



# BEENHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

VALUING OURSELVES. VALUING EVERYBODY.

## Beenham Bulletin

Summer Term

July 2025

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# Headteacher's Message

What a fantastic year we've had at Beenham Primary School! As one year closes behind us and a new one beckons, we've been reflecting on all the lovely moments, achievements and celebrations that have made this year so special.

Our focus throughout has been on what makes our school such a unique and welcoming place to learn and grow: being kind, being safe, and being proud. These are our school rules and have been at the heart of everything we do, and it's

been wonderful to see them shining through in our pupils every day — whether in the classroom, on the playground or in the wider community.

The summer term has been filled with memorable moments. We marked the anniversary of VE Day with a beautifully themed tea party, complete with bunting, music and our second Great Beenham Bake-Off. It was a lovely opportunity for pupils to learn about our history in a meaningful way while enjoying a real sense of community. Our talent show gave children the chance to share their amazing skills — from singing and dancing to magic tricks and animal noises! We were blown away by the confidence and creativity on display.

Sports Day was another highlight — full of energy, teamwork and determination. The whole school came together to cheer each other on, and the sun even managed to make an appearance! In true celebratory spirit, we held a vibrant colour run, which was a joyful, rainbow-filled afternoon of fun and fundraising. It was wonderful to see families join in and share in all the fun and colour.

We also held our first annual Pride of Beenham Awards, recognising those who have gone above and beyond to show kindness, resilience, leadership and community spirit throughout the year. These awards are a new tradition we're proud to begin, and they really captured the heart of what our school, and the Beenham community, is all about.

Looking ahead, we're already hard at work getting ready for September. Over the summer, we are giving the school a refresh and putting the final touches on our exciting new curriculum — designed to inspire curiosity, challenge thinking and make learning irresistible.

Thank you to all our families, staff, governors and community members for your continued support. We can't wait to welcome everyone back in September for another brilliant year at Beenham Primary!



## Values of the Term



### CONFIDENCE



During Summer 1, we explored the value of 'confidence' across the school. We enjoyed celebrating the confidence in all the children's special talents and abilities with our second annual edition of *Beenham's Got Talent* and thoroughly enjoyed what was on offer – from gymnastics to comedy, and singing to clarinets!

**Recipient of Headteacher's Award for confidence: Jenson (Tundra)**



### INDEPENDENCE

For Summer 2, we have been thinking about our value of 'independence'. We have explored how we can all show more independence in our day-to-day lives and have made pledges of what we will start doing. We have also been getting ready for transitions in September and have enjoyed spending time with our new classes.

**Recipient of Headteacher's Award for independence:**



## Tala

As we come to the end of an exciting school year, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on what a wonderful journey it has been in our class. It's hard to believe how quickly the year has flown by – and how much the children have grown, not just in height, but in confidence, independence, and curiosity. It's been a real joy to see the incredible progress every child has made throughout the year. They've worked hard, shown resilience, and grown in ways that will support them in all the years to come.

This term, we explored the big question: "Why is our world wonderful?" Through this enquiry, we delved into learning about the continents and oceans, developed our understanding of plants and why they are so important, and thought deeply about who created our world and why we have a responsibility to look after it. The children's sense of wonder and thoughtful contributions during discussions were truly inspiring.

We've also enjoyed a range of hands-on activities to deepen our learning. During Bushcraft sessions, the children loved being outdoors and especially enjoyed painting mini beast stones, which were as creative as they were colourful! Our school trip to Oxford was another highlight. From the calm focus of our still life painting session at the Ashmolean Museum, to the excitement of our dinosaur hunt at the Museum of Natural History, the children were engaged and enthusiastic every step of the way.

As we prepare to say goodbye to our wonderful Year 2s, it's a moment of pride and a touch of sadness. They are ready for the next exciting chapter in Key Stage 2, and while we will miss them greatly, we know they'll continue to shine and achieve amazing things.

Thank you, as always, for your support throughout the year. It's been a pleasure working with your children and celebrating their successes with you. I hope you all have a happy, restful summer, and I look forward to seeing our returning children again in September for another brilliant year of learning!



## Torak

I can't believe it's the end of the summer term! The children have impressed me so much this year with their resilience, determination, and growing independence.

This term has been full of brilliant experiences, including learning to play the clarinet and an exciting trip to Englefield Estate.

