

Friday 14th November 2025

This week, we have been reflecting on Remembrance and thinking about all those affected by war. On Tuesday, at 11.00am, the children observed a short period of silence, showing great respect and understanding for the significance of the occasion. We also remembered Mr Sheppard, Mrs O'Brien's Dad and a decorated war veteran, who visited our school, every year, on Remembrance Day; he sadly passed away last year, aged, 104. RIP Mr Sheppard.



Lead School for Music Video

As you may be aware, we are a Lead School for Primary Music in Essex. To help us share our good practice with other schools, a professional film company joined us for a day in July to create a promotional video. After lots of edits (but, sadly no dubbing of my Essex accent), the link to the final version appeared in my inbox on Wednesday. It's a lovely short clip, which features children and staff from across the school, so, do take a look if you get a moment. Thank you to all the children and staff who helped make the video and to Essex Music Services for the wonderful opportunity and funding.

The link can be found on our website via this link -

[https://www.buttsbury-inf.essex.sch.uk/page/?](https://www.buttsbury-inf.essex.sch.uk/page/?title=Music&pid=60)

[title=Music&pid=60](https://www.buttsbury-inf.essex.sch.uk/page/?title=Music&pid=60)

We hope you like it!



Buddies Assembly

This week was national Anti-Bullying Week and our Year 5/6 Buddies delivered a fabulous assembly on Wednesday which was all about anti-bullying. The Buddies prepared their own poems, messages and role plays all surrounding the topic which the children in the audience really enjoyed. A huge thank you goes to Mrs Simnett, Mrs Cambridge and Mrs Fakou for preparing the children so well.

Next Week's Diary Dates

School Dinners - Week 2

Monday 17th November

- Open Evening for prospective Reception 2026 parents - 6.00pm - 7.00pm (needs to be pre-booked)

Wednesday 19th November

- 3P 'Parents to Lunch' event at 12.00pm

Thursday 20th November

- Year 5 Science Dome visit - in school

Saturday 22nd November

- Christmas Bazaar - 12.00pm - 3.00pm - Junior Site

Infant Magic Show/Discos tonight -

Reception: 3.10pm - 4.15pm;

Years 1 and 2: 4.45pm - 6.00pm

School Choirs - Christmas Bazaar - 22nd November

The children in our two school choirs will be singing during our Christmas Bazaar. Our Year 5/6 choir will perform at 1.00pm and the Year 3/4 choir will perform at 2.00pm. Please meet in the main hall 5 minutes before the scheduled performance time.

There is no need to wear school uniform but please wear a Christmas hat if you have one!

Christmas Bazaar

Don't forget we are collecting items for the coloured stalls (Key Stage 2) and also that any help with the bazaar would be wonderful!

Children in Need

Children in Need

Thank you for supporting this year's 'Children in Need' charity day. It was great to see everyone looking colourful and bright in their spots and/or yellow. The School Council have been busy all week, selling pin badges and running their raffles. In total, we raised £744.82 which is fantastic. Well done to the School Council and thank you to Miss Olive and Mrs Wilson for supporting them in their endeavours.

Applications for Reception - September 2026

The application process for Reception 2026 has now opened and the Local Authority have asked me to remind parents/carers that they need to apply by 15th January 2026. This is the case even if you already have a child in the school. If you have any questions about the application process, please contact Mrs Phillips, in the School Office.

Pre-Loved Uniform

If you would like to purchase any items (at a hugely reduced price) please contact Maggi (Co-Chair of the PFA) on: 07801 896254.

*'Maximum Effort for
Maximum Achievement'*

Pupil Premium Funding

Pupil premium was introduced in April 2011 and is allocated to schools to work with pupils who have been registered for free school meals at any point in the last six years (known as 'Ever 6 FSM'). The pupil premium is paid direct to schools, allocated to them for every pupil who receives free school meals. Schools decide how to use the funding, as they are best placed to assess additional provision their pupils need.

A detailed breakdown of how we commit this funding is available on our school website. We also provide further support with educational visits and school clubs. Hence, for all children entitled to Pupil Premium funding, the school will fund one extra-curricular club per term and all visits of one day or less. We will contribute 50% of the cost of residential visits.

