

Friday 21st November, 2025

This week, we sadly said 'farewell' and thank you to two members of the Trust Board whose Term of Office has come to an end and they have decided not to seek re-election due to work/family commitments.

Laura Irvin

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Laura, who has served as a Parent Trustee for the past four years.

Laura has given generously of her time, attending meetings, taking part in monitoring days and supporting the work of the school in so many ways. Most especially, we are grateful for the care and dedication she has put into writing the Trust Board newsletter. Her commitment and hard work have been truly appreciated, and we thank her for everything she has contributed.

Steve Lague

We would like to offer our sincere thanks to Steve Lague, who has served as a Parent Trustee for eight years, including five as Chair. During this time, Steve has achieved so much for our school community, but his most significant contribution has undoubtedly been his leadership of the Working Party that brought about the successful amalgamation of the infant and junior schools in January 2025. This was an enormous undertaking, requiring countless meetings and the creation of many complex and demanding documents - far more than any Chair would ordinarily be expected to take on.

Steve has been an outstanding Chair; committed, thoughtful and dependable. Beyond his formal responsibilities, he has also given generously of his time to support me as Headteacher. He has been a sounding board for ideas, a listening ear during challenging moments, and a wise mentor and coach when guidance or perspective was needed. His support has been invaluable, both professionally and personally.

We are deeply grateful for Steve's dedication, his leadership and the many hours he has invested in helping our school to thrive. We will miss him greatly.

Fortunately, we have very experienced trustees who will be stepping into the roles created. Andy Fry, who is currently Vice-Chair of the Trust Board, has been appointed as our new Chair and Aaron Mears will be taking Andy's current role, as Vice-Chair. I am looking forward to working with them in their new roles.

Favourite Teacher

On Tuesday, I attended the award ceremony for the Billericay Community Awards, having been short-listed for the 'Favourite Teacher' category. Sadly, I didn't win but I felt honoured to be in the top four nominees across the town. Thank you to everyone who nominated/voted for me - it was lovely to spend the evening with so many people who make such a positive contribution to our town.

Catering Manager - Junior Site

I am delighted to share that, after three recruitment rounds, we have finally appointed a new Catering Manager, Ellen Younger, who will be joining us in January. I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to Julie, who stepped in this term as our temporary Catering Manager, and to the whole catering team for their hard work, flexibility and commitment during what has been a challenging period. Your efforts have been very much appreciated.

Next Week's Diary Dates

School Dinners - Week 3

Wednesday 26th November

- 3M 'Parents to Lunch' event at 12.00pm
- 5.00pm - Year 5/6 singing at the Stock Brook Christmas Market - all welcome!

Wednesday 26th November

- Swimming for 5B and 5LM starts

Thursday 27th November

- 7.00pm - Year 5/6 choir singing at Greenwoods Hotel Christmas Market - all welcome!

Sunday 30th November

- 11.00am - Year 3/4 choir singing at the Barleylands Festive Fayre - all welcome!

Christmas Bazaar - Junior Site - 12.00pm - 3.00pm

It's the Christmas Bazaar tomorrow - a huge fundraising event for the school so we hope to see you there! This is our first whole-school bazaar so we think it might be quite busy so I would suggest wearing light clothing! Also, please note that pushchairs/prams are not allowed in the building due to space. There will be stalls upstairs and in the Small Hall too. Santa is not coming to this event (as it's a little early in the year for him) but, he will be coming to our special 'Evening with Santa' on Thursday 4th December, 3.30pm - 6.00pm - further details to follow!
Year 5/6 Choir - Main Hall - 1.00pm
Year 3/4 Choir - Main Hall - 2.00pm
Thank you, in advance, to everyone who is helping in some way - if you are able to stay a little longer at the end, that would be very welcome too as we sometimes are a little thin on the ground at that point!

CAKES NEEDED!

Don't forget to bring in **home-made or shop-bought** cake donations for the Christmas Bazaar! **Nut-free please!** Please bring them to the school on Saturday morning or after school today (any time before 5.00pm). Thank you.