Our topic this term was the Romans. The children learned about Julius Caesar and his role in the development of Rome, the invasion of Britain, and what made the Roman army so successful. They especially enjoyed marching in formation like Roman legionaries and designing their own shields.

In science, the children explored plants by dissecting them, identifying their parts, and conducting experiments to observe how light affects plant growth. They also explored light, investigating different light sources, the sun and UV light, as well as reflection and shadows. A highlight was our experiment using UV beads to test which sunscreen protection factor was most effective!

We also explored a range of other topics including researching, designing, and making Roman mosaics, learning about online safety and how to evaluate the reliability of websites, and discovering French culture, especially learning how to order food in shops and cafés.

It has been a fantastic term, and we are so proud of everything the children have achieved. It's been a joy to watch them grow in confidence, develop new skills, and support one another along the way.



## Tundra

In the final term of the year we have done so much and been keeping ourselves very busy.

Our final term begun with an introduction to our final topic - Ancient Greece. The children investigated the history of Greece, timelining events, exploring key events and getting to know some of the main figures from the period in history including gods and goddesses, heroes and monsters. The children took on lots of big projects this term, making posters about the different Olympic Gods and creating their own sculptures inspired by mythical beasts and legends.

Our science focus has been materials and their properties. We have completed a wide variety of investigations into the different properties of materials, including looking at dissolving, evaporating, capacity, buoyancy and rusting. The children have enjoyed setting up experiments, developing fair test criteria and recording and discussing results.

We have had another amazing bushcraft session as well as several other experiences from visitors to the school, including a visit from the Butterfly Conversation Trust and sessions with Footy Kids at lunchtimes. Mr Quinn has taken over our PE lessons provided by USports and has developed really positive relationships with the class and the children across the school.

Creative writing has continued to flow this term. We finished with a class debate about the focus of our final shared reading text of the term - The Odyssey. Tundra spent weeks discussing Odysseus and his actions, often finding ourselves confused and appalled at the actions of someone considered a hero. Reading the text all term has really helped to immerse the class in the world of Ancient Greece - we have followed tangents to discuss other heroes, gods and their relationships and other significant figures such as Aristotle and Alexander The Great.

It has been a very busy end of the term - Year 6 tackled their SATs with great gusto and enthusiasm. We spent week rehearsing for our show, 'The Great Beenham Bake-Off' which was a roaring success. The children built props and helped with set design, as well as learning their lines, adding improvisation and learning the songs too. Year 6 had their leavers' trip to Chessington which was another really lovely day out. To finish the term, the whole school enjoyed a day out in Oxford - Tundra had a workshop in the Ashmolean to finish their Ancient Greece topic where we handled artefacts from thousands of years ago and got to pick the brain of an expert in that area of history.

It has been my genuine pleasure to lead Tundra class this year - the children have come a long way since September. I am excited to see what the future brings for those children moving on this year and am ready to welcome back those returning in September.



# Chair of Governor's Message

Dear all,

I hope this message finds you well and looking forward to a relaxing summer break. As we come to the end of another school term, I'd like to take a moment on behalf of the Governors to share our thanks and appreciation.

First and foremost, a heartfelt thank you goes to our incredible teaching team. Their dedication and tireless efforts have ensured that our pupils continue to flourish and succeed. This term, the team also put in a huge amount of work to deliver two brilliant events – Sports Day and the Beenham Colour Run – both of which were a great success and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone who took part. These events truly captured the spirit and energy of our school community.

A special thanks also goes to the Parents, Teachers, and Friends Association (PTFA). Their enthusiasm and hard work in planning events and raising funds has provided vital support to the school. We're equally grateful to the Parish Council, whose ongoing collaboration and encouragement have helped strengthen the school's role within the wider community, enriching the experience for both pupils and staff.

To our families – your continued involvement and support are fundamental to the success of the school. Whether it's attending events, helping with learning at home, or simply encouraging your children, your role is essential and greatly appreciated.

Of course, we must also celebrate our wonderful pupils. Their energy, curiosity, and passion for learning make Beenham Primary School the vibrant and welcoming place that it is. They are the beating heart of the school, and we are incredibly proud of all they've achieved this year. A particular congratulations to our Year 6 pupils who have completed their SATs and are preparing to move on to secondary school in September – we wish them every success.

Looking ahead to the new academic year, I'm confident that – with the continued support of our fantastic school community – we will go from strength to strength.

Thank you once again for all your dedication and support. Have a wonderful summer break!

