



Apple Press

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Newsletter

16th September, 2022

Dear parents and carers,

I hope that everyone has settled into the new routine of school once again. The children have settled in really well and are engaging well with their learning.

This year we are introducing two new schemes of work across the school, and the Trust, in order to raise standards in literacy as this is the curriculum area that has proven to be the largest challenge nationally following the pandemic.

We have begun to teach Monster Phonics which is a DFE approved scheme of synthetic phonics. Monster Phonics teaches children to read by enabling them to identify the individual graphemes (letter combinations) and blend the sounds (phonemes) together to read the word. It is a fun way to teach phonics, since it is multi-sensory. Sounds are categorised into ten colour groups, and each colour has a corresponding monster character. Monster Phonics is a highly advanced multisensory scheme. This creates interest and engagement from the children.

I would like to say a big thank you to the FOBS (Friends of Banham School) who have provided the funding for this scheme.

We have also introduced the Write Stuff to support writing across the school. The Write Stuff is based on two guiding principles; teaching sequences that slide between experience days and sentence stacking lessons. With modelling at the heart of them, the sentence stacking lessons are broken into bite-sized chunks and taught under the structural framework of The Writing Rainbow. Teachers prepare children for writing by modelling the ideas, grammar or techniques of writing.

We will also continue to develop a Maths Mastery approach across the whole school using the White Rose scheme of work and with continued support from the Angles Maths Hub.

Forest school sessions have once again resumed this term on a rotational basis each half term and the children have been very enthusiastic about expressing their enthusiasm for the sessions with Mrs Negus. Here are a few of the comments they shared when asked why they think we have Forest School? "We come to connect with nature." "To find peace." "To be together." "To explore." "To learn life skills." "Build community."

As I am sure that you are all aware, regular good attendance is vital to building children's learning and confidence and this is especially important following the pandemic and the increased levels of absence/school closures that this has caused.

Nationally, and across the County a key focus for this year will be upon attendance. Last year attendance across the school was 92% - the expectation is that all children should have attendance of 96% and above. We look forward to working with you all to improve our levels of attendance across the school this year and we will be reporting and discussing attendance levels with you on a frequent basis throughout the year.

Best wishes,

Mr Gamble

Robins have settled into school brilliantly. We have been busy making new friends and exploring the classroom and all the different activities. This week we have made a collage of the Queen, we decided to use different black materials as a sign of respect. We then made crowns to celebrate the new King. These are on display in the classroom. The children worked very hard on these and all had a go at cutting them out!

Wrens have been taking part in our learning activities and getting to know each other and learning how to work as a team. The activities have been writing about our families, building a Numicon city and drawing self-portraits of ourselves. We've been enjoying Monster phonics and meeting the monsters and we've been revisiting our shapes and creating shape monsters. The children have also enjoyed our new music lessons from Charanga. Wrens have had an excellent two weeks and worked incredibly hard!

Skylarks have been learning number and place value in maths, and especially loved being able to draw number lines on their desks with a whiteboard pen! We have started Anglo-Saxon myths and looked at forces in science.

Swifts have been working hard on their new topic Rivers, Oceans & Coasts. We have also begun our persuasive writing on ocean plastic pollution this week. In science we are learning about Matter & Materials. We have also created some wonderful artwork learning about Paul Klee. A fabulous start to the year!

Friends of Banham School (FOBS) is a charity run by parents/guardians who offer their time and ideas for the benefit of all pupils at Banham Primary School. FOBS promote, organises and runs a mix of fun activities for the children and fundraising events to purchase items chosen by staff, parents or children for the benefit of the children at the school.

Quiz nights, Christmas and Autumn fairs, school discos and Summer tea parties are just a few examples of the events they have held in the past. Starting next Friday, the weekly cake raffle sale will begin. Tickets can be purchased in the mornings for 30p each and we have a draw in our celebration assembly at the end of the day to see who wins a yummy treat! Please let us know if you would like to bake for this fantastic fundraising!

If you would like to be involved, we would love to hear from you! We are a small, friendly group and there is no pressure, you can choose to be involved as much or as little as you would like. Please contact the office who can put you in touch with a member of the FOBS team or join us at the next meeting *Tuesday 20 September 8pm @ The Barrel*, hope to see you there!

Dates for your diary

- 19 September 2022 – Bank Holiday
- 10 October 2022 – Individual/Siblings School Photographs
- 22 – 30 October 2022 – Half Term
- 1 & 3 November 2022 – Parent's Evening
- 11 November 2022 – Flu Vaccinations
- 7 December 2022 – Christmas Show TBD
- 12 December 2022 – School Nursing Team (Reception & Y6)
- 14 December 2022 – Rock Steady Concert
- 17 December 2022 – 3 January 2023 – Christmas Break
- 6 January 2023 – Robins & Wrens trip to the Theatre (Jack & the Beanstalk Pantomime)