Brettenham Primary School

Fleecefield Primary School

Newsletter: October 2026

A Message from Mr Hudson

We have reached the end of the first half term, a huge thank you to everyone for making me feel so welcome. It has been incredible to get to know your children and to see the schools so full of happiness, friendship and hard work. Every single day I see such positive behaviour around the school - you should be so proud of your children.

As I said in the Meet the Team sessions at the start of the year, we want children to love school and to be proud to be here. Staff are committed to giving children experiences they will truly remember: it has been lovely to see children visit trips, watch classical music played, attend sporting events and to work with experts from across London. We look forward to building on this and sharing it with you over the coming months.

Please remember, we are an 'open door school', senior leaders will be opening the gates each day and evening, we are always happy to speak to you or answer any questions, so please do some and speak to us.

Each Autumn Term, schools in Children First survey families to get an understanding of what we are doing well, and what we can improve on. This year, we have created an electronic Google Form which you can hopefully complete on your phones or other devices. I would be delighted if you could take 2 minutes to complete this. Any positive comments you have to share, will always be shared with staff members. Please find the link to this survey here: Parent Survey Link

I wish you all a lovely half term, children return back on Monday 2nd November.

School Attendance

Being in school every day makes a real difference. Good attendance helps children establish strong routines, feel part of their school community and, most importantly, gives them the best opportunity to learn, achieve and succeed.

Across our schools, attendance is currently **94.6% at Fleecefield** and **96.7% at Brettenham**. Congratulations to **Year 6 at Fleecefield** (96.8%) and **Reception at Brettenham** (98.2%), who are currently our attendance champions!

Thank you to our children and families for continuing to make attendance a priority. Every day in school is an opportunity to learn, grow and achieve.

Reminders

School photos will take place in the next two weeks:

Fleecefield: Tuesday 3rd November
Brettenham: Thursday 19th November

To maximise learning time and reduce disruption to the school day, we kindly ask families to arrange routine appointments, such as GP, dental, optician and embassy appointments, outside of school hours wherever possible.

We understand that some appointments, particularly hospital appointments, cannot always be scheduled outside term time. Where an appointment does need to take place during the school day, please inform the school office as far in advance as possible.

Advance notice helps us to ensure your child is ready for collection and minimises disruption to learning. Thank you for your support and understanding.

"Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much" -
Helen Keller

Brettenham Primary School
Our school values



Fleecefield Primary School
Our school values



Our Mission is simple: " We are committed to putting the needs of our children first - ensuring that they have the best possible start to their education."

PROUD TO BE PART OF Children First Academy Trust

A word from our Year 6

Thank you to the children for electing us to represent Brettenham. This half term we have tried to make lunchtimes better for the younger children with our Active Leader roles. In assemblies we have been talking about not to 'judge a book by its cover' and celebrating that everyone is different and unique.

Written by Joy, Patrick, Siyar and Hamida (Year 6 Vice Captains)

Brettenham- Year 6





Year 6 have enjoyed a busy week of practical learning. In Science, the children investigated the different components of blood, including red and white blood cells, platelets and plasma, learning how each plays an important role in keeping our bodies healthy. The hands-on activity sparked lots of discussion and gave the children the opportunity to put their scientific thinking into practice.

In PSHE, the children became dental hygiene experts! They practised effective tooth brushing techniques, learned the importance of brushing for two minutes, explored flossing and investigated what to look for in a healthy toothpaste. A brilliant week of learning about looking after our bodies inside and out. 🧬🦷✨



Brettenham- Year 3 Trip

Year 3 at Brettenham had a fantastic time on their river cruise trip, exploring famous buildings in London such as Big Ben, St Paul's Cathedral and the London Eye. They were very lucky to have a helpful tour guide answering all their marvelous questions, and enjoy their lunch in the local playground before heading back home.

Brettenham- Year 5 Music





Pupils enjoyed a wonderful musical experience this week when Apollo Music visited school to deliver a whole-school assembly. A professional string quartet performed a selection of live classical music, introducing children to the different instruments in the string family and demonstrating how they work together as an ensemble.

The performance not only supported learning within our music curriculum but also broadened pupils' cultural experiences and appreciation of live music. The assembly inspired many children to think about learning an instrument and helped develop their listening skills through an engaging and memorable performance.

HONESTY AWARENESS RESPONSIBILITY RESPECT

A word from our Year 6

"At Fleecefield an important value is Responsibility. It is our responsibility to keep our books and resources ready for other children to use. In the playground, as Year 6 we always try to help the younger children and be role models to them."

Written by Yasra, Abdimalik and Kendra - Indigo Class

Fleecefield - Class Assembly



Our Year 6 pupils recently shared two fantastic class assemblies, with Lilac Class presenting their RE learning and Indigo Class showcasing their History studies.

