



— July 2025 —

Butlers Court School

Believe and Achieve Together



As we come to the end of another exciting and busy term at Butlers Court, I'd like to take a moment to reflect on the many wonderful events and achievements we've enjoyed over the past few weeks.

From our fabulous Year 6 mini-enterprise, Continents Week, four fantastic sports days and Wye Valley District Athletics, the brilliant Year 6 production of Ali Baba and The Bongo Bandits, to the great PTA Summer Fair, it's certainly been a busy and exciting time filled with fun, learning, and a great sense of community.

I'd like to thank everyone who attended our music soirée last week; it was a delightful celebration of our children's musical talents, and every performer did themselves proud. We hope all of you enjoyed it too and thank you for joining us for the evening.

The PTA Summer Fair was another tremendous success, thanks to the dedication and hard work of our PTA team. The children's dances were a real highlight again, and we were delighted to hear how much money we raised. These funds raised will make a real difference as we continue to enhance the facilities and provision at our school – thank you all so much for your support.

Today, we say farewell to Mrs Martell who is retiring after an incredible 30 years of dedicated service at Butlers Court. Denise – I'm sure you have left a lasting impact on countless children here and we wish you every happiness in the future.

We also say goodbye today to Mrs Mathur – thank you so much Aarti for your care and kindness over the past 3 years.

To our Year 6 leavers and all children moving on, we send our very best wishes for the exciting journeys ahead. Please stay in touch – you will always be part of the Butlers Court family.

A quick reminder: children return to school on Thursday, 4th September. Please can I remind you that children may wear either their winter or summer uniform when they return, up until the October half-term.

As we head into the summer break, I hope you all have a lovely break and manage to find the time to relax and recharge.

Thank you for your continued support – it means so much to us. I wish you all a wonderful summer and look forward to welcoming everyone back in September.

Warm regards,
Mr Butler



EYFS NEWS



What we've learned

What a wonderful year we have had in EYFS. The summer term has been great fun, filled with lots of opportunities for outside learning. We enjoyed playing and learning in our wonderful garden. We've been busy growing plants and thanks to all the children's help our sunflowers are now even taller than Mrs Green!

Our Forest school sessions have continued to be a great success and the children have been really brilliant at working with their friends on new challenges.

We have also grown up this term and we have started to think about moving to Year 1 in September. We have shown great resilience with every new challenge. We have met our new teachers and are ready to come back in September for more Butlers Court adventures.



YEAR 1



Science Oxford Trip

We had a fantastic time visiting the Science Oxford Museum. We visited the planetarium dome where we were able to venture through space to the Moon. The children loved looking at the different constellations of stars and what they represent in a range of cultures. Following this, we went for a walk around the ground spotting different types of plants and animals. We even had the chance to dress up as bees and act out flower pollination ourselves! After this, we went to visit the exploration zone where children explored different Science marvels. This made us ask lots of different questions. Can you build a circuit to make the lightbulb turn on? When looking in a heat camera, why does the ice turn our hands blue? What materials are attracted to the giant magnets?



We had a great time becoming mini scientists for the day!



Judaism Learning

In RE, we have been learning all about Judaism this term. To bring our learning to life, we were delighted to have Malcolm visit us. He is a member of the local Jewish community and brought lots of special items for us to see and touch!

He showed us his collection of 'Kippahs' and we were allowed to try them on. We also had the opportunity to try on his prayer shawl. We were very lucky to be able to look at Malcolm's copies of the Torah that he was given when he was 13. This is a very special age for people in the Jewish faith as this is when you become an adult! It was great to be able to ask him lots of questions about his faith and how he practices.

Challah bread is an important bread for members of the Jewish Community, and is eaten every Friday during Shabbat. We made our own 'Challah Bread' by mixing, kneading and then baking our bread. It was great to then taste our creations.

