



*Small school, big hearts.
Wise, Responsible and Kind
like the Good Samaritan.*

Newsletter Term 4 Number 4 Friday 21st March 2025
Values of the term: Diversity, tolerance and equality

“Remember to look up at the stars and not down at your feet. Try to make sense of what you see and wonder about what makes the universe exist. Be curious. And however difficult life may seem, there is always something you can do and succeed at. It matters that you don’t just give up.”

– Stephen Hawking

Dear Parents,

This week, we were thrilled to welcome the Explorer Dome, who delivered fantastic shows all about space. It was truly an awe-inspiring experience for many of our children. All week long, we’ve heard them enthusiastically sharing what they learned - their excitement and engagement with the planetarium show were clear. Children have been telling us about the constellations and the fascinating stories the Ancient Greeks told about them. Some shared how, since Tuesday, they’ve gone outside at night to spot the Big Dipper and Polaris. Barnaby impressed us by weaving some of the new vocabulary from the show into his writing, while others have been amazed to learn that every star is actually a sun (except for the planets of course!) In our worship today, we reflected on the importance of curiosity - how it drives us to explore, learn, and marvel at the incredible world and universe around us. A huge thank you to FOBS for making this exciting opportunity possible!





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Our pond -

This week, we enjoyed our first pond dipping sessions! Mrs. Lefebvre and the Forest School groups had a wonderful time exploring the pond, spotting plenty of frogspawn, examining pond plants, and studying various insects. So far, we've counted five frogs in the pond!



A huge thank you to everyone who has supported this fantastic project - Steve Houston, Radu Rizea, and Gerard Lewis, who kindly volunteered their time, braved all kinds of weather and worked incredibly hard, Alan Lisgo, who designed such a peaceful, beautiful, and educational space. We're incredibly grateful to The Buckland School Trust for their generous donation towards this project - I know you'll join me in thanking them for making it possible. We also received a kind donation from Bampton Charity Shop - their ongoing support over the years has been invaluable, and we are so thankful.

The final phase of the project will be planting up the area and purchasing more resources for the children to use during their sessions.

If you'd like to support The Buckland School Trust with a donation, you can find more information on our website here: www.bucklandprimaryschool.org.uk/buckland-school-trust/

As you can see, every contribution makes a real difference! One of our children summed it up perfectly yesterday: *'This is the best pond ever - what a fantastic place!'*



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Red Nose Day –

A sea of red in school today – lots of buzz and excitement - the penalty shoot outs went well! Thank you for your support with all the super red outfits. If you would like to find out more about Comic Relief or donate – please find more information here:

<https://www.comicrelief.com/rednoseday/>



Classes this week -

Acorns have enjoyed the space explorers dome on Tuesday and remembered all the facts later in the week when we explored space further. The little acorns enjoyed their hot chocolate at Forest school and seeing the Frog spawn in the pond. We have loved seeing them all in their red for red nose day today and were impressed with their goal scoring skills in the penalty shoot-out against Oak children.

Beech – This week, the Beech children have been writing a biography about Mary Seacole - we have been very impressed with what they have written so far. In Science, we have discussed what animals need to survive and, in History, we are learning about Florence Nightingale. With Spring around the corner, we have started to practise our Maypole dance in PE and in DT we have been working on our moving pictures based on George's Marvellous Medicine.

Sycamore - This week we have been looking at using prepositions in our writing, as well as conjunctions to link ideas in different ways. In maths we have been finding fractions of amounts - everyone has been working really hard. In PE we continued our dodgeball games, we are getting better at using space to our advantage, it's been lots of fun! During our circle times we have been looking at 'Healthy Me', this week with a focus on making friendship posters. Lastly, Red Nose Day was exciting; Sycamore spent the afternoon pond dipping, using the quiet garden to be adventurous and trying to score penalties against Mr Henry!

Oak - have been creating some fantastic sentences that contain similes, metaphors and/or personifications to describe August and his school from the book Wonder. The class have been interpreting real life data involving line graphs and bar charts this week in Maths. In Topic, the children have been creating fact files on Nigeria with a Geography focus. We had an amazing Explorer Dome experience in the Memorial Hall on Tuesday - pictures of



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this are on the Oak class page. Today, the children have been trying to score penalties past each other as part of Red Nose Day.

Next week –

Teacher/Parent meetings - These are taking place on Tuesday, some on Wednesday for Beech class and Thursday evening next week. Please either keep your child with you during the meeting or make arrangements for them to stay at home with an adult if you prefer they do not attend. We want to avoid children being unsupervised outside. During the meetings, teachers will focus on highlighting your child's progress, sharing lots of positives, and suggesting next steps to support their learning journey.

Children's books will be available in the following locations: Beech – Hall, Sycamore - IT Room, Oak - DT Room.

For children with individual learning plans, a longer meeting has been offered – these are booked directly with teachers at times to suit school and home.

We are mindful of workload for teachers and know that these are long days during a busy term – please can we kindly ask you to help us stick to the allocated 10-minute time slots. If further discussions are needed, additional meetings can be arranged for a later date. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation!

Tuesday – Netball festival at FCC – a group of our year 5/6 children will be going to play Netball against other Trust schools. We look forward to hearing how they get on.

Wednesday – Cross country finals at Radley College – our Year 5/6 girls who are through to the finals will be taking part – we all wish them the very best of luck!

Thursday – Mrs Bunting will be taking singers to the Performing Arts Festival at FCC – we were treated to their performance in our worship today - such confident and strong singing - AMAZING!

School results –

We are incredibly proud of our fantastic academic results. You can view them on our website here: <https://www.bucklandprimaryschool.org.uk/ofsted-and-results/>



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Reporting your child's absence - please can parents notify the office either by email or to the office phone by 8.45am at the latest. **Please do not only leave a message with a member of staff – all messages of absence need to go to the office** so that Ms Harvey can add the correct information to our registers by 9.10am. Thank you for your support with this.

Staffing – we are currently advertising for 2 lunch time assistants – one for 3 days and one for 5 days. If you know anyone who may be interested in either of these roles, then please share -

<https://mynewterm.com/jobs/140278/EDV-2025-BCEPS-42359>

<https://mynewterm.com/jobs/140278/EDV-2025-BCEPS-62844>

Wellbeing

This week's wellbeing message is from Scarlett (Y6):

"Surround yourself with only people who are going to lift you higher."

Achievements

House	Horse	Ox	Dragon
Weekly total	87	91	87
Running total	318	289	306

This week's certificates have been awarded to:

Acorns – Flossie and Annabelle

Beech – Lucy and Betsy

Sycamore – Sophie and Edward

Oak – Jacob and Sophia

Silver badges have been awarded to:

Dragon: James T, James P, Seb and Duke

Horse: Ruth and Cora

Ox: Poppy, Barnaby and Joshua

Congratulations to all.

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs Brown and the Buckland Team.



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