

BEARWOOD NEWS



Friday 18th September 2026



A message from Ms Alder

Dear Families

The children have had another fantastic week at Bearwood.

On Monday, the Open the Book team returned and delivered another assembly on Joseph from the Old Testament. It is the third in a series of four instalments - the first two were delivered in the summer term. The Open the Book team will deliver the final part of the story in a few weeks' time.

Thank you to the parents who attended the EYFS welcome meeting on Tuesday. I hope you found it to be informative.

The first informal consultation meeting on Spencer's Wood for parents was held on Tuesday evening. Many questions were asked, and the Local Authority representatives have taken back the points that were made to consider. The next meeting will be online and take place this Tuesday at 7pm. The joining details are in the letter you received at the start of term.

Bearwood Primary School has been a part of the 'Family of Schools' within Wokingham - a collaboration of the community primary schools working closely with the Local Authority. We are working together to support and learn from each other. I will share more about this exciting initiative as it develops over the course of this year.

As a part of the above initiative, we are working with the Family of Schools to achieve the Nurturing Schools' Award. Miss Clarke and Ms Brannigan are completing an 18-month long course and will lead on the professional learning of all our staff. We are very excited to be a part of this project.

Our Year Four children, Hedgehog Class, went for their first swimming lesson at The Forest School this week. The swimming team at the pool complimented them on their excellent behaviour. Well done, Hedgehog Class! And thank you to Miss Bedford, Mrs Smith and Mr McMillan for taking them.

Our after-school clubs start next week.

Have a fantastic weekend.

Best wishes,
Funmi Alder
Headteacher.



Value for the term - RESPECT



Events

- **21st Sept** - 10:30am Yom Kippur assembly
- **22nd Sept** - 7pm - Spencers Wood Consultation Meeting for parents (online)
- **23rd Sept** - Year 1 scooter training
- **24th Sept** - 10:30am Harvest Festival assembly
- **25th Sept** - 9:30am Prospective parents tour
- **2nd Oct** - Individual school photographs
- **6th Oct** - 9am Year R Parents phonics workshop
- **20th Oct & 22nd Oct** - 3:45-6:30pm Parents Evening
- **22nd Oct** - Black History Month assembly
- **23rd Oct** - International Attire Day
- **23rd Oct** - 9:30am Prospective parents tour
- **W/C 26th Oct** - Autumn Half Term
- **2nd Nov** - INSET Day - school closed to children
- **3rd Nov** - Children return to school



School Notices



Our Harvest Festival assembly is taking place on 24th Sept.

We are supporting Wokingham Food Bank to help our local families in need.

Please see below for the shopping list request from the Wokingham Food Bank. Thank you for your donations so far, please keep them coming in!



HARVEST FESTIVAL SHOPPING LIST 2026



- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| ✓ Tinned soup | ✓ Tinned tomatoes |
| ✓ Baked beans | ✓ Pasta |
| ✓ Coffee | ✓ Tinned pies |
| ✓ Tinned sweetcorn | ✓ Tinned mixed vegetables |
| ✓ Tinned potatoes | ✓ Tinned carrots |
| ✓ Rice pudding | ✓ Custard (tins and/or packets) |
| ✓ Washing Powder | ✓ Anti-bacterial cleaner |

WEEKLY AWARDS



Growth Mindset Award ★

- **Beaver Class** - Saint, for demonstrating resilience when things get tough in class
- **Red Squirrel Class** - Lucas L, for always trying his best in class
- **Red Kite Class** - Edie, for fantastic resilience in maths using her number bonds
- **Hedgehog Class** - Florence, for helpfulness around the classroom
- **Otter Class** - Anas, for improved focus and enthusiasm in lessons
- **Grey Wolf Class** - Chinmayee, for excellent effort and resilience in lessons



PE Award ★

- **Beaver Class** - Mosston, for fantastic jumping in all the different stations
- **Red Squirrel Class** - Fletcher, for his perseverance in throwing and catching
- **Red Kite Class** - Srishti, for using her thinking skills to identify the power needed to hit the ball
- **Hedgehog Class** - Adrian, for fantastic tennis skills and teamwork
- **Otter Class** - Maisie, for her great forehand and a great ready position
- **Grey Wolf Class** - Thomas, for leading and encouraging his classmates in activities



Writer of the week ★

- **Lower Phase** - Gracie, for fantastic writing in her science lesson
- **Middle Phase** - Salena for her amazing effort in descriptive writing
- **Upper Phase** - Logan, for a fantastic recount which was well sequenced and his empathy with the character



Attendance this week ★

- Brown Bears - 95%
- Fox Class - 92%
- Beaver Class - 96%
- Red Squirrel Class - 95%
- Red Kite Class - 96%
- Hedgehog Class - 91%
- Otter Class - 94%
- Grey Wolf Class - 95%

ROAD SAFETY WEEK



To celebrate this year's Road Safety Week (15th – 21st November), VolkerHighways are excited to launch our Road Safety Slogan Competition for local schools.

