

Bedwell News

July 2023

This term's highlights:

- Our production of Aladdin was a big hit, with over 340 tickets sold across three magical performances.
- We all got involved in this year's Sports Week, taking part in ultimate frisbee, trampolining, yoga, skateboarding and fitness sessions, as well as 3 amazing Sports Days.
- 34 members of Year 6 had an unforgettable weekend away at PGL in Surrey.
- Year 6 completed their SATs tests, worked incredibly hard - and secured some brilliant results!
- We've been on trips to Whipsnade Zoo, Tring Museum, Clacton and Shepreth Wildlife Park.
- We won bronze medals at mixed netball and lacrosse, and finished fourth at the Stevenage Athletics Festival.
- We celebrated the Coronation of King Charles with a party that involved the whole school.

What we've been doing this term...

Fundraising Success!

This year, we've been working hard to raise money for a new Trim Trail for the school field. This includes a collection of wooden climbing, balance and agility equipment that we will be able to use at lunch and playtimes. The tricky bit is that it's expensive - so our fundraising target for the year was £14,000 (far more than we have ever made before in a single year.)



Well, we've reached the end of the year, and there's only one way to put this : we smashed our target! We now have over £16,000 in our School



Council Fund, and have been able to order a shiny new Trim Trail, which is due to be installed in August! This has all come about as a result of the way we've worked together as a community this year. We've raised money through discos, fayres, our Dance-a-thon, uniform sales, hiring the school out during the holidays - and we've also received £5500 from the Stevenage Educational Trust and £2500 from the Follet Trust.

One of the biggest steps towards our fundraising target came through our Summer Fayre, which took place on June 22nd. We piled out onto the field after school for a fantastic afternoon of games, competitions, food, drink and bouncy-castle fun. Thanks to all of the donations that had come in during the week leading up to the Fayre, our tombolas were piled high with prizes, while Mrs Linsdell's hard work had secured an amazing collection of raffle prizes. At the end of the afternoon, we added up the takings and were amazed to find we had raised £1800 - enough to (almost) fill our fundraising totaliser!



Sports Week 23

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 events run by local clubs and sporting organisations.

Our visitors included expert skateboard and scooter riders, who ran brilliant sessions in Years 1-4. Stevenage Sporting Futures coaches who led Ultimate Frisbee lessons and Fit Kidz who organised an exciting fitness morning for Years 5 and 6. We also loved taking part in trampolining with Rising Stars, along with golf, multisport, cricket, yoga and hockey activities organised by our teachers. 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.





Y6's PGL Adventure

On 16th June, a group of 34 intrepid Year 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 abseiling, raft building, zip wire, archery, sensory trails and giant swing - and it was great to see 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 showed amazing climbing skills on Jacob's Ladder.

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.





Aladdin!

The whole of Key Stage 2 came together this term to perform Aladdin, 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 Agrabahans, Year 4 as the Genie's magical crew and Year 3 playing Prince Ali's entourage, it was a huge project - and we have to say a huge thank you to Mrs Draper, Mr and Mrs Humber, Mrs Mooney and several of our mums, who made some incredible costumes, props and settings for the show.

After weeks of rehearsals, practice and construction we were finally ready to perform on 11th and 12th July. Across three performances, we sold over 340 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 on this scale, and it could only take place as a result of a huge amount of time, energy and effort from the whole school community - and Years 3, 4 and 5 are already desperate to start rehearsing for next year!



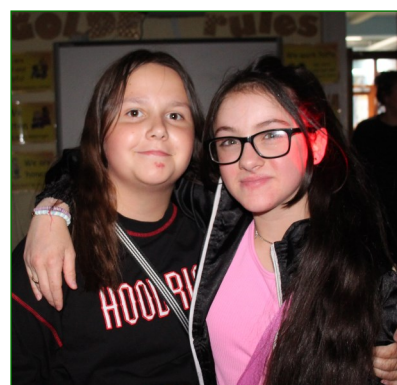


Summer Disco

On the final Thursday of term we held a fantastic Summer disco, celebrating a brilliant year and marking our Year 6's final week at Bedwell. With over 150 children from Years 1-6 coming back to school to join the party, the evening was full of energy, dancing and laughter, as well as a few tears from those of us who will soon be leaving Bedwell and moving onto somewhere new (and bigger). We ate lots of burgers and pizza, we drank too many fizzy drinks, we got our nails painted and we danced energetically around the Hall - all in all, it was a great way to spend an evening!

