

# Buckland St. Mary

## Church of England Primary School



10th November 2023

### A message from Ethne Staniland

Firstly, I would like to say a big thank you to all of you - the Buckland family - for welcoming me so warmly as I begin my phased return to work as Head of School. Children, staff and parents have all been so kind and friendly. The children especially have made me smile every day. We've had a jam packed week this week with a postponed Harvest service and our Remembrance service too. I think you'll all agree that the children performed beautifully, created some fantastic artwork and were a credit to you and their school. The school has been a hive of activity over the past couple of weeks and it has been great to hear the children talk about what they have been learning with such enthusiasm. I can't believe that I am mentioning the 'C' word already but the children have also been busy working with Mrs Williams from Somerset Music to learn songs in preparation for our Christmas carols by candlelight on Tuesday 5th December. We look forward to welcoming you then. It was great to meet and talk to so many of you at our recent parents' evening - if you haven't had a chance to introduce yourself please do come and speak to me - my door is always open.



Our Values for this week:

**CREATIVE**

Revelation 4:11

"Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created."



Buckland St Mary Remembrance Service with  
Rev. Nick Jerrett



This school is part of the The Redstart Learning Partnership, a Multi Academy Trust of primary schools in Somerset.

### Dates for your Diary

- 17th November – Children In Need
- 23rd November – Non uniform day in exchange for luxury hamper items (FoBS)
- 23rd November – Buckland School Christmas Fayre
- 24th November – INSET day
- 25th November – Buckland Bizarre (FoBS)
- 7th December – Save the Children
- 7th December – Christmas Jumper Day
- 7th December – Christmas Lunch
- 7th December – Carols by Candlelight
- 15th December – Class Christmas Parties  
Head of school: Ethne Staniland

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## **News from the Trust**

With half-term already a distant memory, the clocks having changed and Guy Fawkes night just behind us, we now begin the long run into the Christmas period. No doubt rehearsals are already beginning for nativity plays and Christmas extravaganzas across the Trust.

For trustees, this is a bittersweet time. We are enormously proud of our schools, our staff and our wonderful children, but this will be our last Christmas with everyone under the TRLP umbrella. Our schools will move to Cabot Learning Federation (CLF) and to Academies for Character and Excellence (ACE) on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2024, as we hand the responsibility and rewards on to them to take the schools forward.

Both trusts have an amazing track record and we, as trustees, are confident that both children and staff will further blossom and develop under their leadership and guidance.

While the nitty gritty business of making the transfers happen continues, with TUPE consultations for staff and a lot of behind the scenes work to ensure things like school dinners happen, the real work of education carries on day in and day out in every classroom.

We are delighted that Holy Trinity has just gained a good Ofsted judgement and, with Winsham having had their inspection last week, we have fingers crossed for more good news, hopefully before the end of term.

Thank you to all parents for your ongoing support at this unusual and hectic time. I will write a further piece to sign off at the end of term.

Tess Gale

TRLP Board Chair

## **Ash Class**

Ash Class have been busy! Over the past few weeks, we have begun our new focus in Literacy. This half term we have begun to look at setting descriptions. We have been introduced to 'The Night Pirates' and will be working our way to writing a new page for the story, where we describe the mysterious island the pirates are found hiding their treasure on. We will then go on to design our own setting destination and Year 1 will also write a descriptive paragraph.

In Maths, Reception have been learning about the number 6. They have been finding the value of 6, subitising 6 and adding numbers together to make 6. Year 1 have been learning to add and subtract and will be working within 30.

In Science, we have started to look at Animal Classification, where we will be considering different ways to classify animals. Ash Class have already begun their learning with looking at Mammals, Reptiles, Fish, Amphibians and Insects.

We are learning about two Great Explorers in History this half term. We will be delving into the routes taken by Christopher Columbus and Matthew Henson, and reflect on the impact their discoveries made upon our world.

In the coming weeks, Ash Class will begin DT where we will be learning about Cooking and Nutrition. We will be planning to make fruit Kebabs and a vegetable soup.

Thank you for your continued support with reading at home. It makes all the difference in fostering a love of reading amongst Ash Class.

