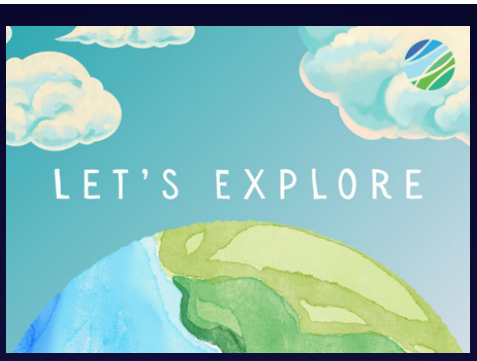
Bacton Primary School

# NEWSLETTER

Friday 30th January 2026

## A message from Mrs Houghton




As we come to the end of January, it's hard to believe how quickly the term is already flying by!

In this newsletter, we'd like to share some highlights from the past few weeks from the Let's Explore topic the children have been working on. As always, thank you for your continued support and I hope you have enjoyed hearing the children talk about what they have been discovering at school

Wraparound Care:

Thank you to those of you have completed our survey relating to after school care. We are in the process of reviewing the information that we have received and will give you an update on this once this has been completed. In the meantime, if you would still like to respond to the survey, you will continue to have access to it until 8am on Monday morning.

Attendance: Every Day Counts!

Regular school attendance plays a vital role in helping children feel confident, connected, and ready to learn. Being at school every day helps students keep up with their learning, build strong friendships, and develop important routines that support their wellbeing.

Nationally, the expected attendance rate for primary school children is at least 96%, as this level of attendance gives pupils the best chance to succeed both academically and socially. We understand that absences are sometimes unavoidable due to illness, and we thank families for keeping us informed when this happens. However, wherever possible, attending school every day and arriving on time makes a real difference. From next week, we will be sending home text messages to recognise 100% attendance for the week. These messages are about recognising commitment, effort, and the importance of being in school every day when they are well.

Celebrating attendance helps children understand that coming to school regularly matters. It reinforces positive habits, builds a sense of pride, and supports conversations about responsibility and routine in an age-appropriate way. We would encourage you to share these messages with your children and take a moment to celebrate their achievement together. A quick word of praise at home can make a big difference and helps children feel proud of doing their best.

Thank you, as always, for working with us to promote good attendance.

**CURRENT WHOLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE: 93.4%**

# Every School Day Matters

School and future success starts with good **attendance**!

**Going to school helps children to:**

- ✔ Learn
- ✔ Have fun
- ✔ Make Friends
- ✔ Get new experiences
- ✔ Increase their confidence

**and most of all....**

- ✔ Have the best start in life

## DAILY LATENESS

*equates to...*




| 5 MINUTES LATE | 10 MINUTES LATE | 15 MINUTES LATE |
|---|---|---|
| 15 hours of lost learning | 30 hours of lost learning | 50 hours of lost learning |

**Education is important - don't miss out!**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 100% | PERFECT | 100% Attendance |
| 98% | IMPRESSIVE | Equates to 4 school days off each year |
| 96% | GOOD | Equates to 7 school days off each year |
| 95% | NEARLY THERE | Equates to 9 school days off each year |
| 94% | NEEDS TO IMPROVE | Equates to 11 school days off each year |
| 90% | DANGER ZONE | Equates to 1 month off each year |
| 80% | EXTREME IMPACT | Equates to 2 months off each year |

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# STARFISH PRESCHOOL



It has been a cold start to this term but that has not stopped the children learning and exploring.

The first week came with lots of snow and ice which sparked conversations and play exploration between the children. Wrapping up warm and going for a 'Winter Walk' on the field allowed the children to explore what snow feels like.



The children used words like 'crunchy', 'beautiful' and 'freezing' to describe what they could feel and see. In the outside tuff tray, the children then used the tractors and spades to crush and manipulate the snow and ice before watching it melt.

Starfish have also been sharing their Christmas news and what they got up to in the holidays. It has been lovely to see the children taking turns during conversations and listening to each other's news.



This has also been seen during games and activities with the children keen to play and interact more with each other, taking on board each other's thoughts and ideas.

The children have also worked hard on drawing their self portraits for this term. Using a mirror, the children carefully drew their face, eyes, nose and mouth and used the correct colours for their hair and eyes. It's lovely to see the progress they have made from last term's self portraits!

