



Beenham Primary School Newsletter



VALUES
EDUCATION

www.beenhamschool.co.uk

Can you help please?

Dear parents

Play rehearsals are going extremely well. You are in for a treat when you come and watch the performances.

We are just finalising costumes and props. We need a walking stick and 5ft/6ft artificial Christmas tree and would be grateful if anyone could loan us either of these items for the play performances.

Please let Mrs Appleby know if you can help.

Kind regards
Sue Butcher

22nd November 2019

Our **VALUE** this month is
Co-operation



Claire Breakspear

What's happening in school over the next couple of weeks?

- Tuesday 26th November - Year 6 Takeover Day
- Friday 29th November - Mai Class Assembly (parents welcome) 9am
- Friday 29th November - PTFA Christmas Fayre 5pm-7pm
 - Monday 2nd December - It's a Cracker performance 1.30pm
 - Tuesday 3rd December - It's a Cracker performance 6pm
 - Wednesday 4th December - It's a Cracker performance 6pm
 - Friday 6th December - Christmas Song Singalong (parents welcome) 9am

Play rehearsals

A reminder that from Monday 25th November, ALL PLAY REHEARSALS will be without scripts. So read, read and read your scripts over the weekend.

Tickets for the Nativity play



Tickets are now on sale for all performances. We will be charging £2 a ticket and all profits will go to our fundraising for new reading books.

There will be three performances as follows:

Monday 2nd December at 1.30pm

Tuesday 3rd December at 6pm

Wednesday 4th December at 6pm

All performances will be in *The Victory Hall*.

Please complete the slip at the end of the newsletter to order your tickets.

Please keep your tickets for Tuesday and Wednesday evening performances safe as they have a number on them which will be entered into our lucky dip each night.

It's a Cracker DVD

ECP Studios will be in on the 3rd December to record the performance and DVDs will be available at a cost of £12. If you would like a DVD then please complete the slip at the end of the newsletter and return to the school office.

