The Burford Bulletin

20 NOVEMBER 2026



A letter from Miss Hiles

Dear Parents and Carers

Another busy week in school. It has been wonderful to walk around the classes this week and see all of the children busy learning and enjoying what they are doing. Class 2 had an exciting day on Monday reenacting the events of The Great Fire of London through drama and crafts. Class 6 have been learning all about how we celebrate birthdays and have even had a birthday party!

Reverend Lawrence Gittin's wife, Mrs Lawrence Gittens, has kindly offered to come into school to work with the children each week. Mrs Lawrence Gittins is a very experienced musician and former Headteacher, so we are very lucky to be benefitting from her expertise. We heard Christmas carols being sang beautifully this week in preparation for our Christmas performances. It will not be long until we pop open the first chocolate of the advent calendar and then the fun really begins!

As always, the door to school remains open. Have a lovely weekend and we will see you again on Monday.

Miss Hiles

Diwali Dance Workshop NEW DATE!

We are delighted to let you know that West End Schools have rearranged their visit. They will be bringing their Diwali Dance Workshop to us on Thursday 26th November.



Please send your child to school in their PE kit. Donations towards the cost of the workshop can still be made via EduSpot.

Kindness Award



We lost our beloved Mrs Flynn this year. Her superpower of kindness impacted all of us here at Burford Primary School.



In her memory, we would like to present an award to someone within our community for showing outstanding kindness. This person could be a child or an adult, someone who is at our school or within our wider community. Perhaps a coach, club, or community leader. Perhaps a child who is known for kindness or has done something exceptional kind.



We would love it if you could help your child to nominate someone you, as a family, think deserves this award. Mrs Flynn's family have agreed to pick a winner from the entries.



Nomination forms have been sent home but there are spare ones in the school office if you want to pop by and pick another up.



PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR FORMS BY THURSDAY 17th DECEMBER.

Burford Pupil Featured on Invention Website

We are delighted to share that Autumn in Class 4 has had her invention featured on the Little Inventors website.

This initiative is to give children across the world the opportunity to develop and showcase their creativity and problem-solving skills, and to build their confidence, curiosity and resilience.



Head to https://www.littleinventors.org/ideas and search 'Burford' to see Autumn's invention.

Christmas Hampers



On Friday 27th November, we are holding a non-uniform day in aid of our Christmas Hampers for the Community appeal.

We kindly request that each child brings a donation to be included in our Christmas Hampers. *(A list of suggested items per class is below)*

These hampers will be delivered by our Class 5 pupils to the elderly people living who live in sheltered accommodation close to the school. Then we stop at the bungalows in Forresters Road to sing Christmas carols to the residents, which they absolutely love.

We usually deliver around 35 hampers in total. In order to do this we are holding a non-school uniform day in exchange for hamper items. We would be very grateful for the following donations please:

- Class 1 and 6 - Mince pies
- Class 2 - Christmas cake slices or any other Christmas themed cakes.
- Class 3 - Savoury biscuits, e.g cheese crackers or something similar.
- Class 4 - Boxes of biscuits or some really nice ones.
- Class 5 - Boxes of chocolates.

Please check the use-by dates on the items (preferably January 2027 at the earliest).

This will be our 6th year of doing this and it is something the children love being able to take part in.

Many thanks in advance.

Admissions Policy Amendments

We are making a few minor changes to our Admissions Policy for 2028/2029. The draft policy showing these amendments is on our website along with a letter explaining how parents can respond during the consultation period. The consulation period is from November 20th to January 8th. Please see our website for further details or ask in the school office.

Sponsored Santa Fun Run



On Monday 7th December, all our pupils will be taking part in the Sponsored Santa Fun Run. Each class will takes turns going outside for their Santa Run.

The children are welcome to wear Christmassy fancy dress or accessories. The best dressed in each class will win a prize!

Money raised will go to our Friends of Burford School Association (FOBSA). Sponsorship forms have already been sent home.

Christmas Jumper Day for Save the Children

This year, we are holding our Christmas Jumper Day in aid of Save the Children.

On Thursday 10th December, your child can wear their favourite Christmas Jumper to school. Donations of £1 can be made on EduSpot as usual.