## ***Miss Luesley***



## Oak Class

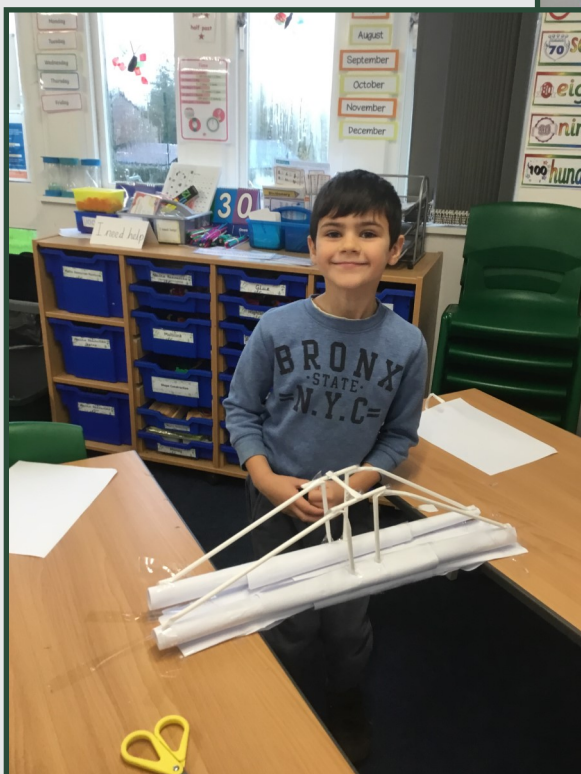
Since our last newsletter in October we have been very busy. In English we have been looking at ways to persuade - especially for the children to have a late night - I wonder if they succeeded? This unit will finish shortly when we will start to look at our new book 'Winter's Child.' In maths the class are working hard on their learning with place value and number still being taught in year 3. They are slowly gaining confidence with working in 3 digits numbers up to 1000. Year 2 have just started looking at new 2d shapes that they haven't come across before.

In history we are learning about our local area, in particular the history of the school and the church. This week we have also looked closely at the houses in Rectory Road and the different stones and roofs that were used. I'm not sure who is more excited about this topic - me or the children!

We are still busy rehearsing for the Harvest Festival and by the time you read this it would have already happened. Our next big event is Christmas and we are lucky that a lovely lady is going to be helping the children with their singing on Monday mornings. Get ready for your child to start singing!

I must also mention the Open the Book assemblies held at the church each week. The children are so eager to have an 'acting part' and it is such a lovely way we can bring the bible and its stories to life.

### **Mrs Henning**



## **Beech Class**

Beech class have had a positive start to the new term, warmly welcoming me (Mrs Marriott) into the class and helping me to feel settled within the school.

We have been incredibly busy, starting our new topic of World War 2 in History and across the wider curriculum. The pupils have been enthusiastic and eager to share their prior knowledge of the topic, I look forward to continuing to hear more as we progress through the term.

In English our new focus text is 'Rose Blanche' and the children have been using their inference skills to predict key information about the text. We will be continuing to learn more about the story throughout the term, using what we have learned to write our own version of the story from the point of view of another character.

In Maths Year 6 have been focusing on Multiplication and Division, which has at times been tricky, but all of the pupils have shown great perseverance when practising the skills both during the input and when working independently. Year 4 and 5 have been learning about Decimals and have shown fantastic knowledge of Place Value, recalling what they had previously learned and applying it to a new area of learning.

In the coming weeks, Year 6 will be moving on to understanding Fractions, Decimals and Percentages, Year 4 and 5 will be using a range of Addition and Subtraction strategies, both mental and formal written methods.

In Science our topic this term is 'Changes and properties of materials.' We will be looking at the uses of materials and investigating the effectiveness of these materials for different purposes. Throughout the term we will be proposing solutions to a variety of different issues, such as 'Which materials will be best used for soundproofing?'

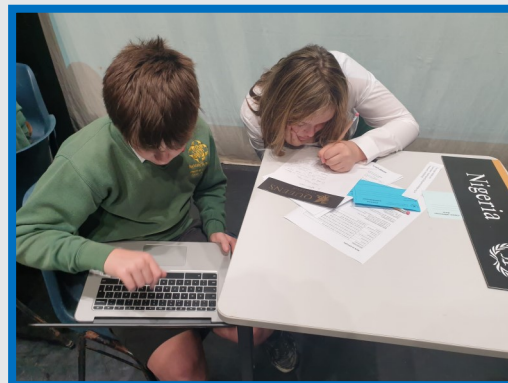
The responses and evidence collected will form an advice column for a materials based magazine called 'Materials Matter.'

This week, the Year 6 pupils were invited to attend Queen's College to take part in a Mini Model UN debate day. The pupils represented our school fantastically, and were fully engaged with researching and sharing their ideas. Well done to you all!

It was lovely to meet many of you at parents' evening, and I look forward to getting to know the children and families throughout the year.

**Mrs Marriott**





**Year 6**  
**Queens MUN**  
**Day**

Thanks to FoBS for funding the transport for this opportunity for the children.

## Willow Nursery

We have started the term at a fast pace, and not really slowed down! We have been looking at Halloween, bonfire night and remembrance, talking about what we have seen and what it all means.



