

From the Chief Executive Officer

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of the Autumn Term, I wanted to start this newsletter by thanking you for your support since the full opening of schools in September. Your support for your child's school is greatly appreciated by every member of staff and has helped ensure our schools are able to operate as smoothly as we possibly can in these challenging times.

I would also like to pay tribute to every member of staff in our schools. A huge amount of work goes in on a daily basis just to be able to operate effectively in line with government guidance and our staff have worked incredibly hard to ensure that every child continues to receive an outstanding education. Our schools have been able to stay open for the vast majority of students this term and, if a group or 'bubble' has had to close for 14 days, we have been able to switch to our remote learning provision. The work that our schools undertook in the summer term to prepare for remote learning has meant that we have been able to keep education going even when some pupils are not able to be in school. Hopefully, as we go through 2021, we can start to move back to normal operations in school, but will only be able to do this when we are directed by the government that it is safe to do so.

One of the impacts of the restrictions placed on schools has been the need to significantly reduce the number of visitors onto site. For secondary schools, this

has meant that their traditional Open Evenings couldn't take place and for Primary Schools their prospective parent tours have also been significantly impacted. Never daunted, our schools put together short films that show prospective parents around their school and what their school offers parents. These have been hugely popular and if you haven't had the chance to see these, you can click on the links below:

- **Barnes Farm Infant School**
- **Barnes Farm Junior School**
- **Lakelands Primary School**
- **Perryfields Infant School**
- **Roding Valley High School**
- **The Beaulieu Park School (Primary Phase)**
- **The Beaulieu Park School (Secondary Phase)**
- **The Boswells School**
- **Tyrrells Primary School**

Another impact of the pandemic was the delay in the opening of the building of the latest school to join our family of schools, Lakelands Primary School in Stanway, Colchester. Our pupils and staff moved into the building after half term having spent the previous half term being based in Stanway Fiveways Primary School. The new £6m building is an amazing facility for the local community in Stanway and we have been delighted with the start the pupils and staff have made to life in the new building.

Once again, I'd like to thank you for all your support. We are very proud of our schools and the great work that takes place every day in each of our schools, despite the circumstances of the pandemic. On behalf of everyone in the trust, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Paul Banks
Chief Executive Officer



Reading Competitions

Each year, the children at BFIS are challenged to take part in our Reading Game. This is where children are challenged to read as many times as they can at home and achieve as many certificates as they can. In addition to this, the children have also been given half termly competitions. Reading in an Unusual Place was the competition to start the year off and 'We read too, can you guess who?' challenged the children to work out who was reading texts.



Recording of Little Donkey

We were very proud to have been invited to perform virtually at the Alzheimer's Society 'Celebrating Christmas Together @ Home Concert'. All of the children and staff worked extremely hard to learn the words and sign language for Little Donkey to support the event. It was a beautiful gathering and the children's singing was wonderful to hear. The whole school did a superb job to learn all the signs. Even those remote learning at home were keen to take part.

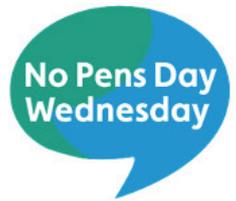
The video brought a tear to a few eyes but more importantly big smiles and festive cheer to those we were supporting.



Barney and Hootie are awarded the Cape of Bravery after their first virtual assembly

No Pens Wednesday

Barnes Farm Infant School had a super 'No Pens Day Wednesday'. We were able to share what every class had been doing by taking assembly 'on tour' and speaking to children in each class to find out how they had been learning without writing! The children told us about the practical maths, role play/drama and creative activities they completed and although it was tricky at times to resist picking up a pencil, great fun was had by all.



NSPCC Speak Out, Stay Safe

We have very much enjoyed meeting Buddy from the NSPCC Speak Out, Stay Safe programme in Assembly.



Buddy, a friendly, green speech bubble, who believes that children should be able to speak out to someone if they are worried or unhappy gave the children lots of advice on staying safe. It has been great to see the children already using the language and taking onboard Buddy's advice.

Speak out Stay safe is a safeguarding programme for children aged 5- to 11-years-old and it helps children to understand the following:

- abuse in all its forms and how to recognise signs of abuse
- that abuse is never a child's fault and that they have the right to be safe
- where to get help and the sources of help available to them, including the Childline service.

