



Bearbrook News



Bearbrook Combined School and Pre-school • DEC 2018

nurture inspire achieve

Dear Parents/Guardians,

You may have noticed that more often than not, Mrs Wixted has been at the school gates to welcome you in the mornings. As an increased workload has taken me away from my office, more often than not, Mrs Wixted has kindly stepped into the 'Head' shoes to share the load!

You may also be aware, that we have had some issues with regards to the school hall not being used. Unfortunately, this has had an affect on some of the activities we would like to have held but have had to cancel. However, we have done our very best to keep things 'as normal as possible' for our children, and within the parameters of possibilities, we've had minimal disruption. All credit to the children, and all the staff alike, for their endurance and perserverence. We are hoping that the hall will be sorted out soon and we can get back to using it properly.

The term has been very busy for us all and there seems to have been so much more going on than usual what with trips, various workshops for pupils, staff AND parents. Our Family Friday's continue to be a success and it is good to see you coming in and assist your children in their lessons!

We would just like to wish *Seasons Greetings* and may 2019 bring you all the good things that you wish for.

Many thanks for your support.

Mr M Faulkner & Mrs E Wixted



ATTENDANCE – GOOD NEWS

We've had some very good attendance this term with 4 classes achieving over 98% and 6T achieving the highest class attendance! Well done 6T.

The top four are: 2P = 98%, 2L = 98.25, 6B = 98.3%, 6T = 98.4%

7 additional classes achieved above our target attendance of 96% for the whole term. These are: FA = 96%, 1H = 96.1%,

2S = 97.3%, 3P = 96.5%, 4L = 96.9%, 5S = 96.5%, 6S = 96.6%. Well done to all these classes.

As a result of this excellent effort, whole school attendance since September is 96.8%.

That's not all! 171 pupils currently have 100% attendance. This is an amazing achievement and probably a new record for the number of certificates I will have to write out! Let's keep this going and well done everyone.

Lastly, just a gentle reminder, for all absences, please continue to report your child as absent *on the morning of each day* they are unable to attend school.

Non-reporting of an absence will be followed up by phone calls, including to additional contact numbers if the first contact is not available.



YEAR 6 TOPIC

This year marked the 100 year anniversary of the end of World War I on 11th November, so it was significant that Year 6 gained an understanding of their topic which was studying 'The Great War'! Their workshops included a visitor coming in to give a factual talk with some acting involved, discovering and cooking some rationed recipes from WWI and tasting them, as well as having a visit to the Bartlett Care Home to talk to some of the residents who had survived the second World War.

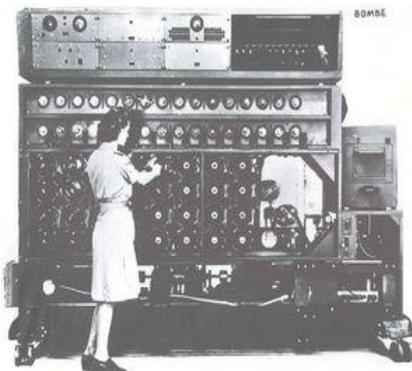
Our topic was about the Great War. We had a man come into our school who gave us many different facts about WWI. At first he got us to sit in a line and chose some children who then had a choice of being what they wanted as a job. He then told us if we would be helpful in the war or not! For example: A doctor could help the wounded/bruised soldiers, A Cryptographer cracked codes if the Germans were sending letters in code, A Factory worker was NOT useful because they wouldn't be able to help the soldiers.

Later, the man got us to act as British and German soldiers. The most fun part (I'm guessing for everyone) was when we pretended to fight each other! He was very funny! In one of the last activities, we got to hold a REAL bullet.

Zain in 6S

Luckily, year 6 got to speak with some of the survivors of the second World War. Using the information of how it was in the war, year 6 wrote some gorgeous diaries about soldiers. On the other hand, year 6 enjoyed going to the residential home. We had a lot of fun talking and asking questions how people lived during the First and Second World Wars.

Maria in 6S



A cryptographer working on a code breaking machine.



When getting into Year 6, Bearbrook students are given more responsibilities as role models to the rest of the school. Choices are made for a Head Boy and Girl, Deputy Head Boy and Girl and then we have eight House Captains. Those that were chosen have briefly commented on what it means to each of them:

HEAD GIRL: Kairi

“When I got the position of Head Girl, I was really proud of myself. Since year 2, when I joined Bearbrook, I have gained more confidence and responsibilities. I feel so delighted that now I can represent the school and show good behaviour to others”.

“I want to achieve the goal of showing more people to Bearbrook, to encourage them to come to this great school, and make new students feel comfortable”.

HEAD BOY: William

“Many people could have been chosen, but I was. I feel ecstatic and powerful because I represent the school. This makes me proud with myself because people can look up to me”.

“When it’s break and lunch time, people sometimes leave litter around which pollutes the environment. There are a number of bins on the ground and I want for people to not leave their litter. If you see litter, pick it up and put it in the bin”.

