

# BUSHEY HEATH NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2024

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

We are excited to share that the Craft and Design Technology Workshop project has officially begun! With any luck, it will be fully up and running by Autumn Term 2. A special thank you to the Friends of the School for their tireless fundraising efforts and Merchant Taylors' Educational Trust for supporting this project. Their input has been essential in helping move to stage three of our production project.

If you follow us on Twitter (X), @busheyheathjm, you will see some of the incredible productions currently happening in our music studio! Also, Year 5 have been busy with their film production created with the help of the company Art Works. They have been learning all about the film-making process, from scriptwriting and acting to directing and prop making. The skills they are developing now will no doubt give them a fantastic foundation for careers in the creative industry.

## SMARTPHONE POLICY REMINDER

We would like to thank parents/ carers for supporting our smartphone ban. Research shows that excessive smartphone use can contribute to several issues in primary-aged children. Please take time to read the below links to see the harm these phones do to our children.

[Schools in England given new guidance on stopping phone use - BBC News](#)

[MP proposes new law to ban smartphones in schools - BBC Newsround](#)

[Mobile phones in schools guidance: What you need to know \(schoolsweek.co.uk\)](#)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-crackdown-on-mobile-phones-in-schools>

[Schools which ban mobile phones get better GCSE grades, study finds | UK News | Sky News](#)

## GOOGLE CLASSROOM UPDATE

We are aware that some technical difficulties have been affecting the Google Classroom homework system. Please know that we are working to resolve these issues as quickly as possible. In the meantime, we kindly request that parents and carers refrain from using Google Classroom to communicate directly with teachers. To ensure that all enquiries are addressed promptly and appropriately, please follow the school's official procedure by contacting teachers via the school office. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

## ECOLOGY PROJECT UNDERWAY

We are thrilled to announce the launch of our Ecology Project, aimed at fostering a deep respect for the natural environment among our children. Through hands-on learning and practical experiences, students will develop essential life skills and a strong understanding of environmental stewardship. We want our children to recognise the important link between their own well-being and the health of the environment and to understand the profound impact their actions can have on the world around them.

Nursery children will learn how to feed and care for our chickens, while Reception students will explore outdoor mindfulness practices like yoga and meditation, helping them connect with nature while improving their mental health. Year 1 will keep journals to reflect on their nature walks, Year 2 will take part in the world's largest wildlife survey. Year 3 will be hard at work creating habitats to encourage wildlife around the school. We are also excited to announce that Play Garden has generously donated Herb Seed Ball Packs containing 600 seeds for our Year 3 garden projects. Year 4 will be using outdoor spaces regularly for lessons, which research has shown can reduce stress and increase engagement, they will also help tidy up the school grounds and equipment. Year 5 will take the lead on setting up a recycling program, with some exciting upcycling ideas already in the works. Meanwhile, Year 6 will adopt a tree, and rumour has it they will even be producing a "chicken podcast"!

Our wonderful Eco Governor, Ceri Morris, will be closely monitoring and supporting the project to ensure its success. Governors at Bushey Heath Primary School play a vital role in shaping our strategic direction and ensuring that we provide the best possible education for our children. This dedicated team includes parents, staff and members of the local community, working together to maintain high standards of teaching and learning, manage school finances, and support the headteacher in making key decisions. To find out more about our fantastic Governing Board, visit [[Bushey Heath Governors](#)].

We look forward to watching the children flourish as they connect with nature and contribute to a greener future!



**CERI MORRIS**

## **CALENDAR DATES**

- 18 October - [FOS] Harvest Moon Disco 5:00 - 7:15 pm  
22 October - GB Meeting 1  
23 October at 16:00 - SEND Parent/ Carer Reviews  
24 October - Year 4 trip to Celtic Harmony  
24 October - [FOS] Dress Down Day (1)  
25 October - Inset Day 2  
28 October - 1 November - Half Term  
1 November - Reception 2025 - system opens to apply online  
4 November - Inset Day 3  
7 November at 15:30 - Parent/ Carer Review  
8 November - Individual Photographs  
12 November - Flu Vaccination First Session  
12 November at 16:00 - Parent/ Carer Review  
19 November at 09:30 - Year 6 height and weight screening  
6 December - Flu Vaccination Second Session  
7 December - [FOS] Christmas Fair 12:00 - 3:00 pm  
9 December at 14:00 - Year 2 Christmas Play  
10 December at 09:00 - Year 2 Christmas Play  
10 December - Year 1 trip to Church of St Peter  
11 December - Christmas Dinner  
11 December at 14:30 - Reception & Year 1 Christmas songs  
16 December - KS2 Sleeping Beauty at The Radlett Centre  
19 December - Key Stage 2 Christmas songs  
20 December - [FOS] Dress Down Day (2)  
20 December - Autumn 2024 Term ends 2:00 pm

## **SCHOOL DINNERS**

School dinners can be ordered well in advance weekly/ monthly/ termly.

## **NUT FREE**

Can we please remind you that we are a nut free school.

Thank you.