

Beenham Primary School

Valuing ourselves. Valuing everybody.

Beenham Bulletin

Summer Term
July 2026

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Headteacher's Message



As we reach the end of another school year, I always find myself reflecting on what a special time the summer term is. It has always been my favourite term, as the longer days and warmer weather allow us to make the most of our wonderful school grounds… although the recent heat has certainly put that to the test!

Since returning in April, we have been incredibly busy. Alongside our continued focus on securing the very best outcomes for every child, there have been so many opportunities for our pupils to shine. Sports Day and our Colour Run were fantastic celebrations of teamwork and determination, *Beenham's Got Talent* showcased the confidence and creativity of our children, and our summer production was a wonderful way to end the year.

We were also delighted to host our second Pride of Beenham Awards, celebrating the incredible people who give so much to our school and village. It was a wonderful reminder of the strength, kindness and community spirit that surrounds Beenham Primary School.

Another highlight was our whole-school trip to Marwell Zoo, which was enjoyed by children and staff alike. We feel incredibly fortunate to have been able to offer experiences like this over the past few years, fully funded by a donor from our village. We are sincerely grateful for their continued generosity.

As I look back on the year, I am immensely proud of everything that has been achieved. Thank you to our dedicated staff for their tireless commitment to our children, to our governors for their continued support and strategic guidance, and to our parents and families for the encouragement and partnership you show us throughout the year.

Finally, thank you to our wonderful children. You make Beenham Primary School such a happy and inspiring place to learn.

We wish our whole school community a restful, happy and safe summer break.

Values of the Term

CONFIDENCE

By nurturing confidence in every child, we empower them to take risks, embrace challenges and believe in their own potential. We are passionate about giving every child opportunities to find their voice and express themselves, celebrating the fact that confidence looks different for everyone and encouraging each child to shine in their own unique way.

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

INDEPENDENCE

Developing independence is essential in preparing children for the next stage of their education and for life beyond primary school. By encouraging children to think for themselves, take responsibility for their learning and persevere through challenges, we help them develop the skills they need to become successful, capable and responsible adults.

Recipient of Headteacher's Award for independence: William (Torak)

Class Updates

Tala

As we come to the end of another wonderful year in Tala Class, we would like to celebrate all that the children have achieved. It has been a fantastic year filled with curiosity, creativity, resilience and memorable experiences. We are incredibly proud of every child and the progress they have made, both academically and personally.

It has been a joy to see the children support one another, embrace new challenges and celebrate each other's successes. Their kindness, determination and teamwork have made Tala Class a truly special place to learn.

One of the highlights of the summer term was our fantastic production of The Lorax. The children worked incredibly hard to learn their lines and songs, performing with confidence, enthusiasm and expression. It was wonderful to see every child shine on stage, and we hope you enjoyed watching the performance as much as we enjoyed preparing it.

Our first enquiry, 'What were holidays like in the past?', saw the children explore how holidays have changed over time by comparing seaside holidays of the past with those of today. They used photographs and artefacts to develop their understanding of life in previous generations.

In our second enquiry, 'What can you see at the coast?', the children learnt about the UK's coastlines, identifying key physical features and popular seaside destinations while developing their geographical knowledge through map work.

Our learning was enriched by a fantastic visit to Marwell Zoo, where the children observed a wide variety of animals and habitats, bringing their learning to life through first-hand experiences.

A special congratulations goes to our wonderful Year 2 children as they prepare for Year 3. They have been excellent role models, and we are incredibly proud of their kindness, maturity and determination. We know they are ready for the exciting challenges ahead.

Thank you for your continued support, encouragement and partnership throughout the year. Your support at home has played an important role in your child's success, and we are truly grateful. We wish all of our Tala Class families a happy, safe and restful summer break, and we look forward to hearing about the exciting adventures that await
the children as they continue their learning journey.

Torak

During the Summer Term, we have explored our enquiry question: How does the world look after us?

We have learnt all about the Amazon Rainforest, the animals that live there, and why the rainforest is so important to human life. We also enjoyed a live lesson from the Eden Project, where we learnt all about their rainforest biome. In addition, we explored where our food comes from, considering the advantages and disadvantages of locally sourced and imported food, as well as the journey of the cocoa bean.

