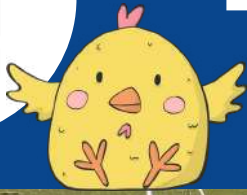


April 2025

# Butlers Court School



*Believe and Achieve Together*



Dear Parents,

I cannot believe how quickly this term has gone and that we're now two thirds of our way through the school year already!

And hasn't it been lovely to see some sunshine this week – let's hope that Spring is now upon us and the sunshine continues for the weeks ahead.

As always, it's been another busy term - we've had gymnastic, cross country running, netball and football competitions on the sports field, Science Week last week, day trips out, class assemblies, World Book Day, PTA events, children singing at Wembley Arena and at the Energize concert at The Wycombe Swan the weekend before last, Walk to School Week this week, and a fantastic residential visit to the Peak District for our Year 6 children two weeks ago! You will read more about these further on, but I'm sure you'll all join me in thanking all the staff for their dedication, commitment, hard work and giving up their time to organise these activities; they provide great alternative learning experiences for the children and I'm sure provide life long memories of their time at Butlers Court.

The children all enjoyed the PTA Easter Fair last Friday – our thanks go to all the parents who helped organise and enthusiastically help out during the new scavenger hunt in the morning, which the children loved, and the fayre stalls in the hall in the afternoon – the children thoroughly enjoyed the event again. Thank you all.

It's been great to see so many of you walking, cycling and scooting this week as part of the Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel Week this week. I have enjoyed seeing children come to school in environmentally friendly ways over the past few days and it's been fun working with our house captains to see which house has walked the most this week. As the weather gets warmer, maybe more children and families can continue to walk, scoot or cycle to school – it is certainly good for our wellbeing, but also for the environment and local traffic too!

As you will be aware, today is Mr Stone's last day at Butlers Court before he takes up his well-deserved retirement. Brian has been an incredibly loyal, dedicated and hardworking caretaker here over the last 10 years, and our well-presented site is a testament to his commitment to the school. His most recent project has been the new mud kitchen in our EYFS outdoor area which I'm sure you will all agree looks fabulous and will be a great addition to our younger children's outdoor learning environment. Brian will be sorely missed by all of us and we wish him all the best for the future. You may have seen Mr Hadaway accompanying Mr Stone around school this week; Mr Hadaway will be taking over from Mr Stone after the Easter break. I'm sure you will all join me in welcoming Mr Hadaway to Butlers Court – I'm sure he and his family will be very happy here.

Please can I remind you that after the Easter break, children have the option of wearing our Summer uniform if they wish. Details of the optional Summer uniform can be found on our website. Thank you again for your continued support and I hope you all have a relaxing and enjoyable Easter break. I look forward to seeing you all back at school on Tuesday 22nd April.

Mr Butler

# EYFS

## Forest School

This term the children in EYFS have been really enjoying our afternoons in Forest School. We have been exploring our natural habitat; finding out which animals and plants live there using magnifying glasses. We have been inventors, climbers, explorers and even pirates! The children have let their imaginations run wild. They have climbed trees, made dens, hunted for treasure and splashed in muddy puddles. We also had a brilliant time at Wooley Firs Activity Centre. We look forward to many more outdoor adventures in the summer term.



## Year 1

### Science Shadows

In Science this term, we have learnt about the different seasons including 'day and night'. To explore this further we looked at shadows and how they are formed. We know that shadows are created when something blocks the light from the sun. When we moved our puppets closer to the light source the shadows were bigger, whereas when we moved them further away from the light source the shadows were smaller. We had a great time using torches and paper animal puppets to create our own shadow scenes!



### Wellbeing Afternoon

We think it is so important to look after our brains and our bodies in Year 1! As part of 'Mental Health Awareness Week' we had a wellbeing afternoon. We all enjoyed bringing in our favourite cuddly toys to spend the day with us and explore the school! In the afternoon, we created our own healthy fruit kebabs to remind us of the importance of healthy eating. We added a drizzle of chocolate to make them even more delicious!



### Outdoor Learning

Year 1 was given a big task - they needed to create rafts/boats for the Gingerbread Man to safely cross the school pond! Working in teams, the children created strong and sturdy rafts using materials that they had collected from our forest school area. They needed to make sure that the rafts were strong enough to hold our Gingerbread Man, were quick enough to help him get away, and were light enough to float in the water.



