



School News

Issue 9: Friday 3rd February 2017

Working together in Faith, Hope and Love!

School Council at BETT



On Wednesday 25th January School Council had the opportunity to visit the BETT show at the Excel centre. We spent the morning exploring the latest ICT equipment available to schools. We had lots of fun and learnt a lot too; we played on new computers, watched a science experiment about ice and used some exciting new software called Purple Mash.

One of my favourite things was when we used the interactive whiteboard that can be turned on its side to make a flat screen which we used to play some games. School Council were also lucky to meet a YouTuber and get his autograph! We are looking forward to visiting next year.

By Tilly Doherty (Year 4)



Sharing good news with you!



From after half term, every week, your child's class teacher will choose **one child** from their class **to have a special phone call**.



The phone call will be to share and to celebrate their amazing work / behaviour / milestone moment with their parents / carers.

Burdett-Coutts at St Paul's!

An excited group of Burdett-Coutts pupils visited St Paul's Cathedral on 20th January for a ceremony marking the retirement of the Bishop of London, the Right Revd. and Right Honorable Richard Chartres.

As well as the delegation from Burdett-Coutts, children from the other 155 schools in the London Diocese attended the service.

Bishop Richard used to be the vicar of our school church, St Stephen's and he has been the guest of honour at many of our school Founders' Days.

The children who visited St Paul's were accompanied by our school vicar **Graham**, our Chair of Governors, **Narissa Bowles**, **Mr Carden**, **Ms Caroline Hall** and **Mrs Dyer**. We all had a memorable time.



Thought for the week by Nelson Mandela

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.

Parents' Survey

Thank you for sharing your great ideas through the parents' survey.

In each newsletter we will respond to the concerns raised. This week's concerns are about **Homework** and **the Curriculum**.

Parents' queries / suggestions	School response
Homework	
Can we have a homework shop?	Mrs Dyer is happy to set up a homework shop once a term. This will happen after half term.
Can we have leaflets on what they are studying to link with their homework?	This already happens. We publish the curriculum newsletter once a term and children to have leaflets linked to their homework.
Can we have more homework?	Homework is not compulsory in primary schools. We will have a coffee morning on the 22 nd February to explain why we think that we give our pupils sufficient homework.
Homework appears to be excessive in the younger age groups and doesn't appear to add value to my child's educational experience.	Please come to our coffee morning on the 22 nd February so that you can gain fuller understanding of our home-learning policy and clarity about the amount of home-learning that the school gives.
The Curriculum	
Can we have more wet play games?	We are investing in more classroom games for every class that can be used during wet play.
Can we have longer playtimes?	Playtimes are 15 minutes. This is to enable teachers to teach the required amount of curriculum hours. If we had longer playtimes – the school day would need to be longer!
Can we have more certificates?	Children already receive <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green card certificates • Celebration assembly

	<p style="text-align: center;">certificates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Headteachers awards <p>As well as stickers for work and behaviour.</p>
It would be nice if swimming could take place in every year not only in one year.	This is a lovely idea but unfortunately we cannot accommodate this request. Swimming in year 4 costs £3,600 per annum. As we have 12 classes, swimming in every year is not feasible as this would cost: £ 28,800.
Can we learn another foreign language more than once a week?	Another super suggestion! Miss Matthey is going to investigate a language breakfast club. She will update the community in a future newsletter.
The Curriculum	
The current grading system (working towards, at greater depth) is incomprehensible and provide no useful information about my child's progress and attainment. I think that school should consider providing additional supplementary information.	<p>Additional information has already been provided, however for more clarity – please come to the SATs coffee morning on Wednesday on the 1st March for a more thorough explanation.</p> <p>Essentially, if your child is: * Working towards – WTS – your child is below average</p> <p>*Working at the expected standard – EXS your child is working at the national expected standard for children of their age - this is equivalent to a B or C grade pupil</p> <p>*Working at a greater depth – GDS - your child is above average and has the potential to be an A or an A* pupil.</p>



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It is encouraging that parents commented favorably about the following things:

Communication

- Great communication with parents
- I'm greeted by the Headteacher at the gate every day
- Informative
- Newsletters
- Leadership engagement with parents