As a result of all this, we collected £989 for School Council funds. Having secured all the funding we need for our new Trim Trail, this will give next year's school councillors a head-start on their next fundraising project.

Can we all send a massive thank you to the staff who volunteered to give up their time to organise and run the disco, making our brilliant evening possible!





Coronation Party

The first royal coronation of any of our lifetimes was definitely a cause for celebration, and we marked the occasion with fantastic party that involved the whole school. On the Friday before King Charles' Coronation, 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. Lots of us have seen it twice now, and we still can't work out how it's done...

We then headed into the Junior Hall for our royal tea party. We tucked into all of the cakes and biscuits that we had brought in and tried to look as posh as possible (we still need to work on that bit).

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





Early Years

End of year celebration

We were really excited to have our parents and carers in for one last time to celebrate the end of EYFS with us. We shared a presentation that reminded us of all the exciting learning opportunities we have had this year. We then went outside to have breakfast with our families, before playing together and showing them all of our favourite areas.

Father's Day

We decided to invite our daddy's, uncles, brothers and cousins (all the important male carers in our lives) to celebrate fathers day. We invited them to spend a morning in the forest with us, completing different activities. We made dens, searched for mini beasts, made bird feeders and made our very own nature crowns.

A Super Summer

It's been brilliant to see how much we have grown in confidence and independence this year, and we've put that into practice by getting outside and making the most of our final term!





Early Years

Sports Week

We were excited to stay in our PE kits the whole week to take part in Sports Week, completing loads of activities, including trampolining, yoga and parachute games.

Sports Day

After having our first Sports Day cancelled due to the rain we all crossed our fingers a week later... and it didn't rain! We had practised so hard for many weeks and were so happy to see our families watching us. We all competed in four different races, including a running race, egg and spoon, dressing up and balancing race. We all cheered each other on during each race and were really proud of our stickers and certificates that we received at the end.

Transition

For the past six weeks we have been spending time in our new classrooms and getting to know our new teachers. We have enjoyed making new friends and learning about what they do in Year One and Reception. We also thought of our own questions that we wanted to ask our new teachers.





Fieldmice & Dormice

What a busy term! In science we have been looking closely at plants and animals. We have been able to name and label the parts of a plant and explore how they grow. We have grouped animals by type, by where they live, by how they move and by what they eat. To support our learning we visited Whipsnade Zoo, where we got to meet lots of the animals we have investigated. It was interesting to read the signs and find out what animal group each creature belonged to, what they ate and which continent they came from. We could remember lots of these facts when we got back to class, and were really keen to talk about the animals we had met.

In art we have explored African Art and loved sharing our 'Come and Make' session with you. This linked in with our work in geography, where we have looked at the natural and physical features of the UK, and then compared these with the features of Kenya. We also learnt to find and name the 7 continents on a map.





Fieldmice & Dormice

One of the highlights of our term was our brilliant Sports Week - we particularly enjoyed the scooter and trampolining sessions, and loved getting to compete in our Sports Day races in front of so many of our parents and carers.

In English we have been learning the story of *Lost and Found* and *The Diary of Ranger Rich*. We have explored adventure stories and have worked on adding conjunctions, time adverbials and adjectives to make our sentences even better. In maths, meanwhile, we have been learning to tell the time using o'clock and half past the hour, and learning to count in multiple of 2s, 5s and 10s. We have also explored fractions, finding halves and quarters.

We finished off the term with our forest day. We learnt a variety of new skills and made lots of natural crafts. The afternoon was topped off with den building out on the field, followed by the chance to roast marshmallows on the fire to make smores.





