

**Thank you** to all our parents and carers for your continued support this term.



From all the CLP Trust schools we wish you a happy holiday and look forward to welcoming you back in the new term.



## Fancy Dress Sponsored Walk Day

We were blown away by the children's efforts to raise money this term for our school projects. The children took part in a Sponsored Walk Fancy Dress to raise money for several items on our school's fundraising list including new playtime equipment to keep us active.

They looked wonderful in their outfits and were challenged to see how many times they could walk around the school playground in ten minutes.

The children raised an amazing £3171.40! The new equipment has already started to arrive in school and the children have enjoyed playing with these items already.



## New Eight Classroom Building

There have been some drastic changes across the Barnes Farm school site linked to our brand new eight classroom building. This term, we have seen ground works completed, steel works being added and walls starting to be placed. We can now start to see what the new building will look like, which has been very exciting for all in both Barnes Farm schools.

During this build, the children from both schools have been actively involved. The infant school children have visited the site in their Hi-Vis jackets and hard hats. Beardwell Construction is working closely with us to ensure that the children know how the build is progressing. In addition to this, Beardwell Construction launched a competition for the children to decorate the hoarding with a painting of themselves and everyone else in our school community. Their self-portraits look amazing!

In December, members of Governing Bodies from Barnes Farm Infant School and Barnes Farm Junior School had a tour of the new build site. It was fantastic to see the building taking shape and meet Brian, the Project Manager. The Local Governing Bodies of both schools will be working closely together over the next few months to support and challenge the schools to ensure the potential of this new build is fully realised.



## All In Event

On Wednesday 30th November, we took a group of children to the 'All In' event at Chelmsford Sports and Athletics Centre. The children took part in a range of exciting activities, including trampolining and archery and had an amazing time. All the children joined in and did their best – it was a very proud BFIS moment as they represented the school brilliantly.



## Reindeer Day!

Last week started with a brilliant visit from two incredibly special reindeer!



We loved meeting Snowy and Magnus and a truly magical time was had by all. The children had lots of questions and were kind and gentle with the reindeer.



James, Snowy and Magnus' owner, told us all about how to care for reindeer, what they like to eat and how they help Santa at Christmas! They were super full-up and exhausted when it was time to go home after being fed by all the children and having their photograph taken so many times.

## Anti-Bullying Week

The children have learned about what bullying is in assembly with Mrs. Robinson and that this year's focus is 'One Kind Word'.

We talked about bullying is hurting someone on purpose, over and over again and that it is not when an unkind thing happens only once.

We found out that it can happen face to face with actions or with words, or online through a phone, tablet or computer.

The children were brilliant at remembering our previous assembly with Buddy from the NSPCC and remembered that these things ARE NOT OKAY!

We have been thinking about lots of kind things that we can say and do for each other to make those around us feel happy.

We can all make a change by listening, by noticing and by working together to stop bullying.





## Specialist Subject Days at BFJS

At Barnes Farm Junior school, we have programmed in a specialist subject day for every curriculum area throughout the year. On these days, the children deeply focus on the chosen curriculum subject. So far, we have provided specialist days for PSHE, Computing and DT and they have been really successful. Here are some of the outcomes:

### Personal Social Health Education (PSHE)



In September, the whole school enjoyed an off-timetable day of health and wellbeing related activities. Despite the soggy start to the day, each year group was able to participate in a different physical activity such as yoga, soldier fitness or a tactical team game. The children also learnt more about healthy eating and enjoyed tasting a variety of different fruits and vegetables; Year 3 and 4 learnt how to eat their food mindfully and Year 5 and 6 pupils tried seven fruits, and some even found a new favourite! During the afternoon, 'Mindful Monday' made a return and children participated in a variety of activities which help to look after our mental health. Many classes made the most of our beautiful garden and other outside spaces, and others spent time thinking about what they are grateful for.

It was wonderful to see an excited buzz around the school throughout the day and hear lots of children eagerly tell their parents what they had done in school when they were collected at the end of the day. We hope all the pupils continue to follow any health 'pledges' they made on Monday over the coming weeks and months at home.

