



December 2024

Butlers Court School



Believe and Achieve Together



The last few festive weeks before Christmas in any primary school are always very special and that has certainly been the case here at Butlers Court again.

It has been fabulous to see so many children perform on stage for us all recently. Last week, we thoroughly enjoyed Giraffe and Panda Classes' performance of 'Happy Birthday Jesus!' – the children were great, and considering many of them are still only 4 years old, I'm sure you'll agree they did brilliantly performing on the stage under the lights and in front of so many parents.

The Year 1 and Year 2 children also did us proud with their performance of 'The Grumpy Innkeeper'; they all performed wonderfully again and certainly seemed to enjoy being up on the stage performing for all of us.

We all enjoyed The Beaconsfield Festival of Lights two weeks ago; the Year 6 choir performed some Christmas favourites and their lanterns were the best in the procession! It was lovely to see so many families supporting the event and I'd like to thank Mrs Stevens and Mrs Davies for organising our choir, Mrs Mistry-Sharma and Miss Wells for supporting the children making their lanterns and all the staff who came along on the evening too.

This week the festivities have continued with our Year 3, 4 and 5 Carol Concert on Monday and Tuesday, our Carol Service led by Year 6 at the church on Wednesday and then our Christmas lunch and parties yesterday! Wow, what a week! Again, our older children performed beautifully and everyone certainly enjoyed the Christmas dinner, accompanied by music, crackers and Christmas jumpers!

I'd like to thank the PTA, Santa and the Elves for such a great festive day last Friday. The Key Stage 1 children thoroughly enjoyed visiting Santa's Grotto and Frosty's Polar Quest during the morning; the Art Room and Science Cabin looked so festive and the helpers and Santa were all great! In the hall, our Key Stage 2 children certainly enjoyed spending their money at the Christmas stalls in the afternoon. I'm sure you'll all join me in thanking the PTA for their hard work, giving up their time to help organise such a great day and supporting our fund-raising efforts.

Some of you may have seen our school Instagram account these last few weeks. With so much always going on at Butlers Court – it's great to be able to share these with the local community. Please look us up on Instagram if you haven't already!

You may have noticed that our 'Rainbow Road Track' on the field has been repaired recently. A number of holes had appeared in the track, making it potentially unsafe to use. I'd like to thank all of you for your cooperation and patience while the work has been undertaken and thank all of you who contribute to our Enrichment Fund which has funded this work.

As I reach the end of my fourth year here at Butlers Court, I'd like to thank you all for the support you've given me and the staff here; Butlers Court is a very special school with a wonderful family community of children, staff and parents – I am very proud to be the headteacher here. Thank you again and I wish you all a very merry, relaxing and enjoyable Christmas and all the best for 2025.

Mr Butler

Gymnastics Regional Finals



On Sunday 1st December, Butlers Court gymnastics team took part in the regional finals at Beaconsfield High School. The four girls competed on both the floor and vault apparatus as well as in a group routine. Each of them performed superbly and the team finished 5th overall. We are very proud of them all! Well done!