Year 2: Hedgehogs

We have had a very busy but enjoyable end to the year! In our English lessons, we have been observing the life cycle of a butterfly so we could write an explanation of its life cycle. We had 20 caterpillars in class that we observed daily, changing and growing until they turned into a pupa. We were very excited when they all turned into butterflies and enjoyed releasing them outside.

Our biggest highlight of the term was probably our trip to Clacton-on-Sea. We had a fabulous day at the beach with incredible weather and many happy smiling faces. We built sandcastles, searched for shells and treasure before devouring our packed lunches. We finished off with an ice cream and a few snoozes on the way home.

Finally, Sports Week was also a huge success for Year 2. We had a week full of yoga, trampolining, sports days and taster sessions. We particularly enjoyed skateboarding, and are keen to try this out again soon!





Year 3: Rabbits

Anglo Saxon Art

This term we have been studying the effect the Anglo Saxon invasions in the 5th and 6th centuries had on Britain. We made a copy of the famous Sutton Hoo helmet that was believed to belong to a king. The original helmet can be seen at the British Museum in London (which has free entry if you're looking for an afternoon out this summer). We also made our own Anglo-Saxon medallions or coins and really loved adding jewels and embellishments.

Tring Museum

We had a great day out on our trip to Tring Natural History Museum, gaining loads of information about the different types of animals found on planet earth. We were exceptionally well behaved and the museum staff really enjoyed showing us a variety of animal teeth and skulls. We also had the opportunity to select an animal of our choice to draw and study, which we absolutely loved - it's not every day you get to sit face to face with a tiger or polar bear!





Year 3/4: Badgers

Explanations

In Badger class, our final unit of the year has been pirate explanations. We have looked in great detail of the features of explanations with a focus on conjunctions and giving reasons to explain. On the right you can see some of our brilliant writing.

Stay & Make

Earlier in the term, Years 3 and 4 came together to organise a 'Stay and Make' session for our parents and carers. We got together to design and make family shields, linked to our work on the story of *Gwain and the Green Knight*. We loved the chance to get creative together, and it was fantastic to see how many adults came into school to join in with our learning!

Computing

We have learnt to code this term, getting to grips with the Scratch platform and using it to tell stories and create simple games. It has been really challenging (you have to get the code exactly right to make it work), but we've been really impressed by what we've made!

English : Explanations

Why do pirates have beards?

A bushy, gigantic beard dangling from a pirates chin is essential for any terrifying pirate. Most piratologists believe that without this filthy ball of fur, pirates would not be identifiable, therefore the bigger the beard the better the scallywag. Another widely held belief is that the beard can be used to hide things inside and to help them steal booty. If the beard is too small, then this can cause problems as they wouldn't be able to collect larger amounts of loot and tremendous treasures.

