

Bedwell News

July 2025

This term's highlights:

- We all got involved in our Sports Week, taking part in trampolining, dance, athletics and skateboarding sessions, as well as 3 amazing Sports Days.
- 32 members of Year 6 had an unforgettable weekend away at PGL in Surrey.
- Year 6 completed their SATs tests, worked incredibly hard - and secured some brilliant results!
- Reception visited Audley End, Year 1/2 travelled to Whipsnade, Year 3/4 headed to Tring Natural History Museum and Year 5 had a great day at Kew.
- Parent workshops have taken place in every phase, with *Stay and Make* art sessions in Year 1/2 and Year 3/4, *Stay and Read* in Year 5 and lots of transition events in Early Years.
- Our Mixed Netball Team finished 2nd in the Stevenage League, while our Girls Netball Team were 3rd in their league.

What we've been doing this term...

Oliver!

The whole of KS2 came together this term to perform *Oliver!*, and we were all incredibly proud of the show that we created. With Year 6 taking on the lead roles, Year 5 playing townsfolk (who were often found in the pub) and Year



3/4 as the orphans in the workhouse, our production had a cast of 170, making this a huge project. Thank you to everyone who provided costumes and helped out with all the props, hair and make-up that we needed to get into character!



After weeks of rehearsals, practice, choreography and construction we were finally ready to perform on 16th and 17th July. Across three performances, we sold over 340 tickets, and were blown-away by the positive feedback, cheers, laughs and applause that we received. It was brilliant to be able to put on a show on this scale, and it could only take place as a result of a huge amount of time, energy and effort from the whole school community - and Years 3, 4 and 5 are already desperate to start rehearsing for next year!

Our Summer Fayre

This year's Summer Fayre was a great success, bringing the whole school together for a good cause and raising over £2000 for School Council Funds. Over 400 children, parents and carers attended, taking part in games, raffles and sports challenges, meeting the police and some friendly horses and of course buying lots of toys, teddy bears and ice cream.



Sports Week 25

The whole school got involved in this year's Sports Week, which took place from 16th - 20th June. Across a packed week, we took part in three Sports Days, a huge range of taster sessions and lots of fantastic events run by local clubs and sporting organisations.

Our visitors included expert skateboard riders, who ran brilliant lessons in Years 3-6, trampolining sessions with Rising Stars and fantastic streetdance classes with a team from Warriorz. Across the week, we also loved taking part in lacrosse, cricket, multisports, athletics, gymnastics, yoga and hockey activities organised by our teachers - and if that wasn't enough, on Friday, Year 5/6 headed to Fairlands Park archery, taekwondo and fitness sessions as part of a special day organised by Stevenage Sporting Futures!

The pictures across these pages show just a tiny bit of what we all got up to. We loved the whole week and look forward to lots more sport next year.





Our Sports Days

The biggest highlights of this year's Sports Week were our three Sports Days. We started the week with our Foundation Stage Sports Day, with everyone in Nursery and Reception loving the chance to run, bounce and balance in front of a packed crowd of mums, dads and carers. On Tuesday, the action moved on to Key Stage 1, with Years 1 and 2 taking part in a huge number of races. Our sack, dressing-up and obstacle events were definite favourites! Finally, on Wednesday morning the whole of Key Stage 2 took to the field for some seriously competitive (and seriously fun) races. We battled for every place in each event, with the points we earnt added up to determine our overall winner - but we couldn't get close to Jupiter, our green house, who won the overall Sports Day Cup.

Across all three mornings, it was amazing to see how many parents and carers attended - thank you to everyone who cheered us on!





Parent Workshops

We've continued to pack in lots of parent and carer workshops throughout the term, sharing our learning, celebrating successes and giving ideas for supporting children at home. Year 5 organised a *Stay and Read* session, with lots of ideas for exploring new stories, while Year 3/4 ran a brilliant *Stay & Make* focussing on Anglo Saxon art, where each family created a brooch from clay and gemstones. A few days later, Year 1/2 ran their own *Stay and Make* afternoon, which was attended by an amazing 72 families (sending staff off to round up every available table in the school!!) It was great to see whole families working together to create pieces of art and sharing what they had made. Finally, Early Years ran a celebration morning in the penultimate week of term, to reflect on all their successes and learning over the last year.