Your child may be eligible for pupil premium funding if you are in receipt of:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

If you think you may be eligible, please complete the online application form for Essex schools, which can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

If you need any further information or advice, please contact either School Office.

Please note - even if your child is in the infants, and therefore already has free meals as part of the Universal Free School Meals offer, please still apply if you think they are eligible, as the Pupil Premium Funding that this entitles your child to, goes far beyond free school dinners.



Year 5/6 Basketball Tournament

On Tuesday, 24 talented and passionate basketballers from Years 5 and 6 attended the partnership tournament at Billericay School. The teams showed determination, passion and skill throughout their games.

The B team finished in 5th place and the A team finished in 2nd. Unfortunately the team narrowly missed out on their place in the final, but a brilliant morning was had by all. Thank you to all the parents who helped with transport and to Mrs Barnes, Mrs Payton and Mrs Hennessy for accompanying the teams.



Year 4 Colchester Castle Visit

On Tuesday, Year 4 visited Colchester Castle to complement their History topic: What impact did the Romans have on our society today? The museum had many interactive exhibits and the children particularly enjoyed dressing up as Romans and seeing all the artefacts including soldier helmets, shields, coins and other treasures. There was a story tour down in the dungeons and an architecture session where children had to build a Roman dwelling with a mosaic pattern on the floor. All the children received a lovely goody bag which even included a replica coin! Huge thanks to all the staff and parent helpers who helped to make the trip such a success for the children. It's wonderful for their learning to come so alive.



Christmas Card Project

On Wednesday, talented young artists from Year 1 to Year 6 took part in an art workshop to create a Christmas card design for our local MP Richard Holden. Their creativity and attention to detail resulted in a range of original designs, showcasing the impressive artistic skills across the school. We're looking forward to seeing if one of these wonderful designs will be chosen and sent out this Christmas.

Thank you very much to Mrs Pretlove and Mrs Price for leading the project - it was wonderful to see children from across the school all have the chance to work together and the quality of the work produced was amazing!



Parents to Lunch

This week, we welcomed the parents of children in 3BW to lunch! The event went very well and everyone seemed to really enjoy their tasty lunch! Thank you to all the staff who helped enable the event to take place.



Lesley Williams - Basildon Youth Theatre

To further develop this week's Anti-Bullying theme, on Thursday, the children in KS2 had the opportunity to take part in music, drama and dance workshops with Lesley. As ever, the children had a fabulous time and joined in with great zest and vitality. They also added a few more words to their sign language repertoire. It was a great day and the children are already excitedly looking forward to their next visit from Lesley.

Reading at Buttsbury

Book Club is still thriving in the juniors at Buttsbury Primary School! Over 3 classrooms full of book-clubbers enjoy reading during Friday lunchtimes in the Year 4 area. The Year 6 reading leaders do a fantastic job of shared reading with Year 3 children. Each group of around 6 children choose a book and take turns reading it and discussing it. Everyone particularly loves the stickers at the end of the session! It is wonderful for the reading leaders to work with younger children and impart their love of reading. The Year 3 children enjoy visiting the Year 4 area and developing buddy relationships with their leaders as well as enjoying their stories - never forgetting that the books they read count towards their reading challenge awards.

Reading Buddies Venture:

Reading Buddies is a new venture which started last week. Each Friday, some of the Year 6 reading leaders visit the library bus at the infant site and read with Year 2 pupils. Last week was a real hit and the children were buzzing with excitement about their new reading buddies and the fun they had with their reading. This type of initiative has been proven to foster increased confidence in reading for pleasure. In turn, reading for pleasure is the single biggest indicator of success in future life for children. Carry on reading children! Thank you to all the staff who assist with these activities and to Mrs Cattini and Mrs Pye for organising them.

Humankind Café - Billericay High Street

We have an established link with the Humankind Café, in Billericay High Street. Once a month, some of our children visit the café with members of staff, to join in with the activities offered at the Memory Café. The children enjoyed chatting to the people they met and also had fun playing board games with their new acquaintances. Thank you to Mrs Felton and Mrs Hussey for accompanying the children.



