

School News

'Enjoy, Achieve, Succeed Together'



ISSUE

7

19th December 2024



Headteacher message – Mrs Marshall

Message from Chair of Governors

Music

Science

Smartphones

Reading

Reception

Aladdin

Friends of Burford

Key Dates



Headteacher Awards

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

Pine – Erin

Oak – Isla

Chestnut – Eesa

Elm – Grace

Beech – Rosie

Cedar – Florence B

Juniper - Helen

Willow – Ava

Cherry – Whole Class

Sequoia – Whole Class

Hawthorn – Audrey

Ash - Elsie



Dear Burford families,

We have finally got to the end of a very long term – well done to everyone. Burford has certainly had the 'hattrick' this term with the Local Authority Health and Safety Audit, DfE Building Condition Survey and Ofsted – all three which only usually have every 4 to 5 years! Perhaps the next two terms will not be as busy... who am I kidding 😊

Since the last newsletter, the children have been very busy, with nativities in YR and Y1; the nursery Christmas party; FoB discos; church visits in KS1 and KS2; upper KS2 visiting Great Marlow to watch their fantastic production of Aladdin; whilst still working really hard in class! A super well done to all the children who reached their mile stone of being 2024/25 millionaire readers. As we know, reading is a passport for education and we are all very proud of your achievement.

It was a delight sharing stories with EYFS and toasting marshmallows with Y1 in our wildlife garden last week. Furthermore, I was delighted to learn from Sycamore class that we are growing magic beans in our garden which, if planted, might take us to the Giant's castle in the sky or maybe even to the North Pole...

Last week, some of you may have watched the Channel 4's two-part programme *Swiped: the school that banned smartphones*. If you missed the programme, it is still available on demand and is worth viewing. With this in mind, we have been approached by a group of Marlow parents who are representatives across some Marlow schools to promote a smartphone survey. Therefore, if you have 5 minutes spare over the holidays, they would very much appreciate your feedback – many thanks in advance.

Have a lovely Christmas and we look forward to seeing you in 2025!
Mrs Marshall
Headteacher

Message from Chair of Governors

It's been a big term for Burford, with our Ofsted inspection in November! Inspectors only get a small snapshot of what a school is like, but they were able to see lots of the things (and people) that make Burford special, and quite rightly recognised that when it comes to the personal development of our children, our school is outstanding! Thank you to all of our wonderful staff who not only represented the best of Burford during the inspection, but who do the best for our children every single day.

Luckily Ofsted timed their visit well and didn't disrupt any of the Christmas festivities! The Christmas Fayre was a great success, and I hope everyone who came along had fun. None of it would have been possible without all of the staff and parents who gave up their time to help – a huge thank you to all of you. And the Christmas fun didn't end there! Other highlights have been Year 4 making Christmas cakes at GMS, Years 5 and 6 going to see GMS's production of Aladdin, and our Reception and Year 1 children being superstars in their Nativity performances.

Although Christmas has taken over, we can't forget all the other brilliant stuff that's happened this term:

- our achievement of the Primary Science Quality Mark (PSQM)
- author visits from Kes Gray and Jim Field for EYFS and KS1, and Philip Kavadias for KS2
- a whole host of educational visits and workshops: Victorian Day, Florence Nightingale Day, the Chiltern Open Air Museum, Viking Day, Egyptian Day and Bletchley Park
- our link with Kasimba school in Kenya
- the completion of our playground project, including the very popular sunken pirate ship
- lots of sporting success, particularly our girls football team who received a personalised message in assembly from a former Lioness!

Lastly, congratulations to Friends of Burford for another successful Scarecrow Festival over half term. There were some incredible entries – well done to all you creative people who made something! As always, thank you to FoB for everything you do to support the school.

Merry Christmas from all the governors!

