



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

Newsletter Term 3 Number 3 Friday 24th January 2025

Values of the term: Diversity, tolerance and equality

'Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless' -
Mother Teresa

Dear Parents,



It was heart warming to hear, on a cold January morning, that the word 'Kindness' has been voted as Oxford University Press' Children's Word of the Year for 2024. OUP explained that -

Our survey of children revealed mental health to be a reason for selecting 'kindness', while teachers also said a growing awareness among young people of the wider impact of kindness can have on mental wellbeing. Meanwhile, references to global violence and current conflicts further emphasized how attuned children are to current affairs. When asked about why they chose 'kindness', respondents frequently used words such as 'need' and 'should', for example: "With so much going on in the world we should all be kind to each other".

We all know that words have power – and we know as a school the power of kindness – it is, after all, one of our core values. The kindness of our children and staff here at Buckland is tangible, and visitors often comment on how polite and caring the children are. We call ourselves a family – The Buckland School Family, and as with any family, there is sometimes ups and downs, sometimes disagreements. Our message to the children following any such disagreements is: It is the choice you make now, it is how you move forward and what you learn from things not quite going right that matters - the insight and understanding you gain of how to make things right next time - because kindness grows with every kind choice. I wholeheartedly agree with the children of the UK – kindness should and needs to be at the core of all we do in life.

If you would like to read more – here is a link to OUP:

<https://corp.oup.com/news/kindness-chosen-as-childrens-word-of-the-year-2024/>

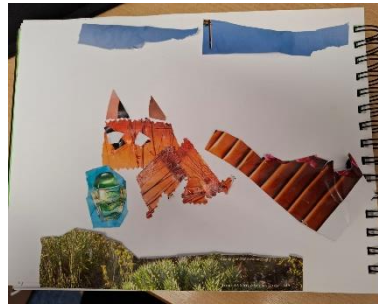
Classes this week -

Acorns - have enjoyed reading Goldilocks and the Three bears; Big Acorns have written a super sentence about each of the bears. During their exploring, the children have been creative with bears, porridge oats, spoons and bowls too! In Phonics, all the children have explored Fred Talk; in Maths, the Big Acorns have been thinking about composition of the numbers to 5 whilst the Little Acorns have been subitising the number 3.



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Beech - This week we have adapted the story of One Day on this Blue Planet - in the Savannah, to write a story about a day in the life of a hippopotamus calf. Linking to our stories set in the Savannah, geography has focused on Kenya, its location near to the equator and weather. In maths, children have consolidated learning on addition to and from a 10 and started to learn about subtraction to and from a 10. While in art we are beginning our animal collages.



*Camillo's fantastic collage
of a Fox guarding treasure!*

Sycamore – This week we have been preparing for our class assembly, we learnt a new song in two days! We have continued to explore China - we learnt to paint bamboo using water colours and we furthered our knowledge about rural and urban life. In Maths we have moved onto short division using the bus stop method, which is quite tricky!

Oak class have been writing their biographies into their portfolio books this week - our focus will turn to argumentative writing next week. In Maths, the Y6 children have been solving equations whilst the Y5s have been developing their fraction knowledge. Air resistance has been our focus in our science lessons this week. Outside of the classroom, Oak have had a lot of fun playing Dodgeball and Football matches. During Computing, Oak have continued to use Scratch to develop and improve an interactive game. Today in Circle Time, Oak class have written and drawn their dream for the world.

Sycamore Assembly

Sycamore did a fantastic assembly today - the children spoke with confidence, sang their Viking song with enthusiasm and generally supported each other. Well done to all of Sycamore and thank you to parents who have sent kind messages to Mr Henry following the assembly – it truly means a lot to us, and it's always so uplifting to receive such positive feedback. Your encouragement inspires us, as a staff team, to continue doing our best every day.



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Next week

Our Year 3's will be visiting FCC for a STEM workshop on Monday morning and on Friday, Oak class will have a science lesson delivered by a teacher from FCC as part of their transition to secondary school.



Wellbeing

Achieving Dreams, One Balloon at a Time! This week's Wellbeing worship centred around dreams, goals, and perseverance. We started off by inviting members of staff to share their own dreams or goals, symbolised by a balloon. The balloon represented the effort required to achieve those goals - blowing it up wasn't always easy, but the activity highlighted a key message: setbacks don't have to stop us.

The children were then invited to imagine themselves blowing up their balloon, overcoming any challenges along the way, and successfully seeing it float up into the sky as a symbol of their accomplishment – a good image for us all as we face challenges when working towards our goals.

This week's mental health message is from Scarlett(Y6):
'Smile, don't frown. Otherwise, you let the world down'

Fidget toys and sweets/chocolates

We kindly ask for your support in ensuring that any fidget toys brought to school are small and silent. While we understand the benefits for some children, fidget toys that make a noise, including clicking, can be distracting for other children – and for teachers!

Please can we also ask for your support in promoting healthy eating habits by not including sweets or chocolate bars in your child's lunchbox – we have had quite a lot of these lately. Instead, we encourage healthy options like fruits and vegetables, that provide sustained energy and help your child stay focused and energized throughout the day.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in helping us maintain the very best learning environment for everyone.



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Safeguarding

THE DIGITAL DILEMMA: Keeping Children Safe Online – Parent/carer free webinars. With Safer Internet Day almost here, and this year's theme focusing on protecting yourself from online scams, Police Cyber Protect teams from the Southeast are running their free webinar for parents/carers several times in the coming weeks.

The webinar covers social media, mobile phones, gaming and emails, and aims to help parents and carers understanding some of the risks young people face online, including how to spot phishing emails, texts and more. Attendees will be provided with advice and resources to help them better protect themselves and their family from falling victim to cybercriminal behaviours.

Tickets to the webinars are available here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/online-safety-for-parents-3386699>

See attached flyer for more information including dates.

Achievements

House	Horse	Ox	Dragon
Weekly total	91	255	189
Running total	195	64	53

This week's certificates have been awarded to:

Acorns – Austin, Emmy B and Toby

Beech – Billie and Charlie

Sycamore – Whole of Sycamore for an excellent assembly!

Oak – Poppy and Grace

Bronze badges have been awarded to:

Last week –

Horse: William H and Hermoine

Dragon: Chloe V and Tymen

This week -

Ox: Freddie B, Lilah, Niah, Charlie H, Sophie

Dragon: Eddie, Dylan, Marni

Congratulations to all.

Have a lovely weekend, **Mrs Brown and the Buckland Team.**



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