### Computing

The theme was staying safe online and learning about significant characters from the history of Computing such as Ada Lovelace and Mark Zuckerberg. Children spent time in the ICT Suite as well as in the class to deepen their knowledge and understanding of this important curriculum area. They produced some excellent posters and timelines.



### Design and Technology (DT)

In November, the whole school enjoyed an off-timetable day of design and technology themed activities. The children were excited to become toy designers and set a challenge to design and make a new fidget toy. They enjoyed looking at different fidget toys that were brought in from home and used these examples to form a design brief for their own toy.



Following this, the children designed and made a new fidget toy: Year 3 made stress balls; Year 4 made beaded-fidget toys; Year 5 made fidget spinners and Year 6 made marble mazes. The children were extremely creative and produced some wonderful toys.

At the end of the day, the children evaluated the fidget toys in their year group and took part in a celebration assembly to see all of the toys that had been created throughout the day.



It was wonderful to see the children so enthusiastic and dedicated to the task. I have no doubt, that there are some future toy designers at Barnes Farm Junior School.

Next up is 'History' in December – so watch this space!

### Building Site Visit!

This term, and in groups of 15, our children have been able to visit the building site in the middle of our school and ask all the questions that they have been desperate to ask



since the project began! They will revisit after Christmas for an update. Brian, the site manager for Beardwells Construction, reported how impressed he had been with the behaviour of the children. He also was amazed at the range and quality of the questions asked of him and his team.

Recently the steelwork has been craned in too and this has offered a brilliant opportunity for lots of learning conversations in the playground about how and why cranes are used.



**The Barnes Farm Junior School Values**  
BEING POSITIVE      BEING RESPECTFUL      BEING RESPONSIBLE

## Art in the Primary...

One of the huge benefits of being an all-through school is being able to share expertise across phases. In Year 3, our children are taught Art by our secondary expert and Head of Art, Mrs Fulford. The children's topic this half term is based on the book 'The Tin Forest'. Here, they are creating animals using a range of media.



## Diwali



In recent weeks, the children at Beaulieu have been learning all about the Hindu festival of Diwali. In Reception, the children had some special visitors in school to talk about Diwali celebrations. The children used paint to make some firework pictures and in Year 1, the children made Diya lamps using clay. Eron in Year 3 said, "It is good that we learn about different religions so that we can understand each other a bit more".

## Secondary

Students have been busy photographing the world around us for the House competition. Our winning entries were fantastic, here's a shot of our local community at sunset.



Students were given the opportunity to create a video that talked about how people have worked together to solve a problem in the real world where the solution involved the use of mathematics. This allowed students to participate in the Maths Week England charity competition. Last year, Beaulieu won the national competition. We hope we can again! Click these links to watch our student's videos:

- Annie G (Y9) on the Italian government's attempt to fix the leaning tower of Pisa: <https://youtu.be/U8GTyWhSnKQ>
- Noah B (Y7) on Alan Turing and cracking Enigma: [https://youtu.be/umCLVvl\\_Lpk](https://youtu.be/umCLVvl_Lpk)
- Lottie E (Y7) on the issue of global warming: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y9fNb-3uIQ>
- Yalu K (Y8) on maths in cooking and baking: [https://youtu.be/u\\_WIHmf6S90](https://youtu.be/u_WIHmf6S90)



## Congratulations to our Year 11 and Year 13 students!

We were absolutely delighted with our GCSE and A-level results back in August and would like to congratulate every single one of our Year 11 and Year 13 students on their success. Their results were due reward for the hard work and dedication they continuously put in during their time at The Boswells School. Despite the challenges and uncertainty this year brought, our students performed superbly and we were very proud of their efforts. I would also like to praise the commitment and hard work of our teachers in helping our students achieve these results as well as the support we receive from all of our parents. The Year 11 students' high performance meant that we saw more students than ever return to our Sixth Form in September to start their A Levels with us. The overwhelming majority of our Year 13 students achieved the grades to take up places at top universities to study a range of courses or have gone to do their chosen apprenticeship or their chosen profession.