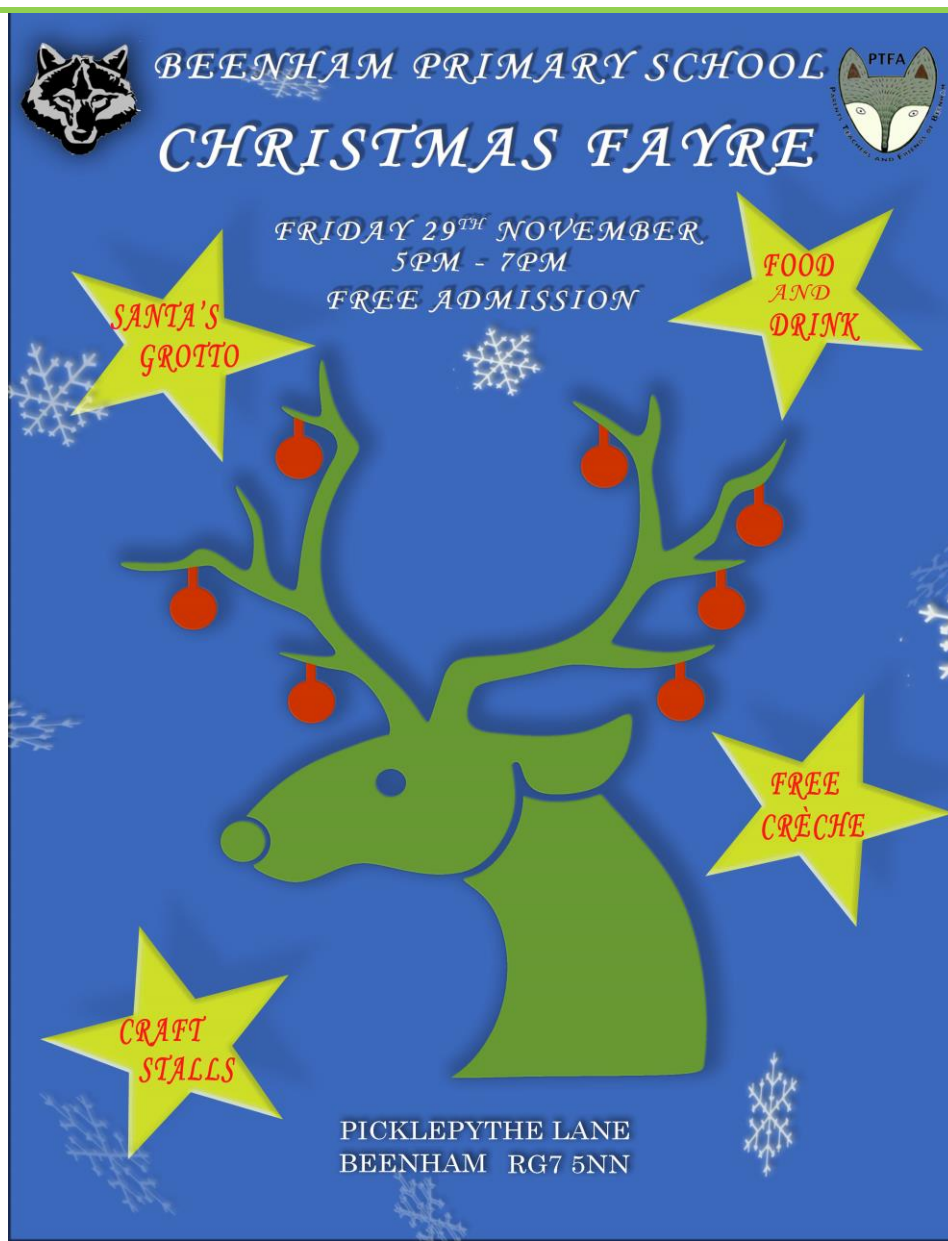
Nativity information

Mai and Torak Classes will need to return to school for 5:30pm for both nights of the Nativity.

Mosi Class to return at 5:45pm ready for a 6:00pm start.

The matinee performance on Monday afternoon will finish at 2.30pm. If you are coming to watch this performance, then you may take your children with you once the performance is over.

Thank you.



CHRISTMAS FAYRE

GIFT TICKET



Today your child will be coming home with a special Christmas Fayre gift ticket.

There is one ticket per child in school.

If your child is present at the opening of the Christmas Fayre and they present their ticket, it can be exchanged for a free Christmas gift from school.

Please note that the gift cannot be claimed if your child is not present at the fayre or if they arrive after the formal opening at 5pm.

The gifts will be given out by one of Santa's helpers on receipt of the gift ticket.

Each ticket is named. You will not be able to claim someone else's gift and there is only one gift allowed per child.

We look forward to seeing you all at the fayre. The PTFA have worked so hard to prepare this special Christmas event for us all. It is going to be fantastic!



Thank you to those parents and children who have been donating snacks for our tuck-shop on a Thursday break-time. We really appreciate your generosity.

Please look out for us at the school Christmas Fayre as we will be holding a mini book fayre with ALL BOOKS AND STATIONERY HALF PRICE...perfect for Christmas presents. School will receive a percentage of the book sales so please be sure to visit us.

We have decided to hold a Christmas cake sale on Thursday 12th December (this will be instead of tuck-shop). Any donations of cupcakes on the day would be most welcome.

Thank you for your ongoing support.



A big thank you to everyone who brought in change on Friday, we raised **£61.74**

Mai Class information



We had another fabulous Forest School morning last Wednesday. The children have been learning to identify different trees and plants and observe the change of season. We looked at the different types of leaves that have fallen and we collected leaves from the forest floor.

In class we used a variety of art materials to make different images of our leaves by printing, rubbing and drawing them.

Thank you to those parents who have already brought in Nativity costumes for their children. We still have plenty of costumes, here at school, for anyone who still might need one.

Don't forget that we will be performing our first class assembly on Friday 29th November. We would love to see you there!

Torak Class information

This week in maths the children have been learning repeated addition to support progress from additive to multiplicative understanding. Next week, we will begin looking at multiplication.

