



Dear Parents/Carers,

A short but very busy half term has passed us by in the blink of an eye! Who can believe we are heading for the last half term of the school year?

A huge shout out to our **Year 6 children and teachers** for their amazing efforts in the lead up to and during the week of SATs last week. I could not be prouder of how the children managed themselves during what can be a stressful time. Thank you to parents/carers for all your support, too.

Another shout out to Dolce and our catering team, who supported our **VE Day Celebratory lunch** recently. The children enjoyed the party atmosphere and outdoor picnic to commemorate such a special event in history.

I am delighted to include another spotlight item in this newsletter. Thank you to **Miss Rowland** for sharing her experiences with us all to better our understanding of **Tourettes**.

We finish for the half term break this afternoon and will re-open to children on Tuesday 3rd June 2025 at the usual time. Watch out for our Summer Term Programme of Events so you don't miss out on any of the fun we have planned. Happy half term, everyone!



Marie Ziane (Headteacher)

Communication Corner

Barking and Dagenham Strategy of the Month to improve Language and Communication

Give the Child Extra Time

Why? Children need extra time to understand what you say and think about how to respond. Giving them that time helps build their ability to understand and communicate.

How? After asking a question or giving an instruction, wait and silently count to 10. This gives the child a chance to process and respond without feeling rushed.

When? Use this during conversations, playtime, and daily routines. A little extra wait time can make a big difference in helping a child find their words!



Change4Change Team

To date, with your support, our Change4Change team have raised **£495.60** for Save the Children.

The Eid Ice Pole and Sweet Sale on Friday 4th April 2025 at 2.15 p.m. was well supported, thank you!

The team are currently planning their next event to tie in with our end of year community celebration on Friday 18th July...watch this space for more information!



Travel Ambassadors



Walk to School Week took place from Monday 19th to Friday 23rd May with classes competing to see who would have the highest number of walkers. Winning classes from each Key Stage will get an extra 15 minutes playtime and will be announced after half term.

The **Travel Ambassadors** also launched The Great Space Walk and challenged children to complete 8 laps around the playground to promote active travel. It was a great success; well done to all those children who took part. Twenty randomly selected participants will get to take part in a 30-minute sports activity with the Travel Ambassadors next half term.

Special Achievement

London Marathon and Mini Marathon

Well done to our amazing children who completed the Mini Marathon in front of Buckingham Palace, raising **£250** for PE equipment. Mr Harvey also ran the full London Marathon and raised over **£1,000** for Cancer Research UK. We are very proud of him!





School Improvement Plan Update

Relationships and
collaboration (pupils,
parents and staff)



We continue to find ways to engage parents/carers in the life of our school and this term has been no exception.

Mrs Lawrence has trialled some **Writing Workshops** with classes 1D and 3D where the children made sandwiches with their parents and then wrote instructions about this. The children enjoyed working with their parents; 1L and 3B will have their workshops after the holiday. We are hoping to include more year groups in the future,

We have to say a huge thank you to all parents/carers who support **school trips**; we genuinely couldn't do so many without your support.

After half term, we are looking forward to welcoming **new nursery and reception children and families** to school to make sure they have a wonderful start in September.

We also want your views. As you know, Becontree will be celebrating it's **100th birthday** in September and we want to involve as many people as possible. Please see the final page of the newsletter for information about how to get involved.

Maths



Calling all Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 Parents and Carers. Your child has been given a **Numbots** login which is now part of our home learning package(see link below). The activities provided will help to develop your child's automaticity, meaning that they will quickly recall facts without really thinking about it.

www.Numbots.com

Maths through Art Day

During our special day, children explored how artists use maths within their artwork . Please look at what the children created by checking out the Gallery on our school website

www.becontreeprimaryschool.com/maths-day-art-displays/



Language and Communication/Oracy

This term, staff training has focussed on '**Questioning**'. To improve the quality of questioning, teaching staff:

- ask clear, focused and purposeful questions;
- give children enough time to consider the answer privately, as well as discussing it with peers;
- engage as many children as possible and give all children equal opportunity to answer questions;
- insist on well-developed answers using appropriate vocabulary;
- give children opportunities to ask questions themselves;
- give appropriate feedback;
- create an environment where all children feel safe and confident to answer questions.





Curriculum Highlights

During this half term, the children in **EYFS** have had the opportunity to observe some life cycles. As part of the topic on minibeasts in **nursery**, the children have been observing the life cycle of REAL caterpillars. They are getting bigger by the day, and the children cannot wait to see them transform into beautiful butterflies very soon!

