



Bushbury Lane Academy

Newsletter



Website: www.bushburylaneacademy.co.uk Email: office@bushburylaneacademy.co.uk Tel: 01902 556 486

A message from Miss Smith



Wow, it is hard to believe another school year has come to a close. It is with great pride that I reflect on the many achievements of the children over the past year. They have worked so hard and risen to every challenge given to them. I continue to be encouraged and motivated to make Bushbury the best school it can be, ensuring we provide an enriching and inspirational school experience for our children.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all staff for their hard work this year. I am enormously proud of the team we have built - there is such a breadth of skills, experience and knowledge we each bring to the table that enables us to provide the best education for the children. You all really care, and this is reflected in the vibrant environment where children are happy and really love to learn.

I would also like to thank all parents and carers for their continued support this year. A great deal of what we do in school cannot be achieved without you, your support and kind comments. It was a joy to have so many of you in school for all the events that have been held over the last few weeks. I look forward to continuing to work with you in the years to come.

Finally, I would like to thank our children. You are what makes our school a wonderful place to work and learn. You make every day worthwhile for us and we are so proud of each and every one of you.

A message from Miss Turner

As the end of the Academic year approaches, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the successful year we have had here at Bushbury Lane Academy. Yet again, our pupils have inspired us throughout and have demonstrated such positive attitudes towards their learning. Their manners as well as the empathy and respect they show towards others is truly valued and we are extremely proud of every child's personal and academic achievements. Our children have been fully immersed in our curriculum, the knowledge rich projects that have been delivered across curriculum subjects have been exciting and motivating for our pupils and their learning has been extended through a range of educational trips and workshops. Extra curricular clubs have been taken up by the majority of our pupils and we are delighted with the range of clubs that we have been able to offer since September.

A special thank you to all of our wonderful staff, who live and breathe our school. They consistently go above and beyond to ensure that all of our pupils are happy and successful in their education.

Finally, thank you to all of our parents and families, for your continued support. I hope you have a safe and fun-filled summer holiday!



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Celebrating success

Earlier this year, a Trust review took place at Bushbury Lane Academy. We are overjoyed and tremendously proud of how well the 2-day inspection went and wanted to take the opportunity to share with you some of the comments that were written about our school. The review team looked at 4 main areas: The quality of education, Personal Development, Behaviour and Attitudes and Leadership and Management. A huge well done to all of our wonderful children and staff members! We are beyond proud of our amazing school, the drastic measures of progress made across a three year period and the successful journey that we have been on as one team.

Please find below some of the comments given to us across the two days. I hope you enjoy reading them as much as we did.

The quality of education

Children at this school love reading. From the early years through to year 6, they consistently talked enthusiastically about the different books they have enjoyed from a wide range of authors. As one pupil noted, "I know my teacher loves books, they are always so happy when they are telling us stories." In nursery, the youngest children were enjoying a story being read to them with gusto and enthusiasm.

The phonics leader is clear-sighted and effective. She has arranged effective training and support for staff in all year groups. Consequently, phonics was well taught across all the groups that were observed, including by a member of staff that has only been teaching phonics within the past couple of weeks. Adults clearly understand the phonics scheme and deliver it with fidelity. Sessions were typically pacy, with pupils sustaining high levels of interest and concentration, including those with SEND, whose needs were consistently well met.

In key stage 2, reading lessons have a clear structure based around the 'VIPERS' to ensure pupils develop their skills in relation to the reading domains that underpin the national curriculum.

Leaders have worked hard to develop the curriculum. The end points for what pupils should know and understand in each topic and at the end of year groups and key stages are clearly defined.

Teachers have good subject knowledge and teach with clarity. They model concepts effectively and give clear explanations. They are skilled at teasing out the meaning of key vocabulary, which was given high priority in all the lessons observed, to ensure pupils are helped to understand important concepts. Teaching Assistants are also highly committed and play an important and meaningful contribution to pupils' learning at this school.

A particularly impressive feature of teaching throughout the review was the support provided to SEND pupils. Adaptive teaching strategies were consistently employed, such as the use of guided groups to provide additional input so that pupils could access the same challenging curriculum as the rest of the class. Throughout the review, SEND pupils were observed to be learning very well.

Pupils are now remembering their learning much more effectively than was historically the case. For example, in history, pupils could talk about their understanding of the monarchy and how 'hierachy' reflected power structures in many societies. Where curriculum plans have been strengthened, pupils are remembering their learning more confidently. For example, year 6 pupils could clearly articulate their understanding of recently learned geographical concepts such as latitude, longitude, prime meridian and scale.



