

2nd February 2024

Weekly Newsletter



Dear Parents/Carers,

There has been a creative buzz around school this week with many children enjoying different elements of the Arts. I was invited to attend a music performance by a group of children earlier in the week and it was a real pleasure to be a member of the audience, listening to the children introducing the piece and playing with such concentration. They were all very proud of their achievement and so they should be.

I have also had the privilege of having some beautiful art work shared with me. We really do have some very talented pupils!

You may have spotted some recent developments on our field with the first phase of our Forest School Area ground works being built. We look forward to sharing a special Forest School Update with you in the newsletter in the near future and sharing the next phase of the developments which are coming soon!

Best wishes,

Mrs S Boyle
Headteacher

Reception Classes – Acorn and Chestnut

This week the children have continued to explore how to keep healthy. They enjoyed playing on the big playground with balls, skipping ropes and hula hoops and thinking about the effects, exercise has on our bodies. They have also thought about how to keep safe near roads, they practiced how to cross a road safely in their class rooms. Mrs McCracken and Mrs Gates enjoyed pretending to be cars in the road.

Year 1 – Hawthorn and Willow

Year 1 have been learning about subtracting this week using number lines and related facts that will help solve number sentences.

In History they have been they have been learning about Mathew Henson and how he was the first person to travel to the North Pole in 1909.

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In PSHE year 1 have been learning about cooperating and playing cooperating games.

In English they have been reading Brown Bear Brown Bear and looking for adjectives.

Year 2 – Maple and Sycamore

In Year 2 this week they have been exploring texture when using primary and secondary colours and we have painted lots of different nature pictures after going on a nature walk outside.

They then used these pieces of nature artwork and created a group collage. Have a look at some of our work.



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Year 3 – Palm and Pine

In Year 3, this week pupils have explored mummification as part of their History topic on Ancient Egypt. The children discovered the intricate process of preserving bodies for the afterlife and learnt about the significance of mummification in Egyptian culture, its rituals, and the beliefs surrounding death. Year 3 marvelled at the craftsmanship involved in creating mummies and gained a deeper understanding of how ancient civilizations honoured their deceased.

Year 4 – Elm and Oak

This week, the children have begun to look at instruction texts. They have followed instructions to create a clay eye and evaluated examples of instructions. In Maths, the children have begun to divide 2 digits by 1 digit using the part whole model and everyone has shown great resilience in our learning. In PE, the children have continued to practise their ball skills and worked on their tactics for success in a game of tennis.



Multiplication Table Focus – Year 4.

Spring 2 will issued in due course.

Each week in our times table lesson we will start by reviewing the previous weeks focus before moving on to the new weekly focus.

Week Beginning	08.01.24	15.01.24	22.01.24	29.01.24	05.02.24	12.02.24
Review	2x	4x	6x	8x	9x	7x
New Focus	4x	6x	8x	9x	7x	12x

For children who are confident with these – it is also really important to explore the division facts too!

We also work on these during our review and new focus sessions.

e.g. $4 \times 6 = 36$ and $6 \times 4 = 36$

$36 \div 6 = 4$ and $36 \div 4 = 6$

The 'JAMMING' game on TT Rockstars gives you questions for both multiplication and division facts so is a great place to practice!



Conifer class

The children have continued to access their personalised curriculum in English and Maths whilst building and strengthening relationships with their peers and adults. Some of the children continue to access some mainstream lessons in the afternoons.

In our Hamish and Milo sessions, we have continued to think and learn about the feeling of anger. We linked these feelings to a volcano and watched a bottle of coca-cola explode when we shook it up – just like our anger feels sometimes! We made scones in our cooking session – some of the children tried them and liked them!

Some children have started to learn more about being safe online and what 'technology' is. We have looked at different uses of technology in our computing lessons. Other children have continued to access many of their lessons with their mainstream class.

Attendance for this week

Acorn	95.2%	Chestnut	100%
Hawthorn	92.7%	Willow	97.6%
Maple	97.1%	Sycamore	98.1%
Palm	92.5%	Pine	96.9%
Elm	92.5%	Oak	96.8%
Conifer	96.9%		

Please find the link to the NHS website regarding 'Is my child well enough to be in school'
<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

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If your child has a temperature for more than 2 days please take them to the doctor to get them checked for an infection.

Being late for school can affect your child's attendance, anyone arriving after 8.55 and entering through the front doors will be marked as late and anyone arriving after 9.15 will be marked as an unauthorised absence which will affect their attendance (unless there is an acceptable explanation).

Star and Leaves awards

We are proud of the hard work the children make with their academic work, their resilience and positive attitude to learning in addition to the efforts they make to follow our school values. Each week in our celebration assembly we congratulate children who have gone above and beyond and have demonstrated a positive attitude to learning and thus achieved the Behaviour for Learning Star. We are also very proud of the children who demonstrate our school values to a high standard and are awarded the Values Leaf. All children who are recognised for their hard work in our celebration assembly will enjoy a hot chocolate with Mrs Boyle, our Headteacher.