Reception have been learning all about growing and have recently welcomed some very cute chicks into the classrooms! We will be keeping two hens to join our chickens in the key stage one playground the next few weeks. We are yet to name them, so please feel free to share any ideas with the staff in reception.

In the **ARP**, the children enjoyed making jam sandwiches in cooking, for our celebratory picnic in the garden, for VE day.

Year 1 have been on a trip to The Call of the Wild Zoo to learn about types of animals. A great day was had by all and the children really enjoyed a workshop about animal adaptations.

Year 2 have made hand puppets in DT linking to 'The Room on the Broom' text in writing.

Year 3 enjoyed a wonderful visit to Colchester Castle as part of their history unit The Romans. They had the opportunity to try on examples of clothing worn by Roman soldiers and visited the crypt underneath the castle.

Year 4 have been learning all about how sound is created and how we can change the pitch and volume of sounds. They have taken part in lots of different experiments to improve their understanding.

Year 5 had a busy half term with an overnight stay in school for our annual Y5 sleepover and a trip to see Wicked at the Apollo Theatre. Well done to Sara, Adriana, Chloe and Amelia whose film project was selected to progress to the pitch event for the Year 5 Film Enterprise Project. Although not successful, they really should be proud of what they achieved to be in the final three schools.

Year 6 should be delighted with their efforts during SATs. They really did their absolute best all week.



On Friday, they celebrated the end of the SATs with a cricket game and a special treat from the ice cream especially arranged by Mrs

To finish off the half term, they are off to Chessington reward for all their hard work this year.

Zen Den children had a party to celebrate VE Day on Thursday 8th May. Each child wrote an invite to a friend or sibling and helped to decorate the room. The children shared food, danced and Union Flag accessories. It was a great afternoon.

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 month, we will alternate between the year groups in each phase to celebrate everyone's efforts. Please look at our school website to see their amazing efforts. Please use this link.

<https://becontree.secure-primariesite.net/amazing-writers-1/>



Other Achievements

Congratulations to Joel (Class 4WH) for his award in Shotokan Karate! A superb achievement, Joel!





Language of the Term

Our current language of the term is
Romanian.



Click on this link to learn some Romanian words and phrases.

<https://youtu.be/R-5SU6VZGSY>

Online Safety

AI tools like chatbots, image generators, and voice assistants are fun, but they come with risks. **Keep your children safe by:**

- **Supervising use** – most AI tools aren't made for young children.
- **Reminding them** not to share personal information with bots.
- **Talking about truth** – AI doesn't always get things right.
- **Encouraging open chats** about what they're doing online.

Here are some helpful links to get more information about AI and how to keep safe:

- <https://www.childnet.com/>
- <https://www.internetmatters.org/>
- <https://www.bbc.com/ownit>

All things Sports Related

We have had quite a busy month regarding sports activities! Several KS1 children got the opportunity to attend an event, alongside other schools, with a range of fun activities to do.

It has been great to see so many children apply for places in our sports related afterschool clubs. We had such high numbers for fencing that we had to organise a second club!

We celebrated International Dance Day with an assembly that showcased a cultural dance from each year group. The children and teachers loved it! Go and check the website for the videos.

<https://becontree.primarysite.media/>

This week, Years 2-6 took part in a park run at Goodmayes Park. This was organised by a member of the Barking Parkrun team, alongside Mr Crowther and Mrs Stonier. Our aim was to hopefully inspire and encourage our children to become healthy and fit individuals by participating in future park runs both in and outside of school.



Rights Respecting School Award

Looking after our mental health is extremely important and children are taught numerous strategies to help them, in their PSHE lessons. Article 17 of the UNCRC states that **'Children have the right to receive information which helps to promote good mental health'.**

During Mental Health Week, children focused on lessons linked to the 'Zones of Regulations', focusing on why they were feeling a certain way and how to help themselves get back in the 'green zone'. More information about the Zones of Regulation can be found here:

<https://zonesofregulation.com/how-it-works/>





Spotlight on Tourette Syndrome

What is Tourette Syndrome?

Tourette syndrome is a condition that causes a person to make involuntary sounds and movements called tics. It is a protected disability under the Equality Act, 2010.

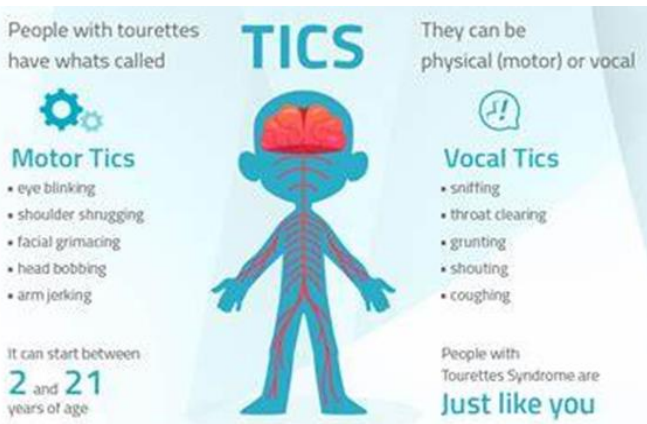
It usually starts during childhood, but the tics and other symptoms can improve after several years and sometimes go away completely.

