

Bedwell News

July 2024

This term's highlights:

- Our end-of-year production of *We Will Rock You* was a huge success, with a cast of 170 putting on an incredible show.
- We all got involved in this year's Sports Week, taking part in dance, lacrosse, athletics, football, skateboarding and boccia sessions, as well as 3 amazing Sports Days.
- 36 members of Year 6 had an unforgettable weekend away at PGL in Surrey.
- Year 1/2 visited Clacton, Year 3/4 headed to Celtic Harmony Camp and Year 5 had a day out at Aldenham Country Park.
- Year 6 took part in a *Crucial Crew* afternoon at Stevenage Football Club, learning how to stay safe in real-world situations.
- Parent workshops have taken place in every phase, with *Stay and Make* art sessions in Year 1/2 and Year 3/4, *Stay and Read* in Year 5 and lots of transition events in Early Years.

What we've been doing this term...

Successes in the classroom...

Year 6 sat their SATs tests in May, showing great determination, focus and resilience in the way they attacked these challenging assessments. It was really clear how much everyone in the cohort wanted to show how much they had learnt over the last few years - and, as a result, they were rewarded with a brilliant set of results. 71% of children reached the expected standard in reading while 68% achieved this standard in maths and grammar - and almost a quarter of our Year 6 achieved the challenging 'greater depth' standard in all three tests!

...in the community...

This year's Summer Fayre was a great success, bringing the whole school together for a good cause and raising over £1700 for School Council Funds. Over 400 children, parents and carers attended, taking part in games, raffles and sports challenges, meeting the police and some very friendly horses and of course buying lots of toys, teddy bears and ice cream.

...and on the sports field

In a busy end to our sports season, we took part in netball, football, tennis, cricket and athletics competitions this term, as well as being invited to a special *Path to Paris* event linked to this summer's Olympic Games. This has been a particularly strong season for our Year 5/6 Mixed Netball



team, who won every game they played this year and won the Stevenage League as a result. Many of the same children also represented Bedwell with great success at the Stevenage Athletics Festival held at Ridlins Stadium earlier in the term. With 20 schools taking part, the level of competition was really high, but we performed incredibly well, particularly in the field events, securing bronze in the girls javelin, silver in the girls



cricket ball throw and two amazing gold medals, winning both the boys javelin and the boys long jump.

Sports Week 24

The whole school got involved in this year's Sports Week, which took place from 17th - 21st June. Across a packed week, we took part in three Sports Days, a huge range of taster sessions and lots of fantastic events run by local clubs and sporting organisations.

Our visitors included expert skateboard riders, who ran brilliant sessions in Years 3-6. Stevenage Sporting Futures instructors who delivered lacrosse and boccia lessons, football coaches from Stevenage FC and a team of dance instructors who worked with Years 1-4. We also loved taking part in golf, multisports, cricket, athletics, gymnastics, yoga and hockey activities organised by our teachers. Phew!

The pictures across these pages show just a tiny bit of what we all got up to. We loved the whole week and look forward to lots more sport next year - and we all want to send out a huge thank you to Mrs Thomas and Mr Butler for organising everything!



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Our Sports Days

The biggest highlights of this year's Sports Week were our three Sports Days. We started the week with our Foundation Stage Sports Day, with everyone in Nursery and Reception loving the chance to run, bounce and balance in front of a packed crowd of mums, dads and carers. On Tuesday, the action moved on to Key Stage 1, with Years 1 and 2 taking part in a huge number of races. Our sack, dressing-up and three-legged events were definite favourites! Finally, on Wednesday morning the whole of Key Stage 2 took to the field for some seriously competitive (and seriously fun) races. We battled for every place in each event, with the points we earned added up to determine our overall winner - but we couldn't get close to Pluto, our blue house, who retained the Sports Day Cup which they won last year.

Across all three mornings, it was amazing to see how many parents and carers attended - thank you to everyone who cheered us on!





At the seaside!

All three Year 1/2 classes have been learning about the seaside environments this term - so the only sensible choice for their end-of-year trip was a huge outing to the beach!

