

## Newsletter Term 1 Number 2 Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2024

### *Values of the term: Unity, Courage, Peace*

Psalms 133:1 How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!

Dear Parents, this week in our Monday worship, we focused on the theme of "Colouring the School with Kindness." We explored the meaning of kindness and learned that, just as artists use canvases to create beautiful paintings, we all have a canvas to paint on—our everyday lives. Through a video, we were reminded that the choices we make each day, whether good or bad, are like strokes on our canvas. By filling our days with acts of kindness, we can create something beautiful and colourful. Together, we can colour our school with kindness and make it a brighter place for everyone. We have all seen the children helping to do just this, through performing small acts of kindness throughout the week. If you'd like to watch the video with your child – here is the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mdA2sByFX1I>



### **Playtimes**

Today, the children were thrilled to discover brand-new playtime toys, including skipping ropes, ball catchers, and balls of various shapes and sizes. The playground was alive with excitement as the children played happily in the sunshine. During worship, Mr. Stevens reminded everyone about the importance of looking after the new toys. He explained that at the end of each playtime, the toys should be returned to the storage box outside Acorns. The toys are for use during the school day only, so please don't use them after school, and if you spot any left out, kindly help by putting them back. Many thanks!



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

We had an awe and wonder moment on the field today – children in Oak class saw swallows gathering on the power lines as they come together before starting their migration to warmer climes in Africa – there were 100s of birds swooping through the skies. A wonderful sight, although my photography skills didn't do the moment justice!

### **Settling in meetings**

Parents of children who are new to their classes - N/R, Yr 1, 3 and 5 - we will be holding settling-in meetings on Wednesday, 25th September. If you would like to pop in and speak to your child's class teacher, they will be available between 3.30-5pm – no need to book an appointment. These meetings will be 5 minutes with a focus on pastoral information to help ensure a smooth transition for your child. Academic progress will be discussed later during parent's evening meetings in November, where teachers will provide updates on how your child is progressing within the curriculum.

### **Staffing**

#### **Happy news-**

We are delighted to announce that Mr. Stevens will be taking on the role of Maths Mastery Lead while also providing senior leadership support. His work will focus on further developing our maths mastery approach, which aims for pupils to develop a deep, secure and adaptable understanding in maths. In addition, Mr. Stevens will serve as a senior staff member if I am out of school, helping to maintain smooth operations and strong leadership throughout the school.

#### **Sad news-**

Mrs. Viner, our wonderful TA in Oak class, unfortunately had a fall over the summer, which led to an infection which required extensive treatment. She wants everyone to know that she is doing well, though she misses us all terribly—as we do her! I'm sure you will all join me in sending her our warmest wishes for a speedy recovery.

Mrs. Williams has announced her retirement after Christmas, marking the end of 9 years at Buckland School. She has been an invaluable member of staff, and her dedication and contributions to the school will be missed. As we prepare to say farewell, we will be recruiting for a new TA in Beech class later in the autumn term to fill her role. We wish Mrs. Williams all the best in her well-earned retirement!

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

## **FOBS**

A huge thank you to FOBS for funding the purchase of 16 new glockenspiels! They have arrived, been ceremoniously unpacked, and the classes are thrilled to use them in music lessons. This generous purchase means that every child now has the opportunity to play their own glockenspiel, enhancing their musical experience and making lessons even more engaging and fun. We are incredibly grateful for this support!

As you all know, FOBS work tirelessly throughout the year to fundraise for the school, supporting us in so many ways—from providing transport to events and subsidising enrichment activities, to purchasing items. They are currently looking for a new chair and volunteers to help continue their fantastic work. If you're interested, they will be holding their AGM on 20th September at 2:30 pm in the ICT suite. You can also chat with Charlotte Baxter or Emily Oliver during drop-offs or pick-ups—they would be absolutely delighted to hear from you!

## **School council**

Mrs. Bunting will be organising elections for the school council over the next few weeks. If your child is interested in becoming a class representative (we have two reps per class), now is a great time for them to start thinking about what they might say to their class to encourage votes - just an informal speech, with no PowerPoints. We encourage all children to take part in opportunities like the school council elections, even if they may not get picked this time. It's important to remember that trying is a valuable experience, and each attempt helps us grow in confidence and learn new skills. While it's natural to feel disappointed if you're not chosen, it's important to celebrate your effort and courage for stepping up. There will always be more chances to try again, and being part of the process is an achievement in itself!

## **Mental health and wellbeing**

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

"Turn that frown upside down!"

**Oxford Health NHS and CAMHS workshops** - 'Walking with you' please find a flyer with information about a welcoming, parent-led group for anyone caring for children and young people (up to age 25) facing mental health challenges, as well as for Mental Health awareness sessions run by CAMHS - Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services. CAMHS is the NHS mental health services for children and young people and their sessions promise to be supportive and highly informative.

### Vacancies-

We currently have a temporary vacancy for a TA for 2 days a week.

<https://mynewterm.com/jobs/140278/EDV-2024-BCEPS-36245>

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

### Achievements

House	Horse	Ox	Dragon
Weekly total	59	70	60
<b>Running total</b>	62	74	72

This week's certificates have been awarded to:

Acorns – Georgie and Emmy

Beech – Sofia and Lucy

Sycamore – Matilda and Charlie H

Oak – Ruth and Emily

Last week's certificates in Beech were awarded to: Rory and Emily.

Congratulations to all.

### Loom band sale

Next Friday, Matilda and Arthur B will be selling loom band bracelets, raising funds for the Rainbow Trust Children's Charity. Please pop along to the playground after school, to support the children's amazing efforts and to support this worthwhile cause.



Have a lovely weekend everyone!

**Mrs Brown and the Buckland Team.**