

Buckland St. Mary

Church of England Primary School



30th April 2024

A message from Ethne Staniland

As the school year moves rapidly past and we transition into the summer term, I find myself reflecting back on the year so far. It is a real privilege to be part of the learning journey that our children undertake. I'm consistently amazed by their ability to apply their skills and knowledge, forging connections that broaden their understanding of the world. Witnessing the growth of all our children, as learners, is immensely rewarding. It's a joy to observe them deeply engaged in their learning enquiries across all our teaching spaces, whether it's our youngest ones exploring their rain gauges outdoors, our middle year groups observing cows and calves to learn about how plants and animals rely on each other through or our oldest engaging in debates to express their perspectives. Together, we are nurturing young minds and shaping the future. Every moment in school contributes to their growth and development and I feel privileged to be part of their journey. Keep up the wonderful work Team Buckland!



Our Values for this week:



The Photo of the Week



Buckland St Marys First 'Praise and Share' Assembly was led by Ash Class

Dates for your Diary

- 6th May- Bank Holiday
- 11th May- FoBS Plant Sale 11am-1pm
- W/C 13th May- KS2 SATS Week
- 17th May- FoBS Movie Night- more info to follow!
- 21st May- School Class and Leaver Photos
- Monday 27th May- Bank Holiday
- 28th-31st May- May Holidays
- 3rd- 4th June- INSET Days
- 12th June- Quad Kids
- 14th June- FoBS Family Bingo

Head of School- Mrs Ethne Staniland

Buckland St Mary C of E Primary School

Buckland St Mary

Chard

Somerset

Email: admin.buckland@acexcellence.co.uk

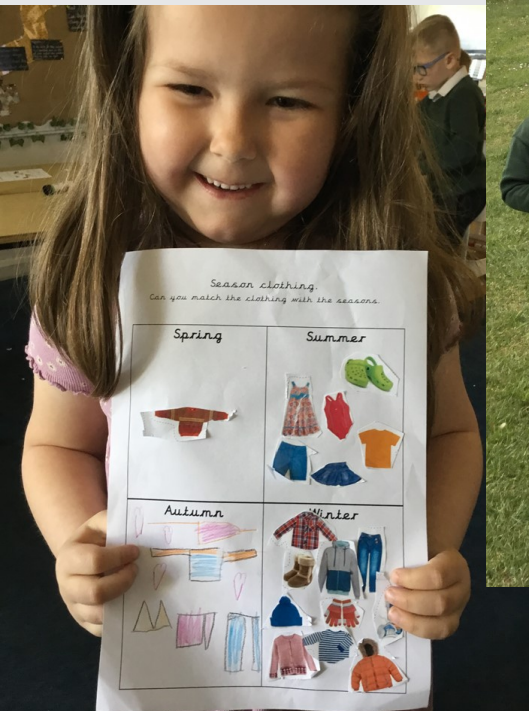
Phone: 01460 234251



academies for character and excellence

Ash Class

What a month! Ash Class have returned from their Easter Break energetic and eager to learn. We are currently in the middle of our latest enquiry question, Why does our school garden change when the season changes? We have learned about the four seasons in the UK and the types of weather we would expect to see in each season. We have thought about the clothing farmers would wear across the year and how the landscape, crops and animal habitats change with the seasons. We have also started an experiment; How much rain will fall in Buckland over the next two weeks? We have made rain gauges and placed these in the school field. We have been checking these three times a week to see how many more CM of water is in our gauges. In Literacy, Reception have been writing sentences to describe the different seasons and local wildlife and Year 1 have been writing questions linked to our enquiry and are in the process of creating local wildlife fact files. In Maths, Year one are revisiting addition and subtraction within 40 and Reception are moving onto sharing objects and numbers into equal groups. Thank you for your continued support with homework and reading. For every 4 reads written in the reading record, earns a teampoint#1



Oak Class

We have started the Summer term with our new science and English linked enquiry where we are learning all about habitats and microhabitats in our local area. Through our new enquiry, we are answering the question: 'Why do animals live in our locality?' The children have been busy looking for the habitats in our school grounds and they went on an animal hunt carrying out an investigation. Unfortunately, we did not find as many as we had predicted, but we thought that could have been down to the weather!