Key Stage 2 Pantomime - Friday 5th December 2025

This is a really exciting visit for Buttsbury as we literally take over the whole of the Towngate Theatre. If you have not yet paid, please can you make payment asap as we need to finalise details. Please note - this is a 'fun' visit so payment is required rather than voluntary contributions. Thank you.

Infant Site Car Park

Please note that parents should only be parking in the car park if permission has been given by the school, in advance. Please also note that the car park should not be used to cut through to the entrance - please use the pedestrian path.

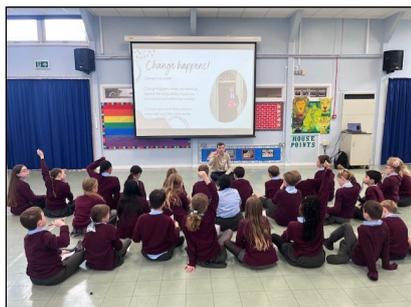
*'Maximum Effort for
Maximum Achievement'*



Explorers
As you can see below, the children are having a great time at our WrapAround Care which is getting more and more popular by the day.

Parents to Lunch

On Wednesday, we welcomed the parents of children in 3P to lunch. They had a lovely time and really enjoyed their first opportunity to experience lunchtime at school. Thank you to all the staff who helped enable this event to take place.



Democracy Week

On Tuesday, the Core 5, House Captains and Year 5 and 6 school councillors had a visit from Thomas Williams to talk to them about politics as a part of his outreach work for UK Parliament Week. Thomas, a 17-year-old studying at Mayflower, is also a member of the Youth Council and works for the civil service, helping to shape policy, particularly around education. It was a great opportunity for our children to understand how someone young and local can help shape the national agenda. The children thoroughly enjoyed listening to Thomas and embraced the opportunity to ask a wide range of questions relating to local, national and international topics.

Bikeability

Well done to our Year 6 children who started their Bikeability course this week, in particularly challenging weather. Thank you to Peter and Matthew for leading the course and encouraging the children to do their best, despite the inclement weather!



Dodgeball Tournament

On Thursday, 20 dedicated and skilled dodgeballers from Years 5 and 6 spent the afternoon dodging, ducking, dipping and diving at the dodgeball festival held at Mayflower High School. Both teams displayed resilience, enthusiasm and skill throughout their games. The B team finished in 6th place and the A team finished in 2nd securing them a place in the next stage. All of the players should be very proud of their performance. Thank you to Mr Mynard and Mr Nation for coaching the teams and to Mrs Mellor and Ms Tutton for overseeing the teams at the tournament. An excellent afternoon of sport!



Panathlon Multi-Skills Event

On Wednesday, children from Year 6 and Year 2, took part in a multi-skills event at William De Ferrers School. They had a wonderful time and enjoyed competing against children from other schools in Billericay, Wickford and South Woodham Ferrers, whilst also learning new skills. The Year 6 children were delighted to find out that they finished in 1st place which means they are off to the County Finals in June/July. Our Year 2's also did amazingly well and finished in 3rd place! Well done to everyone who took part and thank you to the staff who assisted at the event and the parents who helped with transport.



Reception/Key Stage 1 Celebrations



Above - Left to Right
 EYFS 'Stars of the Week'
 Year 1 'Stars of the Week'
 Year 2 'Stars of the Week'
 Good Manners Award
 Left - Fifty Things to do at Home
 Below - Out of School Success



News from Year One

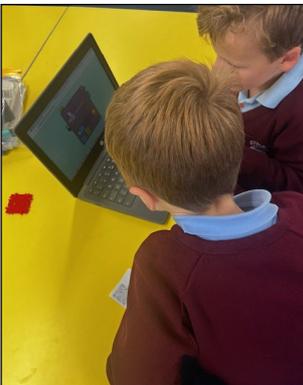
In Maths Year One have started to look at subtraction. This week we enjoyed using the rekenreks to help us find missing parts in our number sentences.

In Geography this week we discovered the importance of a key when using a map. We drew our own symbols and added them to a map of the school.

In Design Technology we designed our own Christmas biscuit. Sprinkles were definitely the favourite decoration to use.