We are inviting primary school children to put their creativity to the test by creating VolkerHighways' new road safety slogan.

The winning slogan will be displayed on our vans and used to promote safer roads across the communities we serve.

Children are to write a short, memorable and fun slogan that promotes safe behaviour when walking, cycling, or scooting near roads.

The winning slogan will be displayed on VolkerHighways vans, helping spread the message to a wide audience.

For more information and to submit your entries, [please click here](#).

Scan the QR code to submit entries!



INCLUSION/SEN



A message from Ms Kay Clarke (Inclusion Lead)

MHST – Wokingham Mental Health Support Team (MHST West)

As I've previously shared, at Bearwood we work with MHST which promotes positive mental health and offers support for children with mild to moderate mental health difficulties, including children with fears and anxieties.

We have an educational mental health practitioner, Rachael Neville, who works with us and offers advice and whole-school support. MHST can also provide more individualised support and this can be accessed by making a referral.

Parents / carers can complete a referral form online or you can book an appointment with me so we can complete the form together.

I will be meeting with Rachael at the start of October to discuss any new referrals so now is a good time to look into getting some support!

Please [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.



We are planning to introduce Inclusion Coffee Mornings this academic year. Each coffee morning will have a theme such as some aspect of SEND (Special Educational Needs & Disabilities) or mental health & wellbeing. There will be an opportunity to find out more about how we support children at Bearwood, look at useful resources & strategies and share your ideas and experiences with each other in a safe, non-judgemental space.

Our first coffee morning will be on **Wednesday 14th October at 9am**. Any suggestions for themes – anything you would like to know more about – would be welcomed!

Please email me or phone via the school office:

senco@bearwood-pri.wokingham.sch.uk

WEEKLY CLASS UPDATES...



Nursery - Brown Bears Reception - Fox Class

This week in EYFS the children have been exploring their feelings through story, art and music.

We have been able to extend our vocabulary by using other words that describe our emotions of happy, sad, angry, calm, worried, love and confusion.

One emotion we explored was the happy/joyful feelings of harvesting the carrots from the garden



WEEKLY CLASS UPDATES...

Year 1 - Beaver Class



This week in PE we were practising jumping, we were pretending to be frogs jumping from Lily Pad to Lily Pad.

PE is the highlight of our week and the children are really enjoying learning different tennis skills in our outdoor lessons.



WEEKLY CLASS UPDATES...

Year 2 - Red Squirrel Class



This week year 2 have been practising their computing skills.

We have been learning about digital art and have had a go at creating our own masterpieces.



WEEKLY CLASS UPDATES...

Year 3 - Red Kite Class



This week in Year 3, the children have been learning about sedimentary and metamorphic rocks and how they compare with each other and with igneous rocks.

In groups, they sampled a range of rocks and carried out three tests: how durable they were by seeing if they could scratch off any of the rock with a range of tools such as sandpaper, how permeable they were by seeing if they absorbed water or if the water ran off them and how dense they were by testing if they sank or floated in a bowl of water.

Children worked well in their groups and recorded their results in their books.

Most children could classify the type of rock using the knowledge they had gained earlier in the lesson.



WEEKLY CLASS UPDATES...

Year 4 - Hedgehog Class



Hedgehog Class have been working hard this week practising their Year 3/4 spellings and trialling different memory techniques in their spelling journals.

They have also been using an online program to create their own 2D animations. We had lots of fun watching each other's projects as a class.



WEEKLY CLASS UPDATES...

Year 5 - Otter Class



This week Otter class have been researching about the different eras in Ancient Greece.

We worked in teams to become experts on an era and then fed back key points to others in the class. We learnt about how they traded, about art, culture and how they governed.



WEEKLY CLASS UPDATES...



Year 6 - Grey Wolf Class

This week Grey Wolf have been creative with our work.

We have been looking at sculpture artist Barbara Hepworth, sketching out her designs to show volume and depth. In history we worked in groups to become experts in the timeline of Ancient Greece!

Minoan Age 1800-1400 BC	Mycenaean Age 1600-1100 BC	The Dark Age 1100-800 BC	Archaic 800-480 BC	Classical 480-330 BC	Hellenistic 330-30 BC
Power & places Palace Temple Life & trade Writing & ideas Art & buildings Biggest change	Power & places Kings' State Life & trade Writing & ideas Art & buildings Biggest change	Power & places Life & trade Writing & ideas Art & buildings Biggest change	Power & places Life & trade Writing & ideas Art & buildings Biggest change	Power & places Life & trade Writing & ideas Art & buildings Biggest change	Power & places Life & trade Writing & ideas Art & buildings Biggest change