Thank you to everyone who took part in these sessions - the number of families finding time to join us in school has been fantastic to see!

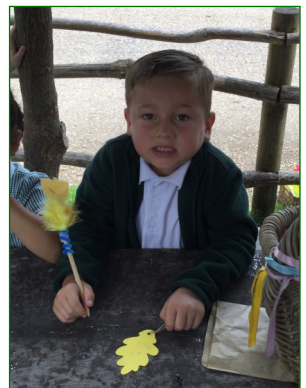




Reception at Audley End

Reception had a fantastic day out at Audley End. We travelled through the woods on the miniature train, enjoying the beautiful surroundings and spotting fairy houses on our journey. After that, we set off on foot to explore the forest. We loved the fairy walk, with magical houses, clearings, water features and tunnels around every corner. There were lots of opportunities to practice our writing and letter formation as well, labelling some of the things we found and writing messages to leave for the fairies!

Having stopped for lunch, we continued to explore the setting, and then finished-off the day in the adventure playground. Clambering over the climbing frame, sliding down poles and squeezing through tunnels we tired ourselves out, which meant there was lots of snoozing on the coach journey home! We really enjoyed our trip, and it gave us lots to build on and talk about when we got back to school.



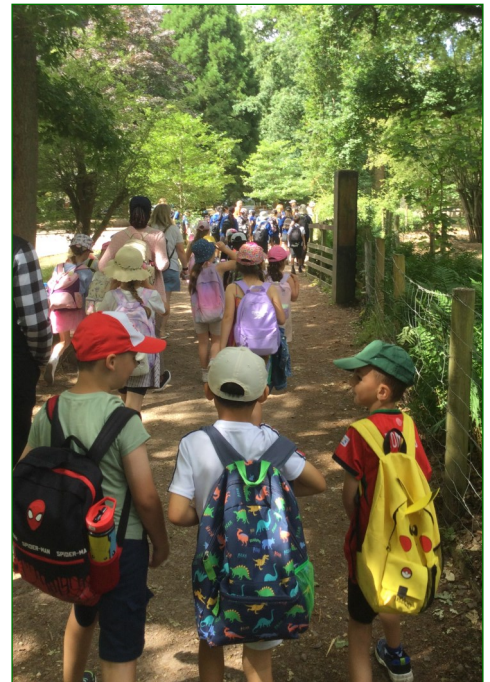


Visiting Whipsnade

In Year 1 and 2, we have been learning all about plants and animals this term, and to support our topic we spent a lovely day out at Whipsnade Zoo.

While we were there, we got to meet lots of the animals that we have been investigating in class - everything from bears to penguins to ostriches! Whipsnade is huge, so to help us to see as much as possible, we took a trip on the zoo train to try to spot some of the animals that were hiding at the back of their enclosures! We also talked to some of the zoo keepers, who told us about the ways in which they look after their animals and try to protect endangered species.

As we were going around, we spent lots of time talking about the family that each animal belonged to, the things that they ate and the places in the world where they are naturally found. All of this really helped us to develop our science knowledge, and we were keen to share facts and do more research when we got back to school.