We thought we made a fantastic Challah bread! We paired our Challah bread with a range of other foods that are eaten during a Shabbat meal. This included pomegranate and apple with honey which is eaten to celebrate a sweet new year.

Super Salad Making

Our DT project this year was all about making super Vegetable Salads! To be ready to make our salads we had to wash our hands and make sure our surfaces were clean. We learnt how to prepare our vegetables by washing them, cutting and grating any that needed and mixing them together. We really enjoyed tasting a range of vegetables and then choosing which ones would be great in our group salads! We had to show great team work skills to be able to design and make a salad that we would all enjoy. We all think that our salads tasted brilliant and are excited to show our new skills at home!





YEAR 2

What we've learned this term

This term, our year 2 children have been combining creativity, storytelling, and practical skills to bring the enchanting world of Shakespeare's 'A Midsummer's Nights Dream' to life through a fun and engaging puppet-making project. The children began the week by practising stitching on binca to create beautiful bookmarks. Then they used their creative skills to design their chosen character from the play. Afterwards, the children used a felt template to sew each puppet together using running stitch and overstitch. These simple yet effective stitches allowed them to create movable, colourful puppets from felt and fabric. They then used further fabric and materials to embellish their characters with outfits, fairy wings, hair and other accessories. The finished puppets look wonderful and we hope that the children enjoy creating puppet shows at home for their family and friends.



The Year 2 children have had a fantastic term at Mini Athletics Club. They have focused on key skills including: sprinting; relay races; under and over-arm throwing; jumping for distance and height; as well as egg and spoon racing! The children have shown super resilience, kindness and honesty which has been great to see. Well done to all of the Year 2 athletes!

Legoland

As part of our learning about Habitats this term, Year 2 visited Legoland for a very enjoyable trip. The children went to an interesting 'Habitats' workshop where they got to build their own animals and habitats out of Lego. They then went on the 'Deep Sea Adventure' ride to see many fish in an ocean habitat, including sharks and sting rays. We also got to enjoy many rides including: The Dragon, Driving School and Ninjago. The children and adults all had a great time!



In Science Year 2 learnt about the important role farmers play in our society to provide shops and supermarkets with fresh produce that we can then enjoy. We looked at the long process it takes for food to grow from a seed into the food we see on supermarket shelves. We then learnt about the barriers that farmers have to face, such as poor weather conditions, birds eating the seeds, weeds and plant disease.

We then thought about how to protect our own tomato seeds which we planted. We therefore made our own bird scarers using blank CDs and decorated them to look like animals which will hopefully prevent birds from eating the tomato seeds. They look wonderful blowing around in the wind and so far they have kept the birds away!



YEAR 3

Twickenham Stadium



Year 3 enjoyed an exciting and action-packed trip to Twickenham Rugby Stadium, the home of English rugby! The children thoroughly enjoyed a fascinating tour of the stadium, where the children explored the players' tunnel, changing rooms, and even got to sit in the stands where the Princess of Wales sits!

We also visited the World Rugby Museum, where the pupils saw real rugby kits, trophies, and learned all about the history of the game. There were plenty of hands-on exhibits that brought the sport to life!

To finish the day, the children took part in a brilliant DT workshop, where they became architects and engineers, designing their very own sports stadiums. Using creativity, teamwork, and problem-solving skills, they came up with some fantastic ideas as to how and where to build the perfect stadium!

It was a fantastic day full of learning and lots of fun!

Outdoor Learning Day

On Monday 7th July, Year 3 enjoyed a fun-filled day of outdoor learning and adventure!

Our exciting day began with an orienteering challenge, where the children put their map-reading skills to the test as they navigated around the school grounds. This activity brought out the best in their teamwork, problem-solving and determination.



Inspired by the natural world, the children then turned their attention to poetry. Using twigs, pebbles, and leaves as creative prompts, they composed imaginative nature poems. They performed these poems confidently to their peers.