Sally Hillyer

Chair of Governors

Music

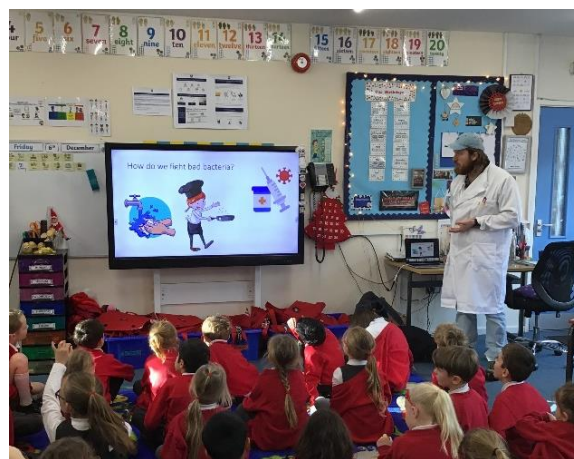
Annie, from Sequoia class, has been learning to play the flute since September and, having practiced it most days since starting, felt confident enough to perform to KS2 at our Monday assembly. The performance was led by Miss Simmonds, who teaches lessons in flute and woodwind instruments at Burford. The performance of Christmas songs was thoroughly enjoyed by all. When asked about how it felt to perform in front of an audience, Annie said, "I really enjoyed the performance."



Science

On Friday 6th December we had Dr Daniel Williams-Jones join us for our whole school assembly. He has recently completed a PHD titled 'Force transduction through the bacterial cell envelope' at Oxford university and came in to be our guest speaker. The children were all engaged in learning about the different types of bacteria and used our Burford value of curiosity.

He then ran workshops in years 2 and 6 where the children have been learning about body health. The children learnt amazing facts, how experiments take place in a laboratory and how science is linked to the real world. The children in year 2 were amazed to find out that Dr Daniel was a 'real' scientist! One child stating "you are so cool!". The children in year 6 were glued to the conversation and asked lots of wonderful questions. It was a wonderful opportunity for the children and we want to thank Dr Daniel Williams-Jones for taking the time to support our learning in science.



Smartphones

Smartphones and Children: Marlow Survey

The impact of smartphones on children has become a pressing issue in our community. To address this, we're launching a town-wide survey to gather your valuable insights and opinions.

We invite you to participate in this short, 5-minute survey.

https://jillworkplace.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0Cyog9gYKn0ZONo

Your responses will help shape how schools approach this important topic. Rest assured; all submissions are completely anonymous.

Your experiences and perspectives are crucial in guiding our community's approach to children and smartphone use.

The survey will be open until 13th January. Your participation is greatly appreciated and will contribute to informed decision-making for our children's well-being.

Thank you for your time and input.

Marlow parent representatives across primary schools in Marlow



Reading

It has been a busy Autumn term but, despite this, lots and lots of children have been finding the time to excel in their reading. At Burford, we have not just got one child who has become a Millionaire Reader this term, we have...seven!!! Huge congratulations go to:

Shree M in Ash Class

Felicity C in Beech Class

Henry C and Oliver H in Cherry Class

Henry H and Alina S in Sequoia

Nathaniel C in Willow



We wanted to give a special mention to our Year 2 children who are already reading library books, particularly Zain in Elm who has read over 10,000 words this term. Amazing!

The class which has read the most words this term is...SEQUOIA! The children in Sequoia have read 10,342,466 words. Cherry class children were the second highest readers, so a big well done to Year 5 in general.

We are very proud of all children who have had a go at reading this term. Even if you only read a page a day, we know that reading is the passport to all learning and, if you read regularly, you are on your way!

Reception – wildlife garden

The Reception children enjoyed a very special activity last week in the wildlife garden. They were so excited to be welcomed into the garden by Mrs Marshall and a real fire. We warmed up by the fire and settled down to eating chocolate biscuits while listening to Mrs Marshall telling us a magical Christmas story. After that, the children were delighted to have the freedom to explore the garden and look for worms hiding under logs. We did this quietly as we didn't want to disturb the hibernating frogs by the pond, which the children were very excited about.

During the morning of the nature garden visit, the children learned about the story of 'Jack and the beanstalk' as a part of our traditional tales topic. We were thrilled to find the remains of a runner bean plant in the garden which had been grown by the gardening club in the summer. Our imaginations ran wild with thoughts of how Jack might have climbed a beanstalk just like this. The icing on the cake was pulling the beans apart to discover a collection of beautiful pink seeds inside the pods. We wondered if these were the same as the magic beans which Jack exchanged for his cow...



Reception and Year 1 Nativity

On Monday 9th and Tuesday 10th December, our Reception and Year 1 children performed their nativity to their parents.