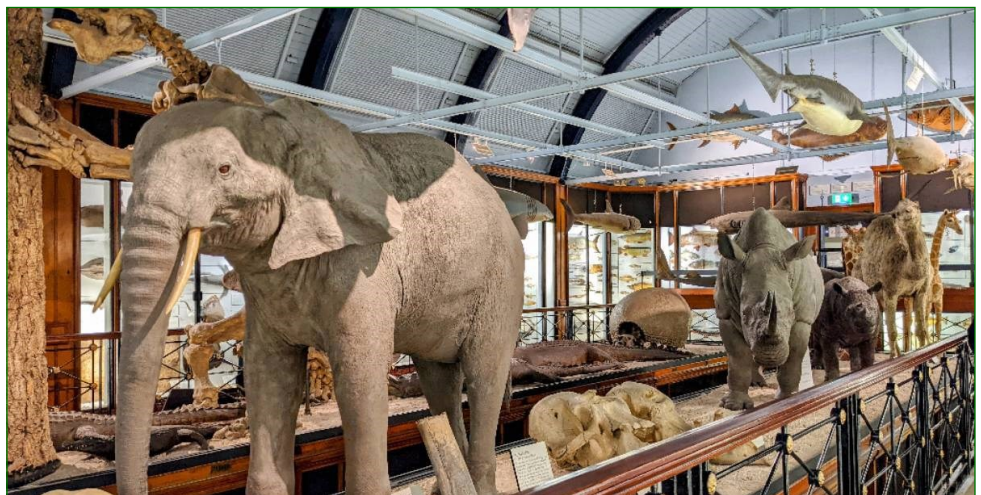
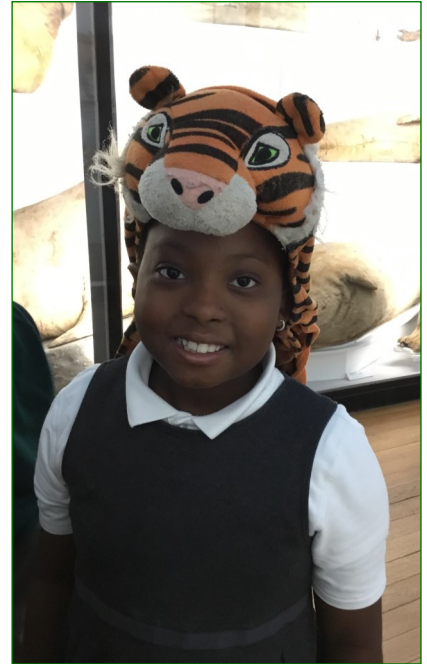
Out and about!

Y3&4 : Tring NHM

On Thursday 5th June, Years 3 and 4 headed to the Natural History Museum in Tring on what turned out to be a very rainy day. After we got settled, we spent the morning exploring the many galleries and exhibits before heading into a workshop on animal classification (which has been our science topic this term). We broke into groups and were given five different skeletons to investigate and identify. We loved exploring the museum, and many of us couldn't believe how big some of the animals are in real life!

Y5 : Kew Gardens

In Year 5, we have been learning about rainforests this term - so, as we couldn't go on a trip to a real-life rainforest, we went for the next best thing and spent a great day exploring the tropical glasshouses at Kew Gardens. Inside, we really got a sense of just how hot and humid these environments can be, and were amazed by the massive tropical plants that we saw.





Bikeability

Everyone in Year 5 and 6 thoroughly enjoyed taking part in the Bikeability project, which took place in May. Led by instructors from the HCC Cycling team, we all completed Level 1 training, learning to ride safely and control our bikes on the playground. The vast majority of us then progressed onto Level 2, which saw us heading out and about on local roads.

As the week went on, each group went on longer and more complex rides, exploring local roads, learning to recognise potential dangers and getting used to riding on roads with other traffic. By the end of the week, 82 children had completed the course, and we were all presented with certificates and badges as a reward for our hard work.

Thanks to lots of hard work by Mrs Thomas and Mr Butler, along with some amazing donations from the community, we were able to send everyone who didn't have a bicycle of their own home with a roadworthy bike, along with a helmet, so that we can practice our new skills safely around town.





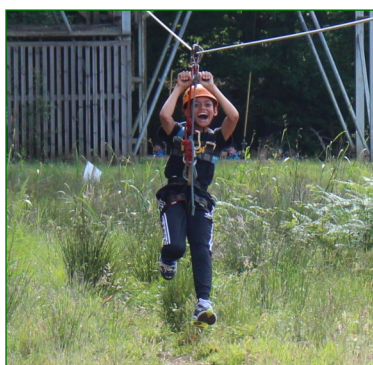
Y6's PGL Adventure

On 13th June, a group of 32 intrepid Year 6s set-off on this year's PGL expedition. We spent 3 days at the adventure sports centre at Marchant's Hill, trying out a huge range of activities that we would never be able to experience at home.