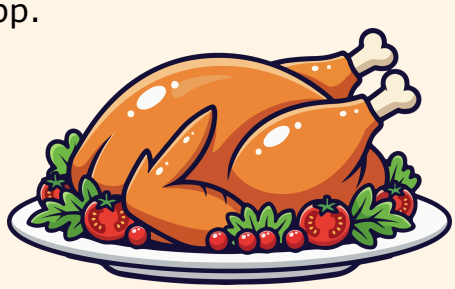


We are looking forward to getting in the festive spirit and raising some money for charity!

Christmas Dinner

The children can enjoy Christmas Dinner together on Monday 14th December. This is bookable via the Red Hen school lunches app.

THE DEADLINE TO BOOK CHRISTMAS DINNER IS MONDAY 7th DECEMBER.



Merits

Imogen for trying so hard with your reading at home and school - keep it up!

Zack for concentrating so well when thinking about our big question this week. Well done!

Amélie for being so sensible when thinking about rules for international children's day.

Hermione for settling so well into Class 2.

Alfie for some super sentences in English.
Jaxon for having a positive attitude towards his learning.

Flo for good progress in phonics.

Luca for his excellent attitude to his Maths learning.

Wynnie for super effort in her reading and improving her reading quizzing.

Austin for amazing independent use of dashes for parenthesis!

Daniil for working 100% independently when describing cloud goblins!

Grayson for sharing his huge subject knowledge about dinosaurs in our geography lesson about fossil fuels!

Autumn for creating an invention in design technology that has been displayed on the little inventor's website.

Amelia for tidying the library every time she has reward time.

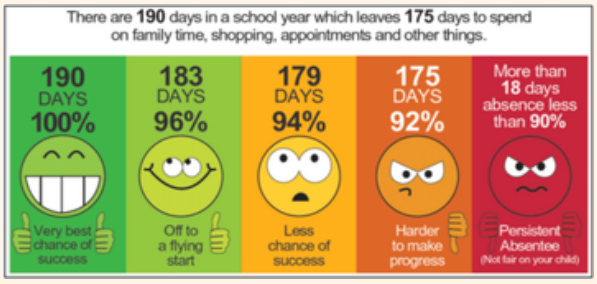
Ashanti and Skylar for giving the librarians a lovely message, following the rules, and tidying the library without being asked.

Henry for picking books up and sorting them into the correct points.

Attendance







Attendance is very important and this year the government are focusing on this in schools even more. It is vital your children are at school. Each day's learning in schools builds upon the previous day, so children who miss days are missing out on stages of their learning.

Arriving late also affects children's learning. The school day starts at 9.00am. It really is important that children arrive by this time. We start lessons at 9.00am. Children who arrive late miss out on the beginning of their lessons and find it tricky. **We open the gates at 8.50am and close them again at 9.00am**.

Please make sure you send your child to school unless they are too unwell. **If your child is unwell, please phone the office each day they are not at school**. Sometimes it can be hard to decide if your child is too ill for school. This is a useful link that may help you decide.
https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/

We will not authorise any holiday take during term time unless it is exceptional circumstances. You could be fined. Please try to avoid term time for your holidays.

We work closely with the Shropshire Education Welfare Officer (EWO) who monitors school attendance in all schools in Shropshire. It is important that we all work together to support your children attending school. If you have any concerns, please do contact the school.

Attendance this week	
Whole School	93%
Class 1	90.5%
Class 2	91%
Class 3	97%
Class 4	90%
Class 5	96.5%
Class 6	96%

Dates for the Diary

Please keep an eye on the dates in the bulletin each week as we may add to them.

THU NOV 26 
Diwali Dance Workshop NEW DATE
Pupils to wear PE kit to school. Donations via EduSpot please.

FRI NOV 27 
Non-School Uniform in aid of Hampers
Please donate Christmas Hamper items (list in bulletin) for local elderly people living in sheltered accommodation.

TUE DEC 01 
Rock Steady Concert

MON DEC 07 
Santa Fun Run
Sponsorship sheets have been sent home.

MON DEC 07 
Deadline for Ordering Christmas Lunch
These are ordered via the online Red Hen lunch booking system.

TUE DEC 08 
DHMAT Christmas Church Service
Hereford Cathedral. Year 5 Only. Letters have gone home.

