



BEENHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

VALUING OURSELVES. VALUING EVERYBODY.

Beenham Bulletin

Autumn Term
December 2025

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Headteacher's Message

As we come to the end of the autumn term, I am delighted to reflect on what has been a truly enjoyable and purposeful few months in school. The hard work of our staff team over the summer to refresh and prepare the school has paid off, creating a calm and focused atmosphere since September. This has allowed children to settle quickly and make the most of their learning.



Our new curriculum has been met with great enthusiasm. Pupils have particularly enjoyed completing enquiry projects, which have encouraged them to investigate topics in depth, ask thoughtful questions, and share their findings with confidence. It has been wonderful to see their curiosity and creativity flourish.

The term has also been filled with memorable highlights. Positive Noticing Day reminded us of the power of encouragement, while our Children in Need activities showcased the generosity of our community. The Christmas production and tea party brought festive joy and togetherness, rounding off the term beautifully.

As we look ahead to the new year, I would like to thank our families, staff, friends and governors for their continued support. We wish everyone a very happy, healthy, and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

We look forward to seeing you all when we return on Monday 5th January.

All the very best,
Miss Sophie McBean

Values of the Term

CARE

During Autumn 1, we explored the value of 'care' across the school. We thought about how we can show care to ourselves as well as others, our and other people's belongings and our wider environment.

Recipient of Headteacher's Award for care: Gino (Torak)

RESILIENCE

In the latter half of the autumn term, we have investigated the value of 'resilience'. The children have considered the idea beyond 'keep trying' and thought about the value of mistakes and accepting that people have different ways of tackling problems.

Recipient of Headteacher's Award for resilience: Lottie R (Tala)



Class Updates

Tala

We've had a brilliant start to the year! As the leaves have changed, our classroom has been full of curiosity, creativity and confidence, and it has been a joy watching every child grow and learn.

This term, we welcomed our new Reception children to Tala. They have settled wonderfully, quickly becoming part of our busy learning community. It has been lovely to see friendships grow and confidence blossom across the class.

In autumn 1, our enquiry asked, "*What is an explorer?*" The children learned about the skills explorers need—curiosity, resilience and careful observation. They investigated how explorers use data, explored the world around them and enjoyed taking on the role of real-life explorers through maps, outdoor learning and problem-solving.

This half term we asked, "*What is a historian?*" The children compared past and present, investigated old and new objects, and even created their own sewn bookmarks. We also looked at how the world has changed, focusing on kings and queens and the development of transport.

A highlight was our Christmas Production, where the children sang beautifully and supported one another on stage. We also enjoyed a magical performance of *The Little Mermaid*, which inspired storytelling and imagination back in class.

It has been a fantastic autumn term, and we are so proud of the children. Wishing everyone a happy and restful holiday!



Torak

What a wonderful first term we have had together!

Our enquiry question this term was: *What was Britain like across time?* The children have loved travelling back through the Stone, Bronze and Iron Age, exploring how life and technology changed. They even became news presenters to share their discoveries! We also compared our own village of Beenham with New Delhi, taking a walk to spot human and physical features, practise map reading and learn about settlements across history.

In English, the children have explored a wide range of writing styles, including stories, reports, character descriptions and diary entries. They have enjoyed writing for different purposes and audiences, often linking their work to our guided reading text to deepen their understanding.

Science has been full of hands-on investigations. From building solar ovens to cleaning coins with different substances and testing melting points of solids, the children have been developing their skills in predicting, experimenting and presenting their findings.

A real highlight was our Christmas Production, *The Landlord's Cat*. For many, it was their first time on stage, but they rose to the challenge brilliantly. They created props and costumes, overcame nerves and worked hard to learn their lines. The performance was a joy to watch, and I am so proud of their teamwork and determination.

It has been a fantastic start to the year. I look forward to seeing the children continue to grow and shine. Wishing you all a very happy Christmas break!



Tundra

Tundra Class have had a fantastic start to the school year. The children have settled brilliantly, shown growing independence, and approached their learning with enthusiasm.

