



# Newsletter

## 2023-2024

### Issue 3 – 6th October

Believe to achieve!

'Roots will grow down into God's love to keep us strong.' – EPH 3:17

This term's value focus is Friendship

## Message from Mrs Walch

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to issue 3 of the BEDS newsletter. We had such a wonderful celebration of harvest last week, and Reverend Mike was really pleased with all of the donations. I think we even beat last's year's donations, so thank you for your wonderful generosity. We talked a lot about how this was a way to show friendship to people that we don't know, and the children really took this on board. Unfortunately, I can't share any photos with you, as the camera we took to the church decided to only take blurry pictures!

With Mrs Cross not at work for a few weeks, please bear with me as I may take a little longer to reply to emails or sort some things out. Mrs Cross is such an integral part of our BEDS machine, and she does so much that I'm sure I won't keep all of her plates spinning for her while she is off. I'm sure you all wish her well, and all of the cards that you have generously sent in will be delivered to her next week as she starts her recovery. I will give you updates as soon as I have any. (Details of a charity cake sale further down)

And now on to something a little lighter. There are some children in our school (Rowan class) who will be able to look back on their time at BEDS in the future and be able to say 'I remember when the headteacher fell over in gym!' On Monday, while I was demonstrating a supposedly graceful cat leap, I landed on my dodgy knee, and ended up on my back! Thank you to Ella for demonstrating the right way to do it for me after that! All's well that ends well though, and I am fine now. All of the children in school were very caring, and asked how I was until I was better. We really do have the best children - they show their values in such caring ways.

And finally, wonderful news. We spent Friday last week interviewing for a part time Year 1 teacher to work with Mrs Crossman. I am pleased to say that we have made an appointment. Mrs Box will be joining our team after the October half term.

Take care and God bless,  
Mrs Walch



## UPCOMING DATES

Friday 13th October  
BEDSA Disco



Monday 16th October  
BEDSA AGM, 8pm at LS

Wednesday 18th October  
Last day of Term 1

Monday 30th October  
TD day, school closed for children

Tuesday 31st October  
Deadline for Secondary School applications  
First day of Term 2

## The Value of Friendship

This week, we shared the story of Mary and Martha from the book of Luke in the New Testament. We thought about how different the two sisters were. When Martha became angry at Mary, thinking she was being lazy, it allowed us to think about how we often only see things from our own perspective, and that maybe we should stop and think about things from the other person's point of view. Mary was doing something that was important to her, but Martha didn't understand.

## Pupils of the week

The following children have received certificates in the last two weeks: Aina, Christopher, Tyler, Jack, Seth, Sage, Bradley, Kingsley, Katrina, Finley G, Anya, Edward, Wynter, Evie H, Solly, Monty, Leo C, Elsie (Beech), Cole, Rowan, Poppy (Beech), Lucian, Jaxon, Ollie P, Joshua, Freya, Xanthe, Amelie, Leo S, Fred H, Matthew, Ella, Pippa H. Well done, everyone!

## Spotlight on ... attendance



Attendance is on the national agenda, and for good reason. Attendance is one of the markers of success at school. After all, the more a child is in school, the more they have the opportunity to learn the curriculum. Our attendance most weeks is higher than the national average, but still something that I am obliged to review on a regular basis. Last year, I initiated a regular attendance review, and every month I looked at our attendance figures. I also had a meeting with an Education Welfare Officer (EWO) three times in the year relating to attendance. Some families, where attendance was dropping, were invited in for a SAM (School Attendance Meeting) with me which sounds very formal, but really it is a chance for me to speak with the families and see what we can do to support them to improve their child's attendance. There may be factors that I don't know about, so having these conversations is really useful for me to be able to understand the fuller picture of the child and family.

Ideally, every child's attendance would be 100%, but we have to be realistic and we know that children pick up bugs and need to stay at home to recover. The NHS have produced some useful guidance called 'Is my child too ill for school?' (please click [here](#) for the link) which explains when to keep your child home. I certainly would have found this useful for my own children when they were at school.

A fact I had never considered is that if a child has an annual attendance of 90%, then they will have missed the equivalent of over a year of education between primary and secondary school.



Elm class enjoyed their trip to Malmesbury this week.



They had a tour from a local councillor



as well as visiting the abbey.



Dates for Brinkworth Church:

Dates for the diary:

Messy Church - Sunday 5th Nov 10,30am - Brinkworth Village Hall  
Messy Christingle - Sunday 3rd Dec 4pm in Brinkworth Church

## Staffing update

Mrs Box will be teaching Oak class on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, job sharing with Mrs Crossman. We welcome her to our school, and the class enjoyed spending some time with her today as she prepares to join our BEDS family.



## Cake Sale for Mrs Cross

Mrs Beavis (a parent from Rowan class) has volunteered to organise and run a cake sale to raise money for a cancer charity as the family were moved by Mrs Cross' news.

The cake sale will be on both sites on the last day of term (18th October) just after school.

Please can any donations of cakes etc for the sale be brought in to school on the morning of the 18th, and then Mrs Beavis and some volunteers will set up and run the cake sale.

If you would like to volunteer to help with this event, please contact Amy Beavis on 07736 162983.