Having chosen Clacton-on-Sea as our destination, we enjoyed a fabulous day at the seaside with incredible weather and lots of happy smiling faces. We built sandcastles, searched for shells and buried each other in the sand before devouring our packed lunches. In the afternoon, some of us continued building in the sand, while others got out the frisbees and beach balls for some fun games. A few of us were even brave enough to dip our toes in the sea, but as it was not very warm (and to keep everyone safe) we decided not to let the water go above our ankles.

We finished off with ice cream and lollies on the seafront, before heading back to the coach. You could tell how busy our day had been by the number of us who quickly fell asleep on the way home!





Celtic Harmony Camp

On the penultimate Friday of term, Years 3 and 4 visited Celtic Harmony Camp in Hertford to support their history topic, which has focussed on life in Ancient Britain.

We spent the day travelling from the Stone Age to the Iron Age by completing a series of workshops associated with each period. After an engaging introduction by Finbar (our guide through history) we learnt about Stone Age tools with a demonstration of flint knapping. We then tried this technique ourselves, using it to craft an arrow head. Next up we delved into the Bronze age, learning how they made pottery and crafting our own pot. Finally we moved into the Iron Age, where we milled our own flour and made bread.

Before we left we were invited into the Chieftain's round house for Celtic story telling. Finbar was on fine form and even if we had no idea what was going on in some of the stories, we fell about laughing at his crazy antics before heading home!





Year 5's Farm Trip

In Year 5, our final trip of the year saw us heading to Aldenham Country Park. We had a lovely day exploring the farm, woodland and nature trails, all of which linked in with the *Life Cycles* topic that we've been learning about in science.

When we arrived, we split into two groups, with half of us going on a guided tour of the farm while the other half explored a nature trail around the 100 Acre Wood. In the farm, we got to feed chickens, rabbits, donkeys, cows and geese. We particularly enjoyed meeting the 18 piglets that swarmed around their mum and the goats that climbed up on the railings to eat out of our hands. In the woods, we decided that we definitely weren't too old for Winnie the Pooh, and enjoyed finding the houses where Pooh, Piglet, Eeyore and Owl lived.

After lunch, we had a great time in the adventure playground, and then finished our day with a quick walk around the park before heading back to the coach.



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Y6's PGL Adventure

On 14th June, a group of 36 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 raft building, abseiling, zip wire, sensory courses, archery and a tunnel trail - 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 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.





A busy term in Early Years

We've packed a huge amount into the Summer Term in Nursery and Reception. Over the course of the year, it has been brilliant to see how much we have grown in confidence and independence, and we've put that into practice by getting outside and making the most of our final term! We have investigated minibeasts, explored our changing environment, watched ducklings hatch-out in class, developed our phonics knowledge and become expert problem solvers. We have also got ready for next year with lots of transition events and activities with our new teachers and classmates.

We rounded-off the term with our end-of-year celebration on the final Friday of term, when our parents and carers joined us in class. We shared a presentation that reminded us of all the exciting things we have done this year, before playing together and showing them all of our favourite areas.





We Will Rock You!

The whole of KS2 came together this term to perform *We Will Rock You*, and we were all incredibly proud of the show that we created. With Y6 taking on the lead roles, Y5 playing Bohemians and the Killer Queen's entourage, and Y3/4 as the GaGa Kids, our production had a cast of 170, making this a huge project. Thank you to everyone who provided costumes and helped out with all the props, hair and make-up that we needed to get into character!

After weeks of rehearsals, practice and construction we were finally ready to perform on 9th and 10th July. Across three performances, we sold over 320 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!





Parent Workshops

We've continued to pack in lots of parent and carer workshops throughout the term, sharing our learning, celebrating successes and giving ideas for supporting children at home. Year 5 organised a *Stay and Read* session, with lots of ideas for exploring new stories; Year 3/4 put together a brilliant art workshop, focussing on stone age art; and (as you can see from the photos on these pages), Year 1/2 ran a fantastic *Stay and Make* morning, linked to their *Seaside* topic. An amazing 52 parents and carers joined Year 1/2 for their session, making fish mosaics, jelly fish, shadow paintings and fishing games. It was great to see whole families working together to create pieces of art and sharing what they had made.

