

The Christmas period was marked by wonderful performances, showcasing our pupils' talents, increasing confidence and in many cases resilience – it's not easy standing in front of over 100 adults. We have also been actively participating in sporting events and competitions with our local partner schools, and offered a range of sporting clubs.

Just before the Christmas break, we welcomed representatives from the Local Authority who conducted a teaching and learning review and a SEND audit. We were delighted by the positive feedback received. One particularly heartening comment was that "The school has successfully cultivated a positive, inclusive culture where pupils feel valued, safe and have a sense of belonging." When asked, our pupils shared that they feel safe and happy at school, which was supported by observations of positive peer interactions and respectful relationships between pupils and staff.

The feedback regarding our curriculum, teaching, behaviour, and leadership was equally positive. However, what matters most to us is knowing that our vision for pupils at Beaconside is evident in our daily practices.

I would also like to inform you that we will be saying a temporary goodbye and extending our best wishes to Mrs Tolley when we break up for half-term, as she prepares for her new arrival. A separate letter will be sent to Year 2 parents today regarding the maternity cover arrangements. I'm sure you'll join me in wishing Mr and Mrs Tolley all the best during this exciting time.

Mrs Hadley

Message from the Governors

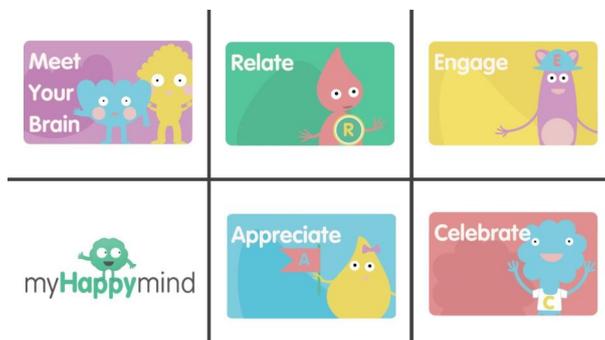
Hi - I'm Hugh Blackwood, governor with responsibility for the Arts at Beaconside.

I had the privilege of going into school towards the end of last term, to work with the Year 6 pupils on what will be their last Christmas performance. They were simply wonderful - focused, patient and incredibly receptive to the advice and direction given - in some respects, better than some professional actors I've worked with.

It was also wonderful to see the brilliant literacy work that staff have put in, first-hand, and being applied outside of the traditional classroom setting (which is often when you know what you've taught has worked). They spoke with clarity, confidence and understanding. Well done them and well done to the staff.

Tiredness/Bedtime Routines

Many teachers shared that during parent/teacher pupil progress meetings, issues with sleep and bedtime routines were mentioned. Information and support regarding this is available to parents via the myHappymind app. There is also a parent guide available on the school website and attached to this email.



Parking

I am reaching out, once again, regarding parking on Hazel Road. Local residents are still complaining of having their drives blocked by cars. Please can I ask that when parking, you consider if it is safe and considerate not just convenient. Your support is appreciated.

Bike Rack

We now have several bike stands outside of the main office area. These are for pupils' bikes to be stored during the day, if they cycle to school. You will need to provide a suitable lock and usage is at the owner's risk.



Dogs

Please can I remind you that dogs are not permitted on school site. We do have pupils with allergies and phobias related to dogs and close contact, especially in enclosed spaces can cause distress and reactions.

Scholar Pack - Closure Date

February 5th is the official migration day from Scholar Pack to Arbor. This means that after this date, your Scholar Pack App will not work. As soon as we get any information on the parent app for Arbor and the processes you need to follow, we will be in touch. Rest assured that this will not impact the school email address so you can still contact us.

Fundraising

Our Christmas fundraising efforts were rewarding. In total we raised £1890. For a one-form entry school, with no active PTA, that is a wonderful amount. It now provides us with the much needed funding to complete the sandpit and sensory garden. Thank you for all the parents and grandparents who responded to my request for help with this project. As soon as the weather improves, I will be in touch to take you up on your kind offer.

Can you help?

Our 'Play and Learn Outdoors' lunchtime activities need resources replenishing. Do you have any of the following to donate? Scooters, small world toys or wheeled toys.

