



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 5 - 20th January 2023

Ladybirds:

To link in with our topic of pirates, Ladybirds have been learning about lots of famous pirates such as Blackbeard and Anne Bonny, We have also been comparing treasure maps and basic maps of our area to see if we can make our own. We have been reading texts such as 'Polly Parrot Picks a Pet Pirate' and 'Rainbow Fish'. 'Rainbow Fish' has been providing us with lots of great vocabulary about the ocean as well as providing lots of ideas of how we can be kind and considerate in class.

Badgers:

In Badgers we have continued our river poetry. In maths we have been using our knowledge of our timetables to complete multiplication and division calculations. In geography we have continued our work on Europe, using atlases to identify countries and capital cities. This week we went to the Castle to learn about Ancient Civilisations. We had a great time and the children were fantastically behaved.

Dates for your diary

Sunday 22nd January—Lunar New Year (year of the rabbit)

Tuesday 31st January—PSA Coffee Afternoon @ 2:15pm

Tuesday 7th February - Y5/6 NSPCC Speak Up, Stay Safe

w/b 13th February—half term

w/b 13th February—Norwich Science Week

Tuesday 21st February—Y3/4 Tennis Festival

Tuesday 7th March—Book Bugs & Dragon Tales workshops

Thursday 16th March—Ladybirds trip to Hulabaloos

Friday 17th March—Y3/4 girls football tournament

Hedgehogs:

In Hedgehogs we have been discussing having a growth mindset and power of the word 'yet', particularly when trying something new. We have started reading longer texts in class, such as Flat Stanley, The Hodgeheg and The Giraffe the Pelly and Me. In our English lessons we have been focusing on poetry, identifying key elements of different poems before writing our own. In Maths, Year 1s have been working on Place Value to 20 and the Year 2s have been multiplying and dividing by 2s, 5s and 10s.

Foxes:

Foxes Class have started their new science topic 'Evolution and Inheritance' and have been learning about variation and adaptation. In geography they have begun to learn about South America, which links to our class reader 'The Explorer'. In maths, the children have begun to link their understanding of fractions to decimals and have done some writing linked to 'The Explorer'. They had a wonderful trip to Norwich Castle this week and behaved beautifully.

Before and After School Club

Breakfast club starts at 7:45am and children are served toast, cereal or fruit. After school club runs until 5:30pm and there is a choice of sandwiches, fruit and vegetables for tea. Sessions cost £5 for breakfast club and £8 for after school club. Book your sessions via Wisepay.



Safeguarding at Bunwell

At Bunwell all staff have a responsibility to safeguard children. If you ever have a concern about a child or a member of staff then please contact one of our designated safeguarding leads: Miss Husbands, Mrs Brookes, Mrs Mitchell (PSA) or Mrs Clarke (Trust Deputy). You can also ring the number 0344 800 8020 if you have a concern about a child outside school.

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.

Attendance

We do still aim for 96% attendance and hope to achieve this as term goes on. Here are the attendance figures for each class.

Given the circumstances of the last two years, we know that younger children may be susceptible to picking up more bugs and this is seen in our attendance figures.

Ladybirds	88%
Hedgehogs	93%
Badgers	95%
Foxes	95%
Whole School	92%

Headteacher Update

In November, we had our first full Ofsted inspection since 2012. Since the last inspection, all the children at Bunwell (except four) have been born, there have been five Prime Ministers and ten education secretaries. The curriculum has completely changed, as has the Ofsted framework and the school has become an academy. While a lot has changed in the last ten years, Bunwell school has educated local children for a long time before that. I was reading a book about the history of Bunwell and many of the challenges and events which we contend with now are no different to years gone by. Badgers and Foxes visited the Castle Museum on Wednesday, a trip that was popular over 100 years ago. The children travelled in horse drawn wagons rather than coaches though! Over the last three years, we have closed for long periods of time due to COVID-19 lockdowns. This felt unprecedented and new territory, but long periods of closure were not uncommon at the beginning of the twentieth century when the school closed for fifteen weeks following outbreaks of measles and scarlet fever.

Our recent inspection, just like the ones which the school has had over the last hundred and forty years acknowledged the strengths in the school as well as identifying areas for improvement. At Bunwell, inspectors found a school where children are happy, safe and proud of their school. They are kind to each other and 'treat others as they would like to be treated.' They found strengths in children's personal development, provision for children with additional needs and how leaders have prioritised reading and maths. Our nursery and before and after club provision were also singled out as strengths of the school. Schools are built on relationships and Ofsted recognised how these positive, strong relationships are threaded through all aspects of school life; working with parents, staff supporting each other and the way children treat each other. Bunwell school is a happy place where everyone is valued and plays an important part; as they say, you remember how people make you feel.

We are ambitious for the children who come to Bunwell Primary School, we have high expectations of their behaviour as well as what they will learn. We are pleased that Ofsted recognised the hard work which has gone into our progress so far and that school improvement priorities such as reading, maths and SEN are considered strengths. We acknowledge there is still work to do and are reassured that Ofsted recognised the same priorities as we do, we will continue to work hard to provide our children with a happy, fulfilling and enriching primary school experience.

On Wednesday Badgers and Foxes visited Norwich Castle. There was huge excitement ahead of the day and the children had a wonderful time. As the children arrived back to school, I could hear them chatting animatedly about their favourite part of the day. Trips such as these offer children the opportunity to learn more about the topics they learn in school as well as enriching their life experiences. For many children, the trip on Wednesday was the first time they have visited the Castle Museum. The children were lucky enough to get a voucher to allow them another visit to the castle, I hope many of them get the chance to do this.

There are plenty of enriching experiences on our doorstep. Last term when Badgers completed their Egyptian project homework, children visited Thetford and Swaffham museums to learn more about the Egyptians. It is not just museums which offer these experiences, but anything which gives the children the opportunity to see the wider world. For example, Hedgehogs are learning about castles later in the term and they could visit New Buckenham castle to see somewhere a castle once stood and how that looks now.

I look forward to hearing children in Key Stage 2 tell me about their return trip to Norwich Castle and what their favourite bit is. I can remember spending hours in the stuffed animal and teapot galleries as a child!