

Friday 19th December 2025

As the term comes to a close, it's always lovely to reflect back. Once again, it has been very busy - lots of sporting events, musical activities, visits, visitors, themed weeks and fun, to mention just a few of the things that we do beyond the classroom to ensure we offer the richest experiences possible for our children. I did warn you at the induction meetings that we are a very busy school - I hope that we live up to that statement!

As the term comes to a close, we are also celebrating our first year as a primary school. The three years I spent as Interim Executive Headteacher at the infant school enabled us to establish strong foundations in readiness for the opening of Buttsbury Primary School on 1st January 2025. In fact, the transition was so seamless that it went almost unnoticed, apart from the change to the school signage.

2026 will definitely bring us a visit from Ofsted - we have been waiting for a long time now and, even though the new framework is very different, with no overall judgement anymore, we can't wait to welcome our visitors.

Today, we sadly said goodbye to Mrs Coombs as she leaves us to take up an exciting new role as Deputy Headteacher at a school in Burnham-on-Crouch. Mrs Coombs has overseen a significant transformation of the EYFS phase and her contribution to school life - as a leader, teacher and colleague - has been exceptional. She will be greatly missed, but we wish her every success in her new role.

I would like to thank everyone involved in the life of Buttsbury Primary School for their commitment and support - our children, parents, staff and trustees - with a particular mention to Andy Fry, Chair of the Trust Board, for his ongoing support and for so generously giving his time to attend additional meetings. We are extremely fortunate to have such a dedicated team and we have achieved so much as a result of everyone's commitment and drive.

All that remains is for me to wish you a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year. I am so lucky to work with such a talented team, amazing children and supportive parents.

Christmas Shops

Thank you again for supporting the Christmas shops and to everyone who helped. I am delighted to share that £816 was raised at the infant site and £895 at the junior site - fabulous amounts of money. Well done to our PFA!



Forthcoming Diary Dates

School Dinners - Week 1 - NEW MENUS

Monday 5th January

- Children return to school

Tuesday 6th January

- **Swim Team training at Mayflower High School - 7.45am - 8.45am**
- **Reception Road Safety talks throughout the day**

Thursday 8th January

- KUMON tuition presentation - Main Hall - Junior Site: 3.30pm - 4.00pm

Friday 9th January

- **Non-Uniform Day for Year 5 - for raising the most money in the KS2 Christmas raffle**

100% Attendance

Congratulations to the 246 children who had 100% attendance this term - that's over a quarter of the school so pretty impressive!! Well done!

Staffing News - Assistant SENCO

Following a successful interview on Monday, we are pleased to confirm the appointment of Mrs Beatrix Godfrey as Assistant SENCO, effective from Easter 2026. Mrs Godfrey is an experienced teacher and will be joining us on a part-time basis to lead The Hub provision at the infant site. From January, she will also be joining us on Wednesday mornings, which will be invaluable in providing early insight and continuity within the role.

Health and Safety - Scooters

Please can you make sure that children dismount their scooters when they come through the school gates. There are lots of young children, toddlers, babies, parents, grandparents, in the playground and we want to keep them all safe as there was a nasty head bump sustained this week by a child who was 'scooted' into. Thank you for your support.



Christmas Carol Services

Thank you very much to everyone who was able to join us for our Christmas Carol Services - a really poignant way to bring the term to a close. I hope that you enjoyed listening to the children's class contributions and their singing. Well done to all the children who were as confident and enthusiastic as ever and thank you to Reverend Fowler for her inspiring talk during the services and to the church wardens and volunteers at Christ Church. Thank you also for your generous donations for The Dogs' Trust. My final thanks go to the staff team for all their hard work in preparing the children so admirably at the end of a very long and tiring term!

*'Maximum Effort for
Maximum Achievement'*

Christmas Card Competition

You may recall that, a few weeks ago, some of our children entered a town-wide competition to design the official Christmas card which would be sent by Richard Holden, MP. This morning, Richard came to visit Buttsbury and shared some exciting news - the winning design was the creation of Elodie Wang Gao (5T). What a wonderful achievement for Elodie!

Well done to all our talented artists - you definitely made judging hard as all your entries were phenomenal.



Explorers WrapAround Care

Our 'Buttsbury-own' before/after school club continues to go from strength to strength with lots of lovely activities to get everyone in the Christmas spirit. If you'd like to sign your child up for sessions, please look on the school website or email Mrs Sage - ksage@buttsburyprimary.essex.sch.uk



Schools' Ministry Billericay Assembly - KS2

On Monday, we were joined by Sue, from the Schools' Ministry Team who led our final assembly of the year, which focused on - guess what - Christmas! The children enjoyed assisting with the recount of the story and showed a good understanding of both Advent and Christmas. We also welcomed Sue's husband, Julian, who is a very accomplished pianist - he played a selection of Christmas carols when the children came into the hall and some lively Christmas songs when the children led out - he definitely spread some Christmas cheer. Thank you to Sue and Julian for helping us to prepare for Christmas.



Out of School Success

- * Well done to Dominic Senior, (5B), who completed his Gold Swimming challenge, Demonstrating a wide variety of strokes and techniques.
- * Congratulations to Jack Gross (3M) who passed his 20m badge in swimming.
- * Well done to Amber Jobbins (5LM) who won the Swimmer of the Year for her age group at her swimming club.
- * Congratulations to Sophie Warden (5B) who was awarded her Gold Award at Brownies.
- * Well done to Summer Mariner (4C) who was selected as 'Swimmer of the Term'.
- * Congratulations to Joshua Small (4H) who delivered his lines and sang his solo really confidently in the production of Ebenezer.



