

*Valuing ourselves, valuing everybody*

Dear Families

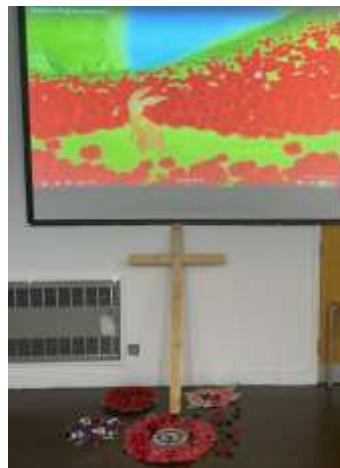
Beenham continues to be a hub of learning both through our academic and wider curriculum. And because we pack so much into our days, time is simply flying by! Thank you for your ongoing support with all of our school events.

### **Halloween Disco**



The Halloween disco was a brilliant way to start this half term. It was fantastic to see all of the wonderful costumes and the children had so much fun dancing and taking part in the disco activities. A very big thank you to Doug Hicks who not only came and ran the disco but was a very energetic and enthusiastic leader of many of the dances.

### **Remembrance Assembly**



We remembered all the people all over the world who have fought, and are fighting, in various conflicts. The children made some beautiful wreaths which they laid during our assembly with Reverend Manley. We also watched the CBeebies visual retelling of war and how the poppies became the emblem of remembrance.

## Library



We had a visit from one of the West Berkshire librarians who talked about all the different ways we can access reading. She showed us lots of different types of texts and encouraged us all to visit whenever we could. We have since had two visits from the mobile library to the school site and some children have enjoyed stepping into the bus to choose some new books for school. Do you read aloud regularly? Try to read to your child everyday (even if they are in Year 6). It is a special time to snuggle up and enjoy a story when they are little, but when they get older they learn so much from you reading to them, from your expression and just chatting about what is happening. Stories matter and children love studying the pictures in detail or telling you about the pictures they see in their heads as they are reading. You could even try adding funny voices in for the characters.

## Ducks



The ducks have now moved to join a larger duck family at a nearby pub. We do miss them but they are having a wonderful time with lots more space.

### Universal Children's Day



We celebrated this special day of the year and talked about how important children are for the future of our world. We discussed how different children live in different countries and that it is important to look after each other. We looked at the rights that all children have to grow up safe and well.

### Antibullying



We marked antibullying week by wearing odd socks to school. We learnt about the power of kindness and that kindness really does matter and can make a difference to people. We shared the slogan 'make a noise about bullying' and the importance of telling someone because we can all help.



# Beenham Primary School

Interim Headteacher Zoë Voisey



## BBC Children In Need



We took part in the national day to raise money for Children In Need and enjoyed wearing pyjamas or spots or stripes to school. Some of us felt very relaxed that day. Together we raised £98.59.

## USports

USports have been teaching some of the PE curriculum this term and it has been good to see so many of our children learning / honing a range of sport skills. They have also been running an after school Multi-sports club which has been lots of fun. Please let the office know if you are interested.

## Visit from Grundon



The children learnt so much about recycling, waste management and different types of energy when the Grundon team visited school. We had a fantastic assembly where the children learnt all about the special vehicle and then they got to visit it and even sit in the cab. We are promoting caring for our planet and minimising climate change.

**Picklepythe Lane Beenham Reading Berkshire – RG7 5NN**  
**Telephone 01189 713397 [boffice@beenham.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:boffice@beenham.w-berks.sch.uk)**

### Visit from Police



We loved having a visit from two police officers who spent time talking to both staff and pupils about their work. The children had an amazing time being temporary police and turning the lights and sirens on. It was lots of fun and very noisy.

### Gardening



We are very lucky to be having a volunteer gardener every week. Mr Ashley-Down is coming in to work on all of our outdoor spaces. The children have been involved with weeding, planting, sowing seeds and lots of discussions with him about how and when things will grow. You may have noticed some of his work in our planters by the front door – they are very pretty.

### Workshops

On top of all of these activities the children have taken part in a number of workshops online including one focusing on STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) where they considered evolution and how animals had adapted to their environments and drew some new creatures of their own. We even have a Victorian Christmas workshop coming up and a Disney themed dance workshop to look forward to.

### School Play

The rehearsals for the school play of 'The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and The Horse' have been going well and the children are very excited to share it with you. The singing sounds lovely and the children are growing in confidence when they are on stage. Do remember to book your tickets at the office because the performances are next week.

### Learning Exhibition

Please remember to book the date in your diaries for the school's Learning Exhibition when you are warmly welcome to come and view your child's work in their class. This is happening on Friday 15 December 230pm.



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## Christmas Festivities

A reminder that we have our Christmas Fayre on Friday 8 December 5-7pm and I am looking forward to seeing everyone there. This will properly begin the school celebrations and make us all feel more Christmassy. The PTFA have been working hard in organising everything and I would like to express my thanks to them for their hard work. On the last day of term, 20 December we will be having our Christmas lunch whilst wearing our Christmas jumpers and rounding off the term in style! **Please remember that the school day finishes at 2pm and your child will need to be collected.**

## Staff News

We say goodbye to both Mr Gibbons and Miss Dunks this month. Both have been part of the Beenham family for quite some time now and they will be missed. Although it is sad for our community, we send them our best wishes for the new opportunities that are ahead of them.

## Happy Birthday

Phoebe from Torak  
Jenson from Torak  
Emily from Totem  
Drud from Torak  
Olivia from Totem

And December birthdays:

Osman from Tala  
Ben from Tundra  
Mrs Sharp  
Freddie from Tala  
Mr Gibbons  
Miss Reid

May I take this opportunity to wish you a very happy Christmas holiday and hope that you relax and enjoy spending time with family and friends.

Kind regards

**Zoë Voisey**

**Interim Headteacher**