



Dear Parents/Carers,

I have to say, the school has been a lot calmer this term since the Naughty Elf left!

Despite the cold, wet and windy weather, your children continue to bring a smile to our faces every single day. Their positive attitudes to one another and to their learning is always recognised by visitors to the school. The most recent feedback came from the assessor who visited us for our **Inclusion Quality Mark Assessment** last week.

The **sense of community** within our school is also something that comes out strongly as part of any reviews that take place in school. To build on this, please see the **community section of this newsletter** and watch out for a **short questionnaire** that will be coming soon to ask for your feedback about curriculum workshops we offer. We want to listen to your views so that we can provide what you need/want to help you to support your child's learning.

We look forward to seeing you all at parent/teacher consultation meetings on Tuesday and Thursday next week.

Our **school website** is going to be upgraded soon, and we would also like to hear your thoughts about what you would like to see on it! Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts with us.

Marie Ziane

School Award Update



WE HAVE
ACHIEVED



We are very proud of our recent achievements in the areas of inclusion, travel for life and healthy schools.

All children and staff have contributed in some way to these awards, but I would like to give a special mention to:

Our Pupil Travel Ambassadors, Pupil Eco Committee members, Mrs Doogan, Mrs Cracknell, Ms Reilly, Mrs Stock and Mrs Stonier who have all worked really hard to achieve these awards.

Two GOLDS....what next????

Fundraising

We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who helped make the Christmas Fete such a big success, and to all our parents and carers who came along and supported the event. It was a fantastic afternoon, and we even managed to raise a profit of over just over **£400!** Our next event will be celebrating Eid, on **Monday 23rd March** after school. We are always happy to welcome volunteers to help organise these events, so if you'd like to get involved, we'd love to hear from you!



Our **Change4Change team** are currently planning a well-being fundraiser as part of Children's Mental Health Week 9-13th February 2026. Further information to follow.

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

One area of focus for all staff members is understanding that for all children **'Behaviour is Communication'**. Training in this area has given staff the tools to focus on children's emotional well-being and create a positive learning environment so children feel safe, supported and ready to learn. To further develop this, we are working with all stakeholders to ensure that we have a shared language which focuses on:

- **Positive framing:** this is where we describe the desired behaviour rather than what should not be done.
- **Shared terminology:** using the same language or phrases so that children receive the same message.
- **Descriptive Praise:** instead of generic praise, language is being used that highlights specific positive actions, e.g. "I noticed you shared those pens well with your partner."

We are also introducing Zones of Regulation to support children with their emotional regulation when they come into school each morning. Classes RD, 1H, 3D and 5P will be trialling this resource in April before it is rolled out across the school. Further updates about this will be provided in future newsletters, including some training for parents/carers in this area.



Meeting the needs of all children

Our **Inclusion Quality Mark** assessment took place last week. The outcome was very positive, and more information will be shared once the final report is available. Meeting the needs of ALL children is much more than just provision for children with SEND; it reflects our approaches and belief that ALL children have learning, well-being and safeguarding needs and that connecting, communicating and collaborating with all stakeholders is central to our success as a school. Both were recognised as strengths of our school during our recent assessment.

We have had further staff training this month related to **attention control, cognitive load and pupil engagement**. We are exploring different ways to increase pupil focus and attention in class and to engage children fully in all lessons. We have also looked at different ways children learn and identified some simple adaptations that can be made during planning and delivery of lessons to support this. Teachers will be trialling some of these approaches within lessons.

We have been researching alternative furniture and items to support regulation in the classroom. These include standing desks, kick bands, fidget aids and different lighting options. Some are being trialled now.





Becontree Primary School Newsletter

Edition 82: January 2026



EYFS

The children in nursery have been exploring different forms of transport. In Reception, the children enjoyed making and tasting porridge whilst learning the story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears.



The ARP



We had a lovely time, sharing books with our parents, when they joined us in the Reading Hub.