Over the weekend, we took part in climbing, abseiling, zip wire, buggy building, archery and a tunnel trail - and it was great to so many of us taking on challenges and overcoming fears to make the most of every session. We also discovered lots of hidden talents and abilities that we would love to be able to explore further, with some of us showing expert marksmanship with an archery bow, while others showed amazing climbing skills on Jacob's Ladder.

The other big aim for the weekend was to spend a few nights away from home, without any contact with mums, dads and carers. This was tricky (and a first for many of us), but again it was great to see how we both grew in independence and supported each other while we were away.

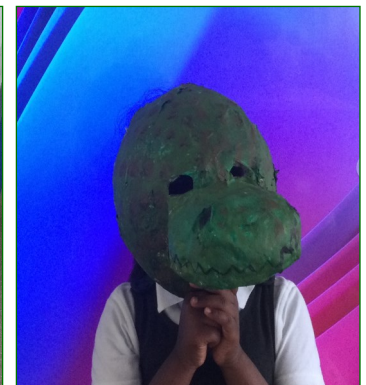


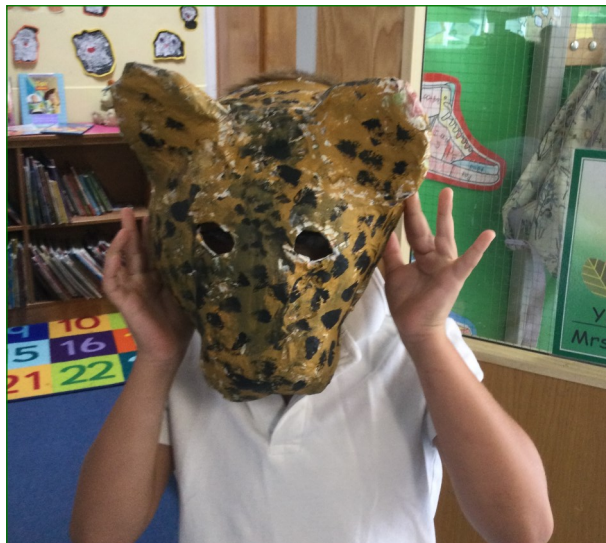
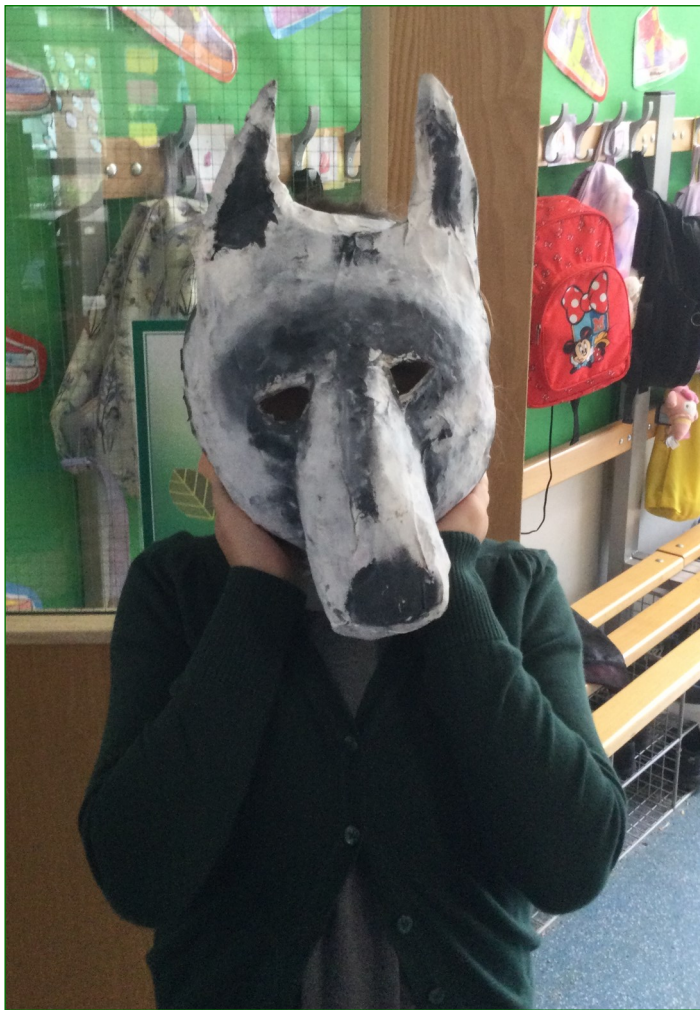