As part of our Animals Including Humans topic in Science, the children have been learning all about the human skeleton. They had the chance to draw around each other and accurately label the bones in their bodies—an interactive and memorable way to reinforce their learning.

In the afternoon, we ventured to the pond for a pond dipping activity. Armed with nets, trays, and magnifying glasses, the children explored the hidden world of pond life. Even though there was a lot of algae and it was hard to spot many creatures, everyone still really enjoyed exploring and discovering. We ended our day with a refreshing ice lolly and reflected on all the fun and learning we had shared.

Although we didn't get the chance to complete our activity inspired by British environmental artist Andy Goldsworthy, we're looking forward to creating our own nature-based artwork next week.

It was a fantastic day, thoroughly enjoyed by all. The children amazed us with their enthusiasm, creativity, and teamwork—a truly special celebration of outdoor learning.

Continents Week

The Year 3 children had a truly food-tastic and unforgettable experience during Continents Week, diving into the fascinating culture of Asia through a hands-on sushi-making workshop. As part of their learning, they explored the history and origins of chopsticks, discovering how these ancient utensils have been used in many Asian countries for thousands of years.

With plenty of excitement and curiosity, the children practised using chopsticks, challenging themselves—and each other—to pick up a variety of tricky objects. There were lots of laughs and cheers as they competed in fun chopstick games, showing off their newly learned skills.



It was a fantastic week of cultural exploration, teamwork, and creativity. Well done to all of Year 3 for their enthusiasm and brilliant sushi-making skills!

YEAR 4

Celtic Harmony Residential



Earlier in the term, Year 4 went on an unforgettable residential trip to Celtic Harmony, where they stepped back in time to experience life in the Iron Age. Staying in authentic roundhouses, the children quickly adapted to their new environment, showing great enthusiasm and teamwork throughout the experience.

From practising archery to celtic warrior practice, the children embraced every opportunity to learn new skills. The trip was more than just educational—it was a chance to build resilience, independence, and confidence. Many children stepped out of their comfort zones, tried new things, and discovered just how capable they really are. There was plenty of fun along the way! Marshmallow toasting around the fire, storytelling sessions, and team games, to name a few, created lasting memories and strengthened friendships.

Celtic Harmony gave our children a truly enriching experience—one filled with laughter, learning, and personal growth. We are incredibly proud of our children following their fantastic residential trip to Celtic Harmony.

Outdoor Learning

This term, Year 4 enjoyed an outdoor learning day, linking it to Continents Week. Year 4's continent was Europe and they took part in a variety of activities throughout the day. One activity was exploring Kadinsky's art before creating their own using chalk on the playground. Another activity involved using natural resources to create models of famous European monuments, in small groups. The monuments were: the Eiffel Tower, Stone Henge, the Parthenon, the Colosseum and the Sagrada Familia.



The Wycombe Swan

Year 4 visited the local theatre. They went to see a performance of Horrible Histories, Awful Egyptians which brought their cultural learning to life.



YEAR 5

Beaconsfield High School

Our Year 5 pupils recently had the delightful opportunity to visit Beaconsfield High School for a memorable secondary experience day. This engaging event allowed the children to immerse themselves in a variety of lessons, including Psychology, Music, Drama, and Physical Education, each providing a glimpse into the exciting world of secondary education.

One of the highlights was a captivating 'Harry Potter' themed STEM day, where the students were challenged to solve the mystery of the murdered school caretaker. Through an array of scientific experiments, they cleverly pieced together clues and successfully identified the culprit, all while having immense fun. Additionally, the pupils had the chance to ask questions about secondary school life, which helped alleviate any anxieties they had about transitioning to this new chapter.

The day concluded with our Year 5 students feeling more confident and enthusiastic about their future, eagerly anticipating their forthcoming journey after Primary School.