Speaking in front of a large audience is an important skill that we value greatly, and all of the children demonstrated remarkable courage, confidence and happiness as they shared their learning. Their enthusiasm, clear speaking and thoughtful presentations made both assemblies a pleasure to watch. We are incredibly proud of every child involved. Well done, Year 6!

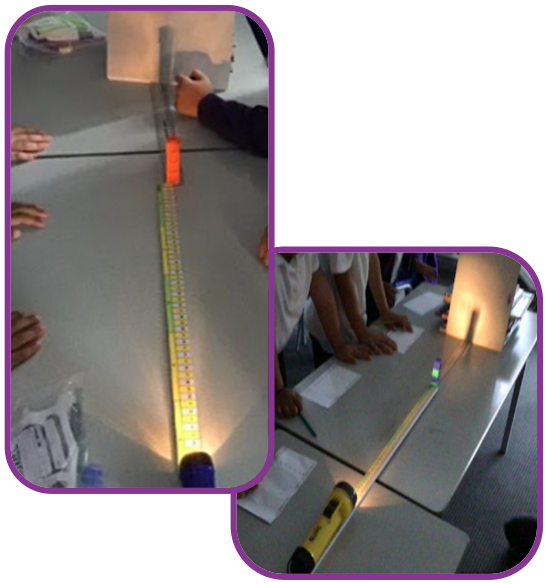


Fleecefield - Year 5 Trip

Year 5 visited The National Gallery for a fascinating Art Workshop on Colour. They learned ways of appreciating the paintings, and learned many interesting facts e.g. All the gold in the paintings and on the ceilings is real gold!

They saw some of the oldest and most famous paintings in the country, and then made their own lanterns. They enjoyed seeing some of the sights of London to - Trafalgar Square, the River Thames, the London Eye and the Houses of Parliament.

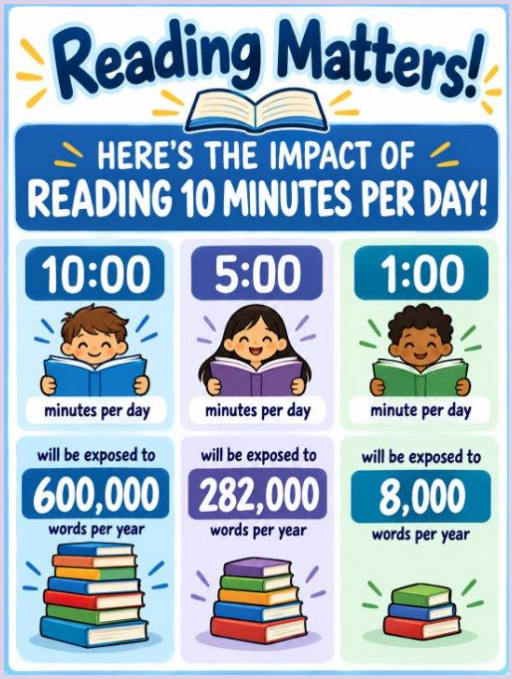
Fleecefield - Science in Year 3



Year 3 have been exploring light and shadows in their science lessons. As part of their learning, they investigated how the distance between a light source and an object affects the size of the shadow. Using torches, they moved the light closer to and further away from different objects, carefully measuring and recording the results in a table. The children discovered that the largest shadows were created when the torch was closest to the object, as more of the light was blocked. They enjoyed working scientifically and using their observations to explain their findings.

RESPONSIBILITY RESPECT RESILIENCE

Safeguarding and Wellbeing



The Power of Reading

Reading is one of the most powerful things we can do to support children's wellbeing. As well as developing vocabulary and knowledge, reading helps children to relax, build empathy, reduce stress and improve their emotional wellbeing.
At Brettenham and Fleecefield, we encourage children to read every day. Just a few minutes of reading can have a significant impact, helping children to develop positive habits, a love of books and the confidence to succeed both in and beyond the classroom. Thank you for supporting reading at home. Together, we can help every child discover the lifelong benefits that reading brings.

Spotlight on Inclusion

We believe that every child is unique and has their own strengths, interests and talents. An important part of inclusion is helping children to understand, respect and celebrate the differences that make us special. Through our curriculum and school life, we encourage children to be kind, respectful and accepting of others. By learning about different experiences and perspectives, children develop empathy, build positive relationships and learn that everyone belongs within our school community.

Together, we are creating a culture where every child feels valued, supported and proud to be themselves.



Spotlight on Online Safety

Keep Your Children Safe Online

Working together is essential in helping our children stay safe online. Brettenham and Fleecefield are Smartphone Free Zones, which means children should not bring smartphones into the school site.

