

# Benwick Primary School



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## Benwick Briefing 19/07/2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Message from Mrs Talbot:

**That's it we have finished for another school year.** We know we are getting older when time seems to speed up and this year is no different; it seems to have gone by in a flash! It's easy to forget all of the things that we have done in the last 11 months in addition to the taught curriculum, which fills most of our school days. It has been an incredibly eventful and enriching year for our children, filled with opportunities for learning, growth, and fun. Here are some highlights:

### Charity and Community Engagement:

- **Children in Need:** Our students showed tremendous generosity, participating in various activities to raise funds for this important cause.
- **Red Nose Day Activities:** Once again, our school came together to support Comic Relief, engaging in fun activities and fundraising.
- **Speedkick Challenge with Premier Sports:** Our students raised an impressive £2059.20 through sponsorship, demonstrating their dedication and community spirit and raising much needed funds for our school.

### Educational Visits and Workshops:

- **RCAT Police Visit:** The whole school enjoyed an informative and engaging visit from the RCAT police, learning about safety and community roles.
- **Knife crime & Anti Social behaviour police visit**
- **Life Bus – PSHE Service:** This service provided invaluable lessons on personal, social, and health education.
- **STEM Workshops at Cambridge STEM Centre:** Students in Years 1-4 participated in hands-on STEM activities, sparking their interest in science, technology, engineering, and math.
- **Owls Class Cambridge Museum of Zoology Visits:** Owls class enjoyed a series of educational visits and in-school sessions with the Cambridge Museum of Zoology.
- **Woodgreen animal workshops**

### Cultural and Historical Awareness:

- **Black History Month:** We celebrated Black History Month with various activities to educate and inspire our students about the contributions of black individuals throughout history.
- **Remembrance Week:** Our students participated in activities to honour and remember those who served and sacrificed.

### Extracurricular Activities and Competitions:

- **Big Sing – KS2:** Key Stage 2 students showcased their musical talents in a large choir event which we hope to repeat next year.
- **Dodgeball and Multi-Skills Tournaments:** Our KS2 students participated in interschool tournaments, demonstrating great sportsmanship and teamwork.

- **Bikeability:** Students received training in bicycle safety and skills, promoting healthy and safe transportation.
- **Y5 Maths Challenge and Y6 Emotional Health & Transition Workshop:** These events provided academic enrichment and emotional support to our older students.
- **Author visit** - Swans class enjoyed a virtual author workshop by A Howell demonstrating how personal experiences influence creative writing

### **Sports and Physical Activities:**

- **Swimming – Swans Autumn 1:** Our Swans class enjoyed a term of swimming lessons, improving their water skills and fitness.
- **Sports Day:** A highlight of the year, with students competing in various athletic events.
- **Cricket and Athletics Festivals:** KS2 students had the opportunity to participate in these sports festivals, showcasing their athletic abilities.

### **Creative and Performing Arts:**

- **Owls – When Fenland Sings Concert:** Our Owls class participated in a delightful concert, celebrating local culture through music.
- **World Book Day:** Students and staff dressed up as their favorite book characters, celebrating the joy of reading.
- **Key Stage 1 Nativity** - reminding everyone of the meaning of Christmas
- **Key Stage 2 Carol Concert**
- **Key Stage 2 'A day at Benwick' show**
- **Whole School Panto visit**

### **Student Leadership and Participation:**

- **Junior Travel Ambassadors and School Council:** Our students took on leadership roles, contributing to school decisions and promoting safe travel.
- **Y1&2 Literacy Festival:** Our youngest students participated in a festival celebrating literacy and storytelling.

### **Special Events:**

- **Anti-Bullying Week and Safer Internet Day:** These important events focused on promoting kindness, safety, and respect online and offline.
- **Whole School Pancake Day Races:** A fun and lively event enjoyed by all students.
- **Wicksteed Park Rotary Run:** An exciting outing that combined physical activity with community engagement.
- **Staff-Film Night:** A cozy and enjoyable evening for students to relax and watch a film with friends.
- **School discos** - thanks to FOBS children have been able to enjoy some social time and a boogie!
- **Share & shine events** - children showcased their learning to families at these events
- **Benwick in Bloom** - children grew plants from seed and tended plug plants to nurture them into beautiful flower displays around the school

### **Residential:**

- **Burwell Residential (Swans Class):** Our Swans class experienced an exciting residential trip, fostering independence and teamwork.

