

# The BuGle

Jul 10

Dear Parents, Carers, and Friends,

I hope you are looking forward to a holiday over the next few weeks. The weather has been amazing, so let's just hope it holds for all of us going camping. This edition of the BuGle is a short summary of a very busy few weeks, containing some of the recent highlights. I hope I haven't left anything important out! Green Gossip will soon be available on the website, which covers much of the same ground – albeit more colourfully! Those of you without internet access will be receiving a paper copy in the children's book bags.

## **New Build**

The staff and Governors had the pleasure of a tour of the new school earlier this month. Photos of the interior are now available on the website (found under 'Tour of the School' in the 'About Us' section), and give an impressive sense of scale and space – something we have been desperately short of this year. We were all very pleased about the potential the building has for improving the educational experience of pupils: we can't wait to move in! Due to the vastly improved performance of the building we expect to spend less on heating and lighting. Photovoltaic cells on the roof should offset some of the cost of electricity, which all means more money for education.

## **Greener Living Fair**

Whilst on this subject you may be interested in going along to West End Park in March on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> August (12-5pm), where this event will be held. Try your hand at circus skills, rock climbing, junk modelling of musical instruments, making a bug hotel, or designing

clothes from rubbish. For more details please phone: 01354 654321

## **Green Visions Project**

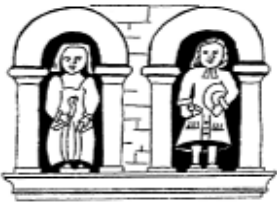
On Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> July three of our pupils, Grace Fallon, Amy Fallon, and Nathan Johnson, were invited to a special event held at the Natural History Museum. It was part of a project sponsored by Willmott Dixon and the Young People's Trust for the Environment ([www.ypte.org.uk](http://www.ypte.org.uk)) to produce artwork for a calendar with an environmental message. The children were shortlisted from around 60 entries at Burrough Green alone for the final judging in London. They had a fantastic day, and Nathan was pleased to learn his picture – a large flower made from a collage of painted recycled paper - was chosen to represent one of the months. Both Grace's and Amy's pictures will also appear on the cover. Copies should be available for purchase in time for Christmas.

## **New curriculum**

I hope you all received your copies of the New Curriculum Policy. Staff are

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still working hard on planning the 'Rise of the Robots' theme, and I hope early in the new term to be able to send out more information about what the children will be studying. Rather than the old approach, which was driven by a timetable of around ten subjects each week, we have organised learning into related areas. For example, understanding physical development, health and well-being, understanding the arts, historical geographical and social understanding, etc. and expect to spend extended periods of time looking at each area. This will mean the

themes may have a strong focus on fewer areas, rather than trying to cram everything in. Rise of the Robots, for example, will focus on scientific and technological understanding. The benefit of this approach, we believe, will be to allow children to follow through lines of enquiry and really get their teeth into something. Over the course of the year, the focus of each theme will vary, meaning opportunities for learning across a broad range of knowledge and skills.

## **Film Festival**

Well done to Jazz, Jenna, Aleisha, and Saffron in Y6 for making it through to the finals of the Cambridgeshire Young People's Film Festival at the Corn Exchange earlier this month. They worked really hard with the support of Mrs. Cattermole to produce an

excellent short film. We had a fantastic gala evening and were treated like film stars for the night. Why not have a look at their work on the website? Simply follow the link on the home page. Thanks to everyone who voted for them.

## **Lunchtime Supervisor**

We will be looking for a new Supervisor to join the team next year. The post is available for 3 days (Mon-Weds). More details to follow next term.

## **Class 4 Celebration Evening**

Well done to everyone who took part in the evening. We had very little time to put it together, but the children worked tremendously hard to polish their poems, dances, and songs. The effect was inspirational, and had more than one member of the audience in tears. To see all the children perform with such confidence and enjoyment

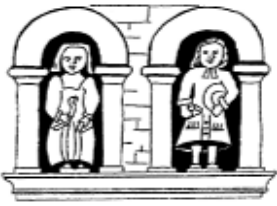
is a great achievement, showing how ready they are for the next step in their education.

## **E-Safety**

I'm sure the summer holidays will offer many opportunities for enjoyable internet exploration, which seems a good time to remind everyone of the advice contained on our website to help keep your children safe online. Zip it, Block it, Flag it can be found in the 'Parent Info' section under 'Newsletters'.

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Our Acceptable Use Policy also contains a requirement about use of images, which I will repeat as a reminder to everyone here: "Images taken for personal use e.g. photos by parents at school events, cannot be used for commercial purposes, put into the Press, onto websites, or any other public domain, without the express written permission of all individuals (or their legal guardians) that appear in the images".

## Results

I am very proud of the tremendous achievements recorded this year. As a school the investment of time, energy, money, and creativity in the Year of Reading has really paid off in terms of pupil progress. But we have also seen, as we expected, an effect on the children's writing, which reflects the inspiration a good text well taught can have. Please make sure your children have the opportunity to keep this up over the holiday. But as I wrote earlier, SATs results, grade boundaries, pass rates, and the quantification of everything can be a fickle master. Slight adjustments can have huge consequences. So what really pleases me is the way children

have seized the excellent opportunities provided for them to test their endurance, creativity, courage, and knowledge, through activities like cross-country running, film-making,

performing in front of others, and the Maths Challenge as just a few examples: the ultimate result that matters being confidence. Hopefully through our work on values this is not an arrogant confidence, but one that respects the achievements of others, and allows us a deep sense of satisfaction and pleasure in our own achievements, whatever they may be, and at whatever level.

## Farewells

We say goodbye to Sue Gilbey and Trish Bull at the end of term. I am very grateful to Sue for taking over my teaching commitment this year, which allowed me more time for planning and organisation in a year of tremendous change. She quickly became an integral part of a successful team in Class 4, and the pupils have really benefitted from her support. We all wish her well in her new job at Dry Drayton Primary School.

Trish, alas, leaves us after nearly 20 years service. When she first came the job consisted of mixing paints and tying apron strings, but since then she has taken on increasing amounts of teaching in small groups, and many children owe her a great debt in helping them to take the first steps on a successful journey. We will really miss her, but know that she finally wants to indulge her love of travel without the constraints of the school holidays, and who can blame her! Well done to

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both of them and best wishes for the future.

Finally, we say farewell to the Y6 pupils. You have done yourselves proud, now go forward and make the most of all the wonderful opportunities that lie in wait. Good luck!

The rest of us need to be back here on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September. Enjoy the holiday.

## **Thanks**

To all the staff for playing their part in improving what we do at Burrough Green CE Primary School: it takes a lot of work, and much has been achieved.

To the Governors for their time, commitment, and support to help run this school so well.

To the children for seizing the opportunities.

To you for being interested in your children's progress and well-being, and offering so much support.

To the Government and Local Authority for providing the funds to build a new school.