In history, we explored the Tudors, learning about monarchy, succession, the role of the church, and how women's position in society has changed. We then studied the Second World War, focusing on events such as the Battle of Britain and D-Day, and considering how daily life changed for men and women. The children also discussed post-war migration and the challenges faced by those arriving in Britain.

Science has been full of practical investigations, from building circuits to exploring how light travels and how shadows and reflections are formed. In English, the children have produced impressive writing and enjoyed whole-class texts including *There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom*.

A highlight was our residential trip to PGL Liddington, where the children embraced challenges and grew closer as a class.

This term, we were also joined by Mrs Chaurasia during her first PGCE placement. She has supported children across the school and has been a fantastic addition to the classroom as she develops her teaching practice. We wish her every success as she moves on to her next placement in the new year.

It's hard to believe we are already one-third of the way through the school year. Tundra Class should be very proud of everything they have achieved so far, and we are excited to see what the rest of the year brings.



Chair of Governor's Message



As the busy and exciting term at Beenham Primary School draws to a close, I wish to share a brief reflection on our recent successes.

This month was marked by two truly wonderful events. The Christmas production was a highlight, a genuinely magical performance that served as a testament to the talent and hard work of our pupils and staff. We also celebrated the highly enjoyable school fayre, which was well-supported and enjoyed by everyone in attendance. Your engagement in these events is greatly appreciated.

I must extend a special, heartfelt thank you to several key groups: the entire teaching team for their exceptional dedication and tireless hard work throughout the year; the PTFA and the Parish Council for their continuous, invaluable support.

On behalf of the Governing Body, we wish all our families a joyful, peaceful, and restful holiday break. We very much look forward to seeing everyone again when we return in the New Year.

Warm regards,

James Tobin
Chair of Governors



Working Together to Improve School Attendance

EVERY SCHOOL DAY MATTERS



Penalty Notice Fines for absence from school are changing

From 19th 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.

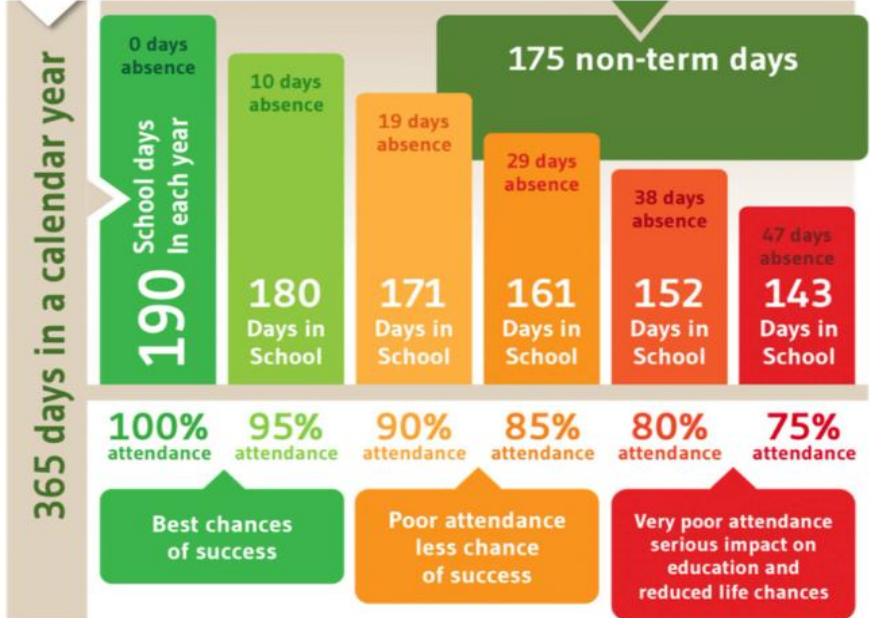
In the event that 10 or more school sessions (half-days) are recorded as unauthorised absence in a 10-week period, fixed penalty notices will be issued by West Berkshire Council.

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

Beenham Primary School Attendance Policy:
<https://primarysite-prod-sorted.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



Wellbeing and Safeguarding over Christmas

Whilst Christmas can be a truly magical time of year, it can also bring challenges in many shapes and forms. As excitement builds, so too can stress and anxiety, and it is so important to take moments of rest when they are available.

Here are some ideas you might like to try....

