

We will be on week 2 of the menu when we return after half term.

# NEWSLETTER

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2021

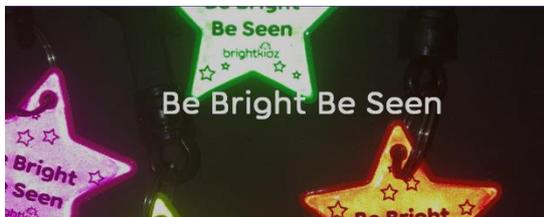
## Message from Mrs Shaw

The First 8 weeks of this school year have flown by and have really felt like school used to be before the pandemic:

- Pupils engaging well with their learning,
- Playing with a wider groups of friends at playtime,
- Whole school assemblies in the hall,
- Visits, visitors and regular events like swimming etc,

Culminating in a real Parent's Evening this week. It was wonderful to welcome you all back in and offer the opportunity for you to see your child's work and classroom, hear how they are progressing and build stronger relationships with their class teacher. We do strongly believe that we can only achieve the best for your child when we are working within a strong partnership with you. Thank you to all of you for the support you offer to the school and your child's education.

The weather is definitely starting to feel more Autumnal and the clocks will be going back just before we return to school on **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November** which means the nights will start drawing in. Please be more vigilant whether driving or on foot and talk to your child about staying safe and being seen. Resources to support you can be found at: [brightkidz.co.uk/initiatives/be-bright-be-seen/](https://brightkidz.co.uk/initiatives/be-bright-be-seen/)



I hope you all have a happy and safe half term break. If you fancy taking up the challenge, please make a stick person to our to our Bluecoat Family of stick people. Here are our first few fabulous members.



I am going to have a go at making a tall one to be displayed outside with my family over half term. Good luck, have fun and I can't wait to see your creations when we return.



## Attendance:

The class with the best attendance last week was Toucans with 99.03%. Well done Toucans class!

## E-safety and internet use

We are aware that we are now going to be having 2 weeks off school and while online devices are a great source of education and entertainment, please be mindful of e-safety and being aware of what your children are accessing.



Here is a list of websites that you can use for help and advice around keeping your children safe online whilst allowing them to have fun.

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>

<https://swgfl.org.uk/online-safety/e-safety-facts/>

## Squid Game

The Netflix series Squid Game has an age rating of 15. We are also aware that it has been featured in Fortnite and have heard a number of pupils mention it. This is not appropriate for Primary aged pupils – please be vigilant to what your child is watching or accessing.



## Meal Vouchers EdenRed

The Government have announced additional funding to local councils for food vouchers over the October half term. Therefore we shall send out vouchers to eligible families via the EdenRed website on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October. The vouchers will be to the value of £30.00 per child.

### **Household Support Fund**

The Government are introducing a new Household Support Fund. This is due to the universal credit being cut. The universal credit cut removes more than £80 a month from the standard allowance which is equal to £20 a week.

This new fund will run over winter and those in need of support should contact their local council who will help them access the fund.

Cash will be made available to councils in October 2021.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-500m-support-for-vulnerable-households-over-winter>

If for whatever reason you are struggling with your finances please do not suffer in silence. Our Family Support Worker Miss Brown is on hand to help, support, discuss and signpost to other services that may be able to help. We understand that the past two years have been difficult and challenging for many reasons. Please either pop into reception and ask to speak to Miss Brown or email the school office to ask for an appointment.



### **The pitter patter of tiny feet**

We would all like to wish Miss Akhtar a farewell and good luck as she leave us to start her maternity leave today. We hope you have a little bit of time to relax before the baby arrives.

We will miss you, enjoy this special time.

Mr Stanley is also expecting a new addition to his family during half term and is due to take two weeks of paternity leave straight after half term. Good luck.

### **This week in... The Nest**

Another busy week in the nest, we have extended our learning about the harvest by making scarecrows and bird feeders! We plan to put them around the school to hopefully attract some more wildlife. We have focused on our fine motor skills by practising our pencil control and use of scissors. What a fabulous half term we have had!



### **... in EYFS**

Peacocks and Flamingos have had another busy week.



They are enjoying learning the story "Dear Zoo" By Rod Campbell and this week have been using their initial sounds to label the animals from the story.

### **...In Key Stage 1**

This week in Key Stage One our Year 2 children went on a trip to Conkers. The children learnt all about habitats and explored and made real habitats in the Forest. They also went on a train ride through a woodland and experienced a barefooted nature trail. All the children really enjoyed learning more about habitats. They



particularly enjoyed having a hands on experience of seeing and making a habitat for themselves. It was so lovely to see the smiles on the children's faces when they returned to school.

Thank you to the children for their superb behaviour on the trip and a big thank you to the Year 2 team for organising such an awesome experience.

### **...Key Stage 2**

Even though it is the last week, before half term, Key Stage 2 have rased the bar, in terms of their learning. Year 3 have been using similes and expanded noun-phrases to write some descriptive sentences. We have enjoyed learning the expanded column method to help us add and subtract in Maths. In History lessons, we have looked at the steps it takes to build a pyramid and the amount of work that goes into it!

In Year 4 this week, we celebrated all that is art by holding an Art Day. Monday saw the children learning about botanist artist Marianne North. We explored her life and artistic style before attempting to paint a watercolour of the flower named after her, the Nepenthes northiana. Both classes will have a Kew Gardens style gallery of the paintings in their classroom.



Year 5 have been busy publishing their reports this week. We have also been studying Jamaican born poet, Valerie Bloom. We have acted on her advice and performed a poem about a river, adding our own actions and percussion, using our inference skills. We have had a lot of fun!

Year 6 have been continuing their learning of the circulatory system, conducting an investigation into the effects of exercise on our bodies. Result data was recorded in MS Excel and line graphs were created from this data. In Art, we have been sculpting in the style of Alberto Giacometti, using wire to create the frame for our humanoid forms.



## **Reminders**

### **Year 3 Home Time**

Now that children have settled back into school and new routines are embedded we will be moving Year 3's end of the day time to 3:10pm. This will bring them in line with the rest of Key Stage 2 and ensure that every minute of possible learning time is taken advantage of. **This will change from October Half Term.**

### **Dates for your diary:**

13<sup>th</sup> Nov 2021

Children In Need

22<sup>nd</sup> Dec 2021

Head Teachers Award Assembly