Safeguarding

Are you concerned about a child or a family? If the answer is yes, you can:

- Make a factual written record of your concern (date, concern, your name) and share with the designated safeguard leads (Mrs Hadley, Mrs Jinks or Mrs Williams). This can then be logged officially.
- Contact NSPCC, a free anonymous/ confidential 24-hour helpline: 0808 800 5000
- Contact Worcestershire Children First Family Front door: 01905 822666

[Worcestershire Children's Social Care](#)

Curriculum at Beaconside

If you would like to find out more about what your child is learning each term, have a look at the termly curriculum newsletter.

[Spring Term Curriculum Newsletter](#)

The website also has a page for each subject area where you can discover more. Take a look...

<https://www.beaconside.co.uk/curriculum/>

Office Hours

A reminder that the school office opens at 8.30am and closes Monday - Thursday at 4.30pm and on Fridays at 3.30pm, whilst clubs are on, closing at 3.30pm everyday when there are no clubs.

Break Time Snacks

Please can I remind parents that break time snack should only be fruit or a healthy snack. There is an increase in sweets and chocolates which are not permitted.

The school 'Food Policy' can be found on the school website for further information:

<https://www.beaconside.co.uk/policies.>

Thank you for your support with this.

Walking Home/Mobile Phones

A reminder that the use of mobile phones by pupils is not permitted in school. If you feel that your child needs to bring their phone into school as they are walking home alone, then an on-line form must be completed. This has already been sent to Year 6 parents and a copy is on the website: [Walking Home/Mobile Phone Consent Form](#) Any phones found in bags etc or in school, without written permission, will be confiscated and parents will be asked to come to school to collect.

Attendance & Punctuality

As you will be aware, attendance is a national and school focus at the minute. Attendance for some groups of pupils at Beaconside is in the lowest 10% of attendance across the country. This has already been picked up by the Local Authority as a concern and we know that when OfSTED visit, which they are due to soon, it will be an area of focus for them. We also know that frequent absence, known as persistent absence, has an impact on progress and learning.

With this in mind, please consider the following:

- if your child is ill, and not well enough for school, you must contact school (phone, email or app message) and state the nature of the illness not just that they are unwell; we have to record details of the absence/illness on day 1 by 10.30am otherwise a home visit has to take place
- holidays during term time should be avoided and will not be authorised
- if medical appointments have to take place during school time, then confirmation of the appointment is required; this can be a screenshot/photograph of the letter or message confirming the appointment

96% attendance is regarded as the benchmark for good attendance; 90% and below would see a child labelled as a persistent absentee and a cause for concern, and anything in between deemed as need for improvement.

Mr Stone is the attendance lead in school and is happy to discuss any concerns/difficulties you might have with attendance or punctuality. Please contact the school office to make an appointment.

Punctuality – please remember that the school day starts at 8.50am at which point the gates close. Whilst I might still be at the gate to let your child through, the external doors into school get shut at 8.50am and all adults are in class ready for the first lesson. Lesson 1 starts at 8.55am and is always maths across the school. This means that if your child is 10 minutes late every day, they are missing almost an hour of maths a week. The first part of lessons is also crucial as it is often the part where teachers are explaining the task ahead.



Home/School Communication

Emails – This is our main form of communication. The newsletter will be emailed out to the email addresses you provide. Please ensure that these are kept up to date with the school office to ensure you receive all correspondence. ALL letters will be posted on the school website under the whole school or individual class page. Paper copies of any letter are

available from the school office, upon request. If you are aware that you are not receiving emails, please contact the office asap so this can be rectified.

Google Forms – We use Google Forms to collect and collate responses from parents as an alternative to sending home paper copies of letters that require a slip to be returned to school. This will not only save a considerable amount of money on paper and photocopying costs but will also be kinder to the environment and more convenient for you.

Messages via the Scholarpack App (soon to be Arbor) - Messages will also be sent, including handy reminders, as well as allowing you to send messages regarding attendance and update personal details. Download the app today, add your link-up code and you'll be ready to go. Further guidance can be obtained from the school office. If you change your phone number or device, you will require a new link-up code.

Website – The website contains a host of information ranging from copies of letters, school organisation and useful information for parents, details of the curriculum and photographs, on class pages, of children's learning. It also hosts the school calendar, which you can sync to your mobile phones and the notice board which allows messages such as school closures to be posted. Please take time to look through the website and become familiar with it.

