



# News and Information

Date: 16th June 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a couple of incredibly busy weeks already this half term and there is still so much to fit in over the next few weeks.

We are incredibly proud of the children in Year 4 and Year 1 who have been completing their Government Multiplication Checks and Phonics Screening Checks over the last couple of weeks. You have all put in 100% effort for the screen tests and we are so proud of your achievements and how far you have come this year!

Traffic in and around Aylesbury and Bierton has continued to be hectic at times.

Please can I put out another plea to parents:

- ◆ In the morning, if you driving down Parsons Lane, please use the turning circle to drop your child/ren off in order to keep the traffic moving. If you wish to walk your child through the gate please can we ask that you park further afield and walk down Parsons Lane.

Thank you for your support with these things to ensure our whole school community and local community remain safe.

We hope to see many of you at the Summer Fair tomorrow. I would like to say a huge thank you to the core FOBS team for all their preparation works over the last few months behind the scenes. I would also like to thank anyone who has come forward to volunteer their time, as these events could not take place without your support, so thank you. I know it will be an amazing day and all to raise money which benefits the children.

Ms Martin

Headteacher

## **Key Dates coming up: June**

Saturday 17th—FOBS Summer Fair

Monday 19th—Year 3/4 Residential to Caldecott Lake

Monday 19th—EYFS Open Session 2-3:15pm

Thursday 22nd—Reception Vision Screening from Nursing Team.

Friday 23rd—Art Exhibition of children's work in hall after school.

Wednesday 28th—Year 1 Trip to Whipsnade Zoo

Wednesday 28th—Year 2 Multi-Skills Event.

Friday 30th—Spanish Day

Friday 30th—Reports sent out to parents on Parentmail.

## **July**

Tuesday 4th—Transition Day

Wednesday 5th—Transition Day

Wednesday 5th—District Athletics

Thursday 6th—Year 6 Games

Thursday 13th—Bierton's Got Talent Finals

Thursday 13th—FOBS Disco



For the last few years, our Pupil Voice Survey has included the children's desire to have a school pet. The concern has always been how we ensure we look after this 'pet' over the holidays. But then came an idea from the Bucks Goat Centre! They loan goats out to school during term time and then take them back to the centre over the holidays. So plans began!

We are super excited to welcome two new members to our school community in the near future. Over the last few weeks we have been busy building their home in the far corner of our play area. This has created lots of excitement among the children and lots of discussion about what is actually coming. We are delighted to announce that Ruby and Suzy will be joining our school.

Ruby has slightly bent ears and is a slightly redder brown colour.

Suzy has straight ears and is slightly more blonde in colour.

Children will be able to visit our two new members during lunchtimes and each class will also have a chance to visit them as a class and get to know them better over the next few weeks.



### **Family Liaison and Attendance Administrator**



We are really pleased to have welcomed Mrs Beesley to our team. Her role is our family liaison and Attendance Administrator. She will be a friendly link between parents and school staff. Part of her role will be welcoming any new children and families to our school. She will also be keeping a close eye on attendance. If your child's attendance starts to cause us concern, you might receive an initial call from Beesley to discuss any reasons behind this and look for solutions before we reach the point of the formal attendance procedures. Mrs Beesley will also support our families in signposting to different services and support in the wider community. Therefore, if we identify a course or local support that we think you might be interested in, she may in touch with you. Equally, if your family is suddenly going through a difficult time and you would like suggestions of support, she will be your first port of call. Mrs Beesley has written a short pen portrait to introduce herself below:

My name is Mrs Beesley, I joined the school on Tuesday 6th June as the Family Liaison & Attendance Administrator.

I live on Fairford Leys with my partner Julian & two children—Amy who is 11 & Thomas who is 6. They both go to St Mary's C of E School.

My previous role was as the Learning Support Admin Assistant at the John Colet School in Wendover. Prior to that I was an Ofsted Registered Childminder. I have also worked in Customer Services for many years at McCormick in Haddenham.

I enjoy spending time with my family & friends. I also like shopping, going to the Cinema & the Theatre.

I have enjoyed my time at the school so far & am really looking forward to getting to know the Bierton Combined School pupils & wider community.

## Teaching Staff—September 2023

We are delighted to be able to announce our teaching staff for September. To continue to develop staff, we have quite a few people moving around to different year groups in the school. You will receive a ParentMail on Friday 16th at 3:30pm which will alert you as to which class your child will be in for September.

