

School News

'Enjoy, Achieve, Succeed Together'



ISSUE

10

14th February 2025



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Headteacher Awards

Well done to everyone who received a Headteacher's Award last week!

Holly – Ryan and Harley

Sycamore – Safaa and Callan

Pine – Eddie and Max S

Oak – Peggi and Daisy

Chestnut – Hayden and Louis

Elm – Theo and Zain

Beech – Mahnoor and Cameron

Cedar – Esme and Jax

Juniper – Nuriyah, Elliot and Toby

Willow – Elsie

Cherry – Bella and Jack

Sequoia – Zak and Gemma

Hawthorn – Iago and Aisha

Ash – Jack and georgie

Dear Burford families,

Happy Valentines Day! I hope you are all feeling the love for one another and are looking forward to half term? In today's assembly, we not only celebrated how marvellous everyone looked for Times Table Rock Star Day, but also our very own Rock Stars in our school choir who attended the Young Voices concert in Wembley on Tuesday! We celebrated sharing the love and appreciation for everyone's talents, for everyone who cares for us and of course, learning to be kind and to love themselves. Our children are the future and we remind them every day that they are amazing and we thank you for all your support in making this partnership so special – go Team Burford!

Thank you to all the parents and helpers who have volunteered their time to read with the children, attend themed days, trips and of course and to the staff and helpers who attended the Young Voices trip this half term. A huge thank you needs to go to Burford's Choirmaster, Mr Addy Walker! It was an amazing day and a testament to his, and the choir's hard work in learning every song, every move and making the day a special memory for all those who participated, and came to see their Rock Stars perform!

Thank you too to Mrs Creek and Mrs Martin for organising today's TTRS day and Interhouse Competitions across the school. Maths is cool and even cooler dressed as a Rock Star!

I hope you have a wonderful half term and we look forward to seeing everyone back on Monday 24th February.

Mrs Marshall
Headteacher



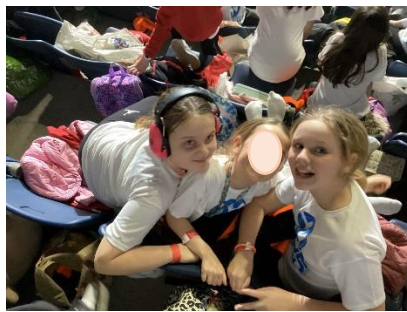
Young Voices 2025

On Tuesday 11th February, Years 4, 5 and 6 of the Burford Choir had the pleasure of performing at Wembley Arena as part of the Young Voices concert; the largest school choir concert in the world!

The choir rehearsed all afternoon with conductor David Lawrence (who founded Young Voices) and performed amazingly in the evening to an audience of over 5000 people. They accompanied the fantastic, Tommy Blaize, lead singer of the BBC Strictly Come Dancing band for 20 years, Multi award winning rapping teacher MC Grammar, Britain's Got Talent singer, Souparnika Nair, and danced alongside the Urban Strides!

The children, and adults, had a fantastic day and performed amazingly. They sang their hearts out and danced all day and night.

A huge thank you goes to the amazing Mr Walker for all of his hard work and the time that he has put in with rehearsals and preparation for the event, and to the staff and parents that accompanied the Choir on the day.



Swiped: The School That Banned Smartphones, an editorial by Mr Drake

I'm a parent of children both in Burford and in Great Marlow School. I was also the Director of the recent Channel 4 documentary 'Swiped: The School that Banned Smartphones'. Mrs Marshall and the team at Burford have been fantastic in engaging with this issue and asked me whether I'd be willing to share some of my learnings.

There's been a lot of talk about the dangers of smartphones on our children and the impact they are having. The evidence is pretty damning and the Smartphone Free Childhood (SFC) movement have great resources if you want to learn more (<https://smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/the-problem>). They're actively campaigning to change policies regarding smartphones and children, much of which I stand by and totally agree with.

Burford and Marlow schools in general have a very active group looking to further this cause. The Marlow Council recently voted to actively support the banning of Smartphones in Schools and SFC held a meeting on Wednesday 5th to begin the discussion between all the interested parties.

If you are willing and able to delay getting your child a smartphone then in no way do I want to discourage that. However, I know there are lots of parents like me, who's children either already have smartphones or they don't feel willing/able to not get them a smartphone when they leave primary school. As such I wanted to pass on six suggestions, I garnered in the course making the documentary.