Elodie receiving her award from Richard Holden - MP



Afternoon Tea

The last Afternoon Tea of 2025, was enjoyed by 16 children in Year 4, who all had a great time chatting about their work whilst enjoying the cakes and biscuits on offer! Year 3 will kick off Afternoon Tea in 2026!

This year's attendance figure so far is: 96.7%! We've struggled a bit in the past three weeks.

This year's attendance target is 97.0%.

A special 'Well Done' to Foxes Class who have the highest attendance this year so far - 98%! Congratulations!

Reception/Key Stage 1 Celebrations



Above - Stars of the Week

Far Left - Out of School Success

Left - Good Manners



News from Year 2

Year Two have had a lovely week full of Christmassy activities. The children have finished their English poetry unit by writing a Christmas poem. They spent time copying their poems in their best handwriting to go on the front of their Christmas cards. We hope you like them!

News from Year One

This week Year One have enjoyed making calendars for the new year ahead. Using inspiration from the seasons, they painted trees to show how they will look at different times throughout the year. The children also enjoyed making Christmas cards to send to family members at home.



Schools Ministry Billericay - Infant

On Wednesday, the Infant Site assembly was conducted by Sue from Schools Ministry. Sue retold the Nativity Story with the help of some children. It was lovely to remember the real meaning of Christmas amongst the 'busyness' of school life. Thank you Sue and thank you Julian for the wonderful piano playing as well!



News from Reception

It's been a very busy last week of term in Reception with lots of exciting things going on! The children have been making calendars and cards to bring home and enjoyed exploring some Christmas inspired role play. There was a rather familiar looking reindeer trotting around the outside area at one point! The highlight of the week was our visit to Chelmsford theatre where the children had an amazing time singing, cheering and helping to find the lost Christmas magic! We hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and we look forward to welcoming you back in the new year.



Rainbow Awards



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

Bria Burke William McGee

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

Isaac Tory-Hill
Florence Tungate
Scarlett Welch

Oscar Beckwith
Arabella Cranfield
Noah Webb

Harry Higgs
Jack Keefe

Henry Glover
Ruben Skehill

Jack Dodge
Ozzie Soar

Archie Coote
Alfie King

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

Thomas Dyer
David Golberg
Zachary Webster
Noah Dias
Felix Duncan
Teddy James
Archie Field
Noah Nevill

Lottie Hammond
Myles Omer
Ernie Pattison
Mikael Ali Khan
Alfie Asfour
Iris Balkwill
Emel Enver
Anya Farley

Oliver Sutton
Sophia Hayes
Mila Kent
Thomas Laughland
Aron Cuka
Maya-Love
Chance

Esa Ahmad
Percy Metcalfe
Stanley Dillon
Ben Iweka
Dougie Kerr
Vivaan Mukherji
Jude Brodie

Patrick Dillon
Amelie Doyle
Ashley McSharry
Harvey Perry
Coraline Riches
Oscar Turner
Rory Knowles

Sonny Long
Emma Wingate
Nancy Ive
Theo Page
Harry Asfour
Elmeri Hughes
Austin Watts

Christmas Raffle

Thank you very much to all the staff members who donated prizes for the raffle and to the Friends' Association who donated the main prizes! We raised £1,095.75 altogether - double what we raised last year - with Year 5 winning overall by raising £322.00. The raffle is always a very exciting and fun way to end the term!



Key Stage Two Reading Awards

Well done to the following children who received their Reading Awards last week but were accidentally missed out of last week's newsletter - apologies children.

Bronze Awards:

Oscar Beckwith, Vivaan Mukherji, Jessica Reeves, Eni Omopariola, Mikael Ali Khan, Flo Cable, Mia Dixon

Silver Awards:

Archie Thomas, Freya Evans, Mia Dixon, Rhys Carey, Oscar Beckwith

GOLD Award:

Rhys Carey



Key Stage Two Choirs

The Year 5/6 choir were busy again on Sunday - in the morning, some of them sang at Christ Church's 60th anniversary service in the morning and then again in the afternoon at Stock Brook Golf Club's annual Christmas celebration. Once again, they performed with confidence. During the past month or so, the Year 3/4 and Year 5/6 choirs have performed at nine different public events, across the town - most of the events have been during the weekend or after school. The children have made me immensely proud each time - there have been so many children attending each of the events, which is just another indicator of how lucky we are to be supported by so many wonderful families. I am also grateful to the staff who assisted me at the events - our choirs have continued to be very popular - 130 in the Year 3/4 choir; 72 in the Year 5/6 choir, meaning that another pair of hands when we are out and about has been essential!



KS2 enjoying some games

Dogs' Trust

Thank you for your generous donations - we raised £417 across the Year 3 play, Year 5 play and the KS2 Carol Services.

House Points

This week's winning house:

Lions

This half-term's winning house:

Jaguars

The children in **Jaguars** will have 20 minutes extra lunch break on Friday 9th January as a reward.



Basildon Women's Refuge

Thank you very much for your kind donations - we amassed a sizeable collection of toys, toiletries and clothes which I am sure will be gratefully received.

Thank you to Mrs Stephens for organising the collection.

