

Welcome back to school. As we begin the last half term of the year it is a good time to reflect on the school year and how quickly time passes for the children and families. Many thanks to you all for your ongoing support of the children and the school community. Our recent artwork created with the support of Mark Riley, Artist in Residence, and funded by the PFTA is titled 'We Belong' and we do all indeed belong to our special school.

We have enjoyed watching the children in Nursery and Reception become more independent and confident this year. Our Year 1s and 2s have been working very hard under the careful direction of the staff, enabling them to develop the vital basic skills of speaking and listening, reading, writing and maths whilst also developing the key skills of independence, resilience and problem solving that our school curriculum supports. As for our Y3s and Y4s, the expectations increase considerably in anticipation of Middle School and they are rising to the challenge. Well done everyone.

## **Exciting learning at BF\$- Summer 2026**

Thanks to Mrs Webb and Miss Bailey alongside the staff for our wonderful sport's day, celebrating the enjoyment of sport and also the competitive element that can be associated with team games and individual competition. Thank you to our governors for judging the winners! Well done everyone. Here are photos of Sport's Day, our Wake and Shake competition and working with our Artist in Residence Mark Riley.



## **Community Award**

In September, we will introduce a new COMMUNITY AWARD with the aim of supporting children to appreciate and contribute to their community. The children will be introduced to the award during Assembly and if they wish to take part and are in Yellow or Blue Classes, they will be provided with a participation card and monitoring booklet and can take part both in school and outside of school. They will collect badges and ultimately be presented with a special certificate when they have achieved all six badges.

Working towards the following badges will be their focus:

- SAFETY – including road safety, water safety, first aid, household safety, school trip monitors or school safety monitors
- FRIENDSHIP – helping younger children in school, participating in Burcot Grange readers, play leaders, helping in dewing or board games clubs for younger children
- SCHOOL LIFE – participating in concerts, running bake sales, classrooms monitor work or sporting events
- CONSERVATION – watering plants, monitoring light usage, recycling water, emptying recycling bins, litter picking and tap monitors
- DEMOCRACY – school councillor work, including presentations in assembly, teaching KS1 children about democracy, creating British Values posters
- VILLAGE LIFE – becoming a penpal for Burcot Grange residents, perform at a village event, tidy community library

### **Wake and Shake winners**

Well done to combined winners of Wake and Shake, Yellow and Blue Classes.



### **Sport and the Arts**

**Sports** – Sport's Day was a huge success thanks to Mrs Webb and Miss Bailey's hard work and was very much enjoyed by old and young alike.

**Arts** – The School Council are working towards a new arts project with Mark Riley, artist in residence, this term. Every child in school will be contributing to the work which will be hung on an external wall in school after the summer holiday.

### **Learning during the last half term**

As the children move into the last half term of the year, teachers will be working to ensure that the children make as much progress as possible in order to help them transition well into their new year groups.

Supporting them with reading, times tables (Y2-4), completing homework and talking to them about school will help them to engage with school and appreciate the value of education.

During the introduction to their 'Back in Time' topic today, they learned about their history focus and received their new English text to motivate them. Hopefully, this learning will help them to appreciate how lucky they are not to have been born into a different period of time in history! Each class newsletter will outline the history focus.

Later this half term, Science will be the focus during the next topic and teachers will share more specific details about learning this half term in their class newsletters. These newsletters share the class learning with you all along with the homework sheets.

We hope that you all enjoy the last half term in school before the summer break.

### **Parking at 'Drop off/ Pick up' times**

In an effort to keep everyone safe at the start/end of the day, please continue to park safely (not obscuring driveways). Please supervise scooters and do not scoot (or ride bikes) on the playground as there are so many children around.

Remember that it is illegal to park on the yellow zig zags and, to ease congestion if you are able, please walk to school. Where this is not possible, please use the full length of road to park and the roads at either end of St Catherine's to walk along. Thank you.

### **TERM DATES- Summer Term 2026**

- 9.6.26 Red Class educational visit
- 15.6.26 Father's Day/ Family making event- details TBC
- 20.6.26 Blackwell Fringe- community event with BBQ and refreshments at BFS between 12-3pm and choir concert @ St Catherine's Church 11am
- 25.6.26 Red Class PE visit and Purple Class Educational Visit
- 1.7.26 Purple Class Family Assembly
- 4.7.26 12-2pm Summer Fair
- 7.7.26 ARTs Day – Year 4 with Royal Ballet and cross school work on 'We Belong'
- 7.7.26 Concert at Prince Henry's High School- evening – children will need families to drop them at Prince Henry's and collect them. Please arrange car shares if possible. Tickets available from Prince Henry's. Watch out for availability on this link [The Henrician Theatre Times TBC](#)
- 8-10.7.26 Residential Y4s
- 13.7.26 Transition Day for all year groups
- Parent meetings for new year groups: 13.7.26 5.30pm new Nursery, 6.30pm new Reception/ 14.7.26 5.30pm new Y1, 6.30pm new Y2/ 15.7.26 6pm new Yellow/Blue
- 16.7.26 Red Class Family Assembly
- 17.7.26 Blue Class Leavers' 9am and Term ends

Holiday Clubs- first and last weeks of the summer holiday. Former pupils welcome.

### **September 2026 term dates**

- 1/2.9.26 Training days- staff only
- 3.9.26 Term starts
- 22/23.10.26 Training days- staff only
- 26-30.10.26 Half term
- 18.12.26 Term ends

### **Collective Worship**

In current times, it is more important than ever that we support the children in becoming responsible citizens in a changing world. This week our theme has been 'Patience' and we will consider why this is an important value and how famous people in history have shown patience and its value, for example Marie Curie, Nelson Mandela, Shakespeare.

It is important for us to support the children in understanding and valuing differences in our society and helping them play their part in living as part of our British culture with shared values that underpin a successful nation. Community is important for people's mental well-being and supporting their community will form part of work this half term.

