

Bedwell News

July 2022

This term's highlights:

- Our production of *The Lion King* was a big hit, with over 400 tickets sold across 3 brilliant performances.
- Our Summer Fayre saw the whole school come together - and collected £1550 for School Council Funds.
- 32 members of year 5/6 had an unforgettable weekend away at PGL in Surrey.
- Year 6 completed their SATs tests, worked incredibly hard - and secured some brilliant results!
- Year 4 completed their Multiplication Tables Check as well, and were really proud of their results.
- We won the Stevenage Sporting Futures 'School Sports Values' Award.
- We've been on trips to Celtic Harmony Camp, Whipsnade Zoo, Clacton and St Albans.
- Our Summer Disco was a great success, raising another £745!

What we've been doing this term...

Celebrating our community

It's been a really busy term, packed full of events that have brought the whole school together. Inside, you'll find out lots more about our Sports Week, Jubilee celebrations and our fantastic production of *The Lion King*. We also rounded-off the term with a packed School Disco, attended by children from across Years 1-6. Our biggest communal event of the term,



however, was our Summer Fayre. Over 450 children, parents and family members attended the event on 23rd June, taking part in a huge range of games, competitions, prize draws and fairground rides. Better still, when we counted-up our takings for the afternoon, we discovered that we had collected £1550 for School Council Funds! A huge thank-you to everyone who attended, donated food and prizes or helped to organise the events - it takes all of us to make events like this possible!

Celebrating success!

The end of term saw us giving out so many prizes and awards that there's not enough space to mention them all here! A huge number of us completed merit awards - including two members of Year 6 who completed the incredibly challenging Alexandrite Award. Many of Year 5 received swimming badges and certificates, recognising the progress they've made this year. We won the Stevenage Sporting Future Commonwealth Values Award (more about that on the back page). Year 4 got the results of their Multiplication Tables Check, and were really proud of their scores, with almost two-thirds of the class scoring 80% or more!



Perhaps most impressively of all, however, Year 6 received their SATs results and we were blown-away to discover that, despite all of the lockdowns, home-learning and disruption that they've had to contend with over the last two years, 75% of the class achieved national expectations in Reading and 64% reached this standard in maths. We are all really proud of their achievements, which represent some amazing progress during their time at Bedwell (and during Year 6 in particular).

Sports Week 22

The whole school got involved in this year's Sports Week, which took place at the end of June. Across a packed week, we took part in Sports Days, taster sessions and lots of fantastic workshops run by local clubs and sporting organisations.

Our visitors included rugby coaches from Saracens, who ran training sessions with Year 6 across the week. Stevenage Sporting Futures also led cricket and ultimate Frisbee lessons with children from across the school, while Fit Kidz organised an exciting fitness day for everyone in EYFS and KS1. We loved taking part in trampolining with Rising Stars, and Street Dance sessions run by Warriorz were a big hit, too. Phew!

The biggest highlights of our week, however, were our three Sports Days. They were fun, competitive and packed with action - and it was fantastic to see so many of our parents, carers and family members cheering us on! We loved the whole week and look forward to lots more sport next year.





The Lion King!

The whole of Key Stage 2 came together this term to perform *The Lion King*, and we were all incredibly proud of the show that we managed to create together. With Year 6 taking on the lead roles, Year 5 playing hyenas, wildebeest (and a few supporting lionesses), Year 4 as African singers and Year 3 dressing up as a variety of animals, it was a huge project - and we have to say a huge thank you to Mr and Mrs Humber, who made some incredible, professional quality costumes and headaddresses for the lead characters to wear.

After weeks of rehearsals, practice and construction we were finally ready to perform on 12th and 13th July. Across three performances, we sold over 400 tickets, and were blown-away by the positive feedback, cheers, laughs and applause that we received. It was brilliant to be able to put on a show for the first time in three years, and those of us in Years 3, 4 and 5 are already desperate to start rehearsing for next year!





Platinum Jubilee

We decided that the first ever Platinum Jubilee was definitely worth celebrating in style! During the week before half-term, we all made Jubilee Hats, using our best papercrafts to create something regal to go on our heads. On the last day before the holiday, we all came to school in red, white and blue-themed non-uniform, and got together for our celebratory tea. We started the afternoon with a magic show in the Infant Hall - and Magic Dave had us laughing along with his show, before we all froze in wonder with his final trick...

We then headed out onto the field for our jubilee tea party. We tucked into sandwiches, crisps, cakes and scones, and tried to look as posh as possible, just like we would if we were having tea with the Queen herself (we still need to work on that bit).