We are incredibly proud of our students for their enthusiasm and participation in these diverse activities. These events have not only enriched their educational experience but also helped them develop valuable life skills.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement in our school community. We look forward to another year of learning, growth, and memorable experiences.

### **Fund Raising - Speed Kick Challenge:**

We have been astounded with the amount our families have raised through sponsorship for Premier Sports' Speed Kick Challenge. We raised an amazing £2,059.20! All our children will benefit from this, across the school, as we need new ipads for classes, books for our new Guided Reading scheme and each class will be allocated an amount to choose resources for their learning in class in September. Thank you for your amazing support!

**Building work:**

There's good news that our building works are on schedule, we have chosen the internal finishes for the new building and the superstructure will begin to go up over the summer holidays. During the holidays our 'light touch re-modelling' in the main school building will take place. We will be converting the boys' toilets into a dedicated medical room. This new facility will provide a much-needed space for students who require medical attention, ensuring they have a safe, comfortable, and private area to receive care. The medical room will be equipped with all necessary amenities to address the diverse health needs of our students, and we believe this change is crucial in fostering an inclusive environment where every child feels supported.

To accommodate this transition, we will also be converting the girls' toilets into gender-neutral toilets. These facilities will be accessible to all students, promoting equality and inclusivity within our school community. We understand that privacy and comfort are of utmost importance, and we have taken several steps to ensure these are maintained: The new gender-neutral toilets will feature longer and taller doors, providing almost floor-to-ceiling coverage for each stall (allowing a ventilation gap). This design ensures complete privacy for every student while allowing for proper ventilation. We are committed to maintaining the highest standards of hygiene and cleanliness. The gender-neutral toilets will be checked and cleaned during the day to ensure a clean and safe environment for all students. In addition to this, Swans' girls will have access to the staff accessible toilet to create additional capacity, until we have the new Key Stage block toilets up and running.

Once again, many thanks for your support in making our lovely village school such a wonderful place to spend each day. Have a lovely summer holiday, we look forward to seeing everyone back in September!

Best wishes,  
*Mrs Talbot - Headteacher*

Do check out the date's section below as I have been updating these with plans for the first term back, right up to Christmas!!

Have a wonderful summer holiday. Good luck to our YR6's, I know they will be amazing at their secondary schools. We look forward to welcoming everyone else back on Wednesday 4th September.

Kind Regards  
  
Mrs Rachael Barton  
School Secretary

**Important Dates:**

Monday 22nd July	INSET DAY- No children in school
Tuesday 23rd July- Friday 30th August	Summer Holidays

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2024-25 School Year

Tuesday 3rd September	INSET DAY- No children in school
Wednesday 4th September	Term Starts
Monday 23rd September	School Photo's
Friday 27th September	Flu Vaccinations

Monday 14th October- Friday 18th October	Bikeability Level 2
Friday 18th October	KS1 Harvest Celebration & Share & Shine
Monday 11th November	Remembrance Assembly 10.45am- All Welcome
Friday 15th November	Children in Need
Tuesday 17th December 9.15am & 2.15pm	KS1 Nativity Performance
Wednesday 18th December	Whole School Panto Trip
Thursday 19th December	Christmas Dinner
Thursday 19th December	KS2 Christmas Carols
Monday 28th Oct- Friday 1st Nov	Half Term
Monday 23rd December- Monday 6th January	Christmas Holidays
Monday 6th January 2025	INSET DAY- No children in school
Monday 17th- Friday 21st February 2025	Half Term
Friday 4th April 2025	INSET DAY- No children in school
Monday 7th- Monday- Monday 21st April 2025	Easter Holidays
Tuesday 29th April 2025	Bikeability Level 1
Monday 5th May 2025	Bank Holiday
Monday 12th May- Thursday 15th May	YR6 SATs
Monday 26th- Friday 30th May 2025	Half Term
Monday 2nd June 2025	INSET DAY- No children in school
Wednesday 23rd July 2025	INSET DAY- No children in school
Thursday 24th July- Friday 29th August 2025	Summer Holidays