



# BEENHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

VALUING OURSELVES. VALUING EVERYBODY.

## **Beenham Bulletin**

Spring Term  
April 2026

## In this bulletin...

- ★ Headteacher's message
- ★ Values of the term
- ★ Class updates
- ★ Chair of Governor's message
- ★ Special days
- ★ Working together to improve school attendance
- ★ Wellbeing and safeguarding over Easter
- ★ Spring birthdays
- ★ Diary dates for the summer



# Headteacher's Message



As we reach the end of another busy term, it's hard not to smile at how far we've come since those dark, cold January mornings. The record-breaking rain certainly kept us on our toes, and very often indoors, but children and staff alike showed great resilience, even when it felt as though wet-play was becoming a daily routine. How lovely it has been to see the sunshine gradually return, bringing with it that unmistakable lift in energy and optimism as we move into spring.

This term has also brought change for our school community, and we were sad to say goodbye to Ms Saint at half-term. We remain incredibly grateful for her contribution to Beenham and wish her every success in her next chapter. Despite the challenges that come with transition, the hard work in classrooms has continued with real determination. Teachers have been particularly delighted by the progress children are making in their writing – a reassuring sign that our new curriculum is bedding in well and supporting pupils to flourish.

Looking ahead, the final summer term promises to be a joyful one. We are very much looking forward to welcoming Miss Gumbrell to our team and to the many special events that make this time of year so memorable. Sports Day, our Colour Run and the second Pride of Beenham Awards are already generating excitement, and we can't wait to celebrate the achievements, effort and spirit of our wonderful community.

Thank you, as always, for your support, kindness and partnership throughout the term. I wish all our families a peaceful, restful break and look forward to seeing everyone refreshed and ready for a bright and busy summer term ahead.

Take care,  
Miss Sophie McBean

## Values of the Term

### COOPERATION

We spent Spring 1 exploring the value of cooperation, recognising how much stronger we are when we listen, share and work together. Our children have shown that cooperation isn't just a skill but a mindset, helping our whole school community to flourish.

**Recipient of Headteacher's Award for care: Aila (Tundra)**

### RESPECT

We have thought carefully about what respect looks and feels like in our school, from using kind words to valuing each other's ideas and differences. Our children have shown that respect is a daily choice, helping to create a community where everyone feels safe, heard and appreciated.

**Recipient of Headteacher's Award for resilience: Arthur (Tundra)**



## Tala

This spring term has been full of exciting hands on, learning opportunities across a range of subjects. The children have continued to grow in themselves and their knowledge.

Our first enquiry, "What caused the Great Fire of London?", allowed children to explore this significant historical event. They learned about what happened during the fire and reflected on how London has changed since 1666.

In art, pupils developed their creativity through sculpture, culminating in the creation of a large collaborative spider made from newspaper and paint.

In science, the focus was on habitats and microhabitats, where children investigated different environments and the living things found within them.

A particular highlight of this enquiry was the bushcraft session, where children took part in an outdoor learning experience, developing practical skills and a deeper connection with nature.

The second enquiry, "What is the weather like in the UK?", introduced children to geography and environmental awareness.

They explored different types of weather, learned the names of the countries within the UK and their capital cities, and developed their navigation skills by learning how to read a compass.

In design and technology, children applied their design skills to create their own ferris wheels, demonstrating creativity and problem-solving.

In science, the focus shifted to plants, where pupils learned about the parts of a plant, what plants need to grow, and the plant life cycle. They also began their own scientific experiment, which will continue into the summer term.

A highlight for this half term was our Footy Kids session!

We loved running around and practicing our dribbling skills.

The children have had lots of fun this spring and I cannot wait to continue the fun into the summer term! I hope everyone has a lovely break.



## Torak

This term has been full of exciting learning opportunities as we explored our enquiry question: Who was here before us? We have learned all about what life was like in Roman Britain and why the Romans invaded. We also explored Boudicca's Rebellion and Hadrian's Wall, as well as the lasting impact the Romans had on Britain.

We have also learnt about the Anglo-Saxons, which linked perfectly to the fall of Roman Britain. The children learned why the Anglo-Saxons were invited to Britain, the technology they brought with them, as well as King Alfred the Great and the Battle of Hastings. The children particularly enjoyed applying their knowledge through our guided reading text, Anglo-Saxon Boy.

In English, we have continued exploring a variety of texts, including newspaper reports, suspense narratives, recounts, and persuasive letters. The children have enjoyed writing for a range of purposes, especially when linking their work to our enquiry question and guided reading texts.

During science this term, we have learned all about electricity. The children had a brilliant time experimenting with circuits and creating their own components, including switches. They became experts at identifying open and closed circuits, as well as spotting faults in circuits that should have worked. We have also explored sound, learning what it is, how it is made, and how pitch works, as well as understanding why ear defenders are used.

