



# Burrsville Infants Newsletter

29<sup>th</sup> November 2024

As we speed towards Christmas, I would like to update you of the most recent news and updates from Burrsville Infant Academy.

## Celebration Assemblies

I am aware that last year parents were invited to attend Celebration Assemblies. I have decided to adapt how this will look going forward. We still have a Celebration Assembly every week but they are considerably shorter – lasting only 10 minutes so parents will no longer be invited to attend. This is due to us prioritising the curriculum and outcomes. We also find that if parents are unable to attend then this can cause dysregulation and upset for some pupils. It is also about protecting the well-being of staff – when parents are invited to Celebration Assemblies this means teachers have to plan in advance which pupil will receive a certificate in Assembly. I would like this not to have to be so planned, allowing pupils to be chosen right up until the Assembly.

I appreciate that you may be disappointed by this decision which is why I am going to introduce Celebration Events at the end of every half term – all pupils that have received a certificate will be invited to attend with their parents where hot chocolate and cake will be served, and you will get to spend time with your child celebrating their success. The dates will be set at the beginning of the year so that you can plan accordingly. The event will be held at 2.30pm so that you can then take your child home.

Dates will also be published in this Newsletter where Open Mornings for different classes will be held so that parents are able to see what lessons look like and play a part in their child's education.

## WOW Wall

We have recently created a WOW wall in our entrance hall. Pupils' work will be added to the display each week. This is an opportunity to celebrate pupils who have worked really hard and produced an incredible piece of work. These pupils will also be invited to attend our celebration events. Make sure to pop in to see the work - it changes each week on a Friday.

## Parent Survey

Thank you to those of you who attended Parents Evening and filled in a Parent Survey. It was overwhelmingly positive with 99% of parents agreeing that they would recommend Burrsville to other parents. 95% of parents said their child was happy at school and 97% of parents said their child felt safe at school.

Most responses were positive but there were some aspects that scored slightly lower – these were linked to knowing what your child is learning and how well they are doing. From Spring Term each Year Group will be sending a Half Termly Overview to parents informing you of what your child will be learning. With reference to how well-informed parents feel about how their child is doing, we hold Parent Evenings three times a year, we send an interim report twice a year and an annual report once a year. You are welcome to meet with your child's class teacher at any point to discuss their academic progress.

## My Happy Mind

We are very excited to let you know about a project that we have engaged with called 'My Happy Mind'. This is a programme that addresses well-being and mental health – please see below for further details:

### Who?

Our programmes are designed for schools, families and nurseries who care about developing the mental wellbeing of children

### What?

We combine the latest research, science and technology to help children develop lifelong habits and learn to thrive

### Why?

We believe that we should be equipping all children with the knowledge, skills and tools to thrive in the modern world.



**67%**

Decrease in children requiring  
SENCo support



**60%**

Decrease in  
external exclusions



**43%**

Decrease in  
CAMHS referrals

We will be launching this at the start of Spring Term. The pupils will receive lessons linked to this resource. Further into our journey we will launch the Parent App.

Further information about this can be found at: [Home - myHappymind](#)

### Fundraising

Thank you so much for all your generous support with the last few fundraising events we have held we raised the following:

Remembrance - £182.00

Children in Need - £150.00

This an amazing amount so thank you so much for all of your donations.

## **Staffing**

I am excited to announce that Mrs Hutchings will be returning from Maternity Leave on the 9<sup>th</sup> December. She will be supporting in EYFS on a Monday and Tuesday (these are the days that she will be working). She is a very experienced EYFS teacher and we look forward to having her back.

## **PTA News**

### **\*Christmas Raffle**

The PTA have been busy sourcing prizes for the Christmas raffle which will take place during the KS1 performance on Thursday 12th December. We have lots of great prizes including tickets for days out, beauty vouchers, sweet hampers, pamper hampers and soft play entry. Thank you to the parents and staff who have donated items.

The raffle tickets will be sent home in your children's book bag week commencing Monday 2nd December. If you wish to purchase tickets, please follow the instructions enclosed. Please ensure you complete your details on the tickets so we can contact you if you are a lucky winner! Please return tickets and money to the school office in the envelope provided by Monday 9th December.

Additional tickets will also be on sale before each performance.

