

The Buttsbury Bulletin

Buttsbury Primary School, Billericay

Spring 2026

'Where in the World?'

By Ethan Rae and Callie Beadon



In the week beginning Monday 12th February, Buttsbury Primary School celebrated its popular 'Where in the World?' themed week. The school was transformed into a vibrant world of creativity and cultures. Each year group focused on a different continent, and each class explored specific countries within those continents.

Throughout the week, pupils took part in a wide range of exciting and enriching activities, including carousel sessions that allowed everyone to learn about countries beyond their own class focus. After completing each activity, children collected stamps to mark their fascinating global 'travels'. These immersive experiences helped to deepen pupils' understanding of geography and countries around the world. Activities included challenging continent jigsaws, orienteering with EYFS, and a special country-themed Wordle—which many students agreed was surprisingly tricky!

Hanna Michelson from 6P stated, "Overall, it was very fun and educational—we really enjoyed the different activities!"

Lara Austin from 6P added, "It was very enjoyable, with a great variety of exciting activities."

Mrs Sherwood from 6S commented, "In Year 6, we learnt about North America, which many pupils found fascinating and are now definitely planning to travel to."

The theme week proved to be a roaring success, with students thoroughly enjoying their learning and teachers delighted by the enthusiasm shown across the school. The entire Buttsbury community agreed that this journey around the world was an unforgettable adventure they will treasure for years to come.



Exciting Explorers Club Brings Joy to Buttsbury Primary School

By Lara Austin and Olivia Taylor



Buttsbury Primary School has introduced a new and exciting initiative: the Explorers Club. This special and supportive before and after school care service has been designed to accommodate busy families by providing high-quality supervision and a warm, welcoming environment for their children.

The school now offers two daily sessions: the Breakfast Club, running from 7:30am to 8:30am, and the Tea-Time Club, which operates from 3:30pm to 6:00pm.

During their time at Explorers, children can enjoy a wide range of fun and engaging activities, including educational games, homework support, outdoor play (weather permitting), snacks, and light meals.

Not only is there a variety of activities available, but children are also encouraged to choose their own. Meanwhile, the dedicated staff carefully plan sessions based on what the children love most. The fun does not stop there: seasonal and themed activities are also offered, such as a 'Naughty Elves' breakfast, making Mother's Day cards, puzzles, and creative crafts.

Alyson Butler, a supervisor for the young Explorers, stated, "It's an exciting and different adventure every day!"

"I loved making wiggly worms and Christmas decorations!" exclaimed Ivy Rose from Hedgehogs Class.

Ronnie, a pupil in Year 3, added, "There are so many fun toys to play with and lots of art equipment."

Overall, the Explorers Club has quickly become a much-loved part of school life, offering children a cheerful and supportive place to begin and end their day.

Junior readers heavily inspire infants on the Reading Bus

By Megan Shipton



Every Friday lunchtime, a small group of Year 6 Reading Buddies visit the Infant site from 12:50pm to 1:10pm, heading to the Reading Bus to enjoy reading and supporting the younger pupils. After 20 minutes of shared reading, the juniors return to school for the rest of the afternoon.

The infants clearly love reading with the juniors and enjoy learning new words each week. The Year 6 pupils are excellent role models, and many of them really enjoy spending time on the well-known Buttsbury Reading Bus, helping the younger children develop confidence in their reading skills. There are definitely a few who look as though they could become fantastic teachers one day!

Mrs Cattini, class teacher of 4C, stated, *"What better way is there to enjoy reading than having a reading buddy from the juniors helping you to develop a love of books whilst being on the Infant Reading Bus?"*

Elizabeth Sheehan in 6S added, *"I always look forward to going to the infants; the children are so sweet and well-behaved!"*

The Reading Link is certainly a highlight for both infants and juniors each week. It continues to show that when older and younger pupils come together with a shared love of books and stories, reading can become a wonderful adventure for everyone.

Year Six Super Sleepover

By Freya Anderson and Poppy Bolt-Emerson

On Friday 30th January 2026, Mrs Robinson hosted a giant sleepover at the one and only Buttsbury Primary School, with an impressive 94 children taking part. Everyone flourished, and the event alone raised a fantastic £1,332.62 for the Parents and Friends' Association.

After everyone arrived, the pupils headed over to the Infant site to play a variety of games. The

thoroughly enjoyed the activities. Lola and Elsie said, *"We loved pass the parcel where you won prizes, and also having fun with our friends — it was so fun!"*



When the excited group returned to the Junior site, the children settled into their sleeping bags and watched the classic film, *Hook*. After about half an hour, they were treated to hot chocolate and biscuits. Mrs Cambridge commented, *"I really enjoyed the movie and the hot chocolate. The movie was a classic."*

Once the film finished — and after plenty of enjoyment — pupils snuggled down and were allowed to chat quietly to their friends for around twenty minutes. Eventually, everyone drifted off to sleep, even if it did take a little while!

The next morning, at around 6:30am, Mrs Robinson took the children outside to play a few energetic games of Rock, Paper, Scissors while the lunch ladies, Erin and Corinne, prepared breakfast. Once the breakfast baps, cookies, fruit, and juice were ready, all the children were led into the hall to enjoy their meal.

