



## November 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,



We were honoured to be joined by a number of Senior Shefford Citizens. We were also really pleased that our pupils were part of Shefford's remembrance service and special thanks to the Humanities Team and Mrs Burt for their efforts here.

In other news this term, the rehearsals for the Gym & Dance display and the Ensemble Concert are well underway. Pupils (and staff) are also practising for the return of the ever so popular "Bloomfield's Got Talent" event which will debut on the last day of term. The recent Year 5 Open Evenings were incredibly successful with high praise from the families visiting the school.



### Year 5 News

Year 5 are reaching the end of their first term at RBA, and it has been wonderful to see them settle into life at their new school with such confidence. Our recent "Working Together Evening", where the children had the opportunity to lead their parents around the school, showing off their classrooms, demonstrated just how independent Year 5 have become and how comfortable they are in their new surroundings!

It has been a busy term, and Year 5 have embraced the new experiences offered to them, including taking part in their Inter-house Cross Country & Indoor Athletics competitions, partaking in a variety of clubs and fixtures and building relationships with their new peers and teachers. The pupils had a very informative morning at the Hindu Mandir in Luton. The pupil's listened very carefully, behaved respectfully and asked some very thoughtful questions. There is lots more to look forward to including our trip to the pantomime! Well done, Year 5, what a super start to your RBA journey!

### Year 6



The fundraising in Year 6 goes from strength to strength. On Monday 8<sup>th</sup> October Sarah Greene from MAGPAS led an assembly where RBA presented her with a cheque for £1759.74. This now brings our total to £4315.74. This is a fantastic amount raised in a short space of time. Well done Year 6!

Our year group sponsored fundraiser linked the theme of health to MAGPAS. This year, all students in Year 6 were challenged to learn the names of 20 bones using the correct scientific vocabulary. The event has taken place this week. We look forward to seeing how much the children have raised. In a few weeks, Year 6 are holding a Christmas sale in form times, selling products including slime and hand painted canvas bags. We are so proud of the enthusiasm from the children in Year 6 as they are continually coming up with new ideas.



Year 6 had a great time at the Black Country Museum. The children experienced what life was like for children down the mines. They also enjoyed going to a Victorian school and learning about how much education has changed since then. It was a fantastic opportunity to enhance their learning of Victorian life.

Year 6 Rockets and Robots Club teams have completed their first challenge to build a 'Zippy Bot' and programme it to complete a maze. The winning team were Archie, Damien & Robert. The groups have now chosen their next projects and are in the process of building their robots. These include Golf Bot, Claw Bot and a Crane Bot!

### Year 7 News

Year 7 continue their great start to the school year and are adapting well to the rigors of KS3. In October we took 230 pupils on a trip to St Albans. This trip was to support their studies of the Romans in their Humanities lessons this term. During their visit pupils visited the Roman Museum to explore the Roman settlement of Verulamium. In St Albans park they also visited the hypocaust and saw a fantastic example of a Roman mosaic. The other half of the day was spent at the cathedral where pupils made clay tiles and re-enacted the story of St Alban. In addition, it has been excellent to see so many Year 7 pupils participating in school teams, inter-house competitions and fund-raising events. A very busy and very pleasing first term in Year 7, well done!



### Year 8 News

Pupils have started their final year at RBA in a very positive manner. Engagement and behavior have been excellent and Year 8 seem determined to make the most of their time here. Transfer to Upper School activities are also in full swing. Pupils have attended Open Evenings and have also had an assembly from Samuel Whitbread to ensure they make an informed decision about their Upper School. All transfer to Upper School forms should have been completed by now.

Year 8 are embracing their position as role models to the rest of the school and are a vital component of our school community. Part of this is taking as many opportunities as possible and we look forward to Year 8 House Captains leading their House teams in forthcoming House Competitions.

This week sees many of our Year 8 pupils heading off to Edale. This is an opportunity to try some different activities all within the backdrop of the stunning Peak District. We are hoping the weather is a little warmer than last year!

Some Year 8 pupils who were identified as part of the Talent ID programme for humanities, were offered the opportunity to spend a morning at the Warden Abbey vineyard. On a cold October day, the pupils were able to find out about the history of the vineyard and the Monastery that once stood in Old Warden. They tested the sugar in the grapes and constructed a tussie mussie. Pupils were engaged throughout and the vineyard volunteers were thoroughly impressed with the behaviour and attitudes of the Year 8 pupils.

### Music



The Solo Music Concert on the 21<sup>st</sup> November gave pupils the opportunity to demonstrate the progress they are making with their individual instrumental and vocal skills. In total forty-five instrumental and vocal performances were performed on a wide range of instruments including piano, flute, clarinet, guitar, trumpet, trombone, violin, cello, double bass and voice, with the pieces performed encompassing a range of musical styles and genres from baroque and classical music through to pop and rock. The standard of the performances at the concert was extremely impressive throughout – clearly all the pupils had put a great deal of effort in to preparing their piece for the concert performance. Judging by the many very complimentary comments made by members of the theatre studio audience at the end of the concert the pupils can be sure their efforts were very much appreciated.

