

Bures Primary CEVC School

Update for the Parish Councils – November 2021

Safely back to school for a new academic year and welcoming our new to Reception children; but mindful of the Suffolk covid footprint extra precautionary measures are once again in place to help prevent the spread of the virus.

Despite the covid backdrop, it has been a busy term this far.

The newly appointed School Council has met and what a treat it was. The new council members were full of great ideas about the things they want to get done and were particularly thrilled to receive their School Council badges which they wear with pride! Each classroom now has a school council suggestions box, so all our pupils are able to offer their ideas and suggestions for ways to improve and develop our provision. We hope that this early taste of democracy in action will help the children to realise that they can make a difference and that their voice will be heard.

Year Six had a wonderful but tiring time at Manor Adventure Norfolk Lakes. The children enjoyed the activities and came home ready to sleep all weekend. From the high ropes to Survival Island and giant paddle boards to canoes great fun was had by all. There was lots of moments of teamwork and true acts of courage. The meals were different each day and the children never complained. They had clearly worked hard enough to give them a healthy appetite. Getting everyone to sleep was a bit tricky on the first night as there were only two activities to tire them out, but by Tuesday night they were all very much ready for bed for which the staff were very grateful. The staff would like to thank the children for ensuring the trip was a pleasure for everyone. They were polite, eager, brave and quick to help each other. Ms Slater and the children would like to thank the staff for giving up their own time to make this such a special experience for everyone. Overall, it was a great start to what will be a fabulous year for Wonderland Class!

October was Black History month. This month of celebration was first launched in America in 1926 and came to the UK in 1987. Its purpose is to acknowledge the contribution of Black people throughout history and particularly to recognise the contributions of African, Asian and Caribbean people to the economic, cultural and political life in the UK. We believe it is important for us at Bures to celebrate Black History month as a way of building our children's understanding of diversity and the rich culture that exists in Britain and beyond. As part of Black History month, the

children were all invited to create a presentation about a person of colour who may have been involved in a key discovery or invention or has helped to change the course of history for the better. The children were asked to share their presentations with their class and the best contributions were shared more widely during school assemblies.

The Bures School Banner was again proudly displayed at the Diocesan Service for Schools at Bury St Edmunds Cathedral. It was wonderful to see our children and families at the service. The children arrived smartly dressed to represent our school as they carried our banner up to the alter to be received by the Bishop of Dunwich. The theme of the service was 'I am the resurrection and the life'. The children and adults enjoyed especially the quiz which tested our knowledge of the story of the resurrection, and we also enjoyed the contributions provided by young people from a range of Church Schools across Suffolk. It was a lovely celebration of our Church Schools and the children made Ms Slater and I both feel very proud!

We also celebrated Harvest Festival, which was a real treat. The children visited the Baptist Church in three groups, sharing poems, songs, prayers, and artwork. As always, we were warmly welcomed by the lovely people at the church who provided refreshments for parents and made sure the services ran smoothly. Rev Cath and Liz told 'The Creation Story' with enthusiastic contributions from our children who 'tweeted', 'twinkled', 'splashed' and 'scurried' whenever they were requested to. It was a fabulous occasion and a real joy to be able to celebrate together after such a long break. Thank you also to all parents who were able to attend. Thank you too to everyone who sent in their gifts of food. These will be donated to the Hadleigh Foodbank to be shared with families in need.

Also, thank you to all those parents who gave up their time to attend the Behaviour Workshops. It was a pleasure to be able to share our recently implemented change of approach to this crucial area of school life. The approach we are using is based on 'Five Pillars' which underpin all we do.

These are:

1. Calm, consistent adult behaviour
2. First attention to best conduct
3. Relentless routines
4. Scripted interventions
5. Restorative follow-ups

Throughout the School we understand that children need to feel safe, secure and valued in order to learn. It is our job to set high expectations and help the children to achieve these by teaching them to think about their actions and reflect on how their behaviour

affects both themselves and those around them. We know that children will behave well if they can and when they find it hard it is because they are communicating a need.

On the creative front, the children have been invited to design a Christmas Front Cover for the Bures Parish Magazine December issue. It is a great privilege to have one of our children's pieces of art displayed on the magazine front cover. In addition, James Cartlidge, MP for South Suffolk is also running a Christmas Card Competition and is asking local primary schools to create a design to use for his official Christmas card this year. The winning design will be professionally printed on the front of the card by a local printer. Next week we are having our annual 'Art Week' and this year we will be focussing our attention on developing our art skills through the creation of sculptures using a range of different materials. As always Mrs Baker, our art leader, has done a great job of supporting the staff team to plan some exciting activities which I know the children will thoroughly enjoy. We were very much hoping to invite parents in to view our exhibition at the end of the week but, sadly, we are unable to do this due to the current guidance from Suffolk's Director of Public Health. We have however found a great solution. Our Year Six pupils are due to undertake a unit of work in computing where they are expected to create and edit videos. The plan is that they will produce videos of the artwork from each class so we can share these. I am sure they will do a fabulous job!

And it has not just been an active term for the children and staff. The PSA have been exceptionally busy running fund raising activities; a Boot Sale, Card Swap, Break the Rules Day, Smartie Tube Challenge and a Disco to come next month. A massive thank you to everyone for running and supporting these events which help us to fund additional resources for the children.

And finally, a warm welcome to our new Family Support Practitioner (FSP). Vashti Davis has joined us to help provide additional support for our children and their families where needed.

Thank you for taking an interest in our School. If you know of anyone who is looking for a Primary School place for their child or children, please contact the School Office to see where we currently have spaces.

Kind regards,

Tim Fairbairn
Chair of Governors
8 November 2021