This supports families in establishing healthy routines around children's online use, particularly social media. Apps such as WhatsApp and Snapchat are not designed for primary-aged children, and we ask families to be mindful of and follow the age guidance set by individual platforms.

Together, we can help children develop safe and healthy habits in an increasingly digital world.

Age Restrictions for Social Media Account



Special Mentions

Over the past three weeks, our school football team has taken part in seven tough matches, competing against some excellent opposition. Throughout every game, the children represented the school brilliantly, demonstrating outstanding positivity, teamwork and resilience.

The team supported one another, worked hard until the final whistle and showed great determination, regardless of the score. We are incredibly proud of the sportsmanship, effort and attitude displayed by every player.

Well done to all involved for being such fantastic ambassadors for our school!

Special Mentions - Active Leaders





In 6L we have been chosen to do a 10 week Junior Active Leader course. The Year 6 children have been learning engaging active games and then practising how to lead a small group. Last Wednesday, the children put those skills to the test by hosting Year 1 to complete 4 distinct activities: steal a bib, traffic lights, rock paper scissors - follow the leader and treasure island. The children in both year groups had so much fun and benefitted from the activities.

This makes a huge difference to school lunchtimes - well done and thank you!



In Other News

Could you be one of our new school governors?

We are looking for people who would like to become more involved in the life of our school by joining our Governing Body. Being a governor is a fantastic opportunity to get to know the school better, contribute to our wider community and work alongside a passionate group of people who are committed to helping our school thrive.

We would be particularly interested to hear from anyone with experience or knowledge in finance, education or construction. However, these are by no means essential. We know that our families and wider community have a huge range of skills and experiences, and we would warmly welcome a conversation with anyone who feels they could bring something to our Governing Body.

If you are interested, or would simply like to find out a little more about what being a governor involves, please speak to Shelley Banister at Brettenham or Christina Henry at Fleecefield

Mr Numbervator

Year 6 children from both Fleecefield and Bowes took part in an exciting Mathematics session with Mr Numbervator. During the workshop, pupils worked on a range of mathematical challenges that encouraged them to think carefully, solve problems, and explain their ideas.

The children showed great enthusiasm and worked brilliantly together as they tackled different activities. It was wonderful to see them enjoying Mathematics, building their confidence, and developing their problem-solving skills.

Well done to all the children who took part and represented their schools so positively. We hope they enjoyed the experience and were inspired by some of the exciting ways Mathematics can be explored!



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PROUD TO BE PART OF Children First Academy Trust

In Other News

BBC 500 Words Competition

Does your child have a big imagination and a love of storytelling?

The BBC 500 Words Competition is a fantastic opportunity for children to get creative and write their own short story.

This national competition encourages children to let their imaginations run wild and enjoy writing for pleasure. There are no limits on the types of stories they can write, making it a great chance for children to be creative, have fun, and share
their ideas. With the half-term holiday coming up, this could be an enjoyable optional activity to complete at home. Whether your child enjoys adventures, mysteries, fantasy worlds,
or funny stories, we'd love to see them
take part.

Please see the flyer for more information
on how to enter. Good luck to all our budding authors!



Greener Schools Organisation

Year 5 pupils from both Brettenham and Fleecefield enjoyed an engaging visit from The Greener Schools organisation, who delivered whole-school assemblies and workshops focused on sustainability, recycling and reducing waste. Children learned about the impact of waste on the environment and explored simple ways they can make more sustainable choices in their daily lives.

As part of the workshops, Year 5 pupils took part in a hands-on upcycling activity, transforming recycled milk bottles into bird feeders. The session encouraged creativity, environmental responsibility and care for local wildlife, while helping pupils understand the importance of reusing materials rather than throwing them away.







In Other News





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Brettenham Primary School

FLEECEFIELD

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Coming Up....

Brettenham Primary School

Upcoming Dates:

2nd November	Autumn 2 begins
3rd November	Year 6 Theatre Trip
10th November	London Fire Brigade visit for Year 2 and 5
11th November	Rock Steady Assembly
12th November	Individual photos to be taken
12th November	Sleeping Beauty Production for Reception
18th/19th November	Learning Conversations
26th November	Apollo Music Sessions Year 4
26th November	Book Fair Arriving

Fleecefield Primary School

Upcoming Dates:

2nd November	Autumn 2 begins
2nd November	Aspire and Shine (Grey) - Jubilee Hall
3rd November	Individual photos to be taken
3rd November	Year 6 Theatre Trip
9th November	Space Workshop for Year 5
12th November	Sleeping Beauty Production for Reception
13th and 27th November	Apollo Music Sessions Year 4
16th November	Little Authors workshop
18th/19th November	Learning Conversations
26th November	Grey Class Assembly - 9am

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