



# 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 7— March 2024

### Ladybirds:

Ladybird class enjoyed their topic 'Our Heroes'. We have explored families, doctors & nurses, firefighters and how to be heroes. The children have been learning through roleplay and a visit from Nurse Katie who taught us how to use a bandage and stethoscope. We have focused on the story 'on Sudden Hill' in the last week, exploring how we can be good friends and heroes to others. In Maths, Ladybirds have been learning their number bonds to ten in Reception and ordering numbers to 10 and looking at how amounts grow in Nursery. We have also been exploring 2D and 3D shapes in our surroundings and exploring shape terminology.

### Hedgehogs:

Hedgehogs have been learning about the geography of Kenya in their topic lessons this half term. They have focussed on human and physical features as well as lots of map work. Our learning took us to Banham Zoo where we searched for African animals and considered the habitat and terrain they need to thrive. In English, we have been writing a travel journal about a trip to Kenya, considering the differences between the grasslands, mountainous areas and the bustling city of Nairobi.

### Dates for your diary

**Monday 15th April**—term starts  
**Tuesday 16th April**—Skateboarding club starts  
**Wednesday 17th April**—cricket club starts  
**Friday 19th April**—Ladybirds to the theatre  
**Saturday 20th April**—PTA Quiz & Chips Evening  
**Wednesday 8th May**—Ladybirds to High Lodge  
**Thursday 9th May**—Y3/4 Rugby @ Wymondham Rugby Club  
**w/b 13th May**—Y6 SATs Week  
**Friday 17th May**—Badgers to Thorpe Woodlands  
**w/b 27th May**— half term  
**Monday 3rd June**— Foxes to Whitlingham

### 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 is improving. 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	95%
Hedgehogs	95%
Badgers	94%
Foxes	97%
Whole School	94%

### Badgers:

We have completed our units on volcanoes and rocks. Then children have enjoyed experimenting with the different properties of rocks. In English we have read What Lies Beneath our Streets and written our own journey to the centre of the Earth. In DT we have designed a concept for safety wear and have used computer software to code the lighting on the garment. In maths we have been learning about fractions and in Year 3 we have now moved to capacity. In French we can say when our birthday is and greet each other. Happy Easter!

### Foxes:

We have had such a jam-packed half-term that it has absolutely whizzed by! In maths we've covered shapes, statistics, perimeter, area and volume, as well as daily practise of all maths units! In English we've just finished our evolution poems based on the Galapagos Finch, but we've also written persuasive letters written to a footballer. In History we've learnt all about the Mayans, in French we've been practising verbs and in science our topic has been the circulatory system where we've undertaken several experiments! DT has also been very hands-on where we've created steady hand games with electrical circuits and wire. All good fun! We hope you have a fantastic, well-earned Easter break and we shall see you all in the summer term!



### 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

Around this time four years ago, we closed school due to COVID-19. At the time school closure was unprecedented and unheard of in modern times other than the odd snow day or the boiler breaking. I have since read in the local Bunwell history books that it was not uncommon for schools to close one hundred years ago due to outbreaks of scarlet fever, measles and other now more uncommon childhood diseases.

Almost overnight, we had to work out how to try and deliver the curriculum remotely. The pace of change with regards to remote learning happened at an astonishing pace and things which are part of normal life now were simply not set up. Zoom meetings were a new and confusing technology which often didn't work behind our school firewall. Now, video calls and meetings are normal to us, we don't think twice about them.

When we waved goodbye to the children on 20th March 2020, none of us knew just how long restrictions and school lockdowns would go on for. Mrs Brookes remembers telling her class she'd see them in a few weeks—for some of those children it was the last time they were in school that academic year and the restrictions continued into the next academic year with lockdowns and isolation rules dominating our lives.

The long term impact of the pandemic is still being felt throughout the school and the impact is different on different year groups. Children in Y4 were in Reception when the first lockdown hit in March 2020 and despite remote learning being in place, it was incredibly hard for families to be able to replicate an Early Years classroom while also trying to juggle the demands of working from home and often trying to home school more than one child. For some children, there are gaps in their knowledge which covers content that they would ordinarily have been covered in Early Years. Although these gaps are being worked on and are being filled, it cannot replace the time lost out of school due to lockdowns.

In younger children we are noticing that there are increasing numbers of speech and language needs. For our children in nursery and reception now, they were around a year/eighteen months old when lockdowns hit and baby/toddler groups closed. These children did not have access to playing with children their own age other than out in open spaces. They also experienced a mask wearing world where they could not see people's mouths moving or faces reacting as they talked at a crucial point in their development.

COVID-19 has changed the world and we are living in a world which is forever impacted by the pandemic. It has also given our children a unique experience of primary education and one which is different for every year group at school. Some children will look back on the lockdowns favourably as time that they spent with family and enjoyed freedoms without the routine of daily life but others will look back sadly and reflect that it was a time that they were lonely, isolated and missed the routine school provided. Covid is part of our life and of our shared history, it is something which will be taught about in history lessons, probably when our children's children are at school, but for now it is important that we recognise the differing impact it has had across our age range and support the children with this.

## PTA Update

The PTA have been up and running again for a complete term and have really hit the ground running. Behind the scenes the committee have worked hard to get the financial and charitable side of things in better order. We have had regular meetings to catch up, organise events and ideas.

Over the last term the PTA have...

- Run the PTA Valentine's Disco
- Bought a book for every child to celebrate World Book Day
- Organised Mother's Day gifts
- Organised Bunwell in Bloom and distributed seed boxes around the local area
- Organised a Quiz Night at the Village Hall for next month
- Ongoing uniform sales

The PTA funds are helping to reduce the cost of school trips and we have so far been able to put trips on for Ladybirds (in April) and Hedgehogs at no cost to families. Providing the children with enrichment activities such as trips is an invaluable part of school life but this does come at a cost and we have been very fortunate that the PTA are so well supported by our community.