Wembley Stadium

On a memorable day, our Year 5 students embarked on an inspiring trip to Wembley Stadium, immersing themselves in both the history and excitement of this iconic venue. The adventure began with an engaging Oracy-based workshop, where children took on the role of football commentators. They used descriptive language to vividly portray famous matches, enhancing their speaking and listening skills while fostering a passion for the sport.

Following the workshop, the pupils enjoyed an exhilarating behind-the-scenes stadium tour. They explored the changing rooms and had the unique opportunity to visit the pitch side, where they sat in the presence of footballing legends with shirts from the likes of Ronaldo and Messi.

Additionally, the students delved into the rich history of Wembley Stadium, culminating their visit with a glimpse into the royal box. This trip not only enhanced their understanding of sport but also provided invaluable life skills through teamwork and communication.

Globe Theatre

Year 5 had a truly wonderful day at The Globe Theatre, an experience that seamlessly complemented their recent studies of Shakespeare's timeless masterpiece, Romeo and Juliet. The excursion commenced with an engaging guided tour, during which the children delved into the rich history of the Globe and its illustrious repertoire of stories.

Following the tour, the students participated in an immersive acting workshop. Here, they enthusiastically embraced their roles as Romeo and Juliet, re-enacting the iconic balcony scene. The combination of learning about the theatre's fascinating past and stepping into the shoes of these legendary characters allowed the children to engage with the material in a dynamic and memorable way.

Overall, the day was filled with laughter and creativity, leaving an indelible mark on the students' understanding of Shakespearean theatre.



YEAR 6

Our Final Term at Butlers Court

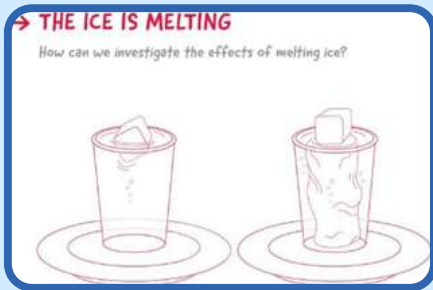
Mini Enterprise 2025

Year 6 rolled up their sleeves and treated us to sweet treats, activities and shopping opportunities as we held our Mini-Enterprise 2025 event. The children worked together to raise money for a combination of charities and their Leavers' Party.



Continents Week

Year 6 were excited to discover they would be learning all about Antarctica for Continents Week this year. Throughout the week, we learnt about the climate, explored animal adaptations, used our understanding of angles and fractions to produce mathematical sketches and were even lucky enough to have our previous Deputy Head, Mr Sutton visit, as he shared his first hand account of visiting this isolated continent



Pop-up Books

As pre-tradition, the year 6 children have been hard at work, producing a pop-up book for their Year 1 reading buddies. After an in-depth meeting in which the children could find out exactly what kind of book their buddies would enjoy, they spent many hours carefully writing a story, before bringing this to life with 3D pop-ups and decorations.



Year 6 Production

All of the children have been working incredibly hard to learn the songs, dances and lines for our summer production of 'Ali Baba and the Bongo Bandits'. We have been so impressed by their dedication and hope you enjoyed the performances as much as we did.

We want to take this opportunity to say well done to all of the children and to thank the staff who supported them throughout.



Farewell to Our Furry Friend

As our Year 6 pupils prepare to move on to the next chapter of their school journey, some gathered to say a warm goodbye to our beloved therapy dog, Boris. Boris' calming presence has brought comfort, smiles, and confidence to countless children here at Butlers Court. Thank you, Boris, for your unconditional support.



CONTINENTS WEEK

It was an exciting week at Butlers Court from Monday 23rd - Thursday 26th June when each year group was given a different continent to study for the week. Children explored the different countries, languages, climates, landscapes and cultures across their continent throughout the week. Everyone had the opportunity for hands-on learning whether it was through art, food tasting, music or activities outside in our school grounds. We were fortunate to have many parent visitors who came in to tell the children about their own experiences living in different continents.