Warmest regards,

James Tobin

Thank  
you



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# Be Proud!

This summer term, we've been exploring our school rule of *'Be Proud'* through a range of exciting opportunities that have helped our children shine. From showcasing their amazing talents in *Beenham's Got Talent* to taking part in a whole-school Day of Action to show pride in our school environment, every child has had the chance to celebrate what makes them – and our school – special.

Our fantastic summer production brought the whole school together, with every pupil playing a part on stage or behind the scenes. We also introduced our first *Pride of Beenham* awards, recognising those who have made outstanding contributions to our school and wider community.



Pride of Beenham Award Recipients

<i>Outstanding Contribution to the Community</i>	Amy Thorne
<i>Outstanding Contribution to the School</i>	Ania Paluszkiewicz
<i>Volunteer of the Year</i>	Louise Grace
<i>Young Fundraiser of the Year</i>	Felix Roe
<i>Unsung Hero</i>	Sophie McBean
<i>Inspiration</i>	Nick Harborne
<i>Lifetime Achievement</i>	Pat Owen

# Extreme Reading Holiday Challenge!

How many of these places can you read a book in during the holidays? The bottom row of boxes is for you to add your own extreme reading locations. Get someone to take a photo of you in each place and send on Class Dojo to your teacher and Miss McBean. Photos will be shared in the first Proud Assembly in September and the best pictures will be chosen for a library display!

			
at the beach	in a castle	on top of a hill	on a boat
			
in water	on a climbing frame	sliding down a slide	in bed
upside down	at the dentist	on wheels	underground
with an animal	at a museum or art gallery	up a tree	in another country
			
in the garden	on a train	in a shop	on a bus
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# Working Together to Improve School Attendance

## EVERY SCHOOL DAY MATTERS

### Penalty Notice Fines for absence from school are changing

From 19<sup>th</sup> August 2024 Penalty Notice fines increase to £160 for each parent, for each child.



You can be fined if your child has a total of 5 days of unauthorised absences in 10 school weeks, for things like:

- being late after the register has closed
- truancy
- taking a holiday without permission from the school
- or if a headteacher isn't satisfied for the reason for missing school

Over a rolling 3-year period the sanctions are:

- 1st offence – £160 reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days
- 2nd offence – £160
- 3rd offence – Court hearing and up to £2,500 fine, or up to 3 months in prison and a criminal record

For more information please contact: EWSS@westberks.gov.uk

The government published statutory guidance for all schools in August 2024 relating to the issue of school attendance.

*Working Together to Improve School Attendance* outlines strict regulations for schools with regards to register coding and which absences can be authorised, and which cannot.

In the event that 10 or more school sessions (half-days) are recorded as unauthorised absence in a 10-week period, fixed penalty notices will be issued by West Berkshire Council.

### Working Together to Improve School Attendance (DfE):

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65f1b048133c22b8eecd38f7/Working\\_together\\_to\\_improve\\_school\\_attendance\\_applies\\_from\\_19\\_August\\_2024.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65f1b048133c22b8eecd38f7/Working_together_to_improve_school_attendance_applies_from_19_August_2024.pdf)

### Beenham Primary School Attendance Policy:

<https://primarysite-product.s3.amazonaws.com/beenham-primary-school/UploadedDocument/ca432887-dae4-40d6-84fb-aa558e106a30/attendance-policy-september-2024.pdf>

*"[School attendance] is essential for pupils to get the most out of their school experience, including their attainment, wellbeing, and wider life chances. The pupils with the highest attainment at the end of key stage 2 and key stage 4 have higher rates of attendance over the key stage compared to those with the lowest attainment."*

Working Together to Improve School Attendance  
- Department for Education



Our Senior Attendance Champion is Mrs Sharp.



Please contact Mrs Sharp, Miss McBean or Mrs Appleby via the school office if you have any questions or to report absences



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# Wellbeing and Safeguarding over the summer

As we head into the summer break, we encourage all our children and families to prioritise wellbeing by finding time to rest, recharge and enjoy the outdoors. Staying active, connected and creative can help everyone feel their best during the holidays. To help with this, here are some ideas you can try out to boost mood and wellbeing. Why not give it a try and see how many you can complete?

