



RAF Benson Community Primary School



Newsletter

Friday 23 May 2025

Dear Parents,

I hope that this newsletter finds you well. You might want to grab a drink of your choice to relax and read this month's newsletter as it is a little longer than usual!

We have made it to the final half term holiday of the school year! This past term of 4 weeks and 3 days (not that we have counted!) seemed to have been really tough for us all – I am sure it must have been the mixture of 4 day and 5 day weeks that we have had that has just thrown us! You will have seen the big smiles of the staff releasing the children at the end of the day ready for a nice week of rest, relaxation and a glass of their favourite beverage...

We have had many wonderful moments this term which I need to share with you.

The Year 3 and 4 residential to **Hill End** was just amazing. Again they were lucky with the weather and the children (and staff) had a fabulous time. All of the children enjoyed the problem-solving activities and then being a roman or Anglo Saxon the following day. Hill End is a great environment for running safely through the forest and re-enacting how life would have been like in these ancient times. The s'mores in the evening around the campfire were a welcome treat before the children headed off to sleep. A huge thank you to the staff team who went out and gave up their evening and their comfy beds to allow our children to have amazing memories to treasure for years to come.

Straight after the Hill End experience, we jumped into celebrating **VE day** with the school filled with VE day themed dress and lantern making ahead of the celebration in Benson Village. Our School Council made us feel very proud the way they represented us at the parade in Benson Village including the two Year 6 readers who were very brave to read in front of many people in an unusual setting. A great day was had commemorating the 80th anniversary and thank you all for your support with this event.

We are all extremely proud of our Year 6 who breezed through **SATs week** earlier this term with ease and big smiles. Nothing was a challenge for them and they all showed amazing growth mindsets. I did chuckle on the Friday when SATs had been completed when I asked the Year 6 children if they would have preferred toast and SATs that Friday or no SATs – their answer was toast and SATs! Just testament to all the staff who have worked hard with them over the years and especially in Year 6 to ensure that these end of Key Stage tests were a positive experience and nothing to be feared – I'm sure it had nothing to do with the toast...Well done to them all.

Hopefully you will have seen the post on our Facebook page that **we have a new baby!** Mrs Wilson had a beautiful baby girl on Sunday 18 May and we are pleased to report that all is well with mum and baby too! Mrs Wilson did a fantastic job in holding on to the end of SATs so that she could support the children through this time and we are very grateful to her for this. I am sure you will join us in congratulating the family on the new arrival and wish them all the best

Finally, thank you for your brilliant support to our first Family Quiz Night we have held for a while. We hope that those attended had a great time and enjoyed how our quizmaster Chriss ran the event. We are planning to do another one in the new school year so, please do keep an eye out for the date (and do let us know if it clashes with anything on the Station as we do not always get to know what is happening!).

Here are a few dates of upcoming events and some notices for you. We have quite a few events coming up with a couple of google forms for completion and your swift action on these would be appreciated.

Dates and Events

WC 9 June – Learn With Your Child Week – another opportunity to learn alongside your child and have some fun learning! Look out for timings on the first week back.

Friday 13 June – Father's Day Big Breakfast – bring the men who look after us, dad, grandads, uncles and brothers to thank them by starting the day with a bacon or sausage bap – everyone welcome (mums, grandmas, aunties and sisters too!)

Friday 13 June – Cystic Fibrosis Awareness day – we invite everyone to come in wearing an item, or completely covered, in yellow - in aid of Cystic Fibrosis.

Wednesday 18 June – 2:40pm Urban Strides KS2 Assembly – come and join us in the hall where we welcome back our friend, Andy Instone, the choreographer from Young Voices, who will have taken our KS2 children through their street dance paces to showcase to you at the end of the day.

Thursday 19 June – Sports Morning and Family Picnic – We are just seeking confirmation from the Station that we can use the rugby pitch on this day, however we invite you to attend our Sports day starting at 9:15 am with dances from each class linked this year to a colour followed by a short break and then into the competitive races on the rugby pitch.

Following the sporting events, you are very welcome to join your child's class for a picnic lunch (weather permitting!) on the field after this, there will not be any hot school meals on this day. You will be able to book a packed lunch provided by our kitchen staff or your child can bring a packed lunch from home.

Friday 27 June – CAMO Day – one of the MASSIVE highlights of our year is CAMO Day where the children get to celebrate the wonderful things that RAF Benson showcases the activities and stands on the day. Children (and staff!) wear camo clothes for the day and simply have the time of their lives! A lot of work goes into planning this and thank you to those parents who give their time to support this event that the children (and staff!) just love.

Due to the logistical nature of the day, there will not be any hot school meals on that day. You will be able to book a packed lunch provided by our kitchen staff or your child can bring a packed lunch from home.

We will have the Station Photographer taking photographs of the children taking part in the bases and I need your permission for your child to be included in any images they (or we) may use for social media showing the children having an awesome time. As always, if your child appears in any image, they will not be named. We need the form completing for every child please by COP on Friday 13 June - we do not have time to chase those who do not meet the deadline so your cooperation with this will be much appreciated.

