



Headteacher's Update

As I reflect on this term, I am truly astounded by all that we have accomplished together. The commitment and enthusiasm shown by our entire school community has been exceptional. I am delighted to share some of the highlights in this newsletter, and I encourage you to revisit our Facebook posts for even more moments worth celebrating.

One event that stood out was our Remembrance Day commemoration in November. The whole school came together to express feelings of hope and remembrance. Our Year 6 pupils gave a moving recital of Moina Michael's poem We Shall Keep the Faith before observing a minute's silence. For the first time in over a decade, the school bell rang—the same bell which was sounded during the Second World War when our school served as accommodation for Canadian soldiers. Each class contributed to a stunning display of poppies in our Hall of Pride. To crown the occasion, we received a personal thank-you from the Bexhill branch of the British Legion, who praised our approach as exemplary and suggested it could serve as a model for other schools—a proud moment for our community!

Major Building Works Underway!

We're delighted to inform you that the redevelopment of the Camelot buildings is underway. So far the roof has been removed and preparation works for gas and electricity are complete. Full demolition of the existing building will commence shortly, and we are working with the contractors to minimise disruption. This project will provide additional teaching spaces and opportunity to further enrich the school environment for your pupils.



Despite a busy calendar of events, pupils have maintained excellent academic focus. Autumn assessment outcomes show strong progress across the board. In line with the national picture, we have seen a clear link between attainment and attendance, highlighting the importance of maximising time in school. I have been particularly impressed by the resilience of pupils who have attended even when feeling slightly under the weather. Thank you to our families for supporting regular attendance—it makes a real difference.

Throughout the term, we have welcomed many visitors to the school, all of whom have shared overwhelmingly positive feedback. Words such as calm, productive, and supportive have been used repeatedly to describe our environment. Following a recent quality assurance visit from Aurora Academy Trust, it was noted that “the school operates effectively and has the capacity to sustain its improvement.” We are excited about our journey of continuous improvement and look forward to sharing further progress with you.

As we approach the end of another year, I wish you all a peaceful and enjoyable break.

Yours faithfully,

JAMES TOWNER
Headteacher,
King Offa Primary
Academy



Building the King Offa Community



Supporting the Next Generation

King Offa's Musical theatre group were out on tour this term. Performances at Dragonflies Nursery and Steppingstones playgroup were welcomed by their young audience. The group have been rehearsing throughout the term, building their confidence in preparation for multiple performances. Led by Mr Lewis, the musical theatre group continues to grow, showing endless talent at our school.



School Tours

Ably supported by the Year 6 Front of House ambassadors, Mr Towner toured perspective parents around the school earlier in the term. Due to high demand, additional tours were added so that we could accommodate the interested families.



Bexhill HUG

The school council chose to support a local homeless charity by donating £600 of the money raised from the Sponsored Walk. Pauline Goubert from Bexhill HUG visited King Offa to thank the pupils and join in our assembly. Mrs Goubert commented:

"It was a pleasure and an honour to spend time with you and your pupils on Friday. I was very impressed by the pupil's behaviour and interest especially as it was the end of the day and week."

Choosing such a worthy cause demonstrates our pupil's kindness and consideration to others.



King Offa PTFA

Thanks to great support from families, there is a newly established Parent, Teacher and Friends Association at King Offa. During the annual general meeting a committee was elected and preparations for events are already underway. Kirsty (chair), Emma (Vice Chair), Emma (Co Chair) and the rest of the team welcome your involvement. Please get in touch at kingoffaptfa@gmail.com



Festive round up

Christmas Fair

Way back in September a group of staff came together with a single vision. Hold a Christmas Fair for the King Offa community. Team Christmas was formed and just under three months later, on Saturday 6th December, a truly magical event took place. Huge thanks to Mr Lewis, Mrs and Miss Hesmer, Miss Searle, Mrs Harman and the wider team for facilitating such a wonderful fair that was enjoyed by all.

The community came on mass, filling the school halls and Santa's grotto (formerly known as the library). We welcomed the attendance of Councillor Azad from Bexhill council, the blissful harmony of the Victorian Carol Choir and the generosity of local businesses who kindly donated to the raffle.

Smiles and warmth throughout the day were abundant. We look forward to more community events as we head into the new year.



Nativities

King Offa was privileged to have not one but two nativities this year. Our youngest pupils from nursery and reception performed beyond their years in Born in a Barn. With just one more year experience, Year 1 were brilliant in Whoops-a-Daisy Angel.

The Big Sing

Year 6 pupils from across the town came together to perform at the De La Warr Pavilion on Wednesday 3rd December. Supported by Bexhill Academy and a string orchestra that included our very own Jemma, Ivy and Layla, King Offa pupils did their school proud. Compliments to Erin for her beautiful solo.