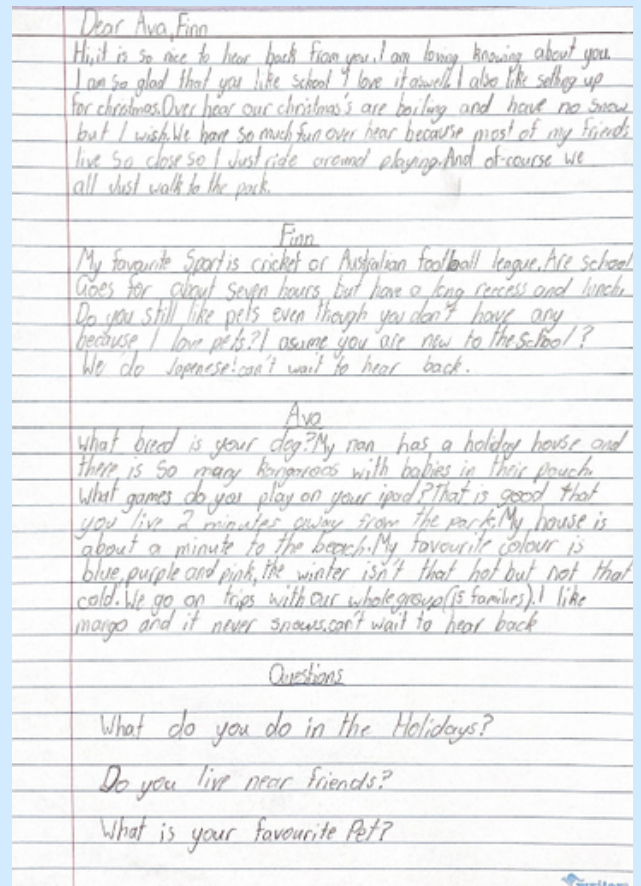
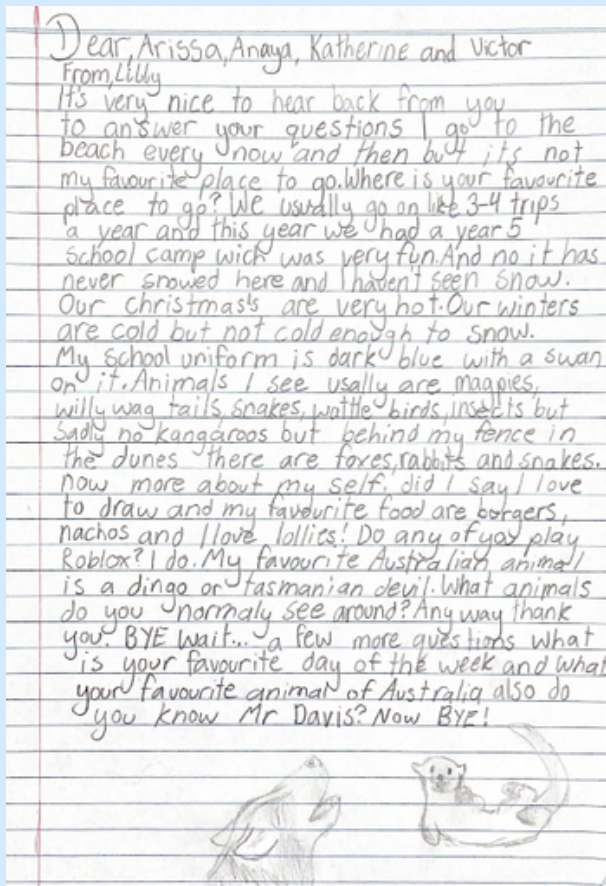
Year 2 Science Fun

This half term Year 2 have enjoyed exploring and investigating different materials as part of their Science work. They have looked at which materials are manmade and natural alongside exploring which materials are suitable for different purposes. They have enjoyed exploring the school site and taking part in investigations to discover which materials absorb water or are waterproof. Year 2 also enjoyed heating different materials to find out what happened - particularly the chocolate!



Year 5 Australian Penpals

This half term Year 5 have been lucky enough to buddy up with pupils from Swanbourne primary school in Perth, Australia! The children have enjoyed receiving handwritten letters from their buddies and answering all their interesting questions about school life in England. They have already learnt so much about the differences between the two countries and look forward to getting to know more as they continue to write to each other!





EYFS Explore Space

We have had another wonderful term in Reception. We particularly enjoyed learning about Space using our focus book 'Look Up' by Nathan Byron. We thought about how we could explore space and even created our own Space Centre. Here we created maps of constellations, studied space rocks and built fantastic rockets. With help from our ground control team, our astronauts had some big adventures. Who knows... one day some of us might even become real life Space explorers!



ESFA Schools County Finals

On Saturday 16th November, Butlers Court girls football team represented The Chiltern and South Bucks district in the ESFA County Finals. The girls played two matches against both Williams Harding and St Johns Schools. Playing with excellent skill and determination, they won both their games, finishing top of their group and progressing to the semi-finals. Unfortunately, we were then drawn against our local rivals Gerrards Cross and we knew that the game was going to be a tough one!