Fieldmice & Dormice Mache Masks

In Year 1 and 2 this term, we have been learning all about animals and their habitats. We have investigated the differences between animals with fur, scales and feathers, and linked this to the creatures we saw on our trip to Whipsnade. We have also investigated places where animals live and linked this to the food that they eat and the ways in which they move.

Having developed all of this knowledge, we then put it to good use on our latest art project, making paper mâché animal masks. We built up the basic structure of our masks by adding lots of layers of newspaper and glue, and then built up ears, beaks, noses and snouts that matched the shape of the creature we had chosen. Finally, we painted the masks to match the colouring of our animal, working carefully to include the spots, stripes and markings that make each of them unique. We were super proud of our finished masks, and loved showing them off in class!

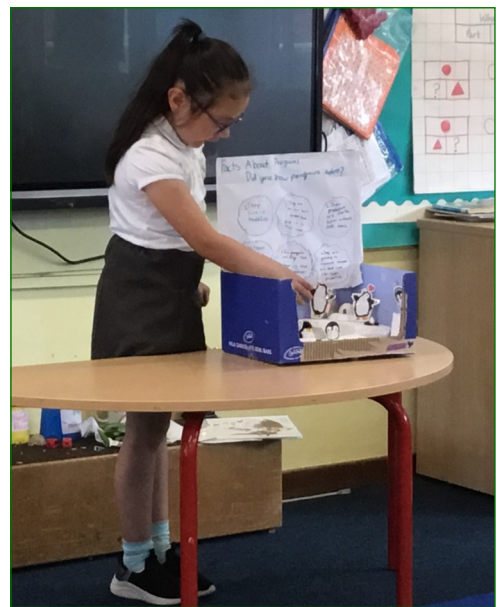




Personal Projects

In Year 1 and 2, we were given a challenging home-learning task this term: to make something linked to a topic that was important to us. There were no fixed rules, so some of us made posters and displays, while others built vehicles and 3d scenes. When all of our projects started to appear in class, we were all blown away by the quality of our finished pieces, and the time that had been invested in them.

On these pages, you can see some of the amazing projects that were produced in Hedgehogs. We had tanks that fired, penguin fact-files, mini ballet theatres, home-country posters and planes with working propellers to name but a few! Even more impressive than the things we made, however, was the way we were able to share them and talk about what we had done - it was a great chance to show-off how much we know about our hobbies, home countries and favourite things, and we were able to answer questions from the rest of our class with confidence.





English

It's been a packed term, so there is just space for a few examples of the fab writing that we have produced this term.

Year 3 and 4 :

Instructions

One of our final English topics in Mole class was to create a set of detailed instructions on how to travel through a magical realm we had created. First we learnt about the language used in instructions such as imperative verbs, and simple present tense and adverbs. On the right is an example of Lexi's map and a short extract from her instructions

Year 5: Reports

In Year 5, meanwhile, we returned to report writing for our final writing unit of the year. Building on all of work we have done in science and geography on animal species and habitats, we produced an 'A-Z of animals', with each of us choosing one animal (and one letter) to write about. As you can see on the opposite page, we packed our writing with facts and detail, and then used bullet points, subheadings, quotes and captions to help the reader to navigate our texts.

How to Travel Through My Magical Realm

You are about to embark on a mysterious journey through a magical realm. You will encounter lots of vicious things along the way. There will be traps, there will be danger, there will be a chance you might not survive.