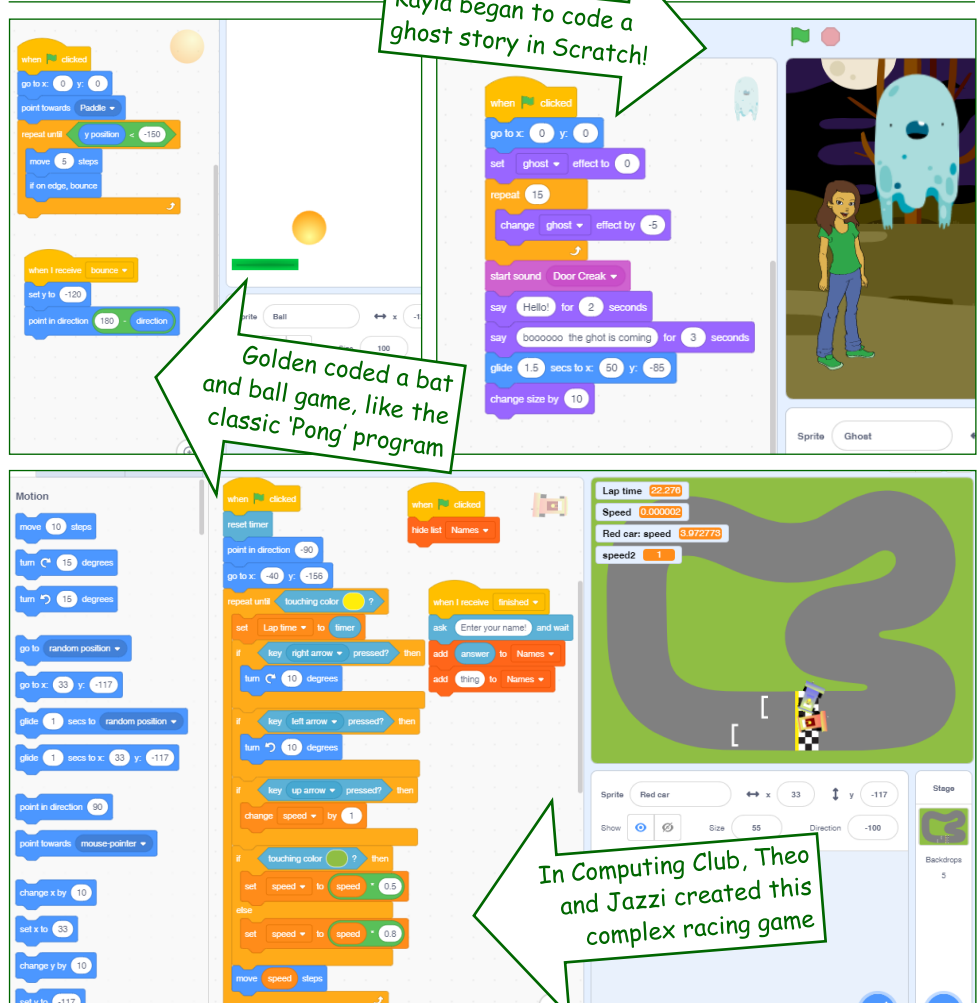


Furthermore, the pirates beard is also used for entertainment purposes, during the weekend pirates sit on the deck and take part in beauty routines, where they plait each others beards. Although, this looks funny to people passing by, it is an essential part of pirate training.

By Jazzi

Kayla began to code a ghost story in Scratch!

Golden coded a bat and ball game, like the classic 'Pong' program



In Computing Club, Theo and Jazzi created this complex racing game



Year 4: Moles

Tring Museum

On 7th June we journeyed to the Natural History Museum in Tring. We spent the day exploring the displays of animals and trying to locate specific species and animals from a checklist we were given. Just before lunch we took part in a workshop on teeth where we got to handle a narwhal tusk, a monkey skull, an elephant tooth and many more. We found out how to identify an animal's diet from its teeth - something we turned out to be really good at!

Anglo Saxon Villages

In our topic lessons this term we have been learning about the lives of the Anglo Saxons. After we learnt about their invasions and researched what life was like for people living during this period, we were tasked with making a model of an Anglo Saxon settlement. First we created round houses following a template and then we added animal pens, paths, plants, rivers and poop holes. We then added all of our models together to create one large settlement.

English : News Reports

Our final English unit this year focussed on news reports, and after learning about the structure and language of this text type, we began to write our own reports about some strange goings on around the school. We covered a huge range of topics - everything from Aliens being spotted in the skies over Fairlands to a gorilla masquerading as a teacher! We wrote about them all, and are very pleased with the results - you can see Jaden's fantastic front page below:

THE DAILY COMET

Issue 345

Monday 15th June 2023

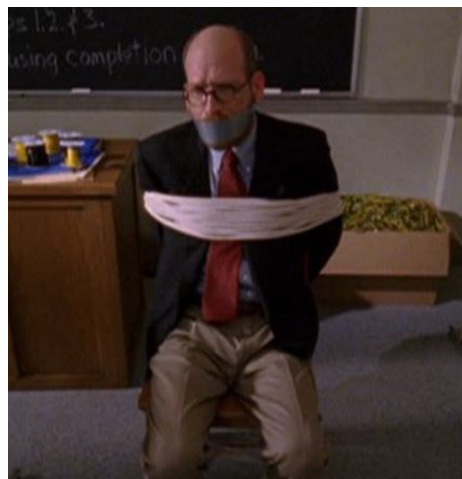
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LOCAL SCHOOL TAKEN OVER BY UNRULY PUPILS

Yesterday afternoon, local police officers were called to Bedwell Primary School in Stevenage due to reports of children attacking teachers and taking over the school.

