



# NEWSLETTER

## A message from the **PRINCIPAL**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our March 2023 Newsletter! This month got off to a flying start with World Book Day on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. I loved all the fabulous costumes and increasing knowledge of books that the children are showing. We once again had a visit from a West End performer delivering Dance workshops themed around a book.

We had another very successful Parent Consultation event in the hall. It was lovely to see all of you so pleased and proud of your children's achievements.

Year 6 started their Bikeability programme and we see an increasing number of pupils cycling to school (with helmets on for safety!) which is both good for our environment and their health.

As part of our continuous journey of improving the education we provide, Mr Ratcliffe visited another of our Trust schools in Harlow and we welcomed one of their Assistant Principals to Beck Row. Some powerful professional dialogue was had and we shared a number of ideas and initiatives.

As part of our preparation for Year 6 SATS tests it was lovely to see so many Year 6 parents in the hall taking part in a bridge-building project followed by a SATS presentation – many thanks to Mr Smith for all his hard work organising this!

The 13<sup>th</sup> marked the start of another busy week with the arrival of eight Spanish students from BLS in Bury St Edmunds. We welcomed them into Year 5. Also that week Miss Gallagher held a special sign language assembly for the children to teach them a few basic signs and Early Years pupils sang a song which they signed along to – they did brilliantly! On Friday Miss Guise organised a most inspiring video call with a Scientist who spoke to our KS2 children about her job, how she came to work in her specialised field and the skills needed to be successful.

The following week our Estates Director visited to discuss various improvement works to the school including a fresh lick of paint to our main corridor, a new small teaching room and roofing repair works. A massive thank you also goes to Mrs Bailey and all her helpers who planted fifty trees in and around our school grounds for future generations to enjoy. We are proud to contribute to the Queen's Green Canopy project.

The final week of March was our busiest! Pupils enjoyed an Easter experience in the hall on Monday – many thanks to Ms Abineri and Revs Caroline and David for helping to arrange this. Mr Thomas and I met with our Trust CEO Sir Nick Weller to go over our finances for next year and Bobbie Caisley our Director of Primary Education visited. At the end of the week pupils wore their Easter bonnets which were absolutely amazing works of art, I have to say! Our staff enjoyed a shared lunch on Thursday with Buddies Lucky Squares taking place after school.

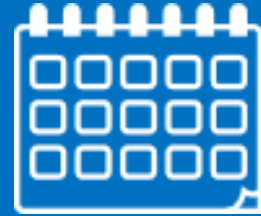
And finally, last but definitely not least we held our annual Easter egg hunt and the best Talent Show I have ever attended! The pupils were unbelievably talented, confident and skilled. They made us laugh and gasp with admiration in equal measure. We were even treated to a wonderful singing performance by Miss King followed by our amazing choir. Huge thanks go to all involved in the preparation and rehearsals but especially to Miss Addison who lead on the entire event.

What a truly fabulous end to another remarkable half term at Beck Row! I remain in awe of the commitment, energy and drive of all the staff here – all for the benefit of our wonderful pupils.

Kind Regards,

Mrs S. Shayler  
**Principal**

## Dates for Your DIARY



<b>Thursday 27th April 2023</b>	Raptor Foundation Trip Year 1
<b>Monday 1st May 2023</b>	Bank Holiday
<b>Friday 5th May 2023</b>	King's Coronation Celebration
<b>Monday 8th May 2023</b>	Bank Holiday
<b>Friday 12th May 2023</b>	Mini Marathon World Record Attempt
<b>Monday 22nd May 2023</b>	Houses of Parliament Trip Years 5 and 6
<b>Tuesday 23rd May 2023</b>	Class Group Photos
<b>Friday 26th May 2023</b>	Last Day before Summer Half-Term
<b>Monday 5th June 2023</b>	Start of second half Summer Term
<b>Friday 23rd June 2023</b>	Sports Day
<b>Wednesday 28th June 2023</b>	Framlingham Castle Trip Year 2
<b>Friday 30th June 2023</b>	PD Day
<b>Friday 21st July 2023</b>	Last Day of Term

## Beck Row's Got Talent

On Friday 31st March we held 'Beck Row's Got Talent'. After holding auditions in our classrooms, the two winning acts represented us in front of the school. With surprise performances from Beck Row Choir and Lorraine King (MDSA), the children had a fantastic afternoon supporting their peers and celebrating the variety of talent here at Beck Row.