It is vitally important for us to support the children to feel confident to ask for help if they need it and this is integral in our school ethos and safeguarding policy. We would like to thank the NSPCC for their fantastic support.

Health Champions

This term we have launched our 'Happy and Healthy Lunchtimes' project which is part of 'The Children's Health Project' wellbeing initiative. Each class in Year 1 and 2 has been asked to nominate two Health Champions who will be helping to keep our lunchtimes happy and healthy.





BFJS Christmas Community Support

We were delighted to receive a donation of a real Christmas tree from Asda as part of their community work. It has been decorated by the children and stands proudly in our main school hall. In addition, we also received an early Christmas gift of some extra PE equipment from Colchester United FC who provide our PPA sports provision. Thank you both!



Barnes Farm Junior School film gets rave reviews

This term, we were proud to announce the premiere of a new film which has been produced to promote the school. Supported by the Chelmsford Learning Partnership, we have been able to capture the essence of our school in a short film which we would like everyone to share with friends, family and the local community. You can view the film [here](#).

Please take the time to share the video so that we can try and welcome as many new Y3 admissions next year as we can.



Barnes Farm Junior pupils – Speaking Out Staying Safe

Earlier this term, the whole school took part in the NSPCC’s “Speak Out. Stay Safe” virtual assembly which was hosted by Ant and Dec. The “Speak out. Stay safe” message was delivered in a fun and interactive way with the help of the NSPCC mascot, Buddy. The pupils discussed different worries children generally might have and the importance of speaking to a trusted adult about anything that makes them feel sad, scared or worried. They were also reminded that they can speak to Childline too as there is no problem too big or too small.



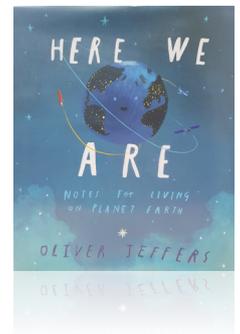
What a child says to Childline stays with Childline - unless they are really worried or concerned about their safety; it is free to call and the call won't show up on any bill.



BFJS Reunited by Reading

Children at Barnes Farm Junior School were reunited this term after largely missing out on school experience through the first lockdown from March 2020 onwards.

For the first part of the term, we all enjoyed one great book together – ‘Here We Are’ by Oliver Jeffers. This is a thought-provoking book which tries to make sense of the world and allowed the children to explore how they felt about coming back to school. The children considered their place in their class, school, country and even their world. It was a wonderful and unifying experience which we have used to spur us on to complete our Autumn term discoveries ranging from Stone Age history, to asking the question in Y6 – “Is War Ever Worth it?”



The Barnes Farm Junior School Values

BEING POSITIVE

BEING RESPECTFUL

BEING RESPONSIBLE

National Winners!

The Katherine Johnson prize was created to celebrate the life of mathematician Katherine Johnson, whose mathematical calculations allowed humans to set foot on the moon and return home safely. Due of her status at the time (a black woman in 1960s America), Johnson was not afforded the recognition she deserved. Maths Week England launched the competition to create a documentary on the life of Katherine Johnson.

We were delighted to announce that Annie, a student in Year 8, won a prize of £100 for the inaugural Katherine Johnson Prize, open to children up to age 18. We are all very proud of her. First in the country! Not bad.

To view Annie's winning video, please visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aiJGiNmaXk&feature=youtu.be>



Curriculum Explained

Conceptual understanding

- Representing a concept in different ways
- Making connections between each way to deepen their understanding.

Reception
M Mathematics Mastery

Conceptual understanding

In many spheres, Covid has affected the way we have had to work. Most of this has been negative, but some good practices have emerged and will no doubt endure. At Beaulieu, concerned that we have been unable to invite our parents into school to explain to them what we do, how and why, we decided to create a video explanation of each of our curriculum areas. These have been well received by our parents. To learn more about our curriculum here at Beaulieu, please visit:

<http://www.beaulieuparkschool.com/1295/curriculum-explained>

<http://www.beaulieuparkschool.com/1301/curriculum-explained-1>

Remembrance

Remembrance is important for all of us and we make a special effort to mark it here at Beaulieu. Our Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children made poppies and observed a 1-minute silence. In the secondary school, the children and adults assembled outside (in their socially distant bubbles), for a service of readings, poetry and music, including the Last Post. The 2-minute silence was then marked at 11am.