After the delicious breakfast, the pupils played more exciting games, including Wink Murder, which proved to be a favourite. Soon after, parents arrived to collect the very tired children.

It was truly an amazing event!

Wonderful World Book Day By Michael Reason, Ben Ferris and Vince Drury

On Thursday 5th March 2026, Buttsbury Primary School proudly celebrated World Book Day. Both children and staff arrived dressed as their favourite book characters, filling the school with colour, laughter, and creativity. From classic storybook heroes to modern literary icons, the variety of costumes brought stories to life and set a joyful tone for the day ahead.

The celebration began with an early assembly focusing on this year's theme, *'Reading for Pleasure.'* Pupils reflected on the importance of finding joy in books and exploring the many different worlds that stories can offer. The interhouse quiz that followed was both challenging and engaging, testing pupils' knowledge of authors, characters, and well-known tales. Throughout the day, 'Drop

Everything and Read' sessions encouraged everyone to pause, relax, and enjoy a quiet moment with a good book.

"My favourite part was the drop everything and read," reported Avijith Kottapalli, a pupil from 6S.

Mr Tweedie, a teacher from 5T, added, *"My favourite part was seeing all the pupils dressed up as their favourite book characters."*

Classrooms were filled with book themed activities, discussions about favourite stories, and opportunities for children to share recommendations with friends.

After the exciting day, the pupils of Buttsbury Primary School went home with smiles on their faces and a renewed enthusiasm for reading.



Human Kind Café Welcomes All

By George White and Emilio Gallone



On Tuesday 20th January 2026, a group of selected School Councillors visited the Human Kind Café on Billericay High Street. The café's mission is to combat loneliness and social isolation while supporting people facing unemployment, financial hardship, and dementia. The pupils attended to offer company to the visitors and to spend time with toddlers whose parents use the café.

During their visit, the children played a variety of games with the adults, including bingo and a quiz. The team—made up mostly of volunteers—were warm and welcoming, ensuring everyone felt included. The councillors also had the chance to learn some new skills along the way.

"It was fun and I enjoyed playing games!" stated Will, a School Councillor from 6P.

Zachary, a House Captain also from 6P, added that he loved the experience and particularly enjoyed playing bingo.

Mrs Felton commented, "They make the community feel included, as they invite everyone, and the people who run it are wonderful!"

It is clear that each visit to the Human Kind Café is meaningful and rewarding for the pupils. Wherever future trips may take them, the Human Kind Café will remain a special place for the Buttsbury community—one they will always cherish.

Lovely Lake Meadows Trip!

By Erin Collins and Kaitlyn Charles

Last half term, on Friday 23rd January, the Year 1 pupils enjoyed a delightful walk in Lake Meadows to support their current Science unit on seasonal changes. During the trip, the children discovered that deciduous trees lose their leaves completely through the winter months, while evergreen trees remain vibrant, their foliage staying a deep, steady green.

Many of the pupils were fascinated by a gigantic evergreen tree leaning to one side, a result of a heavy storm a few years ago. They also noticed that the lake was frozen solid—and were amazed to see ducks walking on the ice.

Edith, a pupil from the Infants, said, "I liked looking at the ducks—did you know they're the same ducks that are there in summer? I learned that they change colour in winter." Luna added, "I liked it when Mr Payne told us how the tree had been pushed to the side because of the storm."

Kyle commented, "We learned about the weather changes through the year. It was really cold on the trip."



One of the teachers accompanying the Infants explained that the children enjoyed exploring different areas of Lake Meadows and had excellent discussions about the signs of winter, as well as some interesting chats about the local wildlife. They also learned ways in which they can help care for the environment.

Overall, the pupils thoroughly enjoyed the trip and found it highly beneficial for their Science and Geography lessons. Despite the chilly weather, Year 1 returned to school full of knowledge and enthusiasm—and with a much clearer understanding of how winter affects the world around them.

SAVAGE STONE AGE ADVENTURES By Pippa Daley and Summer-Rose Smith

On the 4th and 5th of February 2026, the Year 3 pupils took part in an action-packed trip all about the Stone Age. They enjoyed a range of fantastic activities: making real fires under careful supervision, building and decorating their own dens, and creating cave paintings using natural materials.

Even though the weather left them a little soggy, nothing could dampen their spirits!

Miss Watson stated, "It was amazing—wet and fun! Although we had to leave early due to the rain, it still could not ruin the day."

Many pupils particularly enjoyed the activities, even as rain clouds gathered overhead. The brave young explorers were especially excited about making a fire (always supervised by a member of staff).



Amber, a member of Miss McCarty's class, said, "It was good, and the fire was my favourite."

The visit proved highly educational and will support the children's learning, helping them feel more confident in their history lessons and enriching their understanding of the Stone Age. Pupils thoroughly enjoyed the experience, and teachers were delighted to see how much knowledge the children gained.

"I loved making and decorating houses," Emma from 3BW stated. "The Stone Age is way more interesting now!"

Overall, the trip was an unforgettable experience that brought the Stone Age to life in the most exciting way for every Year 3 pupil.