It was a lovely day and a great way to celebrate this once-in-a-lifetime event. A big thank-you to everyone who donated cakes, biscuits and other snacks for us all to eat!





Y5/6's PGL Adventure

On 17th June, a group of 32 intrepid Year 5s and 6s set-off on this year's PGL expedition. We spent 3 days at the adventure sports centre at Marchant's Hill, trying out a huge range of activities that we would never be able to experience at home.

Over the weekend, we took part in climbing, abseiling, tunnel trails, orienteering, archery and the giant swing - and it was great to so many of us taking on challenges and overcoming fears to make the most of every session. We also discovered lots of hidden talents and abilities that we would love to be able to explore further, with some of us showing expert marksmanship with an archery bow, while others raced up the climbing wall in record time!

The other big aim for the weekend was to spend a few nights away from home, without any contact with mums and dads. This was tricky (and a first for many of us), but again it was great to see how we both grew in independence and supported each other while we were away.





Early Years

Sports Week

We had a fantastic week during Sports Week, as we were able to try out many different activities. We enjoyed Fit Kidz, Warriorz Street Dance, activity circuits, yoga and (one of our favourites) the trampoline. We also loved taking part in our very first Sports Day - and it was lovely to see all our parents and family members cheering us on and offering support.

Caterpillars and butterflies

As part of our Talk for Writing work around the story of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* we had 18 caterpillars arrive into Early Years. We were able to watch them grow into butterflies and observe their life cycle. When it was time, we carefully released them into the wild.

Transition

Over the past six weeks, we have been playing in our new class and spending time with our new teachers. We have been able to build relationships with their new teachers and friends that will be joining us.





Year 1: Dormice

This term's English topics have seen us exploring Pirate Tom's adventures, as well as reading his diary. We have thought about character feelings and have written sentences to reflect these, using question and exclamation marks. We have also written a new entry for Pirate Tom's diary, using time openers and conjunctions to order events and add detail.

In DT we have been looking at animal prints. We chose an animal and used different media to replicate these including pencils, paint and printing. In science, meanwhile, we have been looking at animals and grouping them in different ways, as well as investigating the way they move. We looked in particular at African animals and spent a lovely day at Whipsnade learning more about them.

Finally, our Sports Week was a great success. We loved trying out a variety of sports and were thrilled that so many of our parents and carers could watch us and cheer us on.

English : Pirate Tom's Diary

First I bought a fun pirate ship which was lots of fun and it was big and had a little house. Finally I decorated the pirate ship with a big slide and filled it with a bucket of water.

By Cosmin

First we got a ship. Then we made it into an adventure pirate plays hip. Then we had lunch. For lunch we had a fruit salad. Then we went to the beach. I was tired. Good night!

By Phoebe

First I brushed my teeth because my breath was very smelly. Next I ate a yummy breakfast. Finally I had a pool party because it was very hot and I bought new pool rings and it was very cool.

by Tahlia

In the morning I put my swimming costume on and I had a lovely time swimming in the cool sea. Next I was painting treasure and it was good. Finally I was playing in the sand and it was soft.

by Ayaan

Pirate Tom found a box of treasure uncovered by the storm. Hooray! I found treasure. Go and get my treasure or you will have to walk the plank!

by Alex



Acting out
the story of
Pirate Tom



Year 2: Hedgehogs & Squirrels

Year 2 have had a very busy, enjoyable term. For our English lessons, we have been observing the life cycle of a butterfly so we could write an explanation of the stages a caterpillar goes through before turning into a butterfly. We had 35 caterpillars in class that we observed daily, changing and growing until they turned into a pupa. We became very excited when they all turned into butterflies and thoroughly enjoyed releasing them into our forest area.

The highlight of our term was our trip to Clacton-on-Sea. We had a fabulous day at the beach with incredible weather that saw the sun shining and many happy smiling faces. We built sandcastles, searched for shells and treasure before devouring our packed lunches. We finished off with a delicious ice cream and then had a good jolly sing on the coach before disembarking with possibly half the beach stuck in our shoes! A lovely day was had by all!





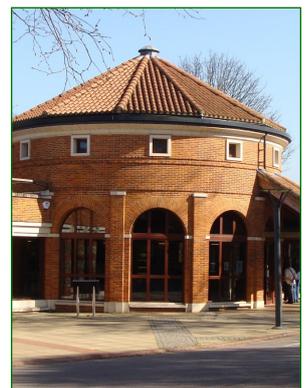
Year 3: Rabbits

Trips!