We have been observing the children engaging in a lot of role play over the past few weeks, playing mums and dads, buses/ going on holidays, and cafes. The children have been encouraging each other to join in and offer ideas to extend the play. These skills are a vital part of the children's development so it is lovely to see.



As always there has been a lot of messy play! The children have loved exploring making slime and putty, mark making in coloured rice, and of course experimenting in the mud kitchen!

The children are really starting to get to grips with numbers and understanding what they are. This week we have been looking at the number 3, finding three objects, and doing fantastic counting.

From next week we will be thinking about Christmas (Sorry, not sorry!!!)

**Mrs Napper**

## FoBS



We've started off November with our second biggest fundraiser, spooky disco. It was well attended and we've managed to raise a fantastic amount which will help pay towards the panto coming into the school. Thank you to all who came, helped and donated prizes. Everyone had a great time!

There is a Christmas bizarre in Buckland hall on 25th November 2-4 pm, we'd love to see lots of faces there.

We also have a stall at Chard guildhall on Saturday 9th December, with lots of other fun and exciting stalls from other schools too so please come along and get into the festive spirit with us and hopefully raise lots of money for future events.

Donations of mince pies for carols by candle light and the community carol service would be greatly appreciated.

Non uniform day on 23rd November in exchange for luxury items for the Christmas hampers.



## **FoBS Cash Prize Draw**



*Cash prize draw winners for November:*

*1 st place : Noah Thompson*

*2 nd place: Sophie Scale*

If you would like to join in with the cash draw please speak to a member of FoBS or ask in the office.



## **Forest School**

Forest School sessions have been a bit hit and miss of late due to the typical British weather we are having, meaning that instead of being up in the woods, we have had to stay on site and predominantly in the classrooms to stay safe. This has not stopped us having fun though! We have been den building, having bridge building competitions, learning knot tying skills, and playing games.

Going forward, as long as it is not too windy, we will be venturing off site, so it is imperative that that children are suitably dressed with warm clothes and water proofs, and have a spare change of clothes with them to get changed into when we are back on site.

***Mrs Napper***



## The Blackdown Benefice

"Come, ye thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home; all is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin."

I'm sure you are familiar with those well know words from the hymn come, ye thankful people, come. And gosh, the winter storms certainly began in earnest over the last few weeks! But I hope that you all managed to stay safely gathered in; and that you weren't too badly affected by the wind and rain.

And on these lines, as I write this I have just returned from the School Harvest Festival. It was a wonderful celebration of God's generous harvest gifts, and the talent we have in school - as the pupils showed off their baking skills with harvest loaves of bread, beautifully read poems and prayers, art work that that would proudly hang in any gallery - and of course what would any harvest be without "Big Red Combine Harvester" sung by the whole school...and one or two parents I noticed!!

In the next few days we will also be gathering for our Remembrance Commemorations. During this time, we will call to mind those who have given their lives so that "we might live today". And also give thanks for all our armed forces, for their service and the sacrifice that they make towards world peace.

So let me end with some words from Jesus, as we look forward now to the busy season of Advent.

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you"

**Revd. Nick**



### **Attendance Breakdown: (for this month)**

Ash - 96.76

Oak - 94.74%

Beech - 92.98%

**Whole School - 95.39%**

### **Safeguarding Updates-**

#### **Our School Vision**

'That they may have life, life in all its fullness.' John 10:10

At BSM C of E Primary School everyone matters. We strive to be an inclusive community providing an outstanding education for all. Our lives are enriched through the teaching of Christian Values to grow as global citizens in an ever-changing world.

#### **Safeguarding**

Safeguarding is high priority at Buckland St Mary Primary School. We take every opportunity to ensure that our pupil's safety is paramount. We want our pupils to be healthy and happy and to develop well, both physically and mentally. The school follows the latest Government Guidance to ensure we are fulfilling our duties in this important area.

Our Designated Lead (DSL) and contact at School is Ethne Staniland and our Deputy Safeguarding Leads are Nadine Luesley and Kelly Napper.

Our school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy can be found online at:  
[www.bucklandstmaryceprimaryschool.co.uk/577/safeguarding](http://www.bucklandstmaryceprimaryschool.co.uk/577/safeguarding)

If you have any concerns about the safety of a child you can either talk to our DSL or DDSLs or you may phone Somerset Direct on 0300 123 2224.

There is lots of online safety advice on our website – please follow [this link](#) to help keep your child safe.

#### **Contact Information**

If you change any of your contact details, please inform the school office as soon as possible so that we may update our records. It is imperative that we have up to date details at all times.

**The School office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9am-2pm. On Wednesdays, the phone and email account are managed by Castle Primary school.**

**Phone: 01460 234251    Email: [Buckland@redstartpartnership.co.uk](mailto:Buckland@redstartpartnership.co.uk)**