



Beenham Primary School

Interim Headteacher Zoë Voisey



Dear Families

The time has flown by and it is hard to believe that we have only been back at school for a month. Everyone has remembered and settled back into the school routines and expectations and lots of learning about exciting topics is taking place.

I have enjoyed getting to know the whole school family and thank you so much for your welcome. The children have been fantastic and continue to share all the interesting things that they have done both in and out of school. Please do come and chat if you want to ask anything or feel free to contact any member of staff should you have anything that you want to talk about.

Playtime Behaviour

We have had lots of conversations in school about behaviour at playtimes and lunchtimes and are continuing to remind the children to share our wonderful outside space sensibly; use kind words and hands; treating each other gently and thinking about our actions and what might happen before we do something.

Respect

We are also working on our respectful manners and would appreciate it if you could reinforce these at home too. We are reminding the children to say please and thank you, hold doors open for each other, wait their turn, pick things off the floor even if they don't belong to them and look after each other.

Wasps

Thank you for your understanding and support with the wasp situation. Although there are still some wasps left in the tree (no nest) the number has significantly decreased and from Monday 2 October we will be opening up the gate near Totem class again.

Roof

The roof outside Totem and Tala classes is still undergoing surveys to replace and upgrade the area and so will remain closed until the work has been completed.

Update on RACC

We are delighted to tell you that the roof/wall survey has been completed and they confirmed that we have no RACC in our building.



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Outdoor Learning

The company providing Bushcraft have been unable to carry on. So we have decided to move to some Outdoor Learning lessons led by us. These will follow the Forest School principles and have all the relevant risk assessments. The sessions will take place the week after half term with each class going exploring for one morning that week (dates tbc). The activities will be quite varied and will involve all the children. On the day we will ask that the children come in old clothes which cover both their arms and legs, wear layers including a waterproof layer, wear wellies and bring an entire spare set of clothes (including underwear) to change into just in case the weather becomes wet, muddy and horrible. The spare clothes need to come to school in a named plastic bag along with a spare pair of shoes that they can change into for the afternoon.

Swimming

We will not be swimming this academic year in school but hope that the whole school will have an opportunity to swim next year at the Willink School.

Learning and Workshops

Phonics and Reading

Thank you for your continued support for phonics and reading. It was good to see so many families attending the workshops. The Read Write Inc program is fully underway with daily groups happening throughout the school. You can access the pure sounds <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yIn6PpV1G1I&pp=ygUPcndpIHB1cmUgc291bmRz> and the reading resources can be found free at <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/find-a-book/library-page/> We would like our children to read as much as possible but at least three times a week to an adult (please sign in their book). Research shows that reading everyday can dramatically improve outcomes across the curriculum not only now but also in their future attainment.

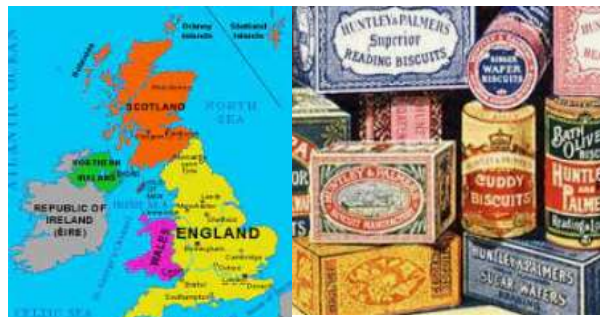
Totem Class (Mrs Cox)

Our Reception children have been brilliant at learning all of the new things they have to do when they come into school. They move around the school so confidently now and are enjoying the large outside space to play and learn. They were lucky enough to have a visit from the local fire engine along with some people who work there. This was part of their topic on People Who Help Us. The children have also been busy making bread which they thoroughly enjoyed.



Tala Class (Miss Reid)

Tala children have been busy thinking about the history of Reading and Huntley and Palmers. They had a virtual visit with the museum and looked at the packaging and design of different products. They have begun learning about human survival and the countries in the United Kingdom.



Torak Class (Miss McBean)

Torak Class have been working hard learning about the Anglo Saxons and were captivated by the visitor they had in. They have also been looking at how to improve their writing using sentence stacking, where you make a sentence better one step at a time, selecting your words carefully.



Tundra Class (Mr Gibbons)

Tundra children have already undertaken some quizzes to remind them of the information they know and where their learning is going next. They have begun learning French in both spoken and written form. They loved the visit they had from the Benin workshop





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Sport

This year's sport is already underway and we have had a number of lessons led by U Sports in which the children have both learnt and practised lots of different skills. It has been good to see and hear them enjoying the challenges and learning together. Our Streetdance Club has also started – please talk to the office if you wish your child to join. After half term, we will be having an afterschool Multisports Club too.

School Communications

Good communication between school, families and the wider community is crucial to making our school a vibrant learning community. Please do read the Dojo messages that are regularly posted and let us know if you have any questions. We wanted to make you aware that the school internet and messaging can be particularly variable (my Headteacher computer and email has not been working well since the start of term) so if you feel that we haven't replied to something do talk to us and we will do our best to rectify the situation.

Happy Birthday

Mrs Stroud
Mollie from Torak
Jack from Torak
Lola from Tala
Mrs Homick
Robert from Torak
Mustafa from Tundra

Future Events

On behalf of the school, I would like to thank the PTFA team for their hard work in organising and supporting the events over the last year. The next event that we would like your help with is the Christmas Fair on 8 December. Please do let someone know if you are willing to help out.

Kind regards

Zoë Voisey

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