

September
2024

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



Buckland St Mary C of E Primary School



A MESSAGE FROM MRS STANILAND

Dear Parents & Carers

Welcome to our first newsletter of the year, particularly all our new parents. Our new reception children have made a brilliant start to their school journey and we are so pleased that you are with us! Please do take time to read this monthly newsletter. We try to include not just information about school and FoBs events, but also each class includes some of their class learning.

The start of a new academic year brings excitement and opportunities for our pupils to learn new knowledge and take on new challenges. It has been wonderful to see the children return full of energy and excitement for the year ahead settling into their classes, seeing their friends and making new ones.

Buckland has been a hive of activity and we are only 3 full weeks into the school year. Our wonderful teaching team have been busy planning engaging enquiries that will inspire curiosity, collaboration and creativity in their classes. The development of our new on-site forest school area is well underway, with the children helping to shape this and take ownership of our environment.



**Citizenship is our character gateway
Making a difference to my home, school, community and the wider world through showing compassion, empathy and drive**

The renewed menu from our new catering provider Aspens has proven to be a big hit already with delicious smells coming from the lunch hall every day.

Lastly a reminder, if you haven't already followed us do take a look at our school Facebook page where we share key information through our weekly 'week ahead' posts.

Have a wonderful weekend,

Mrs Staniland



Ash Class

MISS NADINE LUESLEY



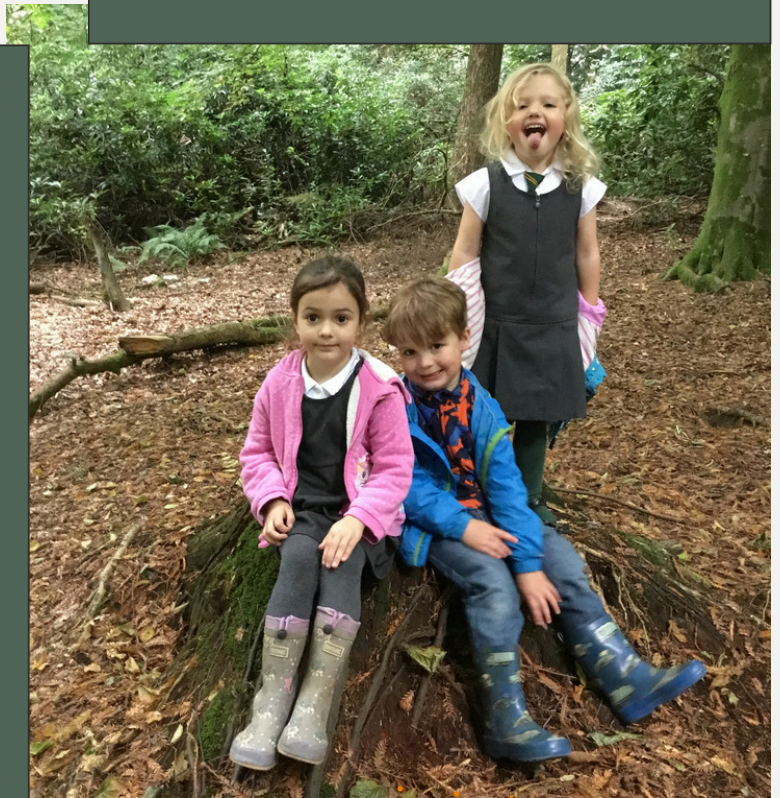
Welcome back to the Autumn Term! Ash Class have settled back into the classroom amazingly. Reception have blown us away with how quickly they have settled into school. Year 1 have stepped up to be great role models. Well done Ash Class!

Over the past few weeks, Reception have been introduced to phonics and have learnt the following sounds, m,a,s,d,t,i,n,p. Keep an eye on Class Dojo for the clips of each sound 😊. Reception have also been working hard to write their names and hold their pencils in the tri-pod grip. Reception have been working hard to remember a few catchy counting songs. We have been singing 10 fat sausages, 5 little speckled frogs and many more.

In Maths, Year 1 have been revisiting place value. We have been counting objects, ensuring we count them accurately to answer longer questions. Year 1 have been working hard on their number formation of 20's, 30's, 40's and 50's numbers, making sure to write the ten first followed by the one.