WED DEC 09 
Classes 1 & 6 - Christmas Performance
Afternoon. More details to follow.

THU DEC 10 
Christmas Jumper Day
More details to follow.

MON DEC 14 
Christmas Lunch
Deadline to book is Dec 07 via Red Hen.

TUE DEC 15 
Classes 2 & 3 - Christmas Performance
Afternoon and Evening. More details to follow.

WED DEC 16 
Classes 4 & 5 - Carols Around the Christmas Tree
Afternoon. More details to follow.

FRI DEC 18 
Christmas Church Service
Tenbury Church. 2.30pm Please pick up from Church.

Monday 21st Dec - Monday 4th January WINTER BREAK

TUE JAN 05
PD Day - Staff in school
No pupils in school.

WED JAN 06
Spring Term Starts
All pupils in school.

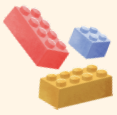
Clubs



MONDAY	Chill Out Club	3.30 - 4.15pm
TUESDAY	Art Club	3.30 - 4.15pm
WEDNESDAY	Lego Club	3.30 - 4.15pm
THURSDAY	Sign Language Club	3.30 - 4.15pm
THURSDAY	Choir Club	3.30 - 4.30pm
FRIDAY	Football Club	3.30 - 4.30pm











Reminders

Parking

We are very lucky to be able to use the Burford Village Hall Car Park as we do. Please can we remind parents, carers, and children that the area outside the village hall is a shared space. Please could waiting families keep the hall main entrance clear and be considerate of hall users who need to access the building, particularly in the morning when hirers may need to bring in equipment.

Please could we also remind everyone that the village hall toilet facilities are to be used only by hall hirers and their visitors. They are not open to the public or to those waiting for the school to open. Thank you for your support with this.

Mobile Phones

A reminder about mobile phones and smart watches.

Please can we remind all parents that children are not allowed to bring a mobile phone to school unless they are Y5 or Y6 **and** walk home.

A child's mobile phone should be turned off before they enter the school grounds and not turned on again until they have left.

If we find a child with a mobile phone that is turned on or they should not have one in school, we will take the phone off them and will expect their parent to pick the phone up from the office at the end of the day.

If any child has a smart watch, it must be on aeroplane mode at all times once they enter school grounds. Again, if we find a watch has been taken off aeroplane mode, we will keep the watch in the office and expect a parent to collect it at the end of the day. The child will not be allowed to wear the watch again in school.

Thank you for your understanding.

Reminders

Uniform - Jewellery

Please can we remind parents that children should not be wearing any form of jewellery to school other than small stud earrings. This includes necklaces and bracelets. Earrings should be taped up for PE. Thank you.

Oak Tree Club

If you would like to book for either Breakfast Club or Oak Tree Club, please use the online payment system.

You can book daily or in blocks or as and when you need it. If you have any problems with the payment system, contact the office.

Tax-free childcare vouchers are available if you are working and can be used to pay for our wraparound care as we are a registered provider. If you are receipt of Universal Credit you can claim 85% of the costs back.

Dojo

Dojo is an amazing communication between school and home. We love how we are able to send messages to everyone on it and receive messages back.

During the day while staff are teaching, they are not always able to see the messages. For safeguarding reasons, **if you are changing who is collecting your child after school then please inform the office** and not Dojo, as the teacher may not have read the message.

Please can we remind everyone that quiet time when staff are not expected to reply to any messages is from 5pm-8am the following day. During weekends and holidays staff are not expected to look at Dojo or reply to messages from 5pm on Friday (or last day of term) until 8am on Monday (or first day of term). Thank you.

Reminders continued

Free School Meals / Pupil Premium

A reminder that the Government are introducing substantial changes to Free School Meal (FSM) eligibility. Under the new national criteria, all families in receipt of Universal Credit will qualify for free school meals, meaning that more students will become eligible.

Therefore, from September 2026, there will be two categories of benefit-related FSM.

1. Targeted Free School Meals:
This category continues to be based on the existing income threshold. Students will be eligible if their household.

Is in receipt of Universal Credit, and
Has an annual household income of £7,400 or less.