At precisely 1:30pm a number of children from Mole Class snuck out of class whilst the other children distracted their teacher. The ring leader, Jaden Alabi, returned then duck taped his teacher. It has been reported that this was not the first time the children had tried this, but after growing tired of working hard, they decided to fight back. The children then covered the other staff in bird seed and they were then chased from the building by a flock of pigeons.

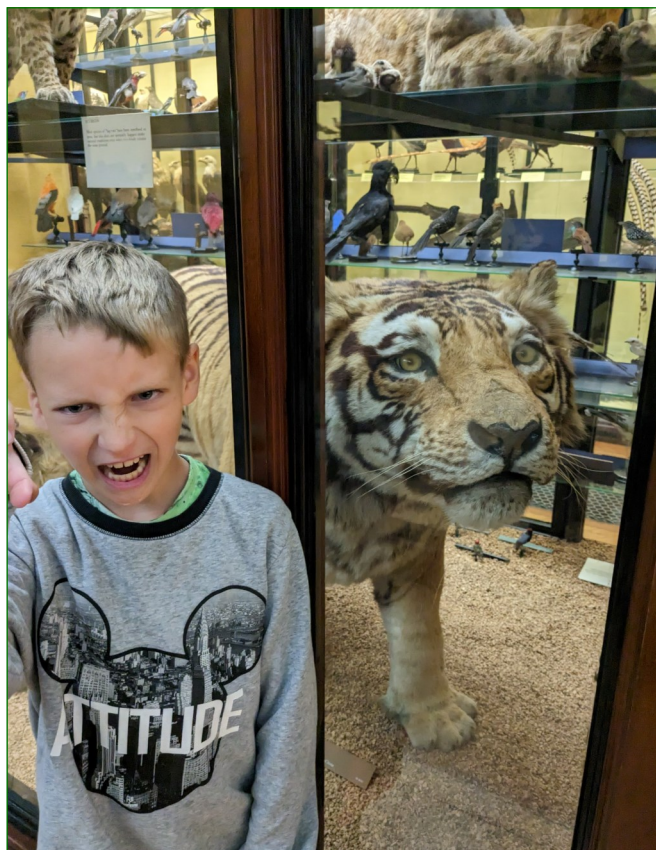
Our reporters spoke to the ring leader, Jaden Alabi who said, "We had enough, something needed to change, so we took over."



A teacher tied up at Bedwell School

At the end of the day the parents came and took back control. Mrs Alabi stated "I am very upset with my son, I brought him up better than this. I will ground him for a month."

Police officers were concerned for the safety of school staff and remained at the school for the rest of the day.



Year 5: Foxes

It has been fantastic to see how much everyone has thrown themselves into a huge range of activities this term, including:

- Becoming Agrabahans in our production of Aladdin, learning several key songs and dances
- Learning about rainforests in geography and becoming passionate about protecting our environment
- Representing the school at lacrosse, with 12 of us taking part in the Stevenage Festival where we finished third and secured bronze medals
- 22 of us took part in Bikeability, with 18 of us going out on the roads to complete our Level 2 award
- Taking part in hockey, cricket, trampolining, golf and fitness sessions as part of our Sports Week
- Investigating electricity, making switches, learning to draw circuit diagrams and carrying out experiments (check out the photos opposite)

English : Persuasive Letters

Linked to our work on rainforests, we received a letter from Dr Jackson Quisk from ZORG Industries, who was seeking our support for his massive deforestation plan. We thought this was a terrible idea, so we wrote back to him, using our best persuasive writing techniques to show why he should change his mind. You can see two great examples below:

Dear Dr Quisk,

I am writing to you in response to your plans for deforestation. I am sorry to decline, because this will destroy an environment that will take ages to grow back, it will harm people who live there, and it is also the lungs of the world. Once you've heard more, I am sure you will agree.

