

# BHJ News Headlines

Academic Year 2023-24

Autumn Term Update No.6

## Autumn term complete!

Life in a school never stops and I cannot believe it is the end of the first term already. I am immensely proud of our pupils and staff for all they have achieved this term.



## Celebrating the wider curriculum

Alongside class trips to Duxford, Verulam and activities such as Viking day and Egyptian day, the children have loved the different events and occasions. A huge thank you to all the parents who help us to ensure we get the opportunities to do days that help bring learning alive for the pupils.

Netball		
A Team - Results		
Home	Score	Away
Sandridge	0-7	BHJS
BHJS	0-0	Fleethill
Alzeye	2-5	BHJS
BHJS	5-12	SYPHS
Wheatfields	0-3	BHJS



Girls Football		
A Team - Results		
Home	Score	Away
Wheatfields	2-1	BHJS
BHJS	11-2	Free Wood
BHJS	0-5	Wheatfields
BHJS	5-0	Alzeye
Fleethill	0-1	BHJS

  

Boys Football		
B Team - Results		
Home	Score	Away
Wheatfields	1-3	BHJS
St Columba's	1-9	BHJS
Garden Fields	4-6	BHJS
BHJS	5-1	Wheatfields
Fleethill		BHJS

  

Boys Football		
A Team - Results		
Home	Score	Away
St Columba's	1-6	BHJS
BHJS	3-2	Wheatfields
Garden Fields	0-2	BHJS
St Columba's	3-2	BHJS
Fleethill		BHJS

As well as the BHJS Mini Marathon, Mr Hynds, Mrs Blackstaffe, Mrs Dench and Mr Lovett have all been running teams and creating opportunities for pupils to take part in different tournaments.

The boys A team have gone from strength to strength in the league with wins over Wheatfields and Garden Fields, only suffering a narrow defeat in a close game against St Columba's. The A team are still in the City Cup only one win away from reaching the quarter finals. Each member of the team has produced some stand out performances and I am looking forward to the second half of the season in the New Year.

The B team has made an outstanding start to their season currently sitting at the top of the table scoring an impressive 16 goals whilst remaining undefeated. With all the boys being avid Arsenal fans, they are obviously keen to follow in the famous invincibles team's footsteps and maintain this unbeaten run. The strength in depth is clear as the goals have been evenly spread throughout the team with some fantastic performances so far this season.

The girls football team has had some tough games to start their season, but their resilience and positive attitude has been admirable. They have all shown improvement in training as they look to develop their skills further. They should be proud of their performances as they have won 3 and lost 2 so far this season and are constantly impressing each game.



The Year 6 cross country team has been performing to a high standard in their recent events. Each member of the team earns points for their team based on what place they finish, and there has been exceptional running across both the boys and girls teams. The girls have impressed and are currently ranked 1<sup>st</sup> overall and the boys are ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> at this point in the season. All the children should be really proud of their performances.

The school netball team has made a strong start to the season, they have played 5 matches this term in Division 3. All members of the team have shown great team spirit and contributed to winning 3 games, drawing 1 and only losing 1 game. We look forward to seeing how they progress in the New Year.

In Music, as always, it has been a busy term for our Bernards Heath Musicians. Year 3 and 4 performed beautifully at their annual St Saviour Carol Service. Soloists, readers, kings, two choirs and the School Orchestra confidently took the stage in a memorable afternoon and evening service. The School Orchestra continued to show real dedication by regularly attending 8 am rehearsals learning and performing both the theme to 'Dr Who' and Vivaldi's 'Winter'. The wonderfully talented Year 5 Choir recently entertained the residents of Tara's retreat care home with a selection of Christmas songs. Our newly formed ukulele group accompanied singing assembly in a fun rendition of Jingle Bells. Year 6 will be performing with Young Voices at the O2 Arena on the 17<sup>th</sup> January in a massed choir of over 7000. After taking choirs to Young Voices since 2008, I can confidently this will be and wonderful event the children will remember for the rest of their lives. Year 6 singers are invited to join Upper school choir from the spring term.

Spring Term Groups will continue as follows:			
Orchestra	Tuesday	8.00am.	Grade 1 instruments and above Sign up with Mrs Pevy
Recorder Club	Monday/Thursday	8.15 am.	
Year 4/5 Ukulele Group	Wednesday	12.45	
Year 3/4 Choir	Friday	12.20	
Year 5/6 Choir	Friday	12.50	

This term in Year 5 & 6, we really enjoyed...

- "We loved doing our play"
- "Our Teachers!"
- "Making our tiles"
- "Our Viking presentations"
- "Duxford"
- Making apple crumble!"

This term in Year 3, we really enjoyed...

- "Our trip to Celtic Harmony"
- "The Carol concert!"
- "Writing our Matilda stories"
- "Autumn Poetry"
- "Making our Stonehenge because it was fun and we got to work as a team"

**Pupil Voice**

This term in Year 4, we really enjoyed...

- "Netball because I got better at it"
- "Ancient Egyptians because you could use your imagination...it was funny and interesting"
- "I really enjoy adding and subtracting in Maths"



## School Development Plan

Over the term, we have been focusing on reviewing our key strengths and development areas in our whole school curriculum. We have been identifying to ensure our curriculum is always relevant and give our pupils the key skills needed. Next term will be continuing this where we will be looking at a pupil's journey through Bernards Heath from Infants to juniors and beyond.

## Ofsted

It has been a long wait for many of our staff (14 years) and many updates to the framework! I have had a few parents ask about the how our inspection has gone but, until the report is published, I am unable to share with parents and staff. Just to update you, we have to wait 30 working (school) days in which the report goes through its standard quality checks.

My standard line has always been, "as long as our children and families are happy, safe and have access to great teaching that is all that matters!" What I will say is that I am incredibly proud of our pupils, staff and the whole school. I came here a year ago and it continues to be an amazing school with so much that we do for our school community.

## Attendance

As a school, we monitor attendance weekly and are always looking at how to support our parents. Our ongoing target is for the whole school to be above 96% attendance and, despite various illnesses as we move into winter; we continue to be on track. Next term, where attendance falls below 95%, we continue to monitor and track this. Should your attendance fall below 90%, you will be notified. We appreciate that in some cases, especially with illnesses, this cannot be helped but this is part of our standard procedure. Should there be any cases where attendance continues to fall, we will contact you directly to see what we can do to support your family.

Key Dates for Spring	
<b>Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	Spring Term Starts
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Year 6 Young Voices Concert
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> Feb – Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Arts Week
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Parents Evening 1
<b>Monday 19<sup>th</sup> Feb – Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb</b>	<b>Half-Term</b>
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Parents Evening 2
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> Mar – Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Year 5 Trip to Hudnell Park (Class days TBC)
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Instrument Assembly
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> March	Down Syndrome Day & World Poetry day
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 4 Production
<b>Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>End of Term @1:30pm</b>
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> April	INSET DAY
<b>Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Summer term starts.</b>

**Merry Christmas  
and Happy New  
Year to all!**