Once our rafts had been built, the children were so excited to put their rafts to the test and see if they would float in our pond. We were amazed that all of our rafts floated and allowed the Gingerbread Man to get away! Well done Year 1!

# Recorder Club

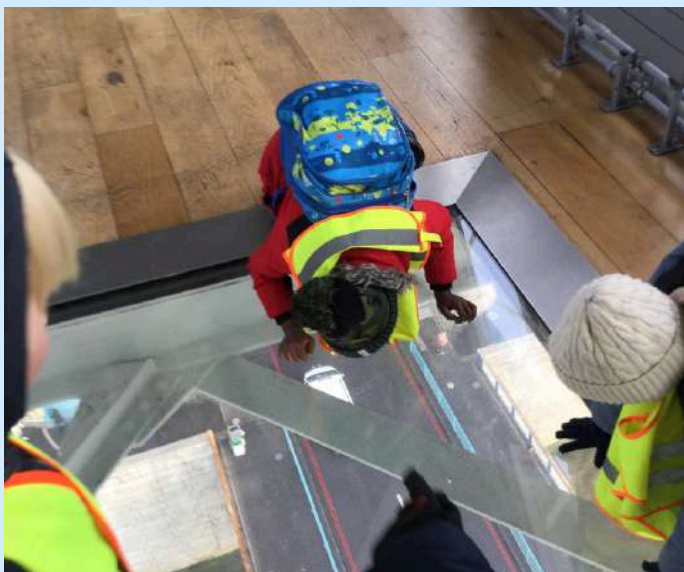
This half term, we had a new and exciting recorder club start in KS1. Children in Year 1 and Year 2 have enjoyed learning how to hold the recorder, some notes and even played a couple of pieces. We look forward to continuing the club after Easter. Well done KS1!

## Year 2

### Bridges, bridges and more bridges!

During the spring term, Year 2 enjoyed their engineering topic linking to our English text 'Rosie Revere Engineer'. We started off with a fantastic trip to Tower Bridge in London where the children learnt all about how this amazing bascule bridge works and some history behind the bridge. They then got the opportunity to walk across the bridge walkway and see the River Thames below. Some children were even brave enough to walk (or lie!) on the glass floor. Seeing this bridge up close really inspired our learning for the rest of the term where we wrote factual leaflets and created our inventions in English. We then completed wonderful Tower

Bridge designs in Art and created sunset backdrops using printing, pastels and paints. Finally in Science we had a challenge to complete our own paper bridges during our learning about materials. Each group had to pick which paper type to use and create their own bridge design, ready for the challenge of holding some toy cars. Year 2 loved all this learning linking to bridges!



# Year 3

## Violin



This term, the whole of Year 3 has been learning to play the violin with Laura from the Buckinghamshire Music Trust. We've learned the names of the strings, how to hold the violin and bow correctly, and how to play 'pizzicato', which is when we pluck the strings with our fingers. We've also practiced making a beautiful sound on the strings using big, swinging motions. We're getting better at making sure the bow only touches one string at a time.



## Kew Gardens



Year 3 had an exciting, educational trip to Kew Gardens on Tuesday which linked to their science topic on plants. The children learned about pollination and different types of bumble bee in an interesting workshop. They were also able to explore the beauty of plants and nature through the many exhibits.

One of the highlights of their visit was exploring the Hive, an immersive experience that allowed the students to step inside a giant structure that mimicked the buzzing activity of a beehive.

Year 3's adventure continued as they ventured to the Tree Top Walk, a suspended pathway that offered breathtaking views of Kew Gardens from above. Lastly, they visited the Princess of Wales Conservatory which gave them a chance to explore a variety of climate zones, from tropical rainforests to desert environments. It was an enriching day that combined learning with exploration, leaving the students with a new appreciation for nature's beauty and diversity.

# Year 4

## Outdoor Learning Day

What a fantastic day we had for our outdoor learning day! The weather was just right as we immersed ourselves in some exciting hands-on activities that brought our history and science lessons to life.