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Personal development

Leaders are exceptionally clear about how they deliberately promote pupils' personal development. This includes the development of pupils' character through the school's values, such as resilience, empathy and teamwork. This was evident in the warm relationships they showed for each other, their ability to listen and learn from each other in lessons, and their determination to learn from mistakes.

The PSHE curriculum is ambitious, challenging and very well sequenced. Leaders are also very clear about how learning within PSHE should challenge stereotypes and potentially prejudicial attitudes within the local community.

Pupils fully understand the importance of respecting people from different cultures and religions.

Leaders ensure regular trips and wider opportunities are provided to enhance pupils' learning. For example, pupils spoke enthusiastically about how their trip to Warwick Castle in year 2 helped their learning as part of the 'magnificent monarchs' topic.

There are a wide range of clubs and opportunities to develop pupils' interests and talents. Currently 175 pupils attend a club, including a very high proportion of disadvantaged pupils. Leaders have thought carefully about how clubs such as football, choir, gymnastics, Spanish and coding can spark their enthusiasm and provide opportunities. They have also worked with the school council to consider the range of clubs on offer.

Behaviour and attitudes

Pupils' love coming to school. They have excellent attitudes to learning, which are reflected in their consistently strong and sustained concentration in lessons and the enthusiasm they show for wanting to learn more. They listened and learned from both adults and each other, working together to remember new knowledge, debate issues and solve problems.

The behaviour policy is clear and consistently implemented. The use of behaviour ladders has been very effective to secure the significant improvements that have clearly been achieved.

Pupils' conduct around the school throughout the review was consistently of a very high standard. They readily greet visitors, hold doors open, show excellent manners and move around the school sensibly. In the playground, there are a wide range of fun activities and pupils play very well together. As one pupil commented, "we look after each other and make sure we are all having fun."

Pupils have strong values. They have a good understanding of different types of bullying and why it should always be challenged to make sure their school is a safe and happy place. They feel safe and fully trust adults to help them to sort out problems when they do happen.

Leaders have clear oversight of behaviour incidents, ensuring these are routinely recorded and incidents are analysed to identify and address any emerging concerns. Consequently, suspensions have reduced. Those pupils who have historically demonstrated challenging behaviour receive targeted and highly effective support to self-regulate and improve their behaviour.



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Leadership and management

The Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher have infused this school with happiness, love and aspiration. This translates into staff and pupils having a genuinely felt respect for each other and a love of learning. This is underpinned by effective systems for ensuring all staff are clear about their role. This school is a place where children and adults can thrive. The trajectory of improvement since the previous review in Autumn 2019 has been impressive, including substantially improved outcomes in national tests in 2022.

Leaders are very well supported by an effective and hard-working staff team. The staff spoken to throughout the review are utterly committed to the school. This includes Teaching Assistants and support staff who are very much valued as part of the team. One member of staff noted, "we are working harder than we ever have, but also loving it more than we ever have."

A consistently effective approach to professional development and training has helped staff to improve their skills over time. This has resulted in teachers and other staff who are very invested in developing their own understanding about pedagogy and the best ways to help children learn. There is impressive evidence of the impact of this seen in the highly effective use of adaptive teaching strategies to support SEND pupils.

There have been considerable improvements in the leadership of SEND. This is now effective, with clear processes for the accurate identification of SEND pupils. Leaders and staff have high expectations of SEND pupils. Strong training and support for staff help to ensure these pupils receive the help they need to access the same challenging curriculum as other pupils.

Parents are highly supportive of the school. 93% of parents would recommend the school to another parent. Several of those responding to the parent survey noted the very positive relationships between staff and parents. Those parents spoken to at the start of the school day were overwhelmingly positive about the school and the strong relationships between staff and parents.

**A leader is one who
knows the way,
goes the way, and
shows the way.**

—JOHN MAXWELL

“

**"Alone we can do so
little; together we can
do so much."**

Helen Keller



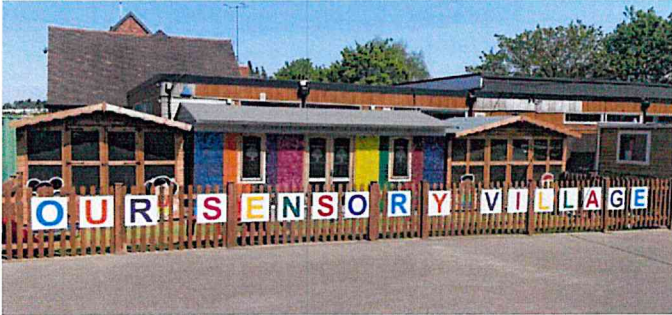
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Our Sensory Village

We are delighted to introduce to you, Our Sensory Village. This has been a growing project over the last year, that started off with one main outer building and has been gradually added to over time. For our SEND pupils, this new addition has been a fantastic resource, which supports their development and helps to meet many sensory needs. The central room acts as a soft play and enables our pupils to develop their gross motor skills as well as exert energy when needed. The room to the right is our 'Woodland Retreat.' This room acts as an intervention space for pupils, it is packed full of resources, and is an inspiring sanctuary in which to learn, that is used by many pupils across the school on a daily basis. Our final room, 'The snug' is a haven of tranquillity. It offers a dark and quiet space for pupils to go when they crave calmness and feel dysregulated. We are very proud of this new resource base and the smiles on pupils' faces when they use it is highly rewarding.





