



Bickley Primary School

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Headteacher: Miss E Blake BEd (Hons) NPQH

8th February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are nearing the half-way point of the school year! The first term and a half has flown by and we wanted to share some things that have been happening this half term.

Young Voices

On 23rd January, 76 Year 5 and 6 pupils took part in the Young Voices concert at the O2 Arena. This was a fantastic opportunity for the children to sing with thousands of other school children, as well as with some professional singers, including Heather Small. The children were beautifully behaved and sang their hearts out. They had the time of their lives and were enthusiastically supported by family members who came out to see them and enjoy a truly wonderful night out. Well done, children, and a huge thank you to Mrs Moon for leading hours of rehearsals and for organising the day, along with Miss Milne.

Visitors to the School

On 6th February we had 35 teachers from schools in Bromley and Kent in to listen to a presentation and then have a tour of the school. Like us, the schools are all working on becoming a 'Thinking School,' which means that we are developing metacognition across the school to enable pupils to better understand the learning process in order to become more resilient and independent learners. Bickley was recommended by 'Thinking Matters' to host the event and to share the work we are doing, and we have had lots of very positive feedback from the participants. A big thank you to Miss Hinde and Mrs Dakin for their fantastic contributions to the event.

Sporting Achievements

The girls' football team played a match against Crofton Juniors and won 2 – 1. They also played really well at a Bromley football tournament, coming 4th in their group. After half term, there will be a number of girls' and boys' football matches, as well as the Year 3 and 4 Cross Country event at Crystal Palace Park on Saturday March 18th. We have training sessions for this on Tuesday and Friday lunchtimes, and would welcome more pupils joining these.

Water Bottles

In these times of financial hardship, it genuinely baffles me that lots of children have begun to bring 'Air Up' water bottles to school. These are very expensive – retailing at £30 - £50!!! For a water bottle!!! They have pods that release a fruity scent, which is designed to encourage children to drink more water. Children don't need this – and the last thing any of us want is children being fussy about 'what flavour water' they drink. Also, it is only a matter of time before these bottles get lost or broken. I would strongly recommend that you don't spend money on these for school use. Yesterday, there was about £500 worth of water bottles in one classroom alone. There are no words...



Bickley Primary School is a member of Nexus Education Schools Trust and is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

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Turkish Earthquake

A huge thank you to everyone who has donated so far to our JustGiving page to support the thousands of people affected by the Turkish earthquake. We are – as always – blown away by your kindness and generosity and hope that Bickley's donation will help provide food and accommodation for people in desperate need. If you haven't donated yet and would like to please click on the link below.

[Miss B Kaynak is fundraising for The British Red Cross Society \(justgiving.com\)](https://www.justgiving.com/miss-b-kaynak)

Tik Tok

We continue to have to deal with the fallout from Tik Tok and WhatsApp-related problems that have occurred at home. Just a reminder that all parents should be checking their child's mobile phone on a daily basis and that the age restriction for Tik Tok is 13 and the age restriction for WhatsApp is 16. As we continue to emphasise, this is because most children are not emotionally mature enough to manage their online interactions without supervision, as we are finding on an almost daily basis!

Attendance

We are continuing to support families to make sure that children who are not unwell attend school every day. The following shows the class attendance figures from September to date:

RH – 94.8%
RK – 92.4%
1C – 94%
1M – 95.5%
2B – 97.2%
2MW – 95%
3B – 95.5%
3S – 94.6%
4B – 96.5%
4K – 95.4%
5C – 95.5%
5CH – 93.9%
6D – 97.4%
6S – 95.9%

We hope you and your families have a restful half term. We will see you back at school on Monday 20th February.

Yours sincerely



Miss Blake