

## The Beacon Folkestone

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22<sup>nd</sup> October 2021

Dear Parent / Carers,

### End of Term Newsletter

This term has been such a positive start to the school year. Pupils keenly returned and the staff were delighted to welcome them back. We have continued to place a high priority on good hygiene and regular lateral flow testing for everyone and this has allowed us to safely reintroduce the school activities and events that we have all missed. I would like to thank and recognise the work of our site staff and cleaning teams. The cleanliness and maintenance of our school has ensured that we have experienced minimal disruption to our classes whilst other schools have had a significant impact on learning and have needed to close fully.

In all parts of the school, we have seen a return to a full curriculum offer. In particular, pupils recommenced their lessons at the sports centre and weekly swimming lessons are back on the curriculum. It has been good to see them excitedly leaving and returning for these lessons and it has also been wonderful to see pupils who cannot access FSC enjoying swimming lessons in our Hydro pool. The impact for those accessing the sessions has been incredibly inspiring. We also returned to Forest schools, which has been an excellent example of cross-Zone collaboration as young people from all three Zones have been involved. Our young people have taken part in confidence building, managing risks and being safe activities.

The school year started with our "Welcome to the 6<sup>th</sup> form Prom". It was a well-planned event, held in a marquee on the school grounds, where our young people were able to dance, sing, eat and drink mock-tails. Everyone had such a fun evening. Parent coffee mornings were reintroduced and Zone 1 Folkestone and Walmer were delighted to host the first of these. These events were well attended and we had such positive feedback from our parents and staff who attended. Zone 1 also held a "School Disco" and a Harvest festival. These were all memorable events and I would like to thank the staff who organised and supported to ensure the success of all of these.

All pupils have been actively involved in singing and craft workshops in the preparation for Little Amal's visit. They have engaged in exciting in class activities which were integrated into their learning. Creating paper-mache beads for the necklace to present to Little Amal, and decorating circles to form a paper skirt for the display we are creating in the heart space. As well as tying in lesson topics such as exploring lengths and height as a comparison between Amal and us. Some pupils have also been learning and working about distances in relation with Amal's walk in the UK, from Folkestone to Manchester (after walking across Turkey, Greece, Italy, France, Germany, Belgium and France again). Many pupils and staff then attended Little Amal's arrival at Folkestone Harbour and went to Canterbury Cathedral to welcome her. It was wonderful to be a part of this once in a lifetime experience.

Pupils involved in the Pop Up Literacy Festival have virtually met the author of their book, bringing the story to life for them. They wait in anticipation for their author workshops next term.

At The Beacon Walmer we have made a connection with a local business, The Corner Café, and from 9.30 – 10.00 every Tuesday we have 2 booked tables for our pupils to visit and practice their communication and life skills. This term saw the opening of the "Imagining Autism Pod – Mr McGregor's Garden". This has been well received and used by all of the children and we are excited to see how the garden will develop throughout the coming seasons. The school community came together to celebrate Harvest festival with all the pupils participating in assembly and through wonderful displays of their art work.



We ended on a high with everyone participating in World Singing Day and the Danceathon and then the term finale Beacon's Got Talent. It was amazing to see and hear our young people come together singing, dancing and performing. We have some talented individuals! These events saw the school curriculum for pupils alongside staff to sing and dance together as a school. They were incredible events and I know that pupils and staff alike enjoyed the opportunity to express themselves through music.

We all return to school on **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November** unfortunately there will be no After School Clubs in Term 2 due to the ongoing Covid19 situation which continues to impact upon staffing however we have a schedule of planned events throughout this term:

3 November - Zone 1 Harvest at Folkestone.

9 November - Key Stage 5 Achievement evening.

12 November - We celebrate with Children in Need Day "Be Bold and Bright"

15 November - Anti Bullying week – Odd Socks Day

19 November - Zone 1 Coffee morning

25 November - Parent Forum is on. The first of our Christmas festivities start on

27 November - Christmas Craft Fair.

10 December – Christmas Jumper

15 December - Christmas Dinner

16 and 17 December - Christmas Celebration Events and performances

I would also remind parents of the **two INSET days on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> and Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December**. Please make a note of these dates as the school is closed to pupils on those days.

I wish you all a relaxing holiday and look forward to seeing you all safe and well after the holiday.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'BAE' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Mrs B Evans  
Head of School