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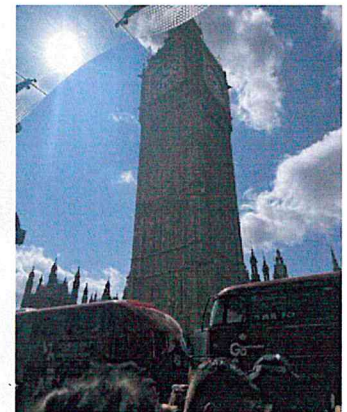
Pupil Parliament

The youth of today are the leaders
of tomorrow.

— Nelson Mandela —

I'm thrilled to share the incredible experience two of our Year 6 pupils (Chioma and Riley) had during their recent visit to the Houses of Parliament. Representing our Trust Pupil Parliament brilliantly, the children engaged in a thought-provoking debate led by Baroness Barran, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Education.

Guided by Baroness Barran, our pupils actively participated in a lively debate, exploring the essence of effective leadership in education. They expressed their thoughts eloquently, emphasizing the importance of pupils having a voice in their education and the significant role their input should play in shaping decisions at schools.





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West Midlands Police

This half term, children from Nursery to Year 6 were fortunate enough to have visits from West Midlands Police officers, who conducted important workshops with the children. Throughout these workshops, our children developed their understanding of some essential topics.

Key learning!

- Nursery and Reception: Adults who help us.
- Year 1 and Year 2: Stranger danger and trusted adults.
- Year 3 and Year 4: Online safety and cyber bullying.
- Year 5 and Year 6: Gangs and exploitation



Reception's trip to the zoo!

Our Reception children got to go on their very first school trip to Dudley Zoo! Their recent topic was "Animal Safari," so it was very exciting for them to see lots of different animals they had been learning about such as flamingos, tigers, camels and monkeys! They also got up close and personal with some minibeasts! They met a stick insect and a hissing cockroach and the skin of a spider who could grow





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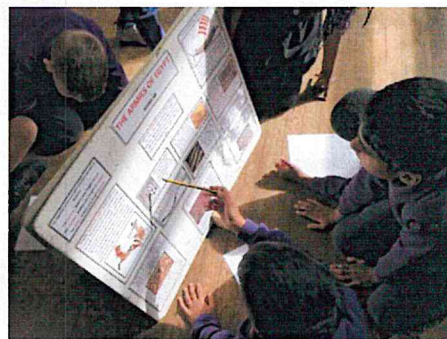
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Year 4 History workshop

Year 4 had an exciting day, taking part in a historical workshop all about Ancient Egypt this half term! The children had been learning about the ancient civilisation as part of their history lessons and within the workshop were lucky enough to experience handle real-life artefacts, watch a mummification and expand their knowledge further! The children were immersed in the excitement of Ancient Egypt right from the beginning of the day, and their history topic 'Ancient Civilisations' was truly brought to life!



Year 6 History workshop



Year 6 were immersed into history with an amazing World War I workshop... Sergeant Parsons visited Year 6 during the half term and took them on a journey from volunteering and recruitment, to the everyday challenges of living in a trench. Year 6 children had the opportunity to try on WWI uniforms, handle artifacts, take part in battlefield first-aid training and were even transported into the trenches using VR headsets. They had an amazing day, and their 'Britain at War' topic was truly brought to life!





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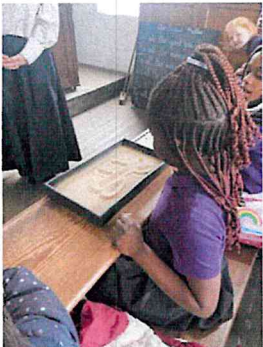
Reception launch day!

This half term, Reception fully emersed themselves in their new topic "On The Beach"! To launch the project, the children spent the afternoon at their very own "Bushbury Lane Beach!" The pupils had so much fun rock-pooling to find fish, building sandcastles and enjoying ice-cream! They even rode on donkeys and got crafty, making crabs and jellyfish!