Uniform

School Uniform

- Navy jumper, sweatshirt or cardigan (logo optional).
- Grey skirt, shorts or trousers
- Years 3 - 6 white shirt with school tie
- Years N, R 1 & 2 white polo shirt
- Blue & white check dress
- Black school shoes
- Wellies - break/lunchtime play

PE Kit

Pupils wear their PE kit to school on the days that they have PE.

- White round neck t-shirt (logo optional)
- Navy sweatshirt (logo optional)
- Navy blue shorts, jogging bottoms or leggings

- Trainers

We also request that jewellery is restricted to a watch (not smart watch) and stud earrings and no nail polish/acrylic nails/make-up is worn. Smart watches (watches that do anything other than tell the time, are not permitted in school).

Dates for the Diary

We will add to these as the year progresses and please note that there are times that they are subject to change.

A copy has been emailed home and can also be found on the school website:

<https://www.beaconside.co.uk/whole-school>.

Beaconside Primary Nursery School

Dates 2025 - 2026					
September		October		November	
1st/2nd	School closed to pupils (training days)	Thu' 9th	Prospective Parents - school tour 2	Mon' 3rd	School open to pupils
Wed' 3rd	School open to pupils (R - Yr 6)	Fri' 10th	Harvest Assembly - donations appreciated	Tue' 4th	Prospective Parents - school tour 5
Thu 25th	Prospective Parents - school tour 1	Mon' 13th	Prospective Parents - school tour 3	Tue' 11th	Photographer (individual and in-school siblings)
24th & 25th	Meet the teacher	Wed' 22nd	Prospective Parents - school tour 4	Wed' 12th	Prospective Parents - school tour 6
		Wed' 22nd	Movie Night	Fri' 14th	Children in Need - own clothes day
		Thu' 23rd	Break up for half-term	Tue' 18th	Prospective Parents - school tour 7
		Fri' 24th	School closed to pupils - staff training	Wed' 26th	Prospective Parents - school tour 8
				Fri' 28th	Own clothes day - bottle/gift donations
December		January		February	
Mon' 1st	Christmas bauble competition begins	Mon' 5th	School open to pupils	Fri' 6th	Year 3 Class Assembly 9.15am
Fri' 5th	Own clothes day - bottle/chocolate donations	21st & 22nd	Teacher/parent pupil progress meeting	Fri' 13th	Year 4 Class Assembly 9.15am
Tue' 9th	EYFS (N & R) Christmas Nativity - 9.15am			Fri' 13th	Break up for half-term
Wed' 10th	Christmas Fayre			Mon' 23rd	School open to pupils
Thu' 11th	Pupil Christmas lunch				
Fri' 12th	KS1 (1 & 2) Christmas Nativity - 9.15am				
16th & 17th	Christmas Performances (Year 3 - 6)				
Thu' 18th	Christmas parties (non-uniform day)				
Fri' 19th	Term ends - Christmas jumper day				
March		April		May	
Wed' 11th	Photographer (class photos)	Mon' 13th	School open to pupils	Mon' 4th	Bank holiday
Fri' 13th	Reception Assembly 1	22nd & 23rd	Teacher/parent pupil progress meeting	Thu' 7th	Year 5 Class Assembly
Fri' 21st	Comic Relief - own clothes day			11th - 14th	Year 6 SATs week
Tue' 24th	EYFS (N & R) Easter Bonnet Parade - 9.15am			18th - 21st	Sports week - including sports days
Thu' 26th	KS1 (1 & 2) Easter Assembly - 9.15am			Thu' 21st	Break up for half-term
Fri' 27th	Term ends			Fri' 22nd	School closed to pupils - staff training
June		July			
Mon' 1st	School open to pupils	Fri' 3rd	Reports out		
1st - 26th	Year 6 writing assessment window	Wed' 8th	Nursery graduation - 9.15am		
1st - 12th	Year 4 multiplication tables check	Wed' 15th	Year 6 Leavers' Performance (pm) and event		
8th - 12th	Year 1 phonics screening week	Thu' 16th	Break the Rules day & after-school fundraiser		
15th - 17th	Year 6 residential visit	Fri' 17th	Term ends		
Wed' 17th	Reception 2026 parents information session - 5.00pm	Mon' 20th	School closed to pupils - staff training		
Fri' 19th	Reception Assembly 2				
Wed' 24th	Nursery 2026 parents information session - 5.00pm				