

Friday 5th December 2025

Christmas excitement - the infant and Year 3 plays were amazing with the Year 5 children just putting the final touches to theirs in readiness for their performances next week.

This morning, 12 coaches arrived to take the KS2 children to the pantomime – it's hard to put into words the emotions that engulfed us all - filling a whole theatre is logistically quite a challenge - but one that we accomplish with ease.

Thank you for supporting us in all that we do - I know we keep you on your toes organisationally as we take part in so many things but, hopefully, you'll agree that it's worth it! Not wishing to scare you all, but, I've listed all the events for the final two weeks on the right, as I thought that might be helpful.

Have a lovely weekend and, hopefully see some of you at the Christmas Market - the Year 5/6 choir are singing in St. Mary Magdalen Church at 11.30am.

Christmas Jumper Day

We would like to invite children (and staff) to wear a Christmas jumper instead of their school jumper on the day of their Christmas dinner.

Please note that this is not a non-uniform day as normal uniform should be worn with other than the Christmas jumper. Please do not rush out and buy a Christmas jumper - if you don't have one, how about some tinsel instead? No donation is needed.

Leave of Absence

Just a reminder that StudyBugs should only be used to report absence due to illness. Any other leave of absence should have a 'Leave of Absence' form submitted in advance of the absence - this is required, regardless of whether the leave of absence is authorised or not. Thank you, in advance, for your support with this.

Lost Property

Please check the boxes before Christmas as all remaining un-named items will be recycled at the end of term.

Year 5 Play

Just a reminder that entry to the Year 5 play is strictly by **PROGRAMME ONLY**. This is to ensure that we comply with fire regulations. Please also note that, in order to safeguard all the children in Year 5, no photographs can be taken during the production and no filming is permitted either. Please note that pre-school siblings/toddlers/babies will not be admitted.

Eradicate Polio Campaign

The £220 that we raised from the quiz will pay for 6,800 children to be vaccinated against polio which is amazing!

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.

Forthcoming Diary Dates

School Dinners - Week 2

Monday 8th December

- Post Boxes out from today
- Year 5 Filmed Dress Rehearsal - 9.30am
- Reception Christmas party - pm

Tuesday 9th December

- Year 5 Christmas production to parents - 1.45pm
- Year 1 Christmas party - pm

Wednesday 10th December

- Infant Christmas shop during the day
- Year 3/4 Christmas Dinner and optional Christmas jumper day - Year 5/6 need a packed lunch please
- Year 5 Christmas production to parents - 7.00pm

Thursday 11th December

- Year 5/6 Christmas Dinner and optional Christmas jumper day - Year 3/4 need a packed lunch please
- Infant menu change - fish and chips instead of roast

Friday 12th December

- Infant Christmas Dinner and optional Christmas jumper day
- Year 3 and Year 5 Christmas shop during lunch
- Year 2 Christmas party - pm

Monday 15th December

- Year 4 and Year 6 Christmas shop during lunch

Tuesday 16th December

- Reception visit to Chelmsford Theatre for the panto - am

Wednesday 17th December

- Year 1 visit to Chelmsford Theatre for the panto - am

Thursday 18th December

- Year 2 visit to Chelmsford Theatre for the panto - am
- Carol Services at Christ Church - Year 4: 9.00am - Year 3: 9.45am - Year 5: 10.30am; Year 6 - 11.15am

Friday 19th December

- Last day of term
- Reception Carol Concert at school - 9.15am
- Children's Christmas Raffle - Junior Site
- Year 1 Carol Concert - Christ Church - 1.30pm
- Year 2 Carol Concert - Christ Church - 2.15pm

Monday 5th January

- Children return to school

*'Maximum Effort for
Maximum Achievement'*

KS2 Children's Christmas Raffle

On Friday 19th December, we will be holding our KS2 annual Christmas Raffle! The main prize is a large cuddly toy; second prize is a selection of Christmas chocolate. We will also be pulling prizes to win chocolate selection boxes, Christmas chocolate and sweets! There will be lots to win! The School Council representatives will be coming round to the classes each afternoon from Monday to sell tickets. It is 50p for 1 ticket, or £2 for the strip (5 tickets). All the prizes, other than the two main ones, have been donated by staff.

Recreational Gym

On Tuesday afternoon, thirteen children from Year 4 attended a recreational gym session at Celebrate Gymnastics at Barleylands. The children were provided with the opportunity to use the fantastic sport facilities with the support of the qualified coaches who run the club. They developed their balancing skills by using the beams and their spatial awareness through floor work. The children were a true asset to Buttsbury Primary school as they were polite and respectful and showed great sportsmanship by supporting each other throughout the various activities.