The day started with a science experiment thinking of being a desert island survivor and how contaminated water can be changed into clean water.

The next part was diving into the world of the Anglo-Saxons, starting with making our very own wattle and daub structures. The children had already collected sticks earlier for this task. They got to work using paper straw for intertwining between the sticks, creating a sturdy framework. It was a messy process, with clay and straw flying everywhere as the children mixed in straw to form the daub.



Later on, the children looked into crafting clay coins, inspired by those used in Anglo-Saxon times. They moulded clay into circular shapes and got creative with designs, learning about the importance of currency in trade and society during the Saxon times.

In the afternoon, it was time for a Harry Potter themed scavenger hunt, which the children thoroughly enjoyed.

# Year 5

## Winchester Science Centre

Year 5 went on a trip on Thursday 27th March to Winchester Science Centre. Firstly, we went to the planetarium and saw an astonishing exhibition where we got to see all of the planets and learnt more facts about them. Did you know that the hottest planet is not the closest to the sun? Did you know there are rocks on Earth that came from Mars and we didn't bring them here?

After that, we went to the first floor where we found some fun and exciting exhibits. There were lots of buttons to press and simulations to play! One of our favourites was when we pressed a button and a balloon would inflate. We loved exploring all of the floors of the exhibitions and we were excited to go to the workshop. In the workshop, we learnt about invisible lights and how an infra-red light bulb can heat up to 200 degrees celsius. This activity also made us learn about how the James Webb telescope used gold (actual gold!) to make sure it did not get damaged by the sun.

We found this trip fun and interesting and were excited to tell our families all the cool facts that we had learnt that day.

By Katherine and Zoë - 5RY

# Y5 Super Spanish

In Spanish this year we have been reading a story about a lost cat.

We have made our own versions.

Here is some wonderful work from year



## Year 6

### Residential YHA Ravenstor

During a chilly week in March, Year 6 embarked on an unforgettable adventure, travelling nearly 4 and a half hours north to the stunning YHA Ravenstor in the heart of the Derbyshire Peak District. Perched high above the winding River Wye, this grand country house provided us with breath-taking views and a perfect escape into nature's beauty.

Surrounded by rolling green hills, rugged limestone cliffs, and ancient woodlands, YHA Ravenstor was an ideal retreat for our school residential.

Throughout our stay, we took part in a variety of team-building activities, confidence-boosting outdoor pursuits, and shared the experience of living together 24/7. Staying in dormitories with our friends was a new experience, and it created memories we'll treasure forever.

One of the highlights of our trip was a scenic hike through the Derbyshire Peaks. We trekked across Bellamy's Bank, a place famous for inspiring the renowned TV naturalist David Bellamy to pursue his passion for botany. As we explored, we also walked along the historic Monsal Trail, once part of the Midland Railway line between Manchester and London.

For some of us, the real adventure was crossing the magical stepping stones at Chee Dale – a fun and memorable part of the hike. We also had the chance to see lime kilns near Millers Dale Station, where limestone was once transformed into quicklime. These kilns were used during World War I to help manage unpleasant smells in temporary toilets, graves, and trenches.

All in all, our trip to YHA Ravenstor was a fantastic experience. We returned with new skills, stronger friendships, and a love for the outdoors. It was a trip of a lifetime, and we would highly recommend it to the new Year 6s in September. We'll always look back on it with happy memories!



# Celebrating World Book Day: A Day to Cherish the Magic of Books

This term, we were thrilled to celebrate World Book Day with our children in a way that was both fun and meaningful, highlighting our deep commitment to reading for pleasure. We began the day with a special moment for the whole school as the staff came together to jointly read a story, setting the tone for a day of literary excitement.

Throughout the day, our classrooms buzzed with a variety of engaging reading activities designed to spark creativity and a love for books. From exciting character battles to designing imaginative book covers, the children were fully immersed in the world of stories. The highlight for many was the opportunity to choose their own stories to be read aloud, giving them a chance to explore new genres and favourites.