St Stephen's Church

On Friday 12th December, pupils from years 3 to 5 came together to sing at St Stephen's Church. The church atmosphere enabled a breathtaking sound as the pupils sang with confidence and conviction. The performance was punctuated perfectly by several expert narrators.

Christmas Carols

Completing the series of festive events, pupils from Year 2 delivered a wonderful chorus of carols. There is something really special about hearing a choir of children singing in a school. Year 2 did their year group proud.



Knowledge Year group update

Nursery

Learning through play is at the heart of everything we do. The children explored mathematical concepts by engaging with carefully chosen resources that were made available for them to use freely in their play. Through this child-led exploration, they were able to experiment, problem-solve, and make sense of numbers, shapes, and patterns in a meaningful and enjoyable way. By embedding Maths into play, children develop early skills such as counting, sorting, comparing, and measuring.



Reception

This term, we have been learning about Diwali. We learnt that Diwali is the 'Festival of Light' and the children enjoyed exploring the different ways the festival is celebrated. In art, the children made and decorated their own Diya lamps. Pupils have also designed rangoli patterns, tried on traditional clothing and jewellery and decorated Mehndi patterns. Moving through the year, children can use their knowledge of Diwali to make comparisons to other celebrations.

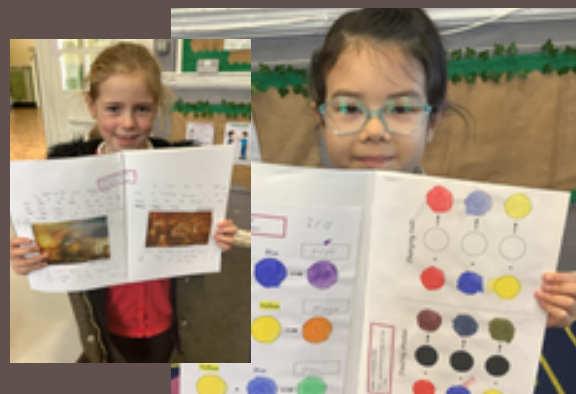


Year 1

This term, we have been learning about what it takes to be a Geographer and learning about the world. We have focused on learning to identify the UK on a world map, and we learned that the UK is an island. The children have had lots of opportunities to explore atlases and globes and have enjoyed discovering the UK in different ways. During our learning, we looked back at pictures from our 'Autumn Walk' in reception. This helped us think about our local area in relation to the rest of the UK.

Year 2

We have been learning about colour and tone in our Art. Children have been building on Year 1 Art knowledge where they named and mixed colours. This year they have been mixing their own colours and exploring how to create tone. They have been focussing on the works of the artist Jan Griffier and JWM Turner. The children looked at examples of the artist work and discussed what they liked and disliked. The outcome of this project will be to create a piece of work inspired by the 'Great fire of London'.





Year 3

This term, the children have been working hard to plan and create their very own 'Perfect Pet Shop' leaflets to advertise their imperfect pets. We have used each page of our leaflets to show off our skill in persuasive writing that we have been practicing this term. Our learning has been inspired by a story called 'The Barnabus Project' and we were lucky enough to be visited by a real 'Failed Project' from the story.



Year 4

Science this term was learning to group and classify living things. We selected methods for grouping different animals using Venn and Carroll diagrams. Children worked like scientists to identify the characteristics that they would use to link features and animals. Children then went on to use and make branching classification keys and really enjoyed finding out about animal features including: "Do crocodiles lay eggs?" and "What is the difference between an alligator and a crocodile?"



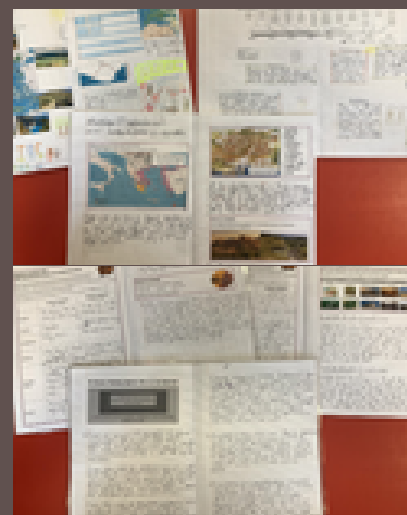
Year 5

This term we were learning about how we see by exploring how light travels in straight lines and reflects off different materials. We tested how tone, texture, and material affect the amount of reflected light. One child commented, "The shinier it is, the more the light reflects back to us." This builds on prior learning, where children explored basic light sources and shadows and prepares them for future work on how the eye detects reflected light. Have you ever wondered how something as small as the eyeball, at 2.4cm, can allow us to see the wider world in detail, colour, texture and shape?



