

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October

Dear Parent/Carer

This half term has gone by so quickly with lots of amazing things happening at Old Bexley. All the children have been learning new topics, literacy texts and have all now settled into their new year groups with their new teacher. Our new reception children are enjoying being part of Old Bexley and we have a new Head Boy and Girl for both KS2 and KS1. Year 6 have had a brilliant week at Bowles and lots of other trips and visitors have taken place in order to enhance the children's learning. I am very much looking forward to next half term with further topics and learning opportunities for all the children (and of course Christmas!).

### What have we been up to?



Each year group have got stuck into their new topics and have been up to all sorts of exciting learning activities. We have had Pirate Gem from Swashbuckle teaching Year 2 how to be pirates, Year 1 took part in a "Taste Buddies" workshop, Years 3 and 4 have been to Creekside Discovery Centre in Deptford to learn about rivers and Year 6 enjoyed a week full of outdoor learning and activities at Bowles in Tunbridge Wells. The school's News Crew will be giving more detail on all the events that have been happening at Old Bexley in their termly News Crew broadcast just before the Christmas break.

### Parent Governor

Following the Parent Governor election that was held earlier this term, I am pleased to announce that Mrs Baloi was elected by parents to be the new Governor. Please join me in welcoming Mrs Baloi to our Governing Body.



### Thank you to our PTA

The PTA had their AGM on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October and it was nice to see some new members join.

They have already been very busy this half term with a Family Disco in September which was a sell-out success, followed by the Book Fair and Bag2School earlier this month.

The school was very lucky last year with all the money that the PTA raised for the children. They will once again this year be donating £10 towards every child to participate in a trip or workshop. With

the cost of living going up in everything we do, this really is much appreciated to ensure all children in the school can benefit from a fantastic trip. The PTA will also be buying new play equipment and supporting the school with the upkeep of computing equipment and premises. Their continued support is very much valued.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY: SATURDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER - PTA CHRISTMAS FAIR 12 - 3PM

### Harvest



Our Harvest services took place last Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> October. Thank you to the Rev Melanie Jemmett and our Mountain Climbers who led both services. The Junior Choir sang beautifully in the KS2 service, with Reception children holding an art display in the KS1 service whilst singing a special Harvest song. The school’s library was filled with your kind donations to Bexley Foodbank who were touched by your generosity. They had to send not only a van but also two cars to collect all the food that had been donated!

### Postcard Home Competition Winners



At the start of each new academic year, all children have the chance to design the postcards that are awarded every day for children’s good behaviour. As always, there were many entries and choosing the winners was very difficult. However, after a lot of deliberation, I am pleased to announce that the winners are:

Maya, 5TS	Billy, 5JC
Mia, 3NM	Poppy, 2SE
Elodie, 3OC	Cameron, 2NM
Toni, 5TS	Lea, 5TS
Amelia- Lily, 6EC	Isobel, 5TS
Teja Shree, 3NM	

The winners all received an Amazon voucher and have the pleasure and pride of seeing their designs being used as a postcard home for the school this year.

## Fundraising this Half Term

### Jeans for Genes Day

On 22<sup>nd</sup> September, we supported Jeans for Genes Day. The school raised just over £490 which will be used to help those who live with a genetic condition. Thank you for your support.



### Starfish Malawi Day



Today we had a fundraising event throughout the school to raise money for the Starfish Malawi charity. The school has very close links with this charity and have supported the Napache School in Malawi for many years. Thank you for your support and donations to buy much needed mosquito nets.

### Remembrance Poppies



It is coming to that special time of remembrance. When we return to school after half term, we will be selling poppies in school in order to raise funds for the Royal British Legion. The suggested donation is £1. The clergy team will be leading a special worship of remembrance on November 11<sup>th</sup>.

### Parent Evenings

On Wednesday and Thursday this week we invited all our parents in to meet with their child's class teacher. It was an opportunity to see how they have settled in and to see what work they had produced since returning in September. Thank you for your support and it was lovely to have all the meetings in person.

### Reminders!

#### Driving Congestion



If you drive your child to school, please continue to give consideration to our neighbours and passing pedestrians. Do not block driveways, park illegally or stop on the "school keep clear" signs to drop your child off. Please also be mindful of pedestrians if you carry out a 3-point turn outside the school as we have received reports of a couple of near misses this term.

Sadly, we have also received a report of a baby and toddler being left in the car unattended whilst the parent popped over the road to collect another child at the end of the school day. This is a safeguarding concern and I politely ask that young children are not left unsupervised in a car.

## Uniform

Please remember to name all of your child's clothing. The lost property has already built up with many items left unclaimed. Children are not allowed to wear any other footwear apart from black shoes on days where they do not have PE.



## Access to the School Site

When dropping off or collecting your child/ren from school, please only do so by the entrances at the front of the school. No unauthorised adult is allowed within the school grounds unless they have been invited or are supervised.

Unfortunately there are still some parents using the pathway at the back of the school to either walk round to the KS2 playground or trying to speak to class teachers. If you wish to speak to your child's class teacher, please contact the school office who will be able to pass on any message for you. If you need to move from the KS1 pick up area to the KS2 playground, please use the front internal path which goes past the bike/scooter sheds. Safeguarding is so important to the school community and it is vital that all parents/grandparents/childminders follow the rules put in place to keep children safe.

## Dates for your Diary

<b>Tuesday 31 October &amp; Wednesday 1 November</b>	School photos (individual and family): If your child has PE on either of these days, then they need to wear their school uniform to school and not their PE kit.
<b>Wednesday 15 November</b>	Year 6 parent SATS meeting @ 5pm
<b>Friday 17 November</b>	Children in Need – PJ day
<b>Thursday 30 November</b>	St Andrew's Day – wear blue and white
<b>Saturday 2 December</b>	PTA Christmas Fair
<b>Friday 8 December</b>	Christmas Jumper day
<b>Wednesday 20 December @ 1.30pm</b>	End of term



Christmas performance dates will be given next half term.

I wish you all a safe and relaxing half term and we look forward to welcoming the children back on **Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October at 8.50am.**

Take care

Mrs J Ivil  
Head Teacher