Zen Dens

In our art lessons, we have been learning about different artists including Paul Klee and Jackson Pollock and how they used colours in their art.



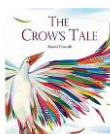
Year 1

Year 1 have been reading a book called *The Selfish Crocodile*. They have used adjectives to describe the crocodile and other animals in the story. They also visited the V&A museum to look at toys from the past which they had discussed in their history lessons.



Year 2

Year 2 have been enjoying reading a book called *'The Crow's Tale,'* where we have been learning to use some amazing vocabulary. In science, we have just finished investigating different materials and then we worked in teams to make a baby's nappy that was absorbent inside and waterproof outside!



Year 3

Year 3 have been busy exploring both stories and systems this term! In English, we read *Pebble in My Pocket* and were inspired to write our own stories, using the book as a starting point to spark our creativity. In DT, the children have been designing and making their very own pneumatic system toys, learning how air pressure can bring their ideas to life.



Year 4

Year 4 have been enjoying their weekly swimming lessons and have been making lots of progress. In art, we have been learning about Islamic patterns and symmetrical lines. We designed our own pattern and printed these onto a pencil case.



Year 5



Year 5 have been finding out about Earth and Space in science. They enjoyed finding out about how the planets in our solar system orbit the sun and how the moon orbits the Earth.

Year 6

The children have been working on writing non-chronological reports about an unusual species of Miptor. Drawing on their recent learning in both geography and science, they have been concentrating on using technical vocabulary and editing their writing independently.



Amazing Becontree Writers

We have amazing writers at Becontree, and we want to celebrate some of these children with you. These children are resilient, try hard and do not give up! These are key attributes of any successful author. Each term, we will alternate between the classes in each phase to celebrate everyone's efforts. Please look at our school website to see their excellent efforts. Please use this link. <https://becontree.secure-primariesite.net/amazing-writers-1>

Next Newsletter: February 2026



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.

Our **School Council** have been working hard to promote healthy choices across the school. As part of this work, School Council members have spoken to children in their classes about the importance of bringing healthy snacks at breaktime. They explained how nutritious snacks help us stay focused, energised and ready to learn. They are also entering an exciting Design and Technology competition focused on improving health and wellbeing, where they are developing creative ideas to solve real-life problems. We are proud of the leadership they have shown and look forward to sharing more about their ideas and progress in the competition.



Since September, several **Year 6** children have been leading **Lunchtime Clubs** for other year groups to enjoy. Four groups successfully led D.T., Origami, Dodgeball and Sewing clubs in the Autumn term. They enjoyed having the responsibility for planning, teaching and evaluating their own lessons and all of them realised it was hard work!

This term, we have four more clubs being offered and the children are in the middle of planning their lessons ready to start in February. Years 3, 4 and 5 are going to join them in Arts and Crafts, Drama, Badminton and (another) Dodgeball clubs.



Our **Playground Leaders** continue to support in both the KS1 and KS2 playgrounds, ensuring the outdoor spaces are safe and enjoyable environments to play in. To ensure our children have a say, we will be seeking their responses about how we can improve our playground areas. At an upcoming meeting with Mr Crowther, along with discussions, there will be visits to other schools regarding a future playground programme. Watch this space!



The **Maths Ambassadors** have continued to help teachers to prepare resources ready for their maths lessons and they have enjoyed presenting the **Times Tables Rock Stars Award** to the winning class each week in assembly. At the start of the term, they delivered certificates to pupils who had made significant improvements in their Becontree Tables challenge score. They have also helped to run the Year 4 lunchtime club which helps children prepare for their MTC (Multiplication Tables Check) in June.



Our **Change4Change team** are going strong. They led a fundraising activity at the Christmas Fete and are now focused on preparing for their next project that will take place during Children's Mental Health Week. Information will be shared in assembly this week and via email to parents/carers. If you can support, please do.