A big thank you to Mrs Felton, Mrs Payton, Miss Tutton and Ms Carson for providing transport and assisting the children whilst on the visit.



Key Stage 2 Carol Services - Christ Church - 18th December Timings

- Year 4 - 9.00am - 9.30am
- Year 3 - 9.45am - 10.15am
- Year 5 - 10.30am - 11.00am
- Year 6 - 11.15am - 11.45am

Please arrange childcare for pre-schoolers, toddlers and babies. Due to space limitations, please note that older siblings should not attend. Thank you.

Arrival

- Service sheets will be handed out on arrival
- Doors will be opened as soon as the church is clear from the previous Carol Service

Departure

- Please leave promptly via the Front Door - please avoid the temptation to walk across to the children.

Parking

- There is no parking available at Christ Church

There will be collecting pots at the end for Little Havens Children's Hospice if you would like to make a donation.

Young Fundraiser of the Year

We're proud to announce that Leif, in 6B, has been presented with the East Anglian Young Fundraiser of the Year award by the Chartered Institute of Fundraising. The award and certificate were presented in class, and we enjoyed watching the BBC Look East feature that celebrated his amazing achievement. Well done, Leif, a fantastic achievement!



Visit to the Pantomime

This morning, the whole school excitedly set off to see Sleeping Beauty at the Towngate Theatre, Basildon. The children had a brilliant time and thoroughly enjoyed joining in with all the pantomime humour and fun. As ever, their behaviour was superlative and they were excellent ambassadors for our school. As you can imagine, a visit like this for 500 children and 50 staff takes a lot of organisation. I would like to thank the staff team for their assistance in ensuring that the visit was a great success.

Billericay Christmas Market

A small group of our Year 5/6 choir will be singing in Sr. Mary Magdalene Church, in the High Street, at 11.30am on Sunday - all welcome!

Year 5/6 Choir

On Monday, 56 members of the Year 5/6 choir performed in a 300-strong massed choir, at the Brentwood Centre, alongside the Essex Youth Orchestra. It was a very prestigious event with the performances being of a very high standard, in terms of technical requirements. Our children rose to the occasion and performed with great confidence and loved being accompanied by such a talented orchestra. Thank you to Miss Brown for teaching the children this demanding piece of music, and to the staff and parents who supervised the children - and - not forgetting, all the parents and families who came along to watch.



Year 3/4 Choir

Last Sunday, over 70 members of our Year 3/4 choir sang at the Barleylands Festive Fayre. This was the children's first ever performance at an event as big as this and I was immensely proud of their singing. The children had worked exceptionally hard learning several songs and sang with great vibrancy - there was not even a hint of nerves!

Congratulations to all the choir members - you were fabulous! I would also like to thank the parents and grandparents who gave up part of their afternoon to attend the event and to the staff who helped with chaperoning.

Infant Christmas Play

I am sure that you will agree that the Christmas play was absolutely amazing. Casting my mind back (a long way now) to when my son was at school, watching the Christmas play was probably one of the most magical moments for me - I hope you felt the same when you joined us this week. The children were fantastic - they performed with great confidence; it's almost impossible to believe how young they are. As someone who loves music, I was particularly impressed by their amazing singing and all the words they had to learn! Well done to our super children. I would like to thank all the staff for their hard work in rehearsing for the play, with a special mention to Mrs Rhobat, who organised the musical side of things!

Thank you also to parents and grandparents for your assistance with costumes!

Thank you also for your generous donations to The Dogs' Trust, the children's chosen charity for 2025/2026.



Year 3 Christmas Play

Buttsbury's Super Stars!

I'm sure you will agree that the Year 3 play was absolutely amazing. I was bowled over by the high-quality of the performance and also by how confident the children were. Their singing, dancing and acting were perfect - they literally mesmerised the audience! My thanks go to EVERYONE who helped make the play so successful. The high standards we saw were the result of great teamwork - children and staff alike! Thank you also to the Year 3 parents for helping the children to learn their words and for the lovely costumes. I would also like to offer a special vote of thanks to Mrs Barnes, who was the show's producer and the Year 3 teachers who all worked very hard to ensure the show was a great success. Thank you for coming along to share the children's talents and thank you for your generous donations towards The Dogs' Trust, the children's chosen charity.



Reception/Key Stage 1 Celebrations



Lighting the Christmas Tree

Last Friday, the youngest child in our school helped me to light our Christmas tree. It was definitely a 'wow' moment!



News from Year 2

This week Year Two have been identifying different word types in preparation to write a Christmas poem next week. The children acted out some verbs in the classroom and then found them in a poem. We're all very excited about Christmas and have loved performing our play for everyone this week!



