



RAF Benson Community Primary School



Newsletter



Friday 14 February 2025

Dear Parents,

How have we got to the end of this first half term so quickly? It only seemed like yesterday when we were returning from our Christmas break feeling refreshed, relaxed and hungry as we got ourselves out of the festive grazing state back into our usual routine!

We have had such a great half term, the Year 5 and 6 had a wonderful time on their residential trip to Kilvrough where they emerged with developed skills in resilience, team work and bedroom tidying! We put photographic evidence on the parent Facebook group of how tidy things were to help you when they got home. I hope they continued with this.

We also had the epic day at Young Voices. Always a super trip and never disappoints us in terms of how great the children represented the school and how amazing the actual concert is. Singing with almost 6,000 children is such a wonderful experience that our children will remember for life, including the minstrel challenge!

And, most recently, we had our International Cookathon where each class cooked up some culinary delights for some very important judges from the Mess to sample and award points. This year, whilst it was a very close competition with just 1 point separating each of the top three places, Puma class were the chefs who impressed the judges the most with their Chinese food and received, with much delight and a huge cheer, the 'Saucepan of Specialness'.

So, whilst the weather has been grim, learning and activities in school have been far from that!

We have more exciting activities happening in the next half term, which you will see below.

Here are a few dates of upcoming events and some notices for you.

Dates and Events

Wc 3rd March – Learn with your child week. Come into class and learn alongside your child. We love having you in school for this. Dates and times will be issued directly after half term.

Thursday 6th March – World Book Day. We invite your child to come into school dressed as their favourite book character. A highlight of the school calendar!

Wednesday 12 March – Parents Evening. Bookings will be sent out week commencing 3rd March so please look out for the email. Parents of children with SEND will also have time with Mrs Haythorne.

Friday 28 March – Mother's Day Event – More details about this to be revealed after half term.

Thursday 3 April – Easter Bonnet parade - We will be having our annual Easter Bonnet Parade on this date. Children (minimal parent help please 😊) are invited to make an Easter Bonnet at home and bring it into school for our parade - Sadly parents are not able to watch this due to space in the hall. Any eggs decorated will need to be taken to the school library ready for judging. This is such an egg-cellent event which the children are always so eggcited to take part in....and we look forward to seeing what they bring in.

Notices

School Information System – Over half term we will be changing the system that holds all the data for each child and drives some of the processes we have in school such as the register. Whilst this does not directly affect you as parents, over the summer term and into the new school year, you may see a change in how we send out communications with you, manage after school clubs and such like so that we streamline some of the processes in school. We will let you know about any changes in advance so that you are aware and can look out for emails and messages from a different address. We are keeping our fingers crossed for a smooth migration!

Attendance – Due to many factors we were unable to issue the attendance information from the Autumn term, however during the first week back, we will be looking at the attendance analysis from September to the end of this half term and notifying parents if their child is currently deemed a persistent absentee (attendance is below 90%) or if their child has low attendance (below 95%). We will very much know why your child has been absent, however we do have a duty as set out by the government and Local Authority, to formally let you know. It is clear from our overall school attendance figure (currently 97%) that you value education at our school and ensure that your child is in school and enjoying learning as much as possible and I thank you for that as it is building really strong foundations for your child to build on in their next step in education.

Behaviour out of school – We work hard in school to ensure that children understand that it is important to be kind and show respect to each other and to the environment around them as both citizens of the future but also, as we often speak about, as ambassadors of our school. Recently I have had to contact parents in Year 5 and 6 because children had been unkind to each other over social media and I also hear that some of our children may also have been involved in unkind and disrespectful incidents outside of school on camp. This really saddens me. We know how children behave out in the community reflects on our reputation as a school – this is not something that all schools experience but is part of the unique community that we are proud to belong to. To support our work in school, I would be really grateful if you could remind your children about being the best they can be at all times and to not be drawn into any activity where they would be disappointing you as their parents who care and love for them, us as their school who cares and nurtures them and, more importantly, disappointing their future selves. Thank you for your support with this issue.

Internet safety – Linked to my message above, this week we have seen Safe Internet day. Whilst we have had conversations with children in school, I want to draw your attention to the online safety page on our website: <https://www.raf-benson.oxon.sch.uk/online-safety/>

School Facebook Page – Please do keep an eye on the school Facebook page as we post whole school events and activities that the children have been up to during the term – why not give the page a 'Like' too! <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063451190152>

School car park – I am sorry to have to raise this again, however I am informed that we still have parents who are parking in the school car park at the start and end of the day when, for safety reasons, we have asked parents to park in the one closest the nursery. We do not want to have to put a barrier across the entrance at the busiest times - however if parents continue to ignore our request, we may need to do this. Thank you to those parents who are parking in the nursery car park and helping us keep all our children safe, it is very much appreciated.

Parents Evening – Bookings for this event will come out in the usual way after half term for you to see your child's class teacher. As always, we expect to see 100% of parents for this important meeting about your child's attainment and progress and thank you for making the efforts to ensure you are able to come into school. It is always appreciated.

Coffee Mornings – We are having a bit of a pause with our monthly coffee mornings for the time being as attendance to these has really dropped off. We will seek your views on how we might look to doing these perhaps a little bit differently going forward in the upcoming parents evening questionnaire.

Times Table Rockstars (TTRS) – It has been great to see the children so enthused about learning their times tables and I was astounded to see that we are joint 2nd in one of the TTRS league tables based on local schools! Woop woop! This is just fantastic news and we need to see if we can knock the school off that top spot....we do love a little bit of friendly competition!

Finally, on a personal note, it has been so fabulous being back in school this term and seeing the smiling faces from the children. I want to say a huge heartfelt thank you to Miss Galvin and the team for leading and ensuring smooth operation of the school amazingly in my absence. It has also been really lovely seeing you, as parents, around too at the start/end of the day. It has reminded me what a truly fabulous community we are part of and one that I have very much missed when off.

Have a **LOVE**ly evening this Valentine's day with those around you that you love and hold dear and have a great half term holiday....We look forward to seeing everyone back on Monday 24th February.

Best wishes

Steph Fawdry

Steph Fawdry
Headteacher