We have taken part in two fantastic trips this term. First of all, just after Easter we rounded-off our Romans topic with a visit to Verulamium Museum in St Albans. We took part in a artefact handling workshop, visited the ancient hypocaust (underground heating system) in the park and checked-out the huge mosaics in the main museum. Then, right at the end of the term, we headed to Celtic Harmony Camp to support our work on Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age communities. We got to take part in lots of hands-on activities, including gathering foods, pounding leaves to make soup, building dens and even throwing spears at a (wooden) mammoth! We loved both trips and they really helped us to develop a better understanding of both of these periods.

Sports Week

Like everyone else in school, we loved Sports Week! As well as our sports day, we took part in golf, cricket, football, yoga, street dance and trampolining sessions - wow!





Year 4: Badgers

Multiplication Check

Congratulations to all of our Year 4 Badgers for smashing the Multiplication Tables Check in June! A whopping 34% of our class scored full marks, and 63% of us achieved at least 20 out of 25. The determination that each and every one of us showed was really impressive and we're very proud of our results.

Writing

Our main focus in English this term has been on Science Fiction writing. We explored lots of stories featuring aliens and spaceships, and then used this to help develop our own writing, including incredible setting descriptions, characterisation and suspense. On the right you can read Rachel's first chapter.

Celtic Harmony Camp

We finished off the term with a fantastic trip to Celtic Harmony Camp this week, where we learnt about life in Ancient Britain. Check out some of our photos to see what we got up to, building dens, making tools and learning what life was like for people living in Stone Age Britain...

English : Science Fiction

Snowflakes and spaceships

It was a cold winter's night and a starry blanket filled the sky. Friends Roy and Robin walked through the silent street.

"Phew, we are lucky we got to the shops in time. They were about to close," said Roy. Robin complained, "Yeah, but my hands are killing me. These bags are so heavy." It was late and the boys knew that they would be in trouble.



Suddenly, Roy and Robin heard metal clattering from the alleyway. Instinctively, they jumped into the air. However, the boys were so curious, they went to the end of the street to take a peek, creeping towards the sound. Seconds later, they noticed blinking lights, like a disco ball. It shone over the shops and it was much more powerful than the street lights. As soon as they could, the boys snuck towards the bins and hid there. What could be happening?

Trembling, the best friends peeked a look. Bright lights filled the sky. "Wow, what is that?" whispered Robin.

With a shaking voice, Roy replied, "I have no idea..."

Just then they realised that it was a colossal, metallic spacecraft. With a hiss, a mysterious, shadowy figure appeared. It was a robot! As they took one small step, they were suddenly knocked to the ground.

It was the sound of cars honking that eventually woke Robin up. Snowflakes fell gracefully down from the sky and melted on the tarmac. Roy was already awake, walking in circles. Bewildered, he stared around him. Then he remembered, of course...the spaceship! Yet the details were a complete blank.

Everyone thought they were lying. When they told their parents, they said that they had been worried sick and had sent out a search party. Doctors said that they were hallucinating, however Roy and Robin knew what they had seen. Later, when Roy took his jacket off, something dropped out of his pocket. It was a hologram. The same thing happened to Robin. Strangely, the robot figure they had seen the night before appeared on the device. At that moment, it announced, "Grednoid," What could it mean. They boys knew that they had to find out...

By Rachel

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Year 5: Foxes & Falcons

English

We have been learning how to write recounts with a superhero twist. On the right you can see Shaanavi's fantastic example, using exciting vocabulary choices and a range of time adverbials to make her recount really dramatic!

Mayans

Throughout the term, we have been investigating the strange and mysterious world of the Ancient Mayans. We have learnt about their cities, religion and history - and we also decided to try out a range of Mayan inspired foods. These included tortilla wraps, avocado, black beans, mango, papaya and dark chocolate. Surprisingly, the chocolate was our least favourite, as it was very dark, which made it very bitter.

Lion King

We loved getting fully involved in this year's KS2 production! We all played hyenas, and it was great to see some of us asked to double-up, supporting scenes by also playing wildebeest, lionesses and an antelope.

English : Recounts

During the afternoon (roughly 12pm), on the 30th March 2012, the phenomenal, astonishing and heroic superhero team identified as The Avengers saved New York once again.



The moment I arrived, I observed the menacing aliens attacking the city. I initially saw Iron Man flying quickly at top speed over the water. He was abruptly chasing a rocket as it glided towards the city. Eventually, after a rapid and tempestuous pursuit, Iron Man caught the rocket. Soaring through the demolished streets, the other Avengers looked on as Iron Man blasted away from the built up area.