Acting Early Years Lead—Mrs Tarling

Ash Class—Mrs Moore

Alder Class—Mrs King

Key Stage 1 Lead—Mr Glanney

Beech Class—Miss Smith

Birch Class—Mrs Bailey

Cedar Class—Mr Niesyto

Cherry Class—Mr Glanney

Years 3 + 4 Lead—Mrs Start

Holly Class—Mrs Vasku

Hazel Class—Mrs Start

Pine Class—Mr Sloan

Pear Class—Mrs Glanney

Years 5 + 6 Lead—Mrs Glover

Spruce Class—Mrs Soffe

Sycamore Class—Mr White

Walnut Class—Mrs Glover

Whitebeam Class—Mrs Reilly-Wheeler

You will receive a Pen Portrait about your child's new class teacher on the ParentMail. This contains a photo so that you and your child can recognise the new teacher and also a little bit of information about the teacher. Your child will also spend some time with their new teacher on transition days. On Tuesday 4th July all children will spend the afternoon with their new teacher and then on Wednesday 5th July all children will spend the whole day with their new teacher and in their new classrooms.

## OPAL newsletter June 2023

Finally we have been blessed with dryer weather and some much awaited sunshine. This has provided us with the opportunity to maximise the spaces we have around our wonderful school providing our children with a wider range of resources and activities to choose to engage with during lunchtime play.

Our brand new timber trail was officially opened after the Easter holidays. Every year group is allocated 20 minutes during lunchtime play to explore and develop both physical skills and self confidence. It is great to see many of our children who were originally a bit wary of the large feature nimbly climbing around with their friends now.

The stage area is popular for a variety of antics, including showing off dance moves, karate skills, imitation, and hopefully some singing soon.

Our very own beach was finally opened up for the 1<sup>st</sup> time this year during the last 2 weeks before half term. Children from every year group are having great fun digging for treasure, building sand castles and volcanoes. For many this is the first time they have been able to play in the sand and to hear comments like 'this is the best day ever' really makes us realise how lucky we are.

The crash mats are very popular particularly with our KS2 cohorts, these are mainly used for taking turns practising gymnastic type skills. It's nice to see children that participate in gymnastics clubs outside of school helping and showing others how to do handstands, flips etc.

The front playground is dedicated to a variety of small world activities, which are rotated during the week and dependant on weather. For example lego, duplo, cars, trucks, dolls house, train track, wooden toys, dressing up, dolls, puzzles, dinosaurs, farm and zoo animals. This area is very popular with KS1 providing learning and stimulation in a quieter area.

Within the shelter playground we have our reading areas, table football, drawing and colouring. If we get that long awaited hot summer this area provides respite from the sun. This area contains our outside water feature and is also used for skipping and hula hoops.

Scooters and skateboards a favourite right from the start of our OPAL project in February last year continue to provide lots of opportunity to improve balancing skills whilst travelling with a bit of speed down the side of the Y4 classroom.

The mud kitchen and digging area which was not in use too much during the winter months is easily accessible now. The tyres are now mainly located in that area, our children enjoy rolling these about, stacking them up and climbing on and over them which helps to increase core body strength at the same time.

The MUGA continues to be sectioned off into year groups with a goal for each to play football, an area for basketball and space to practice tennis racket skills.

We are also making use of the lovely green field space beyond forest school during dry weather times. Years 5 and 6 have played football and are looking forward to playing rugby this half term too, Years 3 and 4 have played cricket and rounders, whilst those who want to just run around or sit chatting in the sun with their friends have been able to do so as well.

We are very grateful for all the donations we receive from our Bierton school community, thank you. Naturally toys and equipment wear out or break, so if you have anything which is in good condition that you would be able to pass on to the school please check with the school office. We are currently in need of footballs, buckets and spades, cars, other small toys and dolls, so if you have any of these lying around please bring them to reception.

## Junior Maths Challenge

Eleanor's Elephant Emporium has four types of elephant. There are twice as many grey elephants as pygmy elephants, three times as many white elephants as grey elephants and four times as many pink elephants as white elephants. There are 20 more white elephants than pygmy elephants.  
How many elephants are in Eleanor's Emporium?



This was just one of the many questions tackled in one hour by ten of our Year 6 children who took part in the Junior Maths Challenge earlier this month. This national competition is open to students up to Year 8, so the level of challenge was high. Amazingly, all ten children scored over 46 points (the national average) with some even gaining bronze and silver certificates!

A special mention goes to Lucinda, who was awarded the 'Best In School' accolade with an awesome score of 68. A huge well done to all of the children who participated: Charlie, Dylan, Emily, Isabella, Karenza, Lucinda, Micah, Prisha, Stanley and Tommy.