This week we are celebrating:

Class	Stars	Leaves
Acorn	Lucas	Olivia
Chestnut	Jack	Aria
Hawthorn	Louie	Taylor
Willow	Ava	Casey
Maple	Florence	Chloe S
Sycamore	Luca	Betsy
Palm	Harriet	Leah
Pine	Amelia	Elyssa-Rose
Elm	Jake	Theo
Oak	Suzie Lee	Leo
Conifer	Elliot	



General Information

School council

The school council met with Sari from HCL catering company who provide our school meals. The meeting was very productive, with councillors voicing their opinions about how we can make our lunchtime meals even better. Some of their ideas were to have ketchup available and to be given an option of chicken nuggets on the menu. Watch this space for some tasty changes to our lunch!

Choir

We are delighted to open some extra spaces in our choir for children in Year 3 and Year 4.

If your child is already in the choir please can you confirm via SCOPay that they would like to continue in the choir.

If your child is in Year 3 or 4 and would like to join the choir please can you complete the SCOPay survey to apply for a place to start after half term.

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The existing choir will continue to meet, as they already do each Tuesday after school. Once we have confirmed to parents that children have been given a place, their rehearsals will begin after February half term. We will confirm if the place has been given, please do not assume your child automatically has been given the place as this is a very popular activity.

Practices for choir will take place on Tuesdays after school until 4.30 with Mrs Ashwell and Mrs Godin.

Requests need to be completed by Friday 9th February 2024.

Children's mental health week - Shine Bright event

On Friday 9th February we will be holding a non-uniform day to raise money for Chums and Making me charities. Children are invited to come to school wearing brightly coloured clothes (No team kits are to be worn) and donations to the charities can be made via SCOpay. Suggested voluntary donation of £1.

Unnamed items

We have had an increasing number of items being lost each day which are all unnamed. Please can all items being sent into school be named this includes water bottles, snack pots, school uniform, hats, gloves etc. Unfortunately we have been unable to reunite these items with their owners as we do not know who they belong to.

Home language Event

Mrs McCarthy would like to say a big thank you for all the replies and offers to help with the Home Language Event. She will be contacting those who have offered to help, next week. If you have a language skill or celebrate a festival and you would like to share it with the children please let us know through this link.

<https://forms.gle/JRgVhjsQJvKWYE489>

Reminder of Egyptian day for Year 3

Egyptian day will be held on the 16th February for year 3. Please can we ask each child in Year 3 to please come into school with an oversized white t-shirt and black trousers or leggings.



Reminder of Viking day for Year 4

Viking day will be held on the 16th February and each child is asked to dress as a Viking, you do not need to buy an outfit an oversized t-shirt with a belt would be a great costume.

Reminder Year 4 Toasting marshmallows

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Year 4 have the treat of toasting marshmallows next Friday, permissions need to be given by 7th February via SCOpay. Please be aware all children need to wear long sleeve tops and long trousers for this event. They can change from what they are wearing for the Shine Bright event.

Measles

Please can we remind all parents to check that their children's vaccinations are up to date. As you may be aware there is an increase in cases of measles across the UK and the disease is very infectious. The NHS is warning that as many as nine out of 10 unvaccinated children would be susceptible to measles if a single classmate brought it into school.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's vaccinations please contact your GP.

My family coach

My Family Coach have free online classes coming up soon. They also send out the recordings to watch on-demand if parents and carers can't make it on the night – just book a space to receive the recording:

- [Supporting My Anxious Child: Thursday 8th February 2024, 7.30pm](#)
- [What Can I Do When My Child Feels Angry? Tuesday 4th June 2024, 8pm](#)

See our website for more information on My Family Coach.

Diary Dates

Please find below dates for the rest of this school year. Please note dates which have changed or added have been highlighted.

05/02/2024	All week	Children's mental health week
06/02/2024	Morning	Hearing screening for Reception classes
06/02/2024	All day	Safer Internet Day
09/02/2024	All day	Shine bright wear bright Non Uniform day
09/02/2024	Afternoon	Year 4 Toasting Marshmallow/s'mores
16/02/2024	All Day	Y4 Viking Day – Details to be provided nearer the time
16/02/2024	All Day	Y3 Egyptian Day
29/02/2024	4pm to 7pm	Parent consultations – More details to follow
05/03/2024	4pm to 7pm	Parent consultations – More details to follow
06/03/2024	All Day	Y3 Faith Tour
07/03/2024	All Day	World Book Day
11/03/2024	All Week	National Science Week
26/03/2024	3pm	Y4 Grafham parents meeting
27/03/2024	9.30am	Easter Service at the Church – parents invited – Y1, Y3 & Oak Class
27/03/2024	2pm	Easter Service at the Church – parents invited Reception, Year 2 & Elm

