

Bures Primary CEVC School

Update for the Parish Councils – March 2022

We were fortunate to have had an extended Half Term and thereby avoided much of the disruption caused by the recent storms and no significant damage to our buildings, thankfully. It has been a busy term thus far, as you will read below. On Thursday 10th and Friday 11th March the children and their helpers aim to help plant over 700 trees near Cambridge Way as part of the Community Woodland Project; let's hope the weather is kind on these days.

NSPCC Number Day!

On Friday 4th February the whole school took part in the NSPCC Number Day, providing an exciting opportunity to focus on improving learning in this subject and challenging our understanding of maths. This was a themed day similar to World Book Day, except this time the children dressed up as their favourite number or piece of maths equipment.

Bucket Fillers

In our main assemblies before half term the children and staff revisited a story called 'Have you filled a bucket today?' Talking about the best way to make yourself feel good and to do good things for others. This story is a brilliant way to help children look at how we can work together to make everyone feel valued and secure. The link to the book is here as it is a great method for talking to children about their behaviour and whether they are being 'bucket fillers' or 'bucket dippers'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pOJy8-OC0iU>. We use this terminology quite a lot in school now and it is an incredibly powerful but simple way to help children consider the impact of their actions on themselves and others.

Peer Mediators

At the end of last half term our Year Five children spent four mornings being trained as 'Peer Mediators'. The training programme was led by a company called 'Inclusive Solutions' run by educational psychologists. We are very grateful to Suffolk Local Authority from whom we received a grant as part of their Well-Being Package to be able to run the programme. Our Year Five children made us incredibly proud with the way they listened to each other and were able to talk about emotions and feelings with great empathy and in a very mature and sensible way. They gave some incredible responses when asked what they had learnt from the training; things like, "I have learnt to listen

with my heart not just my ears” and “I have learnt to try not to judge other people and think about how they might be feeling instead.” Now they are trained, our team of mediators will be active on the playground supporting children who need help for a variety of reasons—perhaps because they have argued with a friend or because they can’t find anyone to play with. I am sure they will do a great job and continue to make our playground a friendly place to be.

Children’s Mental Health Week / Safer Internet Day

The theme this year was ‘Growing Together’. We joined a virtual assembly from the Place2Be website and then held a Teams assembly for the whole school to develop the theme further. The main aims for the week were to introduce the idea of trying new things to help us grow and adapt and then to emphasise the fact that we can keep growing even when things seem tough. Happily, the children were able to tell us about who they would talk to when things do get tough for them. Miss Moore, our PSHE Leader provided lots of resources for teachers to use throughout the week. We reminded everyone that it is as important to look after our mental health as it is to look after our physical health.

On Tuesday of that week it was Safer Internet Day—another important event for us to encourage the children to focus upon. Teachers shared an assembly in their own classes giving the children lots of opportunities to revisit all the important ways in which they can keep themselves and others safe online. Though this was a separate initiative to Mental Health Week we felt that the two fitted together well allowing us the opportunity to talk about how being unkind and unsafe when using the internet can lead to people becoming anxious and upset.

World Book Day

Everyone enjoyed getting stuck into books to celebrate World Book Day. It was lovely to see lots of different characters arriving at the front gate and watch the children (and staff) looking very relaxed in a fine array of onesies and pyjamas. Thank you for your donations—we have been able to send over £200 to support the relief effort for Ukranian refugees.

And whilst on the subject of the Ukraine, Ms Slater posted this message.” We are of course conscious that the situation in Ukraine is a cause of worry and concern for all of us and it is sometimes tricky to decide how to support and help your children when they are worried about a situation like this. Our teachers have been sharing some information with our older children using materials from the Newsround website and they have had some interesting discussions as children seek to understand what is happening and what it might mean for them. The difficulty is of course that none of us have the answers but we can encourage them to talk about their worries and reassure them that the leaders of the NATO countries will work as hard as they can to keep us all

safe. We have shared the story Ruby's Worry with our younger children—you can watch it on the World Book Day website (along with some other lovely stories!).

Sad Goodbyes but then an Opportunity

Sadly, three members of the Midday Assistants team are leaving us at the end of this half term. Mrs Wiseman has been with us for a long time and provided great support for many children through the years. Mrs Jenkins is a crucial part of the Year 1 team as well as showing her care and concern for our children out on the playground and Mrs Whiteman, who is a fairly new recruit, has quickly got to know the children and shown her skills in making sure they feel valued and safe. We thank them all for their dedication and hard work and wish them well as they move on to pastures new.

This leaves us with an opportunity for anyone who thinks they may want to take up this important role in school. We are looking for enthusiastic people who can offer anything from one to five days a week to join our children in the dinner hall and on the playground helping them to play together kindly and enjoy their lunch.

New Parent Governors

I am pleased to say that we have now appointed two new parent governors who will join our Governing Body at the next meeting. Mr Thompson who has a daughter in Year 2 and Mrs Piper who has daughters in Year 2 and Year 4 (and is also Chair of our PSA) are the two new recruits. I am very much looking forward to working with them and I am grateful that they are so keen to help us move the school forward.

Thank you for taking an interest in our School. If you know of anyone who is looking for a Primary School place for their child or children, please contact the School Office.

Kind regards,

Tim Fairbairn
Chair of Governors
5 March 2022