1) Don't allow access to TikTok

Not all apps are made equal or perhaps that should be not all algorithms are equal. They are designed by people and vary between apps/companies. The TikTok algorithm aggressively trends towards extreme content (as this increases their views and interactions on the site). It's been clearly documented both on my show and by many other sources that what starts with innocent content, rapidly starts throwing up content that you probably don't want your children to see.

2) Don't allow access to Snapchat.

There are three reasons for this. Firstly, it has a feature called 'for your eyes only'; a subfolder where your child can save messages or material that only they can access and no parental controls will restrict or open up.

Secondly Snapchat has a short video feed embedded within the app. Most parents are pretty clued up on applying time restrictions to apps to stop your kids constantly doom scrolling e.g. on YouTube shorts. However, because Snapchat is also used for communication between friends it's very hard to control as, by stopping their access to 'doom scroll' material you also have to stop their ability to talk to their mates. Instead avoid Snapchat and, if you're happy for them to be involved in group chats, then let them use WhatsApp.

Thirdly Snapchat has an 'aggressive' notifications policy aiming to keep users interacting with their app and even when these notifications are turned off, you receive constant prompts to reactive them in app.

3) Turn off as many notifications as possible

We all know how distracting a phone is when it buzzes. In a study in the USA children received 237 notifications a day (one user received 4500!). A quarter of these notifications arrive in school hours and a fifth are delivered during school night hours. The worst offending apps for notifications were Snapchat and Discord.

4) Don't allow phones an hour after waking and an hour before bed.

Research has proven that exposure to blue light on our children's phones before bed is causing disruption to their sleeping patterns. Plus, from personal experience I find morning and night time routines painful enough, without introducing the most addictive distraction possible into my kid's hands.

5) Create phone free spaces

Consider whether to 'ban' phones at meals or on short car journeys. These are times when children can naturally develop how to interact socially, skills which are currently absent in lots of young people entering the workplace.

6) Don't allow phones in bedrooms at night

It's been shown that instances of 'problematic behaviour' relating to phones often occur at night when kids' defences are down or their self-control is low. Removing their phones from their rooms at night removes this problem plus it stops disturbed sleep patterns which is currently a huge issue for children in schools.

For more information regarding Burford's Smartphone Free Childhood group, please contact Nikki on 07432008573

Uniform

If you require school uniform, our Friends of Burford (FoB) sell second-hand uniform as well as costumes for year group theme days (Victorian, Florence Nightingale, Viking, Roman, Egyptian and Nativity).

FoB hold regular sales after school which are generally held on the first Friday of each term however, if you require anything in the meantime, please email FoB directly at uniform@friendsofburford.org.uk

Cash, Card or Bank transfer donations are accepted.

Alternatively, uniform can be purchased from Sports Crest in High Wycombe instore or on-line.

[Burford Primary School](#) | [SportCrest](#)



Year 2 - Art

This week Year 2 was exceptionally lucky to have Mrs Woodward and Ms. Gadd from Wycombe High's art department in to help us with our structure lesson.

Mrs Woodward very kindly provided all children with clay that they used to make a wonderful selection of very creative buildings. These have been painted with slip and taken by Mrs Woodward and Ms. Gadd to Wycombe High to dry and then be fired in their kiln. We can't wait to see the results when we come back after the half-term break.

A big thank you to them both for this great opportunity and to Wycombe High for lending us their amazing teachers.



School Council

School Council are excited to tell you about a charity event that we are organising.

In aid of One Can Trust, we would like every family or child to donate a standard size, unopened box of cereal (not family or individual size) that we will create a domino run with. Once complete and hopefully successfully, we will donate the boxes to the One Can Trust.

Please bring your cereal boxes to your child's class on 3rd March 2025.



Children's Mental Health Week



Everyone has mental health and it is important that when you are feeling sad, you know where to go to get help. Children's Mental Health Awareness Week is where we learn that our feelings can change lots throughout the day and it is OK when they do.

During the week, we did lots of different activities across the school. The Peer Mentors led the Key Stage One and Key Stage Two assemblies where we talked to the whole school about mental health and what to do if you are feeling angry, anxious or sad. Each class drew their own 'personality islands' in PSHE, thinking about what makes us happy and what we value in our lives. We also had extra time for reading and nurture time.