In literacy, the children have been identifying different sentence forms, such as: question, exclamation, statement and command using non-fiction text. In groups, they highlighted the different sentence types.

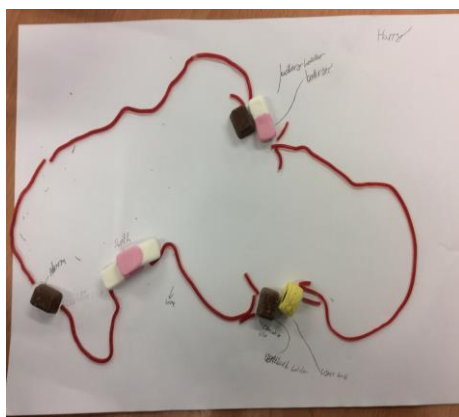
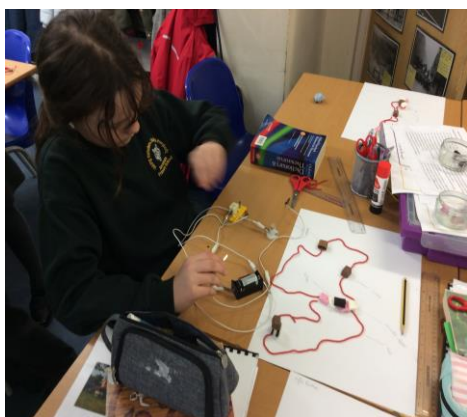


In geography, we have been looking at grid maps and compass points to give directions. The children have drawn maps of the school outdoor area using a grid map and will be challenging each other to find features of their map using grid references and compass directions.

Spellings have now finished for the term.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mosi Class information



This week we have been busy thinking of ourselves as inventors. We asked the question, what would you invent? And had some whacky and wonderful responses during our English lesson ranging from a dog walking machine to an automatic toilet paper dispenser. It really is fascinating to see what goes on in the minds of children and what they perceive to be problems that need solving! We were delighted with Sophie's commitment to being an inventor as she took the learning one step further and made her invention at home - the hamster cheek helmet is now a reality, so if you find yourself getting peckish on a long bike ride, then Sophie has the answer for you; simply use her hamster cheek helmet that helpfully stores food in an easy to access spot on the side of your helmet. Well done Sophie!

We have had lots of great learning in science, with the children using sweets to create their own circuits. It was a great way to assess what the children had remembered and understood from previous lessons, and the children were then tasked with actually making their circuits using wires, bulbs, buzzers, batteries and even some propellers. Some children quickly realised they needed to make some changes to their circuits, but with their fantastic problem solving skills they were able to quickly make adjustments and light up their bulbs.

With the nativity performances just around the corner, a reminder that all children in MOSI class are required for all performances as they make up the choir as well as being dancers and soloists. We really do need all the children here and appreciate your commitment to making this happen. If there are likely to be any difficulties, please do come and talk to me so that together we can find a solution. Unless they are dancers, Mosi class will need to wear smart dark (black or grey) trousers (school trousers will suffice) and school shoes. We will provide printed t-shirts for those in the choir.

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs Russell

BEENHAM HISTORY

Everyone has been thoroughly enjoying our Beenham 100! topic this term and in particular our memory café where we invited members of the wider community to come and share their memories of Beenham in the past. All of the children have spent time poring over school archives, and many have been delighted to find parents, aunts and uncles in amongst the many pictures from the past that the school retains in order to preserve our history for future generations.

As a history graduate myself, with a special interest in social history, it has been a real delight to see the children engage in investigating these wonderful sources and asking questions about the past and how life used to be for their parents, grandparents and even great-grandparents. One particular highlight has been re-reading the fantastic resource that is *Beenham, A History* which was compiled some time ago by members of the History of Beenham Group. I've always been fascinated with history as it has so much to teach us about why we are the way we are, and it also teaches us that difficulties that we may face today are not the modern day issues that we might have come to believe.