Year 6

In Year 6, we've been exploring the fascinating world of early civilisations, focusing on the ancient Greeks. Pupils discovered their incredible contributions to maths, science, sport, architecture and law. Through trade, these ideas spread across the Mediterranean and were later admired and adopted by the Romans, who carried them throughout the Empire. Although the age of the Greeks ended over 2,000 years ago, their legacy lives on today. We particularly enjoyed spotting connections between our modern world and theirs—proof that history is everywhere!



You Said, We Are



You would like improved communication.

We have heard loud and clear that you want us to improve communication. The trust has helped us to design a comprehensive communication strategy that aims to make sure you have the information you need when you need it and you know where to find it. Changes made so far include:

- publication of a weekly bulletin that contains upcoming events;
- publication of an end of term newsletter that includes information about the work of the school;
- ensuring that the school calendar that is on our website is up to date with key events and term dates;
- a weekly update from Mr Towner on our website and Facebook page;
- creating the 'how we communicate with you' guide that is available on our website; and
- updating our website regularly kingoffaprimaryacademy.org.

Most parents agreed or strongly agreed that pupils at King Offa behave well. However, some of you wanted us to do more to make sure that all pupils meet our high expectations.

We are proud that when Ofsted visited King Offa they judged behaviour to be 'good' and said 'behaviour around the school is calm, and pupils play well together'. This message was reinforced during a quality assurance visit in November by the trust. Our ambition is for behaviour to be even better. To ensure that all pupils behave well, we:

- provide training and support to all staff so they use the most effective approaches to help pupils to behave;
- implement 5-star behaviour expectations that have been agreed by all stakeholders;
- use the Aurora behaviour curriculum since the start of the academic year, which explicitly teaches pupils what good behaviour is, how to manage their emotions and how to act when things go wrong; and
- celebrate when pupils behave well through celebration assemblies and personalised postcards.



You would like more community opportunities

We are proud to share that we have a newly formed PTFA. Thank you to the many families that have made this possible and look out for future events.

We have held whole school events that brought the community together.

The Christmas Fair on 6th December that raised over £1300 for our school.

Pupils have represented the school in local events: Year 6 performed at the De La Warr and Years 2-5 at St Stephen's church. Not to mention our Musical theatre group that performed at Dragonflies and Stepping Stones nurseries.



You would like more opportunities for trips

This year we have hit the ground running by:

- making sure each year group has at least one trip during the year as well as holding more whole school events; and
- enriching our curriculum by planning trips from school and considering what we can do in school and in the local area...
 - This year every pupil had the opportunity to take part in the sponsored walk
 - Year 5 visited Bexhill Museum
 - Year R explored the Downs during their autumn walk and Year 2 completed a Samuel Pepys workshop in school
 - Year 6 performed at the De La Warr
 - Years 2-5 performed at St Stephen's church.



Anti-bullying and inclusion

This term we were excited to recognise Anti-Bullying Week.

Mrs Gale planned the week's events in collaboration with our Wellbeing Ambassadors. This year, the ambassadors decided to focus on a sense of belonging because they felt it was important all pupils feel secure in the knowledge that this school is their community and that every pupil is valued. A strong sense of belonging helps us to ensure we are looking out for one another, and promotes inclusivity.



Monday was "Odd Sock Day" and children and staff alike celebrated individual differences. Children were encouraged to wear socks to demonstrate their uniqueness, be that their favourite colour, interest or hobby.

Mrs Gale opened the week with a whole school assembly but handed over to the Wellbeing Ambassador team for some short assemblies in each class through the week. A particular highlight for the Ambassadors was delivering their assembly to Reception, who sat and engaged beautifully! The in-class assembly taught pupils to be 'upstanders rather than bystanders', and safe ways to do so. This could be stopping unkind behaviour or by going to an adult.



The Wellbeing Ambassadors designed their own games and activities to share with KS1 and KS2 and facilitated this at breaks across the week. This included friendship bracelets and "guess my emotion" with emoji cards (a stroke of genius from Pippa!) It was wonderful to see our school community in action, sharing, learning and enjoying each other's company.

Whilst this was a themed week of activities, we embed these values of inclusion across the year and we're proud to celebrate what makes each of us special. We seek to remind pupils every day that they belong here.

Save the date – Upcoming events

Monday 19th and Friday 23rd January

Great King Offa Bake Off

Wednesday 28th January

Roman Workshop Year 3

Monday 2th to Friday 6th February

Year 6 Mock SATs

Monday 2nd to Friday 6th February

Times Table Rock Stars - Inter School Competition

Friday 6th February

Anglo Saxon Day Year 4

Monday 9th February

Time to Dance Year 3 Performance

Monday 9th to Friday 13th February

Children's Mental Health Awareness week

Tuesday 10th February

Safer Internet Day

Date TBC

Bexhill Light Festival – Lanterns Year 5



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