



# Bunwell in Brief

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Together, we will strive to ensure that we C.A.R.E and our children are:  
confident, able learners, responsible members of the community and effective learners.

## Newsletter No.15: 22<sup>nd</sup> May

**Ladybirds:** This week we have got stuck into our Superhero topic by thinking about what Superheroes do and how we can be Superheroes. In Maths we have been learning about doubling and sharing. There were some fantastic afternoon activities completed last week, painting bee's, tissue paper bee's, researching about different bees and even making honey cakes! Keep up the good work this week and I cannot wait to see what you have been up to.

**Badgers:** Badgers have been doing some excellent work in lockdown and are starting to learn more about maps. We have done some learning about the local area and mapping walks but now looking at world geography for a short time. This includes time zones and a better understanding of where we are in the UK.

**Hedgehogs:** This week in Hedgehog class we have continued our work on Pirates. The children have been choosing their own afternoon activities, including learning how to talk like a pirate, designing their own pirate ship and flag, choosing their own pirate name and even making a pirate ship rat. In English we have been learning the poem 'Yo! Ho! Ho!' and have been practising rhyming words. In maths we have been using White Rose Hub Home Learning. On Wednesday and Thursday afternoon we had a Zoom chat with our friends. It was lovely to see everyone.

**Foxes:** Last week, Y6 should have been sitting their SATs. Instead they had a very different SAT week – Show A Talent. Have a look below at their talents!

### Hedgehogs' Beanstalks

As part of their Literacy work, Hedgehogs read Jack and the Beanstalk. Mrs Brookes also gave her class some beans to plant and set a competition to see who could grow the tallest beanstalk. The winner was Charlotte; whose beanstalk so far measures an impressive 81cms. Keep looking after your plants and see how tall they will grow. .



### Reopening Plan

I hope that by now, you will all have had the chance to read the information I shared on Dojo regarding our plans to reopen on 1<sup>st</sup> June should the government confirm that the five tests have been met. At Bunwell, due to the size of the year groups and layout of the building we are able to welcome back all the children in the year groups chosen by the government. We have made contact with all of these families to talk through whether or not they plan on sending their children back and any questions they have. The government has said that they would like all primary aged children to return before the summer holidays. We will wait for more guidance regarding this and will share our plans in due course.

### Moving to High School

The second half of the summer term is usually when children in Year 6 make the final preparations for moving to high school. This year it will be a bit different, but the high schools are in touch with us to arrange different transition activities given the restrictions in place. Mrs Simon will also be working with Year 6 to prepare them for the next step in their education.

### Safeguarding at Bunwell

During the lockdown, unfortunately there will be some children who are a greater risk of being unsafe. This campaign calls on communities to look out for children and young people during the current coronavirus lockdown. Entitled See Something, Hear Something, Say Something, the campaign focuses on keeping children safe, as families face the pressure of staying at home for this prolonged period. You can ring 0344 800 8020. We all have the responsibility to keep our children safe. You can also contact one of the Designated Safeguarding Leads, Mr Tuckett, Miss Husbands or Mrs Brookes, for advice and support. Bunwell Primary School is registered with Operation Encompass. This means that Norfolk Police will contact the school concerning any domestic incidents which involve the families of our children the day after the incident occurred.

### Headteacher News

This week is Mental Health Awareness week. We have all thought a lot about our own and others' mental health since the coronavirus outbreak and even more so since the beginning of lockdown. Our lives have changed immeasurably and in places we have been able to take stock and start things which have always been pushed to the bottom of the list in 'normal' circumstances. Many people have found time for exercise; be it PE with Joe every morning, a run or jumping on your bike and getting out into the countryside. The link between exercise and mental health is well known. The Mental Health Foundation say that even 10 minutes brisk walking can increase mental alertness, energy and positive mood. And participation in regular exercise can reduce stress and anxiety.

As we see the lockdown restrictions slowly easing, I plan to do my best to continue with the regular exercise I have built into my daily routine over the last nine weeks.

The theme this year is 'Be Kind' and is a reminder that looking out for each other, checking in with people and taking care of ourselves during this period in particular, is something we all can and should make sure we do.

A simple act of kindness does not have to take long or be over the top but can have a huge impact on the person on the other end. Over the last nine weeks, the teachers and I have, from time to time, received messages from families having a wobble (as I'm sure we all have done during this time) and a quick phone call to check in and look out for these families often turns a day around. It's the small things which make a big difference.

Acts of kindness have been well reported in the press with the innovative and thoughtful ways people have raised money for good causes, helped out their neighbours and vulnerable members of the community and being considerate to those around them. Let's not forget these as we move out of lockdown restrictions, kindness is something we all afford to give and *no act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted (Aesop)*.

### Chair of Governors Update

I hope you are well and trust that you and your family are bearing up during this period of social restriction. I hope that you and those whom you love have not been personally affected by coronavirus and extend sympathy to any family which has had personal experience of it.

I sit at my desk as we start week 9 of lockdown. The wider situation has not been easy for anybody. From a schooling perspective, I'm sure the enduring current thought on your mind is the opening of schools for Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 after half-term. Bunwell School and the Trust are keen to play their part in society's wider efforts to ease restrictions, where possible, aware that it is inevitably dependent on the progress of the country's response to the virus since the latest government announcement. Many thanks to those who completed the recent survey, the results of which demonstrated that a significant majority supported a phased, risk-based approach to reopening.

As I write, Bunwell school is putting plans together with the aim of opening on 1st June. The Headteacher and staff deserve huge credit in their support for and tireless working to enable opening, despite understandable anxieties. It should be noted that the plans are being implemented following clear guidelines and best practice. In order to put mitigating measures and processes in place to reduce risk and not put any stakeholders at unnecessary harm. Indications from other countries who have re-opened schools have indicated that risk is very low and reaction has been very positive. We do however appreciate that individuals have different approaches to risk and there are vulnerable families at higher risk in our community, and to that end any return to school is encouraged, but not mandatory.

It is vitally important that society slowly restarts on a risk-based approach for individual's and the county's general wellbeing, and to give a sense of hope. Even more poignant with this being mental health awareness week. Now is the time for focusing on what we can do and how, rather than dwelling on what we can't.

The Board of Governors and Trust are in full support of the plans to re-open. It has been discussed at length and they are satisfied that risks have been assessed and measures put in place. If you do have any concerns or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at [ChairofGovernors@bunwell.cee.coop](mailto:ChairofGovernors@bunwell.cee.coop) no matter how trivial a concern may seem.

I wish you all a well-earned rest and respite from remote-learning. Stay safe and socially responsible and enjoy half-term, in the knowledge that there may very well be light at the end of what has seemed to be a very long tunnel.

David Clover

### Lockdown Photos

Here is a selection of the photos we've received this week, please keep them coming.



Have a great weekend at home!

Miss E. Husbands