

BCS NEWS

Date

Fulfilling our potential, achieving excellence together

We are a Good school with Outstanding Early Years Provision

Head's News

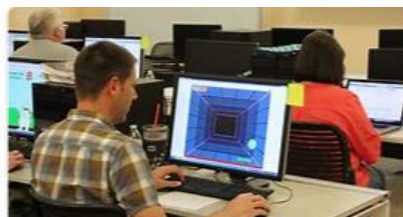
4.11.22

Welcome back after Half Term. As a whole staff team, we hope everyone had a peaceful break filled with a chance for the children to enjoy a different pace of life from the rigorous timetables of the school day.

It has been fantastic to see the children's enthusiasm for learning shine brightly this week once they had acclimatised to the early start on Tuesday morning. As topics have changed in classes, new concepts introduced in Maths and new books started in English, the children's ability to be adaptable and soak up the new has blown us all away over the last few days. Children are often likened to sponges, and it is clear from what we have seen this week, that our children at BCS are the most sophisticated of sponges- in conversations I have had with them as I have walked through lessons, it is incredible to watch them make links between the new concepts with prior learning and talk about how their prior learning helps them with what they are doing now. It is testament to the foundations that have been put in place previously and shows your children really are becoming the wisest of people in line with the story our school vision and values are based.



As teachers, we are also always striving to broaden our knowledge, learn how to teach new skills and find different methods to inspire the children. Our INSET days are always filled with the latest training and teaching methods. This week, all our staff spent the day learning about and developing their skills in teaching computing. The National Curriculum has high expectations and high standards for what children should learn in computing, focussing on 3 strands: digital- literacy, online safety and coding. Our focus on Monday was around the teaching of coding. We are lucky enough to have been able to subscribe to Purple Mash: a computing scheme of work that supports the children to learn the skills required interactively. What was really interesting was how teachers commended the children's ability to soak up the learning of computing skills more quickly than we do as adults! The staff came away with a plethora of new skills and we know the children will benefit from the new- found confidence the training on Monday has given them.



Key Dates

Thursday 10th November – Flu Vaccinations

Friday 18th November – Children in Need

Thursday 17th November – Individual and sibling photographs

Monday 5th December – Ks1 nativity

Tuesday 6th December – Ks1 Nativity and EYFS Nativity

Thursday 8th December – Christmas Jumper Day

Saturday 10th December – Christmas Fair

Monday 12th December – KS2 Carol Concert

Wednesday 14th December – Christmas Lunch

Thursday 15th December – Whole school Christmas service at St. Stephens Church

Friday 16th December – Inset day

Monday 19th December to Monday 2nd January 2023 – Christmas holidays

Tuesday 3rd January – start of Term 3

Monday 13th February to Friday 17th February – Half term

Year 1 Only – Welly Wednesday's (every Wednesday)

In other news

Choir



On Wednesday, BCS choir went on their first visit to sing with the residents at Barnes Lodge, forming our co-choir. They represented the school exceptionally and sang hymns with great passion and enthusiasm. The children enjoyed meeting and singing with some of the residents, including an ex Head Mistress and choir master, who was very impressed with their singing. It was lovely to return to Barnes Lodge for KS2 and KS1 enjoyed visiting for the first time. We are looking forward to returning next month to rehearse singing some Carols and developing our co-choir

Arbor

As we continue to develop our communication methods, we would like to thank each and every parent for supporting us with the changeover from SchoolsBuddy to Arbor. Today we received this email from Arbor:



We noticed that you've achieved a fantastic level of parental engagement via the Arbor Parent Portal - impressive!

Playground Leaders and zones.

Over the last term we have listened to feedback from children about what they would like to do on the playground at lunchtimes. Many wanted the chance to engage in different activities each day. To this end, we are introducing zones on the playground from next week. Each zone will be run by a teaching assistant and a play leader from year 5. The zone will have a focussed activity based on a theme such as fitness, balls, quiet and activities will be set up each day for children to engage in during their playtime. Year 5 children should look out for an application form in their classrooms if they would like to apply for a position as Play Leader and help make playtimes varied, fun and exciting.