Thank you to everyone who took part in these sessions. We've been working hard to develop home-school links over the last two years, and it's been brilliant to see how the number of people attending has continued to grow and grow!



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Community Support

School Council were very keen to get involved with the *Great British Spring Clean* - a national project that aims to tidy up our local environment. Unfortunately, the first two times they tried to go out, it absolutely chucked it down with rain - but, finally, at the third attempt, they made it down to Fairlands Park on June 26th.

Armed with grabbers, high-vis jackets, lots of rubbish sacks and a few extra friends, they worked their way around the play area, along paths and through the trees, collecting a huge amount of rubbish as they went. It was a brilliant way for them to support our local community - but it also reminded them how unnecessary so much of this litter is, and how much better it would be if we all threw our rubbish away properly. They finished off their afternoon with a few minutes in the play area, a just reward for their good work.

Thank you to Mrs Draper, who organised the session and has supported School Council all year.



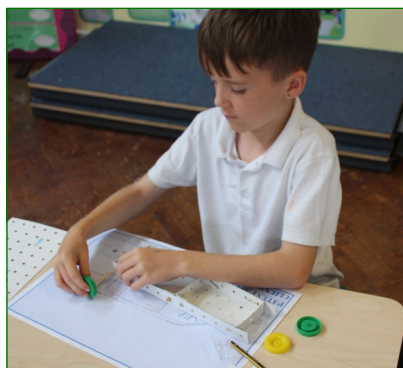
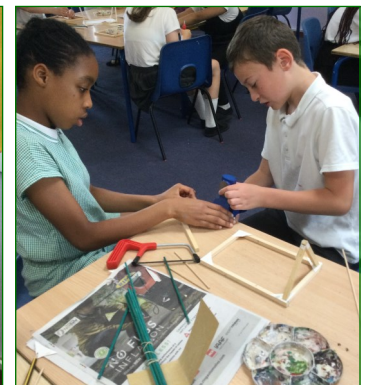
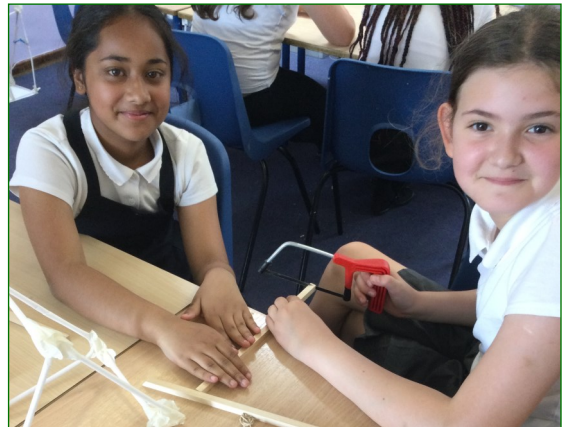
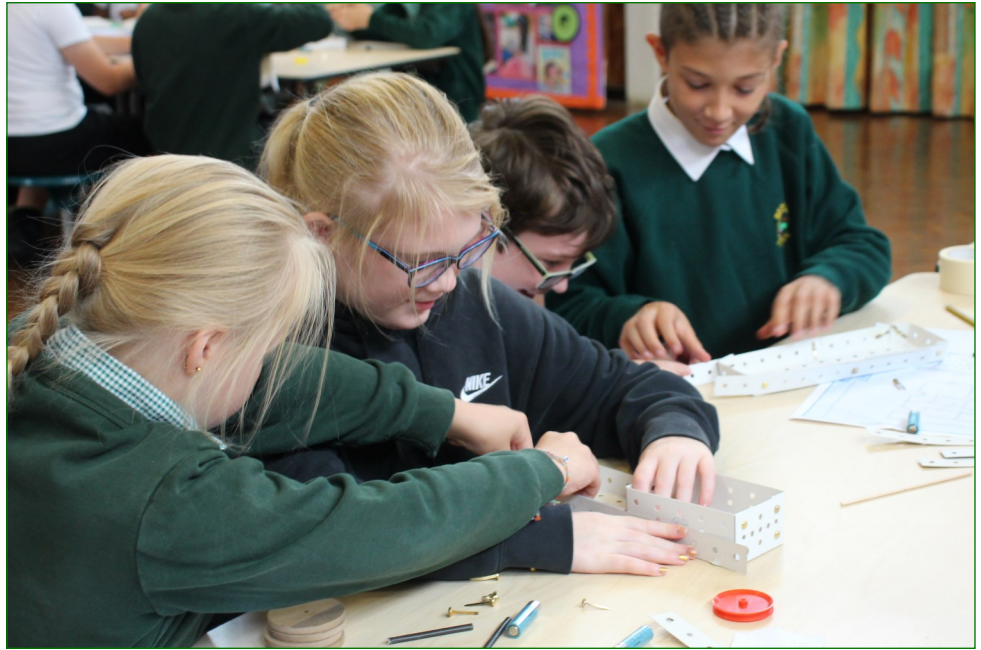
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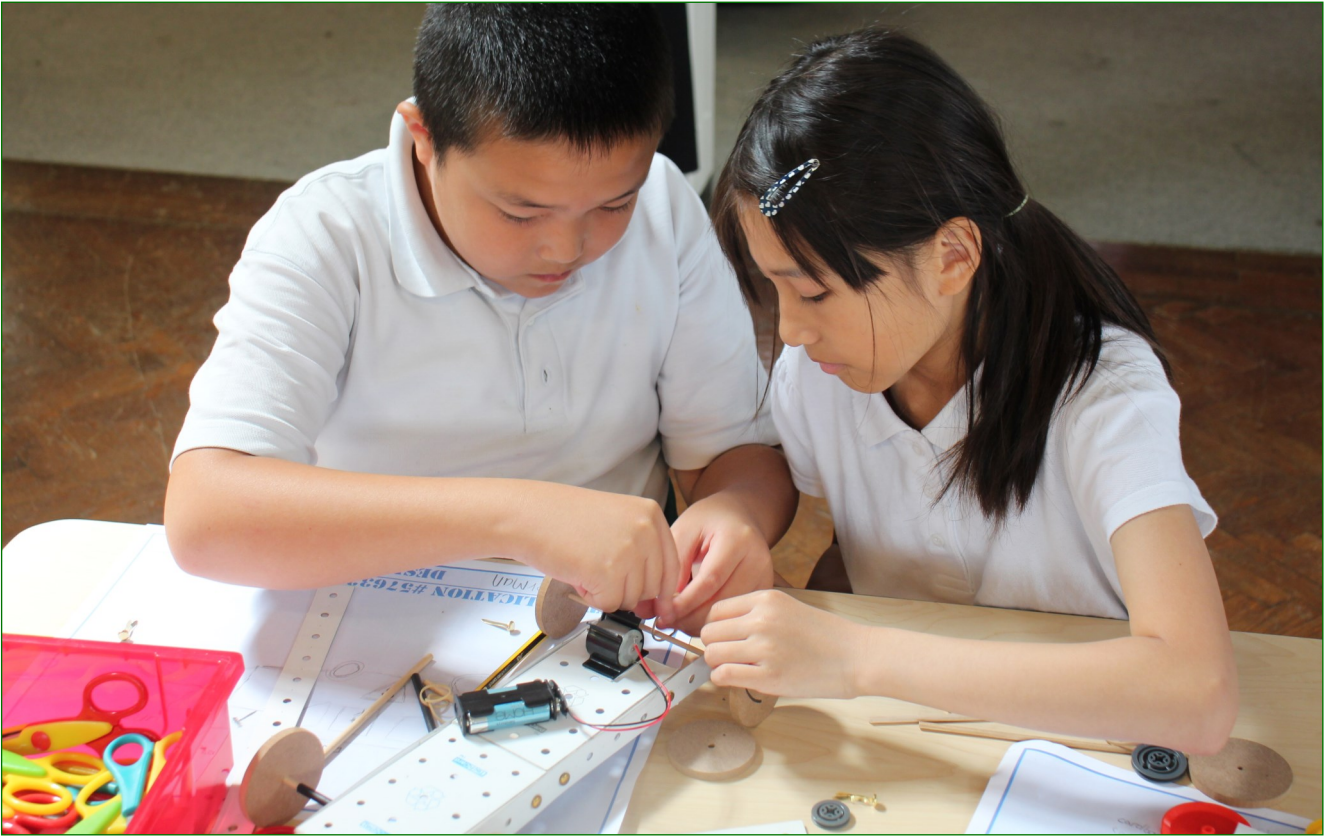
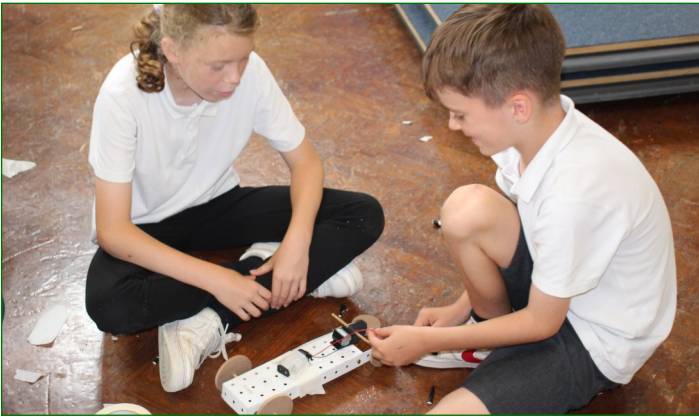
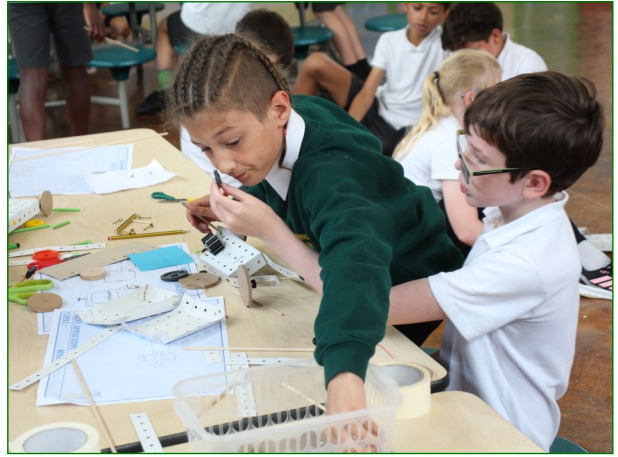