Photo Permission - <https://forms.gle/PSnGshkMyaNcLYd78>

Friday 27 June – Summer Fair – as if the day wasn't exciting enough, we will be holding our annual summer fair after CAMO Day 4pm until 6pm. If you can help with the event, help with collecting food and drink from places like Tesco and Cost-co, setting up the event, helping on a stall or help clearing up at the end to let staff escape swiftly after a long day, please email the

school office or mention it to me or any other member of the team when you see us around and about. Any help no matter how small will be very much appreciated. If you can't help on the day, here are a few ways you can help:

Mug Tombola stall – This is an extremely popular stall where we need your help please. We ask that you send in a mug with goodies such as pencils, sweets (no chocolate as it melts), bath and shower items - anything you might like to receive! We will have a non-uniform day on Monday 23 June in return for filled mugs please only to be brought in on that day. Thank you.

Cake Stall - We know we have some stunning bakers out there (thank you to those who have left samples in the staffroom over the year!); we would be very grateful for some of your lovely cakes to be able to sell on the refreshment stall. Please send in cakes to the school office on the morning/afternoon of Friday 27 June so that we can prep them for the stall.

Raffle Prizes – We are going to be holding our summer raffle, if you are willing and able to donate a prize to this (or know a company or someone who could) we would be very grateful if you could email Mrs Bevis in the school office.

Thank you so much for your support towards this very important fundraising event, we love the community feel it has right from the madness of the start straight after CAMO day to clearing up the very last bit of bunting at the end of the day.

Wednesday 1 July – Transition Morning 1 - Children will know who their teacher will be for next year and we will let you know during the day. It will be an exciting day all round!

Wednesday 9 July – End of academic year Parents Evening - A final opportunity to hear from your child's class teacher for this academic year and to see how they have performed in national assessments and what they need to do ahead of their next year. Bookings will go live 1 week before the event.

Thursday 10 July – Brass Showcase at 2:40pm (CHANGE OF DATE) - Our children in Year 5 and 6 will wow us all with what they have been learning over the year. It will be a spectacular performance so much so, you will think it is the RAF central band!

Tuesday 15 July – Transition Morning 2 – Another opportunity for your child to meet their next teacher and do some activities to start getting to know each other.

Tuesday 15 July – KS2 production (CHANGE OF DATE) – the theatrical event of the year! This year we are being entertained by the Pirates of the Curry Bean and this 'West End' production will take place in the school hall starting at 5pm.

Thursday 17 July – Leavers' Assembly. Taking place in the hall with the provisional time of 1:45pm – this may change to 9:30 in the morning if the weather is hot.

Thursday 17 July – Last day of the school year. School finishes at 3:15 – Happy Holidays!

Notices

Absence – Just a reminder that, in line with our Attendance Policy, if you need to take your child out of school then you must complete a Leave of Absence request form which is available from the office. This will then be followed up with a meeting with Mrs Fawdry who will discuss the absence. We appreciate that there will be family emergencies however we do urge you not to take children out for a family holiday during term time. Thank you to those parents who have been honest around holiday absence and not phoned your child in sick. Children often do tell us and we do work on an honesty is the best policy basis. You will have noted that we have put our INSET days

at the end of the academic year again. We do this in the hope that you may be able to enjoy a cheaper and early summer holiday get away therefore we do not expect holiday requests in that last week and for children to be in school for the various transition activities and other exciting end of year events we have on in the last week. Thank you for your support.

Parent Governor – Further to the parent governor information that went out in the newsletter in March, we received one nomination. I am delighted to be able to share with you that the parent governor vacancy on the board of governors has been filled by Laura Whitby, parent of Zoe in Year 5. The role of parent governor is so important in gaining the parent perspective on many aspects of school life. Thank you to Laura for nominating herself to stand again. If you are interested in the work of the board of Governors, please do come and have a conversation with Mrs Fawdry.

Sunny weather – Now that we are getting more sunny days, please could you ensure that your child has the all-day sun cream applied to them at the start of the day. We would prefer this than children bringing in cream as we can't apply this for them, due to safeguarding reasons. We also ask, to help us look after your child in these conditions, that your child has a water bottle in school each day and a hat.

Are you being posted? – Thank you for those people who have completed this form however we are still hearing a number of rumours from children and parents that they will be moving on to pastures new before or at the end of this academic year. If that is the case, please could you complete the form at the link below so that we can start thinking what school will look like for our children and staff team next year. Thank you for your help.

Posting form: <https://forms.gle/BVX7pakDzEwrZatm7>

Mobile Phones – A kind 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. Thank you.

Uniform – Just like our community, we pride ourselves on our school uniform and looking smart and tidy. We have recently noticed that a few children are arriving in school with trainers and not school shoes and other items that are not in line with our school uniform policy. We would be really grateful if your child came to school in the correct uniform. Please see the school uniform page for more details: <https://www.raf-benson.oxon.sch.uk/school-uniform-2/>

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>

Wow, I think that's it for this month, we have had a lot going on! Thank you for all of your positive support to the school and our staff team – we really appreciate it. Have a lovely break and enjoy your time with family and friends and we look forward to seeing you on Monday 2 June 2025 at 8:45am for the home straight of this year.

Best wishes

Steph Fawdry

Steph Fawdry
Headteacher