School Trips



During the summer term last year, the parent body, when asked, requested more school trips with the easing of COVID restrictions. We are working hard to ensure that we are able to facilitate this in order to give your children an enriched curriculum. The aim is to ensure that every year group are given 3 school trips each academic year, with the average price not exceeding £20. However, with the cost of fuel and coaches increasing, there are times when this is not possible. We will, however, work to ensure that subsequent trips are below this threshold. Trips, in general, give experience of the wider community and life outside our school, generate curiosity among children to learn about the world and enhance language and social skills.

Dropping off

This is a reminder that we run a very popular walking bus every morning at 8:30 am to support parents getting their children to school on time, without having to negotiate the busy car park or traffic jams. Members of staff meet children who would like to join the bus at the top of Tudeley Lane near Barnes Lodge Care Home. Children are provided with a Hi-Viz jacket and walk down to school safely in pairs with a staff member leading the bus and another at the back. Please take advantage of the system. The children really enjoy the walk to school with their friends.

If the walking bus is not an option, and you are driving in to school, please refrain from parking in the turning circle. The turning circle is designed for parents to drop and go, which in turn lessens a backlog of traffic on the road into school and reduces congestion in the car park. The main gates are open for access until 9:00am but children should be in class by 8:55am when the gates will be shut.

May I also take this opportunity to remind those driving in to school to wait on the correct side of the road (the left side) to enable cars leaving the school site and estate to do so safely.

Parking on the Red Row Estate

It has been brought to my attention that families are using the resident parking bays at drop off and pick up time. I have had photographs of the offending cars sent to me. The residents will be forwarding the photographs on to the local Parking enforcement department. Please refrain from parking on the estate at any time.

EYFS News 4-11-22

Thank you so much to all the parents who attended Wednesday's Phonics Workshop and the Zoom meeting on the Friday before the holidays. We hope that you found these sessions helpful and you feel more confident in supporting your child with their reading at home.

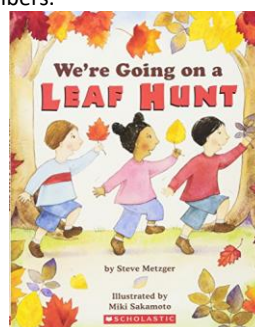


To support the children with their fine motor development, this week the children made candle holders. The children rolled the plasticine to make coil rims and squeezed it onto their base.



In maths this week, we have explored the composition of numbers. The children have been learning about how different numbers can be made from smaller numbers.

Badgers and Squirrels went on an Autumn walk to look at the changes in the trees and picked leaves to help inspire their Autumn artwork.



During our 'reading strands' story time sessions this week we have focused on the story 'The Little Red Hen'. The children listened really carefully to the story and were able to predict what would happen next and enjoyed discussing how the different characters felt at different parts in the story.

Open events for Prospective Early years parents

It is testament to the incredibly hard work the staff here have put in to developing our school that our most recent Ofsted was so positive and successful. We are now just 2 children away from having a full cohort of children in our 'Outstanding' Early Years. If you know of any families who are looking for a school for their Early Years aged child for the next academic year, please share the following information regarding open events we are holding at school.

Open evenings

Wednesday 16th November	6:30pm – 7:30pm
Wednesday 7th December	6:30pm – 7:30pm

Open afternoons

Date	Activity timetable for the afternoons
Wednesday 19th October	1:30pm – Arrive, welcome by the senior leadership team and the opportunity to sample freshly cooked school lunches
Tuesday 15th November	
Wednesday 7th December	2:00pm – Outdoor learning activity in the Early Years area
Wednesday 11th January	2:20pm – Time to explore and play in our early years classrooms
	2:40pm – Story time
	3:00pm – Finish

Volunteers

As per our message last term, we are keen to invite our parents and carers to volunteer to listen to readers, engage small groups of children in short learning games and support their learning across the curriculum. If you have any spare time and would like to volunteer on a regular basis, please come to the office and fill out the slip indicating your availability. We will offer full training to those who would like to join our team of volunteer heroes.

Uniform and Coats



Thank you to everyone for ensuring your children came back to school in Winter Uniform. A gentle reminder that uniform extends to shoes, tights, socks and hair accessories. Please ensure the uniform policy is adhered to. Hair accessories should be blue or black and minimal please. As the weather is consistently wetter and colder, we ask that all children have a named coat in school with them at all times.

Wishing you all a very peaceful weekend.