

# BENWICK PRIMARY SCHOOL



## JUNE 2017 NEWSLETTER

*I hope you all had a lovely half-term; at least the weather was good! As we continue with the good weather please can you make sure that children have water bottles, hats and suncream if necessary.*

### **Next Academic Year September 2017**

You may have seen in the press and on television that many schools are struggling to balance their budgets this year. Fortunately, we have not been too badly affected and were able to set the budget for 2017-18 without too much disruption to the way we run the school. This is largely due to careful planning over several years which ensured we had sufficient carry forward. How the budget will look next year we do not yet know. Bearing this in mind we are looking to keep the class structure the same as this year, as 5 classes with a split Year 3 group. If your child is in Year 3 next year we will let you know later in the term whether they are in the Owls or Herons classes.

#### **Therefore the structure is as follows:-**

<b>Swans</b>	<b>Year 5 &amp; Year 6</b>
<b>Hérons</b>	<b>Year 4 &amp; Year 3</b>
<b>Owls</b>	<b>Year 3 and Year 2</b>
<b>Doves</b>	<b>Year 1</b>
<b>Robins</b>	<b>Reception</b>

Miss Wakefield will be returning to work three days a week from September, following her maternity leave. Mrs Wood will teach the Swans on the other two days. Mrs Wood will be out of the classroom the rest of the week completing her Management/SENCO duties. Mrs Johnson will be taking Reception. This leaves us with a vacancy in the Owls class which we have interviewed for today. I am pleased to inform you that we have appointed Mr King.

#### **Therefore the classes will look like this:-**

<b>Swans</b>	<b>Mon-Wed Miss Wakefield/ Thur-Fri Mrs Wood</b>
<b>Hérons</b>	<b>Mrs Goulbourne</b>
<b>Owls</b>	<b>Mr King</b>
<b>Doves</b>	<b>Miss Farquhar</b>
<b>Robins</b>	<b>Mrs Johnson</b>

### **Friday 5 May 2017—Herons Class Assembly**

All of the Year 3 and 4 children worked really hard to perform a Tudor assembly based on King Henry's wives. The children showed the knowledge and facts that they had learnt during this History topic and showcased their Tudor headdresses and bonnets that they had made in Design and Technology.

The children should all be very proud of themselves for their acting and all the work they have completed in this interesting history topic. Well done Herons!

### **Friday 12 May 2017—Doves Class Assembly**

On Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May Doves shared their learning with their family, friends and the rest of the school. The assembly was all about the topic for the half term – 'Dinosaurs'. All of the children had something to say regarding their learning and they showed some of their wonderful work. They even had a scary dinosaur stomp onto the stage which scared the palaeontologists and geographers. A big '**Well Done!**' to all of the children in Doves, and an equally big thank you to all of the parents, friends and other family members who came to support their child(ren).



### **Monday 15th May - Year 5 Maths Challenge**

I took five Year 5 boys to the annual Year 5 Maths Challenge at Glebelands School in Chatteris. Liam, Thomas, Alfie and Stanley took part in four different rounds to test their mathematical skills and problem solving. Although our team did not go through to the finals at Duxford, they were awarded a certificate for particular achievement in the problem solving round. Well done boys.

*Mrs Hill has been able to gain the school a £10,000 National Lottery Grant for the children's outdoor play area. The money has been spent on the all-weather surface to provide year round use of the equipment.*

*We have also been able to secure a Grant from Tesco Bags of Help project and tokens can be collected in Ramsey Tesco and Somerham store when you shop. We have yet to find out how much will be raised it could be as much as £4,000 to put towards creating a wildflower garden and seating area within Johns Garden. Please look on our website for more information*

[www.benwick.cambs.sch.uk](http://www.benwick.cambs.sch.uk).



**NATIONAL  
LOTTERY FUNDED**



### Thursday 18th May—Read it Again Awards

On Wednesday 18th May, five lucky children were selected to attend the Read it Again Awards at a school in St Neots. Read it again is a competition in Cambridgeshire that is judged by Primary school children. The authors and illustrators have never wrote or illustrated a book before. It started in 2004 and Benwick Primary School is the only school to take part in voting every year since 2004 and get a shout out in the ceremony.

By Jessica and Ronni



### WEDNESDAY 24TH MAY—AMAZING ANIMALS ROADSHOW

Hérons class were lucky enough to be visited by the 'Lion Learners' just before May half term. The gentleman arrived with two different rabbits, some guinea pigs, a snake, a lizard, a tarantula (Which was Mrs Goulbourne's and Tahlia's favourite!!), a speedy tortoise and lots of facts about these amazing creatures.

The children got to stroke and feed many of these animals and it was a very exciting and enjoyable afternoon. We would like to thank the Lion Learners for this experience because it really enhanced our Science work on Classification and grouping.



### Thursday 25th May—Swans Class Assembly

Swans class recently produced their own class assembly and showcased it to the whole school as well as their parents. They wrote the assembly entirely by themselves because they were keen to show off their knowledge about the Solar System, which is part of their Science topic this term. The children wowed their audience with interesting facts that had been learned off by heart in quite a short space of time. They also showed their homework projects, a Powerpoint presentation and finished off with a catchy song about the planets. By the end of the assembly, Mr Robinson and all the parents were really proud of the children's achievements. The children looked pleased as this has given them a positive 'can do' attitude to learning. This has helped them into this half term with their new challenge - a mini election project."



### **Friday 26th—Sunday 28th May 2017—Year 4, 5, 6 go to Kingswood**

On a glorious Friday morning 28 Year 4, 5 and 6 children, myself, Mrs Wood and Miss Farquhar excitedly climbed onto the coach for our bi-annual trip to the adventure packed Kingswood Residential. The first challenge was to survive the making of the beds—we discovered that not many children can put a duvet into a duvet cover!

The children were kept busy with a wide range of activities to improve teamwork and resilience and which provided challenge and risk. Key highlights included Zip Wire, Ab-seiling and the Leap of Faith (a 15 foot pool with a platform on the top of it. The children had to climb the pole, get onto the platform (about the size of a pizza box lid) and leap off to catch hold of a trapeze). I am always amazed and proud that so many children managed to do it! Other activities included a pool party, campfire, archery, bouldering, caving, go-karts, aeroball and nightline.

The children were extremely well behaved and challenged themselves in each and every activity. The weekend rushed by and all too soon and we were saying goodbye to Rob (our leader) and returning to school. We will go back to Kingswood in 2019. Next year, Year 5 & 6 will have the opportunity to go to Burwell House in January for a completely different experience. Details to follow in September.

