Newsletter

Friday 20th March, 2026

Ofsted Outstanding Provider

BUTTSBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL
AN ACADEMY SCHOOL

As you read this newsletter, Year 4 and I will be enjoying our final activity, having had two wonderful days away from school at Danbury, taking part in an array of outdoor activities. Occasions such as these provide a life time of memories for children but they are only possible due to the parents and staff who give up their own time so generously. We are extremely grateful to work with such committed and dedicated people.

You'll notice we've reverted to an old-style newsletter this week. Traditionalists among you (including me) will have breathed a sigh of relief but, it's just for one week, for the simple reason that I ran out of time to show Mr Graves (who usually adds the final touches to the newsletter when I am on residential) how to use Sway! Oops!

Thank you for responding to the short questionnaire about the ice cream van - we had 478 responses - that's the highest return we've ever had for a questionnaire - hopefully, the Ofsted one, when our visitors eventually arrive, will be just as well supported! Of the 478 responses, 350 were in favour of allowing the ice cream van to continue to park outside the infant school; 71 preferred two days per week and 50 were opposed to the proposal. As we have a considerable majority, we will allow the ice cream van to continue to park there but we will keep this under review.

We had a report of some dangerous parking last week - a white MG - with children who attend Buttsbury - sped past a waiting line of traffic, on the opposite side of the road, then drove, at speed along Springfield Road, before stopping on the hatchings outside the school. Several cars had to stand on their brakes as a result of this.
My motto - it's better to be 10 minutes late, than 50 years early - so, please, don't speed.

Have a lovely weekend and see you on Monday if I don't see you at the Easter trail!

Mothers' Day Sales

Thank you, once again, for supporting the sales and thank you to everyone who helped with the sales themselves. We raised £2,055.44 which is phenomenal. Well done!

Midday Assistant Vacancy - Infant Site

We have a vacancy for a midday assistant, at the infant site, Monday - Wednesday, 11.45am - 1.10pm.
Please contact either school office for further details.
Thank you.

Cinderella - Final Information - Weds 25th March, 2026

Please can children come to the Small Hall at 6.40pm, wearing their costumes, with their black plimsolls in a bag. I will send costumes and plimsolls home after the dress rehearsal so the children have them at home in readiness. Programmes are not required for entry. The show lasts for about 40 minutes and pick up will be from the Small Hall doors after the show.
There will be a collection afterwards for The Dogs' Trust.

Next Week's Diary Dates

School Dinners - Week 2

Saturday 21st March
- Easter Trail - starting at the infant site - 11.00am - 1.30pm

Wednesday 25th March
- Year 3/4 choir performance of Cinderella - 7.00pm (children to come back to school for 6.40pm please)

Thursday 26th March
- Year 4 assembly - 9.15am
- Birch and Elm to visit Billericay Football Club
- Kestrels to sing at Park Lodge (am)

Friday 27th March
- Last day of term
- Easter bonnet parade - infants
- Willow and Oak to visit Billericay Football Club
- Red Rainbow reward day for any new KS2 reds
- Easter Raffle for juniors

Monday 30th March
- Year 6 Easter revision day: 9.00am - 3.00pm; please come in via the front entrance

Monday 13th April
- Children return to school

Easter Bonnets - EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 only

With Spring in the air and Easter just around the corner, we would like to invite the infant children to wear Easter bonnets to school on Friday 27th March. Please don't feel you have to buy anything special, a simple paper headband which the children can colour/stick things to would look wonderful. The children will wear their bonnets into the Easter assembly and join the staff in singing some favourite Spring songs including the ever popular 'Spring chicken'.

Comic Relief

Thank you for supporting our Comic Relief Charity Day. It was great to see everyone looking very relaxed in their pyjamas and the sea of red from the children who preferred this option. Thank you to our School Councillors who sold the red noses throughout the week and to Mrs Wilson and Miss Olive for organising the event. We had lots of entries for the competition too - the winners will be announced next week along with the total monies raised.

Year 4 Assembly - Thursday 26th March

You are warmly invited to join the Year 4 children for their assembly next Thursday at 9.30am. The theme of the assembly will be Danbury Park - please do come along and find out about the children's recent adventures! If at all possible, please arrange childcare for pre-school siblings and babies.

'Maximum Effort for Maximum Achievement'

6B Parents to Lunch

With Year 4 away at Danbury, there was plenty of space for the parents/grandparents of the children in 6B to join us for lunch. It was a very successful event with everyone enjoying the delicious meal as well as the excellent company!
Thank you to everyone who helped facilitate the lovely event.

Year 6 Salsa Making

Yesterday, Year 6 had the opportunity to make dips as part of their DT project linked to South America. During the past few weeks, the children had been researching different dips (and tortillas) working out which ingredients to use in order to make the tastiest salsa! It will not surprise you to hear that they had a great time!
Thank you to all the parents and staff, on hand, to enable the children to prepare and create their own masterpieces!

