



Baydon St. Nicholas

Church of England (VA) Primary School

Roots to grow, wings to fly

January
2024



What a fabulous time we have enjoyed at Baydon since September, packed full of exciting opportunities to enhance our learning.

Welcome

In September, we welcomed our lovely new members of Robins class into our school. They have settled in so well and we are all incredibly impressed at their attitude to learning, so a big welcome to Harley, Charlie, India, Ivy, Finley, Chloe, Logan, Rosa, Alfie, William, Elizabeth, Beau, Finn, Daisy, Jack, Mavis, Dotty, Harry, Harrison and Sadie.

It has also been great to have

new children in our older classes and we extend a warm welcome to those who have joined us since September.

Year 5 & 6 visit the Tower of London

As part of our celebration of the Kings coronation last year as a school we entered a competition ran by the Tower of London. We were delighted to be awarded free entry to the Tower as a result so off we headed for a fascinating day learning about British history! Despite the challenges of travelling into and out of the capital city pupils had a fabulous time!



WHOLE CLASS GEOGRAPHY
LEARNING IN ROBINS!



SCULPTURE IN SKYLARKS



ROBINS ENJOYED THE YEAR 6 LED OUTDOOR CHILDREN IN NEED ACTIVITIES!



ROBINS LOVED THE STORY THEY HEARD FROM WILTSHIRE POLICE



FOREST SCHOOL INVESTIGATIONS IN THE AUTUMN



KITES LOOKING AFTER THEIR PET STICK INSECTS - DID YOU KNOW WE HAVE STICK INSECTS AS CLASS PETS IN GOLDFINCHES, SKYLARKS, KITES AND HAWKS?

Charity Days

Thank you to everyone for your continued support of the charity days that are led by our Year 6 house captains and vice captains. Before Christmas Newton supported Children in Need and Ashdown are busy planning the NSPCC number day for the start of February.

Wiltshire Police

We were fortunate enough to receive a visit from Wiltshire Police in the autumn term. In younger classes the police talked to pupils about their role and how they can help keep them safe, whilst in the older year groups the police supported understanding of how to keep safe online.

If you would like to find out more about online safety and how to protect your children at home then visit <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02488p8> for lots of useful advice and tips.

Marlborough College

Baydon continues to have strong links with Marlborough College, including members of our Governing body (Dave Madden (Chair) and Alistair Hamilton) also being staff at the college. This year as part of the college's outreach programme we have again welcomed volunteers from the student body to support in our classes and we have also had students running online safety sessions for our Year 6 pupils.

Watermill Visit

The whole school set off on an adventure at the end of December to watch the production of the Wizard of Oz at the Watermill Theatre in Newbury. The talented cast delighted our pupils with singing and musical instrument performances. All pupils from Baydon were, as always, exceptionally well behaved during the visit. Many thanks to all parent volunteers who supporting this trip.

FOBS

FOBS (Friends of Baydon School) have continued with providing excellent experiences for the pupils this term whilst raising funds vital to making our school the best it can be. The discos, reindeer run and, more recently, the popcorn night have provided fun fundraising opportunities for our pupils to participate in. Adults have also greatly enjoyed the flower arranging sessions that have already taken place. The school greatly appreciates our FOBS team and the time they give to support our school.

School Council

Congratulations to all those who have been elected to represent their year group on our School Council this year. School Council have been busy this year already instigating work on anti-bullying and have already held presentations in worship to the rest of the school. We look forward to seeing the positive change school council can implement in our school during the rest of the academic year.

Classdojo

Do keep an eye out on Classdojo for updates from classes and the school story. Not only is it a fantastic place to see what our pupils are up to we also will use the platform to share important updates if and when needed (such as school closures). Curriculum notes will continue to be posted on the site as well as homework information.

Fencing

As most of you will be aware the school fencing was replaced in November. Due to outside works on telegraph poles the fencing needed to be replaced sooner than anticipated. We were fortunate enough to be able to use diocese school building funding to ensure our site remains safe and secure for our pupils.



