



Dear Parents/Carers,

Let me start by **thanking you all** for your ongoing support during the spring term. The spring term is always the shortest in length but often the busiest as we have so much to fit in! The last two weeks have been particularly busy with Red Nose Day, Easter activities, Eid celebrations and Autism Awareness Day in addition to the usual school curriculum! Thank you for supporting it all. I think we all deserve a rest over the Easter break.

Thank you also for your views about the design of our **new website**. We have confirmed with the company who will create it and are hoping for it to go live in preparation for the new school year in September. Watch this space!

Next term, we will be asking you for **your views** about our priorities for 2026/27. It is important we hear from you about the things that matter to you. More to follow next term.

Becontree's Got Talent is back next term, too. Full details will be shared after the break. The Easter holiday is a perfect time to start rehearsing!

Marie Ziane



Happy Easter to members of our community who will be celebrating. Have a wonderful holiday and I look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Monday 13th April.

Easter Egg Hunt and Egg Decorating Competition

As always, your creative skills amaze us. Thank you for taking time with your children to produce your Easter creations. Mrs Stonier, Mrs Stock and Ms Moldrich had a really tough job judging. Congratulations to our winners who all received a chocolate egg.

Well done and thank you to our Year 5 children (Aaron, Chikamara, Mathias and Logan) who led a highly successful Easter Egg Hunt in school, this year. Their enthusiasm was infectious! Winners were drawn at random and announced in assembly today. All winners received a chocolate egg.



Eid Festival

A big thank you to everyone who supported the planning and delivery of our Community Eid Festival on Wednesday. It is always so lovely to see our school community coming together to recognise and celebrate one another.

Our **Change4Change team** led a fundraising activity at this event. Thank you so much for supporting our children as they continue to prove what responsible and caring citizens and active contributors, they are.



School Improvement Plan 2025-26

At Becontree Primary School, we believe that ALL children have learning, well-being and safeguarding needs; these principles underpin our exemplary inclusive practices throughout the school.



This year, we have a focus on further developing:

Behaviour, Relationships and Learning

The introduction of Zones of Regulation in classes RD, 1H, 3D and 5P has been extremely positive. Children have learnt how to try and self-regulate when their emotions get too much for them. By helping them to share and understand how they are feeling, improve their emotional literacy (being able to name their feelings) and find coping strategies to enable them to be calm and ready to learn. As it was so successful, children in other classes will be learning about the different zones and using the Zones of Regulation approach in their PSHE lessons in the summer term. We will also be hosting some training for parents/carers on the Zones of Regulation too. The date will be confirmed in future newsletters.

Further information about this strategy can be found here: [Bing Videos](#)

If you think that this may be useful for you to use at home before the training has taken place, then please come and speak to either Mrs Stock, Ms Reilly or Mrs Cracknell and they would be happy to share some information with you.



Meeting the needs of all children

Mrs Wilden has continued to support teachers to adapt maths lessons to meet the needs of all learners in their class. This includes using manipulatives to make lessons more practical, editing worksheets to ensure they do not contain unnecessary information and designing activities which support children's maths knowledge by building on what they already know.



Further to our research last term, we have now begun our work on adapting our classrooms and learning spaces. This includes creating calm spaces with bean bags and sofas, alternative lighting such as fairy lights, free standing lamps and table lamps. We are experimenting with different seating options including standing desks and dining tables in some classrooms.



Next term, we will be continuing our training on neurodiversity for all staff, supported by BDSIP and the local authority,





EYFS

The nursery children enjoyed an exciting visit to **Dagenham Fire Station** as part of their topic of People Who Help Us. In reception, the children have loved learning about **superheroes**. They were even superheroes themselves after saving Mr Crowther from the Evil Pea!



The ARP

We had a lovely time visiting Mudchute farm. We saw goats, cows, ducks, geese, chickens, rabbits, alpacas, and sheep. We also really enjoyed the train journey to the farm.