Despite this, the whole team pulled together and played with resilience and strength. The match finished 2-1 to Gerrards Cross who then went on to win the competition. The girls were absolutely fantastic and should be so proud to have reached such a milestone! We are proud of them all!

Year 5 Chiltern Rangers

Throughout the course of November, Year 5 have all had the opportunity to work alongside The Chiltern Rangers and volunteers, with students from Butlers Court working together as a community team to clear non native laurel from Walkwood in order to give space and light for native flora and trees to grow back.



The students spread wood chips made from the cut down laurel to improve the paths, and cut the non native invasive laurel too. They had a great opportunity to develop teamwork skills and make a big difference to their local woods. Great work Year 5!



Year 1 Roald Dahl Children's Gallery Trip



This term we were lucky enough to have an exciting trip to the Roald Dahl Children's Gallery in Aylesbury. The children enjoyed hearing well known stories written by Roald Dahl come to life. The children enjoyed acting out the scene of Augustus Gloop and Charlie from Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, and even getting shrunk in Mike TeaVee's Television Chocolate Camera! After researching different types of predators, the children then had the opportunity to make their own predator hand puppets that could be in 'The Enormous Crocodile'. It was a very exciting day all around and the children came back to school so enthusiastic about what stories we would be reading next!



Eco Warriors Jumper Sale

This year's Eco Warriors have been busy helping to make the school greener by checking classrooms are recycling correctly, lights are being turned off when children are not in there and litter picking around the school site. They also wanted to help the environment this Christmas by encouraging everyone to buy second hand jumpers instead of buying a new one each year and organised a stall. Thank you to everyone who came along to support this great fundraiser and we are really pleased to say they raised £47 for the charity Shelter.



Year 1 - 1950's Day

At the end of the last half term, the children put their history learning to the test by fully immersing themselves in a 1950's day. We loved seeing their fantastic outfits and thought they looked very 1950s!

Over the day we enjoyed looking at many different toys that would have been played with in the past, including pick-up-sticks, teddy bears, dolls and a collection of Lego which was over 70 years old! We were lucky to have a special visitor come in to tell us all about her childhood too. She brought in some brilliant items to show us including her christening dress, a telegram sent to her parents to congratulate them about her birth, lots of pictures and interesting stories. We then all got our dancing shoes on and learnt the Lindy-Hop in the hall!



Year 6 Outdoor Learning Day: An Adventure into Nature, Numbers, and South American Culture!

We are excited to share with you the highlights of our Year 6 Outdoor Learning Day which kick started the term. It was an incredible day where our children immersed themselves in a variety of engaging activities, all designed to challenge their thinking, encourage problem-solving, and connect them to the natural world and diverse cultures. Here's a glimpse of what our Year 6 learners experienced:

Fibonacci Poems:

Inspired by the beautiful Fibonacci sequence found in nature, our children tapped into their creativity to write rainforest themed Fibonacci poems.

Raft Design & Construction:

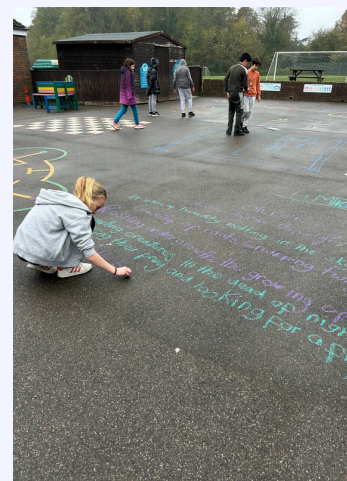
In an exciting hands-on challenge, the children worked in teams to design and build a floating raft that could withstand the conditions of the Amazon River. Using sustainable materials, the children applied their knowledge of buoyancy and design principles to create sturdy rafts.

Orienteering with a Mathematical Twist:

The outdoors became the perfect classroom for our maths-themed orienteering challenge. Using their problem-solving and navigation skills, the children worked together to solve maths-related puzzles, leading them to various checkpoints around the school grounds.

South American Cooking Experience:

To wrap up the day, we took a culinary journey through South America! The children were introduced to a variety of South American dishes that they helped prepare. The event was a wonderful celebration of culture, flavour, and the joy of cooking together. This event was a memorable and enriching experience for our children which we hope, ignited their curiosity and encouraged a love for learning both inside and outside the classroom.



