



# BUILDWAS ACADEMY

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Executive Principal: Mr S Tilley

Dear Families,

## Message from the Head of School:

Hi everyone,

This week we have had a real drive on behaviour expectations in school. I started the week by talking to the children about the school behaviour policy and shared my expectation of what behaviour in school should be. I have worked with the teachers to make the behaviour policy shorter and more accessible to everybody so that we are all clear on the rewards and consequences given to children. I have also spent time in the hall and outside on the playground to look at conduct when children are not in class; it was very interesting to observe as I saw rough play and not sharing the equipment with each other. It is not all doom and gloom, there is a lot to celebrate as well. I have seen some fantastic behaviour here at Buildwas. I am especially impressed with the manners of the children, they are a real credit to you all, it really puts a smile on my face. The children here make me proud 😊

## In other news:

Online safety: I know that social media is huge, and it really has changed the way that people communicate with each other. Most apps have an age rating of 13 but I know that children work around that because of the pressure of missing out on talking to their friends. There is also a downside to this as it also makes children very vulnerable and exposes them to the darker side of social media such as grooming and county lines. All I ask is that you regularly check your child's devices and put in appropriate parental controls. Buildwas staff are on social media, and I know it is exciting for children to try and find their accounts, but please can you discourage them from trying to add staff as friends as it isn't appropriate.

Can I also remind parents that our official lines of communication at Buildwas are to phone or email in, or to come into school in person. Please do not seek out staff on social media and try to speak to them via apps such as messenger as it puts staff in a very awkward position. I have told staff not to engage and to block you. I know that this sounds harsh but staff are entitled to downtime with their families when they are not at school. I really appreciate your understanding with this.

## Buildwas Rocks:

In **Willow class** this week we have continued to look at our Circus theme within our Literacy and Art sessions making a story map and creating clown masks using paper plates. We have also been looking at the Chinese New Year festival. We have really enjoyed our role play area being changed into a Chinese restaurant with lots of orders being taken and discussions about items like chop sticks and what they are used for. We enjoyed looking at maps and where China was and how different it is





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to where we live. We had great fun painting blossom trees and dragons using our hands and fingers and learning about what Chinese calendar year we were born in and those in our families. We have also spent some lovely time outside discussing the different seasons and the different animals linked to the seasons. We discussed about how some animals are nocturnal which led to us making our own hedgehogs using clay and sticks found around the outside area. How amazing!

This week, **Beech Class** have been very busy! At the start of the week, we learned about the Chinese New Year, we looked at why the colour red is so important in Chinese culture and enjoyed listening to the traditional story of Chinese Zodiac. To celebrate the Chinese New Year, Beech Class made their very own red Chinese lanterns! Our favourite subject this week has been theme. We've looked at the timeline of the Great Fire of London and really enjoyed recreating our own timeline by drawing pictures and labelling them. We've thought carefully about how the Great Fire managed to spread so quickly and why it was very difficult to stop! We've also really enjoyed our D&T lesson. This has linked to our theme because we are designing and making our own fire engines using our cardboard boxes! We are very excited to get making.

Miss Lockley has found lots and lots of jumpers and cardigans with no names or labels in Beech Class. On Monday, at home time, these jumpers and cardigans will be in a box on the playground. Parents and carers are more than welcome to search through the box of goodies to see if there are any they are missing from home!

In **Holly Class**, we began the week by learning about Chinese New Year – we designed our own coins to celebrate, after we learnt about the Royal Mint. We have also been very busy writing our own balanced arguments in English – it has been a joy to read the many arguments they have articulately written. We have explored our Science topic further, looking at how the valves in the heart work.

This week our class attendance is:

Willow	100%
Beech	89%
Oak	92%
Holly	89%

Take care,

Mr Millington

