to know the families. I appreciate hearing all your views both verbally and via the parent questionnaire- I will be using some of these ideas in the School Improvement Plan as part of the priorities to move the school forward. In the next newsletter I will be sharing the school priorities for the coming year with you. These priorities have been formalised through stakeholder voice, various forms of data and my observations in my first half term, which I shared with Governors at a meeting last week.

There is a system in place for parental concerns, so that we can ensure your query can be dealt with quickly and can be escalated if necessary. The first port of call would be the class teacher, then the Phase Leader, SENDCO, Deputy Headteacher and then the Headteacher.

Class Teacher of the class

Phase Leader – EY Mrs Barlow, KS1 (Years 1 and 2) Miss Chapman, KS2 (Years 3,4,5 and 6) Miss Drury

Special Needs Coordinator – EY/ KS1 – Mrs Rose, KS2 Mrs Whittick

Deputy Headteacher – Mrs Barlow/ Mrs Fletcher

Headteacher – Mrs Coady

As most of you know, Mrs Humpherson will be going on maternity leave. I would like to take the opportunity to thank her for all her hard work and wish her the best for the months ahead.

We break up today for half term and return to school on Monday 4th November. If you have any safeguarding concerns over this term please email dsl@bletchingleytl.co.uk. This mailbox will be checked once a day during the half term holiday.

Wishing you a restful half term with friends and family

Denise Coady - Headteacher

Otter Class (Reception)- Mrs Ross & Mrs Bertorelli

Otters have settled really well into their new school routine. They have enjoyed playing turn taking games to get to know all their new friends.

The children have talked about similarities and differences to their new friends. They looked in mirrors to draw portraits of themselves. The children learnt to use different tools safely to open the spikey conkers. They then enjoyed using more natural materials to make family portraits.

The children have started their journey to reading and writing by learning their first few letter sounds – to support this learning through play they made tunnels for the skate boarding spiders 's' and printed apples and added some ants using paints



Squirrel Class (Year 1) – Miss Chapman

Squirrel class have had a fantastic start to year 1 and have had a very busy few weeks.

In Math's we have been exploring different ways to count to 100. Using practical resources such as tens frames and rekenreks. We have had to solve missing number problems and identify one more and one less than a given number.

Our focus for English has been setting descriptions, we had lots of fun making rockets to take Baby Bear to the moon and then describing what we thought the moon would look like.

In Geography we have learnt what a map is, why we use maps and looked carefully at different types of maps. We then made messy maps of our classroom.

Finally we have been putting our observational skills to the test during our Art lessons exploring mark making and still life drawings.



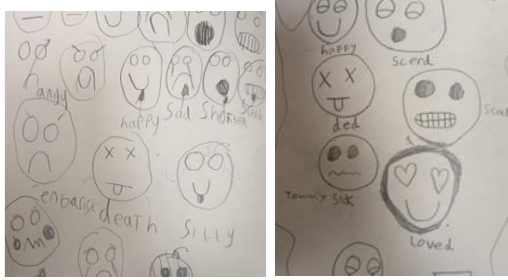
Foxes Class (Year 2) – Mrs Barlow

Fox class have had a very busy first half term in Year 2. They have shown resilience when dealing with changes over the last few weeks and have made us extremely proud!

In Maths, we have been using the new rekenreks to explore doubles and to help us determine odd and even numbers.

In English, we have been exploring adjectives and using these to write interesting, descriptive sentences, to describe the setting of our focus text: The Snow Queen.

In Art, we have been focusing on our drawing skills. We have looked at how different marks can create texture- exploring skills including: squiggling, scribbling, cross hatching and stippling. We have looked at how illustrators such as Quentin Blake, show different emotions in the characters they draw. We had the chance to draw different facial expressions in our sketchbooks, using just a few simple lines to show the different emotions. We focused on eyebrows, eyes and mouth shapes to illustrate a range of different emotions.



Birch Class (Year 3)– Mrs Williams

In Maths our focus has been 3 digit numbers. We have looked at how they can be composed and decomposed using different representations including bar models, base 10 bars and part-part-whole models. Our English focus has been around describing settings and we have had lots of fun telling stories, role playing and hot seating characters. We have also started working on information texts and have enjoyed exploring the features together using books from the library.

The children have also been hard at work in their topic subjects. Our science focus has been Nutrition and Movement. The children especially enjoyed measuring bones, making a moving hand and using calculators to tally their calorie intake for the day! The children have collaborated to choreograph a dance based on teamwork for the dance assembly which they should be very proud of. Harvest RE Day has also been a highlight where the children wrote beautiful poems and created Harvest inspired artworks. We have also started learning some greetings in French and have enjoyed using Bonjour and Au revoir each day.