News from Reception

This week, our classes were surprised by the arrival of a little hedgehog, named Prickles. He had wandered in after becoming lost during the recent fireworks and needed a safe, quiet place to rest. The children discussed how Prickles might have been feeling - tired, confused, and in need of somewhere warm. This led to a wonderful conversation about hibernation and why hedgehogs look for cosy, sheltered spots at this time of year and we shared ideas about how we could help Prickles feel comfortable.



School Discos/Magic Shows

The children had a wonderful time on Friday and really enjoyed watching the magic show and then dancing the night away (well, the early evening, at least). Thank you to everyone who helped with the discos, both staff and parents, and to our PFA for organising the events. We raised £1,103 which is fantastic.



News from Year Two

Year Two have enjoyed using the chrome books this week to practise looping instructions in an algorithm. They had great fun using 'Coding for Carrots' to give the rabbit instructions to collect the carrots!

Celebration Assembly

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

<i>Theo Clifford</i>	<i>Harry Shipway</i>
<i>Lola Cohen</i>	<i>Willow Harmer</i>
<i>Elliot Warmer</i>	<i>Scarlett Welch</i>
<i>Kaan Enver</i>	<i>Leo Hadassi</i>
<i>Sophie Smith</i>	<i>Evie Thorpe</i>
<i>Lorne Taylor</i>	<i>Ethan Hall</i>
<i>Ocean Martin</i>	<i>Noah Richardson</i>
<i>Lottie Hammond</i>	<i>Grace Julian</i>
<i>Dylan Mapp</i>	<i>Sianna Anderson</i>
<i>Freya Dormer</i>	<i>Hope O'Sullivan</i>
<i>Florence Costello</i>	<i>Joey Purkiss</i>
<i>NifemiOladele</i>	<i>Charlie Leach</i>

50 Things To Do Before Leaving Primary School

Congratulations to **Emma Lamming** who has completed 30 things!

Pen Licences

Well done to **Evie Thorpe, Owen Ridall & Olivia Brousse** who all received their Pen Licences this week.



Out of School Success

Well done to **Lola Obergan (6S)** who competed in the UKA Southern finals on Sunday and placed 2nd in Ballroom and 3rd in Latin. She also came 3rd and 5th in her couples dances.

Congratulations to **Theia Wright (5M)** who passed her kick boxing grading and is now a yellow belt at her club.

Well done to **Owen Ridall (3M)** who received Player of the Match & Player of the Week on Saturday for his football team.

Congratulations to **Rory Buckley (5M)** who completed his Level 7 swimming award at the weekend.

Well done to **Summer Aronson (5B)** who passed her Perform (performing arts) Ruby Challenge last Wednesday at distinction level.

Congratulations to **Nieve Dyer (3P)** who competed at South Essex Gymnastics Club and placed 5th out of 60+ children.

Well done to **Florence Tungate (3BW)** who was awarded second place at the South Essex Gymnastics competition on Saturday.

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

*Arthur Hitchcock Rory Knowles
Megan Smith Isla Collins
Rory Atkinson Ruby Hill*

Well done to our writing super stars!

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

*Flo Cable Zachary Webster Bria Burke
Isla Collins Alfie Maloney Ellena Boulwood
Tilly Giles Rory Knowles Francesca Howe*

Well done to our magical mathematicians!



Afternoon Tea - Year 5

We had another lovely gathering this afternoon with everyone enjoying sharing their favourite piece of work this year as much as the delicious treats.

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

*Layla Faris Mia Dixon Ronnie Stanley
Ronnie Chudasama Jack Gross
David Timperon Jude Cavanagh*

Well done to our enthusiastic readers!

This week's 'Times Table Rockstars' are:

*Mia Dixon Sophie Mackenzie
Lucas Taylor Elsie Dowling
Dylan Mapp Jacob Spink
Zoe Wilks Austin Ellis*



House Points

This week's winning house:

Panthers

Top Table

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

**Bella Pankhania
Jack Tribe
Sophia Smith
Myles Omer
Maya-Love Chance**

This week's attendance figure is: 96.2%! Sadly, lots of sickness this week!

This year's attendance target is 97.0%.

A special 'Well Done' to Class 4P who had the highest attendance this week - 99.4%! Congratulations!