In addition to these activities, we hosted a fantastic Book Swap event where children could exchange their pre-loved books with friends, sharing the joy of reading and discovering new titles. Another popular activity was the Wooden Spoon Book Character design challenge, where children brought their favourite characters to life in a fun and creative way. World Book Day truly embodied the power of reading, and we couldn't have asked for a more enjoyable and enriching celebration. It was a day filled with laughter, creativity, and, most importantly, the joy of books.

We are so proud to see our students embracing reading for pleasure, and we look forward to continuing this journey of discovery throughout the year.

Here's to more days filled with the magic of stories.



## Eco Warriors

The Eco Warriors have been busy this term. They came up with the idea of the Butlers Court Book Swap which was a huge success on World Book Day. This will now be running as a monthly event on the first Wednesday of the month out on the KS1 playground after school. They also enjoyed running the Eco Easter Decoration competition. The entries were all wonderful, imaginative and creative. The Eco Warriors found it very hard to judge but well done to Imogen and Darcey (4MS) in 1st place, Nova (2DU) in 2nd place and Margot (2DU) in 3rd place. Thank you to everyone who took part.

# Energize

On the evening of Friday 21st March and the afternoon of Saturday 22nd March, 25 children from Year 5 performed at the Wycombe Swan as part of Energize. They performed with 12 other local schools from across Buckinghamshire. This year, the production was called 'Yanomamo'. The Yanomamo (forest people) is a tribe in the Amazon basin which has lived for thousands of years in harmony with nature. But it all changes. To tell the story, 'Yanomamo', the children learnt a variety of songs and also performed a choreographed dance which concluded the show. It was a great weekend filled with excitement and joy.



# Young Voices

After much hard work and dedication during rehearsals, Monday 11th February was a highly exciting day for our Y6 choir as it was time for the Young Voices rehearsal and concert at Wembley Arena. Young Voices is the world's largest children's choir who organise children's choir concerts around the UK. On the day, the Year 6 choir performed a variety of songs with thousands of children from other schools as part of an exhilarating concert with a live band, dancers and some famous singers too. It was a tremendous experience at an iconic venue!



# KS2 Choir



On Friday 7th March, the KS2 choir sang at St Mary and All Saints church as part of the Beaconsfield Festival of choirs. The children had been working hard during rehearsals learning two songs to perform and opened the concert with their performance. It was a wonderful afternoon of music.

# Could you help shape the future of Butlers Court?

We are looking for a committed parent to join the Butlers Court Board of Governors. This is a great opportunity to make a real difference to the school and help every child flourish. Governors play a key role in shaping the school's future, supporting and challenging leadership, and making sure we are the best we can be. It's a rewarding role, but it does require time and commitment - around 6–8 hours a month including meetings and preparation. Training is provided.

If you are interested, please take a look at the full information on the school website or contact the office to arrange a chat with myself or Mr Butler. The deadline for applications is Tuesday 6th May.

Thank you

**Alison O'Dornan, Chair of Governors**

## Governor Hub

### Introducing Sarah Phillips

#### What is your professional background?

I began my career as Teacher of Maths at the Manchester Grammar School, having completed my Further Education studies at the Royal Northern College of Music and The University of Manchester. I worked there for four years before moving down to Buckinghamshire to take up a position at Wycombe Abbey. I am now entering my third year as a Housemistress.



#### What do you like to do in your spare time?

In my spare time I can usually be found outdoors; either walking in the Chilterns with my dog, Mabel, or running long distances. I do Parkrun when I am not teaching on a Saturday and have also completed several marathons. In April I will be heading out to Zurich to complete marathon number six. I play the piano (albeit not very well!) and also enjoy cryptic crosswords and making bread. However, my time is largely filled with wedding planning at the moment!

#### Why did you want to be a Governor?

I believe passionately in the power of education and feel incredibly fortunate to have an opportunity to support the pupils at Butlers Court as a Governor. I am also excited to learn more about school leadership and the strategic decision-making that goes on behind the scenes.

#### What has impressed you most about BCS so far?

In my visits to the school so far, I have been so impressed by the warm and friendly atmosphere, and the enthusiastic and inquisitive nature of the children. I hope I can play a small part in helping them fulfil their potential.

**Alison O'Dornan, Chair of Governors**

**[o'dornana@butlerscourt.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:o'dornana@butlerscourt.bucks.sch.uk)**