



RAF Benson Community Primary School



Newsletter



Wednesday 22 October 2025

Dear Parents,

We are nearly at the end of the longest term of the school year and what a start to the year we have had! The children have loved being in school as we have had some very happy children in classes and corridors – as well as our staff team too!

Thank you to the parents who were able to join us for the Battle of Britain exhibition – the children across school loke amazing on that day and the work they produces for the exhibition at the start of the year was stunning and has received many compliments from visitors we have had in school.

It was really lovely to see those who could make Welcome back meeting earlier this term. I was able to share more information about the year ahead from a leadership and strategic perspective – especially with regards to our funding in light of reducing numbers based on MOD strategic decisions and, alongside that, what we are doing to ensure high quality education for your children. Class teachers then shared what the year ahead looks like in terms of teaching and learning. If you missed this, please see class webpages for the information shared by teachers relating to your child.

Our first fundraising event of the year was a huge success! We raised £143 with the after school Bingo and we look to be doing this again in the near future. Thank you to those parents who supported this and to the staff on hand to ensure that the children used their professional 'dabber' on the right numbers!

Thank you for your support to our 'Great Athlete' day – it was superb and such a privilege to have Nerys Pearce in school to work with the children and inspire them to 'push on'. With your generosity, we have raised over £2000, which is totally epic and a huge heartfelt 'thank you' from our children and staff. With the 40% and £2 per pupil fee taken out to go to Great Athletes we have £1,198 to go towards equipment keeping children active during playtimes. Our school council will be asking their peers how we should spend that money so look out for updates from us in the near future about what they decide to buy. Thank you so much for your support.

We have also started to show people around for Reception 2026 places – quite scary how quickly that time goes! Whilst we have done the ones we have advertised we will do more tours after half term for those who have missed it so please do encourage people to come to our wonderful school if you can!

During the next term, amidst the festive activities we are looking to have our school website updated. We will sadly be losing the animated helicopters on the front that people have loved for many years however, it will give us a new look and feel to the 'shop window' into our school. As a result of this, we are aligning other services we use with our school information management system, Arbor. This will mean that for a short period, we will have two systems running concurrently and then will close down the school app when we switch to our new website. For the time being, emails and notifications will come to you via the school app and website as we slowly migrate and integrate things such as parents evening booking on the new system. If you have not yet logged in to the Arbor app, please do so as soon as you can as this is the only way to book your child's parents evening slot. Thank you for your support, understanding and patience with this.

Here are a quite a few dates of upcoming events and some notices for you – please note the festive events we have coming up over the next few weeks and we look forward to seeing you there!

Dates and Events

Wednesday 5 November – Parents Evening - This takes place in the school hall with classrooms open for viewing books and work. Online booking via the Arbor system will be open very soon so keep an eye out for the notification. We do look to have 100% attendance from parents at this event so that teachers can share with you how your child has settled into their new class and the areas where they need further support. We look forward to seeing you then!

Sunday 9 November – Act of Remembrance in Benson Village - Each year we gather outside of Derry's Den at 10:20am to get ready to join the parade. We ask children wishing to represent our school to be in school uniform and this year, I am looking for the members of School Council to be the group to lay our school wreath on the memorial on the morning. Children will need to have had breakfast please and also to wear a warm coat – we will hold the coats for those children walking to the memorial. We like to take a photo of all children attending for our social media page and then, for those families that wish to, you can then go on to the service at St Helen's Church. It usually is a lovely way to support our community and remember and thank those who made the ultimate sacrifice and, of course, those of you who still serve today.

Monday 10 November – Service of Remembrance for Service Pupils – Again this year we will be attending a service at Dorchester Abbey to 'Remember and be Thankful' to those who made the ultimate sacrifice. Our Year 6 and some Year 5s will be attending with some of them reading and leading the service for Service children from local schools. We look forward to sharing their experience when they return.

Tuesday 11 November – Station Remembrance – Children in School Council will represent the school again in the Station act of remembrance and we will also be taking some children to read. During this time, a service will also be held in school allowing the whole school to reflect and remember those who gave their lives for our today.

Wednesday 26 November – Festive Wreath Making – After a fabulous session last year we would like to invite you to come and join us at 5pm – 6:30pm in the school hall making festive wreaths in a fabulous atmosphere with some bubbles and snacks. The session will cost **£15 per person** and we ask that this is in cash brought on the night. To secure your place and allow us to get the right amount of materials, please book using the link below. Sadly, we are not able to accommodate children on this occasion.

Book your place here - <https://forms.gle/bop8RspyZbjzi7wr9>

Monday 1 December – Chocolate Non-uniform Day – Children to come in non-uniform in return for a bar of chocolate for the chocolate tombola – one of the most popular stalls at our Christmas fair! Thank you in advance for your donations.

Wednesday 3 December - Christmas Fair 4:00 – 5:30pm – We are looking forward to welcoming our community to this event in school where we will have the school choir singing carols, there will also be class stalls with high quality seasonal products, festive food, chocolate tombola, Christmas games and hopefully (with help from some wonderful volunteers) a Santa's grotto! If you can help us pull this magical event together, please do email the school office.

Thursday 11 December – KS1 Nativity – We are excited to say that we will be holding our nativity on 12 December in the Station Church, and this will involve all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. We are asking parents to select a performance to attend from either 10am or 5pm on this day and allocate **only two places per family**. This is so that we can accommodate

everyone who would like to attend. We are not doing physical tickets as we would like to trust that everyone will respect our request please. If there are siblings, please do bring them and we ask that they either sit on the floor/laps of parents where they can see or stand at the back. For the later performance, we keep the children in school at the end of the day, provide them with some snacks to keep their energy levels up and take them to the church for you to collect from the church at 6pm. More information will come out closer the time but please save this date in your diary!

Friday 12 December - Christmas Jumper Day – No money. No donations. Just for fun!

Friday 19 December - Carols around the tree – come and join us at 2pm where we will be singing carols and festive songs to finish the term in a very Christmassy way. Classes will be singing their own songs and, to give you some advanced notice, 'some' audience participation will be required....

Notices

Christmas Fair Helpers – If you are interested and able to help before, during or after our Christmas Fair, please do email the school office – we would love to hear from you...especially as we are looking for a team of people to help sprinkle a little Christmas magic this year. We are always really grateful for any help we get.

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>

Attendance – Just for this term, communication around your child's attendance will be issued at parents evening. Please do note that it is our policy from the LA to inform you if your child's attendance is low (below 95%) or if your child is a persistent absentee (below 90%). We will know why your child will have been absent and it may have been for as little as 3.5 days for them to be a persistent absentee at this time of year, however we just need to let you know. Over time, with good attendance, the percentages will improve. Thank you for your support.

Mobile Phones – A reminder that mobile phones are not to be used on the school premises please. This request stems from not only a safeguarding perspective but also seeing children enthusiastic to share their day with parents who are walking off on their phone. It has been so lovely since bringing this in to see parents and children positively chat about their day and we want this to continue with your support.

What is your child learning? – As a reminder, class teachers will update the class web page with photographs during the term to reflect what your child has been learning in class. At the start of each term, you will receive a Topic Web which will share with you the areas that the children will be looking at over the next term and you will also get a Knowledge Organiser which details the key facts that the children should be able to know and remember by the end of the term. Please feel free to rehearse these facts with your children to support their learning in school. These documents will also be put on the class web page too.

As always, should you have any questions, please do get in touch and I hope that you have a lovely half term break with some great autumnal activities with family and friends.

Best wishes

Steph Fawcay

Steph Fawdry
Headteacher