Rainbow Awards

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

Ethan Hall Jack Keefe	Henry Glover Amelia Korvafa	James Davies Chester Williams	Grace Julian Isaac Tory-Hill	Lucas Taylor
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Well done to this week's **BLUE** award winners:

Sianna Anderson Florence Farrant Sophia Hayes Mila Kent Ozzie Soar Mila Barrett Ines Ferreira Melo Ocean Martin Myles Omer Ernie Pattison Rhea Rai Fletcher Silvester Oliver Allchurch Bobbi Atkinson Gracie Birch Thomas Cannon Jack Cronin Vira Fedorova Florence Fuller Jack Fuller Fiorella Gallone Leah Jackson Isobel James Leonardo Parente	Oliver Sutton Flo Cable Luca Clark Esa Ahmad Nieve Dyer Henry Faux Lara Isikgun Alfie Maloney Ava McCarthy Xenia Puig-Villegas Jessica Russell Chloe Taylor Evie Thorpe Penelope Webster Isabel Shearwood Teddy Temple Noah Webb Amy Wells George Willis Zach Wooder Alfie King Grace La-Rocque Olivia Mallett Bella Pankhania	Patrick Dillon Leif Emanuel-Francis Jax Evans Georgie Harding Ziah Hernandez Leo Hughes Kaydee Quirk Esmay Ramrutton Coraline Riches Edward Smith Leah Ballestero Ruby Brockwell Spencer God Thomas Laughland Joshua Murton Anjola Oladele Buzz Walker Austin Watts Daisy Moughton Amelie Owen Chloe Pierce Isha Sharma Isabella Swift Cody Windsor	Elliot Bacchus Sophie Bush Jessica Chinnery Ben Ferris Henry Fuller Josh Hale Mariah Hands Elsie Ive Avijith Kottapalli Emily Lycett April Marsh Lola Obergan Jacob Ovel Dhruv Patel Finley Pike Michael Reason Elizabeth Sheehan Blake Silvester Frederick Solomons Jack Tribe Alessia Tutuianu Jasmine Pike Matty Rose Cooper Smith	Matteo Agueci Elliot Bailey Isla Bloomfield George Boyer Austin Charters Milly Davies Daniel Dinsdale Mine Emosivbe Ethan Feeney Olivia Gamon Elodie Greenhalgh Marcel Hernandez Amelia-Rose Hewitt Sonny Hoile Lola Hurry Summer Mariner Freddy McQueen Jamie McSharry Grace Morgan Clodagh O'Hara Dara Omosobi Ariella Osborne Callum Ovel
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'Dementia Friends' Talk

Yesterday, our Key Stage 2 School Council, Core 5 and House Captains attended a Dementia Friends training session with Maureen Lee, a Dementia Champion. The children learnt what dementia is, how they can support those with dementia and how they can promote awareness of dementia by having empathy and understanding. Well done to all of the children who attended the training; they had some excellent questions to ask Maureen and have all now received their Dementia Friends badges which they have been wearing with pride. We are very grateful to Maureen for giving up her morning to come and join us. The children in Key Stage One will have a similar talk in January - so watch this space!



Year 5 Football Tournament

On Thursday morning, in freezing conditions, we took two teams of Year 5 footballers to Mayflower for a local tournament. Despite the temperature, the children were all very excited which transferred seamlessly into a high work rate and positive attitude on the pitch. All matches were competitive with very few goals between the teams, and at times a moment of luck or sheer fluke was the difference between winning and losing. Buttsbury B finished 7th and Buttsbury A finished 3rd. The boys showed lots of potential and we look forward to seeing how they develop next year. Thank you to the parents who assisted and supported and to Mr Graves and Mr Tweedie, our coaches.

Year 5 Science Dome

Year 5 were transported into outer space this week, safely from inside the Space Dome! Through this interactive experience, children learned about how the quantity of daylight changes throughout the year, depending on the time of the year. They also learnt about the phases of the moon and how Earth orbits the sun. Finally, they discovered who were the first astronauts in space, to orbit the moon and land on the moon through interactive videos and clips! It was out of this world!!

Out of this world!

