

## The Beacon Folkestone

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1<sup>st</sup> April 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

Despite the difficulties that Covid 19 continues to create we have all worked very hard to keep everyone safe and to ensure that our pupils are able to engage in all that the school provides and it's good to reflect on the opportunities and activities offered throughout Term 5. Pupils and staff have visited across sites, Folkestone and Walmer working together and then writing to one another. Seabrook Primary school visited the Beacon spending time with Barbados class, they particularly enjoyed the AI pod. We have further plans to extend these cross school links next term when Seabrook Year 4s will visit Jamaica class.

Our pupils enjoy educational trips and this term we have reinstated these with visits to Dover Castle and local libraries. One highlight was the celebration of the Hind festival of Holi and we are planning to visit the local places of worship over the summer term.

Construction is under way at Walmer for our Pupils Adventure Playground.

We have welcomed parents back into school, holding coffee mornings and parent forums. These have been positive gatherings and offered the opportunity to meet together and sharing information and having the chance to talk about school, curriculum, safeguarding, well-being and mental health and online safety. Parents who attended welcomed the opportunity to meet with other parents and this is an area that we are hoping to develop and enhance.

We enjoy hosting students and this term we welcomed students again from Canterbury University and also East Kent College. The feedback was positive and they enjoyed the opportunity to work alongside our staff and pupils.

Pupil voice and staff voice is strong at the Beacon and our community loves to be involved in international, national and local charitable movements. We collected contributions for Ukraine, raised monies for Red Nose day and participated in the awareness day for Downs Syndrome Day through wearing Odd Socks and we continue to collect contributions for the Rainbow Centre.

We have also initiated events to support our internal fundraising for our Zone 1 Discovery Garden. Staff hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Zone 1 Disco. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed this event and it was widely supported by staff who gave up their Friday evening to enable our pupils to dance and play to music. This weekend sees our Spring Fair and we are grateful to everyone who has made contributions to this and who are ready to give up their time or spend their money to support this Fair.

The Beacon's Race for Life is the first week of Term 6 on Wednesday 8 June. Further details are to follow but here is our fundraising link.

<https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/the-beacon-folkestone-4>

Next term we have many more events to look forward to and we look forward to seeing all of the children again on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April.

Yours faithfully

**Mrs B Evans**  
**Head of School**