As part of our learning enquiry, we were also fortunate to have one of our local farming families bring two calves to school to talk about how cows are dependent on grass to produce milk (thank you!). This was a fantastic opportunity that really brought the children's learning to life as they understood how plants and animals are dependent on each other. For example, the children found out that cow pats are microhabitats for hundreds of bugs and are a necessary part of the food chain! They recorded their experience in their learning journals. When they shared this with Mrs Staniland later in the week, she was impressed with how they could confidently articulate what they had learned.

The children went on to work in groups to collaborate and use the information they found to make their own 'spotter's guides' for the different areas in our grounds. They are beginning to write detailed descriptions using exciting adjectives and expanded noun phrases and will be looking closely to draw their own scientific drawings too. Oak Class are looking forward to sharing their guides with the rest of the school so they can use them to go on their own animal hunts.

The class are enjoying presenting their learning journey in their journals and they are taking great care to present their work to a high standard – well done for showing pride in your work Oak Class!

In maths, the Year 2s have completed their unit on money and have moved onto statistics where they are learning to interpret different charts and tables. The Year 3s are completing their work focusing on multiplication and division and learning to use different strategies to help them make it easier to work out. Lastly, just a reminder that we recommend that children complete 3 mins of TT Rockstars a day at home. This really does build and support their instant recall of their times tables. The 'Garage' game will test them on the times table that they are personally working on. If you have lost your child's log-in, then please do get in touch for a replacement. Thank you for all your support.



Beech Class

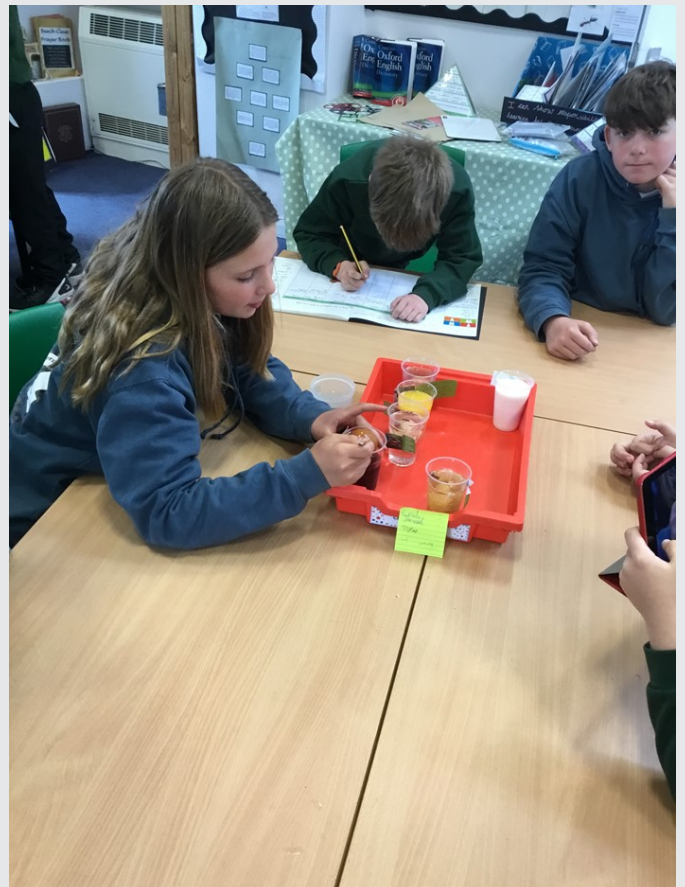
In Beech class we ended our previous History enquiry by debating the question 'Would Buckland St Mary School exist without Henry VIII?' The pupils were all keen to share their views and gave strong, considered arguments to support their views. It wasn't a clear answer as we recognised that schools were very different in Tudor times, but we all agreed that Henry VIII influenced the introduction of the Church of England, so he definitely had an influence in our school being here as it is today!