Year 4 'Open Door' Event

Thank you very much to everyone who was able to join us for the Year 4 'Open Door' event on Wednesday. It was lovely to see so many familiar faces - we hope you enjoyed creating Roman mosaics with your children - it looked like a very relaxing afternoon!



Book Fair

We had an extremely good value book fair at school today. Phil Isles works hard to secure a wonderful variety of books to offer for sale at very reasonable prices. It was lovely to see our children take their time selecting books they are interested in reading. In addition, as a result of today's purchases, the commission has allowed us to replenish a fantastic number of books in our class libraries.

Thank you so much to everyone who sent money in with their children to purchase books for them to enjoy reading, you have also contributed to the reading opportunities we offer the children in our school. We look forward to welcoming the book fair back again later this academic year!

The book fair is open after school today and infant parents are especially invited to attend as we have a special selection of books for infant-age children.

Reception/Key Stage 1 Celebrations



Infant Celebrations
 Left to Right Above - Stars of the Week
 Reception, Year 1 and Year 2
 Left - Out of School Success
 Below Left - 50 Things to do before leaving Primary School
 Below Right - Good Manners Award



News from Year One

Year One have had a fantastic week filled with rhythm and exploration! In music, the children began by listening to an instrumental song and drawing how it made them feel. Then, they listened carefully to a lively tune and discovered the beat. They tapped, clapped, and even marched along, before adding percussion instruments to make the experience even more exciting. The highlight was marching around the classroom in perfect time to the beat – what a joyful way to learn! In geography, Year One have been learning about aerial photographs and how to locate key features. The children loved creating their own 'Messy Maps' of the classroom, using everyday objects to represent different features. Some children then took their learning further by drawing their maps on paper. It was a brilliant hands-on activity that really brought map-making to life! Finally, to conclude our week, the children thoroughly enjoyed biscuit tasting in preparation for making their own Christmas biscuits in Design and Technology. The excitement is building as we look forward to designing and creating the festive treats!



News from Year Two

Year Two thoroughly enjoyed making watercolour poppies for Remembrance Day on Tuesday. The children carefully drew the poppies before using their watercolour paints to finish their designs.

News from Reception

This week in Reception, the children have been learning about Remembrance Day where they had the opportunity to make their own poppies. The children learnt that people wear poppies to help them remember the brave people who fought in wars to keep us all safe. They also spent time reflecting on what brave means and who they know that is brave.



Celebration Assembly

'Well Done' to all the children who were awarded MERIT certificates this week.

<i>Pippa Daley</i>	<i>Freya Anderson</i>
<i>Alex Pierce</i>	<i>Coraline Riches</i>
<i>Harvey Perry</i>	<i>Ziah Hernandez</i>
<i>Kerem Korkmaz</i>	<i>Buzz Walker</i>
<i>Olivia Brousse</i>	<i>Isla Bloomfield</i>
<i>Milly Davies</i>	<i>Grace Morgan</i>
<i>William Astridge</i>	<i>Daisy Moughton</i>
<i>Olivia Mallett</i>	<i>Elliot Bacchus</i>
<i>Sophie Bush</i>	<i>Kaiser Thorby Mead</i>
<i>Harry Brooks</i>	<i>Zachary Emson</i>
<i>Soraya Packer</i>	<i>Joe Jackson</i>
<i>Harry Mann</i>	<i>Olivia Taylor</i>



Pen Licences

Well done to Hattie Hodges, Amber Allard, Ocean Martin, Ava McCarthy, Cody Windsor, Jessica Dixon and Hazel Pentecost who all received their Pen Licences this week.

Out of School Success

- * Well done to Jamie Baker (5LM) who captained his football team, steering them to victory last weekend. They won 4-1 against an U11 team.
- * Congratulations to Isobel James (4P) who has completed stage 5 with Elites Swimming School and has now moved up to Stage 6/7.
- * Well done to Bella Pankhania (4C) who performed in her first-ever concert on Saturday - playing two pieces on the piano and singing two pieces as well.
- * Well done to George Day (4H) who was awarded Player of the Match for the second week in a row on Sunday.
- * Congratulations to Joe Jackson (6P) who has passed his Grade 2 piano exam.