In English, we explored a variety of texts and wrote our own rainforest-inspired poems, as well as recipes for creating a seasonal tart using our learning about local produce. We then had the opportunity to make our own seasonal tarts during DT, using the recipes we had created.

In Science, we learnt all about animals, including humans. We investigated the role of the digestive system and our teeth and explored food chains and food webs. We also learnt about living things and their habitats, researching different environments and how animals are adapted to suit the places they live. We learnt how to classify animals using classification keys and then applied our knowledge during our visit to Marwell Zoo.

A particular highlight of the term has been our PE unit on Outdoor Adventurous Activities. We have worked hard as a class team, developing our communication, teamwork, problem-solving skills and our ability to follow multi-step instructions. The children have shown fantastic determination and cooperation, and they have been successful in every challenge they have been given. We have also welcomed some special visitors this term, including Squirtle the tortoise, who spent the day with us. The children also enjoyed caring for our caterpillars, which they named and looked after.

I can't believe we have reached the end of the school year. It has been wonderful to see all of the children grow in confidence and develop so much throughout the year. They have worked incredibly hard and the progress they have made has been fantastic. They thoroughly deserve a well-earned rest over the summer!

Tundra

What a fantastic final term it has been in Tundra! The children have shown enthusiasm, resilience and maturity throughout a busy and exciting term, embracing every opportunity with positivity and determination. They have continued to grow in confidence, independence and teamwork, flourishing both academically and personally.

In English, pupils produced a wide range of high-quality writing, including diary entries, persuasive letters, adverts and short writing challenges, while strengthening their grammar, inference skills, reading comprehension and joined handwriting. In Maths, they built on their understanding of area, perimeter, volume, statistics, position and direction, and symmetry, applying their knowledge confidently to increasingly complex reasoning and problem-solving tasks.

Science learning explored animal classification, microorganisms, habitats and the circulatory system. Practical investigations—such as observing mould growth and an engaging pig heart dissection—brought concepts vividly to life. In Geography, the children studied renewable and non-renewable energy, global trade, biodiversity, coral reefs and ocean conservation, prompting thoughtful discussions about climate change and environmental responsibility. Creative learning flourished through photography, collage, expression boxes and Year 6's beautiful legacy mural.

Beyond the classroom, pupils embraced biodiversity workshops at Sulham Estate, Bushcraft sessions and memorable visits to Chessington and Marwell Zoo, representing the school impeccably throughout. Year 6 approached their SATs with outstanding maturity and determination, while Year 5 tackled their summer assessments with equal commitment and impressive progress.

The term concluded with our wonderful production, *The Rocky Monster Show*, a joyful celebration of the children's confidence, teamwork and achievement. We are incredibly proud of every child and wish Year 6 every success as they move on, while looking forward to seeing Year 5 continue to thrive next year.

Chair of Governor's Message

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

As we reach the end of another fantastic school year, I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Governing Board, to reflect on our achievements and express our sincere gratitude to the entire Beenham community.

Summer has certainly arrived with intensity, and we hope families are managing to stay cool, hydrated and comfortable during these final hot days of term. Despite the heat, the energy across the school has remained remarkable.

Our deepest thanks go to our exceptional teaching and school staff. Their dedication, care and enthusiasm have ensured that pupils continue to thrive and achieve their potential. Alongside their daily commitment, the team delivered two standout events this term: Sports Day and the Beenham Colour Run. Both were joyful celebrations of teamwork, resilience and community spirit, creating memories that will last long into the future.

We are also immensely grateful to the Parents, Teachers, and Friends Association (PTFA). Their tireless work in organising events and raising vital funds provides an invaluable boost to our school environment. Equal appreciation goes to the Parish Council, whose ongoing support strengthens the school's place at the heart of the village community.

To our families, thank you. Your partnership - whether cheering from the sidelines, supporting learning at home, or engaging with school life - plays a crucial role in our collective success.

Most importantly, we celebrate our brilliant pupils. Their curiosity, kindness and enthusiasm make Beenham Primary School such a joyful place to be. We are incredibly proud of their hard work this year. A special mention goes to our Year 6 cohort, who approached their SATs with determination and are now preparing for the exciting transition to secondary school. We wish them every success as they begin their next adventure.