### **\*Donate to Dress Down**

Just a reminder that children are permitted to come into school on Friday 6th December in their own clothes in exchange for a donation to our Christmas raffle. Each class has been allocated a colour to donate and we are requesting new and unused items please. Your child does not have to wear the colour assigned to the class but can if they wish.

### **\*Bauble Design Competition**

The PTA are running a bauble design competition to encourage the children to express their artistic skills. Templates will be sent home in the children's book bags Friday 13th December and it is requested they are returned for judging by Monday 16th December. A winner in each class will win a selection box and a treat of hot chocolate with all the trimmings with Mrs Westcott.

Entry is 50p per child.

### **\*Pre-loved School Uniform**

We are in need of donations for any larger size Burrsdale logo school jumpers and cardigans. If you have any outgrown larger sizes at home, we would be very grateful if you could please consider donating to the PTA. Items can be handed in to the school office.

Thank you for your continued support for the PTA, we are hoping to continue to raise funds to support the children with activities and opportunities throughout the school year.

Also, if you would like to join us or if you are considering joining and would like some further information please speak to the school office who will pass your details over to us.

## Parent Council

I recently sent out some information about Parent Council. This is a really exciting initiative that REACH2 have launched. The idea is we would create a Parent Council for Burrsville but also have a parent representative to represent us at whole trust meetings. I would ideally like a parent representative from each class for the school-based Parent Council. Please see below for details on how to put yourself forward. Unfortunately, we have had no one nominate themselves to date.



# Shape Education: Join Us as a Trust- Level Parent Rep!

>Your Voice Matters!

**Your Role:**

Represent parents from EYFS to Year 6, influencing policies and initiatives.

**Why We Need You:**

Your input is key to aligning our Trust's direction with parent needs.

**Time Commitment:**

Attend a maximum of 1 meeting per half-term

After school, face-to-face

Ready to make a difference?

Get involved today!



## Other Notices

Please can we ensure that pupils do not have earrings in on the days that they have PE. Can you ensure that PE kits are in school – I would suggest sending them in at the beginning of a half term and then taking them home at the end of the half term to wash ready to return.

Play Equipment – please can you ensure that your child is not playing with any of the equipment in the EYFS garden or on the play equipment on the field (this includes the tyres) at drop off and pick up times. This is to ensure that all children stay safe and that equipment does not get damaged.

## **2024/25 Term Dates**

Christmas - Last day of term 20.12.24 1:30pm finish  
Inset Day 06.01.25  
Returning 07.01.25

Last Day of February Half Term - 14.02.25  
Inset Day 24.02.25  
Returning 25.02.25

Easter – Last Day of Term 04.04.25  
Bank Holidays - 18.04.25 & 21.04.25  
Returning 22.04.25

May Bank Holidays – 05.05.25 & 26.05.25

May Half Term – Last Day of Term 23.05.25  
Returning 02.06.25

Summer Holiday –  
Last Day of Term 18.07.25 1:30pm finish  
Inset Day 21.07.25  
Returning September 2025

## **Polite reminder**

Our small car park is for **staff only** unless a prior agreement has been arranged with Mrs Westcott.

Thank you for your co-operation with this and ensuring our children are safe.

## **Please note**

Spare tickets for both EYFS & KS1 Christmas Shows will be available to buy from the office on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

EYFS – 50p per ticket

KS1 - £1.00 per ticket



## **Diary Dates**

02.12.24 - Headteacher Parent Forum 9:30-10:00am

06.12.24 - Pantomime Day

06.12.24 – Donate to Dress Down Day

09.12.24 – EYFS Christmas Show 9:30am  
Siblings/ babies welcome

10.12.24 - EYFS Christmas Show 2:00pm  
Adults only

11.12.24 – KS1 Christmas Show 9:30am  
Siblings/ babies welcome

11.12.24 – KS1 Christmas Show 2:00pm  
Adults only

12.12.24 – KS1 Christmas Show 2:00pm  
Adults only

16.12.24 – Rocksteady Christmas Concert 10:00-11:00am

18.12.24 - Christmas Dinner and Jumper Day

19.12.24 – EYFS Family Fun Time 1:50pm

Celebration Assemblies – 2:30-3:00pm  
Parents will be invited

14.02.25

04.04.25

23.05.25

17.07.25

Open Classrooms - 2:00-3:00pm  
Further details will be sent

23.01.25 – Elder

23.01.25 – Hazel

07.02.25 – Cedar

07.02.25 - Sycamore