## Porto Football Tour

During October half-term, a number of our students from a range of year groups visited Porto for a football tour, which had been postponed from earlier in the year due to the pandemic. By all accounts, the students had a tremendous time. They received intense training sessions from Porto coaches, explored the City Centre, visited the Porto Museum, had a Stadium tour. They also took part in a silly hat day, and finished the trip



off with competitive matches where all of our teams performed brilliantly!



It really does underline the value of trips both at home and abroad and we hope to give the students many other opportunities once it becomes safer to do so.

## What Lies in the Woods

The week beginning Monday 22nd November was very much around the school production of 'What Lies in the Woods'. There was a huge amount of students who took part, and once again both staff and students have really raised the bar! It was fantastic for the students to be able to perform in front of live audiences again. The amazing feedback from parents and those in the community who came to watch the show was a true reflection of the hard work put in by students and staff since the start of this term.







## Perryfields Infant School - *'Be safe, be kind. Listen and think a lot. Be your best!'*

### Core Values - Responsibility

Every three years we ask the parents what Core Values they would like the school to help instil in their young children. The first half term the Core Value was RESPECT. The whole school focused on respecting the rules, people's property, how we can show respect, why we should show respect, respecting other people's personal space (safeguarding), respecting our differences (backgrounds, cultures and opinions), who do we respect and what to do when this doesn't happen.

Every other week, the children have a BIG QUESTION which they think about discuss at school and home. An example of this was thinking about how to report any concerns we may have at school or at home. We have been encouraging everyone to tell a trusted adult in school if something feels uncomfortable or if we are worried about something. As a 'listening' school we want all of our community to feel safe.

Our new Core Value for this half term is RESPONSIBILITY. We have been looking at how children can be responsible for their belongings, behave responsibly when online or in the playground, responsible people who help us etc. The most recent Big Question was **how can you be more responsible at home?**

### Diwali Celebrations

Thursday 4th November was the start of Diwali celebrations at Perryfields Infant School. The whole school learnt about the Hindu festival of Diwali and the story of Rama and Sita, making clay Diva lamps and Rangoli patterns. We learnt how the story of Rama and Sita teaches us about how good is more important than evil. There are lessons of perseverance and commitment to those we care about.

One of our Year 1 parents, Mrs Singh, kindly prepared a fantastic assembly along with Mrs Mani and Mrs Shankar our fantastic LSAs to explain what makes Diwali so special to Hindus and how they celebrate this five day festival with their family and friends. All of the classes joined in with an Indian Dance workshop. Thank you so much, the children learnt a lot about this happy festival and had lots of fun.



### Demountable News

If you have recently walked past the school it probably hasn't escaped your notice that our 'Family Room' (outside demountable) has been demolished. This is an important space where our 'Peardrops' before and after school provision takes place, academic support groups, PTA meeting area and lots of other important events. We are extremely excited that thanks to our Multi Academy Trust (Chelmsford Learning Partnership) a brand new demountable will be in place by Christmas. The teachers and children will be watching its progress carefully.



### Macmillan Coffee/Cake Day

All of the children (and staff) had a wonderful time today learning about the good work of charities and how we have helped to raise money to help people who are poorly whilst eating cake.

A big thank you to everyone who donated cakes for the children to have. I know they had a wonderful time. Thank you so much to everyone who has donated so far. We will announce the total raised in next week's newsletter.





## Year 6 Open Morning

This year, we opened our school for our 2021 Open Morning, welcoming over 750 Year 6 parents and children to attend a presentation by the Headteacher and a tour around the school. With record numbers attending, every talk and tour was fully booked!



The following week, we also opened the school for tours, so that our prospective parents and children could see the school 'in action'. We are always so proud to welcome visitors to our school facilities, and meet our students.



The feedback from our visitors was extremely positive. Visitors commented on the purposeful environment, the wonderful facilities, the enthusiasm of the teachers and most importantly, how smart, polite and helpful all the students are. Information regarding the Year 6 Transition to Secondary School can be found on our website: <https://rodingvalley.net/admissions/open-morning-2021/>

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## Sixth Form Team Building Day

On Friday 17th September, as part of their induction into Roding Valley Sixth Form, our Year 12 students visited Lambourne End for a team building day. They had a fantastic time participating in



lots of energetic activities that promote confidence, self-belief and to help them to get to know other students in their Year group.