We have since moved on to our new Science enquiry 'What choices can I make to keep myself healthy?' We have investigated the effects of sugary and acidic drinks on our teeth using eggs. The pupils have shown maturity in their approach to the science investigation, ensuring that they are creating a fair test environment. So far, we have found that we never want to drink energy drinks!

We are also investigating how much sugar we find in different foods and drinks. Some of the foods were quite surprising, and we were shocked to see how sneaky some companies can be, suggesting that their product is healthy whilst adding lots of hidden sugars.

Look out for our healthy lifestyle information leaflets which will be displayed in the foyer soon!

Our Year 6's are practising hard for their SATs and we are all wishing them well for their assessments on the week commencing 13th May!



Willow Nursery

We have had a busy few weeks back already, welcoming new children, who are settling well. We have been enjoying the little glimpses of sunshine that have happened, and are coming up with new sun dances in the hope that we can persuade the sun to come out even more.

Our biggest news this term so far is that, thanks to Ms Dore's hard work, we can officially say that we have passed the SASP Physical Development Audit, and are now an accredited Physical Development setting! This is a fantastic achievement and proves that we offer fantastic physical development opportunities for our children.

We are continuing to enhance our outside space, and we hope that you have all noticed the work that is happening. It is already proving popular with the children who are using the space to play and learn.

Our big focus this term will be school readiness. We will be supporting the children that will be starting school in September to complete tasks independently and take ownership over their learning and self-care. We will be sending home information sheets for parents so that we can work in partnership to support the young people in their transitions.

In the Nursery, we are continuing to learn about caring for animals and different habitats by watching our tadpoles grow and change. The Children have been describing what they can see, and predicting what they think they will see next.

As always, please come in and see what the children have been up to, and if you have any questions or queries then please see us. Thank you for your ongoing support. It is appreciated.



Forest School

This term we will be focusing on building our on-site Forest School area. We have just planted a willow fence that provides a barrier for the area. The children in Oak class worked extremely hard to plant the willow. They then went on to learn how to weave sheep hurdles from willow and build an impressive den using their knot tying skills. All three classes have had the chance to get up into the woods and have been learning about mandalas. The children have produced some very impressive designs of their own.

We are on the lookout for any spare pieces of wood, pallets, materials, tools etc that can be used in the area, so if you have anything lying around, please bring it in!



FoBS

"We've recently had our Easter bingo, which was a great success, thank you to every one who came, we all had a lot of fun and a fantastic amount of money was raised too! As this was such a great night FoBS have organised another! This will be on 14th June at BSM village hall, doors opening 7pm for eyes down at 7.30. We look forward to you all joining us again!

Other dates for your diary's:

- Plant sale and a bacon roll - School playground 11th May 11-1pm
- Summer fair - At school, 13th July 12-3pm

Prize draw winners for:

April

1st - Lexi Dodge

2nd -Max Chesworth

May:

1st- Noah Thompson

2nd-Kelly Napper

Blackdown Benefice

Well, it's been another busy and interesting start to the new school term! Revd, Jim and I have continued to come into school, now on a Wednesday to deliver our weekly assembly. This term we will be thinking about leadership, and how all of us can be good leaders in our school, village and home communities.

Our Open the Book performances continued to be enjoyed, both by the children, staff, and actors alike! At the end of last term, we performed a very dramatic retelling of the Easter story, sharing the sadness of the Cross, and the joy of the Resurrection. And now, joining in with our assembly theme, we are thinking about great leaders in the Bible, initially focusing on St Paul.

And speaking of Easter, it was wonderful to see the church full of pupils and parents, as we celebrated our annual school Easter Service with fabulous artwork, prayers and songs – culminating with Rev. Jim's favourite, I'm a Spring Chicken! As I write Nick Lewis, and I are also making our final preparations to go out to Zambia for three weeks to see our friend Father John. We hope this will be a fun time for us both, but also that we will return having formed a link between Buckland St Mary, and a school out there. I'm sure there will be many stories to tell on our return, so I look forward to updating you next month about how we got along!

All my prayers and blessings

Revd. Nick

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) is Ethne Staniland and our Deputy DLS's 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

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.

Phone: 01460 234251 Email: admin.buckland@acexcellence.co.uk