News from Year One

This week, Year One have thoroughly enjoyed performing their nativity play to the parents. The children worked hard to learn their lines and songs, and their enthusiasm truly shone through during the performances. We are very proud of them all.

We were also delighted to welcome Sue, from School Ministry Billericay (SMB), who visited to share the Christmas Story with the children. Using a range of props, Sue brought the story to life in an engaging and memorable way, helping the children to deepen their understanding of this special time of year.

In Mathematics, our focus has been on 2D shapes. The children explored the properties of different shapes and used them creatively to draw pictures, combining mathematical learning with artistic expression.

Pensioners' Praise

Willow Class had a wonderful time singing at Christ Church for Pensioner's Praise. They sang three songs and put everyone who attended in the Christmas spirit! Thank you to Christ Church for having us.



News from Reception

Reception children have been getting in the festive spirit this week. Alongside their Christmas performances, the children have been learning about the Nativity story and decorating Christmas trees in their classrooms. The week ended with a visit from some of Father Christmas' reindeer friends.



Reindeer Visit

Ahead of the busy Christmas season, some of Santa's reindeers called in to see the children in the infant site today. The children loved being able to meet the reindeer and hear all about their Christmas preparations. Thank you to the Parents and Friends Association for funding this wonderful treat for our younger children.



Santa Meet and Greet

Our first-ever Santa Meet and Greet was a great success - thank you to everyone who came along and to the PFA and parent volunteers who helped at the event. I hope the children who met Santa were very happy! The event did sell out very quickly so we know that we need to have a word with Santa to see if he can meet more children!

Key Stage 2 Celebrations



Pen Licences

Well done to **Chloe Taylor, Penelope Webster and Harry Higgs** who all received their Pen Licences this week.

Out of School Success

Well done to **George White (6B)** who passed his **Grade 2 piano exam with Merit**.
 Congratulations to **Olivia Mallett (4P)** who took part in the **eMotion Dance competition** and was presented with the **Director's Award**.



Barleylands - Sports Awards Lunch

On Tuesday, eight children from Years 5 and 6, went out for lunch to celebrate the Children's Sports Award 2025. The day was primarily to celebrate the achievements of pupils from primary and secondary schools who have exceeded in sport despite their disabilities. The children were served Christmas dinner, followed by brownies and ice cream. During the day, the children were able to meet characters including; Elsa, Elf on the Shelf and Father Christmas, plus a surprise visit from Frank Bruno. At the end of the day the pupils who represented Buttsbury Primary School impeccably received a gift bag full of goodies from Father Christmas. They all had a fantastic day. A huge thank you to the staff who accompanied the children and to Mrs N Robinson who put all the complex arrangements in place.

Tag Rugby

Despite the wet and chilly weather conditions, 10 Year 5 and 6 children went to Mayflower High School on Thursday morning to compete in the Tag Rugby Festival. All of the players showed great dedication to all 4 of their games and worked amazingly well as a team. A huge thank you to Mr Nation, Mrs Maloney and Mrs Webster for accompanying the children.



Year 5 'Walk online' with The Two Johns

Year 5 took part in an engaging and informative webinar this week, focused on online safety. Children took part in a quiz related to their online culture knowledge and discussed strategies that they could put into place should they need. Children took part with great confidence and were able to reflect upon scenarios discussed. In January, we have booked the Two Johns to lead (age-appropriate) online safety lessons for all year groups as we feel it's never too young to start educating children about the online world. The workshops are being funded by our Parents and Friends Association - we are very grateful for this generous donation.

Afternoon Tea - Year 6

The children eagerly joined us for this week's Afternoon Tea and excitedly made their way to the staff room to enjoy yummy treats such as cakes, chocolate biscuits and squash! They enjoyed tucking into their treats whilst they listened with equal delight to other children talking about their favourite work.

For information about how to register your child for our WrapAround Care, please look at the school website.

House Points
 This week's winning house:
Panthers



Some photos from this week's Explorers (WrapAround Care)

This week's attendance figure is: 93.2%! Lots of poorly children and staff!
This year's attendance target is 97.0%.
 A special 'Well Done' to Class 3P who had the highest attendance this week - 98.8%! Congratulations!