You will need:

- 2 Keys (so you can open any doors you encounter)
- Torch (to help you see in the dark)
- Water (so you can drink)
- Fairy dust (so you can cast spells on people or monsters)
- Axe (to defend yourself or use as a tool)

Instructions

- 1) Shout, "Oh guard of the portal, open for me!" A small glowing vortex shall appear and open in front of you. Jump in and hold on for dear life.
- 2) You will land in a bottomless well. Use the key from your bag to unlock a door that will lead you back to the surface. Brush off the dirt and dust and carry on your way.
- 3) As you travel towards the Giant Tree a Devil Guard will block your path. Dig a hole underneath him and carefully crawl through. Make sure he does not see you. If he spots you, use your axe!
- 4) Next you will arrive at the Forest of Doom. You should walk through quickly. Search for a key which will be near a blue mushroom. Look after this as you will need it later on.

By Lexi



S Snakes

"Snakes are incredible creatures, which can be highly dangerous."

DAVID ATTENBROUGH

Snakes are famous for their venomous bite. There are a huge variety of snakes, such as cobras, pythons and grass snakes, and these are found in warm places around the world (including Africa America and Europe). Snakes are reptiles and have scaly skin. They do not have legs, and move by slithering along the floor. Despite this, some snakes can be very dangerous.

Habitats

Snakes live in lots of different places. Some live in deserts and hide under rocks to stop them from getting too warm. Other snakes live in rainforests and slide between leaves, hunting for prey. Another group of snakes live in grasslands, and hide beneath the grass, waiting to strike.

Diet

Snakes are carnivores. Their diet usually includes:

- eggs
- capybaras
- antelope
- mice
- small birds
- other snakes

Some snakes kill their prey with their poisonous fangs, but others (like boa constrictors) suffocate them by wrapping their coils around their victims until they cannot breathe.

Appearance

Snakes can be very small like the adder or very long like the cobra. Their colours vary and most have distinctive patterns on their body. They are covered in scales, which keep them dry and help to protect them from insect bites. They have large eyes and many have fangs at the front of their mouths. Rattlesnakes have a special part on their tail which they use to make a scary sound.



A dangerous snake camouflages on the forest floor

Hearing

Snakes do not have ears, but they have special bones on the inside of their heads that they can use to detect vibrations on the ground. This means that are very good at hearing low frequency sounds (like rumbles and roars). They are less good at hearing higher pitched sounds, but they are able to hear human voices.

Something surprising

There are 3000 different types of snakes! The smallest is the Barbados Threadsnake, which is just 10cm long, while the largest is the Green Anaconda, which can grow to almost 9m in length! There is even a flying snake in Southeast Asia, which can glide for 100m through the air!

RILEY

W Wolves

"These creates might seem dangerous, but they are actually really friendly!"

JANE GOODALL

Wolves are famous for being incredible hunting animals. They live in large family groups a wide range of environments, from the frozen Arctic to the deserts of Saudi Arabia. They are intelligent, social creatures which hunt in packs and are able to bring down animals which are much larger than them. There are currently around 300,000 wolves living in the wild.

Appearance

Wolves are large and very furry. They are closely related to dogs, and share many of the same features. They can be grey, black, white and light brown. They also have sharp claws and triangular teeth like sharks.

countries around the world, including Europe, China, Turkey and Saudi Arabia. Asian wolves are also found in Northern India, Pakistan and Afghanistan. They will make dens to protect new-born cubs, but after that tend to sleep in the open.

Diet

Wolves are carnivores, and they eat many different foods, including moles, deer, rabbits, rodents and ungulates. They have also been known to eat larger mammals such as moose, beavers and even bison!

Habitat

There are more than 25 different types of wolves, which live in many

Types of wolves

Wolves all belong to the species *Canis Lupus*, but there are several different sub-species, including:

- Red wolf
- Steppe wolf
- Arctic wolf
- Indian wolf
- Tundra wolf
- Himalayan wolf
- Mongolian wolf



A gray wolf from North America

These wolves are all adapted in different ways to live in specific environments. For example, some have long fur to keep them warm in frozen areas, while others have much shorter hair and live in warmer, tropical climates. No matter where they live, wolves like playing and having fun, and some wolves have even been spotted playing hide and seek!