Year 1 and 2 Story Club

This half term, the Year 1 and 2 Story Club have read some fabulous stories and done fun activities too! The children have enjoyed listening to many stories including: Alfie Gets in First; What the Ladybird Heard; Mrs Wobble the Waitress; The Rainbow Bear; and Mog's Christmas. Next half term, Mrs Dury will be running the club with some different Year 1 and 2 children so please watch this space!



Y4's Delightful DT Day: Sewing Seasonal Stockings!

This term, Year 4 enjoyed a wonderfully engaging DT day, focusing on the planning, designing, and sewing of seasonal stockings. The children started by looking at example stockings and then designing their own.

Following the design phase, the children learnt different stitches to join their stocking pieces. Needless to say, we spent quite a lot of time threading needles before we started the actual stitching.

It was impressive to observe their focus and effort as the children quickly learnt to sew and then went on to make their stockings, showing resilience and kindness helping each other.

We are very proud of the way the children worked on the project, bringing the Christmas spirit to Year 4. We know these will look fabulous in your homes as part of your Christmas decorations.



Year 2 - Great Fire of Butlers Court!

This half term, Year 2 have thoroughly enjoyed their topic about the Great Fire of London. In History, the children learnt about the key events and how the fire started in a bakery on Pudding Lane. The children loved their day in Thomas Farriner's Bakery where they baked their own bread. In English, they wrote instructions on how to make the bread and also wrote a diary entry. To end the topic, they made their own tudor houses which they lined up on the school playground... but then sadly...THE BAKERY CAUGHT FIRE! Year 2 then witnessed the Great Fire of Butlers Court! A sad but very fun ending to a wonderful topic!



Year 3 DT



Year 3 had a really enjoyable time creating light boxes. The children were able to investigate different electrical circuits using LED bulbs and resistors. In groups they used their measuring skills to cut and assemble their box using wood and glue. Individually they designed their own version of the front cover. Well done Year 3!



Pedal Power: Year 6 Students Gear Up for a Fun-Filled Bikeability Adventure!

Our Year 6s took part in the Spokes Bikeability training this term. This program was a wonderful opportunity for our children to learn how to prepare for a ride, control their bicycle, and navigate roads with increased awareness and confidence.

The course was divided into two levels, with Level 2 taking place on quieter roads, offering the perfect setting for children to begin practicing in more realistic, "real-world" cycling conditions.

We believe that cycling proficiency is an invaluable skill that not only supports children's physical development but also teaches them about road safety, responsibility, and independence.

The course was led by trained cycling instructors who guided our children through each stage of their learning, ensuring that they build their cycling skills in a safe and supportive environment.