Our Year 7 and Year 8 students also produced some wonderful artwork.



The Daily Mile Destinations

As part of our continuous focus on mental and physical wellbeing, the students and staff in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are taking part in a 100-day challenge. Every time the class run for 15 minutes, their class moves one jump on the map. There are 15 countries for each class to visit within the 100 days. When they arrive at each country, the children learn some key facts. The students are all so motivated to complete this challenge and have said that they would like to continue after the 100 days!



Year 2 Curriculum

In Year 2, the children have been learning about famous activists from the past. There was one activist in particular that had a huge impact on the children - Rosa Parks and her story. The children could not believe the terrible way that Black people were treated just several decades ago. This led to some wonderful discussions and the children completed some lovely work around this topic. The students discussed how things have changed since then and what else could change in the future.



Can you guess who this famous animal activist is?



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.

Our results at GCSE and A Level results represented another notable achievement for everyone involved with the school and it is very pleasing to be part of such a successful school community.



Virtual Open Evenings

This year, as we were unable to run conventional Open Evenings for prospective Year 7 and Sixth Form students, we held them virtually. Staff and students contributed presentations and videos gave insightful information on subjects and experiences at The Boswells School. Both virtual Open Evenings really showcased the wonderful opportunities that there are in our main School and our Sixth Form. You can still access all the information by clicking on the following links: [Virtual Year 7 Open Evening 2020](#) and [Virtual Sixth Form Open Evening 2020](#).



Anti-Bullying Week – 16th to 20th November

The Boswells School participated in National Anti-Bullying Week. This year's theme was "United Against Bullying."



Whether it is verbal, physical, online or in-person, bullying has a significant impact on a child's life well in to adulthood. This year, more than ever, we've witnessed the positive power that society can have when we come together to tackle a common challenge.

Anti-Bullying Week is no different. Bullying has a long lasting effect on those who experience and witness it. But by channelling our collective power, through shared efforts and shared ambitions, we can reduce bullying together. From parents and carers, to teachers and politicians, to children and young people, we all have our part to play in coming together to make a difference.

We are all a piece in the puzzle, and together, we are united against bullying.

Our Anti-Bullying Leads Mr Page and Ms Layton-Smith compiled assembly plans for all year groups, designed to encourage our students to think about how we can unite to address bullying both online and offline.

Our Amazing Facilities

What a busy half term we have had! We have now moved into our permanent home, which is fantastic. We are so pleased to be able to use our amazing facilities – the pupils have already tested the MUGA during their PE lessons and the classrooms are vibrant with learning. We have been busy enhancing our outdoor provision too!



Family Dining

We have also started our family dining lunchtime service. The reception aged pupils are learning to lay the tables with plates, knives, forks and cups. They then pour the water, ready for their friends to join them at lunch. They learn to pass each other the cold foods (salads and breads), while an adult helps to serve them their main meals. We are really proud of how quickly the pupils are learning about table manners and healthy eating habits. Since we have moved to the new building, our uptake of school dinners is at 96.8%



Reflecting Realities



We have also invested in some high-quality picture books from suppliers who ensure characters are from diverse backgrounds, and whose storyline arcs are not defined by their disability/race/backgrounds. We are passionate about ensuring our pupils are represented in the books that we read and so excited about sharing these books with our pupils as they go through the school.

“But we also know that learning to read is a social process, to be successful you need to connect with your reading material, you need to be able to see yourself, in some way, in what you read.”

CLPE Reflecting Realities, November 2020

Follow us on our journey at our website <http://www.lakelandsprimary.com> and on Twitter @lakelandsprima1.



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

Skip, Hop, Hurray Skipping Day Fun

On 23rd September 2020, it was 'National Fitness Day'. To kick-start the new term with an exciting and engaging event in school, we took part in the Essex Schools Skip Hop Hooray! This was a series of resources to create fun skipping routines designed to challenge all ages and abilities.

The children skipped by themselves and skipped with skipping ropes. All the children had their own rope and could skip at their own level whilst having lots of fun and keeping fit.



