



Burrsville Infants Newsletter

25th October 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of half term, I would like to take the opportunity to thank you all for the warm welcome that I have received since joining Burrsville as Headteacher.

We have had a busy half term where many events have happened;

- Year 2 have been on a school trip to Colchester Castle
- Year 1 and 2 have been to the church to celebrate Harvest Festival
- School Council Members and Eco Council Members have been elected
- A large number of pupils have attended the large range of after school clubs that we offer as a school

Year 2 Trip to Colchester Castle

On Wednesday 2nd October Year 2 went on a school trip to Colchester Castle. We had a fantastic day pretending we were soldiers and marching around the rooms. We looked at the arrow slits in the windows and took time to observe how big the castle doors were. After the learning activities completed inside the castle, we were allowed to go up onto the castle roof. It was very exciting and we could hear the Town Hall clock chiming. We had a fabulous time in the castle and were complimented on our 'Brilliant Burrsville Behaviour.'

Harvest Festival

On Friday 11th October Year 1 and Year 2 walked to St Johns Church to attend a Harvest Festival Service. The pupils were amazing and really did the school proud. Thank you to all the parents that attended and for all your food donations. Many thanks also go to the Rev. Mark Mulryne for hosting us at the church and for supporting us with the service. I sent a survey to parents asking for feedback on the Harvest Festival and have taken on board the comments around how Year 1 could not be seen as they were at the back – next year I will ensure that Year 1 are seated in front of the Year 2 pupils so that all pupils can be seen. Some of the comments about the Harvest Festival are as follows:

'Really good and well organised'

'Lovely seeing the children taking part'

'The Harvest Festival was brilliant, really enjoyed the children singing'

Values

The new Burrsville Values have been launched where each class have been responsible for creating a display for the hall linked to the new values.



To date we have had an assembly about 3 of the values where the pupils have learnt what it means to be 'Resilient', 'Kind' and show 'Respect'. New certificates have been created alongside stickers – the pupils will start to return from school with these new stickers and certificates.

Attendance

In order for the pupils to learn and make progress they need to be attending school – ideally we as a school are aiming for 97%+ in terms of attendance. I appreciate that sometimes pupils get ill but attendance under 97% means that their learning becomes compromised. In order to reward great attendance, I have introduced a badge reward system. Each term a badge will be awarded for attendance above 97% or where attendance has really improved. The aim is for the pupils to get all 9 badges by the end of their time at Burrsville. Rewards will be provided at the end of each term, year and the end of 3 years.

Reading

In order to deliver our Phonics and Reading Curriculum to a high standard, we require a significant amount of investment into Reading books. If you know of any companies that would be willing to sponsor us as a school to buy these much needed books, please could you let me know. Sadly, a large number of our books have been lost or ruined, particularly due to water bottles spilling on them. Moving forwards, we will be asking parents to pay for books that are ruined or lost, so please remind children not to put their water bottles in bags and ensure they look after their reading books.

Online Safety

It has come to our attention lately that some pupils are accessing things online that are not age appropriate. The NSPCC has some really great tips on how to keep children safe online - [Keeping children safe online | NSPCC](#).

Mrs Tower will be running a parent workshop for parents to attend if you would like more support with this. The date will be at the bottom of the newsletter.

School Meals

On Parents Evening we will be offering some samples of the school meals that are currently available to pupils. I would encourage you to try them – they are delicious and nutritious. The best thing is as we are an infant school there is no cost to you for your child to have a meal. Below is a theme day that we have coming up shortly;



Coffee Mornings

Across this half term, myself, Mrs Tower and Mrs Fuller have held coffee mornings and Parent Forums. Unfortunately, no parent has attended these meetings. I am really keen to gather parental voice so that I can work with the community to ensure that Burrsville continues to be a great school. I have added further dates at the bottom of the newsletter and I would love to see some of you there.

A couple of messages:

Please can we not allow the pupils to ride their scooters on the paths – these need to be left outside the gate or walked alongside them.

When collecting your children at the end of the day please wait for your child to be sent out to you – please do not call them or approach the windows to look through. In order to keep the children safe, it is important that the class teacher can dismiss them in their own time ensuring all children are going to their adult. I thank you in advance for this.

2024 Term Dates

October Half Term - 28.10.24 returning 4.11.24

Christmas -
Last day of term 20.12.24 1:30pm finish
returning 7.1.25

February Half Term - 17.2.25 returning 25.2.25

Easter - 7.4.25 returning 22.4.25

May Bank Holiday – 5.5.25

May Half Term - 26.5.25 returning 2.6.25

July Summer Holidays - 21.7.25
1:30pm finish
returning September 2025

Diary Dates

6.11.24 - EYFS Open Days for 2025, 1.30 - 2.30pm
21.11.24 – EYFS Open Day for 2025, 1:30 - 2:30pm

4.11.24 – Parents Evening – book on Arbor
7.11.24 - Parents Evening – book on Arbor

11.11.24 – SEND & Pastoral coffee morning, 9-10am

15.11.24 - Children in Need

18.11.24 – Online safety workshop for parents, 2.30pm

2.12.24 - Headteacher Parent Forum,
9:30 - 10:00am

06.12.24 - Pantomime Day

9.12.24 – EYFS Christmas Show (info to follow)
10.12.24 - EYFS Christmas Show (info to follow)
11.12.24 - Year 1 and Year 2 Nativity (info to follow)
12.12.24 - Year 1 and Year 2 Nativity (info to follow)

16.12.24 – Rocksteady Concert, 10-11am

18.12.24 - Christmas Dinner and Jumper Day

After School Clubs

Clubs are termly.

Please look out for an email towards the end of the Autumn Term to sign your child up for next term.

Monday – Dance
Tuesday – Singing
Wednesday – Art
Thursday – Multi Skills (with Sports Coach)

Clubs run from 3:15 – 4:00pm.