Of course, the chapter on Beenham's school has been particularly interesting and highlights the famous proverb from Ecclesiastes that "There's nothing new under the sun". As anyone involved in education will know, there has been a real focus in mathematics on problem-solving and reasoning and a move away from simply being able to calculate sums which many of us may remember as being the way things were done when we were at school. It was interesting therefore to note that one of the earliest school inspections in 1912 comments that *'there should be less sum-working and more experience of thought'*. We tend to believe that modernity brings advances, but clearly our ancestors of a hundred years ago were the real forward-thinking modernisers, and we are simply putting into action now, what they already knew in 1912.

The school history also tells us that staffing has been a persistent problem for the school ever since it was first established. The period from 1916 seems to have been an exceptionally difficult time for teaching with the school struggling to recruit a teacher for the older children. This wonderful history book also tells us that *"for years to come [from 1916] there was a rapid turnover of staff and frequent official intervention over staffing levels."* As many of you know, there have been periods even within recent times when we have faced the same challenges, and yet the school has always come through and has continued to flourish in the same way that it did 100 years ago. Of course, in modern days, staffing has been a challenge for all schools across West Berkshire and indeed the nation, with a real crisis in recruitment of trainee teachers meaning that smaller, rural schools have faced genuine challenges to recruit. And yet, we can see that it is not just a modern problem but is in fact history repeating itself throughout the generations as it does in many other areas of our lives. We have so much to learn from our past, even if it is simply that we are more connected to our past than we might realise.

I'm sure that many of our children will have been delighted with this topic and the way it connects them to their heritage as Beenham residents. I only hope that it inspires some of them to go on to be historians themselves and who knows, perhaps in 20 or 30 years some of the children will be coming back to the school with children of their own, looking at their own photographs and sharing their memories of growing up in this wonderful village.

Emma Russell

CLUBS

Please find below a list of club finish dates for this term:

Cooking/Craft Club - 25th November 2019

Glee / Street Dance - 10th December 2019

Drama - 11th December 2019

Multi Sports - 12th December 2019

Judo - 13th December 2019

The Great Beenham Bake off

26th November 2019 – 11am

Beenham Primary School is hosting "The Great Beenham Bake Off" to raise money for new reading books for each class.

The Great Beenham Bake Off is open to the whole village community, the more the merrier, young or old, we'd love to see you. If you are interested, please pop into the school office for more information and to register.

Entries will be charged as follows:-

Adults	£2.00
Children (5 - 14) :	£1.00

We are very lucky to have Sarah Mussellwhite, Baker and Cafe Manager from Cobbs of Englefield coming to judge the entries. Cobbs have very kindly donated the following prizes:-

Adults: Afternoon Tea for Two at Cobbs, Englefield

Children: Family Ticket to Cobbs Play- barn in Hungerford

Once judging is complete all cakes entered will be taken to Beenham Club for this month's Pop up Tea Room and all proceeds from donations and entry fees will be given to the school for reading books.

(Newbury Weekly News will be attending to take photographs and a piece on the event will appear in the Newspaper).





The Christingle service will take place at 4pm at St Marys Church, Beenham, on Sunday 1st December. Collection boxes should be either returned to school or taken with you on 1st December.

Christmas Begins in Beenham!

There's a lot happening in the first two weeks of December in Beenham.
Everyone is most welcome to join in all or part of the festivities

Saturday November 30th

MESSY CHURCH comes to Beenham, with a theme of "Christingle"

From: 3.30pm – 5pm

In: The Victory Hall

We will have fun activities and crafts to help explore the true meaning of Advent.
It is suitable for all ages. Children please bring an adult!

Sunday December 1st

4.00pm: Christingle at St Mary's Church

5.00pm: Turning on the Tree lights on the green outside the school

5.15pm: Mulled wine and mince pies in the Community Room and School Hall with
Entertainment by members of the Beenham Band

Donations of mulled wine or mince pies would be wonderful.

These can be left in the porch at Fernwood, opposite the school

OR contact Pat on 07947478840(patowen0@hotmail.com) to arrange for collection.

Many thanks in advance.

From 6.00pm:

Buffet Supper in The Six Bells – tickets on sale **NOW** from The Six Bells - £6 each.