## Personal Development Programme

Here at RVHS, we have had a jam-packed term in regards to the delivery of our Personal Development Programme. All students have one hour session each week, linked to our key strands; 'Being me in my world', 'Celebrating Difference', 'Dreams & Goals', 'Healthy me', 'Relationships' & 'Changing me'. This term, our Year 7 students have been focusing on peer pressure & how to overcome this via bespoke workshops and expert delivery from our Academic Mentors. It has been wonderful to see how engaged our students have been with this curriculum.

## Bedrock & Digital Learning

At the beginning of this academic year, we launched a whole school literacy improvement tool; Bedrock. Bedrock is an online, interactive programme that builds students' understanding of Tier 2 and Tier 3 vocabulary. It unlocks students' understanding of this vocabulary via interactive games, assessment & retrieval tools. Bedrock has formed a huge part of our 'Digital Learning' drive this year; where our year groups experience 'Digital learning' weeks throughout the year. During these 'Digital learning weeks', teachers build in interactive activities such as 'Google Arts & Culture'; a

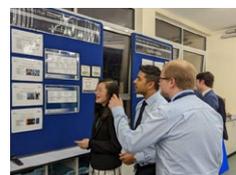


platform that contains virtual museum tours, tours of famous landmarks & much more.



## Sixth Form Open Evening

On November 11th, we held our annual Sixth form Open Evening. We welcomed students from inside & outside of our RVHS community to meet with our Head Teacher, Head of 6th form & wider Sixth form team. Our subject areas displayed



their A-Level curriculum & were supported by our excellent 6th form Subject Ambassadors. Our 6th form is something that we are immensely proud of at RVHS, and we cannot wait to welcome our new Year 12 cohort in September.

## Challenge & Enrichment

Our Challenge & Enrichment programme continues to be in full swing this term. Our excellent Challenge & Enrichment coordinators have been hard at work to coordinate as many opportunities for our students



to be challenged both inside & outside of the classroom. We have delivered a series of 'Masterclasses'



for our Year 11 cohort this term; all delivered by subject experts to allow students to access content from the A-Level course. Our excellent debate team also took part in the EFYC (Epping Forest Youth Council) Climate Action Conference earlier this term. Many of the debate team are also on our 'Student Voice' panel; who have met twice this term to discuss current school matters to drive change.



<https://rodingvalley.net/news/parent-bulletin/>



### Year 6 WWII Experience

As part of their topic on WWII, Year 6 children have been studying the impact that the war had on the people of Chelmsford. The children took part in an immersive WWII experience with a visiting company where they had the opportunity to build an air raid shelter, study artefacts, build a plane and learn about rationing. The children also had the opportunity to sit inside an Anderson Shelter and lay down inside a Morrison Shelter. This experience has been a fantastic stimulus for the children's learning in the classroom.



### Remembrance 2021

To mark the anniversary of the signing of the Armistice Agreement and remember those who have served, or who are currently serving, in the armed forces. Everyone took part in a silence at 11:00am on 11th November during our Remembrance Assembly. Our Year Two children used this as an amazing opportunity to express themselves and their feelings about Remembrance through their artwork. Thank you to every one who donated to the Royal British Legion and wore their poppy with pride.



### Year 5 Space Project

As part of their topic on 'Space', Year 5 have been learning about the Solar System but in particular about our Earth, Sun & Moon. Their learning came alive when the School Hall became a planetarium for the day with a visit from the 'space dome'. This was a fantastic, interactive way for the children to learn about space exploration and they certainly were very inspired. The children have also worked incredibly hard on their own space projects as part of their home learning which were all very impressive!

### Anti-Bullying Week

This year's national Anti-Bullying Week focused on the theme 'One Kind Word'. Our children took part in a range of activities during the week to look at how their actions and words affect other people. The week was launched with 'Odd Sock Day' to celebrate what it is that makes every person unique. As a school, we are looking at how we can each use 'One Kind Word' to create a ripple effect and then a chain reaction so that kindness is spread from person to person throughout the school. This is something that will not just be a focus of anti-bullying week but will continue throughout the year.