In our writing, Year 1 have been including adjectives to make their sentences more exciting. We have been focusing on building longer sentences, remembering to include capital letters and full stops.

Over the coming weeks, our enquiry is all about the seasons and recognising key changes to the weather as we move into autumn. We will be looking into suitable clothing for each season and how our Buckland landscape changes.



Hello
autumn



Oak Class



**MRS HENNING AND
MRS STANILAND**



Would you believe that we have been back just over 3 weeks already. The children have settled in well into their new year group. School days go so fast with lots of learning and fun.

The children have been Geographers the last few weeks learning about the South-West of the UK in more details.

They have learnt the names of the SW counties and the features that can be found in each county.

They are working well together and the year 3's have been amazing at helping the year 2's to settle in.

To showcase their learning, the children are going to be putting together a power point presentation and learn some computer skills at the same time.

PE has been a great hit with an afternoon each week and a cricket lesson on Wednesdays which the children really enjoy.

In RE we have been learning about Noah and the Great Flood and in maths we have started our term looking at place value and using a lot of concrete resources to reinforce the learning. We are also busy practising our singing for Harvest Festival in October!



Beech Class



MRS WELLS-BURR
AND MRS HENNING



Beech Class have had an excellent start to our Autumn Term! We have been super busy with lots of exciting things happening.

On Wednesdays we have been having cricket sessions with Chance to Shine. Beech Class have been developing our skills with bowling, batting and fielding through playing some great games!

Beech Class have also been having Forest School Sessions every Wednesday afternoon with Becky. They have made HUGE changes to our forest school area on the field, and it is looking brilliant. This week they had a focus on shelters, it was well suited to the wet weather we had!

AUTUMN

In our afternoons, Beech Class have been Geographers. So far, we have been finding about our location in the world, the continents and oceans and tectonic plates. We will be looking at the features of different countries in the coming weeks and the affect this has on them.

In maths, we have been looking at place value. Year 4 have been learning about 4 digit numbers, Year 5 have been learning about 5 and 6 digit numbers and Year 6 have been learning about numbers up to 10 million.

We are all moving onto looking at the addition and subtraction in the next week.



Willow Nursery



MRS NAPPER



We have loved welcoming back children old and new! Every child has settled well, and they have all enjoyed telling us about their adventures over the summer.

This half term we are focussing on the theme of 'Our Family'. We are talking about who is important to us, and looking at similarities and differences between ourselves, friends and family. We would encourage you all to send in photos of family members / special people and pets to us so that we can print them and add them to our display.

As always, we are a free flow setting, promoting outdoor play, learning and exploration, whatever the weather. Therefore, please ensure you send children with appropriate wet weather clothing, and a couple of changes of clothes!!





A VERY warm welcome back from all of your new committee members, and an especially big “Welcome” to those who join our wonderful school community for the first time. “Welcome” and “Welcome to FoBS”, (Friends of Buckland School).

You’ll see some familiar faces as well as some new ones joining the team, and we wanted to take this opportunity to introduce ourselves and put names to faces.

A special THANK YOU to those who have sadly left the team for all of your hard work, as well as those who remain on the committee, and to everyone for your collective efforts in keeping school funds topped up to allow us to continue to enrich our school, our teachers and our children’s learning.

Wow, where does the time go? We’re already three weeks into the new school year and we held our first fundraiser, raising £45.20 from the doughnut and watermelon sale. Thank you for your support. With this in mind, we are encouraging more home bakes and healthy options, such as watermelon and fruit kebabs. Thank you everyone who consistently donates and bakes. Please encourage others to get involved too! We truly appreciate it. We are always grateful for everyone’s donations.

Please do keep an eye out for more upcoming dates coming from us very soon, including our ever-popular SPOOKY Disco!

Fundraising is always a top priority for us, and we continually welcome new ideas!

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, 10th October at 3.15pm at School. We warmly invite you to join us at our first meeting. It’s a great opportunity to meet the team, ask questions, share your ideas and help make a positive impact on our school community. We always welcome help, whether big or small, and would greatly appreciate any extra assistance at any fundraisers. We look forward to seeing you there. If you are unable to attend a meeting but would like to share ideas, offer help, or have any questions, please feel free to reach out to any of us.

Your input and ideas are invaluable as we work together to support our school community. Come and be part of the conversation and help make a difference!

