



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 4— December 2023

Ladybirds:

Ladybirds have been focusing on celebrations, looking at the traditional Christmas story alongside performing it as part of their nativity. We have been focusing on high frequency words in phonics, playing games to aid our blending and recall.

We have also been focusing on number formation, number bonds to 5 as well as exploring squares rectangles, how we identify them and where we see them in our environment.

Hedgehogs:

Hedgehogs have been going back in time to explore toys over the last 75 years. We have been focussing on trends and materials used. In English we have been learning about letter writing, closely identifying the difference between formal and informal letters. We have been following the Norfolk Leadership Pathway to give the children the skills to lead games at break times and lunch times as well as helping in PE lessons.

Dates for your diary

Tuesday 19th December—Christingle service (Y3/4) - all welcome

Wednesday 20th December—end of term

Thursday 4th January—children back to school

Monday 15th January— Y5/6 NCFC football session

Monday 22nd January—NCFC Schools League @ The Nest

Wednesday 14th February—Valentine's Disco @ Village Hall

Friday 16th February—Thinking Day—cub/brownie uniform

w/b 19th February— half term

Thursday 7th March—World Book Day—favourite characters

Wednesday 27th March—last day of term—no ASC

Monday 15th April—term starts

Before and After School Club

Our breakfast club is staffed by the teachers on a rota. Doors open at 7:45am and children are served toast, cereal or fruit.

Mrs Stoneman and a rota of support staff run after school club until 5:30pm. There is a light meal such as sandwiches, pasta, soup or toasties. Sessions cost £5 for breakfast club and £9 for ASC.

Attendance

Here at Bunwell we aim for 96% attendance. These are the attendance figures for this half term.

Attendance at the moment is well below where it needs to be. We will continue to monitor individual and class attendance. If your child has repeated periods of absence, our PSA will get in touch to see how we can support your child come back to school. Family holidays will not be authorised and be referred to County where they meet the criteria.

Ladybirds	93%
Hedgehogs	95%
Badgers	97%
Foxes	97%
Whole School	95.5%

Badgers:

This week in Badgers class we have used our previous poetry work on autumn to help us write a descriptive piece about autumn. In science we have completed our work on 'Forces and Magnets' by investigating the strength of different magnets. We have also completed our maths and reading assessments.

We have also been learning our lines and the songs for the Carol Service on Tuesday 19th—we hope that you can come and join us.

Foxes:

I cannot believe we are at the end of the term! It has absolutely flown, but we have managed to pack in lots of fabulous learning nonetheless! In maths we've done a lot of work around fractions and year 6s have learned about measurement too.

In English we've written our newspaper reports all about Snow White eating a poisonous apple; we've also done a lot of work based around our class reading book 'The Anglo-Saxon Boy'.

In geography we've done a lot of mapwork, looking at keys, finding landmarks from the grid numbers and even creating our own!

In RE we've continued learning about Islam, in DT we have made electronic cards and Christmas decorations and in science we've taken part in many different experiments based around an electrical circuit.

I hope you have a wonderful Christmas and a happy new year.



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.

Headteacher Update

Looking back on the last term, coming back to school in September to start the new academic year seems like a long time ago and when you think about all of the different things we have achieved it is easy to see why. Not only have the children enjoyed the topics which have been taught over the last term, they have also experienced a range of other events designed to enhance what is already going on in the classroom.

Our staff training days back in September focussed on the curriculum and beginning to bring together the three schools in the Trust to align our curriculums and what we teach. There are already many similarities but aligning them means that we can work together more closely on sporting events, class trips, monitoring the subjects for our Trust wide coordinators and teachers have a network of colleagues to support them. Our Trust wide subject coordinators have visited the three schools this term to speak to children about what they're learning and the lessons they have. The feedback when we welcome visitors here is always about how positive the children are and how enthusiastically they talk about what they are learning as well as being able to recall what they have learnt in previous years. Please have a look at our website in the new year for all the information about our new curriculum and the content your children will be learning. This is still based on the National Curriculum and in reality little will change for the children in the classroom.

Parent feedback often comments on the amount of sporting events which children have the opportunity to take part in. This has been a challenge over the years due to our location and size, but Mr Baxter has worked really hard to find accessible events and make this happen across the Trust. Girls in Hedgehogs took part in a football event, we hosted the Trust Cross Country event here at Bunwell which will hopefully become an annual event, four children from Foxes have played their first games in the Norwich City Football Club Schools League and only last week we all took part in the Santa Dash. We have more events planned for the rest of the year. A huge thank you to Lycett's Insurance Brokers who have generously sponsored our new Trust football kit.

All of our classes, by the end of term, will have had the opportunity to lead a performance. Foxes, particularly Year 6, led our Remembrance Service back in November. Our youngest children performed their nativity last week, for many this was the first time they had been on stage and had an audience. Next week, Badgers will lead our Carol Service. Developing the confidence to speak and perform in front of an audience to an important skill to learn and build on throughout their time at primary school.

Children have recently been completing end of term assessments and the progress over the term is clear to see. Y6 children completed SATs papers as part of their assessments, there are some children who scored 40 more marks in their maths tests than they had done in September—this is amazing progress! Mrs Brookes showed me the writing from her class and the descriptive language they have used is really effective. The children consistently report that they enjoy coming to school at Bunwell—they enjoy the lessons, they work hard and they feel safe—this in turn translates into them making good progress.

PTA

After a few attempts, we have finally managed to re-establish the PTA, and with the most volunteers I've know during my time here. The core committee members have been working hard to get things off the ground behind the scenes such as the banking and the charity commission registration. We have had loads of ideas and suggestions for fundraising events, we're now trying to pace ourselves and ensure that we spread out events over the course of the year. We hope that many events will become yearly events.

Here is an overview of what we have pencilled into the diary so far.

Spring 2024	Summer 2024
January children to design new logo	April Saturday 20th—Quiz Night
February Seed Sale Valentine's Disco Thinking Day	May Crazy Hair Day
March World Book Day Mother's Day gifts	June Bunwell in Bloom Father's Day Sports Day
	July Pride Day Summer Fair Leavers' Events

The PTA will be writing a regular newsletter with more details about events, funds raised and what the funds are being spent on.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has got involved; life is busy enough and we really appreciate people taking on more and helping out with events and organisation.

Our next meeting is on Friday 19th January at 1:30pm. If you would like to pop along, please do.