## Recent elections

During the course of Term 1, we have held elections for various positions of responsibility in our school. I am pleased to announce the results below. The badges look great, and the children are looking forward to taking on their roles with enthusiasm and dedication.

### House Captains:

Avebury - Charlie M and Daisy G, Deputies Henry and Daisy T

Barbury - Albie and Alexa, Deputy Oscar

Cherhill - Evie H and Sam, Deputy Hollie

Stonehenge - Arabella and Alex, Deputies Aurora and Fred

### School Councillors:

Oak - Zoe and Tyler

Elm - Connie and Lev

Birch - Isla B and Rafe

Rowan - Ella, Solly and Jenson

Willow - Fin and Abigail

### Worship Council:

Oak - Jaxon and Lottie

Elm - Katrina and Kingsley

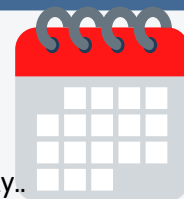
Birch - Pippa M and Aubrey

Rowan - Lewis and Leah

Willow Febe, Cameron and Amelia



## Advance dates



Any updated dates in the future will be marked in red for you to be able to identify them easily..

Wednesday 18th October - End of Term 1  
Half Term - 19.10.23 to 27.10.23  
Monday 30th October - TD Day - children not in school  
Tuesday 31st October - Start of Term 2  
Monday 6th November - Start of Rowan Class swimming lessons  
Tuesday 7th & Thursday 9th November - Parents Evenings  
Friday 17th November - Children In Need  
Thursday 30th November - Barn Theatre trip, now confirmed  
Thursday 30th November - Maths Information Evening for Parents - 6.00pm  
Wednesday 13th & Thursday 14th December - Lower Site Christmas Productions  
Thursday 14th December - Upper Site Christmas Carol Service, 6pm at Brinkworth Church  
Friday 15th December - Christmas Lunch/Christmas Jumper Day - Whole School at Lower Site  
Wednesday 20th December - End of Term 2  
Christmas Holidays - 21.12.23-03.01.24  
Thursday 4th January - Start of Term 3  
Monday 15th January - Deadline for Primary School applications for September 2024  
Wednesday 7th February - Safer Internet Day  
Friday 9th February - End of Term 3  
Half Term - 12.02.24-16.02.24  
Monday 19th February - Start of Term 4  
Monday 19th February - Start of Birch Class swimming lessons  
Tuesday 27th & Thursday 29th February - Parents Evenings  
Thursday 7th March - World Book Day  
Wednesday 13th to Friday 15th March - Y4 Residential Trip to Braeside  
Tuesday 26th March - Easter Service - Whole School Day at Upper Site  
Thursday 28th March - TD Day - Children not in school  
Easter Holidays - 29.03.24-12.04.24  
Monday 15th April - Start of Term 5  
Monday 13th May - KS2 SATS week  
Wednesday 22nd May - NextGen Class Photographs  
Friday 24th May - End of Term 5  
Half Term - 27.05.24-31.05.24  
Monday 3rd June - Start of Term 6  
Monday 3rd to Friday 7th June - Y6 Residential Trip to Morfabay  
Thursday 20th June - Induction Meeting for Parents of new Foundation Stage children  
Friday 28th June - Sports Day  
Thursday 4th July - Brinkworth Earl Danby's Summer Fete - 6-8pm  
Friday 5th July - TD Day - Children not in school  
Thursday 11th July - Shuffle Up Day  
Friday 12th July - Reserve Sports Day  
Wednesday 17th July - End of Year Leavers Production - afternoon & evening performances  
Thursday 18th July - Year 6 Leavers' Party  
Tuesday 23rd July - Year 6 Leavers' Church Service - all of school at US in the morning  
Tuesday 23rd July - End of Term 6

# **BEDSA - [bedsacontact@gmail.com](mailto:bedsacontact@gmail.com)**

## **NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, Monday 16th October 2023, 8pm Lower School Hall**

The current BEDSA Core Committee will be due for re-election at the AGM on Monday 16th October 2023. We need a volunteer to step forward as Secretary. This is a key role on the Committee (required by its Charity status) and a simple job description is below. The nomination process is simple – please email [bedsacontact@gmail.com](mailto:bedsacontact@gmail.com).

The annual general meeting of Brinkworth Earl Danby's School Association (BEDSA) will take place on Monday 16th October 2023 at 8pm at Lower School Hall. The meeting itself will be kept brief and to the point, allowing this evening to be a social event where everyone can catch up after the summer and perhaps meet other parents. This is an ideal opportunity if you are new to the school or cannot always drop off or collect from school. BEDSA will be offering refreshments and nibbles.

If you are interested in what BEDSA has achieved this year or if you have any ideas moving forward, we would warmly welcome any expressions of interest from parents looking to get involved in BEDSA either as a general committee member, a casual volunteer at events or for a specific role within the committee.

### **SECRETARY**

The Secretary helps to ensure that BEDSA runs smoothly and provides a link between Committee Members and the School. This requires good organisational and communication skills and being able to stick to deadlines. The Secretary helps the Chair ensure that committee meetings run smoothly. The Secretary may also need to make bookings and other arrangements for events.

#### **Main duties:**

- Arrange meetings.
- Prepare and distribute agendas.
- Take the minutes of meetings, type them up and distribute them.
- Help with communications to parents.