Zen Dens

We have been learning how to care for pets and farm animals. This has included an opportunity to visit and feed our school hens. And learning how to look after our 'pet' Guinea Pig. This has involved lots of cuddles as well as pretending to feed her and putting her safely to bed.



Year 1

Year 1 made sliders in D.T. They then used the skills they had learned to make a story book slider for World Book Day.



Year 2

Year 2 learned how to make paper stronger and then designed a chair for baby bear to sit on.



Year 3

Year 3 explored prehistory this term, creating cave paintings in art and learning about life in the Stone Age and Iron Age, including how people lived and adapted over time.



Year 4

Year 4 have enjoyed a trip to The British Museum to learn more about the Anglo Saxons and Ancient Egypt. They also made book sleeves in DT as part of World Book Day celebrations.



Year 5

This half term, we have been making fairgrounds by cutting and sticking wood, paper and card together. We then programmed them using a computer to make them spin.



Year 6

In DT, children have been designing and creating pop-up books for Reception and Year 1. They were based on familiar tales and nursery rhymes. They made different mechanisms to create movement to help tell their stories. The best part, of course, was sharing these books with Reception and Year 1 on World Book Day.





Pupil Leadership 2025-26

Our children continue to play a huge part in the day to day running and development of our school. We hope you enjoy reading below about some of the work they have started or have planned for this year.

This half term, the **School Council** have been busy designing an innovative device to improve the physical health and well-being of people in the community. They have proudly entered their design into a national competition and are now eagerly awaiting the results.



Our Year 6 **Prefects** have now had opportunities to experience a range of jobs and roles and would like to share some thoughts.

"I like being a prefect because I like to help and it keeps me busy helping lots of people," says Emma. Rylee and Adriana add, "We enjoyed getting to play with the little children in KS1. They were nice and didn't pull us around like I thought they would!" "My job as a prefect has been amazing. I have been more responsible and caring with adults and children around the school," Macey explains. Ezekiel particularly enjoyed helping in assemblies: "It is amazing doing this job. One person controls the computer and the other person hands out the rewards." Final words come from Veronica, Galia and Anastasia who agree that it has been really good having more responsibility and having the benefits such as wearing a different, recognisable uniform; sitting on benches in assemblies; and wearing your badge with pride. "I recommend being a prefect to everyone," Galia says. "The jobs are fun and it is all about teamwork!"



The **Playground Leaders** continue to support our children in both Key Stage 1 and 2 playgrounds. We met up as a group to discuss what has been going well with their roles and how we could make them even better. The leaders produced some great suggestions, and we will look to roll out some ideas next term. We will also be meeting up with a local school to learn how they use an exciting lunchtime programme which we plan to introduce to our playgrounds in the future. Exciting times!



The **Maths Ambassadors** have continued to support Year 4 with their MTC (Multiplication Tables Check) practise. Year 4 teachers have said they have been a huge help and have provided encouragement and support to those who have struggled with some of the times tables.

Once Year 6 SATs tests have been completed, we will be asking the Maths Ambassadors to help in KS1 maths lessons. This will enable them to develop their communication skills, and use their mathematical knowledge to help other children. You never know, it may inspire them to become teachers themselves in the future.

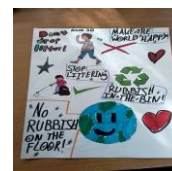
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3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27	3
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5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	5
6	12	18	24	30	36	42	48	54	6
7	14	21	28	35	42	49	56	63	7
8	16	24	32	40	48	56	64	72	8
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The **Digital Leaders** have taken on a new role this term, carrying out spot checks on our new Bee-Bots and data loggers. They have also continued their important responsibilities, including looking after the Ada Lovelace Suite and ensuring that laptop, Chromebook, and iPad trolleys are fully charged and ready for lessons.



