



Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly, can I say "Eid Mubarak" to all families who are celebrating Eid.

I can't quite believe that we have come to the end of the Spring term, already! This academic year is flying by! We must be having too much fun.

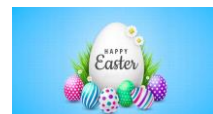
Hopefully, the newsletter will provide a flavour of what's been going on in school during March. I am excited to say that we have a new addition to the newsletter; a **spotlight** section. Going forward, each newsletter will feature something different with the aim of celebrating and increasing awareness of our wonderfully diverse school community. Enjoy learning more about **Autism** in this edition.

Thank you so much to parents/carers for their support and understanding whilst the new library is being built. The new entry and exit arrangements seem to be going well. We will continue to monitor as the building works progress. I am hoping that we will see some of the new building taking shape when we return after the Easter break.

Have a great Easter break. We look forward to welcoming children back to school on

Tuesday 22nd April.

Marie Ziane (Headteacher)



Communication Corner

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

Ask Fewer Questions

Why? Too many questions or instructions can make children less likely to talk. Commenting instead keeps them more engaged. It also helps them learn language naturally by hearing it in context.

How? Instead of asking, "What colour is this?" say, "You have the red block!" This keeps the conversation natural without forcing a response.

When? Use this approach anytime—during play, meals, or daily routines.



Fundraising/Whole School Events

Change4Change Team

Our Change4Change team continue to drive forward with their charity work. They have some brilliant ideas that are all focused on helping children who are less fortunate than themselves.

To date, with your support, they have raised **£421.84** for Save the Children.

Please do support their upcoming **Eid Ice Pole and Sweet Sale** on Friday 4th April 2025 at 2.15 p.m.

You can support by donating some wrapped sweets for the children to sell or by buying something after school.

School Achievement Update

We are pleased to share with you that we have achieved the **Asthma and Allergy Friendly** school award.

We have been recognised as being a safe, healthy and inclusive school for children with asthma and allergies.

Part of this, is down to the fact we are a NUT FREE school. Please remember this when you are making your child's pack lunch or sending any snacks into school.



Travel Ambassadors



On Wednesday 5th March, the TFL Explorers Travel Ambassadors attended a seminar at the Transport for London offices. The children had the opportunity to think of and share ideas for a travel project that they would like to lead. They had to work as a team to think of ideas, questions, slogans and a pitch for their project. They were also able to work with pupils from other schools. ***Look out for the details of their forthcoming travel project which will be coming soon!***



School Improvement Plan Update

Relationships and
collaboration (pupils,
parents and staff)



We continue to work hard to ensure that our whole school community works together with the interests of our children at the heart of everything we do.

Parent support has been brilliant so far this year and we are very grateful for that. We love to see parents/carers around school at events, workshops and supporting trips.

Your views are important to us, and I want to say thank you to everyone who took the time to provide their thoughts about behaviour and attitudes in our recent consultation. I will be meeting with Mrs Stock and Mrs Stonier before the end of term to look at responses and plan any next steps we might take.

We are looking forward to welcoming you into school for our St George's Day celebration event on Wednesday 23rd April.

Maths

Maths Club

Our Maths Ambassadors have been busy running their weekly maths club for children in Year 3. They have planned fun maths games and activities. One Year 3 child said, "I really enjoy maths club, it's so much fun!"



Language and Communication/Oracy

Oracy is a powerful tool for learning. Children become more effective speakers and listeners and are empowered to better understand themselves, each other and the world around them.



At Becontree, improving oracy is embedded in all aspects of our curriculum. Our collaborative learning approach encourages regular communication but also improves children's social and emotional skills. Vocabulary is explicitly taught to ensure that children can access learning but also extend the range of words they know and use. We model good sentence structures and encourage children to speak using these.

Next month, we will be looking at **questioning**. This includes teaching staff to use a range of questioning types, but also children to be able to seek information through questioning.



Curriculum Highlights

This half term, the children in nursery and reception have taken part in many enrichment activities. We recently had a visit from Little City, a role play company, where the children were given the opportunity to explore a variety of role play set ups. All children in EYFS have also taken part in visits to Goodmayes Library. The nursery also took a ride on a bus to Dagenham Fire Station, where the children (and adults!) were able to sit on a fire engine and squirt water from the hose. We also had a visit in school from our local policing team. We all need a holiday!!!

