



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

LEARNING, ENJOYING,
& SUCCEEDING
TOGETHER!

AUTUMN 2 – 15TH DECEMBER 2023

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'Every child has the right to an education which develops their ability, personality, and talents to the full. It should encourage children to respect human rights and their own and other cultures. It should also help them to learn to live peacefully, protect the environment and respect other people.'

Article 29, UNCR (United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child)

Headteacher's Message

September seems like a very distant memory. It has definitely been a long and busy term!

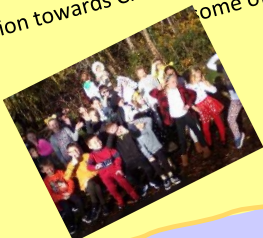
The Autumn Term has been packed with activities and visitors to the school and this newsletter gives a small glimpse of some of the things that our children have taken part in. This has all been in addition to our staff and children working extremely hard to cover the national curriculum so that our children can all learn, enjoy and succeed together!

A highlight for me this term has been the amazing Christmas Nativity: 'Lights, Camel, Action' presented by Oak and Holly Base. As one of our Bearwood Goals - being a Confident Communicator was clearly shown - it was great to see the confidence in our children and the smiles on their faces! I would also like to mention our wonderful choir who performed so brilliantly at St Barnabas Church - such a lovely opportunity to join in with our local community and share some love and joy.

I have thoroughly enjoyed joining the Bearwood team this term and I am very much looking forward to seeing what the new term and 2024 brings.

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year!

On Friday 17th November, the children were invited to wear spots in return for a donation towards Children in Need. We raised £178.95 and were very impressed with some of the creative spots we saw!



Thank you to all of the parents in Holly Base who joined us for our "Open classroom" sessions in Early Reading and phonics. It was a great opportunity to show you how we missed reading to our younger children. If you missed these sessions, keep an eye on communications as there will be more in the Spring Term.

Bearwood took part in a minute's silence to commemorate Remembrance Day. Each class also created some beautiful art-work. In Year 6, they read and listened to the poem 'In Flanders Field'. They then chose specific words from the poem to create an individual, mini poem by colouring it in as a poppy.



Five of our Sports Leaders went on a course at Poole High School to become Bronze Ambassadors within the school and support promoting physical activity within our school. They join over 1000 Bronze Ambassadors who have been trained within Dorset this year. Their role includes running lunchtime activities and organising events to get more children involved in sport and exercising. Their first step was to plan and lead an assembly and let the rest of the school know what their plans were and how these would be implemented. We look forward to seeing their training in action over the next school year.



Road Safety Week

This half term all the children took part in a range of activities to understand the importance of keeping safe on the roads. The youngest children in the school, recapped how they must always hold a grown up's hand when walking along a road and cross at the zebra or pelican crossing. In Key Stage One, they learnt about safe places to cross on a road and Lower Key Stage Two designed outfits to ensure they could be seen on the roads. They also discussed appropriate outfits to wear at dusk to help them be seen by drivers. In Upper Key Stage Two the children learnt the importance about not chancing crossing the road and guessing the cars speed, as sadly it can have costly implications.

We are very grateful to Taylor-Wimpey Homes who donated enough bike flashlights for all of our KS2 children to take home. They also donated some walk ropes which will be used in Oak Base.

This year's national Road Safety Campaign was aimed at reducing driver's speed. Please may I ask all parents just to take this moment and reflect on the speed they drive, as altering your speed just slightly can make a huge difference in whether a child lives or dies on the road.

Think Safe, Reduce your Speed!



This term has seen a brand new school choir set up for children in Y2 – Y6. We have had a great time singing Christmas songs this half term in preparation for two performances. Our choir opened the school Christmas Fayre with their performance of Jingle Bells and the 12 days of Christmas. Our choir was also invited along to perform at St Barnabas Church's Carol Service which was a wonderful experience for all involved. The children represented our school brilliantly and sang beautifully.



At the end of November, key stage two held their termly debate assemblies in their classrooms. Building on our work in anti-bullying week, Willow Base asked the children "should all forms of bullying be against the law"? The children were really engaged with the topic, thought carefully about their points of view and then shared their ideas in a mature way. Below are some of their thoughts and ideas.

For:

If an adult was doing it, they can go to prison so children should be punished too. Bullying can hurt people- their feelings and physically.

Earlier this half term, we enjoyed a reading breakfast before school. It was lovely to see so many families enjoying toast and a story! Thank you all for coming!



In October, we invited Whitney from iRock Music to inspire us with her musical performance. She 'wowed' us with her voice, guitar, piano and drum playing and even got some children involved with creating a band. They sounded great playing 'We will rock you' as a real rock band. It was also really exciting singing songs together as a whole school.



This week, Willow Base and Maple 1 were visited by Science Zone. The show for Willow 1 was based on the Ancient Egyptians, following their learning in History. Willow 2's show was based on sound and light and included a science experiment making straws vibrate to make different pitches of sound. This was to embed their knowledge from Science in Years 3 and 4. Maple 1 had a presentation on Climate Change, linking with sustainability in our Geography curriculum.'



On Friday 15th December, Rev. Peter and Hannah, Children's and Families worker from St Barnabas Church joined us for assembly. They explained about the Christian tradition of creating a Christingle to celebrate Christmas. The children really enjoyed seeing Rev. dressed up as a giant orange! All children in school were provided with a Christingle pack to have a go at making one at home!



Willow 2 got out into our local area this week to deliver Christmas cards to our neighbours on Barons Road and Wheelers Lane. We really got into the festive spirit and came back to school for our Christmas party!

Maple 2 and Willow Base joined an online Christmas concert this week. We were blown away by the talent of the harpist who performed for us and were able to ask and answer questions with these professional musicians.



Last week we held our annual Christmas Fair. It was the most fantastic evening, with music, song, food and games. It was enjoyed by all, and we raised a wonderful £1300 for our school! Elfridges was also a massively exciting day for the children. Grown Up's – no peeking at the gifts before Christmas!

All tea towels that were ordered should now be given out – I think you'll agree they are lovely.

On a personal note, thank you to all the parents, children, staff and families that have supported me during my time as Chair of the PFA, it been such fun and I know that the new Committee will continue to take it from strength to strength.

Sue Pitcher 😊

SPRING TERM

Tuesday 2nd January 2024 to Thursday 28th March 2024
(2nd & 3rd January – Closed to pupils)

Half Term – Monday 12th February to Friday 16th February 2024

Easter Holiday – Friday 29th March to Friday 12th April 2024

SUMMER TERM

Monday 15th April to Tuesday 23rd July 2024

Half Term – Monday 27th May to Friday 31st May 2024
(3rd June - Closed to pupils)

INSET DAYS

Monday 2nd & Tuesday 3rd January 2024
Monday 3rd June 2024

IMPORTANT SAFEGUARDING INFORMATION

Safeguarding/Child Protection

Bearwood Primary and Nursery School is committed to the safeguarding and welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

If you have any concerns, please contact the following people through the school office: The designated child protection/safeguarding officers are Mrs Cheryl Smith, Headteacher, and Mrs Lyster, Our Pupil Engagement and Welfare Officer is Mrs Olivia Lyster