Poplar Class (Year 4)– Mrs Humpherson

Poplar Class have been settling into the flow of Year 4 well. The children have been working on column addition and subtraction in Maths, using practical resources to support their learning and understanding, and setting description during English, trying to build a picture in the reader's head. The afternoons have been filled with different topics including understanding the digestive system in Science, thinking about childhood in History and cooking autumnal recipes. The class have been working hard to learn their dance, focusing on togetherness, ready for the whole school dance assembly before half term. Poplar class have also had an RE day, learning about Christianity and the links to the Harvest festival. They created a piece of art to link these together.



Sycamore Class (Year 5) – Miss Blaha

Sycamore class have had a wonderful start to the year, and are well into the swing of year 5.

In Maths, we have been tackling the tricky subject of decimal numbers, which although once intimidating, is becoming an enjoyable topic for most. The help of practical resources and various representations showing the value of decimals has helped with our understanding this half term.

We've had the focus of settings descriptions in English, developing our writing techniques to really create an image in the readers mind. Our story focus has been tales of fear – just in time for Halloween! Spooky settings have been created with the help of lots of personification and similes. We've also been working on our fluency of reading, trying out a variety of book extracts each week also helping to see if we can pick out our next book from the library.

Geography has had us looking into the Alps, answering all sorts of questions like where they are, what the climate is like, why people visit them, and how different the mountains are from our local area. Our science lessons have seen the class take part in various activities to fill their understanding of what a mixture is, and how we can go about separating substances. They have sieved through soil, made their own filters, and made different water-based solutions.

Our recent RE day took a look at the Christian celebration of Harvest, and how the Story of Creation links to Christian values and responsibilities for taking care of the earth. Our art work has reflected each stage of Creation across the seven days. The theme of togetherness has been explored in our PE sessions, where we have been working hard to create a dance showing the themes of friendship and working together. Well done Year 5 to a great first half term!



Oak Class (Year 6) – Miss Drury

In Oak class, the children have been settling into Year 6 well and have immersed themselves into lots of different learning already.

In Maths, they have been building up their times table fluency with daily practicing, as well as using structures - such as part, part, whole models and bar models - to help them to solve reasoning problems. They have also been looking at how numbers up to 1,000,000 can be composed. In English, the children have created postcards from fairy villains, focusing on the informal writing style, with using a range of clauses.

A trip into the past has shown the children how information for a census was collected in Victorian times, as well as taking a look into the life of children who worked in factories during this period. During Science lessons, the children have learnt about Carl Linneaus and his system of classification – using these systems, the children has classified a variety of species and looked at the differences between cold and warm-blooded vertebrates.

During RE day, the children learnt about the Trinity and what it means to Christians. They looked at how the trinity is represented through artistic forms and how it can be seen in bible stories, then creating their own images to represent the idea that God is Three and Yet One. In PE, the children have been working hard to choreograph a dance based upon the theme of *togetherness*, ready for their dance assembly.



Key dates Autumn 2

Monday 4th November 2024	Phonics/ Reading Parent Meeting 2.45pm
Wednesday 6th November 2024	School photos Phonics/ Reading Parent Meeting (online) 5.30pm
Wednesday 13th November 2024	Year 1 school trip: The Light, Redhill
Thursday 14th November 2024	Year 5 school trip: Hampton Court
Monday 9th December 2024	Early Years Nativity- dress rehearsal 10am (Parents who will be bringing younger siblings welcome to attend) More information to follow nearer the time
Tuesday 10th December 2024	Early Years Nativity- final performance 9.30am (No siblings under 3 to attend) More information to follow nearer the time
Wednesday 11th December 2024	Year 1 + 2 Nativity- dress rehearsal 10am (Parents who will be bringing younger siblings welcome to attend) More information to follow nearer the time
Thursday 12th December 2024	Year 1 + 2 Nativity- final performance 9.30am (No siblings under 3 to attend) More information to follow nearer the time
Wednesday 18th December 2024	Carol Service at the church- parents welcome to attend Year 1- Year 6
Thursday 19th December 2024	Christmas Panto Year 1-Year 6
Friday 20th December 2024	End of term. School ends at 1.30pm

Safeguarding Reminders

- When you are leaving the school at the end of the day and exiting the gates, please be mindful not to hold the gate open for unaccompanied children that may have run ahead of their parents.
- Please ensure that dogs are picked up off the floor once entering the school grounds.
- It has been reported to us that some children are falling out over social media or not using it responsibly. Please be aware that the minimum age to use Tic Toc, Instagram, Snapchat etc is 13. The following link gives you further information on how to manage this as a parent. [social media \(ceopeducation.co.uk\)](https://www.ceopeducation.co.uk) We will also be holding parent workshops on online safety. In school children learn about online safety in a weekly class assembly.

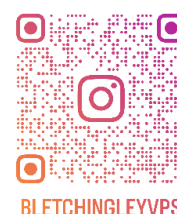
Don't forget to follow us on social media:



Bletchingley Village Primary School
and Nursery



@BletchingleyVPS



[School Website](#)