Year 1 trip to the Black Country Museum

Year 1 enjoyed a trip to the Black Country Living Museum. During this time, they consolidated their learning about the Victorian Era and Victorian schools. The children enjoyed a toy workshop where they were able to play with lots of old toys. They also took part in a Victorian type lesson in the school and visited lots





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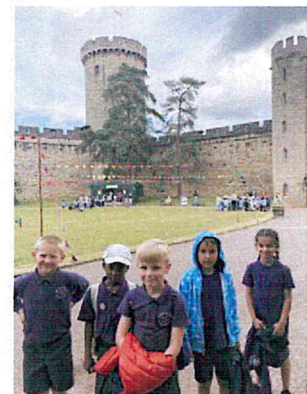
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Year 2 Warwick Castle trip

To consolidate our Year 2 pupils' understanding of their History project, 'Magnificent Monarchs,' our children visited Warwick Castle. During the visit, they watched the 'War of the Roses' performance and enjoyed a spectacular bird show, which they were in awe of. They finished the day with an explore around the beautiful castle and its surroundings.



Year 5 trip to Stratford—upon— Avon

As part of the 11 before 11 promise, 'Shake it up Shakespeare,' our Year 5 pupils visited Stratford— Upon— Avon for a trip to Shakespeare's birth place. During their visit, they took part in a Royal Shakespeare workshop of 'Romeo and Juliet' and their acting skills were put to the test! Furthermore, they had some time to enjoy the beautiful surroundings and participated in a tour of the town.





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Singing in the rain concert

Our school choir represented our school at the 'Singing in the rain' concert this half term. They worked incredibly hard on the lead up to this concert with Mrs Mukanga and Mr Morgan and fine tuned their songs during choir practice. At the concert, they were joined by many other primary school children across Wolverhampton. It was a momentous occasion and as always, our children did our school proud. Not even the rain could stop the joy their voices fulfilled us with!



Whole school music performance

One of the highlights from this half term was when we were joined by 'Rock Ready' for a whole school musical concert. The children were totally inspired and in awe as a range of music genres were covered during the morning. They laughed, sang and danced along and the whole school was immersed in music throughout the





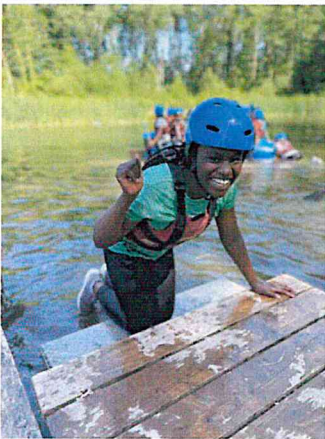
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Year 6 Residential trip to Tregoyd House





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Year 6 Prom





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On Thursday afternoon, we held a very special graduation ceremony for our wonderful Year 6 children, who are about to start their new venture into secondary school. It was a beautiful assembly filled with tears, laughs and memories shared. On behalf of everyone here at Bushbury Lane Academy, we would like to say a huge thank you to our Year 6 children for everything they have given to our school. We will miss them all immensely but know that they are going to continue to thrive on their next journey of education.





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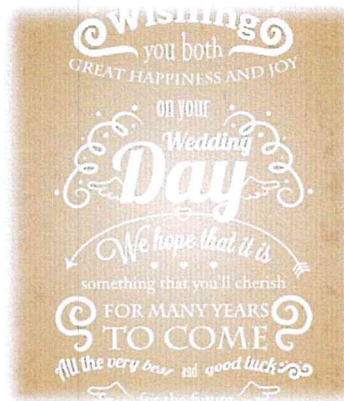
wishing
you 
ALL THE BEST

We are sad to be saying goodbye to two members of our staff, Mr Nicolson and Mr Morgan. Mr Nicolson joined our Year 2 team in January, and had quite the impact on our Year 2 children. He built relationships quickly with our children and led them to success in their Year 2 SATs. Mr Nicolson has now returned to his home town in Australia and we wish him the best of luck for the future.

Mr Morgan has been a teacher in Year 5 this year. His calm and collected manner has been welcomed and appreciated by all and he will be greatly missed by the Year 5 children. He has led subjects such as music and RE over the past year and has had a positive impact on our curriculum. We wish him all of the success in his future career and beyond.

I want to take this opportunity to wish Miss Turner the very best of luck this summer as she gets married to her long term partner, Mr Sleigh. I am sure you will join me in wishing her a huge congratulations. She will make the most beautiful bride and we can't wait to see her walking down the aisle.

We look forward to welcoming Miss Turner back in September as Mrs Sleigh.



Important Dates for your Diary

4th September 2023	INSET DAY (staff in school)
5th September 2023	INSET DAY (staff in school)
6th September 2023	Children return to school