A highlight of the term was the children creating their own wattle and daub walls. They had a great time getting completely covered in mud and we enjoyed observing the walls as they dried to see how strong they were - they even stayed up when we removed the support sticks! The children have also really enjoyed soap carving in art and showed excellent concentration throughout.

It has been a fantastic term, and the children should be very proud of everything they have achieved!



## Tundra

It has been a busy, productive and exciting half term in Tundra, with the children showing fantastic effort and enthusiasm across all areas of the curriculum. In maths, they have developed a secure understanding of decimals, beginning with place value before moving on to adding and subtracting decimal numbers. More recently, they have explored the links between fractions, decimals and percentages, recognising how fractions relate to division and applying this knowledge to increasingly challenging reasoning tasks.

In English, pupils have produced high-quality non-chronological reports about endangered animals. They have shown a strong grasp of structure and key features, and our focus on editing and proofreading has helped them refine and improve their writing further. Our shared reading text, *Our Planet*, has inspired thoughtful discussion about environments such as jungles, frozen regions, and coastal seas, deepening the children's interest in environmental issues.

These themes have linked closely with our science topic, *Looking After Our Environment*. The children have learned about climate change, renewable energy and pollution, as well as global challenges including flooding, drought, wildfires and melting ice caps. They also designed and launched a school recycling initiative, creating posters to encourage responsible behaviour.

In history, the class explored what the census can tell us about our local area and learned about Victorian life, including jobs, living conditions and the suffrage movement led by Emmeline Pankhurst. PSHE lessons have focused on economic wellbeing, helping children understand saving, spending and financial responsibility through our class system.

Across RE, computing, art, and music, pupils have engaged thoughtfully and creatively.

It has been lovely to enjoy some brighter weather recently, and the children have worked incredibly hard right up to the end of term. We are very proud of all they have achieved and hope you all have a restful and enjoyable Easter break.



# Chair of Governor's Message



Hi Beenham School Community,

As we reach the end of the Spring Term, I would like to take a moment to thank Simone Hobbs and Sarah Renaut for their dedicated service as Parent Governors. Your time, support, and commitment to the school have been greatly appreciated.

I am also pleased to welcome Georgina Gray and Tanya Galliara to the Governing Board as Co-opted Governors. Thank you for volunteering your time and expertise to support the continued development of the school.

We currently have a vacancy for a Parent Governor, and I would warmly encourage any parent with an interest in the school's future to consider applying. This role offers a valuable opportunity to work alongside the leadership team, contribute to important decisions and help guide the strategic direction of the school. If you would like to learn more, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Finally, I would like to wish all our families, pupils, staff, and the PTFA a relaxing and enjoyable Easter break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back next term, refreshed and ready for another successful term ahead.

Best wishes,  
James Tobin



# 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):

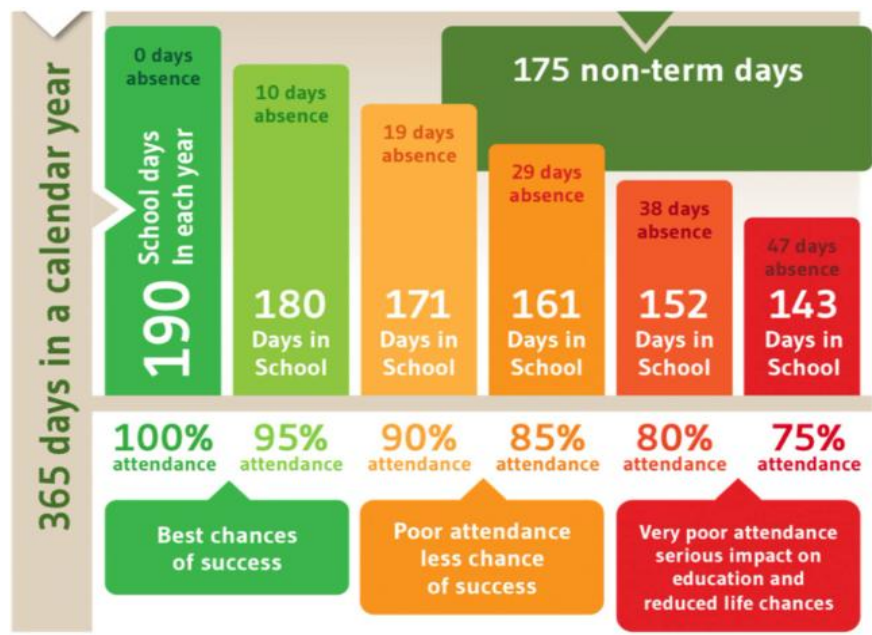
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65f1b048133c22b8eecd38f7/Working\\_together\\_to\\_improve\\_school\\_attendance\\_applies\\_from\\_19\\_August\\_2024\\_.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65f1b048133c22b8eecd38f7/Working_together_to_improve_school_attendance_applies_from_19_August_2024_.pdf)

### Beenham Primary School Attendance Policy:

<https://primarysite-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 Easter

As we head into the Easter holidays, it's the perfect moment to slow down, breathe in the fresh spring air and enjoy some simple, meaningful time with the people who matter most. The Spring Self-Care Calendar is full of fun, low-cost ideas to help families share some valuable connection time - whether that's a nature walk to spot signs of new life, a cosy afternoon baking together, or a screen-free hour of games and giggles. Little moments of joy and togetherness can make this season feel truly restorative, for children and adults alike.