The Ensemble Music Concert (5th December) will represent an opportunity to showcase the progress being made by the instrumental and vocal ensembles that rehearse each week at RBA, including the Orchestra, String Group, Brass Group, Guitar Group, Keyboard Group, KS2 Pop Choir and Vocal Zone.

Our KS2 Pop Choir pupils are currently working hard at their weekly rehearsals in preparation for an exciting performance opportunity taking place on Monday 28th January 2019. KS2 Pop Choir pupils will be travelling to London to perform at the O2 Arena where they will join several thousand of other children to all sing together as a single choir to a sold-out audience in a concert known as 'Young Voices'. With the backing of a full 7-piece live band made up of some of the UK's leading musicians, backing singers and an internationally acclaimed conductor this event is certain to be an exciting and memorable musical experience for all the participants. We are wishing them good luck in their preparations for the above event.

## Sports News

### Cross Country

RBA held the ESAA English Schools Cross Country Cup on the 9<sup>th</sup> October. Special congratulations to Joe who came 1<sup>st</sup> in every race he ran! Well done to the following students on amazing individual performances also; Luca who came 2<sup>nd</sup>, Rebecca who came 3<sup>rd</sup>, Sophie who came 4<sup>th</sup> and Lucy who came 5<sup>th</sup>. The boys came 1<sup>st</sup> with 3 excellent league runs. The boys went to the Eastern Regional semi-final, running conditions were difficult and the boys ran their hearts out and finished 5<sup>th</sup>, well done to everyone who took part!



### Netball

We had an excellent start to the league for our Year 6 girls. They looked very smart in their new dresses thanks to the PSA. We played Parkfields and Woodlands winning both games 14-0. Our KS3 Netballers also played well against Arnold in the District League at the beginning of the month. The Year 7 Girls played out an exciting 5-5 draw, whilst the Year 8's ran out 4-2 winners.



### Rugby

Well done to our Year 8 Boys Rugby Team who finished off their District League Campaign with one win and one defeat against Arnold and Marston Vale respectively. The boys beat Arnold 4 tries to 1 in the first game, before missing out on a 5-3 thriller to a strong Marston Vale Team. Well done to the boys for an excellent district season.

### Football

The Year 7 Boys played an excellent National Cup Match this month. After conceding early it seemed like it was going to be one of those days but constant 2<sup>nd</sup> half pressure paid off and Saunders found the net with 2 minutes remaining to take the game into extra time. A fantastic finish in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of extra time from Murphy means the boys progress to round 3. Excellent performance from our year 7 boys football team in the county cup against a tough Linslade side. Goals from Adam (3) and Gabriel cemented a 4-0 win for the boys. MOM both Adam for his fantastic hat trick and Callum for a dominant display at centre back. Well done boys.

Well done to our Year 8 Football Team who have now progressed to Round 4 of the National Cup. The Round 3 game met a strong Beaumont side. The boys were 2 – 0 down at half time and responded to Mr Fox's motivational half time team talk. Unfortunately, they could not score the 3 goals required to win the game in normal time however they did score twice to take the game to extra time where they then scored two more to win 4-2. A truly outstanding performance and response - the referee summed up their performance at the end of the game 'the boys were a real credit to you' - not just their performance but their never say die attitude. This performance truly ranks up there with the county basketball final win v Halyard in 2003 and the National athletics cup semi-final win in 2009. Good luck to the boys in the fourth round against Bishops Stortford.

## Table Tennis

A massive well done to our Year 5 & 6 Boys and Year 7 & 8 Girls Table Tennis Squads who both won the District Finals. Huge well done to the girls in year 7 and 8 - table tennis county champions. The girls played brilliantly to finish the tournament unbeaten! Bring on the regional round in January.

## RBA Charity news

Jack and his friends took part in a 24 hour Gameathon for Children In Need. This year the team was made up of: Jack, Heidi, Charlie, Peter, Callum, Emma, Georg, Finley and James. The 24-hour period consisted of staying awake for 24 hours playing different types of games, including Monopoly, The Game of Life, Guess Who, Pictionary, Trivial Pursuit and loads more. They also spent time on electronic games too like Nintendo DS' and not forgetting playing on the Xbox. There was also a secret 3AM challenge!



**Congratulations to RBA on raising over £1,500 for Children in Need. A huge thank you everyone involved.**

We are proud to announce that we have joined up to the Red Box Project. They are a community project set up to help tackle period poverty, and they provide period products to young people.