Something surprising

Wolves are very good at smelling things, and can smell you even when you are hiding! Wolves noses contain 200 million olfactory cells, which means that they can smell things up to 1.5 miles away. This helps them to find food in harsh environments (like deserts and the Arctic).

KAIDENCE

Summer Disco

On the final Tuesday of term we held a fantastic Summer disco, celebrating a brilliant year and marking our Year 6's final week at Bedwell. With over 180 children from Years 1-6 coming back to school to join the party, the evening was full of energy, dancing and laughter, as well as a few tears from those of us who will soon be leaving Bedwell and moving onto somewhere new (and bigger). We ate lots of burgers and pizza, we drank too many fizzy drinks, we got our nails painted and we danced energetically around the Hall - all in all, it was a great way to spend an evening!

As a result of all this, we collected £1198 for School Council funds. Combined with the money we have raised from our Summer Fayre and discos earlier in the year, this will enable us to buy lots of new games and resources.

Can we all send a massive thank you to the staff who volunteered to give up their time to organise and run the disco, making our brilliant evening possible!





Year 6's final week

What a fantastic final term we've had in Year 6! We've worked together to produce an amazing production of *Oliver!*, took part in Crucial Crew and lots of transition events with our new schools and then ourselves into Sports Week - and many of us also spent an amazing weekend away at PGL. In between all of that, we completed our SATs - and absolutely smashed them, with super results of which we should all be really proud (particularly in Grammar, where we were 10% above national averages!)

Finally, we rounded-off the year with our Leavers Trip. On Tuesday morning we headed down to the leisure park for a fun bowling session, followed by lunch at Frankie and Benny's. There were lots of laughs and lots of memories shared, and it was a great way to spend our final full day of primary school. We ended the term with an emotional final assembly, reflecting on all that we have achieved during our time at Bedwell and looking forward to the amazing adventures that lie ahead!





Diary Dates

4th September

Start of term and
My New Year Group
meetings for Y1-Y6

8th September

Autumn Term clubs
start

9th September

Year 5 Swimming
starts

23rd September

SATs meeting for
Year 6 parents

24th September

School photos

2nd October

Foundation Stage
Stay & Play session

8th October

Year 1 phonics
workshop at 2.30pm

16th October

Parents' Evening

23rd October

Halloween Disco
(Years 2-6)

27th - 31st October

Half-term

3rd November

Inset Day (staff
training)

28th November

Christmas Fayre

10th and 11th

December

Key Stage 1 Show
(2:15pm each day)

19th December

End of term, 2pm

Sports Update

Football

May was a busy month for all our football teams, as we hurried to get all of our games played before the end of the season. Our Year 5/6 Mixed Team won their final game against

Fairlands, which left them third in Division 2. Our Girls Team,

meanwhile, went one better and finished as runners-up in their division. The girls also made it to the semi-finals of the Stevenage Schools Cup, losing out to a strong Camps Hill team. Our Year 3/4 team also reached the high point of their season, playing in the Stevenage Schools Tournament, which we hosted at Bedwell. There was some great play from the whole team, and we narrowly missed-out on a place in the semi-finals.

Finally, we also hosted the Stevenage Schools FA end-of-season presentations at Bedwell, with 200 children, parents and carers attending from schools across town. At the presentation, we awarded our 'Players of the Season' and 'Most Improved Player' prizes, with Toby and Jaden winning for our A team, Jazzi, Poppy and Amelia standing out for our Girls team and Avik and Ethan taking home the B team awards.



Netball

Our two netball teams were both hit by a series of injuries as the season came to a head, with several girls who have been training with the team called-up to fill key gaps in the line-up. Fortunately, Ella, Elyse, Polly and Hilda all did the team proud, playing with energy, bravery and determination.



As a result, our Girls team finished in third place in the league, having only lost twice this season, while our Mixed team did one better, finishing in second place and collecting runners-up medals for their efforts. Well done to all of our players, who have represented the school brilliantly this year.