Jennie Farmer
Secretary

This month’s 100 Club winners are: -

1st Prize £10 Amber Dodge

2nd Prize £5 Maya Keates

£2.50 entry to be paid monthly into the FoBs bank account via standing order.

If you would like to be added to / or increase your monthly prize draw, please speak to a member of FoBs.





FoBS Cash Prize Draw



Hello everyone!

Don't Forget! As Friends of Buckland School we launched a monthly Cash Prize Draw, giving you the chance of winning a cash prize of (1st) £10 and (2nd) £5 **EVERY MONTH.**

A **GUARANTEED** cash winner every month!

Not only does this give supporters a chance to win, but it also easily contributes funds back to the schools' fundraising efforts, directly benefitting our children and our school community.

Don't miss out – you've got to be in it to win it!

We greatly need your ongoing support. This is a fantastic and easy way to contribute to the school with just a **monthly payment of £2.50**. We encourage as many parents, family members, friends and generous community members to please get involved.

The next prize draw will be drawn in October 2024.

Entries are £2.50 each and a counter with your name will be entered each month for each £2.50 paid, eg. £5 per month would be two entries, two counters. There is no limit to the number of entries. You might even want to increase your chances!

1st and 2nd prizes of £10 and £5 will be drawn monthly by the school children.

Your payments can be made in an annual lump sum (£30 for one entry per month for a year/ £60 for two entries per month for a year) or monthly by standing order.

Cheques made payable to:

Bank details:

Friends of Buckland St Mary School

Friends of Buckland St Mary School

Lloyds

Sort code **30 96 26**

Account number **21465368**

Please use 'FoBS prize draw' as your payment reference

If paying annually by cheque please write your name and contact number on the back of your cheque. If setting up a monthly standing order or making a one-off bank payment please send an email confirming your payment to our FoBS treasurer Nikki Scale via nikkinoodle9@hotmail.com and CC our Chair Jessica Hodges via tom.hodges27@gmail.com

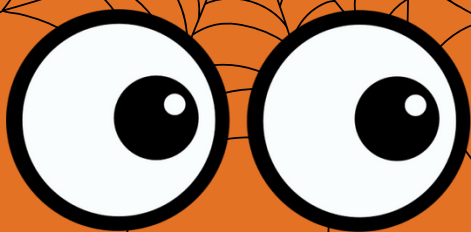
If anyone has any further questions, please give Jessica a call on 07901 861 037.

***A GREAT BIG THANK YOU FOR YOUR NEW OR CONTINUED SUPPORT,
"THANK YOU"***

Upcoming Events This Month

Friday 11 th October	Harvest Festival, St Mary's Church 9am
Friday 4 th October	School Photos (portraits and siblings) back up day
Monday 7 th October	Holyrood Roadshow (5:30pm at Buckland St Mary Primary School)
Wednesday 9 th October	Stockland Cross Country (letters sent to those taking part)
Thursday 3 rd October	National Poetry Day: The theme is 'Counting'
Thursday 10 th October	#HelloYellow World Mental Health Day (for Young Minds)
Monday 17 th October	Flu Vaccination Programme
Wednesday 23 rd October (Time TBC)	Parents' Evenings (details to follow)
Thursday 24 th October	FoBS Non- Uniform Day/ Crazy Hair
Thursday 24 th October	Break up for half term
Thursday 24 th October	FoBS Spooky Disco 3:30-5:30pm
Friday 25 th October	INSET day

LOOK OUT FOR THE
FOBS SPOOKY
DISCO POSTER...



School Information Board

EVERY DAY COUNTS!

School and future success starts with good attendance!



Remember - your education is important - don't miss out!

Attendance

Whole School - 97.62%

Ash - 95.96%

Oak - 97.71%

Beech - 98.35%



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

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 DSL'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.