RBA have a 'red box' which is accessible for all girls so they can take whatever they need for their entire period (day pads, night pads, emergency clean underwear, or just 1 or 2 individual pads to get through the day)...NO QUESTIONS ASKED. (Please note that we have opted not to offer tampons to our pupils). We are also a donation point for the Red Box Project, and ask that if anyone can please donate supplies (pads, tampons, underwear, wipes) to keep the project going. Our donation box is located in Main Reception. All donations will be distributed across the Central Beds area only.

## House News Competition

Pupils across all years have embraced House Competitions so far this term. Events have ranged from XC relays, poetry, Bloomfield Bake Off, Maths and design a Christmas decoration. There has been something for everyone and pupils have started to collaborate fantastically well. Each House has also enjoyed an assembly where pupils have found out about each other's successes and learnt about their House author.

## Art Department

The Art department ran their charity pumpkin carving event on 30th October. A selection of high achieving KS3 Art pupils were invited to carve pumpkins. There was a great variety of designs produced. Pumpkins were donated by Morrisons in Shefford and G&M Growers in Biggleswade. The following day form class 7S held a Halloween cake sale. The total raised from both events was £110 for Cancer Research UK. In addition, they have been running an inter-form Christmas Decoration and personalised Christmas Card competitions.

## Visiting writer

We were delighted to welcome author, Ross Welford to the school this term. Ross's 4<sup>th</sup> book will be out in January, following on from his success with his three previous hits. His first book, 'Time Travelling with a Hamster' has received wide acclaim, including being nominated for the Carnegie Medal and many of our pupils have enjoyed reading it, as well as his other books.

Ross delivered entertaining and inspiring presentations to both KS2 and KS3 pupils, including a hilarious magic trick involving some 'time travel' and an opportunity for pupils to take on his 'write a story in five minutes' challenge!

He also ran a writing workshop with some of our budding creative writers in KS3.

Ross finished the day by signing copies of his books and chatting with many of our very enthusiastic pupils.

'This was a super opportunity for all our pupils to meet a real life successful writer and to hear a little about where he gets his ideas from and how he writes. Many of our pupils are now inspired to read his stories as well as to go on and write stories of their own. Anything which inspires our young people to read can only be a good thing' Mandy Tapley (Assistant subject Coordinator for English) & Alexandra Maycock (Librarian).

### Winter Fayre

Thank you to the PSA who coordinate many fundraising events across the year including school disco's and sponsored sports events. This weekend we had a truly wonderful Christmas Fayre which included year group stalls, raffle and local craft suppliers. We are pleased to announce that we raised a tremendous £3622.70 for the school. Thank you to everyone who helped make this happen and all that attended.

### Study Club

Study Club provision has been extended and will now be open **Monday – Thursday** from **3.30pm - 4.30pm** in the LRC and **Friday** from **3.30pm – 4.00pm**. Pupils have access to over 3000 books and can search the internet on any of the 6 i-desks. Study club is supervised by one of our Teaching Assistants who is able to support and encourage the pupils in their studies. There is no charge for this service and we politely ask that you collect your children before 4.30pm Monday – Thursday and 4.00pm on Friday. **We are not able to extend these hours any further and would ask that families are aware of the end times.**

### Website & Communications

Our new website (first phase) has been launched. This will be updated in due course, but currently has the required content as requested by the DfE. From early next year, Phase two will develop this site in a multipurpose facility for families and community. [www.robertbloomfield.beds.sch.uk](http://www.robertbloomfield.beds.sch.uk) – please take a look. If you have a general enquiry then please address this to [RBA-Enquiries@Bestacademies.org.uk](mailto:RBA-Enquiries@Bestacademies.org.uk). Any communication to the school is acknowledged within 48 hours. Please refer to our website for who to contact with your enquiry.

### Admission Arrangements 2020

Please see our website for the proposed BEST admission arrangements for September 2020 together with a cover letter highlighting the changes.

As per the School Admissions Code, we will undertake a six-week consultation commencing on Tuesday 20th November 2018 and concluding on Tuesday 1st January 2019. A link to the page is below.

<https://www.robertbloomfield.beds.sch.uk/page/...>

### Emergency Procedures

And finally, a timely reminder of the “in case of emergency” information for families - School closure is extremely rare, but with winter approaching, it's worth a refresh on the procedure. **In the event of a closure the school will:**

- Complete the Central Beds SOS system - this will automatically inform the radio stations - Heart FM and BBC 3 Counties of a closure. A list of schools that close will be posted on the Radio station's website.
- Post a message on:
  - the school Website
  - the school Facebook page
  - the school Twitter page
- Send a Parentmail (PMX) to all Parents and Carers informing them of the school closure. Further updates will follow through the day.

#### Year 6 SATs

Please make sure **no appointments** are made during school hours for the:

Practice SATs Week: **week commencing 28 January 2019**

&

National SATs Exam Week : **week commencing 13 May 2019**