Pupil Leadership 2025-26

The **Digital Leaders** took part in Online Safety Week, playing an active role in promoting safe online behaviour. They planned and delivered an assembly to the whole school, exploring the safe and responsible use of AI. Through clear examples and discussion, they encouraged children to think critically about online content, protect personal information, and use digital tools respectfully.

The Digital Leaders also act as positive role models, supporting their peers and helping to raise awareness of online safety across the school.

Safer
Internet
Day 2026

The **Travel Ambassadors** and **Eco Committee** were busy during Road Safety Week where they met with the Accident and Prevention Officer for Barking & Dagenham to learn more about her role in educating children in schools on Road Safety. The children also shared how they have helped by getting a Road Safety banner displayed outside the school and linking some of their activities to promote environmental issues such as active travel by walking, riding or scooting to school to help improve air quality and pollution. The whole school took part in Road Safety sessions either through assemblies or class workshops. Finally, the Travel Ambassadors and Eco Committee launched the **Stay Bright Campaign** where children are invited to make themselves seen more clearly by decorating their coat, clothing, bag, helmet, bike or scooter with something bright or reflective when they are walking, riding or scooting to and from school during the darker months. We look forward to seeing all the creations in school on **Monday 2nd February**.



Our newly appointed **Health and Well-Being Champions** are looking forward to working together with Mrs Ziane to support all children to look after their health and well-being. They will start by thinking about what we already do well, as a school, and then plan some special activities for children to take part in.



Meet our new **Rights Respecting School Ambassadors**. This is an exciting new role starting this term. The children will be working alongside Mrs Stock and Mrs Peters to help us achieve our Silver school status in this area. They will be reviewing our current action plan and identifying areas for development. Part of their role is also to ensure that children have a clear understanding of their rights and promoting these as part of assemblies, special event days and in the curriculum.





Parent and Community Partnerships CONNECT – COMMUNICATE – COLLABORATE



Mental Health and Well-Being

When you're busy looking after everyone else, it's easy to forget about your own mental health and well-being. This section is here to remind you that ***you matter too***. Here you'll find simple strategies and tips to help you find some much needed 'me' time to support your well-being and help you recharge.

Be Active

Exercise releases endorphins which can boost your mood and reduce pain.

Connect With Others

Talk to family, friends and colleagues to build good relationships.

Keep Learning

Learn new skills such as cooking or playing an instrument or take up a new hobby.

Give to Others

Engage in the community such as volunteering or performing small acts of kindness.

Nutritional Support

You are what you eat – eating as healthy as you can supports good brain health.

Manage Stress

Learn to say 'no' to excessive demands and try to take deep breathes when you feel stressed. Learn to meditate.

Prioritise Sleep

Go to bed at a reasonable time and make sure you avoid watching television or swiping on your phone.



We teach our children about ***kindness*** every day but sometimes forget to recognise how kind we are, as adults.

Recently, we have seen several acts of kindness within our parent community, whether that be to another parent, a child in school or to the whole school community.

Acts of kindness don't have to be big; the smallest gesture can brighten another person's day.

Being kind costs nothing and it's a well-known fact that being kind not only makes others feel good but makes us feel good about ourselves, too.

Let's celebrate kindness together!

I welcome messages/emails about how someone within our school community has shown kindness to you.

We can then surprise them with one of our Over and Above tickets!

Email your nominations to office@becontreeprimaryschool.com making sure

You name the person you are nominating, the name of their child who is at our school and the reason, you chose to nominate them.





Speech and Language Support

Top Tip:

Read and Tell Stories

When children listen to stories, they hear new words, learn how sentences work, and start to understand feelings, thoughts and routines.

- Choose books and stories that your child enjoys
- You don't need to read every word. Point to pictures, name things, and make fun sound effects.
- Follow their lead. Let children turn the pages, choose the book or talk about what catches their eye
- Comment on what's happening in the story rather than asking lots of questions.
- Be playful. Use silly voices, actions or props.