18/04/2024	TBC	Y4 Transfer Festival at Arnold Academy
25/04/2024	All Day	Y4 Bikeability – children to bring in bikes & cycle helmets
13/05/2024	All Day	Y4 Grafham Water Trip
14/05/2024	All Day	Y4 Grafham Water Trip
15/05/2024	All Day	Y4 Grafham Water Trip
16/05/2024	3.30pm to 4.30pm	Scolastic Book Fair YR, Y1 and Y2
17/05/2024	3.30pm to 4.30pm	Scolastic Book Fair Y3 and Y4
07/06/2024	All Day	Y2 Herrings Green trip
12/06/2024	Morning	School Photographer – Class Portraits
24/06/2024	9.15am	Y4 Moving up assembly/workshop
26/06/2024	3.45pm to 5.45pm	Book look & meet your new Teacher for 2024 to 2025
27/06/2024	All Day	Transition Day
28/06/2023	All Day	Y1 Mount Fitchett Trip
01/07/2024	All Week	Sports Week – details to follow nearer the time
05/07/2024	TBC	Y4 Leaf Walk in Silsoe
08/07/2024	All Week	Back up Sports Week (for events cancelled during w/c 01/07/2024 due to adverse weather conditions)
10/07/2024	TBC	Y4 Visit to Silsoe Parks
19/07/2024	9.30am	Y4 Leavers Assembly



26 January 2024

Important information about measles

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Cases of measles are rising in England. Measles is **very** infectious and spreads easily between people who have not been vaccinated, especially in nurseries and schools.

Measles is a serious illness. Some children with measles need to be admitted to hospital. Measles can cause pneumonia and inflammation (swelling) of the brain. Sometimes it can cause long term health problems or death.

Measles is prevented by vaccination. Two MMR vaccinations provide excellent life-long protection from catching measles.

If your child has not been vaccinated and has close contact with someone with measles, they may be asked to stay at home and miss school or be kept away from childcare/nursery for 21 days. Vaccination can help keep your child in school or in childcare.

You can check your child's vaccinations by looking at their personal child health record (Red Book) or by asking your GP.

Your child needs two MMR vaccines to be fully protected. The first MMR vaccine is offered when children turn one. The second when they are about 3 years and 4 months old. If your child has missed one or both vaccines they can catch up at any time. Adults who have missed MMR vaccinations can still be vaccinated – it is never too late.

To arrange a vaccine please contact your GP practice.

You can find more information about measles here:

www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles/



You can find out more about the MMR vaccine here:

www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/mmr-vaccine/



Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vicky Head".

Vicky Head

Director of Public Health, Central Bedfordshire Council

Schools Newsletter

Issue 3, 2024

THANK YOU for giving back to your local community by
supporting **YOUR** local Hospital

Since September 2023, we have received donations totalling just over **£10,500**, from local nurseries, schools and colleges!

These donations have supported areas and appeals including our Little Feet Appeal, L&D Breast Cancer Unit, Children's Ward, Give a Gift Appeal and our Neonatal Unit (NICU).

Were any your staff or students born at L&D or Bedford Hospital or have a personal experience and want to support?

Would you like to 'do more in 24'? You could organise a sponsored walk, run or swim and have fun whilst fundraising!

If you feel inspired and want to join many of our local schools by getting involved this year?

Please get in touch, I would love to hear from you and support you on your fundraising journey:

Email: sabine.hazell@ldh.nhs.uk or call: 01582 718289

Continue reading to see the incredible support we have received ...

The Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Charitable Fund is a registered charity in England and Wales, no 1058704

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FUNDRAISING SUPERSTARS:

Challney High School For Girls organised their annual Race for Life in October 2023 raising over **£8,400** for the L&D Breast Cancer Unit. We are so grateful to everyone involved, a special thank you to Miss Ponsonby & Miss Dolan for working tirelessly every year to make the event such a huge success!



Wow! What a busy festive period we had!!!



HUGE THANK YOU TO ... Beechwood Park School who raised over £3,000, some of the money was used towards equipment and they purchased over 100 gifts for our Children's Ward. Harlington Upper School also donated £221.99. Tots Academy, High Beeches Primary School, Challney Girls and the Bedford College Group took part in Jolly Jumper day raising funds for NICU Parents Accommodation and Carlton Primary School donated gift hampers for Bedford Hospital Staff. Bizzie Bees Nursery and ACE donated lovely handmade Christmas Cards. Sienna from Silsoe C of E VC Lower School organised gift donations for our Give a Gift Appeal, after being a patient in the L&D earlier in the year.



We received donations for Bedford Hospital Primrose Unit; Bedford Prep School donated a **£1538.29** & Redborne Upper **£260**

Denbigh High School, Challney Girls and Challney Boys attended our End of Year Supporter Thank You Event



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School Choirs helped spread lots of festive cheer at the hospital! Hadrian Academy, Chalk Hills Academy, Chantry Primary, Toddington St George and Ferrars Academy (who also performed in the community raising a fantastic £302.88)



All choir donations supported our Little Feet Appeal

[Little Feet Appeal - Charity \(bedfordshirehospitals.nhs.uk\)](https://www.bedfordshirehospitals.nhs.uk)



We also welcomed The Chiltern School, Weatherfield Academy and Woodlands School who supported with our gift labelling and sorting for our Give a Gift Appeal, it was a great experience for the SEND students.



Thank you for reading; I look forward to working with you in 2024 and continuing to make a difference.

Best Wishes,

Sabine

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OUR CURRENT VALUE IS:

Patience

*'But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with
patience.'*

Romans 8:25