Firstly, if you destroy one tree it will take ages to grow back. If an animal only eats from that tree and you cut it down, that animal (which might never have been discovered) will go extinct. Therefore I don't think it will be a good idea to go forward with this plan.

Secondly, people live there, so starting fires could result in deaths, not only to animals but to humans as well. Doing this will ruin people's lives. You are destroying animals homes as well as the food that many tribes rely on!

Finally, destroying trees will result in less oxygen, which will cause climate change. The world will get hotter and hotter, ice at the South Pole and North Pole will melt, which will submerge whole countries, causing millions of people to die or become homeless.

Now that you have heard my intentions, I am sure you will agree and understand my plan. Hopefully this letter will help shift your viewpoint of the world and encourage you to stop deforestation. If you do go forward with this plan, it will cause global warming to increase and flooding will happen more often. It will soon reduce the amount of oxygen in the atmosphere because there will be nothing to absorb carbon dioxide. The whole world will become hotter and we will all suffer.

Yours sincerely,
Kaian Sealy

Dear Dr Quisk,

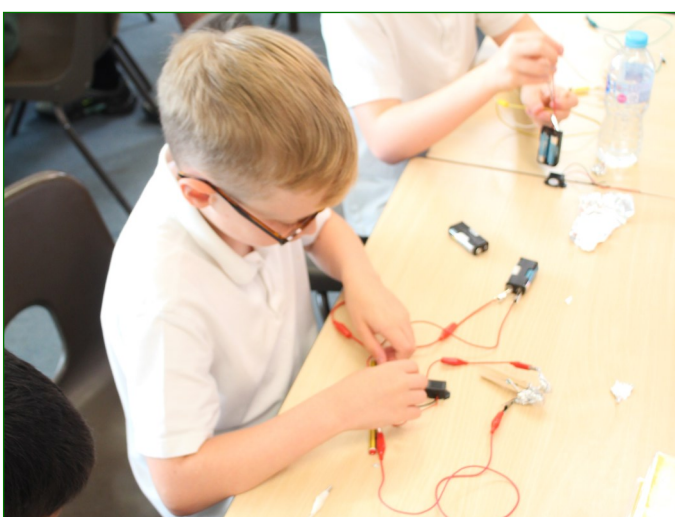
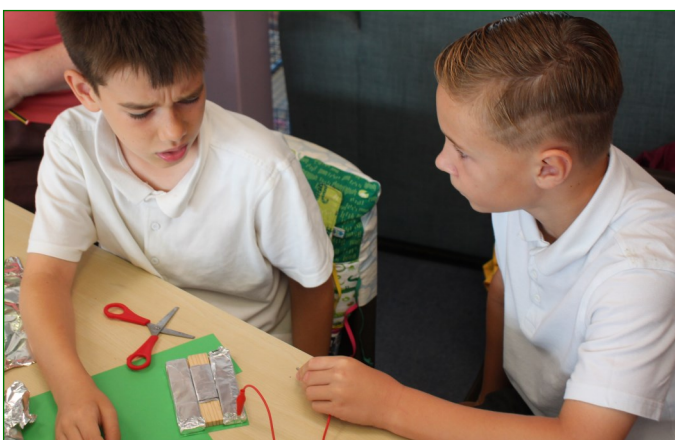
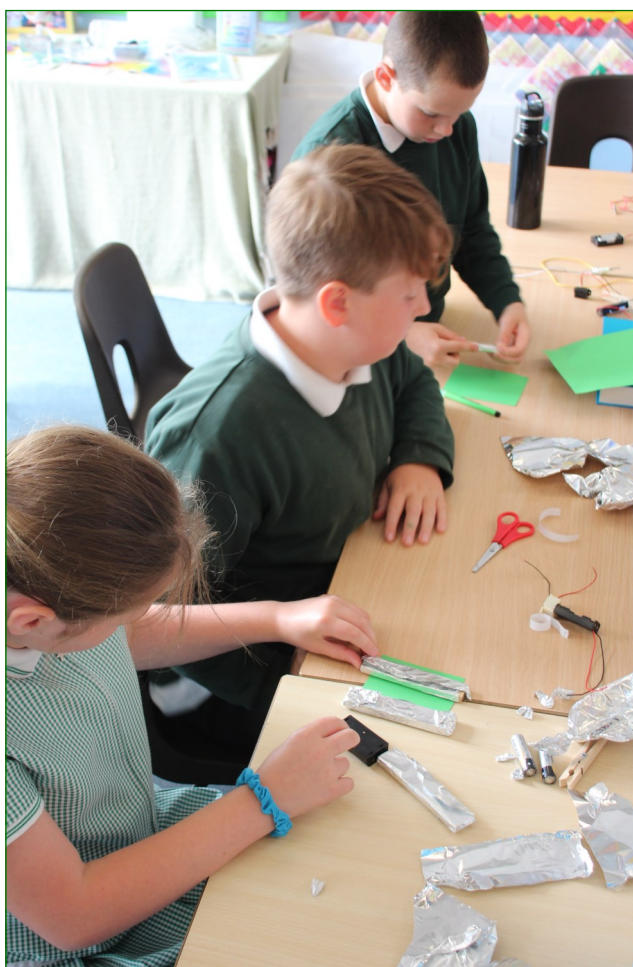
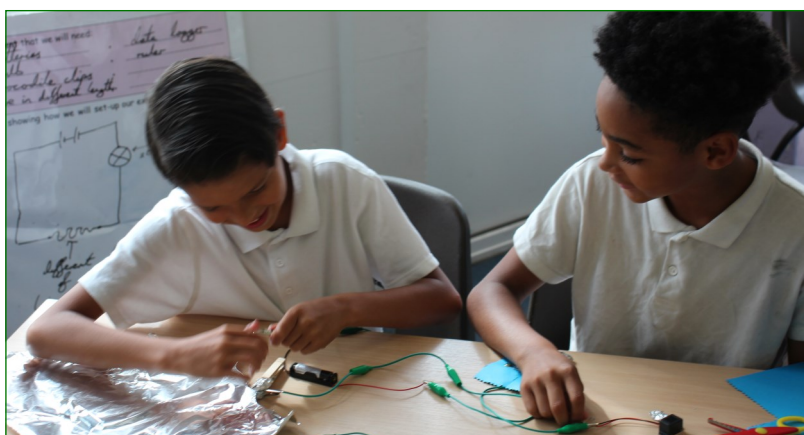
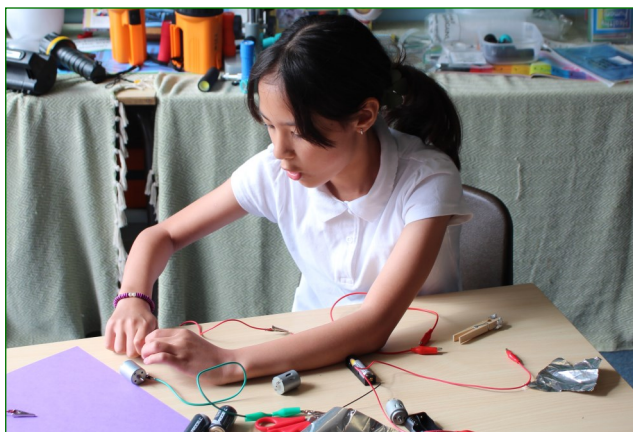
I seriously disagree with your idea to cut down the rainforest. If you carry on with your idea it will kill all the tribes and animals and the trees will fall on all their homes and crush them. Once you have heard more about it, we're sure you will agree...

Firstly it is obvious that we need to stop cutting down the trees, because the more we cut the more oxygen gets used. I understand why you are doing as you want to make money, but still you have to stop now.