Macmillan Cake Afternoon

On Friday 25th September, the children had a fantastic time eating the cakes in their classes that you had kindly donated. This year, due to COVID-19, we were unable to hold our usual large coffee morning with parents but, because of your kind donations, the school managed to raise £224.77 for Macmillan Cancer Research.



A big thank you to all the parents/carers for donating so many delicious cakes for the Macmillan Cake Afternoon. The children had a lovely afternoon. The cakes that the children were unable to consume in this one sitting were donated to CHESS and given to the homeless. hope you all agree this was a fantastic idea and our school community has been able to help two very worthwhile charities. Thank you to all those who have already donated.

Children in Need 2020

Friday 13th November was Children in Need day across the country. As usual, we took part and the children voted to come into school in their pyjamas! This was all done in a safe COVID appropriate way. We asked the children to donate some pennies to go towards this very worthwhile charity. The pennies were put aside for over 72 hours before staff counted them. I am thrilled to say we managed to raise a fabulous £193.08. Enjoy the photographs (more on our website). Thank you for all your contributions.





Virtual Open Morning 2020

This year, due to current Covid restrictions in place, we held our Year 6 and Sixth Form Open School events virtually. Invitations were emailed to all of our local schools and stakeholders inviting them to take part. Over the weekend of our Year 6 Open Morning, our website had almost 3000 hits, with 75% of these being first-time visitors to our school site and our Sixth Form Open Evening also had almost 3000 hits with over 50% of these views being first time visitors to our website.

If you would like to learn more about our Virtual Open School events, I would encourage you to visit the school website. I am so proud of the significant improvements at the school and its continued journey to fulfil our vision to be the 'school of choice' in our community. Our transition groups, Years 7 and 12 are both full, as are the majority of our other year groups with waiting lists.



New Science Block and Playground

This term we have been delighted to be able to make a number of improvements to our school site. Thanks to a contribution of £11,000 from our Parents RVHS Club 100 we were able to invest in a fantastic new canopy in the back-playground area.



We are grateful for all the parents who have contributed to this scheme over the years. We have also created a new food shack and outside toilets on the Sports site.

This term also saw the opening of our new Science rooms, which look amazing with new benches, windows, ceilings and floors. The state-of-the-art facilities in Science will enable more students to have access to the lab facilities and develop a love of learning in Science.



Home Learning

At RVHS, we have continued to drive Home Learning excellence throughout this academic year. Google Classroom continues to be our platform of which teachers set, record and give feedback to our student's Home Learning. Staff have continued to celebrate home learning excellence and you will see some examples of some of the fantastic work that students have produced from home. It's brilliant to see that



so many of our students have developed their independent and study skills to be able to produce such high-quality work at home.

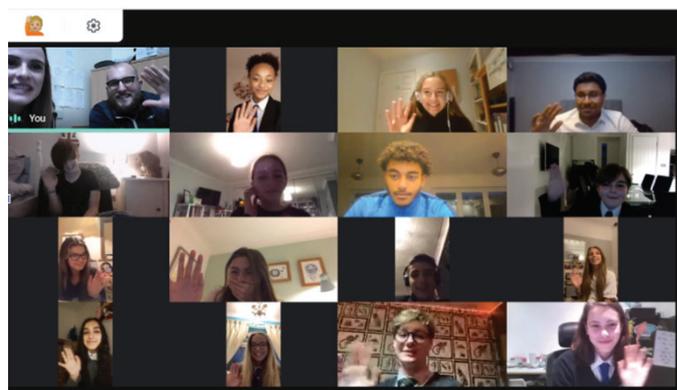
Young Citizen of the Year for 2020

Congratulations to Eloise for winning the prestigious accolade of 'Young Citizen of the Year for 2020', Eloise supports a range of groups in the local community. In school she is a Subject Ambassador for History and supports a class of younger students, helping them to engage with history and make accelerated progress. She strives every week to ensure that the students push themselves to improve. The judging panel was impressed by her maturity and sense of community. If you would like to read more about Eloise's Award, please do click on this [link](#).



Student Voice

Student Voice at RVHS is an integral part of our school community. This academic year, our newly elected student voice team have already started to get to work on some key initiatives involving climate awareness, recycling, healthy eating and raising money for charities. We held our first 'virtual' student voice meeting in November and it was excellent to see students collaborating from across all key stages and year groups.



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