This week's 'Writers of the Week' are:

*Perdie Noble Patrick Dillon Jack Fuller
Diego Tyler-Garcia Sonny Hoile Will Williams
Harrison Wooder Thea Robbshaw
Well done to our writing super stars!*



This week's 'Mathematicians of the Week' are:

*Amelia Gabriel-West Hanna Mitchelson
Leif Emanuel-Francis Dara Omosebi
Amelie Owen Matteo Agueci
Zachary Emerson Asa Taylor Finley Pike
Well done to our magical mathematicians!*

Afternoon Tea - Year 4

Another very successful gathering took place yesterday afternoon with the children proudly sharing their favourite pieces of work so far this year. The range of pieces being selected is becoming more diverse by the week!

This week's 'Readers of the Week' are:

*Asa Taylor Bradley Bloomfield Joe Stone
Jasmine Pike George Willis
Blake Silvester Nyla Baker Hanna Mitchelson
Well done to our enthusiastic readers!*

This week's 'Times Table Rockstars' are:

*Harrison Wooder Alice Cassidy Harry Mann
Abi Hau Thomas Knight Olivia Spink
Isla Bloomfield Lilani Luthra
Alessia Tutuianu*

House Points

This week's winning house:

Lions

Top Table

This week, the children chosen by the Midday Assistants to sit at the 'Top Table' were:

**Buzz Walker
Carter Lewis
Maisie Lock
Elodie Wang Gao
Chloe Pierce**



This week's attendance figure is: 96.1%

This year's provisional attendance target is 97.0%

A special 'Well Done' to Willow Class who had the highest attendance this week - 99.7%! Congratulations!

Rainbow Awards

Congratulations to this week's **VIOLET** award recipients:

Jacob Spink Jake Cannon Henry Fernandes Teddy Chapman

Congratulations to this week's **INDIGO** award recipients

Oliver Sutton	Jack Gross	Bradley Bloomfield	Jake Barnes	Sonny Long	Paisley Goodman
Jacqueline Fulker	Ben Heath	Alfie King	Lorne Taylor	Emma Wingate	Harry Asfour
Rose Spink	Felix Halder	Archie Coote	Liam Evans	Nancy Ive	Harry Higgs
Teddy James	Elmeri Hughes	Harry Crawford	Theo Page	Maya Sokolova	

Well done to this week's **BLUE** award winners who have been on the Recognition Board every week since September -