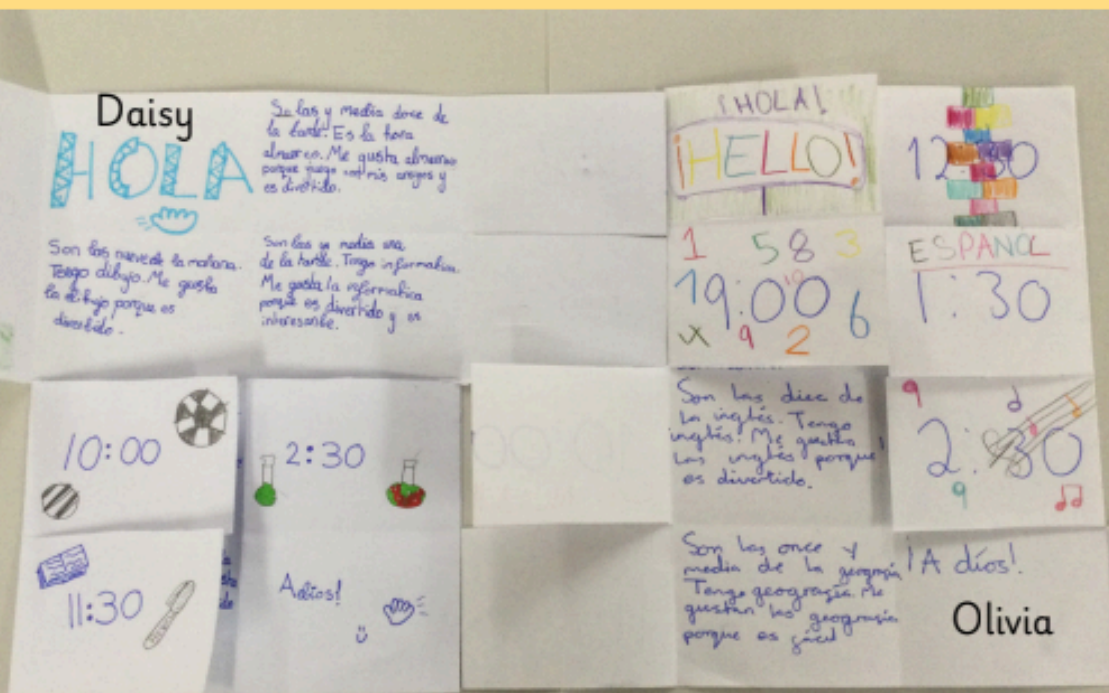
Year 3 Science

The children have had a great time exploring our 'Forces and Magnets' Science topic this half term, particularly when taking part in hands-on experiments. One of the experiments involved investigating how different surfaces affect force. The children tested how cars moved on various surfaces. They also had a lot of fun designing a game that relied on magnets to work. Playing each other's magnet-based games was a highlight of the experience.



Year 5 Super Spanish

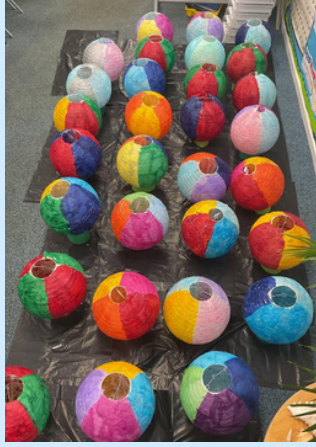
In Spanish this year we have been learning to tell the time and say if we like different subjects and why. Have a look at our flap books where we have written about an imaginary school day.



BRAVO!



Year 6 Lights Up The Beaconsfield Festival of Lights!



Our Year 6 pupils played a leading role in this year's Beaconsfield Festival of Lights! As one of the highlights of the event, the lantern procession was a truly magical experience, with our Year 6 children proudly leading the parade behind the festive sleigh. Their beautifully crafted and decorated lanterns were the talk of the town, illuminating the streets and spreading joy throughout the evening.

Each year, our children create their own unique lanterns, and this year was no exception. They worked diligently to design and craft their lanterns, ensuring that they stood out in the parade. The sight of our children, joined by their parents, walking together through the town with their glowing creations was truly heartwarming.



Governor Hub

Governor Profile

Mr Manesh Patel joined the Board of Governors as a Parent Governor in June 2024. He sits on the Premises, Risk and Resources Committee.

What is your professional background?

I've been working in Pensions and HR for 21+ years with 15 of these years in consulting for large firms in the city and the past 6 within the HR team of a global tech firm. I've been in the pensions and finance industry for all of my career supporting businesses in helping their employees understand their pensions and personal finance.



What do you like to do in your spare time?

I enjoy spending time with my family and friends, socializing and having fun. I'm also a keen sportsman, enthusiastically playing all types of sports from football, badminton, squash to paddle ball.

Why did you want to be a Governor?

I'm keen to share with the Board and the school the skills and experience I have developed throughout my career. I hope the school can benefit from my perspective and that this will contribute to providing the children with something additional to the amazing work the school already does.

What has impressed you most about BCS so far?

The impressive organisation, dedicated staff and high-quality education that they are providing to ensure every opportunity for all the children to excel in financially challenging times. Mr Butler and his team do a fantastic job and I am grateful to be able to contribute in a small way in my role as a Governor.

For further information about the role of governor please see the school website.

Alison O'Dornan, Chair of Governors o'dornana@butlerscourt.bucks.sch.uk