- Early Years enjoyed exploring the music and art from different African countries and identified where the different countries were on the world map. They were lucky to have many visitors to tell them about life in Africa.
- Year 1 had a great time finding out about the Amazon Rainforest in South America and exploring which animals and plants can be found there. They also wrote their own lovely poems based on the landscapes in South America.
- Year 2 researched about Native Americans from North America and made their own dreamcatchers and worry dolls based on ancient traditions. They also loved creating their own pastel drawings of the famous artist Frida Kahlo.
- Year 3 had a wonderful time exploring the cultures of Asia and had a go at using chopsticks and even made their own delicious sushi.
- Year 4 created some wonderful blackout poetry based on the different landmarks in Europe and explored the vast array of languages and cultures within Europe.
- In Year 5 the children had the opportunity to perform the Hakka based on their work on Australasia. They also created their own aboriginal art using their fingers.
- Finally Year 6 enjoyed the week learning about the most extreme continent of Antarctica. They researched the wildlife that is found there and how animals have to adapt to live in such an extreme environment. They had a wonderful visit from our old deputy headteacher who told them about his travels there.



SPORTS DAY



The Butlers Court Annual Sports Day proved to be an exceptional event, showcasing the enthusiasm and determination of our students across all year groups.

The Early Years pupils participated in their first Butlers Court sports day, competing in delightful events such as the buggy race, dress-up race, and sprint. Their joy was palpable, and Misbourne House emerged victorious as the winners in EYFS!

In Key Stage 1, the children bravely tackled the slightly cooler weather, demonstrating resilience and determination during races including the sprint, obstacle course, and sack race, with Wye securing first place out of the four house teams.

Lower Key Stage 2 students in Years 3 and 4 thoroughly enjoyed their races, spurred on by enthusiastic parent support; Wye again emerged as the winners after some closely contested mixed relays!

Finally, the Year 5 and 6 pupils displayed commendable passion for their house teams. Year 6 particularly enjoyed their last Primary school sports day, with Chess emerging as winners in this Upper Key Stage 2 section.

Overall, the sports days were a tremendous success. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the parents for their unwavering support, and congratulations to Wye who were the overall winners of all sports days combined.



Wye Valley District Athletics

Well done to all 50 athletes who competed brilliantly against 10 other schools in a variety of track events and relays last week. Butlers Court School looked great in our sponsored Oakwood Estates kits and came second overall! Well done.

Year 5 & 6 Cricket Competition

On Wednesday 18th June, our Year 5 and 6 cricketers participated in an exciting competition against other local schools. Despite the sweltering heat, our girls' and boys' teams exhibited exceptional sportsmanship and teamwork, showcasing their determination and resilience throughout the day.

The girls' team played brilliantly, demonstrating skill and composure under pressure, ultimately securing a coveted spot in the final match. Their hard work paid off, and they finished as runners-up, a commendable achievement that speaks volumes about their collective effort.

Meanwhile, the boys' teams also showcased their talent, with one finishing in a commendable 3rd place and the other securing 5th. Well done to our talented cricketers at Butlers Court! Your dedication and teamwork were an inspiration to everyone present.

ART

It has been another amazing year of art in our school and I am so proud of all of our talented children at Butlers Court!

I started the year meeting all my new Year 1's and creating a brand new cupcake project which they did brilliantly! We went on to do snowmen, penguins, spring flowers, hot air balloons and Chinese Ming vases to finish off the year in style.

In Year 2 we created artwork on Charlie & Lola, the Great Fire of London, Tower Bridge, African elephants and the Very Hungry caterpillar butterflies which you should see flying around the art room in September!

Year 3 started the year with cave paintings and ended it with Egyptians with Dorset collage scenes and learning to draw 3D shapes sandwiched in between.

We began Year 4 by looking at Julius Caesar with pencil sketches, coin drawings and clay, moved onto winter scenes in December then straight into our Chuck Close Harry Potter group work before finishing with the Tempest and Aslan the lion.