The ARP children had a lovely time visiting Goodmayes Library. They browsed the books and listened to stories.

Last week, Year 1 visited Goodmayes Library to swap books to enjoy at school. Recently, Year 1 also made models of islands in their DT lessons. A lot of fun was had by all. Last month, Year 2 visited the Tower of London and had a wonderful day out seeing the Crown Jewels. They also attended a workshop about The Great Fire of London. Florence Nightingale visited school as part of a workshop in school. Children learned about her impact on medicine and nursing today.



Recently, Year 3 and 4 visited Goodmayes Library to meet Guy Bass, author of the book *Stitch Head*. This was particularly exciting as Year 3 have just finished reading *Stitch Head* in their book study sessions. The children enjoyed the opportunity to meet the author of a book they had studied.



Last week, Year 4 visited the British Museum. They were able to look at the artefacts linked to their recent studies on the Egyptians and their work on Anglo Saxons from the Autumn Term.

Earlier in the term, all of Year 5 participated in the Barking and Dagenham Film Enterprise Project that involved planning and pitching an idea for a short film. On Friday 21st March, children in Year 5 took part in a Barclay's Life Skills workshop looking at the world of money and banks. Last Wednesday, they headed to the Science Museum as part of their topic on forces. They enjoyed taking part in experiments in the Wonderlab.

Some children from Year 5 and 6 travelled to Trewern for a week-long residential in February. They had great fun playing in the snow and trying out different challenges. The photos from the week can be found in the gallery on the school website: <https://www.becontreeprimaryschool.com/trewern-2025/>



In Year 6, at the same time as the residential, the rest of the year group became bakers and chefs, creating their own scrumptious bread and vegetable soups. Yum! Yum!



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



Many congratulations to Zaraan (1D) on being awarded a Blue Peter Badge and Certificate for his road safety poster! We are all very proud of you!



Rhea (2D) is now a Green Belt in Jujitsu! Go, Rhea! That's amazing!!!



Language of the Term

Our current language of the term is **Pashto**.

The next language we will be learning is Romanian. If you would like to help us to learn some new words and phrases, please speak to Mrs Beckett.



Online Safety

As children spend more time online, it's important to keep them safe. Remind them to keep personal information private and not share passwords. Use privacy settings and parental controls to monitor their activities.

With new technology like artificial intelligence (AI) becoming more common, it's important to know how it might affect what your child sees online. AI can recommend videos or websites, so it's helpful to talk to your child about what's safe and appropriate to explore. Be sure to have open conversations about online safety and help your child feel confident using the internet in a safe way.

For more tips on keeping your child safe online, check out these helpful resources:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/about-us/news-opinion/2025/artificialintelligence-safety-tips-for-parents>

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/parent-guide-toartificial-intelligence-ai-tools/>

Sporting Update

It's been a fun filled term for our children as they've had lots of extra curriculum sporting experiences to enjoy. We've attended many festivals and events this term such as; Y1/2 cricket festival, Y3/4 netball festival, Y3/4 girls' football festival and a KS2 East London Final in bowling!



EXCITING SPORTS NEWS: The children asked, so we delivered. Following the successful archery and fencing workshops Y4, 5 & 6 had, we will be offering a summer KS1 archery afterschool club and a KS2 fencing afterschool club. Keep your eyes peeled for further information.

Rights Respecting School Award

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) Article 12 states that every child has the right to express their views, feelings and wishes in all matters affecting them, and to have their views considered and taken seriously.

Our School Council have conducted a number of surveys in each class to gather feedback on suggestions of how to make our school even better. These include feedback on things such as the school lunch menu and our behaviour award system. All responses are gathered and reviewed, ensuring children's opinions are taken into consideration when changes may be made.

Through each day, all children have opportunities to share their views and are encouraged to explain their opinions regularly which also links to our shared vision of children becoming effective communicators.





Spotlight on Autism

Autism is a neurodivergence, which means that autistic children experience and interact with the world differently to others. Autistic children have two main areas of difficulty, known as the Dyad of Impairment: social communication / interaction; and imagination / flexibility of thought difficulties.

