



# BUILDWAS ACADEMY

Acting Head of School: Mr J Millington  
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[www.buildwasacademy.com](http://www.buildwasacademy.com)

Executive Principal: Mr S Tilley

20<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Dear Families,

## Message from the Head of School:

Hi everyone,

What an unexpected treat the snow was for us all. I live in Newport and getting out of my drive was particularly challenging, I know that the schools made the difficult decision to close. I was really saddened by the comments made by people on social media who disagreed with the decision made and were not very pleasant towards the Heads and Staff of those schools and I know that school decisions like school closures are not taken lightly. I feel as a society we need to be kinder to each other and towards the people who help us and help our children. School closures is something that is on our minds this week and I have already been asked about the forthcoming strike action and many of you wondering if the school will close. The truth is, I do not know the answer as Headteachers often find out about these things at the same time as you and then we must wait for schools' guidance from the Department of Education (DfE). I am currently working through this document, consulting with our partner school at Priorslee to formulate a plan; I would want the school to remain open but will only do if it is safe to do so. I promise will let you all know as soon as possible 😊

## In other news:

This week in my assembly I talked to the children about safeguarding including bullying, did you know that there is no concrete definition of bullying? This is how I see it!

**'The repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power. Bullying can be physical, verbal or psychological. It can happen face-to-face or online'.**

These days many of our children are accessing devices apps such as Facebook, TikTok and WhatsApp and many more including Apps that we do not know about. The online environment is a tricky one to navigate as parents but doing simple things like putting time limits in place and checking/monitoring online activity on a regular basis. It will not stamp it out, but it could mean early intervention and support for your children who are being bullied but are made to feel that they cannot speak out.

This diagram is useful as it shows that bullying often is not just between the bully and the victim but can be across the wider group and is a very complex thing.