DT Week

We spotted a free space on the school calendar in the last full week of term, so we decided to turn it into DT Week across the school! Every year group picked a project to focus on:

- In Years 1 and 2, we chose to make beach huts, linking in with our *Seaside* topic. We learnt to saw and glue wood to make solid frames, which we then decorated.
- In Years 3 and 4, we explored pneumatic systems - linking plastic syringes with tubes to make things move using air pressure. We chose how to apply these to our final machines, making everything from *SpongeBob* leaping out from his house to rockets blasting off into space!
- In Year 5, we built model cars, using circuits, switches and pulleys to create vehicles that whizzed across the hall floor.
- Finally, in Year 6 we built tents for a festival trip, constructing strong structures that would stand up to wind and rain.





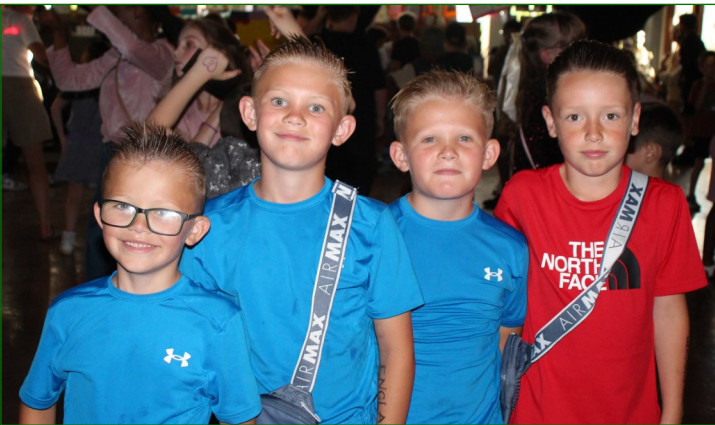
Summer Disco

On the final Monday of term we held a fantastic Summer disco, celebrating a brilliant year and marking our Year 6's final week at Bedwell. With over 180 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 £1096 for School Council funds. Combined with the money we have raised from our Summer Fayre and discos earlier in the year, this will enable us to buy lots of new games and resources.

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!





Year 6's final week

What a fantastic final term we've had in Year 6! We've worked together to produce an amazing production of *We Will Rock You*, took part in Crucial Crew and lots of transition events with our new schools, then ourselves into Sports and DT weeks - and many of us also spent an amazing weekend away at PGL. In between all of that, we completed our SATs - and absolutely smashed them, with super results of which we should all be really proud (check out the front page for a bit more detail)..

Finally, we rounded-off the year with our Leavers Trip. On Monday morning we headed down to the leisure park for a fun bowling session, followed by lunch at Frankie and Benny's. There were lots of laughs and lots of memories shared, and it was a great way to spend our final full day of primary school.

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

4th September

Start of term and My New Year Group meetings for Y1-Y6

9th September

Autumn Term clubs start

10th September

Year 5 Swimming starts

24th September

SATs meeting for Year 6 parents

25th September

School photos

27th September

Afternoon Tea for Macmillan Cancer

4th October

Foundation Stage Stay & Play session

16th October

Parents' Evening

24th October

Halloween Disco (Years 2-6)

28th October -

1st November

Half-term

29th November

Christmas Fayre

10th December

Key Stage 1 Show (2:15pm)

11th December

Key Stage 1 Show (9.15am and 2.15pm)

20th December

End of term, 2pm

Sports Update

Football

May was a busy month for all our football teams, as we hurried to get all of our games played before the end of the season. Our Year 5/6 A team won against Round Diamond but lost against Almond Hill, leaving them 5th overall in the Division 1 of the Stevenage Schools League - our best ever finish and a great result considering there are 29 teams involved! Our Girls team finished 6th in Girls Division 1, while our B team put in some brilliant performances against some very strong A sides in their league.



Our Year 3/4 team also reached the high point of their season, playing in the Stevenage Schools Tournament, which we hosted at Bedwell. With Joe, Leo and Nate playing with great determination in midfield and Luca pulling off some excellent saves in goal, we were competitive in every game, winning one, losing one and drawing two of our group games. Unfortunately, goals were hard to come by and, after finishing joint-second in our group, we were knocked-out on goals scored.

Finally, we also hosted the Stevenage Schools FA end-of-season presentations at Bedwell, with 200 children, parents and carers attending from schools across town. At the presentation, we awarded our 'Players of the Season' and 'Most Improved Player' prizes, with Cairo and James winning for our A team, Jazzi and Poppy standing out for our Girls team and Alistair and Andrei taking home the B team awards.



Netball

Our two netball teams had an equally busy end to their seasons. The Mixed Netball team ended their undefeated year with a comfortable win at Woolenwick, and as a result won their league (check out the photo on the front page).

Meanwhile, the Girls Netball team were in the hunt for the league title at Easter, but faced some tricky matches against the top teams in town to finish the season. One goal losses in really tight games against St Margarets, Shephalbury Park and St Nicholas saw them finish 5th out of 14 schools. Throughout the year, the girls represented our school with energy, determination and courage, with some of the team playing over 20 competitive matches, and they have been a great advertisement for Bedwell in every game.