## Spring Self-Care Calendar

- 1 Think of a way you can be active every day this month.
- 2 Think about a person in your life you are grateful for. What is it about them that makes them special?
- 3 Draw around your hand, cut it out, decorate it and then write on one side something that makes you feel happy.
- 4 Decorate a stone with a kind word to leave somewhere for another person to find and to make them smile.
- 5 Listen to some music that makes you feel good.
- 6 Do some crazy dancing.
- 7 Do a craft.
- 8 Make a thank-you card for somebody.
- 9 Make a beautiful flower out of tissue paper, a straw and a button.
- 10 Go on a mindful walk with a trusted adult.
- 11 Make some playdough.
- 12 Go to the park and play on your favourite equipment.
- 13 Give someone you love a big cuddle. This could be a pet too!
- 14 Do a jigsaw puzzle.
- 15 Build a bug hotel in your garden.
- 16 Think of what you are looking forward to as the days get longer and brighter.
- 17 Do a 5km walk or 2km run with a member of your family.
- 18 Wear your favourite outfit today, just to make yourself feel good!
- 19 Do some baking - you could try to make some Easter biscuits!
- 20 Go on a hunt to collect some things in nature and use them to make spring pictures.
- 21 Go for a picnic outdoors and pack your favourite snack.
- 22 Do something that makes you laugh.
- 23 Arrange a play date with one of your friends.
- 24 Do some mindfulness colouring.
- 25 Watch your favourite feel-good film or TV programme.

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/childconcern>



# Spring Birthdays



## January

Finley	Adri	Harry
Kayden	Alisha	Luke
Katie	Mrs Kilshaw	Isla
Fred	Grace	Isaac

## February

Evelyn	Bella	Aila
Pagan	Zac	Miss McBean

## March

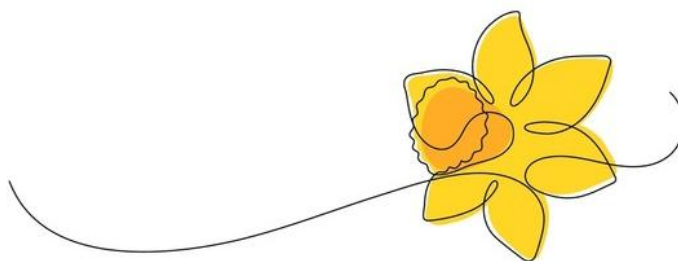
Amayah	Mr Bell-Barrett	Raphaëlle
Ollie A	Ms Saint	

## April

Mrs Appleby	Miss Alsey	Ibrahim
Cameron	Ollie B-V	Raheem



# Diary Dates for the Summer



*Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April*

Start of Summer 1 term

*Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April*

PSHE & RSE curriculum update for parents (09:15 & 15:25)

*Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April*

Bushcraft day

*Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May*

Bank holiday

*Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May*

Spring production

*Monday 11<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May*

KS2 SATs week

*Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May*

Sports day (09:30 – 11:30)  
Colour Run (15:15 – 16:45)  
End of Summer 1 term

*Monday 25<sup>th</sup> – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May*

Half-term

*Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June*

Summer term 2 starts

*Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June*

PTFA Summer Fayre

*Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June*

Bushcraft day

*Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June*

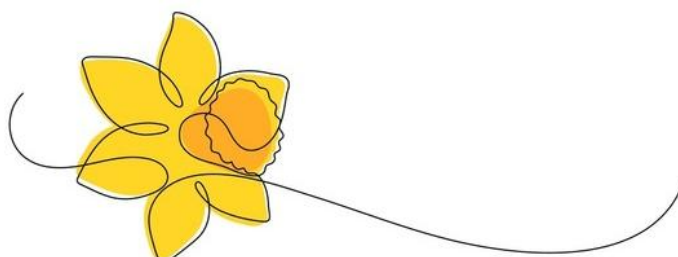
Pride of Beenham Awards

*Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July*

Whole-school trip: Marwell Zoo

*Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July*

Leavers' assembly (09:00)  
Summer term 2 ends (1pm finish)





**Wishing our community a very  
happy Easter break!**

From all of us at  
Beenham Primary School