In Year 5 we undertook 3 epic projects of 3D lizards in the autumn term, Oceans in the spring term and Mojave Desert art installations in the summer term with some amazing results!

Finally in year 6 we started by making some scary Medusa masks for the Autumn term, moved onto beautiful water colour toucans before tackling the big topic of war and ended with some Islamic clay tiles - what a year!

I hope you have enjoyed seeing the beautiful artwork at the exhibition this term as well as a taster of some of the art projects at parents evening - we are looking forward to doing it all again next year!

Have a lovely summer, Mrs Habgood x



SPANISH

In Spanish we have been

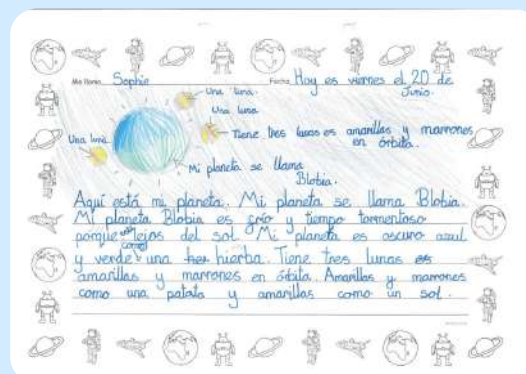
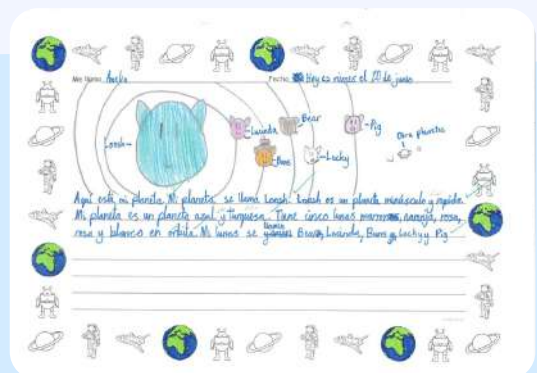
learning about the planets.

We have written a description

of an imaginary planet.

Here is some wonderful work

from year 5.



Governor Hub

Introducing Mrs Rachel Selmes



Governor Profile

The Governors were delighted to welcome Mrs Rachel Selmes as a Parent Governor to the Board as a Parent Governor in July. Thanks also goes to the other excellent candidates. Her responsibilities will be confirmed at the start of the Autumn Term with details updated on the school website alongside any other changes to the roles and responsibilities of Governors.

What is your professional background?

I have worked in sports governance for 17 years, primarily at The Football Association, where I focus on compliance with domestic and international regulations. I advise leagues, clubs and players on player eligibility, compensation and contractual matters and am also a member of the Extended Leadership Team. Through my work I have been fortunate to be able to volunteer at several major sports events including the London 2012 Olympics, UEFA Champions League Finals, and England matches, where I chaperone children acting as player mascots and flagbearers, as well as travelling to Kenya to distribute football kit donated by Premier League, EFL and grassroots clubs to schools and orphanages in the region.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I enjoy walking and being outdoors, and going to sports and music events.

Why did you want to be a Governor?

I'm passionate about children having the opportunity to reach their potential through education and have really fond memories of my own time at Butlers Court, particularly the amazing teachers and the residential trips! Now that my children are at the school, I was keen to give something back.

What has impressed you most about BCS so far?

Butlers Court has such a wonderful community of children, parents and staff, with a really nurturing and inclusive atmosphere. I have been impressed at the dedication and commitment of the teaching staff, the engaging ways they bring the curriculum to life, as well as the focus on values and how these are positively reinforced in a variety of ways throughout the school, capturing all children regardless of academic ability. The support for additional needs has also been inspiring. The involvement of parents in school events and the dedication of the PTA is outstanding. It is a joy to be a part of this amazing school.

Alison O'Dornan, Chair of Governors
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