



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

Newsletter Term 2 Number 2 Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2025

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

**"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing." 1 Thessalonians 5:11**

Dear all,

What a busy week! On Monday, we started off Anti-Bullying Week with Odd Socks Day. This year's theme, 'Power for Good', helped us explore how our actions can make a positive difference. During our worship, we discussed how to recognise bullying and talked about the importance of using our own 'Power for good' by being upstanders rather than bystanders. The children shared ways we can support one another, show kindness, and help make sure everyone in our school feels safe and included. Please find more information in the attached Parent and Carer pack from the Anti-Bullying Alliance.



On Tuesday, Lucy Gildersleeves, our Chair of Governors, led a thoughtful Remembrance Service in which we reflected on the importance of honouring those who have gone before us. We held a minute's silence, giving the children time to pause, reflect, and remember the courage and sacrifice of those who have served in conflicts past and present.

And of course, this week is also Children in Need – lots of spots, bright colours and fun activities all round. Thank you for all your support 😊 The cake sale raised £137.93 – huge thanks to Charlotte Baxter and Emily Oliver for helping with this in the pouring rain!

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

**Acorns** - This week we have enjoyed learning about the importance of Remembrance Day. We have been thinking about why people wear red poppies and have been crafting our own beautiful poppy collages. Big Acorns have been using their phonic knowledge to sound out and record words carefully. Little Acorns have been comparing groups of objects. We have also loved sharing lots of different stories and voting for our favourites.



**Beech** class have had a busy week in school. We have been writing diary entries about Bob's visit to the moon using our text Man on the moon. In maths, we have been learning about partitioning numbers into tens and ones using dienes. We then moved onto flexible partitioning which means when we have split numbers in different ways e.g.  $24 = 20+4$  or  $14+10$ . The children had a wonderful time on the science trip this morning. We saw lots of different animals and even saw a chameleon eat a locust using his long tongue!

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**Sycamore** - This week in Sycamore, we have been busy developing our explorer stories in English, using prepositional phrases and relative clauses to make our writing more detailed and engaging. In Maths, we have started our new topic on multiplication and are building our understanding of grouping and repeated addition. In Science, we've continued to work scientifically by exploring different liquids and observing how they behave. During RE, we learned about Jesus and the leper, thinking about what this story teaches us.

**Oak** - In English, the children have been hard at work writing their own non-fiction texts all about *Stonehenge*, exploring its history and the mysteries surrounding it. In Maths, our Year 6 pupils have been finding fractions of amounts and tackling word problems that involve all four operations, while Year 5 have been focusing on adding and subtracting fractions with growing confidence. Geography lessons have taken us on a journey around the globe as the class used atlases to locate some of the world's most famous rivers. During Circle Time, every child shared their favourite items on a 'wagon wheel', celebrating the wonderful diversity within our class community. In Science, we explored how plants adapt to their environments, and in History, the children described the impact of the Bronze Age and how it helped shape life as we know it today.

#### Art and Crafts club news –



This week, our inspiration came from Emily Kam Kngwarray, a celebrated Anmatyerre artist from Central Australia. We explored how her paintings express a deep connection to animals, Country, plants, and stories through colour, movement, and pattern.



The children then began creating their own dot-inspired artworks based on animals that are special to them. They experimented with rhythm, texture, and layers of colour to express how they feel about their chosen animal. Everyone was wonderfully engaged, creating thoughtful, vibrant pieces full of personality and imagination.

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To ensure cultural respect, we discussed how Aboriginal dot painting is a sacred cultural practice with meanings and symbols that are not ours to copy. Instead, we focused on being inspired by Emily's artistic approach — using pattern and colour to express our own feelings and love of nature.

You can find out more about Emily Kam Kngwarray and see examples of her work here: <https://www.tate.org.uk/art/artists/emily-kam-kngwarray-28210>



## Dad Pad

DadPad and Co-ParentPad - two helpful resources designed especially for dads and co-parents - will soon be free to access for all Oxfordshire families.

These apps offer easy-to-follow, practical guidance on everything from baby care and bonding to parental wellbeing. They've been created with health professionals and local parents to make sure the information is clear, supportive, and relevant. The new Oxfordshire version will also include local advice, community links, and support services.

Families will be able to access:

- Step-by-step guides and short animations on caring for a new baby

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- Practical, evidence-based information on parenting, baby care, and mental health, tailored for dads and co-parents
- Tips to build confidence and reduce stress during early parenthood
- Inclusive support for LGBTIQ+ families
- Multi-language options to help everyone feel included
- A dedicated space to make notes, ask questions, and find local groups

A neonatal version is also coming soon for families with babies receiving hospital care. We hope these resources will be useful to any of our school families preparing to welcome a new baby or supporting someone who is.

## FOBS

Dear Buckland Families,

Please find attached information regarding FOBS' upcoming event – Buckland Prepares for Christmas – lots of wonderful activities happening and all for an amazing cause!

We'd love to welcome more parents and carers to the FOBS team. Next open meeting (please come along!): **Monday 10th November, 8pm The Crown, Faringdon.**

With thanks,

The FOBS committee



## A message from Reverend Talisker -

### Pet Service and Remembrance of Animals in War – Sunday 30th November, 10:30am, Buckland Church



All pets are welcome! During this special service, we'll be reflecting on how animals have worked alongside people and supported us in times of war and suffering.

Purple poppies, which are used to remember animals affected by war, will feature in the service - and we'll also be selling handmade purple poppies to raise funds for the Blue Cross, originally founded during the First World War to help animals injured in conflict. Please bring your pets along - and do make sure they don't eat each other!

Purple poppies will be available for a donation, from Monday 10th November at the school gate in the mornings and from the school office.

## Achievements

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House	Horse	Ox	Dragon
Weekly total	89	72	85
<b>Termly total</b>	161	147	152

This week's certificates have been awarded to:

Acorns – George B and Alex

Sycamore – Bertie and Noah

Oak – Grace and Freddie

**Have a lovely weekend -**

**Mrs Brown and the Buckland Team.**