

Newsletter 7th February 2025

Aaron Phipps Visit

Last Friday we were fortunate enough to be visited by the amazing Aaron Phipps. His achievements as a person and athlete are simply fantastic. His ability to overcome adversity and physical disability was an inspiration to everyone listening to his fabulous talk. I know that Berrywood children of all ages gained so much from hearing him speak. It would be very hard to have any higher level of respect for a human being. The determination he has shown to push himself to accomplish things so much, personally leaves me in awe of his character.

If as parents you are not so familiar with the story of his life, then I would highly recommend you search this up and spend some time discussing with your children what they remember from his visit. We only make the important lessons in life really stick if we are a little bit relentless in emphasising their value to children. Thank you to Mrs Woods for your determination in making sure this visit took place, and to the BSA for the funding. We look forward to many more future events similar to this.

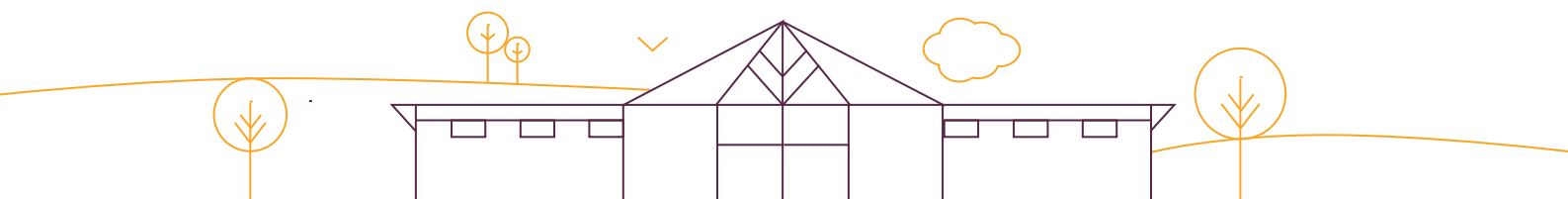
BSA AGM

Thank you to those parents who ventured into school for our recent BSA AGM. We have a new Chairperson in Katie Newman. We now also have some new parents on the committee, Joanna Barratt Carr and Anita Benko. The meeting was very positive, and as always, it is great to be able welcome some fresh faces to take their places in a long line of parents over many years who have stepped up to help. If any parents unable to attend the meeting would like to see the various reports, then these are available at the school reception.

Regrettably we have had to cancel the BSA Fireworks event for 2025. This is normally our largest fundraising event of the year, with typically between 1500 – 2000 people attending. Hosting an event of this scale and nature is quite an undertaking that requires a healthy number of volunteer marshals and people to run stalls etc. in order to be viable, enjoyable and safe. Despite multiple appeals to the parent community in this regard, only a tiny proportion came forward to support last year. As the person with responsibility for signing off the risk assessments, this is not something I am currently prepared to do.

Market This Monday

So many of our children and members of staff have been super busy making, baking and preparing for the next Market Days which takes place on Monday after school next week. We absolutely love these events, as we know many parents do too. There is so much creativity on show, and the interactions the children running stalls have with the parent customers works beneficially on so many levels.





Please do stop by if you possibly can! Browsing and asking the children about the products and produce has as many benefits as making a purchase. A school cannot be a community without its community playing an active role to support the values and work that we do. Our School Within a Garden ethos although long-established, still has to be nurtured and maintained... we hope to see a good number of you there to support make this positive and vital difference.

Inset Day Reminder

Just a quick reminder that half-term comes early next week for children and families because Friday 14th February is and INSET day at Berrywood. We hope you have a safe and pleasant week whatever your plans.