DEPUTY Head Girl: Yvonne

“I am ecstatic and I can’t believe I am deputy head girl. I’ve been attending this school for 6 years. When I first started coming to Bearbrook, I was very shy but over the years this school helped me become more confident”.

“I would like to make the school a better place by making children confident and to not be shy, because there is no reason to not be confident and not to speak”.

DEPUTY Head Boy: Mohammad Dayeen

“I feel extremely proud that I have the chance to represent the school. I have been here since year 3 and Bearbrook has been really caring about me and made me feel comfortable. Therefore, it is the least I can do for Bearbrook. I was always a shy boy, however, the teachers and other children have taught me to have a voice and stand up for myself. I entered the school timid but will leave confident”.

“I want to encourage parents to enrol their children into Bearbrook. It is a magnificent school and I want everyone to realise it.”

HOUSE CAPTAIN: Flynn

"I feel great about being House Captain. I am so happy."

"I would like to say a big thank you to Mr Faulkner for choosing me and I will try my best when carrying out my duties. I hope that I get to read out house points, after the school hall is fixed."

"I'll try my hardest to win loads of house points for my house. I want to improve, getting more than last year."

HOUSE CAPTAIN: Dipannita

"I did not expect to be a House Captain. I volunteered for the Head Girl position and wrote my letter, regretting it afterwards and thinking it was a waste of time because I never get picked for anything. Even though I didn't get picked for Head Girl anyway, I felt ecstatic when I heard the news that I had been chosen as House Captain, I felt like I was on Cloud 9! I knew that I wanted this even more. Achieving this, has boosted my self-confidence and I feel honoured and swollen with pride to represent my House."

"My main aim is to encourage 'my house' to become better at everything and get them to realise that everything they do for their future, depends on them."

HOUSE CAPTAIN: Oliver

"I feel proud, excited and powerful about my role. I also feel a little guilty because there ARE other children who have proven that they can be a true role model for the school. However, I realised that I just have to deal with it and move on and be happy about it."

"I would like any next House Captain to look to me and feel that they would like to be me and just believe in yourself. If you do, you can achieve anything."

HOUSE CAPTAIN: Sanya

"I am proud that I got to be House Captain because there are many others that could have been selected, but I was the lucky one. When I found out the news, I was delighted."

"I would like to make children feel safe and welcomed all the time because it is very important to me AND the school. I would like to make it a place for children to be proud of and what they can do at Bearbrook."

HOUSE CAPTAIN:

"I am so happy and grateful to be representing my school. All I want is for school to be a happy place. I am so proud to be a House Captain. I have been here since Foundation. All I want is to be fair and kind to everyone. I would like to be the best House Captain."

HOUSE CAPTAIN: Ellis

"I was delighted when my name was called up and suddenly I wanted to improve 'my house' as we didn't do so well last year! I want to encourage people in 'my house' to work harder to push us in front of the other houses! I want us to strive for more points. I want people in 'my house' to realise that being good makes an impact on their 'house'."

HOUSE CAPTAIN: Maya

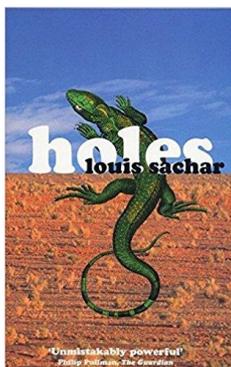
"I feel honoured to have this role. I have been attending Bearbrook since Reception and I feel like I am taking this role as a thank you to the school for helping my education. I am very proud of myself for accomplishing this position."

"I would like to make the school a better place by warmly welcoming new children. I would like to make 'my house' work hard to get more house points so they can feel proud of themselves."

HOUSE CAPTAIN: Elizabeth

"The feeling I have is really unexplainable because this school is a wonderful place to be. I am really proud that I was chosen."

"Bearbrook is an important place for me and I want other children to feel that too. Being House Captain has boosted my self-esteem and confidence and I want to make sure that other children's confidence is always there and that they have a voice."



Year 6 - Recommended Read:

'Holes' is a 1998 young adult mystery, comedy novel written by Louis Sachar and first published by Farrar, Straus and Giroux. The book centres around an unlucky teenage boy, named Stanley Yelnats, who is sent to Camp Green Lake, a juvenile corrections facility in a desert in Texas, after being falsely accused of theft.



During Autumn Term, Year 5 performed at the Aylesbury Waterside Theatre as part of the 2018 Energize Festival. 'History Matters' was a production celebrating famous figures in history. We are very proud of their achievements.



Due to the fantastic response to the **EYFS Phun with Phonics** sessions, we are putting more dates in the diary! These sessions are completely FREE, run by our own experienced staff and open to all parents in our FS classes, Pre-School families and any feeder nurseries too. If you want to join us for the next one (or come again if you attended the last one and want a refresher), then you would be most welcome. **Look out for the flyer in the New Year, to reserve your place!**

Dates and times for the sessions are:

Tuesday 12th February 9.30a.m. and 6.00p.m.

