



Dear Parents/Carers

I cannot quite believe we have reached the end of the Autumn term and that we are nearly at the end of 2024! Time most definitely flies when you're having fun!

As usual, it has been a VERY busy term with lots to celebrate. The main stars of our school community are, of course, our incredible children; they never cease to amaze me with their kindness and engagement in their learning at school. They are a real credit to you (but you don't need me to tell you that). Their talents are endless, and I hope you enjoyed listening to and watching the EYFS, KS1 and 2 Sing-a-Longs again this year. Hearing children singing at this time of year is the best! Sometimes the end of term is a time to say goodbye. Mrs Khan is sadly leaving us to start an exciting new role elsewhere. I am sure you all join me in thanking Mrs Khan for all of her hard work and wishing her all the very best for the future. We will miss you.

All that is left to say is:

"On behalf of all staff and governors at Becontree, I wish those families who celebrate Christmas, a very Merry Christmas and to everyone, all good wishes for a happy and healthy new year."

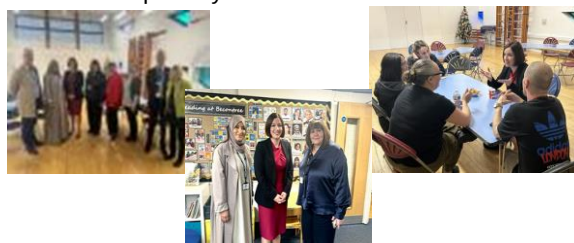
Marie Ziane (Headteacher)



Celebration of Inclusion

Visit from the Secretary of State for Education

We were honoured to welcome Bridget Phillipson (Secretary of State for Education) to Becontree on Monday 2nd December. To be chosen from 20, 772 UK primary schools is incredible!



The purpose of her visit was to look at inclusive practice at its best, with a particular focus on the ARP. Thank you to staff and parents involved in the visit; she was very impressed with everything she saw and heard. We even featured on the BBC News; a very proud moment!

Fundraising/Whole School Events

Change4Change Team

The Change4Change Team are doing a great job in raising money for Save the Children. Thank you for supporting our Christmas Jumper Day. Thank you for your generous donations. The team will count the donations in the new year.



Christmas Fete

Thank you to everyone who supported our Annual Christmas Fete. An amazing community event delivered by our incredible fundraising team. The event raised a massive **£798.50** for our school!



Achievements

TfL Travel for Life Bronze Level Accreditation

Throughout last year, the Eco Committee worked on several projects as part of the TfL Travel for Life programme. Some of the initiatives included: designing and installing a scooter park within the school grounds, taking part in a whole school road safety assembly and activities, presenting and promoting the Walk to School Week project and promoting the Stay Bright half term project. After uploading all the many projects and stories that we worked on, we were awarded Bronze Level accreditation. We are now working towards GOLD!

WE HAVE ACHIEVED





School Improvement Plan Update

Relationships and
collaboration (pupils,
parents and staff)



We have enjoyed welcoming many parents/carers into school for a wide range of events throughout the Autumn term, but better still, we have enjoyed planning them **with** and **for** you! Events have included, e.g. a coffee morning with a speech and language therapist in EYFS, Reading Cafes and other workshops.

A highlight of the term was a Saturday Painting Party we had in the Nursery. A group of staff, parents and governors teamed up and did an incredible job of giving the Nursery a facelift! Some other photos will be available on the school website soon.



Check out the Themes and Events Overview for what is to come next term.

Maths

I am very excited to announce that in January, we will be inviting all parents/carers to join their children in a special problem-solving lesson. You will have the opportunity to work with your child on different maths challenges. A letter detailing dates and times for each class, will be sent out after the Christmas holidays.



**MATHS
AMBASSADOR**

I am also very excited to announce that Becontree will soon have Maths Ambassadors. Maths Ambassadors are children who will be performing different roles in school to help promote maths. This might include, e.g. leading a lunch time club, helping to arrange activities for our Maths Day. Meet them in the next newsletter.

Language and Communication/Oracy

We have continued to promote good communication and language, as well as **partner collaboration** by having high expectations of children when they are working with their partners, e.g. good eye contact, facing one another, clear and audible speaking voices, turn-taking and following up on another's ideas.

We have also been working on the use of **sentence stems** to model the language we expect children to be using. Teaching staff are presenting children with part of a sentence they expect them to use when having discussions or answering questions. They are also modelling to children how it should be done, e.g. I predict that.....because...

This could also be practised at home. Model good language to children, e.g. I think it is exciting because...