Billericay Schools' Music Festival

On Tuesday and Wednesday evening, the 74 strong Year 5/6 Choir took part in the Billericay Schools' Music Festival at the Towngate Theatre. The children had worked very hard to put the show together. It was all worth it as it resulted in two fantastic evenings of entertainment. In addition to the choir singing, we also had four children in the soloist singing group, dancers, a hand chime group and readers - there was a definite 'Buttsbury' presence!
I would like to thank Miss Brown for her hard work with the festival choir - she takes the lead on teaching all the songs (as she is a far more talented singer than me) - and all the staff who helped supervise the children at the rehearsals as well as at the show itself.
Our choir rehearsals (both Year 3/4 and Year 5/6) are the highlight of each week for me and I was bursting with pride to see our children perform so confidently and happily.

Football and Chess Tournament

Last Friday, we were invited to take part in the Brentwood Prep annual tournament. This year, we took a football and a chess team. For our chess players, this was quite the occasion as it was their first time playing competitively. After an understandably nervy start, the children settled into their new surroundings and started to pick up some wins which in turn were accompanied by big smiles. The morning was a great experience and one that we hope they can all continue to build on. The football team gave a superb account of themselves too; playing some lovely football, working hard as a team and showing great sportsmanship. The boys finished second in the group stage before it was a tale of two penalty shoot outs in the knock out stage. A 2-1 win in the quarter-final from the spot but the result was reversed in the semi-final. The team should be proud to reach the semi-finals in a tournament of such a high standard.
Thank you to Mr Tweedie for preparing the chess team, Mr Graves for managing the football team and Mrs Maloney, Mrs Paton and the parents who assisted with travel and supported the children.

Reception/Key Stage 1 Celebrations

Good Manners

Reception Stars of the Week

Year 1 Stars of the Week

Year 2 Stars of the Week

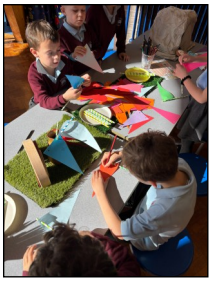
50 Things

Outside Awards

News from Reception

This week, Reception have been busy exploring, creating, and discovering through a range of exciting activities. Following on from our Literacy book of 'The Worst Princess', the children have enjoyed designing and building their own castles, using a variety of materials to bring their imaginative ideas to life. They have shown some excellent team building and architectural skills.

After our recent trip to Hanningfield Reservoir, the class have enjoyed recalling what they saw, heard, and felt, and drew some insects. We were amazed and impressed by the children's dioramas and the children have loved talking about what they have made and the different environments their animals live in. In mathematics, we have been focusing on the numbers 9 and 10, ensuring children can recognise, write, and understand their value. The children have particularly enjoyed exploring number bonds to 10 through different activities.



Year 2 Schools' Ministry Visit

Year 2 had a very exciting day on Tuesday as Sue, from the Schools' Ministry, came in to deliver an Easter workshop. Each class had time in the Easter reflection space to engage in a range of different activities. The children were able to celebrate their successes by recording the 'best news' they had received, share things that make them happy and also, engage in craft making for themselves and others. The children also got to explore the different feel and smell of herbs and spices and thought about how it made them feel. Lastly, there was a quiet area, giving the children time to reflect if they wished to. Olivia from Birch shared "I liked creating a flag to celebrate my best news ever!"

Laura, from Oak, said "my favourite part was drawing the foods that make me happy or sad."

Miss Olive said "It was great to see the children engaging in so many different activities. I particularly liked the time they took making crafts ready to share with their loved ones!"

Overall, it was a fantastic day filled with lots of fun activities. Our many thanks go to Sue, and her team, for providing our school with such lovely workshops.

Year One visit to Call of the Wild

The animals were certainly enjoying the sunshine during the Year One trip to 'Call of the Wild' this week. The macaws enjoyed showing off as they ate their fruity snack and the baby wallaby enjoyed a snuggle in mummy's pouch. The Colobus monkeys were very excited as the children walked past, jumping along the branches and the caiman enjoyed a dip in the water. The children were amazing as they listened to the 'Bugs and Beasties' talk and many conquered uncertainties as they stroked a cockroach, millipede and snake! An amazing day was had by all!

Key Stage 2 Celebrations

Celebration Assembly

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

Vogue Skehill	Jack Keefe
Stanley Dillon	Sonny Long
Emmy Atkinson	Evelyna Angheluta
Julio Ferreira Melo	Conchobhar Veats
Esmae Lazell	Maddie Stower
Ellena Boultwood	Leya Isikgun
Amelie Moore	Finley Harmer
Owen Ridall	Arianna Lazell
Faith Fenton	Freya Evans
Summer Tait	Mark Bowman
Thomas Dyer	Emmy Blake
Mila Kent	Alexander Smith

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

Hazel Pentecost Rory Knowles Sophia Hayes
Rory Atkinson Jamie Baker Rory Buckle
Zachary O'Keefe Archie Thomas

Well done to our writing super stars!

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

Teddy James Luca Clark Charlie Wood
Evelyna Angheluta Jamie Baker
Noah Dias Leo Hadassi Fletcher Silvester

Well done to our magical mathematicians!

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

Ethan Hall Kumail Jeevaji Freya Dormer
Zach Phillips Tilly Giles Theia Wright
Marley Dowling Arthur Hitchcock

Well done to our enthusiastic readers!