## Zephaniah Class Theatre Trip 'Unexpected Twist'

On Wednesday 29th March, Zephaniah class went to the Theatre Royal in Norwich to watch an 'Unexpected Twist' by Michael Rosen. They really enjoyed the beat-boxing and freestyling throughout the performance.

## THANK YOU

A huge thank you to 'Low Cost Tyres and Exhausts' for donating Easter Eggs for the Class Winners of our Easter Bonnet



contest. It was very difficult for our Guest Judge to decide on the winners, as all of the entries were wonderful in their own way.

## Safeguarding

This month's Safeguarding focus looks at internet safety in the form of the YouTube Kids App. The guide below offers information and support for parents who are looking for a safer alternative to the YouTube App.

The complete guide can be found at <https://nationalonlinesafety.com/guides/youtube-kids>

**What Parents & Carers Need to Know about YOUTUBE KIDS**

YouTube Kids is a child-friendly version of YouTube which offers a colourful and easy-to-navigate environment that's suitable for young children. This app is easily accessible and available for mobile devices, which can be downloaded without needing the YouTube app on the device. Despite YouTube Kids seeming like a very child-friendly platform, it has raised concerns over its advertising and inappropriate content seeping through the curation process.

**SETTING UP**

- 1 Download the YouTube Kids app and connect your own YouTube channel.
- 2 Input your child's name, age and birth month.
- 3 Select the types of videos you want to include for your child based on their age and your own personal choice.
- 4 If you decide to approve the content yourself, the app will present you with sample videos for you to accept and reject.
- 5 Once you've made your choice, you're ready to use the app!

# Eco Council



## Trees:

On the last week of term, each member of the Eco Council planted a tree in our school grounds. We are very excited to see that out of 50 trees, all but 5 so far have leaves on them! As well as providing cover between the fences on the school field, we have created a little copse area and snack area.

## Eco Courtyard:

Bit by bit we are improving the courtyard. As well as adding 2 trees, this week we potted up wildflower plants that we grew from seed a few weeks ago.

The courtyard is also home to any plants/vegetables that classes have grown in school as part of science. Year 2's bean plant is winning the height race, though hopefully our sunflowers will soon outgrow it...

By the end of this term we hope that it will be a colourful area that bees and birds will want to visit.

## How You Can Help:

The whole school have been taught how to Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. We are using that principle to demonstrate that helping the environment doesn't need to cost money.

Everything in our courtyard (from trees to pots and seeds) was all free. However, there are a couple of things we need if you have them to spare:

- Compost
- Watering cans (ideally old ones that we can reuse)



# Club Timetable

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Before School 7.45am - 8.45am	Premier Edu. Multi Activity	Premier Edu. Multi Activity	Premier Edu. Multi Activity	Premier Edu. Multi Activity	Premier Edu. Multi Activity
After School 3.00 - 4.00pm	Premier Edu. Dodgeball	Premier Edu. Multi Activity	Premier Edu. Rounders	Mrs Bailey Netball	Premier Edu. Football

## Year 5 Bake Sale

A huge thank you to all those who supported our Bake Sale. We raised £98.00 which will go towards subsidising the Year 5 Residential Trip.



## ATTENDANCE

Below you will see our current attendance from September until yesterday. Well done to Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 for being 94% and above.

Whole School 94.0%

Reception	93.8%
Year 1	93.0%
Year 2	93.8%
Year 3	94.6%
Year 4	94.7%
Year 5	94.9%
Year 6	94.0%

Can I remind parents to please telephone the office to inform us if your child is ill and the reason. If we do not get a call then we follow the attendance policy and make a phone call attempting to contact you. We may use all the contact numbers that we have been given. If you do not make contact and we have not been able to contact you, we will make a welfare check at the home address to check that everything is alright.

Steve has recently joined us as Chair of Governors for Beck Row and Great Heath Primary schools and Mildenhall College Academy. His role is to help support the school and increase engagement with our local community so we took the opportunity to chat with him about his background and aspirations.