Monday December 9th

Carol Singing in the Victory Hall

From 6pm

Mince pies, tea, coffee and soft drinks from 6pm (organised by the Brownies)

Carol singing from around 6.15pm

EVERYONE most welcome

On the same evening

Father Christmas visits Beenham

Father Christmas will be paying a visit to Beenham on this special evening

He will be travelling around the village **from 5.15pm** and stopping at the **Santa Stops** at:

5.15pm - The Strouds

5.30pm - Stoneyfields – The Green

5.45pm - The Warings

6.00pm - Back Lane

6.15pm - The Victory Hall

He would love to receive any Christmas letters to make sure he has everything in order for the big day, so come out and see him and give them to him☺

Father Christmas will then finish his special visit at the **Victory Hall** to join in with the carol singing.

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Many thanks in advance.

From 6.00pm:

Family buffet supper in The Six Bells – tickets on sale **NOW** from The Six Bells -
£6 each.



Bradfield Rainbows and Brownies

Girls in Rainbows and Brownies have incredible experiences together, make brilliant friends and discover the world around them. Every time they meet up, girls learn new skills and take on challenges as they work out what they want to be and do in the future. All girls are sure to try new things and take on a broad range of challenges as they explore the topics that sit within our six programme themes - Know Myself, Express Myself, Be Well, Have Adventures, Take Action and Skills for My Future.

We build girls' confidence and raise their aspirations. We give them the chance to discover their full potential and encourage them to be a powerful force for good. We give them a space to have fun.



age 5-7

A new Rainbows unit is being set up after Christmas!!

Rainbows learn by doing – they get their hands dirty, do sports, arts and crafts and play games. Being a Rainbow is all about having the space to try new things. Through taking part in a range of different activities with girls their own age, Rainbows develop self-confidence and make lots of new friends.



age 7-10

We meet fortnightly during term-time to do various fun activities such as crafts, cooking, badges, games and much more. Outside of the normal meeting times we often do other activities / events such as helping the community, fund-raising, trips, sleepovers, and pack holidays.

For more information, contact: helenguides@yahoo.com

**Come and visit the Bradfield Brownies stall
at the Christmas Fayre**

After School Club

Monday – Games

Tuesday – Arts and Crafts

Wednesday – Games

Thursday – Arts and Crafts

Booking information and prices:

Places can be booked via the school office. The session price is £9 with a reduction to £8 for siblings. The price includes a snack.

Mobile No: 07830 367607

This number should only be used to contact us after 3pm (use the office number during school hours).



Beenham Primary School on TWITTER

Find us by searching for @BeenhamPrimary

MAKING CONTACT WITH SCHOOL STAFF

If you have an issue that you would like to discuss with any member of the school staff and you wish to make an appointment to see them, then please email them direct. We do encourage face to face contact whenever possible as we genuinely believe it is the best way to resolve any concern that you may have. Email addresses are as follows:

School Office: office@beenham.w-berks.sch.uk

Mrs Godfrey: jgodfrey@beenham.w-berks.sch.uk

Mrs Cannings: lcannings@beenham.w-berks.sch.uk

Mrs Russell: erussell@beenham.w-berks.sch.uk

Mrs Butcher: headteacher@beenham.w-berks.sch.uk

Keep in touch with the school governors by visiting their website regularly. Follow the direct link below.

Beenham School Governor website

NEWSLETTER COMMENTS

If you would like to comment or respond to any of the items in this newsletter then please email office@beenham.w-berks.sch.uk or fill in the slip below.

Name(s) _____

Parent/pupil comment:

Signed: _____ Parent/guardian/pupil

It's a Cracker nativity tickets - £2 each

Name of child/ren:.....

I would like tickets for Monday 2nd December

I would like tickets for Tuesday 3rd December

I would like tickets for Wednesday 4th December

I enclosecash/cheque

Signed:.....

It's a Cracker DVD - £12

Name of child/ren:.....

I would like DVD(s)

I enclose(cash only)

Signed:.....