Looking ahead to the autumn term, we are confident that Beenham will continue to grow from strength to strength, fuelled by the remarkable community spirit that defines our school.

Thank you once again for your continued support and dedication. Wishing you all a safe, happy, and wonderful summer.

Warmest regards,
James Tobin
Chair of Governors

Beenham Primary School

SEND Parent Survey: Feedback

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the survey last term. The results are useful and reflect the view that parents are confident about our approach to SEND in school. Please see below the outcomes from the survey and the actions we are taking forward.

What is working well?

From 17 responses, we found:
- 100% agree/ strongly agree the SENDCo and wider team are approachable and friendly
- 100% agree/ strongly agree they know who to talk to if they have concerns about their child(ren)
- 100% agree/ strongly agree that concerns they raise about their child(ren) are quickly addressed
- 100% agree/ strongly agree all staff actively work to support their child(ren)
- 94% agree/ strongly agree they can come into school at any time and discuss concerns with the relevant staff
- 88% agree/ strongly agree they know how the school provides for children with SEND
- Other responses show that parents feel staff work with them to discuss their child(ren)'s targets and are informed of their child(ren)'s general progress

What can we do better?

From the given responses, we found:
- there is some uncertainty about our policy on SEND
- some parents are unsure where to find relevant information on our website
- targets on SAPS and EHCPs need to be communicated effectively
- the feedback on the impact of specific interventions for children needs to be clearer

What are we going to do?

1. Develop a clear 'on one page' summary to share our approach to SEND with parents
2. Ensure the website has relevant and up-to-date information regarding our school's offer for SEND children
3. Share regular updates via Class Dojo regarding our work with SEND in school so parents are aware and included
4. Continue to co-construct SAP and EHCP targets with parents, discussing children's progress (in class and interventions) since the last review point and ensure parents have a robust understanding of current attainment

Beenham is an amazing school. It has a family feel and the children are taught to work together, to play together and to understand each others differences. Kindness is key to all they do...

I moved my child to Beenham because I was so impressed with the SEN knowledge and support and setting... They are now thriving and making so much progress in Beenham.

It is clear that the school genuinely values every child as an individual and works tirelessly to help them reach their full potential. We truly appreciate the compassion, communication and extra effort shown by the... staff.

Be Proud!

During the summer term, our whole-school focus is **Be Proud**. We celebrate everything that makes Beenham Primary School such a special place, recognising the achievements of our children and the unique qualities of our school community.

We also shine a spotlight on the individuals who make our school and village so amazing, ensuring every child has opportunities to get involved, find their voice and showcase their skills and talents. This was especially evident during our Pride of Beenham Awards and *Beenham's Got Talent*, where we were blown away by the incredible people who make our community so special!

Pride of Beenham Awards

Outstanding Contribution to the Community	Kate Bowsher
Outstanding Contribution to the School	Sam and Lee O'Neill
Volunteer/ Fundraiser of the Year	Jeannette Burgess
Edwin Roe Award	Aila
Heart of Beenham	Peter McEwen
Inspiration Award	Harry Little
Lifetime Achievement	Jackie Homick



Beenham's Got talent!

Congratulations to our winners!

1. **Isaac** – *Billie Jean*
2. **Sebastien** – *Time Warp*
3. **Bertie** - karate

Mrs Kilshaw



We say a fond farewell to Mrs Kilshaw as she retires from an incredible teaching career that has seen her inspire children across West Berkshire.

Throughout her time at Beenham Primary School, Mrs Kilshaw has shared her passion for music and French with our children. Her enthusiasm, knowledge and warmth have made every lesson enjoyable and she has inspired many children to develop a love of both subjects.

Mrs Kilshaw has also led our Junior Music Festival for the past few years, creating unforgettable experiences for the children involved. Those who have taken part will always treasure the special memories of performing together and being part of these wonderful events.

Mrs Kilshaw has been a kind, caring and generous member of our school community. She has supported Beenham through a particularly difficult period with unwavering dedication, compassion and positivity, and her calm presence has meant a great deal to staff, children and families alike.

