

Newsletter Term 1 Number 7 Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2025

*Values of the term: Belief, Trust, Respect*

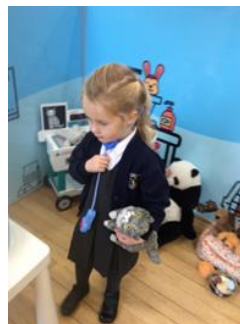
**‘When we plant trees, we plant the seeds of peace and hope’ - Wangari Maathai**

Dear all,

In our Monday worship, as part of Black History Month, we learned about Wangari Maathai, an incredibly inspirational woman from Kenya. After studying biology and chemistry in America, she returned home and saw how deforestation was harming the land and its people. To help, she founded the Green Belt Movement, encouraging communities to plant trees and care for their environment. Since the organisation’s founding, they have planted 51 million trees. Her courage and determination led to lasting change - she became an MP and the first African woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004. The children reflected on her quote, ‘When we plant trees, we plant the seeds of peace and hope.’ They discussed how this means more than just planting trees - that small actions can make a big difference. Their thoughtful ideas showed we have a school full of world changers in the making! This links to our Rights Respecting work and Article 12 of the UNCRC, which reminds us that children have the right to share their thoughts and be listened to.



**Little City** - Acorns had a fantastic time on Tuesday immersing themselves in Little City. This engaging, miniature city allowed the children to take on a variety of real-world roles. It was a wonderful opportunity for the children to explore different ‘grown-up’ jobs in a fun, interactive way.





### **This week in classes -**

**Acorns** - have been learning about the communities that we are a part of. We have talked about our families and shared stories about families and people who help us in the community. We had a super time at Little City, exploring the different stations including a construction site, shop, cafe, vets, post office, garden, garage and hairdressers. The children were amazing at being Co-operate Clara's and Imagination Ivy's.

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

**Beech** - has had a busy week. The children have really enjoyed rewriting part of the Harry the poisonous centipede story. They have thought carefully about their letter formation and sentence structure including word choices and using capital letters and full stops. In maths, we have been learning about addition and using the whole part method to add 2 and 3 1-digit numbers. Next week, we will move onto subtraction. In science, we learned about food chains and created our own food chain, we continued to work on kindness this week, in particular the importance of kind words and when to get adult help.

**Sycamore** - This week in Sycamore Class, we have been busy writing our non-chronological reports about our own rainforest species in English. In maths, we've been learning column addition and how to add across 10s, 100s, and 1000s. Our science lesson has focused on fossils and how they are formed. In geography, we explored the local communities and tribes who live in the rainforest. In art, we have been finishing and evaluating our beautiful oil pastel work inspired by Georgia O'Keeffe.

**Oak** - Oak class have had a busy week in school. We have written some fantastic recounts of our school trip to Wayland's Smithy. In guided reading, we have read the prologue to three different stories that all have a magical theme. Our focus in Maths is now fractions. The class have been identifying equivalent fractions, comparing fractions with different denominators and adding/subtracting fractions. In Science, Oak class have identified how animals adapt to their surroundings based on their appearance. Our Computing Safety focus this week discussed the importance of us not using technology too close to bedtime. We have also had some excellent Tag Rugby games on the top field on Monday.

### **Art and craft club update –**

This week in Art and Craft Club, we got hands-on with air-dry clay! We began the first part of a two-week project inspired by the wonderfully crazy and colourful world of Yayoi Kusama, an artist famous for her love of pumpkins and polka dots. The children learned how to create pinch pots, transform them into pumpkins, and then carve and pierce their clay to make unique designs. It was such a fun and creative session - and next week, we'll be bringing them to life with paint! I can't wait to see how the finished pieces turn out.

There is still one space left for Monday Art and Craft Club (for Oak) and one left for Tuesday Art and Craft Club (for Sycamore) for after half term.

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

Attached you will find flyers with information about Art and Craft workshops that Lindsay is running at West Ox Arts in Bampton over half term.

**Trading cards** - We kindly ask that children do not bring trading cards or trading books into school. Although these items are very popular, they can sometimes lead to disagreements or upset among the children. We want to make sure that everyone enjoys a happy and positive time at school, so we would appreciate your support in keeping trading cards and books at home. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

**Reading diaries** – please can you ensure that your child has their reading diary in school every day – many thanks.

**Poppy Appeal** – Year 6 pupils will be at the school gate selling Poppy Appeal items. All donations are welcome to support this important cause - cash only.

**Next week –**

**Tuesday** – Playleader training at FCC – information has gone out on Parent Pay for invited children.

**Wednesday** – SATS information in Oak class after school – Year 6 parents’ welcome

**Thursday** – last day of term – finish at 3.15pm.

FOBS Spooky Disco 5.30-7.30pm – see

<https://www.ptaevents.co.uk/friendsofbuckland/index.cfm?event=event&eventId=103721>

**Friday – inset day (no children in school)**



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

### **Christmas Card competition – message from Thames valley Police –**

We would like to invite children to take part in a special creative project for the official 2025 Thames Valley Police Christmas card, which will be sent out by our Chief Constable to police forces and partners across the country.

The theme is “Festive Policing” and we’re encouraging children to be as imaginative and creative as they like. This could include anything from police officers helping Santa, festive patrol scenes, or snowy police stations decorated for the season. Please try to avoid anything too graphic though.

Artwork should be created on an A4 page and use bold, vibrant colours to help it stand out. Any medium is welcome - paint, crayons, pencils, collage, or digital art.

The deadline for artwork submissions is 31 October. Please give physical copies of your submissions to the school office and we will pass them on to our Thames Valley Police Schools Officer. Please include your child’s name and school details on the back.

Selected artwork will be featured on the official Christmas card, and the winning student(s) will be acknowledged in our internal communications and social media.

Thank you for supporting this initiative - we’re looking forward to seeing the festive creativity your pupils bring to life.

Best wishes,

The Thames Valley Police Corporate Communications Team

### **Achievements**

House	<b>Horse</b>	<b>Ox</b>	<b>Dragon</b>
Weekly total	78	82	78
<b>Termly total</b>	388	577	500

This week’s certificates have been awarded to:

Acorns – Flossie and Isabella

Beech – Duke and Noah

Sycamore – Miranda and Lucy

Oak – Laura and Lola

Have a lovely weekend all!

**Mrs Brown and the Buckland Team.**