The **Eco Committee** met with Mrs Doogan on 24th March to discuss the effects of litter on the environment. They identified that litter can be dangerous to animals and their habitat, increase landfill areas, can go into the water and affect sea life and also make areas untidy and dirty. They thought of ways that they could tackle litter that happens in and around the school. The Eco Committee's first step was to design posters to encourage people to throw litter in the bins. These posters will be placed around school. The next step that the Eco Committee discussed was having a litter picking club where the Eco Committee members take it in turns to use litter picking equipment to collect up any litter in the playground and local area around the school.



The **Travel Ambassadors** will meet next half term to get ready to organise the Walk to School week which will be taking place from Monday 18th May to Friday 22nd May.



Our new **Health and Well-Being Champions** met with Mrs Ziane on 2nd March; they really are looking forward to carrying out their new role and I know they will do an amazing job in helping us all to look after our own health and well-being.

The team started by thinking about being healthy and well means and came up with some different categories. They plan to share these categories with other children in the summer term and will run a competition for children to design a health and well-being logo to be used around school. Watch this space for more details.



Rights Respecting School Ambassadors were so excited to attend their first meeting on 2nd March with Mrs Stock and Mrs Peters. The meeting provided an opportunity to review which targets we have met in our Bronze Action Plan. Ambassadors have also been tasked to gather the views of the children in their class about what they know about their rights. The information gathered will help to inform our next steps in achieving the Silver Rights Respecting School Award by the end of this academic year.





Parent and Community Partnerships
CONNECT – COMMUNICATE – COLLABORATE



Hearing Impairment

What is hearing impairment?

Hearing impairments can take many forms. Some children or adults find that it can:

- make sounds quieter;
- make sounds unclear;
- distort sounds;
- make sounds painfully loud;

They may notice unusual effects like hearing an echo of their own voice, perceiving sounds in double, or hearing the world with a short delay.

Strategies that can help at school

Create an inclusive environment by minimizing background noise, so they can focus on sounds and speech. The use of visual aids is also helpful as this reinforces the verbal communication.

Effective communication strategies by ensuring that when talking to them that you are facing them, so they can see your lips and facial expressions. Speak clearly and at a moderate pace and use sign language or gestures.

Provide appropriate resources and support by using technology that is available.

Majority of children who are hearing impaired will wear a hearing aid. Adults will know how this works to ensure it is supporting the child in the classroom.

Famous people who are hearing impaired



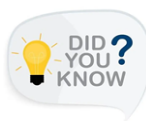
Millie Bobby Brown
(Actress)



Eric Clapton
(Musician)



Derrick Coleman
(NBA)



Over 50,000 children live with a hearing impairment in the U.K.

A parent's view

My two sons have hearing aids which they have had since they were very small. At first, it was difficult as they would take them off and sometimes put them in their mouths. However, now it is much better. The hearing aids help them to hear properly and play with their friends.





Becontree Primary School Newsletter

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Language and Communication

We continue to develop our language and communication curriculum as set out in our school improvement plan. Governors saw many strategies in place to promote oracy and collaboration used effectively when they visited earlier this term. We are currently working on an oracy skills progression document and exploring different ways to teach vocabulary explicitly.



Ask Fewer Questions

Why? Too many questions can feel like a test.

How? Instead of asking, "What colour is this?" say, "Red!". This keeps the conversation natural and encourages learning.

When? Anytime—during play, meals, or daily routines. Simply observe what your child is doing and talk about it.

Barking & Dagenham

BEST START IN LIFE

Language of the Term

This term's language is **Punjabi**

Punjabi is mainly written in **Gurmukhi** script in India and **Shahmukhi** script in Pakistan.