There's no cure for Tourette syndrome, but treatment can help manage the symptoms.

The cause of Tourette syndrome is unknown. It's thought to be linked to a part of the brain that helps regulate body movements.

Different types of tics

People with Tourette syndrome have a combination of physical and vocal tics.



Swearing affects about 1 in 10 people with Tourette syndrome.

Tics are not usually harmful to a person's overall health, but physical tics, such as jerking of the head, can be painful.

Tics can be worse on some days than others.

Can tics be controlled?

It is hard for people to control their tics. They may be able to for a short while, but it requires a lot of concentration.

Controlling tics can be tiring. A person may have a sudden release of tics after a day of trying to control them.

Tics may be less noticeable during activities involving a high level of concentration, such as reading an interesting book or playing sports.

Some famous people with Tourette Syndrome



Useful Information

To find out more information about Tourette's Syndrome, please visit the following website:

[Tourettes Action](#)

Lewis Capaldi (singer), Billie Eilish (singer) and Muhmoud Abdul Raul (NBA basketball player)

Parent Voice

Miss Rowland experienced physical tics from the age of 11. It was not until the age of 16, when she experienced vocal tics, that she was diagnosed with Tourette Syndrome.

'No two days are the same, some days my tics may be loud, and I am more vocal but other days they can be quieter. Stressful situations, e.g. meeting new people or being in a busy social situation can make me have more vocal tics and I can't suppress these; the words just have to come out. To try and help me manage my Tourette's, I am on medication which helps to reduce the number of tics I have, and I am finding that I am having more good days than bad days now, as I have learnt to live with my condition. I am proud of my achievements, as I have done things that I never thought I would do like passing my driving test.'

Miss Rowland, stated that she has a great support system around her and has felt very welcomed by the parents at the school, as they have treated her just like everyone else. She would welcome parents asking her questions if they wanted to find out more about Tourette Syndrome.



School Council

Our School Council celebrated a big win this year! A select group designed a **healthy lifestyle app**, won a national competition, and earned a place in an exciting TCS technology workshop to develop their ideas further.



Earlier in the year, the entire council led two important school-wide surveys. One exploring **how safe and happy pupils feel at school**, and another to help **reduce food waste** by finding out which lunch options children liked least and sharing the results with our meal provider, Dolce. We're incredibly proud of their teamwork, creativity, and leadership!

Parent Partnership

St George's Day

Thank you to every who came to the St George's event. We hope all had a good time and enjoyed celebrating with us! Look out for details of our summer event coming soon!

Debt

If you are struggling with debt and need support, you can contact the Homes and Money Hub team. It is a free service and completely confidential. Please contact them on the email below

homesandmoneyhub@lbbd.gov.uk

ESOL

If you would like to improve your English, please come along to our ESOL class every Thursday morning.

The class is free and all are welcome.

If you are interested in anything else, just let us know and we'll do our best to arrange it.



Community Partnership



A big shout out to Wickes DIY store in Chadwell Heath, for supporting our school with a donation of **£100**. Wickes believe in investing in our local community. They recognise the valuable role our school plays in shaping young minds and send their warmest congratulations! Mr Allen purchased paint for the playground equipment, which will keep our school bright and cheery!

Polite Reminder



Please remember to order school lunches from home. Without a pre-order, the children have a very limited choice of food.

WHAT'S NEXT?



Becontree's Got Talent

The school is buzzing with excitement about our upcoming BGT competition!

Semi-finals 5th June

Finals 18th June 4.30 p.m.

You will be invited to this event if your child is one of the finalists!

Becontree Primary School Centenary

The school is turning 100 years old in September, and we need your help to prepare for the celebration!

Please email

office@becontreeprimaryschool.com

with any memories, facts, newspaper clippings or photographs you have of the school from the past ten decades.

The children will learn about the history of the school and how it has changed over the years.

Bow Arts will be helping us to create a lasting piece of artwork to commemorate the occasion. The outdoor collage will consist of photographs and words. The artist would like to know:

"What is the one word you would use to describe Becontree and its community? What makes Becontree unique?"

Remember to check out the **Themes and Events Overview** for other activities next term.