# Year 4 - Multi Skills

This week Year 4 went to a Multi Skills event hosted by the Aylesbury Grammar School. The sun was shining and we all had a great morning trying a range of new activities.



# Skern 2023

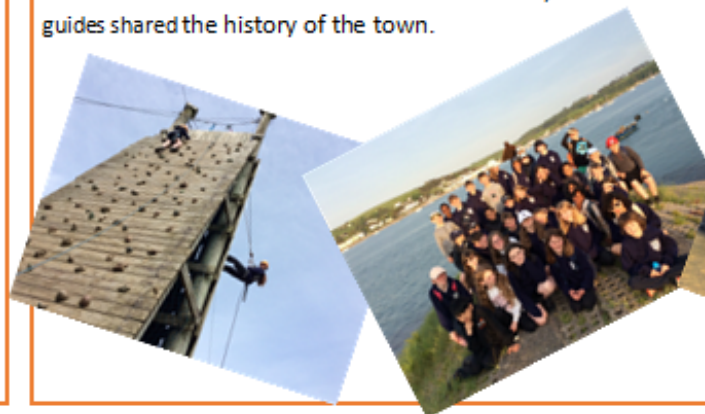
## Day 1

Not long after arriving, Year 6 were set their first challenge of the trip - getting into a wetsuit! Some made light work of this and some were putting legs through arm holes but we got there eventually. Then it was straight to the beach for an afternoon of bodyboarding. The children really impressed us with how quickly they picked it up and many were 'shredding' the waves in no time at all. Back to base, a quick unpack and then it was time for dinner. All of the children ate really well - even the salad bar was demolished! Tonight, the children took part in a scavenger hunt around the site with some challenging questions. Our personal favourite was the answer to the capital of Australia which ranges from China to Cameroon via Cumbria. Geography needs some work.



## Day 2

The sun continued to shine as three of the groups rafted down the glass-like River Torridge; we played numerous games many of which ended with a splash. Back at camp, groups 4 and 5 faced their fears traversing across obstacles ten metres high, climbing Jacob's Ladder and taking a 'leap of faith'. In the afternoon, the roles reversed and it was groups 4&5 who took to the river whilst groups 1-3 got to grips with the climbing wall/ abseiling. set off for a night walk into Appledore where we watched the sun set over the estuary whilst our guides shared the history of the town.



## Day 3

The children enjoyed a fabulous day on the North Devon coastline, rock scrambling, cairn building, traversing above pools of water and hiking along the cliff path. The views were spectacular enhanced by the blue skies and bright sunshine. As the tide went out, we began scrambling across the exposed rocks of the bay helping each other scale huge boulders and deep rock pools. We paused for a quick lunch before continuing our adventure. Groups 1&2 were faced with 'The Shark Fin' - two sheer rock faces which we had to squeeze between. Groups 3&4 traversed the headland and managed a game of 'chicken' around the rock-pools. The day finished with a splash for all groups either in streams or the Atlantic! After a steep climb back up to the



## Day 4

It was another beautiful day down here in Devon. We hopped aboard the minibuses and offloaded our kayaks on the riverside. Quickly, we partnered up and readied ourselves to paddle away. It was lovely to see Miss Cadman showcase her gymnastics skills as she backward-rolled off her kayak and into the water before we even started! Fortunately, the only other person to go overboard was Mr Gadsby when he tried to stand up. The children did really well navigating themselves and working together to reach the destination point. Back to base and the children were all relieved to peel themselves out of their wetsuits for the final time. A quick game of football followed by a picnic lunch then we were harnessed up again to tackle the high ropes/ climbing walls. It was lovely to see so many children pushing themselves out of their comfort zones and taking risks whilst having fun. It was perfect weather for a final night BBQ before leaders arrived to take us off for our final activity of the day. We strolled across the beach looking for shells and sea glass then regrouped in an open meadow for some fun and games.





# Y5 Science workshops at Aylesbury Grammar School



On Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June, Year 5 went to Aylesbury Grammar School. The children carried out lots of experiments including extracting DNA from strawberries and looking at what happens when acid and alkali are mixed together to make colours. They all had a fantastic time experiencing lessons in a secondary school laboratory!



"We did two lessons: Biology and Chemistry. In Chemistry, we did experiments using acids and alkalis. First, we had to put the acid into a boiling tube; then we put a piece of magnesium in the boiling tube, the acid started to fizz! Next, we did Biology. We were finding and extracting the DNA of a strawberry. It was a very fun day!"

By Flo  
Spruce class