We are very proud of how amazing the children were during the performance and their singing was fabulous.

Thank you to all of the parents for providing their costumes and to Mr Walker and the Reception and Year 1 team for all their hard work preparing the children for their nativity.



Great Marlow School - Aladdin

Y5 and Y6 were delighted to be invited to Great Marlow School for their all-star production, Aladdin.

The children were wonderful ambassadors for Burford, walking to the performance and back sensibly.

They were amazing audience members, cheering (and booing!) their hearts out for the wonderful performers. They even enjoyed an ice-cream treat in the interval.

All the adults who accompanied the children were incredibly impressed with their attitudes and behaviours on the journey and all through the performance. Well done, Y5 and Y6!



Friends of Burford

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas from Friends of Burford PTA!

Some dates for the new year to pop in your diary, more information on both to follow:

- March 8, Quiz Night!
- June 6, Bingo Night!



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/>**

School Applications

Nursery School Applications

We still have a few places available for this academic year. 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.

Primary School Applications

Applications for Bucks primary schools opened on 1st November. If you, or someone you know is looking for a school place to start Reception in September 2025 and would like to tour our please contact the school office the application process closes on 15th January.

Secondary School Applications

For secondary school places in September 2025, the application deadline is now closed. You will receive your school allocation from Bucks on 3rd March 2025.

Parent Representatives

Many thanks for the questions and comments submitted for the Parent Forum meeting this week. Your feedback is invaluable to us and very much appreciated.

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://prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/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://prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/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://prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com)

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

Autumn Term Calendar Dates:

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



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.

Community Event

Come along to 19 Andrews way between the hours of 5pm and 8pm from now until Christmas. Have a look through our magical front window into an enchanted Christmas Village. From merry-go-rounds, pubs, shops, a farmyard, to football, a marching band, a lighthouse, snowball fights and so much more to see!!



If you pop by and like what you see then please feel free to donate what you can on our just giving page or by scanning the QR code, alternatively pop spare cash through our letterbox.

All money will go to FOB (Friends of Burford) for our amazing village school. (But don't feel obliged)

[The Kirks Christmas Village Just Giving Page](#)

PS. PEOPLE OF ALL AGES SHOULD COME AND SEE THIS!!!

Merry Christmas from the Kirks

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 9th December

Whole School

Art Club - [art-club.pdf](#)

Funky Textiles - [funky-textiles-club-letter-burford-spring-25.pdf](#)

John Johnny Breakdance Academy – [john-johnny-school-dance-flyer-2025.pdf](#)

Cheerleading- <https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/burford-school-marlow/UploadedDocument/e3f8f992-85f7-4fad-a756-8924e3b64c05/burford-school-cheerleading-club-spring-25.pdf>

The Outdoor Project After School Club - [Burford ASC Spring 2025](#)

MW Football- <https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/burford-school-marlow/UploadedDocument/dc03bf63-f902-49f5-b027-641896bf310d/mw-football-spring-term.pdf>

Year 1

Phonics Letter- <https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/burford-school-marlow/UploadedDocument/d6956b68-7ca4-4e44-b5f6-a3c2cbcad3d0/year-1-phonics-letter.pdf>

Phonics Information-

Oak- <https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/burford-school-marlow/UploadedDocument/3d9f4f76-c41b-47b9-9913-3eb5898f3b08/oak-leaflet.pdf>

Pine- <https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/burford-school-marlow/UploadedDocument/d9233aae-fc87-4bfc-b5e3-34e3fcb60e0/pine-leaflet.pdf>

Year 3

Swimming - <https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/burford-school-marlow/UploadedDocument/e6d8028c-ef82-4643-b92b-b11786d0abc7/swimming-letter.pdf>

Year 5

Woodrow- <https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/burford-school-marlow/UploadedDocument/7e846baf-1b2f-4b59-b5dd-74556ab0b8fc/december-woodrow-letter-2024.pdf>

Year 6

Childhood measurement programme results - [childhood-measurement.pdf](#)

Week Commencing 16th December

KS2

Netball - [get-set-netball-after-school-club-spring-term-2025-1.pdf](#)

Coding Club - [Logiscool School Partnerships](#)