Curriculum Highlights

Anti-Bullying Week was celebrated during the week of the 11th November. The theme this year was 'Respect' which linked very well to our own school motto and values. Children did a range of activities in class to promote respectful behaviours towards one another, and we ended the week celebrating Children in Need Day. Thank you for all the donations, which as always, go towards every child having the chance to thrive and be the best they can be.



No Pens Day was celebrated on the 27th November. This is a nationwide event where children across the country take part in activities that put the importance on talking, listening and interacting with classmates and teachers. Linked to our own school development, we also used it as an opportunity to raise self-awareness of social and emotional skills and building relationships within our school community. Children learnt about emotional zones of regulation and how they can support one another through emotional ups and downs. They created art, based on the 4 colour emotions – photographs of the art displays are posted in the website gallery. They also learnt to use Makaton signs to communicate key feelings/emotions.



December is always a very special time with a range of **Christmas** themed activities and events for all children to enjoy. Children, and staff, enjoyed our **Pantomime** performances performed by a professional company called, Tickled Pink. Further pictures posted on the school website.



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/>





Rights Respecting School Award

We are starting our journey to achieve the **Silver Rights Respecting School Award**.

To do this, we must complete the actions in our plan. These are:

- update the school website
- hold an assembly with children explaining our Rights Respecting work, focusing on their rights.
- share our Rights Respecting work with governors, staff and parents/carers
- carry out a PSHE lesson to introduce children to their rights e.g. e.g. wants vs. needs, what are rights?
- create a Rights Respecting School display within the school which highlights key rights we are focussing on.



Online Safety

Remember these key steps to do your part in keeping children safe in the Christmas holiday:

Protect: Enable parental controls on devices, set strong passwords, and review privacy settings.

Advise: Talk to your children about the importance of online safety, emphasising responsible sharing and the risks of oversharing.

Report: Encourage open communication so they feel comfortable reporting anything that makes them feel uneasy.

Teach: Show them how to recognise phishing attempts, secure their accounts, and spot inappropriate content.

Here are some Parental Advice Websites for Online Safety and setting up devices.

NSPCC - Offers comprehensive advice on setting up parental controls and keeping children safe online.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

Internet Matters - Provides detailed guides and resources for setting up parental controls on various devices and platforms.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/>

Sporting Achievements

A huge congratulations to the six children in Year 5 & 6 who attended the Panathlon (10-pin bowling event) this half-term alongside Mr Crowther and Mrs Smith. We generally attend these kind of events to give the children a competitive, but most importantly, a fun and exciting experience within sports. To come out as winners from over twenty other schools was incredible for the children...and teachers! We have many other upcoming events like this in the Spring term so watch this space!



Other Achievements

Illarion (Year 6) is very proud to have been awarded a very special Blue Peter Badge. He wears it with pride on his school tie. Great job, Illarion!



Don't forget to share any achievements with us, to include in future editions of our School Newsletter.





Message from our Chair of Governors

Dear Parents/Carers,

I want to start by thanking you all for your continued support in the work of the school. The partnership between home and school is something that is very important to us and something that we continually want to develop.

Becontree is a very inclusive school and it was wonderful to have this recognised by a visit from the Secretary of State for Education.

In January, we need to appoint some new parent governors to our governing body. If you are interested in having a voice in the strategic development of our school, please look out for election information in the new term.

In the meantime, I send all good wishes to everyone for a healthy and happy 2025. **Hannah Hamid (Chair of Governors)**

WHAT'S NEXT?



Coming Soon in 2025

Road Safety Workshops



All important dates will be shared in the Curriculum Newsletters in January

Thank you...

A big thank you to all the ASDA shoppers out there!

Thank you so much for downloading the ASDA Rewards App and for nominating Becontree Primary as your Cashpot for Schools.

We raised an amazing £308.99.



Card Payments

We listened your suggestion and are pleased to inform you that we now have a card payment terminal at the main school office. You can use this for items such as clubs and trips.



School Lunch Menu

Thank you to parents who used the Compliment the Cook option on SchoolGrid or who contacted the office.

DOLCE welcome all feedback and have adapted their menu to offer a greater range of menu options, whilst retaining the traditional favourites.

The new **Spring menu** is attached.

Parent Workshops

The Adult College will be running a range of parent workshops related to well-being. Dates and times will be circulated in January.



Parent/Teacher

Consultations will take place during the week of the 3rd February next half term. We will be trialling an online sign-up system which will become available from Monday 20th January. Meetings will still be face to face on the school site.

Strengthening Parent-Teacher Partnership



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