

BENWICK PRIMARY SCHOOL

DECEMBER 2015



Introduction

What a busy term! We said goodbye to Jack (Yr3) but hello to Riley (Yr2).

I would like to say thank you to Mrs Pope who stepped into the breach and took Class 3 at short notice. We interviewed on Wednesday 9th December for a new teacher for Class 3 and appointed Mrs Goulbourne who will start in April, after Easter, due to contractual reasons.

For the Spring Term, Mrs Wood and Mrs North will take Class 3 with Mrs Hinson and Mrs Barnes. We did not want to get another new teacher for Class 3 for just 1 term so we thought this was the best option.

Assessment Without Levels - You may all be aware that the government has decided that levels will no longer be used to assess children's attainment. Instead at the end of the year the children will be assessed against the national standard. They will either be at the expected standard, exceed it or be below it. This will be reported in Years 2 and 6.

In addition to this we have decided to continue to use Assertive Mentoring stages to track children's progress. Stage 3 should be for Year 3 children, Stage 4 for Year 4 and so on. However, in the initial transition to the new curriculum (which has higher expectations of children - e.g. the old level 4b which was the goal for Yr 6 children is now equivalent to a secure stage 4!) and the stages we are finding that the children are not necessarily working within the stage of their year at the moment.

I can assure you that we are working hard to ensure that the children are working at the level they need to develop their skills and are being challenged by the new Curriculum objectives. We are still awaiting examples of what the national standard looks like so, as with all schools at the moment, we are striving to do the best we can for your children. Please bear with us and expect further updates.

On Monday 19th October, Four Year 6 children were very lucky to have been chosen to participate in an English Challenge, which was held at Westwood Primary School. Leon, Jasmin, Seb and Alice put their outstanding Literacy skills to the test, and represented Benwick School in the competition. They had fun answering questions about books, working as a team to recite a poem and solve Literacy word games. They all had a great time!

Website Information

We have a new website!

www.benwick.cambs.sch.uk

I would like to thank Mrs Hill for putting the new website together. The website is still under construction but it is now more up-to-date than the old one so please put this into your favourites.



KEY STAGE 1 CHRISTMAS PRODUCTION - MANGER MOUSE

A wonderful nativity performance from Classes 1 & 2 told the story of Manger Mouse who lived in a stable in Bethlehem. All the children sang brilliantly, danced enthusiastically and delighted the audience. Well done and thank you to the children, Mrs Wood, Miss Garner, Miss Whitehand, Mrs Few, Mrs Fiore and Mrs Thompson who put the whole production together.

A total of £224.20 was raised at the performances which will go towards hire of lights and costumes. Thank you for the donations.



Bring Dad to School Morning - Monday 16th November dawned and 36 dads, uncles or grandads came to school to spend the morning with the children. Here are a few of their comments to the question 'What went well?'

- Great manner with the kids
- All the children sitting down together and paying attention
- Very good interaction
- Minimal disruption from other pupils
- Good display of discipline and respect for teaching staff
- Children engaging well with teacher
- Children helping each other
- It was good to see how the maths was done
- I loved the interaction of both teachers and the use of touch screen technology

Even better if comments included:

- Bigger chairs
- If daddy had the education that his child is getting then I might be more 'betterer'!
- Staying all day



18th November - 'B' Team Football Tournament

Our 'B' team were raring to go and were excited at the prospect of playing in the village tournament. We played Lionel Walden first and lost 0-2. Our second game was against Thomas Eaton and we won 1-0. We then drew with Manea. Unfortunately then the heavens opened and within seconds we had to abandon the rest of the tournament.

Bookfair - On Monday 30th November the Bookfair came to Benwick Primary! All of the children had a chance to browse the books over the course of the week and many came back with grown-ups after school. We made just short of £300 and this has meant that we are able to purchase £80 worth of new books for school. The money will be spent on non-fiction books, to support our topic learning. Thank you to everyone who came along.

Phonics Workshops

On Wednesday 18th November, Mrs Wood held a phonics workshop for parents and carers of children in Classes 1 and 2. The session was very well attended and aimed to give adults a clearer understanding of how we teach phonics in school. Mrs Wood explained the progression of phonics teaching and offered some suggestions as to how children can be supported at home. In addition to this she shared a leaflet that outlined useful websites for extending your child's phonics knowledge at home.

If you would like a copy of the leaflet that was given out at the meeting, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Fire Service Visit - On Tuesday 1st December, Class 2 had a very special visitor. As our topic for the term has been 'Fire!', Miss Garner and Mrs Wood invited Howard from the Wisbech Fire Service to come in and talk to the children about his job. In their English lesson the day before, the children thought of lots of great questions for Howard and he was very impressed by how carefully they had thought about what to ask. Howard had heard that most of our learning had been about 'The Great Fire of London' and so he prepared a special presentation all about the History of the Fire Service. At the end of his talk he chose one lucky volunteer - Aidan - to try on his firefighter's uniform! Class 2 really enjoyed the visit and were very well behaved. Afterwards, the children wrote thank you letters to Howard and these have been delivered to Wisbech Fire Station.

NSPCC - On Monday 2nd November, Class 4 had a visit from members of the NSPCC. The children learned that the NSPCC is an organisation which believes adults have a responsibility to keep childhood free from abuse, and that everything possible must be done to protect children and prevent it from happening. The children carried out a range of activities which enabled them to recognise different types of abuse and how to keep themselves safe.

Children In Need - On Friday 13th November we helped raise money for Children in Need. The whole school dressed up as weird Pudseys! We had a range of Pudsey's from Superhero's to pyjama Pudseys. The School Council also organised a pin the eye patch on Pudsey and had a brilliant time. Well done school council! Grace Wood also had a fantastic idea to dress her brother Edward up in sellotape where children could stick change to him! It raised a huge £25. Edward did an amazing job of walking round the school wrapped up but he was a bit hot by the end!!! After school we sold a range of cakes that had been donated by parents, every cake was sold!! We raised a total of £201. Thank you to everyone who contributed.



Hockey Sessions - Throughout the half term, Class 3 and 4 have been very lucky to have weekly hockey sessions from Mr Bennett. He has given the children the opportunity to reinforce and further develop their skills, such as controlling the ball and dribbling with a stick, tackling to take possession of the ball and participating in matches. The children have thoroughly enjoyed the sessions.

Reminders

Just to remind you that the school register is taken at 8:55 p.m. Children arriving after this time will be marked as late.

Please do not drop off your child/children, turn your car around or park in the staff car-park

Parents are still parking on the yellow lines. This is illegal.

Dates for your Diary

December 2015

17th - Carol Concert. 1:30 p.m. in the Village Hall. All welcome.

18th - Class Parties. Children to bring party clothes to change into for the afternoon parties.

18th - Last day of Autumn Term

January 2016

4th - School Closed. Teacher Training Day.

5th - Pupils back for start of Spring Term

6th - Flu immunisations for children in Years 1 & 2

6th - Burwell Presentation Evening for parents and children attending Burwell Residential Trip. Please let the school office know if you will be able to attend.

18th - 20th - School Residential Trip to Burwell

February 2016

15th - 19th (inclusive) Half-Term

March 2016

3rd - Voice In A Million

24th - Last day of Spring Term

Myself, staff and governors would like to wish
you all a very Happy Christmas and best wishes
for the New Year