Only students eligible for Targeted FSM will qualify for Pupil Premium funding. This means you child will qualify for a Pupil Premium Grant (PPG). If your child is in receipt of Targeted FSM all your school lunches ordered through school are free and with the PPG the money is used to fund educational visits, including residentials, music lessons and much more.

2. New, Expanded Free School Meals:
This category applies to school meals only and covers pupils who:



Live in households receiving Universal Credit, and
Do not meet the income threshold for Targeted FSM (i.e. the annual household income is above £7,400).

Pupils eligible for Expanded FSM will be eligible to free school meals only.
The deadline for local authorities to complete eligibility checks is fast approaching.

If you have previously thought you were not eligible, please check by following instructions in the link below.



Please do not miss out on support that you may be entitled to for your child.

Please seek further guidance at https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals.

This is all different to the Universal Free School Meals (UFSM) all children In EYFS, Years 1 and 2 get. That will not qualify you for funding for educational visit, music lessons etc.

More Information and Links for Our Community

School Uniform
Red polo shirt with or without the school logo
Grey or black school trousers, skirts or dresses
Dark blue cardigan or jumper with or without school logo
Black, white, or grey socks
Black, blue, or brown shoes

PE Uniform
T-shirt in plain white with or without logo
Black or dark blue shorts
Dark(black, blue or grey) plain tracksuit bottoms
Dark plain (black, blue or grey) tracksuit top or hoody
Trainers
Long hair should be tied back
Small stud earrings will need to be covered up for PE

Please can we also remind you that nail varnish and jewellery should not be worn at school.

Safeguarding
Keeping children safe from harm and abuse.
The Government has released guidance for parents on keeping children safe from harm and abuse. There are links and telephone numbers to help get support or seek reassurance for a range of topics to support you, your children and other families.

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-keeping-children-safe-from-abuse-and-harm/advice-to-parents-and-carers-on-keeping-children-safe-from-abuse-and-harm

Talking to your children about Sexual Harassment
This is something that has been in the news a lot recently but can be something that is tricky to talk to your children about. The Children's Commissioner has written with suggested ways to help discuss this appropriately with your children.

https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/report/talking-to-your-child-about-online-sexual-harassment-a-guide-for-parents/

Barnado's support for parents
Barnardo's have developed a support hub for parents where they will be able to find a range of resources, tools and videos to help support their child's journey back to school.

https://www.barnardos.org.uk/support-hub/back-to-school

Keeping children safe online
The Government has issued guidance with links to help parents keep children safe online. This is the link to the guidance.

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-keeping-children-safe-online/coronavirus-covid-19-support-for-parents-and-carers-to-keep-children-safe-online

Davis Bequest
This fund was set up to support people in the Burford Community. It is available to families of children from our school whom circumstances have changed for short term support. This is something that may be needed during these times. To apply for the Davis Bequest please contact Mrs Partridge at school on head@burford.shropshire.sch.uk.

Covid Symptoms in Children
For more information, please copy and paste the link into your browser:
https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/coronavirus-in-children/

Scarlet Fever/Streptococcus A
For more information, please copy and paste the link into your browser:
https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/strep-a/

ASD Virtual Support Group for Parents
Wednesday Mornings 10am-11am and Wednesday Evenings 8pm-9pm – 1st and 3rd Weds of each month (term time)

Our online support groups meet twice a month via Zoom. This is an opportunity to talk with other parents, share ideas, and offer support. We recommend that you have attended an online advice appointment with a member of the team before joining group sessions.

If you would like to join either of the support groups, please email the team here shropshire@autismwestmidlands.org.uk

We offer advice and support over the phone and via email. Parents/carers and professionals can contact our small team directly to arrange an appointment please call:
Shropshire office - 01952 454156 Mon, Wed, Fri
Wendy Cowton 07900784186 Weds, Thu, Fri
Emma Hegenbarth 07881109480 Tue, Wed, Thu
Dawn Lewis 07706309382
Email shropshire@autismwestmidlands.org.uk Helpline 0121 450 7575

Autism West Midlands Dad's Group
Monthly on a Thursday 7pm-8pm
This is an opportunity for dads to meet online, share ideas, celebrate their children's achievement's and offer support to each other with a member of Autism West Midlands present.
For more information and booking details please email:
info@autismwestmidlands.org.uk