All of a sudden, the famous billionaire disappeared through a portal in the sky, taking the rocket with him. In what was only an instant for those of us on the ground, Tony Stark was then falling back towards New York without the rocket. New York had been saved and the aliens had been destroyed! In the blink of an eye, the gigantic and indestructible Hulk then leapt up and caught Tony.

Iron Man has saved the world! We are all extremely grateful for his heroic actions.

Following this shocking incident, I managed to speak with the incredible Iron Man. He said, "This is what I do daily, I am the best!"

by Shaanavi

English : Ghost Stories

At the start of the final half term, we also finished writing our own ghost stories. Here is an extract from an excellent piece of independent writing.

Prologue

It was midnight. The ear-splitting blare of sirens filled the air. That was all Crystal could remember... before she was taken.

Present Day

Crystal awoke to a thud. She was in... a chest? She was suffocating and cramped. "How did I get in here?" the girl wondered. All of a sudden, a nearby door creaked open. Crystal's heart skipped a beat. "Welcome to your new home," a menacing voice cackled. "The police are looking for you... here, see for yourself." He slipped a piece of paper through a gap to her. It was a missing person poster. This information caused her body to go into sudden shock. It was like she was being transported back in time...

by Aleena



Year 6: Eagles

An absolutely jam-packed term!
We've been incredibly busy this term, and it's hard to get our heads around everything that we have managed to do since Easter. First of all, there were our SATs back in May. It was a tough week of tests, but we all focussed hard, gave it our all - and were rewarded with some awesome results and progress scores.

After that, we had about seven weeks to cram in everything else! Lots of us went to PGL for a brilliant adventure weekend, climbing, abseiling, completing tunnel trails and braving the giant swing. We held auditions for *The Lion King* and then learnt lines, songs, dance moves and acting points, all building up to our amazing performances in the penultimate week of term. We took part in lots more sports events, finishing as runners-up in both the Mixed and Girls Cricket Tournaments. And then we brought it all to an end with a great day out, trampolining at Gravity and then going for lunch at Frankie and Benny's.





Diary Dates

1st - 2nd September

INSET days
(staff training)

5th September

Start of Autumn term
My New Year Group
meetings for Year 1 -
Year 6, 2.45pm

12th September

Autumn Term clubs
start

13th September

Year 5 Swimming
starts

22nd September

SATs meeting for
Year 6 parents at
5.30pm

28th September

School photos

7th October

Foundation Stay &
Play session

12th October

Parents' Evening

20th October

Halloween Disco
(Years 2-6)

24th - 28th October

Half-term

25th November

Christmas Fayre

14th December

Key Stage 1 Show
(9.15am and 2.15pm)

16th December

Foundation Stage
Christmas crafts, 9am

21st December

End of term 2pm

Sports Update

Stevenage Sports Awards

Throughout the year, Stevenage Sporting Futures have been awarding certificates for outstanding sporting values at their events. These go to the school that show the most passion, teamwork, self-belief, honesty and respect - and we've won these on many occasions this year. As a result, when Sporting Futures held their annual awards earlier this month, we were delighted to find that we'd been nominated for the 'Primary Games Values Award' - and we were even happier when Mr Butler arrived back at school the



next day to tell us that we'd won, having shown the best sporting values of any school in town. A fantastic reward for some awesome sportsmanship from everyone who's represented the school this year.

Athletics

One of the biggest Stevenage sports events of the year is always the Athletics Festival, held at Ridlins stadium, and this year was no exception, with over 400 children representing 20 schools taking part. Our squad put in an incredible effort across the day, securing 9 medals for track and field events and finishing in fourth place overall. A big well done to the whole squad!

Cricket

The two Stevenage Cricket Festivals - one for mixed teams and one for girls teams - took place in June, and having seen some excellent play at both our Cricket Club and Mr Moses' lunchtime training, we were determined to put out a strong showing. In the mixed event, we began with a tricky game against a strong Codicote side, who we managed to overcome thanks to some outstanding fielding from Eli and excellent bowling from Jacob and Alfie. After that, we faced Knebworth, and with Mitchell bowling at high pace and Devarni and Samuel in good form with the bat, we won that game too, which meant that we made it through to the final against St Ippolyts. Unfortunately, they were just a little bit too strong for us and, despite the best efforts of the whole team, they secured a win that left us as runners-up in the festival, and the second best side in town. The day after, the girls headed down to the Cricket Club for their competition and, despite the fact that it was the first competitive game that any of the team had played, they put in a fine performance. Once again St Ippolyts proved to be the side to beat, and once again they were just a little too strong, leaving the girls to match the boys as runners-up in their event, too.