

10th November 2023



Bassingbourn
Community Primary School

Bassingbourn Community Primary School Newsletter

www.bassingbourn.cambs.sch.uk

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Dear Parents / Carers

We have had a busy but exciting start to the second half of the Autumn term. Our children have been working hard on modelling our behaviour expectation. Governors recently commented on the calmness around the corridors as children move from space to space.

Mr Mikelson and Mrs Dyke continue to engage in their intensive Forest School training. As previously communicated, once this is complete we look forward to sharing our Forest School plans with you.

We recognise that you may have questions following the letter you received from the LA this week. Please be reassured that our team continue to remain focused on the areas for improvement identified both internally and during our last Ofsted inspection. Many of these improvements (including to phonics, school culture, early years and safeguarding) have been praised by external advisors. We very much welcome the additional support being put in place by the LA, giving us extra capacity to achieve our aims faster.

To answer any of the questions you have relating to this letter, alongside other leaders, I will be hosting a face-to-face meeting for Parents/Carers on 27th November, 3:30pm. **Only questions submitted in advance (via email to the school office, titled 'Questions for Parent Meeting') and received by 22/11/23 will be answered.** An online registration form will be sent out to you next week. **If you would like to attend, please complete this by 3pm on 22/11/23.**

EYFS have been busy learning all about Diwali. Children have been learning what is Diwali and how it is celebrated. The children enjoyed participating in their Diwali colour run yesterday! Children next week will be beginning to practice their nativity play ready to perform in December.

Year 1 have been very excited to start their new topic of Celebrations. They have already found out all about the history of Bonfire Night, completed some instruction writing and followed a recipe to make edible sparklers!

Year 2 have been busy in their first week back after half term, making Diva lamp paper crafts as part of their RE topic of Light and Dark. In History, they have started to look at the importance of nurses during war, such as Florence Nightingale. They have also enjoyed discussion during Outdoor Adventure Activities (OAA) about their favourite part of nature. They had some lovely comments such as, "I like flowers because they smell beautiful".

Year 3 have been doing some fantastic team building work in indoor PE this week. They have also had fun videoing the school song for the competition.

Year 4 have been learning about daily life in Ancient Greece, they were very shocked to find out that girls would not attend school, only wealthy boys!

Year 5 children have been working in small groups to compose a piece of music to accompany a chapter from Kensuke's Kingdom (whole class reading book). They used different percussion instruments and worked in the music hall. They have also been on a trip to Hazard Alley, Milton Keynes, where they explored and discussed risks in different 'real-life' situations. The children worked together as a year group family and did the school proud with their brilliant behaviour throughout the trip.

This week Year 6 have started learning about Anne Frank and her incredible story, told through her diary. They will be looking at biography writing to portray the events of her life.

Mrs Coles

DATES

17th November
Children in Need

23rd November
EYFS parents -
How we teach maths
Information session
4.00-4.30pm

28th November
Parents evening
via zoom

29th November
Parents evening
via zoom

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Headteacher's Awards

Isabelle, Ottie, Holly, Lola, George, Teddy, Harry, Stanley, Isla, Darcie, Ruby, Sophie, Ralph, Lizzie, Darcy, Oliver, Tansy, Katy, Isabelle, Jessica, Pippa, Sienna, Lillia, Louie, Lillian, Ayla, Freddie, Amber.





School Development and Safeguarding

This term, the school received an intensive, 6 hour safeguarding review. This involved speaking to pupils, interviewing multiple of staff and exploring a range of documents. We are delighted to report that the review 'did not identify any significant concerns in relation safeguarding, and therefore no urgent actions are required'. In fact, we were told the LA were 'splitting hairs' over many of the next steps identified. We are extremely proud of the team for all of the work that has gone into development this important area. Effective safeguarding is hugely important to us all and we pride ourselves on the vigilant and robust safeguarding culture we have created.

Here are some of the further comments, lifted directly from the report:

Records appeared thorough and detailed. They showed evidence of clear and detailed logs of concern being recorded together with evidence of actions being undertaken as a result. Emails and correspondence with parents and external agencies were included, together with notes of meetings being held. Referrals to social care or for other forms of support were also included, and there was evidence of challenge to partner agencies where appropriate. Evidence was seen of pupil voice being undertaken (e.g. use of the

The SAL noted that the school had personalised the generic LA safeguarding for the school, which was an excellent idea, and made it a very clear and straightforward document for staff.

Pupil Voice Feedback

Pupil voice is very active
The school council is now operating – this is led by a teacher.
Pupil voice is included in almost every newsletter, and every governor monitoring visit includes a pupil voice activity.
All middle leaders are expected to do termly pupil voice on the subject they're leading—there are on the curriculum area on the website under 'subject stories'/
The school is participating in the PASS survey this year.
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A discussion with a group of 5 pupils from Years 3 to 6 showed the following:
They were able to describe a range of ways in which the school keeps them safe including reference to different coloured lanyards for visitors, and adults on the playground to keep them safe. They reported that there were more adults on duty at lunchtimes, including there were now two locations for first aid and staff on duty had walkie talkies to assist. They reported there were regular fire drills and also reported they were aware of the evacuation drill. All of the pupils confirmed that they had been taught about online safety and referred to other aspects of the PSHE curriculum where they were taught about keeping safe.