# RECEPTION, Y 1 & Y 2

# SEAHORSES




The Seahorses have returned to school brilliantly after the holidays and have settled straight back into routines with lots of enthusiasm. They have been getting stuck into their new project, "Let's Explore," and have shown great curiosity and excitement. The children have been learning about explorers and the different types of equipment used in the past and today. They were especially interested in learning about Shackleton's expedition to Antarctica and the challenges he faced.

In English, the Seahorses have been working hard to improve their writing through their focus text, Grandad's Island. There has been a strong focus on using capital letters, finger spaces and full stops, alongside a big push on correct letter formation. The children are showing growing confidence and pride in their written work.

In Maths, Reception children have been learning about numbers up to 5 and exploring how these numbers can be partitioned in different ways. They have also been investigating the mass and capacity of different objects. In KS1, the children have been focusing on addition and subtraction with numbers up to 100, including how numbers can be partitioned to support their calculations.



# Y3 & Y4

# STINGRAYS



Stingrays have settled back into school brilliantly and have already made a fantastic start to the Spring Term.

Let's Explore was our new topic, where the children have been learning about different types of biomes around the world and what makes each one unique. They have been full of curiosity and enthusiasm as they explore how climate, plants, animals, and location all play a part in shaping these amazing environments.

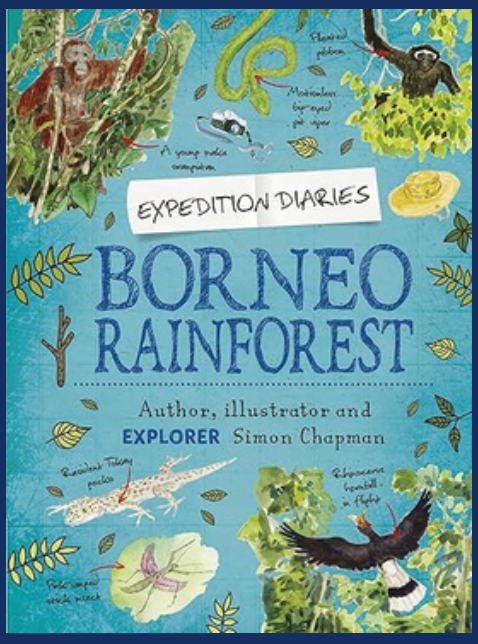
In our topic lessons, the children have been learning about the characteristics of different biomes, with a particular focus on rainforests. We have explored where rainforests are found, what the climate is like, and the incredible variety of plants and animals that live there.

The class has enjoyed comparing rainforests with other biomes such as deserts, tundra, and grasslands, helping them to develop a deeper understanding of how environments differ across the world.

In English, the children have been immersing themselves in the book Expedition Diaries: Borneo Rainforest. This has inspired them to write their own expedition diary entries, imagining what it would be like to explore a real rainforest. They particularly loved writing about meeting orangutans and other rainforest animals, using descriptive language to bring their adventures to life. The creativity and excitement in their writing has been wonderful to see, and many children have shown great progress in adding detail, emotion, and interesting vocabulary to their work.



In Maths, the children have been developing their confidence with column multiplication and using the bus stop method for division. These are important new strategies, and the class have shown great resilience and determination as they practise and refine their skills.



# Y5 & Y6

# SHARKS



Sharks have had an enjoyable return to school! Although it was chilly at the start of term we have got used to it!

In English, the children were looking at Expedition diaries. They thought about the main aspects of diaries before writing their own as if they were on an adventure through the Borneo rainforest. So many children discovered new animals!

In maths, the children have been looking at fractions, decimals and area. It has been lovely seeing the children relate area to real life. The fraction knowledge of Sharks is impressive - most recently they have been multiplying and dividing fractions.

Everyone has continued to enjoy our Let's Explore topic. In this the children have thought about historical adventurers and discovered how they were able to find new lands without the aid of phones. Everyone thought about how using the stars or a compass may not be as accurate so explorers were more likely to get lost. They have also enjoyed creating representations of the different biomes.



# Going hungry?

North Norfolk Foodbank can help you with food and other support.

Ask the staff here for advice or contact us directly by phone, text, or WhatsApp on 07826 376343

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**Foodbank**
Together with Trussell

