



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

Newsletter Term 4 Number 1 Friday 28th February 2025

Values of the term: Diversity, tolerance and equality

‘One minute of patience, ten years of peace’ – Greek proverb

Dear Parents,

This week, our Monday worship had a book-themed focus. We are participating in the Oxfordshire Book Awards, where children read books from two shortlists - picture books and junior novels - and vote for their favourite. During our worship, we explored all the picture books and read ‘Please’ by Simon Philip and Nathan Reed. Many of the younger children particularly enjoyed this humorous story, which carries an important message about the value of good manners. Across Oxfordshire, children cast their votes for their top choices in each category - an example of Article 12 of the UNCRC in action, ensuring that children’s voices are heard and respected.



Classes this week -

Acorns - have been reading stories about different vehicles and transport this week. We have enjoyed sharing the Magic Train Ride story which we are going to be exploring further in our storytelling sessions. We have been making car crafts and have been mark making with vehicles too. Big Acorns have been playing phonics games and have been adding groups together to find a total in maths. Little Acorns have been exploring rhyming words and learning about numbers 4 and 5.

Beech – have settled well into the new term. In maths they have done lines of symmetry with Mrs Elliott and subtraction with Mrs Gorham. Our new class book is George's



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Marvellous Medicine, and the children have written character descriptions of Grandma as a young girl. In science the children have considered what animals need to survive and in DT we learnt what levers and sliders are.

Sycamore - This week in Sycamore we had our class trip to the Ashmolean Museum to learn about the Shang Dynasty and Ancient China - all the students were fabulous and were really engaged in the activities we took part in. In class we have moved onto Varjak Paw which I know everyone is excited for, in Maths we have moved onto Fractions - everyone did superbly yesterday on our first recap lesson. Well done on your first week back Sycamore!



Oak - have had a very educational trip to the Pitt Rivers Museum, exploring Africa and in particular Benin. Yesterday, Oak cooked African food with Mrs Connolly. Pictures of both these experiences will be on the Oak class page in the next few days. We have also designed our Benin clay masks as part of our Art work; explored features of play scripts in writing; identified equivalent fractions, decimals and percentages in maths and are reading Wonder as part of our whole class text – very busy indeed! Lots more super photos on the website - <https://www.bucklandprimaryschool.org.uk/oak/>



Next week

Year 6 girls' football gala at FCC – Wednesday 5th March am. The girls will be taking part in skills building and playing some 5-a-side games led by sports leaders at FCC.

World Book Day on Thursday 6th March – children are invited to dress up as a book character – we are very much looking forward to this!



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Thank you

A huge thank you to Kerry Spurry for her incredible efforts in raising funds for a new heating system in Acorns Class. Thanks to her hard work, the classroom is now warmer and more comfortable for all, and with the added benefit of air conditioning, the classroom environment will be much improved during the summer months as well. Kerry's dedication has made a significant difference, and we are all extremely grateful. While our school's historic building is beautiful, it does come with its challenges, and we truly appreciate the support that helps us maintain and enhance it for our students. A big thank you to the Buckland School Trust for their support with this too.

FOBS

Raised an amazing £209.53 at the sweet treat cake sale. FOBS are funding some new resources for our Acorns class which is very exciting for our youngest children!

Staffing

This week we have said goodbye to Mrs Sample who has been working as a lunchtime supervisor at Buckland school for many years. Mrs Sample is now going to be focusing on her accountancy exams and we wish her the very best of luck. Mrs Hambleton will be covering for Mrs Sample whilst we get a new lunchtime supervisor in place.

We are very lucky to have Rosie Westmacott doing her work placement with us in Acorns class. Rosie will be spending every other week at Buckland on placement until 20th June.

A big thank you to everyone for warmly welcoming Mrs Harvey into her new role as Admin Assistant. Joining a school mid-year is a daunting task, and we truly appreciate Lesley's dedication over the past few weeks as she familiarizes herself with the community and various new systems. We're grateful for your patience and support as we establish our new admin team.

Maths competition

For keen mathematicians out there who would like to take part in a competition - Young Mathematical Story Authors Competition

- <https://www.mathsthroughstories.org/competitions.html> - one judging category for 4 to 7 year olds, and a different judging category for 8 to 11 year olds. Closes Friday 21st March. Children create their own mathematical story picture book. Guidance and previous entries at the bottom of the page – please note that this is for entry from home.



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Please find attached a flyer from the Lamb tavern who are having a 50s and 60s night on Saturday 8th March.

Wellbeing

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

"No one is perfect, that's why pencils have rubbers."

Achievements

House	Horse	Ox	Dragon
Weekly total	42	49	58
Running total	42	49	58

This week's certificates have been awarded to:

Acorns – Annabelle and Ingrid

Beech – Lucy and Freddie

Sycamore – Chloe and Iris

Oak – Dahlia and Scarlett

Silver badges have been awarded to:

Horse: Thea

Dragon: Josh

Ox: Arthur

Congratulations to all.

Have a lovely weekend, I hope the sun shines on us all -

Mrs Brown and the Buckland Team.