1st Create Make a Christmas playlist of feel-good tunes.	2nd Care Make time for a long soak in the bath.	3rd Rest Go to bed early and wake up feeling well-rested.	4th Food Make your favourite meal for dinner.	5th Exercise Go for a walk in a natural environment.	6th Comfort Wear your favourite cosy jumper.	7th Senses Light a scented candle while you relax.
8th Creative Listen to an audiobook or podcast.	9th Care Make time to take care of your hair and nails.	10th Rest Have a nap or shut your eyes for 10 minutes.	11th Food Eat a healthy, nutritious and delicious breakfast.	12th Exercise Go cloud-watching or star gazing.	13th Comfort Wear an accessory that makes you smile.	14th Senses Put up some fairy lights and watch them twinkle.
15th Creative Draw or paint a Christmas scene.	16th Care Invest in some quality hand cream.	17th Rest Put your feet up and read a book for half an hour.	18th Food Bake yourself some festive treats.	19th Exercise Enjoy some gentle exercise, such as yoga.	20th Comfort Wear your favourite pyjamas.	21st Senses Drink a festive, spiced hot chocolate.
22nd Creative Dance to your favourite music.	23rd Care Give yourself a pedicure.	24th Rest Relax on the sofa and watch a movie.	25th Merry Christmas! Prioritise rest and wellbeing.			

COPING AT CHRISTMAS

The Added Pressures of Christmas can be Tough, but it's Important to know there's always Someone you can Talk to...

 111 online Call 111 & select option 2 to speak to the NHS Mental Health Crisis Response Service 24/7 Nhs.uk/mental-health	 Under 35s can Call 0800 068 4141, Text: 88247 or Email: pat@papyrus-uk.org 24/7 Papyrus-uk.org	 Call 116 123 to talk to Samaritans, or email: jo@samaritans.org for a reply within 24 hours Samaritans.org
 Call MIND's Mental Health Helpline 9am to 6pm, Monday to Friday on 0300 102 1234 Mind.org.uk	 Text "SHOUT" to 85258 to contact the Shout Crisis Text Line, or text "YM" if you're under 19 Giveusashout.org	 Mental Health Forum & Chat for Men from 5pm - midnight every day Call or Whatsapp 0800 585858 Thecalmzone.net

If you have any concerns about your child(ren) over the holiday, or any other children, Mrs Sharp and Miss McBean are still 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/childdconcern>



Autumn Birthdays



September

Sully

Mollie

Jack

Esme

Jolene

Mrs Homick

Robert

October

Finn

Miss Lee

Tiniera

Ms Wheeler

Corwn

Savannah

Rhea

November

Zachary

Jenson

Noah

Emily

Olivia

December

Freddie

Bertie

Gino

Mrs Sharp

Diary Dates for the Spring



Monday 5th January

Start of Spring 1

Friday 9th January

Story session

Wednesday 21st January

Berkshire Fire Service visit – Tundra

Thursday 29th January

KS2 financial awareness workshops

Friday 30th January

Grandparents' tea party

Friday 6th February

Story session

Friday 13th February

End of Spring 1 term; Valentine's disco

*Monday 16th – Friday 20th
February*

Half-term holiday

Monday 23rd February

Start of Spring 2 term

Friday 27th February

Bikeability (Level 1) - Tundra

Friday 6th March

Story session

*Wednesday 18th & Thursday 19th
March*

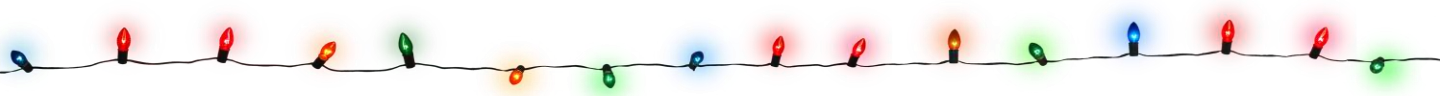
Bikeability (Level 2) – Year 6

Friday 13th March

Edwin Roe Memory Walk

Friday 27th March

End of Spring 2 term – 1pm finish





Wishing you and your family a
very merry Christmas and happy
new year

from everyone at
Beenham Primary School!