Pupil Voice Feedback continued

- All of the pupils confirmed that they felt safe in school and there were no times or places where they felt less safe.
- When asked if they had someone to speak to if they were worried or concerned about something in school, all of the pupils referred to members of staff, and explained that they were told they should speak to someone they trust.

- The pupils did not express any concerns about bullying in the school and explained that they didn't really see any of this happening.
- When asked about the best aspects of the school, comments included '*you can talk to the teachers if you're upset*', '*there are lots of teachers and TAs around*', and '*my teacher is good at making the lessons fun*'.

Staff Voice Feedback

A discussion with a group of teaching and support staff showed the following:

When asked about evidence that the school takes safeguarding seriously, staff referred to frequent safeguarding updates given during meetings, regular Headteacher emails and updates, and that speaking to staff would show they had a clear understanding of procedures. Reference was also made to visitor handling at reception, including use of lanyards. One commented that a safeguarding question was one of the very first questions asked at interview.

- All of the group confirmed that they were clear about procedures to follow if they had concerns about the way a member of staff was behaving and referred to the whistleblowing posters and procedures around the school.
- The group were asked about how it felt to work in the school and about the changes which had occurred. Most of the group explained that the atmosphere in September felt different from the end of last year, and that there was more positivity amongst the staff. They referred to a shift in culture and confirmed they felt supported by SLT – '*they have your back*' said one. Another said she felt supported with pupils displaying challenging behaviour and said the Headteacher would '*drop everything if needed*'. They appreciated the poster about 'zero tolerance' in relation to behaviour towards them which was now on all of the classroom doors.

Staff spoken to were clear about safeguarding procedures and the training they had received. They showed confidence in talking about safeguarding issues and in applying safeguarding policies. They were positive about the changes being introduced in the school and believed that most staff shared their views.

- Staff were able to discuss safeguarding training which they had received on the September training day and could recall various elements including child on child abuse, filtering and monitoring systems, and the whistleblowing policy. They confirmed that catch-up sessions were arranged for any members of staff who were not present on the training day. They all confirmed they had received training in the use of CPOMs including how to log a concern effectively (including keeping reports factual, and using pupil full names not initials) and the use of yellow paper forms if they did not have access to CPOMs. They were clear that if they had an immediate or urgent concern, they were able to interrupt one of the DSLs in order to alert them to the concerns.



Pupil Voice on behaviour

Recently, Miss Roberts-Tiara conducted some pupil voice around the topic behaviour.

When asked on general behaviour in the school:

"I think everyone are walking in the corridors much better compared to last year," - Jack.

"I love our play equipment but I think we can work harder to take care of them," - Mya.

When asked what we can do to improve behaviour:

"We can remind children about our values and having kind hands," - Holly.

"When children make the wrong choices then they can sit out and reflect on what they have done so they can do better next time," - James.

"We need to improve on perseverance and regulation when we struggle during our work," - Jude.

"Even though they're my best friend, I don't sit with them in class because I know I'll be chatty," - Logan.

"We can remind children about toilet rules," - Sienna.

What are the school expectations for behaviour?

"We like to walk with our hands behind our backs and walk on the left of the corridors," - Joshua.

"We're quiet when we walk down the corridors," - Nathan.

"We're a family!" - Holly,

What can you do if children don't enjoy school or don't come regularly?

"We can be their friend," - Mya.

"When we come in the morning upset, some adults used to draw hearts on our hands," - Holly.

How can we make sure younger or quieter children feel listened to?

"We make sure to include any younger children who look lost, in our games," - Sapphira.

Staff Update

We are very pleased to announce the appointment of our New Deputy Headteacher, Mr Fraser who join us in January. Mr Fraser brings with him a wealth of leadership knowledge and experience, having been an acting head previously. We look forward to welcoming him to our school family.

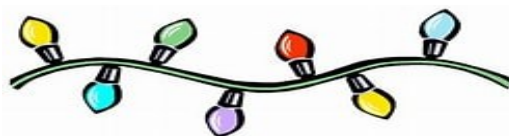
We are also delighted to announce that we have appointed three new Teaching Assistants, Miss Davies, Miss Kelly and Miss Richardson and an additional Lunch Time Supervisor, Miss Parker. We look forward to them starting.

As you will know from the LA letter, we are also now joined by Ms Luu who will join our leadership team for 2 days a week. Ms Luu will also lead the school during my maternity leave. We warmly welcome Ms Luu to our school family. She will spend the coming days getting to know the staff, children and our school priorities.

Bassingbourn-cum-Kneesworth Parish Council Christmas Drawing Competition

The Parish Council have launched a drawing competition for the children of Bassingbourn Community Primary School, the winner of the competition will have the honour of turning on the village Christmas lights on Friday 9th December.

Please find the application form attached to this Newsletter. If you would like a paper copy, please see The Office Team.



School Contacts

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Year 3: dolphins@bassingbourn.cambs.sch.uk
Year 4: seaotters@bassingbourn.cambs.sch.uk
Year 5: stingrays@bassingbourn.cambs.sch.uk
Year 6: manatees@bassingbourn.cambs.sch.uk

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Year 2: seahorses@bassingbourn.cambs.sch.uk
Year 3: orcas@bassingbourn.cambs.sch.uk
Year 4: penguins@bassingbourn.cambs.sch.uk
Year 5: octopus@bassingbourn.cambs.sch.uk
Year 6: narwhals@bassingbourn.cambs.sch.uk