We think it is important to talk about your mental health because we all have it and we need to have a better understanding of our feelings and emotions. It is important to also know that you can talk to someone so they can help you. If children feel sad, worried or upset, they can talk to a trusted adult or the trained Peer Mentors. They can also do some calm breathing. But remember, do not bottle up your feelings otherwise they can get bigger and bigger until they are too big to handle on your own. Talk to someone.

By Lucy, Lana, Harry and Leia (Year 6 Peer Mentors).

Rockstars

Today, the children and staff were invited to dress up as 'Times Table Rock Stars' for the day to promote the importance of learning the tables and to raise funds for the NSPCC. Everyone looked amazing.



During the day, the children participated in some fun maths activities to promote a love of maths.



Many thanks to everyone that donated money for the NSPCC.

Friends of Burford School Presents



QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday,
MARCH 8

Burford School Hall
Doors open @ 19:00
Quiz starts @ 20:00

Chicken or Vegan
Curry provided

£18

per person



For registration & further information

<https://forms.office.com/r/z2psrHg8C1>



<https://forms.office.com/r/z2psrHg8C1>

Ticket payments to be made directly to bank details below, please quote "quiz" and your name eg "QuizJSmith"

FOB bank account: Name on account - Friends of Burford School Account number - 61721068 Sort - 309536

School Applications

Nursery School Applications

We still have a few places available for this academic year and are currently taking applications for September 2025. If you would like to apply for a space, please submit your applications as early as possible. Application forms to join our Nursery are available on our school website or from the school office. Please note that we are able to take children after the first term they turn 3 years old.

Parent Representatives

The dates for the Parent Forum meetings for this academic year are:

6th February 2025 (please submit any questions to your Parent Rep before 31th January)

20th March 2025

15th May 2025

12th July 2025



Medication

If your child requires medication to be kept in school, please bring this to the school office on the first day of term, with a completed healthcare form (please note that a new form is required for each academic year)

[Burford School \(primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com\)](https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com).

Any medications that come into school need to be brought to the school office by the parent. We are only able to administer medications prescribed by a doctor and they must have the prescription label on them.

If you require the school to administer antibiotics, we are only able to do this if the medication is required 4 times a day. Please bring the medication to the school office, with a completed form:

[Burford School \(primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com\)](https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com)

If you have any questions regarding the medical needs of your child, please see Mrs G in the front office.

Upcoming dates

For term dates, please visit:

2024 / 2025 - [Burford School \(primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com\)](https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com)

2025 / 2026 - [term-dates-2025-2026.pdf \(primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com\)](#)

Spring Term Calendar Dates:

[2024 - 2025 calendar.xlsx](#)

Please do not hesitate to contact the school office if you have any questions or comments regarding any of the events.

Cool Milk

Free milk is available for all children under the age of five in school, funded by the UK government.

In our school, this milk is provided by Cool Milk, the UK's leading school milk supplier.



When your child turns five, you are able to pay a subsidised rate for your child to continue to receive milk. If you wish for your child to continue receiving milk from the age of five, simply register with Cool Milk directly via their website (www.coolmilk.com).

Gift of Opportunity

The Gift of Opportunity Fund runs every academic year to raise income for projects of immediate need around the school.

The projects funded will enhance and broaden the educational experience of the pupils at Burford.

In order to meet the ambitions of the school to maintain an outstanding education and to build an equivalent environment for all pupils of Burford to enjoy during their time here, donations from the Burford family are essential as the state funding meets only the minimum requirements.

If you would like to donate to the gift of opportunity fund, please email office@burfordschool.co.uk

School Contact Details

Following on from our previous communications, if you need to contact the school, please do so using either of the methods below:

Email: office@burfordschool.co.uk

School Mobile: 07598 250888

A blue, 3D-style button with the text "CONTACT US" in white, bold, uppercase letters. The button has a slight shadow and a small tail pointing downwards and to the right.

CONTACT US

Music lessons

Many KS2 children at Burford enjoy learning to play a musical instrument. If your child would like to start learning an instrument in September, our instrumental lessons are offered through Bucks Music Trust (BMT), who provide instrumental tuition during school hours. Children will be taught for 33 lessons during the academic year, spread over the 3 terms. Lesson times are arranged on a rota basis to minimise the effect of missing the same class English/maths lesson each week.

