



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

Newsletter Term 1 Number 6 Friday 11th October 2024

Values of the term: Unity, Courage, Peace

'Be strong and courageous and do the work. Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord God, my God, is with you' - 1 Chronicles 28:20

Dear Parents,

Curriculum

Another busy week - here are some of the activities that have been going on in classes:

Acorns have enjoyed exploring outside using stilts, conkers and containers and making cards. They have read 'Ravi's Roar' to learn about the Zones of regulation and how they can apply this to themselves. They all drew a picture of what makes them happy for World Mental Health day and enjoyed telling the class what they had drawn.

Beech Our new book in Beech Class is the Owl who was afraid of the Dark and this week in writing we started to write information fact files about owls, while in art we have started to sketch owls using shapes of circles, ovals, hearts and triangles. In maths we have been doing number bonds to 10 and 20.

Sycamore

In Sycamore this week have been continuing our learning on Vikings and looked in detail at where they came from, when they came to Britain and their first rain on Lindisfarne. The children have also been showing off our excellent homework on Scandinavia, which has linked to our Geography and History perfectly.

Oak had an amazing trip to the Houses of Parliament last Friday – here is a lovely report from their trip, by James T and Scarlett H-C (please see attachment for full version).

Oak's Houses of Parliament trip As we travelled through London, we saw lots of incredible landmarks including London Eye, Big Ben, Trafalgar Square and the entrance to Downing Street which was heavily guarded. Finally, we reached the drop off point, next to Victoria Tower Gardens. It was a very short walk to enter Victoria Tower Gardens, and

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we soon found a spot of grass to sit with our friends and have a picnic lunch. We also noticed there were lots of other schools visiting.

After lunch, we made our way to the entrance of the House of Parliament Education Centre. Before we could enter, we had to go through security where our bags were checked and we had to walk through a special scanner. Luckily no-one was put in handcuffs! Once inside, we met our tour guides, Khai and Nathan, who gave us headsets so we could hear them easily during the Tour.

On the tour we saw the Robing room, where the King puts on the state Crown and his ceremonial robes before going to the House of Lords. This is also where we saw the Sovereigns throne. The tour included a visit to both the Houses of Commons and the House of Lords, it was easy to tell them apart because of the House of Commons has green leather seats and the House of Lords has red leather seats. We also learnt that the monarch is no longer permitted to enter the House of Commons after King Charles I tried to assert his right to govern in 1642. As the tour came to an end, we entered Westminster Hall which is where Queen Elizabeth II laid in state after her death. We were able to have a class photo in Westminster Hall before returning to the Education Centre for the next activity. For us a highlight of the tour was being in the actual rooms where the Laws of the Country are made.

We were all very tired on the way back and some of us even fell asleep, but we had lots of fun and will always remember our class trip to London.



Staffing

Mrs Gorham has announced that she will be retiring towards the end of this academic year. Mrs Gorham has been part of the Buckland team for 9 years, serving in various roles, and her own children have also attended the school. Details regarding exact timings, as well as the best person to replace Mrs Gorham, will be communicated in due course. In the meantime, I'm sure you will join me in wishing Mrs Gorham all the best for her final year here at Buckland.

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Buckland Harvest Service

9:30 Thursday October 17th - St Mary's Church, Buckland – please join us next week for our Harvest festival. As mentioned in last week's newsletter, our donations this year will be supporting the Rose Hill Community Cupboard which is run by the Rose Hill Methodist Church. Donations they wish for are in last week's newsletter. Many thanks for your support with this – we hope to see you at St Mary's on Thursday.

Mental health and wellbeing

On Thursday, we celebrated World Mental Health Day in school. This year's theme is 'Lets Talk About It' and it's been lovely to see children across school sharing their happy activities away from the classroom. Thank you to those of you who have provided the school with a photo of your child doing something happy - we have so many wonderful photos of the children enjoying life and having fun. It's not too late to bring a picture of your child embracing their happy activity into school. You can pass the picture to your child's class teacher or the office early next week.

This week's mental health message comes from Evie in Y6

"Just be you. YOU are amazing!"

FOBS

A huge thank you to FOBS who have funded the £704 purchase of 5 brand new balance bikes and helmets for our Acorns children – we very much look forward to seeing the children enjoying them soon!

Admissions

Reception Admissions for September 2025

Applications **open on the 4th November** for parents and carers of children born between 1 September 2020 and 31 August 2021 to apply for a primary school place for September 2025. Details can be found on the [Oxfordshire County Council website here](#). The deadline for receipt of completed applications is the **15 January 2025** with the National Offer Day on the 16 April 2025. Further information can also be found on our [website here](#).

We encourage all of our Little Acorns to put in their application!

Nursery Admissions for September 2025

Admissions for our Nursery are handled internally, following the rules set out in our admissions policy. You will see from our school admissions policy <https://www.bucklandprimaryschool.org.uk/admissions/> that attending our nursery gives children an advantage when applying for a reception place within our school as children will be considered after those applying out of catchment without a

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sibling at the school but before those who will be considered by distance. As we only take 11 nursery places but have 15 reception places available this should enable all of our nursery children to be offered a place for reception at our school.

Please complete and return an expression of interest form ahead of the **15 January 2025** to apply for a September 2025 nursery place.

Further information and the expression of interest form can be found on our [website here](#).

School Travel Plan

We have had quite a few cars come down Summerside this week, please can we remind you of the school's travel plan – thank you for your support with this which helps keep everyone safe.

The school encourages children, where possible, to walk to school. As the school is situated in a small village setting, we need to be considerate to our neighbours at all times. Please drive within the speed limits throughout the village and be especially careful around the school. We ask that, if possible, cars are parked at the Memorial Hall. There is a safe and quick footpath to get to school (see map). Reducing traffic outside school will help to keep the start and finish of school safe for all our children.

Should it be essential to park near school, please always be considerate to our neighbours - make sure entrances / gateways are not blocked. For those that require it, there is a disabled parking space outside the school gate. Also, out of courtesy, there is a one-way system at drop off and pick up time along Summerside Road (see map).



Buckland School Trust

The Buckland School Trust is seeking a parent volunteer to join their efforts in supporting our wonderful school. As a registered charity, the Trust plays an important role in helping us in various ways. In the past, they have assisted with projects like redeveloping the pond, providing transport for events, and funding numerous activities. If you're interested in getting involved, please let me know—there are only two meetings a year to attend! Please

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see the link for more information regarding the trust's work -

<https://www.bucklandprimaryschool.org.uk/buckland-school-trust/>

Vacancies

We currently have a vacancy for a permanent TA 3 days a week. If you know of anyone who might be interested – please share.

<https://mynewterm.com/jobs/140278/EDV-2024-BCEPS-69434>

Vacancies in the Cambrian Learning Trust - Larkmead School have a vacancy for an IT Network Manager:

<https://mynewterm.com/jobs/143890/EDV-2024-LS-57678>

Achievements

House	Horse	Ox	Dragon
Weekly total	72	69	72
Running total	354	341	381

This week's certificates have been awarded to:

Acorns – Penelope and Austin

Beech – Ira and William H

Sycamore – Bertie and Imogen

Oak – Noah and Lily

Congratulations to all.

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs Brown and the Buckland Team.