## The 30-Day Summer Holiday Challenge

BEYOND PSHE

<p><b>Day 1</b> Start collecting items for a summer scrapbook. These might include photos, receipts, tickets or other small objects. Try to collect one thing every day.</p>	<p><b>Day 2</b> Plant a seed and see if it has grown by the end of the summer.</p> 	<p><b>Day 3</b> Try cooking something new. This could be a delicious dinner or dessert.</p> 	<p><b>Day 4</b> Stay in your pyjamas until midday and enjoy relaxing on the sofa.</p> 	<p><b>Day 5</b> Make a summer playlist of all of your favourite summer tunes.</p> 	<p><b>Day 6</b> Visit a local park or theme park.</p> 
<p><b>Day 7</b> Go stargazing. Make a note of what you see.</p> 	<p><b>*Day 8</b> Relax with some mindful colouring.</p> 	<p><b>Day 9</b> Read a new book or article. If you can't read it all in one day, aim to finish it by the end of the summer.</p>	<p><b>Day 10</b> Make ice lollies or ice cream.</p> 	<p><b>Day 11</b> Watch the sunrise or sunset. You could even try to watch both on the same day!</p>	<p><b>Day 12</b> Go for a walk or bike ride in nature.</p> 
<p><b>Day 13</b> Pretend to be a tourist in your own town or city. See if you end up going somewhere new!</p>	<p><b>Day 14</b> Head to a swimming pool or visit a beach. Make sure it is safe before going into the water!</p>	<p><b>Day 15</b> Try writing something. This could be a poem, short story or article.</p>	<p><b>*Day 16</b> Make an origami bird.</p> 	<p><b>Day 17</b> Have a barbecue or picnic with family and friends.</p>	<p><b>Day 18</b> Go kayaking or rowing. Make sure to do this safely with an adult.</p> 
<p><b>Day 19</b> Become a photographer for the day. You could take pictures of wildlife, scenery or the people around you.</p>	<p><b>Day 20</b> Unplug for the day by turning off all electronic devices.</p> 	<p><b>Day 21</b> Get some friends together and have a water fight.</p> 	<p><b>Day 22</b> Go to a local nature trail, wildlife centre, zoo or safari park.</p> 	<p><b>Day 23</b> Write a letter to a friend or family member, telling them about a recent holiday or day trip you went on. Add a stamp and pop it in the post box.</p>	<p><b>Day 24</b> Watch a film or TV show from a genre that you wouldn't usually choose. Keep an open mind and see if it surprises you.</p>
<p><b>Day 25</b> Try a new sport or exercise. Some ideas are football, netball, yoga and dance.</p>	<p><b>Day 26</b> Write down three things you are excited for in the new school year.</p> 	<p><b>Day 27</b> Have a declutter of your room. Separate things you don't want anymore and donate them to charity.</p>	<p><b>Day 28</b> Learn 5 words from a new language.</p> 	<p><b>Day 29</b> Paint or draw something inspired by the summer.</p> 	<p><b>Day 30</b> Put together a summer scrapbook using the items that you have been collecting.</p>

As a school community, we are here to support families during the holidays as well as term time. Please do reach out via Class Dojo if help is needed.

If you have any concerns about your child(ren) over the holiday, or any other children, Mrs Sharp and Miss McBean are available and contactable as Designated Safeguarding Leads. You can message us on Dojo or email via the school office – these will all be checked regularly.

You can also report any concerns straight to the West Berkshire Contact Advice and Assessment Service:

<https://www.westberks.gov.uk/childconcern>



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# Diary Dates for the Autumn

<i>Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September</i>	INSET day
<i>Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September</i>	INSET day
<i>Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September</i>	Start of Autumn 1 term
<i>Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> September</i>	Footy Kids trial sessions
<i>Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October</i>	Parents' evening (15:30 – 18:00)
<i>Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October</i>	Parents' evening (15:30 – 17:30)
<i>Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October</i>	End of Autumn 1 term
<i>Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October</i>	INSET day
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<i>Monday 27<sup>th</sup> – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May</i>	Half-term holiday
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<i>Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November</i>	Start of Autumn 2 term
<i>Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> – Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> November</i>	Tundra Class residential trip to PGL Liddington
<i>Monday 9<sup>th</sup> – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June</i>	Year 4 multiplication check & Year 1 phonics screening
<i>w/c Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November</i>	KS2 swimming lessons start
<i>Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November</i>	School photos (individual & siblings)
<i>Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November</i>	Flu immunisations
<i>Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December</i>	Christmas Fayre
<i>Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December</i>	Whole school trip to <i>The Little Mermaid</i> – Watermill Theatre
<i>Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December</i>	End of Autumn 2 term (1pm finish)