Parenting Support

We will continue to signpost parents via parent mails to outside resources to support you in your parenting journey. We recognise it is one of the hardest (but most rewarding) jobs out there! As always please do reach out if you need help and we will do our best to support and signpost you as needed. On the school website (under the links tab) there is information on supporting mental health and wellbeing and staying safe.

For our Wiltshire parents there is a list of parenting support courses on their website that might be of interest: <https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/parenting-support/parenting-courses> West Berkshire families can find out about services West Berkshire offer to families here: <https://directory.westberks.gov.uk/kb5/westberkshire/directory/results.page?familychannel=1-4>

Church and School

At the start of the year we welcomed Reverend Deb to our school, who joined the clergy team in the summer. Reverend Deb has already led worships in the school and has joined our Governing Body in the ex-officio role.

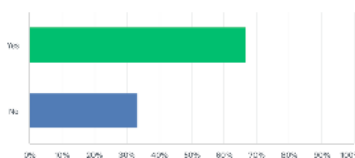
A few weeks after the start of term we celebrated Harvest in church and contributed to village donations to the local food bank. In December some pupils in school created Christingles in support of the church Christingle service which was well attended by Baydon school families. We continue to be grateful to the Open the Book Teams and the clergy teams for visiting us every week.



Homework Views

A huge thank you to all our families who participated in sharing their views on homework. As anticipated views varied considerably, however we have used them in school to inform our homework offer for the next year. The main overview of responses from the survey will be published on Classdojo.

Q1. Are you in favour of homework?



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	85.67%
No	14.33%

Braeside

Year 4 and 5 pupils set off in October for a super adventure at Braeside Outdoor Educational Centre in Devizes. Pupils took part in a variety of fun activities and loved developing their independence! Many thanks to all staff who supported this residential during and the preparation that is required to undertake visits such as this.

Just Reading

At the start of September we introduced a different way of teaching reading to pupils from Year 1 upwards in school. Based on prior educational research in secondary schools that has been adapted for use in primary settings the project used whole class sets of challenging texts that were shared daily in class. Miss Dunn (in her role as English Coordinator) will be sharing a more detailed overview of the project soon, but in the meantime I am pleased to report that pupil and teacher voice have been positive and we have seen some incredible examples of progress in reading age scores over the twelve weeks of the project.



BIKEABILITY - YEAR 6 WERE ALL SUCCESSFUL IN COMPLETING LEVEL 1 AND 2 THIS YEAR - FAB!



INVESTIGATING CARBON DIOXIDE IN SCIENCE



PREPARING FOR LAUNCH AT BRAESIDE!



THE WHOLE SCHOOL BECAME MATH ROCKSTARS FOR A DAY IN NOVEMBER!

all classes will focus on one play. Easter celebrations will be held at the end of Term 4.

Christmas at Baydon

At the end of Term 2 all pupils were involved in performances supporting the retelling of the Christmas story. Pupils in Robins and Goldfinches acted out a lovely nativity whilst our older pupils not only retold the story in a unique way but also delighted the audience with their exceptional singing. As well as performances pupils also partook in our annual crib service and a Christmas party where we were delighted to be visited by Father Christmas!

Finally...

We are so in gratitude of the support all our families give to the school. As a small school we very much feel and appreciate all that you do to make Baydon St Nicholas a very special place.

Mrs Gilbert and the Baydon Team

HAWKS SECTION OF THE PERFORMANCE



Looking ahead

We have now started our whole school theme of Stargazers, which is being developed in lots of ways throughout the school including lots of science work on our solar system! As we progress into this term we will be celebrating World Book Day, and will hold our annual Shakespeare Week where

DESPITE THE WEATHER, PUPILS LOVED PARTICIPATING IN THE REINDEER RUN!



MINDFULNESS ACTIVITIES IN ROBINS ARE A GREAT WAY TO START THE DAY