Tuesday 11th June 9.30a.m. and 6.00p.m.

Please share with family and friends as we are not just restricting these events to Bearbrook families. We work very closely with Aylesbury Day Nursery, Child First, Bright Start to name but a few and they are all welcome to attend.

Read some of our positive feedback from the November session -

"Valuable, an eye-opener, will be coming back to learn more, thank you!"

"I found it interesting and I feel confident to help my child with the letters and sounds.

Also, helping the children in our Pre School. Great tips and websites."

"Thank you. This was so helpful especially terms, techniques and resources. So much now makes sense with what my child has been doing."

Early Phonics Home Packs will be available for sale for £5 each.



After many years of service to the school as a Mid-day Supervisor, Denise Bray is now hanging up the whistle and cleaning cloth! We would like to wish her all the very best of wishes for a long and happy retirement and say a huge THANK YOU for all her hard work over the years.

We are also saying 'goodbye' to Menhas Badshah, another mid-day supervisor.



At the end of term, we will be saying Farewell & Good Luck to our two student teachers, Ben Saltzer and Justine Pettifer. They will be leaving us for a short while to carry on their training in another school. While they are gone, we will be welcoming two new trainees, Mrs Melissa Oldham who will be with Mrs Price's class and Mrs Kate Ashby who will be in Mrs Lane's class.

Also joining us for a few weeks will be student teacher, Elizabeth Adonu. She will be based in Mrs Burgess' class.

PLEASE - A REQUEST:



If, over Christmas, you find that you have an empty and unwanted sweet tub or two, we would be very grateful if you would consider bringing them to us at school. Just leave them at the reception office or ask your child to leave them in the kitchen area. Many thanks.



A GENTLE REMINDER:

At Bearbrook, we strive to encourage children to eat and drink healthily whilst in school. It has recently been noted that, at playtimes, children in KS2 are not eating the correct snacks!

Whilst we are happy for children to have crisps, chocolate biscuits and cakes as part of their packed lunches, {NO SWEETS PLEASE} we only allow fruits and vegetables for snacks at the morning break-time and only water to drink. Juice is for lunch time only.



It is with grateful thanks to the PTA – Friends @ Bearbrook, and staff, that we managed to put on a Christmas fayre on Friday 7th December. An amazing amount of £1080.54 profit was raised, despite the difficulties of not having the fayre in the hall this year. Well done and a BIG THANK YOU to everyone who came and supported this event and for those who gave their time to help out.

DIARY DATES FOR SPRING TERM 2019

Wednesday 19th December 2019	LAST DAY OF TERM	
Wednesday 2nd January 2019	Inset Day/Staff Training	SCHOOL CLOSED
Thursday 3rd January 2019	SCHOOL RE-OPENS TO CHILDREN	
Monday 7th January 2019	Yr3 London Science Museum & IMAX Screening trip	8.00a.m. - 5.00p.m.
Mon 14th - Fri 18th Jan 2019	Book Fair	after school
Tues 15th January 2019	Yr1 Tring Museum trip	during school
Thursday 17th January 2019	Parents' Evening	3.30p.m. - 8.00p.m.
Friday 18th January 2019	PTA BINGO NIGHT	7.00p.m.
Friday 25th January 2019	Mufti Day- in aid of Florence Nightingale Hospice	all day
Wednesday 30th January 2019	Yr4 St Albans Verulamium trip	during school
Friday 1st February 2019	Family Friday	9.15a.m. - 10.45a.m.
Monday 4th February 2019	School & Eco Council to visit St Mary's Church	during school
Tuesday 12th February 2019	EYFS Phun with Phonics workshop for parents/families	9.30a.m. & 6.00p.m.
Friday 15th February 2019	PTA - Bags to School	8.45a.m.
Friday 15th February 2019	PTA - Bake Off Results	3.30p.m.
Mon 18th - Fri 22nd Feb 2019	HALF TERM WEEK	school closed
Wednesday 27th February 2019	Yr3 Celtic Harmony trip	
Friday 1st March 2019	Family Friday	9.15a.m. - 10.45a.m.
Friday 1st March 2019	PTA - Disco	5.30 - 8.00p.m.
Friday 22nd March 2019	PTA - Pamper Night	7.00p.m.
Friday 29th March 2019	Class Photographs	during school
Mon 1st - Fri 5th April 2019	Book Fair	after school
Thursday 4th April 2019	PTA Chocolate Raffle - Playground	3.30p.m.
Friday 5th April 2019	Family Friday	9.15a.m. - 10.45a.m.
Friday 5th April 2019	Year 3 Trip - Discovery Centre	all day
Friday 5th April 2019	LAST DAY OF TERM	
Tuesday 23rd April 2019	INSET DAY/STAFF TRAINING	SCHOOL CLOSED
Wednesday 24th April 2019	SCHOOL RE-OPENS TO CHILDREN	
Thursday 25th April 2019	Parents' Evening	3.30p.m. - 8.00p.m.