Language of the Term

This term's language is **Punjabi**



Punjabi is mainly spoken in Pakistan and India, but it is also spoken in the U.K., the U.S.A, Canada, Malaysia, Thailand, Italy and the Philippines.

Did you know?

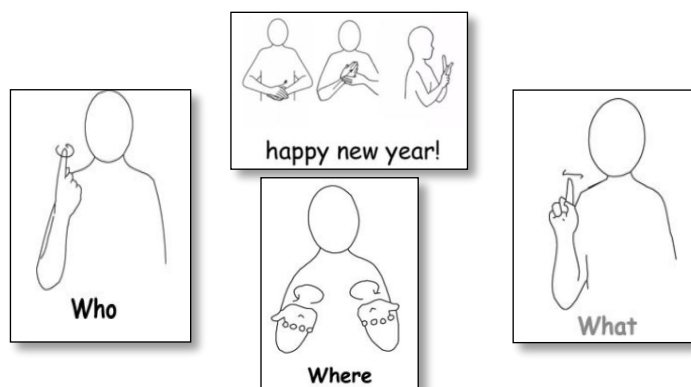
There are approximately 853,000 Punjabi speakers in the United Kingdom.

Makaton

January Signs of the Week (Makaton)

Our January *Signs of the Week* were filled with sparkle and lots of learning. We started the month with the first Makaton sign: **"Happy New Year!"** (this was our special welcome sign). Then we moved on to **"Who," "Where,"** and **"What"**—the perfect questions to help us talk and explore!

The children loved practising these signs, and their excitement was contagious. We can't wait to learn even more next month!



Parents, why not try Makaton at home too? It's a fun way to boost your child's confidence and help them communicate clearly and confidently.

Rights Respecting School Award

We are very excited to be working in partnership with Valence Primary School.



As part of their journey to achieving **GOLD** status, they have offered their support to us here at Becontree!

We are another step closer to achieving our **SILVER** status. Watch this space for further updates detailing how we are progressing.





Online Safety

We would like to share a new guide from the Children's Commissioner, Dame Rachel de Souza, titled ***What I wish my parents or carers knew: A guide for parents on managing children's digital lives***. Written with direct input from children, the guide offers practical advice to help families talk about online habits, set clear boundaries, and support safe, healthy digital use. It recognises the challenges parents and carers face in balancing protection with access to the digital world and provides guidance to help children navigate it with confidence. The guide also includes a few activities for children to complete, designed to support families who are struggling with helping children manage their screen time. You can read the full guide here: <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/resource/what-i-wish-my-parents-or-carers-knew-a-guide-for-parents-and-carers-on-managing-childrens-digital-lives/>

The guide will also be available on the school website under **Safeguarding, including Online Safety** section.



WHAT'S NEXT?



Parent/Teacher Consultation
Week
Week beginning 2nd February



Year 5/6 Trewern Week
Week beginning 9th February



Children's Mental Health Week
Week beginning 9th February



Governors

We have some changes to our Governing Body to tell you about. Two governors recently left us (Mrs Beckett and Ms Louis). They both played an important role on our governing body, and we thank them for giving up their time to support our school.

We are very lucky to have appointed two new governors to take their place: **Mr Andy Walker and Mr Simon Hack** (*I think some of you might recognise this name?*) We know that they will both bring a lot to their role as governor.

Look out for governors on **Wednesday 25th February**! We are trialling a Governor in School morning where **all** governors will visit our school to see us all in operation. Some governors will be on the playground before school and are interested to hear about your views on how the school shares information with you about your child's learning.

Kitchen Vacancy

General Assistant wanted for Becontree Primary School kitchen

£12.21 per hour (£12.71 from April 2026)

12 hours and 30 minutes per week working Term time only

Permanent position

For Job Specification and more information please call Deborah on 07350-362969



Polite Reminder - Ordering school meals

Please remember you should be ordering your child's school meal from home.
This can be done up to 2 months in advance, so order now for February and March!



Visit app.schoolgrid.co.uk
or ask the office staff for help today!