We will miss Mrs Kilshaw enormously, but we are so grateful for everything she has given to our school and to the many children whose lives she has touched throughout her career. We wish her nothing but peace, happiness and many wonderful adventures in her retirement.

Thankfully, this is not quite goodbye. Mrs Kilshaw hopes to continue visiting school to hear readers, and we are all very much looking forward to welcoming her back through our doors.

Thank you, Mrs Kilshaw, for everything - you will always be a valued part of the Beenham family.




SUMMER
EXTREME READING
IS BACK!
Snap photos of your extreme reading and send them to Miss McBean on Class Dojo.
Pictures will be shared in Proud Assembly in September and prizes given for the most creative reading places!
SUPER BEARES
AQUA ADVENTURE
Join the fun!

Working Together to Improve School Attendance



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.

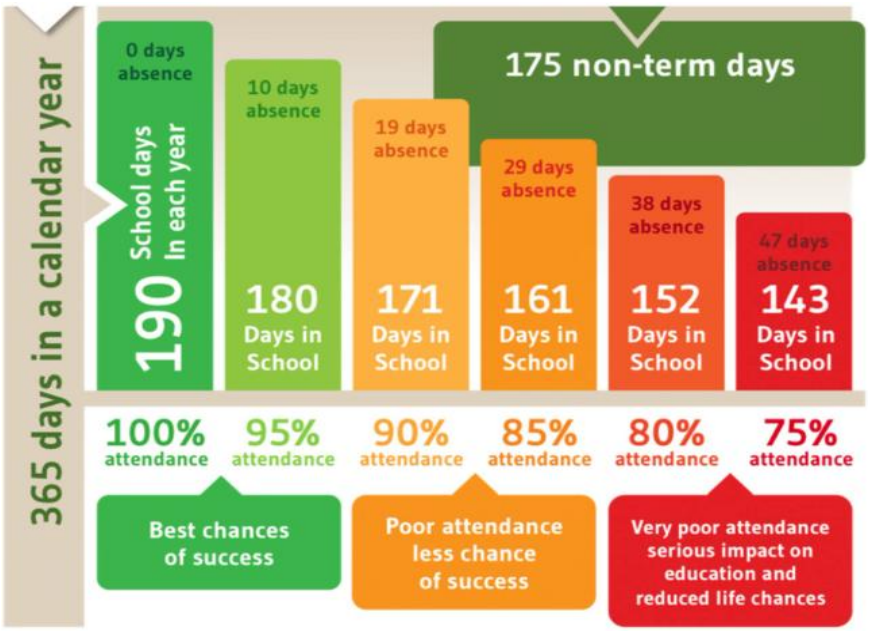
In the event that 10 or more school sessions (half-days) are recorded as unauthorised absence in a 10-week period, fixed penalty notices will be issued by West Berkshire Council.

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 the Summer

As we head into the summer holidays, we encourage all of our families to make time for rest, relaxation and self-care. The break is a wonderful opportunity to recharge, enjoy quality time together and create happy memories. We have also included our 30-Day Summer Holiday Challenge, packed with simple activities and ideas for families to enjoy together throughout the break. As always, your child's wellbeing and safety remain our priority. We hope everyone has a happy, healthy and safe summer, and we look forward to welcoming you back in September, refreshed and ready for another exciting year.

The 30-Day Summer Holiday Challenge

BEYOND PSHE

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

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 Class 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

Diary Dates for the Autumn



Wednesday 2nd September	INSET day
Thursday 3rd September	Start of Autumn 1 term
Thursday 10th September	Swimming starts – Torak & Tundra
Tuesday 15th September	Meet the Teacher/ Headteacher
Tuesday 20th October	Parents' Evening
Wednesday 21st October	Parents' Evening
Friday 23rd October	End of Autumn 1 term
Monday 26th – Friday 30th October	Half-term
Monday 2nd November	INSET day
Tuesday 3rd November	Start of Autumn 2 term
Thursday 10th December	Christmas production (10:30 & 17:30)
Tuesday 15th December	Panto trip: *Sleeping Beauty* @ Newbury
Wednesday 16th December	School Christmas lunch
Friday 18th December	End of Autumn 2 term





Wishing our community a happy, safe and restful summer break

From everyone at
Beenham Primary School