ੳ	ਅ	ੲ	ਸ	ਹ
ka	khā	ga	ghā	nga
ਚ	ਛ	ਜ	ਝ	ਞ
cha	chha	ja	jha	nja
ਟ	ਠ	ਡ	ਢ	ਣ
ta	tha	da	dha	na
ਤ	ਥ	ਦ	ਧ	ਨ
ta	tha	dha	dha	na
ਪ	ਫ	ਬ	ਭ	ਮ
pa	pha	ba	bha	ma
ਯ	ਰ	ਲ	ਵ	ੜ
ya	ra	la	va	rda

ਗੁਰਮੁਖੀ	ਸ਼ਾਹਮੁਖੀ	ਗੁਰਮੁਖੀ	ਸ਼ਾਹਮੁਖੀ	ਗੁਰਮੁਖੀ	ਸ਼ਾਹਮੁਖੀ	ਗੁਰਮੁਖੀ	ਸ਼ਾਹਮੁਖੀ
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Gurmukhi script

Shahmukhi script

Did you know?

Punjabi is the tenth most spoken language globally, with over 100 million speakers.

Makaton

March Signs of the Week (Makaton)

Our March Signs of the Week were full of fun, energy, and lots of communication! This month, we focused on the signs "Play," "Eat," "Drink," and "Same" perfect for supporting everyday conversations and routines.

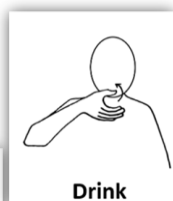
The children absolutely loved using these signs during playtime and mealtimes helping them to express their needs and preferences with growing confidence. Their enthusiasm has been amazing to see, and they have been so eager to join in and practise!



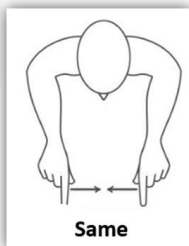
Play



Eat



Drink



Same

Parents can practise these signs at home together to help build confidence, encourage communication, and make learning fun for everyone!

Home Learning

At Becontree, we define home learning as any activity that children undertake outside of school lesson time, either on their own or with the support of family members.

We promote home learning and encourage parents/carers to be involved in children's learning.

Regular home learning builds a growth mindset and helps children embrace challenge and effort to achieve their goals.

Our whole school approach to home learning is set out in our Home Learning Strategy that can be found on the school website.



[Supporting Learning at Home | Becontree Primary School](#)

Next Newsletter: April 2026



Online Safety/AI

This term, a small group of staff have come together to explore AI tools that could help reduce workload and support teaching and learning across the school. While AI can be a powerful aid, it is important to use it safely.

Helpful tips for parents:

- Encourage open conversations about when and how children use AI tools – ask them what they are using and why.
- Remind children that AI does not always give correct answers, and it is important to check facts with trusted sources.
- Talk about what information is safe to share online and what should always stay private.
- Use AI together as a learning opportunity rather than leaving children to explore tools alone.

Governors

We were so pleased to welcome governors into school on Wednesday 25th February. They spent the morning speaking with parents, children and staff and observing lessons around the school.

Every single governor left the school with a ***smile on their face!*** They particularly enjoyed seeing the school in action after hearing so much about what we do at governing body meetings.

They enjoyed their visit so much that they are coming back again next term to see some other aspects of school life.

Governors give up a lot of time as volunteers and we are grateful to have their support and challenge in making sure we all continue to work together to be the very best we can be!



WHAT'S NEXT?



15th April
Science Community Show



25th April
Mini-marathon event Y2-6



Week beginning 11th May
Mental Health Week



Week beginning 11th May
Y6 SATs Tests



20th May
Becontree's Got Talent Final



Nursery Places for September 2026

Do you have a child born between 1/9/2022-31/8/2023?

If so, they could have a FREE 15-hour Nursery place at Becontree Primary.

Contact Mrs Halliday in the school office for more information.



Are you missing out?

The majority of our parents are already using Eduspot, our messaging app (formerly known as Xpressions).

Not accessing this yet? Sign up for FREE to get information direct to your mobile!

Keep in the loop with newsletters, clubs, trips, events, photo day and more! Please contact the school office if you need any help setting this up.