If you would like to apply for lessons, or would like any further information, please contact Bucks Music Trust or **complete the BMT application form online at <https://www.bucksmusic.org/book-lessons-2/>**

Pupil Premium

Pupils whose parents/guardians are in receipt of the following, maybe entitled to Pupil Premium funding:

- Income Support (IS)
- Income based Job Seeker's Allowance (IBJSA)
- An Income Related Employment and Support Allowance Child Tax Credit (with no Working Tax Credit) with an annual income of no more than £16,190
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The Guaranteed Element of the State Pension Credit (GE)
- Universal Credit with an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400 (UC)

To enable us to check your child's eligibility, please complete the application form, which can be found on the school website and return it to the school office.

If you are eligible for Pupil Premium, please read our Pupil Premium Strategy on our website to discover how we can support your child at Burford School.

Polite Reminders

Do not walk up or down the school drive – it is not safe at any time of the day. Please use the pedestrian entrance and fenced off walk way.

School gates

Children should be dropped off at school ready for the start of the school day at 8.40am. Please ensure that you have left the school site before 8.50am after school drop off, as this is when the gates will be locked. The side gate to the playing field car park will not be unlocked during the school day, so if you are attending for a meeting, please ensure that you use the main school gate.

Lunch boxes / snacks

Please do not give your child sweets, crisps, nuts or chocolate bars as their snack, or sweets or chocolate bars in their lunch boxes.

Parking

To help keep our children safe, please do not stop on the zigzag markings when collecting or picking up children or turn around at the entrance to the school drive. Please also note that the school car park is **strictly for staff only**.

When collecting your children from school and from after school clubs, parents **should not park in the school car park**. There have been a number of occasions where cars have been too close to the children and other cars have been blocked in and have been unable to leave when needed. **Please use the playing field car park or park along the main road.**

Please do not leave your engines running when waiting for your children at pick up and drop off.

Hard Copies of letters

Where possible, if we require a form to be completed, we will always endeavour to provide this as an electronic form so that parents are not required to print these at home.

On the occasions where this will not be possible, if you require a printed copy, please let the school office know and they will be happy to print a copy for you.

Medication

If your child requires any medication to be kept in school, please ensure that the medication is brought to the school office with the appropriate forms. If your child takes regular medication such as inhalers, please make sure we have the medication and that it is in date. We are only able to administer prescribed medications.

Dogs

Dogs are **not** permitted on the school grounds at any time. This includes dogs walking or being carried.

Weekly Letter Summary

Week Commencing 3rd February

Whole School

Hot School Lunches - [lunches-update.pdf](#)

Termly Contribution - [termly-contribution.pdf](#)

Gift of Opportunity - [gift-of-opportunity-fund.pdf](#)

Young Artists' Summer Show! - [art.pdf](#)

Happy School Bag collection – [HAPPY BAG COLLECTION](#)

Rock stars day - [ttrs-day-letter.pdf](#)

Parents Evening – You should have received a Parents Evening invite this week. If you have not received the invite, please contact the school office.

Cake Sale- <https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/burford-school-marlow/UploadedDocument/5a36869d-8f20-49bc-a186-bdf615dd51a8/year-3-cake-sale.pdf>

Year 1

Appearing on the school calendar is a meeting on Wednesday 12th February for Year 1 parents to discuss the phonics screening check. This meeting was instead combined with the phonics workshop that we carried out in January. The meeting next week will therefore no longer be going ahead.

Year 3

Year 3 will be performing their Roman assembly to their parents on Friday 28th February at 2.20pm.

Year 5

Woodrow - [woodrow-january-letter-2025.pdf](#)

Woodrow Kit list- <https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/burford-school-marlow/UploadedDocument/19919ee9-e1ba-4f15-81da-6c6b5793da5d/woodrow-kit-list.pdf>

Year 6

Tower of London - [tower-of-london.pdf](#)

Week Commencing 10th February

Whole School

World Book Day - Burford School

School Council - [school-council.pdf](#)

Vehicle access to school - [vehicle-access-to-the-school.pdf](#)

Newsletter -

The Kids Lunch Co. - [kids-lunch-co.pdf](#)

Termly Contribution - [termly-contribution.pdf](#)

Gift of Opportunity - [gift-of-opportunity-fund.pdf](#)

KS2

Author Visit – [ks2-author-visit-march-2025.pdf](#)

Year 2

PSHE - [year-2-pshe-healthy-me-feb-2025.pdf](#)

Year 3

Year 3 - [year-3-message-to-parents.pdf](#)

Year 5

PSHE- <https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/burford-school-marlow/UploadedDocument/ddae98ad-7a13-49eb-8909-cd947d3d29d8/pshe-healthy-me.pdf>