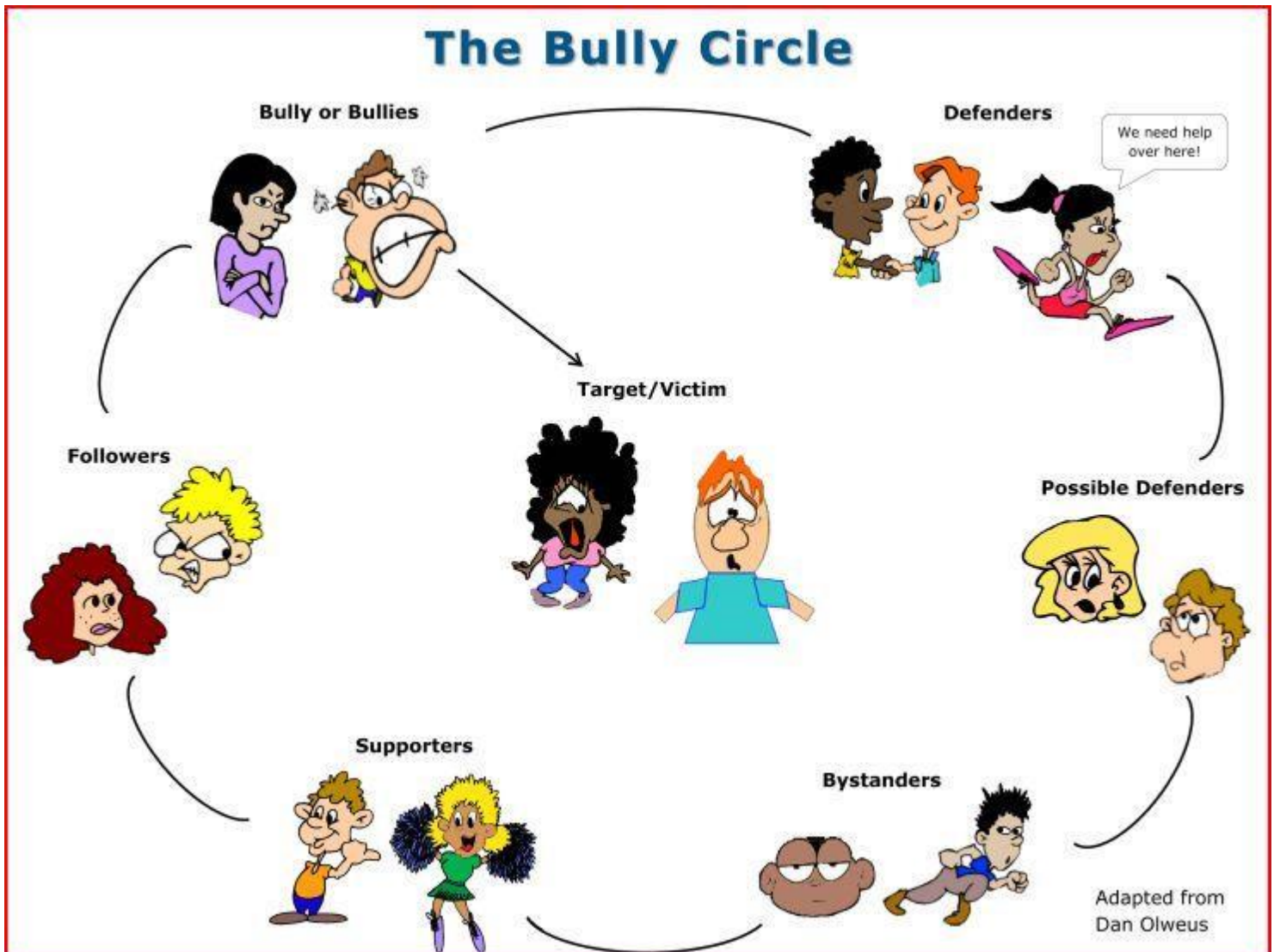


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As always, if you do have any concerns, please contact me ☺

Apologies for the overload of information this week but it has been a busy one for Buildwas.

### Buildwas Rocks:

Have you seen our new book? It looks great and next time you visit school; you will find it on top of the trophy cabinet, please have a look!





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Mrs Hambler has been really impressed at the way that some children in **Oak class** have taken responsibility for their own learning this week and carried on researching the subjects that we have been learning about in their own time. In our studies of an explanation text about robot dogs, we discovered that real dogs can smell a spritz of perfume from the other end of a football stadium. We were all very impressed but none of us were exactly sure how long a football stadium is. Henry and Ronnie made particularly good use of a wet lunch time by investigating this for themselves on the computer! Zack has been teaching us all facts about mountains and volcanoes to help with our Geography work on mountain ranges and valleys. Any facts that he was not completely sure of he went home and checked, writing notes to report back to us all the next day.

What a week in **Holly Class**! We have been very busy learning how to multiply large numbers (Year 5) and fractions (Year 6) – everyone has worked exceptionally hard to apply their growing knowledge.

We are moving onto the inverse operations, considering how to successfully apply our multiplication knowledge to solve division problems.

The class are loving Science – this week with Mr Ling we have explored blood and its structure using a microscope. We look forward to next week and investigating the heart further.

This week in **Willow class** we have been looking at the story 'Nell and the circus of dreams' discussing what we like and dislike about the circus and the different acts within it. In our expressive arts session we used strips of paper and glue to make our own circus tent pictures, using our maths skills on shape to help us. In our Understanding of the World session we went with a science link and investigated what material would be best to make a circus tent. In maths reception have been looking at weight and capacity and making comparisons using these, we certainly enjoyed using the weighing scales. Preschool have been focusing on numbers 1-4, counting, building and recognising them. In RE this week we have been looking at the festival harvest and have spent some time chopping up vegetables to make a very yummy soup. This week we have learnt the Makaton sign for 'cold' very apt for the weather at the moment.

**Beech Class** have had a very busy week! We have welcomed Mrs Poole and Mr Curtis into our class and we have been working very hard in all our lessons. Year 2s have really enjoyed learning about and working with money in maths to create different amounts and Year 1s have tried really hard with their numbers up to 20! In science we have enjoyed learning about how to keep our body and our mind healthy and we have all had wonderful ideas on how to do this. We've really loved getting new books for our book corner and we're trying really hard to look after them. Beech's favourite thing from this week has been our history. We loved learning about and comparing different jobs from 2023 and 1666 – when the Great Fire of London happened.





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This week our class attendance is:

Willow	100%
Beech	90%
Oak	90%
Holly	87%

Please check this week's class diary sheets as there are some exciting things on there.

What an amazing week I/we have had. I feel so privileged to be a part of the Buildwas family!

Take care,

Mr Millington