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.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

WHATSAPP

AGE RESTRICTION

16+

With more than two billion active users, WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service. Its end-to-end encryption only allows messages to be viewed by the sender and any recipients: not even WhatsApp itself can read them. The UK's Online Safety Bill proposes to end such encryption on private messaging, but for the time being, this controversial feature remains.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

EVOLVING SCAMS

WhatsApp's popularity makes it a lucrative hunting ground for scammers. Recent examples include posing as the target's child, requesting a money transfer because of a spurious 'emergency' – plus a scam where fraudsters trigger a verification message by attempting to log in to your account, then (posing as WhatsApp) call or text to ask you to repeat the code back to them, giving them access.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

To start a chat, someone only needs the mobile number of the WhatsApp user that they want to message. Therefore, if a child has ever given their number out to someone they don't know, that person could then contact them via WhatsApp. It's also possible that the child might be added to a group chat or community (by one of their friends, for example) containing other people that they don't know.

CHAT LOCK

In 2023, WhatsApp introduced a feature that lets users keep their chats in a separate 'locked chats' folder, saved behind their phone's passcode, fingerprint or face ID authentication. They subsequently developed an additional feature – 'Secret Code' – where users set a unique password for their locked chats. Unfortunately, this function creates the potential for young people to hide conversations and content they suspect their parents wouldn't approve of (such as age-inappropriate material).

COMMUNITIES AND GROUPS

A community is a collection of related groups on WhatsApp. They can consist of thousands of users. Communities can often be used by scammers to target large groups, hoping someone clicks on their link or responds to their requests. In communities and groups, there are multiple ongoing conversations, which results in pressure to respond. Members – even if they are not each other's contacts – will be able to see any messages sent into the group.

'VIEW ONCE' CONTENT

The ability to send images or messages that can only be viewed once has led to some WhatsApp users sharing inappropriate material or abusive texts, knowing that the recipient can't re-open them later to use as evidence of misconduct. People used to be able to screenshot this disappearing content – but a recently added WhatsApp feature now blocks this, citing protection of privacy.

FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp's connectivity and ease of use allows news to be shared rapidly – whether it's true or not. To combat the spread of misinformation, messages forwarded more than five times on the app now display a "Forwarded many times" label and a double arrow icon. This makes users aware that the message they've just received is far from an original... and might not be entirely factual, either.

VISIBLE LOCATION

WhatsApp's 'live location' feature lets users share their current whereabouts, which can be helpful for friends meeting up or parents checking that their child is safe while out, for example. However, anyone in a user's contacts list or in a mutual group chat can also track their location – potentially letting strangers identify a child's home address or journeys that they make regularly.

Advice for Parents & Educators

EMPHASISE CAUTION

Encourage children to treat unexpected messages with caution: get them to consider whether it sounds like something a friend or relative would really send them. Make sure they know never to share personal details over WhatsApp, and to be wary of clicking on any links in messages. Setting up two-step verification adds a further layer of protection to their WhatsApp account.

ADJUST THE SETTINGS

WhatsApp settings to specify which of their contacts can add them to group chats without needing approval. You can give permission to 'My Contacts' or 'My Contacts Except ...'. Additionally, if a child needs to use 'live location', emphasise that they should enable this function for only as long as they need – and then turn it off.

DISCUSS GROUP CHATS

Make children aware that there could be members of a group that they don't know well and that words can be misinterpreted. Encourage them to leave a good impression, to avoid joining in if conversations turn towards bullying, and to respond to such situations in an appropriate way. Make sure they know that it's OK to leave a group chat if it makes them uncomfortable – or for any reason, in fact.

THINK BEFORE SHARING

Help children understand why it's important to stop and think before posting or forwarding something on WhatsApp. It's easy – and all too common – for content that a user posts to be shared more widely, even publicly on social media. Encourage children to consider how an impulsive message or forwarding might damage their reputation or upset a friend who sent something to them in confidence.

CHAT ABOUT PRIVACY

Check in with the child about how they're using WhatsApp, making sure they know you only have their safety at heart. If you spot a 'Locked Chats' folder, you might want to talk about the sort of content they've stored in there, who they're talking to, and why they want to keep these chats hidden. Also, if children send any 'view once' content, it could be helpful to ask them why.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



...HEY
OS #WakeUp
Wednesday

The National College

Source: <https://blog.whatsapp.com/an-open-letter> | <https://faq.whatsapp.com/1077018839582332> | https://faq.whatsapp.com/361005896189245/?helpref=hc_fnav | <https://www.whatsapp.com/security> | <https://blog.whatsapp.com/chat-lock-making-your-most-intimate-conversations-even-more-private> | <https://www.aura.com/learn/whatsapp-scams>