



# 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 2024

### Ladybirds:

Ladybirds have continued learning about different festivals through their light and dark topic, we learned about the importance of the menorah throughout Hanukkah, the symbol of the star in the nativity. We have focussed on traditional religious tales and compared them to stories such as 'Leah's Star'. We have enjoyed learning and performing our nativity to our family and friends!

### Hedgehogs:

Hedgehogs have been very busy over the last few weeks. In English we have been writing a recount of our trip to Shropham Woods, focussing on using subtitles in our work. In Maths we have been learning about shapes and their properties. In Topic we have continued learning about intrepid explorers and in the last couple of weeks, the life of Neil Armstrong.

### Dates for your diary

**Tuesday 7th January**—term starts

**Tuesday 14th January**—KS1 parents maths workshop 1pm

**Wednesday 15th January**—Ladybirds to TotsTown

**Monday 20th January**— NCFE Y3/4 Girls League

**Wednesday 12th February**—Spirit of the Games (Y2-Y4)

**w/b Monday 17th February**—half term

**Thursday 27th February**—Badgers to Theatre Royal

*More dates on Class Dojo.*

### 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.

### Goodbye Mr Baxter

It is a bittersweet time for me as I continue my career away from Bunwell. As excited as I am for my next challenge, I am devastated to be leaving a school that I hold close to my heart. I have had the opportunity to work with some amazing teachers who have all shaped me in some way. TA's are an integral part of any school and Bunwell is lucky enough to have many who care greatly for the children and school.

The highlight for me has been the sporting events over the last couple of years. Children at Bunwell have had some amazing opportunities and it has been great to see the impact of this with more and more children joining clubs outside of school.

I will be keeping in touch with the staff in the school and will be asking about the children. Thank you for all of your kind words and support. Bunwell is a truly special school filled with great people.

### Badgers:

This week we have completed our English non-chronological reports about nocturnal animals. In maths we were learning about multiplication and division .

We have been carrying out a science experiment about evaporation and have been investigating which is the hottest place in the school. We have also been learning about the water cycle.

In geography we have been learning about our local area and what services there are locally.

In Computing we have been using Google sheets to create a database and comparing the different sets of data. This week we have made Christingles to learn more about our service.

### Foxes:

We've been busy bees once more over the last few weeks. We have finished our decimals unit in maths and have also used area, perimeter and volume. In English we've completed our newspaper report on a fairy tale story of our choice. In science we've been investigating the properties of materials, and have tested whether or not materials are soluble, insoluble, conductive or insulative to name a few things.

In history, we've continued to learn about World War 2, and more recently the Holocaust and The Blitz. The children have written some fantastic pieces of writing from this.

They have completed their gymnastics unit up at the village hall and also taken part in this year's Santa Dash where they ran 5/6 laps around the village hall field!

In RE we've finished learning all about the bible and in Computing, Bletchley Park and decoding messages around the time of the war!

Have a lovely Christmas.



### 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.

We have built on the work started last year in terms of the curriculum and sporting events, something which will most certainly be Mr Baxter's legacy as he moves on from Bunwell. Our children take part in and compete in a number of sporting events, this term alone girls from Y3/4 went to play in the NCFE Schools League. Despite having never played as a team before with the other girls from across the Trust, the girls came away with second place in the league. A huge achievement! A couple of weeks later, the Y5/6 team, won the league they were playing in. This demonstrated huge progress on last year. We held our Trust Cross Country event for the second year and I was very proud to see three boys in Y3 and Y4 win medals after us not winning any last year.

All of our classes, by the end of term, will have had the opportunity to lead a performance. Foxes 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. For the first time this was held in the church, a much bigger and more imposing venue than our school hall, but the children took this in their stride. As did our choir who performed after the nativity. A particular mention should go to the children who took on solo performances in the choir, a daunting prospect in front of an audience of 100 people. This week, Badgers led our Christingle. Developing the confidence to speak and perform in front of an audience is an important skill to learn and build on throughout their time at primary school. The performances have not been without pre-show nerves and staff have worked hard to rehearse the shows, nurture the children and support the nerves and apprehension.

This term at school, we have spoken a lot about our Trust values - **C**onfident, **A**ble to meet challenges, **R**esponsible citizens and **E**ffective learners—staff have been on the look out for children who are demonstrating these values which are celebrated in our Friday assemblies through our 'Brilliant Bunwell' awards. Everything that we do through the curriculum, the sporting events and whole school events come back to these values and how we want to children to embody them as they move through our school.

## PTA Update

Just over a year ago, we relaunched our PTA. Over the last year the committee of Sue, Jodie, Sam and Natalie have worked really hard to get the books in order as well as organise a huge amount of events with the support of a number of regular volunteers.

This term alone the PTA have raised £4,000 which is an incredible sum of money given that we are such a small school. This money will be used to fund school trips, improve the library facilities in school and also hold more events.

The PTA are holding their AGM on 28th January and we would love to welcome in new volunteers and boost our numbers.



## Attendance

We do still aim for 96% attendance and hope to achieve this as the year goes on. Our whole school attendance for 2023/24 was 94%, so there is some work to do towards our target. Here are the attendance figures for each class since the beginning of term.

We recognise that children get ill, but with 90% attendance it means that your child misses:

- one half day each week
- nearly four weeks every school year
- over one school year in a school career

Mrs Mitchell is always available to offer support in getting your child into school.

October	
Ladybirds	95%
Hedgehogs	97%
Badgers	95%
Foxes	96%
Whole School	95.3%