Within a supportive environment all autistic children can learn and make progress. All autistic children are unique and may present differently to their peers. For example, some may:

- have intense and highly focused interests, such as being very good at maths. But they may need more help with comprehension, understanding emotions or relating to others
- be non-speaking, but instead may communicate through gestures, signs and symbols
- they may be brilliant at music and might hear a rhyme once, then echo it through vocals, banging or tapping movements
- have excellent spoken language but limited conversational and social skills
- exhibit repetitive behaviours or need structure and routine
- exhibit sensory sensitivities (sight, smell, touch, sound or taste).

ITS OUR DIFFERENCES
that make us
UNIQUE &
BEAUTIFUL



At Becontree, we are very experienced at teaching autistic children, most of whom successfully access mainstream, with some support. This could include; speech and language support, social skills intervention, Makaton signs and various visuals. Our Four Seasons ARP and Zen Dens offer our pupils with the most complex needs a bespoke, engaging curriculum. This supports the development of the whole child, through giving them alternative ways to communicate, developing their independence, teaching life skill and social skills. The curriculum also supports the children's understanding of emotions and facilitates their cognitive development.

Our children are provided with psychological safe learning environments, responsive teaching and the reasonable adjustment they require. Many of our ARP and Zen Den pupils access mainstream, to build relationships with their peers. All children engage in the wider school community. Children at Becontree are kind and compassionate. We all interact seamlessly as a whole school community. Our differences are there, but all our children are accepted and understood for who they are.

Every day we learn from each other.

Parent Voice

Q – What respite clubs does your child enjoy? 'My daughter enjoys Purple Penguin and the SEND HAF camp @ DABD Pembroke Gardens'.

How do your children find school? 'They really enjoy it; they look forward to it.'

What has surprised you about raising autistic children? 'The progress they can make in such a short space of time. The similarities between them and us, in terms of their emotions and feelings.'

Thanks to Miss Archie Augustin, Miss Chambers and Mr McMahon



Respite Clubs

[Purple Penguin](#)
[Future Youth Zone](#)

Support

[CYPD Hub](#)
[Sycamore Trust](#)

Useful Information

Magazines

Autism Eye

Always
Unique
Totally
IntelliGent
Sometimes
Mysterious



If you would like more support from school, please contact:
Mrs Cracknell, Ms Reilly, or Mrs Stock, via the school office.



Welcome to our new Parent Governors

We are thrilled to introduce our two new parent governors to you; Sana Iqbal and Hibaq Samatar.



Both Sana and Hibaq are raring to go in their new role and I am sure they will represent our parent body extremely well.

Parent Partnership

ESOL Class

ESOL classes will continue every Thursday morning. If you wish to improve your reading, writing and understanding of English, please do come along. If you have other family members who also wish to join, please bring them along as this class is free to everyone.

Free Family Learning

If there are any workshops you would like us to run, please let Jackie Moldrich (Parent Support Adviser) know.

St George's Day

St George is the Patron Saint of England. On Wednesday 23rd April we will be holding an afterschool event to celebrate the day. This is a **free** event so please come along and enjoy the fun.



WHAT'S NEXT?



Autism Acceptance Day
Wednesday 2nd April 2025



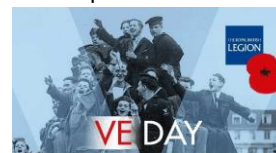
Thursday 3rd April

Easter Egg Competition



Thursday 8th May

VE Day Celebrations including a special lunch



Parent Events

EYFS Parent/Carer Open Event

Nursery- 04.04.2025
Reception- 03.04.2025

Wednesday 23rd April
St George's Day Event



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

Polite Reminders

Lunch Orders

DOLCE our Catering provider, has asked us to remind you that children who do not have a lunch order will be provided with a jacket potato (with a choice of fillings). Other meal choices will only be available to children who pre-order.



Pupil Trips and Events

We do everything we can to make learning memorable, fun yet cost-effective. We sometimes ask parent/carers for a contribution towards the cost of activities. Please continue to support us if you can, as we are unable to offer these without your support.