*Most people in school have previous education experience, do you?*

No, I am actually an accountant, so no real educational experience other than I did used to prepare the accounts and audit some independent schools around 30 years ago. I do however come from a family of teachers; my mum and dad both taught, both my sisters and my sister-in-law taught as does my niece so I have a bit of a connection. When your parents are best friends with all your teachers at school though it can be tricky and you certainly had to behave.

*What inspired you to become a Governor at Beck Row?*

When the opportunity was shared with me, I was keen to apply. Having had a very corporate life to date I have now got to that stage in my career where I get most enjoyment out of helping others and seeing them succeed. Added to this, it's relatively local (I live just outside Newmarket) and genuinely feel it is time for me to put something back into my local community. Having said that, my wife thinks I'm bonkers as she thinks I already do too many jobs, but I enjoy being busy and being challenged.

*What other jobs do you do?*

Although I started off as an accountant, I quickly moved into management consultancy and worked predominantly in the financial services industry advising life insurance companies on strategy and distribution models. I went from there into banking where I ran Santander's current account portfolio before moving back into insurance advising on the acquisition of insurance companies. I've also managed a customer services function and had over 1,000 people working for me in the UK and India so am very focused on the people side of business. Whilst doing all this I started working with a friend in the hospitality industry and that has now become my primary focus so I currently sit on the Board of Chelmsford City Racecourse and am Chairman of Chelmsford City Football Club; and I also sit on the Board of the National League.

*That seems a very eclectic life, are you a fan of football?*

Not really, I only got involved because my friend put money into a football club and had even less interest than me but asked me to look after it to which I agreed. For me though it is not about the football but about the ability of football to engage young people and make a positive difference to those communities so that's what I use it for.

*What are your first impressions of Beck Row?*

I've managed to visit a few weeks ago and I'm really impressed by the people I have met and the facilities at the school. Hopefully I can get to know more about the school and what I can do to help over the coming weeks and months as I become more engaged.

*What are your priorities?*

Primarily I am here to support the school and so will be directed in my efforts based on its needs and requirements. At the minute I am still finding my feet and understanding the challenges it faces but I am willing to help and support as needed. One of my key focuses will be on the engagement with the community so I am keen to help promote the school and the excellent work it is doing to develop the young people of Beck Row and prepare them for later life.

*What do you think parents and others can do to help?*

Education, in my view, is a 24/7 reality; we learn through all our experiences and become the product of them. The school is merely part of that journey and a key part on supporting the young person to be the best that they can be and achieve the potential within them. As parents or guardians of these young people you can help by reinforcing that message and helping make sure they take this opportunity to learn that is provided to them, embrace it, immerse themselves in it and get the most out of it.

We are all a long time post school and we can never get this time again but our futures are shaped by it; helping them to realise that is incredibly helpful.

And communicate with us. If there is a problem, maybe we can help, if there are challenges we can work together to overcome them but we can only help if we know about them so please help to work with us to give these young people the best chance in life.

I hope these thoughts are useful and I look forward to working with the school over the next few years to grow and develop itself and those who are lucky enough to pass through its doors.

## Lunch

All children in **Early Years, Year 1 and Year 2** receive **free school meals**.

Menus are sent out twice a year. Children can choose a hot dinner or a cold 'pick and mix' option.

Alternatively, you may send your child to school with a healthy packed lunch.

Children in **Years 3 to 6** need to pay, **in advance** for their school lunch. This is **£2.31 per day**, £11.55 per week. Please pay online at

[www.eduspot.co.uk](http://www.eduspot.co.uk). Please ask the office for a password if you do not have one as the Academy is no longer able to accept cash.

We are a **NUT FREE** school, please ensure packed lunches do not contain nuts or nut products.

*The Lunch Menu can be found on our school website.*

## Spanish Pupils

During March, Zephaniah Class had 8 Spanish children in their class for a week. It was wonderful to see the children sharing their culture and hearing about one different from their own. They were all sad to see them leave at the end of the week!



[BEC-admin@attrust.org.uk](mailto:BEC-admin@attrust.org.uk)



01638 713001



[beckrow.attrust.org.uk](http://beckrow.attrust.org.uk)



[@BeckRowAcademy](https://twitter.com/BeckRowAcademy)



The Street, Beck Row, Bury St Edmunds,  
Suffolk, IP28 8AE