

Starting back after the long summer break can be a bit daunting at first...new classroom, new friends, new teacher...but I am delighted to say that everyone has bounced back into school and settled really quickly, even our 16 new children in our Foundation class...well done to them! No doubt the lovely summer weather helped us all to enjoy our break to the full so we were all ready to get back to school. We have also welcomed a new member of staff; Miss Stuart has quickly become a member of our Englefield family and is teaching the Year 3/4 class.

We have already been busy. We have a group of children visiting Rushall Farm each week doing some adventurous activities such as a river study, feeding alpacas and dissecting owl pellets. Our Year 6 children recently spent an exciting day at Pangbourne College for a team-building day, facing their challenges with enormous courage and overcoming their fears.

Years 5 and 6 also went to Bradfield College for a science afternoon...we had a great time investigating maggots' preferences and making loud speakers. The cookies were excellent too!



Mrs Watts took some of our bee-keepers to do a presentation to the Newbury Beekeepers which gave them a great opportunity to share their knowledge.

We have voted for our school councillors, our house captains, sports ambassadors and buddies so we are now in a good place to plan an exciting year for the whole school.

I am delighted to announce that our breakfast and after-school clubs are up and running. We now come into school to the delicious smell of buttered toast courtesy of 'Early Birds' and leave with the sound of laughter coming from the 'Barn Owls' room. These are both great additions to our school.

We have also been thankful for the daytime help provided by some of our parents. We are always looking for extra reading help as the children really benefit from reading to an adult 1:1 so if any local people would be interested in coming in for an hour or so on a regular basis, we would be really grateful. Please just call Claire in the school office (930 2337) and she can help to get you started.

We are holding our annual open morning on Wednesday 17th October so if you know anyone who might be interested in securing a place for their child for next September, please let them know and they can contact the school office.

Still to come before half term: Bassistry Arts (a bass and drums duo who get us all into the beat!), our TLC morning (when parents come into school to help tidy up the outdoors etc.), the Year 5/6 class will be visiting Hughenden as part of their work on WWII, the Year 6 children will be developing their road confidence by taking part in a Bikeability course, the Ufton Court cycle event will be based at the school and we will be celebrating Harvest Festival at St Mark's.