Secondly you don't know how important the plants are to us. They give us medicines to cure infections from the plants so if we carry on with deforestation, all the cures will go extinct.

Finally, now that you have heard my reasons, I extremely hope that you agree. I hope that this letter has told you what you should do, so you will stop - and if you don't stop I will get you shut down and sue you!

Yours sincerely,
Mr Joshua Paxton

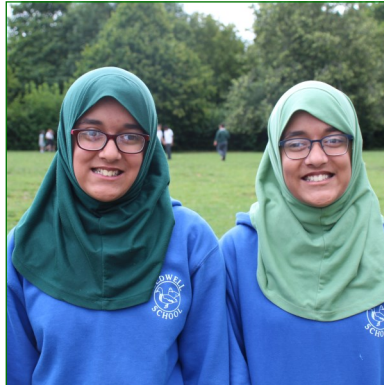


Eagles & Falcons

What a fantastic end to the year we've had! We've worked together to produce an amazing production of Aladdin, met new teachers and new schools, taken part in Bikeability and many of us spent an amazing weekend away at PGL. In between all of that, Year 6 completed their SATs - and absolutely smashed them, with super results of which we should all be really proud. Over 70% of us reached the national 'expected standard' in maths, reading and SPAG (spelling, punctuation and grammar), and over 20% of us reached the challenging 'greater depth' level in reading and SPAG.

Finally, those of us in Year 6 rounded-off the year with our Leavers Trip, heading down to the leisure park for a fun bowling session, followed by lunch at Frankie and Benny's.

We ended the term with an emotional final assembly, reflecting on all that we have achieved during our time at Bedwell and looking forward to the amazing adventures that lie ahead!





Diary Dates

1st & 4th September
INSET days

5th September

First day of Autumn Term. My New Year Group meetings at 2.45pm in Years 1-6

11th September

Autumn Term clubs start

20th September

SATs meeting for Y6 parents at 5.30pm

27th September

School photos

29th September

Afternoon Tea for Macmillan Cancer from 2pm

6th October

Foundation Stage Stay & Play session

11th October

Parents' Evening

19th October

Halloween Disco (Years 2-6)

23rd - 27th October

Half-term

24th November

Christmas Fayre

13th December

Key Stage 1 Show (9.15am and 2.15pm)

15th December

Foundation Stage Christmas crafts

20th December

End of term 2pm

Sports Update

Athletics

In early June our top athletes from years 4, 5 and 6 headed to Ridlins Stadium for this year's Stevenage Athletics Festival. It was a great day out, giving our team the opportunity to both take on the best runners,



jumpers and throwers in town, and to compete on a proper running track (in many cases for the first time). With 19 schools and almost 350 children involved, the standard of competition was really high, but we gave it our all in every event, and we were particularly proud of Aleena (ball throw) and Cairo (long jump), who both won bronze medals. Even more impressively, when all the scores were added up, we discovered that we had finished in 4th place overall, just missing out on the team medals.



Netball

It was a packed end to the school netball season, with both our Girls and Mixed teams working hard to complete all of their fixtures in time and finish as high as possible in the league table. Our Girls team took on Camps Hill, St Margaret's, St Nicks and Shephalbury Park in a series of tight, tough games, and finished in 7th place overall in the Stevenage league. Our Mixed team, meanwhile, went into their last game against St Ippolyts with everything to play for - and put in an awesome all-around team performance to win the game and go level on points with two other schools. The final league positions were decided on goal difference, where our sportsmanship (not running up big scores when we were winning) unfortunately went against us, and we finished as bronze-medallists (but joint first on points!)

Year 3/4 Football

We finished off the football season with the Stevenage Schools FA Year 3/4 Tournament, which we hosted at Bedwell. Playing against some very talented, very organised players, goals were hard to come by - but with Toby scoring from his own half and Jaden hammering home a header at the back post, we definitely scored two of the best goals of the afternoon. We finished 4th overall, and can't wait for the next season to begin!

