



BUILDWAS ACADEMY

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Executive Principal: Mr S Tilley

10th February 2023

Dear Families,

Message from the Head of School:

On Tuesday this week, I decided to test our procedures in getting the children into school should the usual way become a problem. It was very icy on the school steps so I thought this would be a good time to check that staff and children we clear with alternative routes into school. This particularly affected Holly and Oak Classes. I would like to share with you how amazing both the children and staff were at immobilising at a moment's notice. The children took the change in procedures well and I was incredibly pleased by the outcome. Well done to everyone involved.

Car Parking:

You know what I am going to say, please don't park in the car park as it makes it difficult for staff and visitors to the school to get onsite. Next week I am going to be out in the car park speaking to families who think it is ok to do this.

In my assembly this week, I talked about having resilience in learning. What prompted it was that I overheard a couple of Y6 children, telling their teacher that they couldn't do it and to my astonishment had just given up and would go no further. I have also seen children walk out of class because of this. Not only is this disrespectful it shows a very low resilience and a 'can't do it' so 'won't do it' attitude.





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What I am encouraging is an 'I want to do it' but 'how do I do it?' attitude focusing on support from people around them such as people at their table and an adult in the classroom. These are good strategies for moving forward and developing the ultimate 'yes, I did it' attitude which is what I am looking for.

Let's fast forward 20 years when the children are in the world of work, how would a 'can't do it' attitude work in the workplace? I think we all know the answer to that one!

I recently attended a conference about building up resilience, and how children develop their short and long-term memories to help improve recall, and help them tap into learning strategies so they can build on their new learning. This was all very exciting stuff for me as it is something that was successfully implemented in my previous school. I am looking forward to working with staff on this as I know it will make a difference for all of us. Here's to moving up those steps 😊

Buildwas Rocks:

In **Willow class** this week we have been continuing to learn about the circus. We practised some circus skills outside using a variety of props like stilts, scarves, bikes and wooden planks. We learnt about how to stay safe on the internet when using our iPad and tablets at home and in school. We enjoyed sharing the types of games we like to play. Following our story book 'Circus in the sky', we spent some time learning about day and night and the different things we would see. Using a light projector, we looked at what the night sky would look like. We discussed how we would see the stars and the moon. We then used our artistic talents of paint flicking to create a night time sky on black sugar paper. In maths Reception have been looking at measuring height and length and then looked at the days of the week. In nursery they have been consolidating their understanding of numbers to 5, counting, subitising and recognising. This week we have been looking at the Makaton sign for 'Police officer'.

This week **Beech Class** have been VERY busy! We've been doing lots and lots of our spy quizzes with Miss Lockley, showing off our fabulous reading and maths skills. We've worked so hard and we're all so proud of ourselves! On Wednesday, some of us were lucky enough to go to William Brookes and partake in the MAD sports event. The children who went all really enjoyed the different activities. The children who didn't go to the MAD event had a lovely time in Beech Class with Mrs Poole finishing off our fire engines. We worked together to think of the best ways to make ladders, sirens and lights.

Oak class have really been intrigued by our English class story 'The Wisp' based on a child refugee living a camp. They have engaged well and extended their vocabulary using well-structured sentences and some great imaginative ideas! We have been consolidating our learning in maths, we are currently assessing what the children have learnt across the term and enabling them to move forwards. We have some budding artists in our class, and they have definitely demonstrated their skills in their David Hockney landscape paintings this term. Oak class are particularly enjoying their





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French lessons and improving their linguistic skills constantly. In science this half term we have been looking at States of Matter and engaging in a variety of exciting experiments. It was also Internet safety day this week where we carried out some fun activities about being safe online. We are so impressed with the hard work this week - keep up the good work Oak class!

What a week in **Holly Class**! The highlight of the week has been our science lesson. We have completed our learning on the heart, dissecting and exploring the structure and purpose of the different parts of it. We also looked at how the lungs work.

This week our class attendance is:

| | |
|--------|------|
| Willow | 100% |
| Beech | 84% |
| Oak | 95% |
| Holly | 77% |

Please check this week's class diary sheets as there are some changes to PE days.

Take care,

Mr Millington