This week's 'Times Table Rockstars' are:

Isla Bellinger Felicity Tracey Theo Barnes
Layla Faris Grace Julian Benedict Iweka
Oscar Farley Nieve Dyer Finley Harmer

Pen Licences

Well done to George Vail who received his Pen Licence this week.

Out of School Success

* Well done to Dougie Kerr (5T) who won a gold medal on Sunday at the JKA England London, SE & SW Regional Karate competition.
* Congratulations to Jake Cannon, Jamie Baker and Heath Tanner (all in Year 5) who recently took part in a performance of Seussical Junior with Frances School of Drama (FSD).
* Well done to Leah Jackson (4P) who passed her Grade One piano exam with a brilliant score, just missing out on a Merit!
* Congratulations to Karen Pinder (4H) who was awarded the 800m distance swimming certificate last weekend.
* Well done to Jessica Russell (3P) who passed her Preparation grade level 2 in Women's Artistic Gymnastics and was awarded a silver medal on Bars and 4th place on the beam on Sunday.

Afternoon Tea

The Year 6 children excitedly made their way to the Staff Room for this week's afternoon tea and eagerly tucked into their treats of mini-doughnuts, muffins and chocolate biscuits. They were equally enthusiastic when listening to their peers talking about their work and asked lots of thought-provoking questions.

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:

Koen Stephens
Theo Vinicombe
Theo Vaileidis
Ernie Pattison
Zachary Mason-Baukham

This week's attendance figure is: 96.7 %!

This year's attendance target is 97.0%.

A special 'Well Done' to Classes Foxes and Rabbits who had the highest attendance this week - 100%! Congratula-

Sports Hall Athletics County Final

After being successful in the previous two rounds, the Sports Hall Athletics team competed in the Essex County Final - this was our first appearance in this final for over seven years! The children ran, jumped and threw with everything they had to try and claim points for the team. The final added in three new running events and an extra athlete to each field event so everyone stepped up and took on a little more responsibility within the team. The children were fantastic ambassadors for the school and although we are yet to find out how they did individually, we know that as a team, they finished in 9th position. An excellent achievement by all. Thank you to Mr Graves, our team manager, Mr Nation for supporting with coaching, Mrs Maloney for assisting and the parents who helped with transport and supported on the day.

Bird Box Making with the Rotary Club

On Thursday morning, some children from Year 5 worked with members of the Rotary Club to make some bird boxes. The project will contribute towards the school's Eco-School award application as we aim to provide more habitats for local wildlife. This was also another opportunity to continue our ongoing partnership with the Rotary Club. The children's DT skills shone through and we look forward to positioning the boxes across both sites soon.

Rainbow Awards

Congratulations to this week's **GREEN** and **YELLOW** award recipients:

Aydan Aparisi

Hattie Hodges
Harry Higgs

Teddy Chapman
Faith Fenton

James Davies
Isaac Tory-Hill

Congratulations to this week's **ORANGE** award recipients;

George Morgan
Jack Gross
Finley Harmer
Aniyah Luthra

Liam Evans
Alesha Mittal
Alfie Smallman
David Timperon

Florence Costello
Arabella Cranfield
Freya Dormer
Julio Ferreira Melo

Mikael Ali Khan
Alfie Asfour
Oscar Beckwith
Rhys Carey

Henry Glover
Reggie Murray
Scarlett Welch
Eni Omopariola

Congratulations to this week's **RED** award recipients: Your non-uniform day is on **Friday 27th March**

Luca Clark
Megan Smith
Ernie Pattison
Owen Ridall
Matthew Billins
Jessica Reeves
Kelsie Ridall
Isla Sanders
Conchobhar Veats
Poppy Walsh
Lola Prior

Pippa Daley
Emilio Gallone
Sophia Golberg
Sophie Moore
Eione Phillips
Alex Pierce
Jude Cavanagh
Charlie Partridge
Amelia Mangan
Esmae Lazell

Bobby Rowling
Oliver Stephens
Asa Taylor
Theo Vinicombe
Alfie King
Jack Cronin
Maya Love Chance
Aron Cuka
Spencer Goad
Cailin Mitchell

Jacob Spink
Alfie Moclair
Jacob Ovel
Dhruv Patel
Rhian Powell
Albie Rangecroft
Jack Tribe
Joshua McCarthy
Vivaan Mukherji
Hope O'Sullivan

Rory Atkinson
Iris Balkwill
Vinny Cater
Bluebell Cole
Emel Enver
Anya Farley
Elodie Wang Gao
Poppy Goring
Ben Iweka
Dougie Kerr

Danbury Park Residential Visit

Danbury Park Residential Visit

Year 4 have had an amazing time on their residential visit to Danbury Park. The children's behaviour has been brilliant and they rose to every challenge presented! My thanks go to the members of staff and parents who accompanied the children on the visit - without such a dedicated team, the visit would simply not be possible. I would also like to say a special word of thanks to Mrs Cattini who organised the visit - she did a wonderful job! I suspect everyone (including me) will be rather tired when we return later today!