



# RAF Benson Community Primary School



## Newsletter



**Wednesday 16 July 2025**

Dear Parents,

I hope that this last newsletter of this very unique school year finds you well? We have had some really unexpected hot weather these last few weeks that I am worried that we have just experienced our summer and the 6 week holiday will be filled with rain.....let's hope not!

Sorry this newsletter is later than expected; we have had quite a busy, yet amazing couple of weeks in school which has meant that some of our admin tasks have had to wait a little to be completed. However, we have now arrived at the end of what has been a very emotional and challenging year with the passing of our much-loved Mrs Hastings and the other staffing challenges that we have experienced along the way – including not one but two members of staff with broken legs! I think it is safe to say we are all extremely exhausted, proud of what we have all achieved this year and are totally ready for the summer break – both children and staff.

Just reflecting on the last 12 months, I am starting to write this final newsletter to you absolutely buzzing after such an amazingly entertaining evening watching 'Pirates of the Curry Bean'. Each year the bar is raised in the 'West end' style performance and this year the children excelled themselves and should be very proud that they entertained us with much skill and confidence. I really should thank all the staff who have been involved in this over the last few weeks, Mrs McCrindle, Mrs Whitty and Mrs McLauchlan who have been the main staff guiding the children with help from the rest of the team with creating and painting props, backdrops, sourcing pirate materials from lofts, cupboards and garages and generally lending a hand where we all can.

The various events that have been put on recently, CAMO Day has been a particular highlight and thank you to many of you who supported this event – it is always great to see parents out doing their job and we know that the children are very pleased and proud to see you. We hoped that you enjoyed the day as much as we all did. The Brass Showcase was great too as the children were able to show the progress they had made over the year.

It was a very emotional Leavers' Assembly on Thursday this week where our Year 6 children did themselves proud yet again with their speeches of their time with us and memories of the fun events that they have enjoyed. It was lovely that Mrs Wilson, along with little Freya, was able to join us to see the Year 6 off on their last day however, Mrs Scott, having only left hospital on Wednesday evening was very sadly not able to join us as we had hoped. I am sure you all wish her a very speedy recovery and we hope that she will be able to visit ahead of starting her new school in September so that we can say a proper goodbye to her.

On Monday of this week, we also had a Health and Safety Inspection in school led by the local authority and I am pleased to say that we maintained our very high level of compliance. We thank Mr Haythorne for all his work towards maintaining a safe school site for children and staff.

Over the summer holidays the Local Authority are updating our building and, as a result, we will be having a new roof put on the part of the building that covers that Year 3 and 4 classes and also along the corridor by the library, toilets and offices. We have been reassured that the project will start on 21<sup>st</sup> July and then be finished by the time we need to start school. If there are any changes that will impact the start of the school year or where the children may need to be located, we will let you know as soon as we are able. We are keeping our fingers crossed that this project will go smoothly.....

We continued to have great sporting successes this year with teams continuing to win events – we are on a roll! And, I have to share with you our National test data from across the school,

especially for Year 6 at the end of their KS2 SATs – they have been nothing short than impressive with their dedication and effort into achieving so well for themselves – a true demonstration of the resilience and grit that we have worked hard on over the last couple of years.

Below is a table to share with you how well our children have done this year. We are very proud of them and of all the staff who have worked hard to help the children do so well.

Area	School	National	Area	School	National
<b>Early Years - % of children achieving GLD</b>	83%	69%	<b>KS2 Reading - Expected</b>	94%	75%
			<b>KS2 Reading - Greater Depth</b>	65%	33%
<b>Year 1 Phonics</b>	81%	80%	<b>KS2 Writing - Expected</b>	94%	72%
			<b>KS2 Writing - Greater Depth</b>	35%	13%
<b>Year 2 Phonics Retake</b>	100%	91%	<b>KS2 Maths - Expected</b>	94%	74%
			<b>KS2 Maths – Greater Depth</b>	41%	26%
<b>Year 4 MTC – Average score (out of 25)</b>	22.8	21.1	<b>KS2 Combined - Expected</b>	94%	62%
			<b>KS2 Combined – Greater Depth</b>	29%	8%

I firmly believe that it is a partnership to get our children to realise their dreams and aspirations and without your brilliant support and help and the relentless energy, passion and expertise of our phenomenal staff team we would not be able to meet our aim of giving the children the very best we can and to make marvellous memories that will last a lifetime. These results and the experiences that we have been able to give to our children this year are testament to the efforts put in by everyone.

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Thank you to those of you who have been supportive with regards to our further re-structure this year. As I mentioned in my transition letter, this is not something that we want to be doing and our drop in numbers is all based on MOD strategic decisions. Unlike last year, we have not had to go through a redundancy process as staff are moving on to new and exciting opportunities through choice of promotion and exploring different experiences and, I am sure you join us in wishing Mrs McLauchlan and Mrs Scott who are moving on to new and exciting adventures to develop their careers in teaching all the very best.

With my voluntary role as the Chair of SCISS (Service Children in State Schools) I am fortunate enough to have some contacts who may be able to support us and who have already started to speak with people higher up in the MOD and DfE. This is a mission I will carry on until we are successful in fairer funding for the children at our school and the three others across the county so that our children are funded comparably with those MOD schools across the world.

I will give more of an update about this in our Welcome back meeting in September and temporarily step off my soap box otherwise this newsletter will be too long however I am really grateful for those who have shown their support to us and understanding of the difficult decisions that we have had to make. Thank you.

I wanted to say a heartfelt thank you to you all for the fabulous support to give to us as a school through spreading the wonderful word about us in the community to supporting events in school such as Learn with Your Child Week, assemblies, open classrooms, class cafes, Sports Day and our Summer Fair where we raised over £600 on the day and over £500 on the raffle making a total fundraising effort of over £1,000 – thank you so much for your generosity, it is very much appreciated!

We have also had parents in helping in many capacities in school this year from reading to helping with clubs and at events such as the Summer Fair – I won't attempt to list everyone in case I inadvertently miss anyone out however, the time given to support our children and team has been very much appreciated.

Finally, a huge thank you to you all for the generous gifts, cakes and cards with lovely words that the team all received in the last couple of days. The table in the staffroom was awash with delicious cakes from talented bakers, sweets and other treats. Thank you – we are so grateful that you have shown your appreciation in such a lovely way for a job that we all love to do.

I think that is all for this end of term newsletter. On behalf of the team I wish you an amazing and fun filled summer break – hoping that the sun will make a prolonged appearance. We look forward to welcoming everyone back on **Wednesday 4 September at 8:45** – I am guessing your smiles in returning your children back to school will be as big as ours were yesterday!

Best wishes

*Steph Fawdry*

Steph Fawdry  
Headteacher