Rainbow Awards

Well done to this week's **INDIGO** award winners:

Olivia Spink

Oscar Beckwith

Luke Welch

Ronnie Stanley

Vogue Skehill

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

Vince Drury
Amelia Hudson
Alfie Moclair
Rhys Povey
Rhian Powell
Albie Rangecroft
Poppy Walsh
David Timperon
Arabella Cranfield
Amelia Mangan
Isla Sanders

Alex Fryd
Teddy Youngs
Oscar Jenkins
Otis Ashby
Jack Gross
Ben Heath
Freya Dormer
Emel Enver
Anya Farley
Harrison Wooder

Archie Alderton
Bradley Bloomfield
Noah Dias
Rory Buckle
Julio Ferreira Melo
Elodie Wang Gao
Poppy Goring
Ben Iweka
Dougie Kerr
Esmae Lazell

Maya Sokolova
Lorne Taylor
Mikael Ali Khan
Alfie Asfour
Rory Atkinson
Iris Balkwill
Rhys Carey
Viny Cater
Bluebell Cole
Florence Costello

Joshua McCarthy
Vivaan Mukherji
Hope O'Sullivan
Lola Prior
Jessica Reeves
Kelsie Ridall
Alfie Smallman
Conchobhar Veats
Kaiser Thorby-Mead
Poppy Bolt Emerson

Well done to this week's **GREEN** award winner who have been on the Recognition Board every week since September!

Jemima Broom
Mia Dixon
Freya Evans
Willow Harmer
Ayda Kemal
Ariana Lazell
Amelia Maloney
Finley Paton
Jessica Pilka
Yasmin Salter
Archie Thomas
Alfie Thompson
Elliot Warmer
Charlie Wood
Lily Woods
Bobbi Atkinson
Thomas Cannon
Vira Fedorova
Florence Fuller
Jack Fuller
Fiorella Gallone
Leah Jackson
Isobel James
Grace La-Rocque
Olivia Mallett
Daisy Moughton
Amelie Owen
Chloe Pierce
Isha Sharma
Jack Wells

Evan Aarons
Jamie Baker
Theo Barnes
Ellena Boultonwood
Amber Branch
Lucas Brousse
Sophia Christofi
Theo Clifford
Lola Cohen
Austin Ellis
Layla Faris
Oscar Farley
Jeremiah
Hernandez
Leya Isikgun
Amber Jobbins
Thomas Mason
Jonny McConnell
Violet Mills
Olivia Murley
Mollie Parker
Jude Phillips
Zach Phillips
Harry Shipway
Darcy Shorey
Mollie Smith
Maddie Stower
Rosie Taylor
Maddie Wallis
Teddy Temple

Callie Beadon
Alice Bennett
Erin Collins
Alfie Field
Lysander Goodman
Mollie Hughes
Grace Ivimy
Joe Jackson
Olivia Johnson
Grayson Kemp
Carter Lewis
Harry Mann
Zachary Mason-
Bauckham
Alex Metcalfe
Frankie Moughton
Charlie Munday
Ethan Rae
Jack Robertson
Hannah Sijo
Tommy Smith
Summer-Rose
Smith
Teddy Soar
Olivia Taylor
Ella Tennet
Will Williams
James Wright
Amy Wells

Mariia Fedorova
Felicity Ginn
Jude Goad
Sofia Gross
Ava Pardoe
Arun Sawhney
Megan Shipton
Evie Smith
Koen Stephens
Theo Vasileiadis
George White
Jasmine Carter
Maisie Lock
Hazel Pentecost
Megan Smith
Matthew Billins
Isla Collins
Elsie Dowling
Tilly Giles
Clara Hall
Lottie Hammond
Maddie Johnson
Sienna Lewis
Kishan Lythe
Amelie Moore
Zachary O'Keefe
Ella Palmer
Noah Richardson
Owen Ridall

Barbaros Aksoy
Emmy Blake
Rosa Gladwin
Finley Horton
Emma Lamming
Felicity Tracey
Felicity Beaumont
Emma Booth
Olivia Brousse
Emily Cullen
Jasmine Dong
Amelie Dorman
Ben Farrugia
Francesca Ginn
Tallulah Green
Pars Gunay
Abi Hau
Rory Hearmon
Kerem Korkmaz
Logan Mariner
Lydia Rhobat
Seb Stephens
Joe Stone
Diego Tyler-Garcia
Anouk Yadav
Timmy Akinlade
George Willis
Zach Wooder
Isabel Shearwood



Amazing Advent Workshop

On Wednesday and Thursday this week, Years 3 and 4 had the opportunity to learn all about Advent through a fantastic workshop organised by the Schools Ministry Billericay at the Billericay Baptist Church on Perry Street. Firstly, we listened to a story called 'There's a Lion in My Nativity' by Lizzie Laferton. After that, the children were able to take part in activities such as making a crown, role play, enjoying the chill zone, creating a Christmas card, using paint sticks to create a cross and spotting the difference. One of our parent helpers remarked on what a lovely atmosphere there was whilst the children were busy enjoying their special tasks. We are very grateful to our parent helpers (especially the last minute stand-ins!) and to Billericay Baptist Church for hosting us again, the children really do enjoy the hands-on learning experience.