Evan Aarons	Tommy Akinlade	Amber Allard	Amelie Doyle	Jasmine Carter	Jay Lythe
Jamie Baker	Freya Anderson	Matthew Billins	Mariia Fedorova	Maisie Lock	Jessica Hesketh
Theo Barnes	Max Barford	Isla Collins	Felicity Ginn	Hazel Pentecost	Kaan Enver
Ellena Boulwood	Kaitlyn Charles	Elsie Dowling	Jude Goad	Megan Smith	Ronnie Chudasama
Amber Branch	Pradeep	Tilly Giles	Sofia Gross	Felicity Beaumont	Poppy Balkwill-Jary
Lucas Brousse	Emilio Gallone	Clara Hall	Zehra Korkmaz	Emma Booth	Arthur Beadle
Sophia Christofi	Sophia Golberg	Lottie Hammond	Lilani Luthra	Olivia Brousse	Leo Hadassi
Theo Clifford	Sofia Lopez	Finley Harmer	Thomas Munday	Emily Cullen	Chloe Cambridge
Lola Cohen	Holdgate	Maddie Johnson	Ava Pardoe	Jasmine Dong	Jude Brodie
Lewis Eggleton	Evelina Kiafa	Sienna Carter	Arun Sawhney	Amelie Dorman	Zoe Wilks
Austin Ellis	Jennifer McSharry	Kishan Lythe	Megan Shipton	Ben Farrugia	Verity Hewitt
Layla Faris	Sophie Moore	Amelie Moore	Evie Smith	Francesca Ginn	Kumail Jeevaji
Oscar Farley	George Morgan	Zachary O'Keefe	Koen Stephens	Tallulah Green	Archie Field
Jeremiah Hernandez	Daisy Mumford	Ella Palmer	Theo Vasileiadis	Pars Gunay	Jessica Dixon
Leya Isikgun	Perdie Noble	Noah Richardson	George White	Abi Hau	Isla Bellinger
Amber Jobbins	Eione Phillips	Owen Ridall	Summer Aronson	Rory Hearmon	Sophie Smith
Thomas Mason	Alex Pierce	Jack Wells	Mark Bowman	Kerem Korkmaz	Heidi Scott
Jonny McConnell	Bobby Rowling	Andrei Aldea-	George Bradley	Logan Mariner	Noah Nevill
Violet Mills	Oliver Stephens	Nicolaescu	Marley Dowling	Lydia Rhobat	Emmy Atkinson
Olivia Murley	Asa Taylor	Rory Buckley	Maisie Doyle	Seb Stephens	Aubrey Mears
Mollie Parker	Theo Vinicombe	Sophie Mackenzie	Oy Egharevba	Joe Stone	Florence Gladwin
Jude Phillips	Max Wilson	Alfie Thompson	Emilia Escudero	Diego Tyler-Garcia	Mia Dias
Zach Phillips	Zach Arnold	Charlie Wood	Bradshaw	Anouk Yadav	Lara Austin
Harry Shipway	Nyla Baker	Theia Wright	Noah Gazzard	Timmy Akinlade	Callie Beadon
Darcy Shorey	Chloe Berry	Hanna Mitchelson	Rosie Hadassi	Vincent Pranevicius	Alice Bennett
Mollie Smith	Harry Brooks	Frankie Moughton	Ruby Hill	Bailey Ramruton	Erin Collins
Maddie Stower	Alice Cassidy	Charlie Munday	Francesca Howe	Thea Robshaw	Alfie Field
Heath Tanner	George Day	Ethan Rae	Thea Jones	Blaine Mountford	Mollie Hughes
Rosie Taylor	Maggie Dear	Jack Robertson	Tanvi Kondapalli	Soraya Packer	Grace Ivimy
Maddie Wallis	Louie Dixon	Harriet Rocks	Charlie Leach	Luke Pickering	Joe Jackson
Hannah Sijo	Zachary Emson	Charlie Saitch	Darcy Leftwich	Karen Pinder	Olivia Johnson
Tommy Smith	Holly Fensome	Joshua Small	Hannah Lister	Emily Porter	Grayson Kemp
Summer-Rose Smith	Grace Goodenough	Henry Smith	Nifemi Oladele	Emily Wilkinson	Carter Lewis
Teddy Soar	Annabel Guy	Arlo Spencer-	Joey Purkiss	Oliver Wilson	Harry Mann
Olivia Taylor	Reuben Hilborne	Nimmo	Dom Senior	Alex Metcalfe	Zachary Mason-
Ella Tennet	Thomas Knight	Eddie Turner	Summer Tait	Will Williams	Bauchham
Hazel Youngs	Maisie Wallis	Sophie Warden	James Wright		

Inter-House Swimming Galas

Wednesday evening this week saw over 70 excited swimmers, from Year 3 and Year 5, take part in our annual Inter-House galas. The competitions ran very smoothly with everyone having a great time and enjoying the competitive, but fun, atmosphere. The children were urged on by the fabulous support and encouragement from the spectators who seemed to be having just as much fun, in spite of the heat!

The Year 3 gala was won by: **Leopards**

The Year 5 gala was won by: **Panthers**

Our overall Inter-House Swimming winners this year are:

Leopards

Thank you very much to Alex, Rob and John (Elites Swimming) for their assistance with the gala and to all the parents who helped with the timekeeping. Thank you also to Mrs Lee, Mrs Barnes, Mrs Cambridge and Mrs Webb for their help with the galas! Well done to all the children who took part - I thought you were amazing! The race times will also be used to select the school swimming team - children who are successful will receive a letter in due course.