Curriculum

- Diversity
- Good variety of outside professionals coming into the school to inspire learning
- Students receive a variety of experiences
- Opportunities to sing at amazing venues!
- Good policies
- The school provides opportunities to learn outside the classroom
- Class assemblies
- School activities
- Education is well balanced and seems to provide a lot of positive opportunities to learn different things (such as Spanish) outside the core curriculum

Teaching

- Pupils make friends quickly
- Teachers help pupils with booster
- Engaging teaching & teachers
- The teachers are easy to talk to
- My child makes good progress at Burdett-Coutts
- My child is happy at the school
- Teachers are approachable and supportive.
- Teachers are very attentive, we are informed about school events and cultural visits
- SEN is great and extremely helpful
- My child is taught well at Burdett-Coutts
- I feel that the school has made some positive changes within the last few years and I would recommend this school to other parents
- Teachers are well organised
- Parents are informed of pupils' progress.
- My children are making good progress due to fantastic teaching. Thank you!
- Children are listened to and allowed to put together performances, for example in assembly and also in confidence
- good values
- It encourages religious education.
- It is very good how they recognise children who need extra support and are on hand to give it.

Dealing with issues / complaints

- My concerns are always dealt with

- When I have concerns about my children , the school is immediately available and supportive
- Both teachers and members of staff are always ready to solve issues

Homework

- The school teaches children how to deal with bullying and the importance of working hard through homework and other activities
- Homework is good
- My child receives appropriate homework for their age

After School Clubs

- Before and after school clubs are good
- Range of after school clubs
- The wrap around care provided by the after school and holiday club is excellent particularly with homework support

Staff

- One cannot fault the leadership – the staff team reflect and add to the qualities (positive) of the Headteacher
- Staff are very welcoming
- I like the staff, the way they deal with things and the expectations at school. They encourage the student
- The way they share information with parents
- I like that Burdett-Coutts is child centred , (children always come first)
- The staff are very approachable and friendly and also supportive.
- They support families as well
- The friendliness of the staff – from the office to the teachers to the volunteers – always willing to make time for you
- Members of staff are approachable
- Teachers are approachable and friendly which helps my child's confidence
- Staff are helpful

Learning environment

- Environment is always clean
- It is a very warm atmosphere
- It's a great friendly environment. My children are happy and well looked after
- Friendly safe environment for the pupils
- The constant improvements – particularly the lovely new flooring in the playground

Behaviour

- Well behaved pupils
- Uniform
- I am happy with the rule that Nursery has to wear uniform as well as the other students
- Discipline



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School Meals

- **Great school meals!**

Recommendations

- **Continue to keep up the good support with helping children with SEN to thrive in their learning.**

General

- **I don't think that there is much to be improved - it's a good school!**

Our trip to the Royal College of Music!



At lunchtime on Wednesday 1st February twenty one excited children from Year Five set off with Miss Debbie McCormack and I to go to a full orchestral concert in the Royal College of Music. We had learnt a special song for the concert and we knew that the theme would be royalty.

We had fabulous seats in the main Concert Hall; we sat in the balcony, the only school to do so, and we had a brilliant view of the whole orchestra which had at least sixty players.

We learnt that the orchestra has been invited to play at Buckingham Palace next week, and to celebrate that event they presented three pieces with royal connections. The sound and view of the orchestra, especially when they were all playing powerfully was amazing, from the enormous cymbals and bass drum right at the back, to about twenty violins at the front. The composer **Rachel Leach** presented the concert and we sang the song she had written specially for the day with the orchestra playing.

Afterwards we walked all the way round the Royal Albert Hall, and saw the Albert Memorial, which looks as though it is made of gold, in Hyde Park. It was a wonderful musical visit.

Mr Carden

Hat Day! – Friday 10th February 2017



Next Friday, children are invited to raise money for the **Barnado's UK charity**. Barnardo's is one of the UK's leading children's charities and they work directly with **240,000 children, young people and families every year**. Their services include counselling for children; fostering and adoption services; vocational training and disability inclusion groups.

If you would like your child to take part, please give your **donation of £1** to your child's class teacher and your child will be permitted to wear a hat during the school day, (*apart from during our collective worship*). We will also have a collection bucket at the school gate.

Coffee Mornings in the spring term



We have a range of coffee mornings during this spring term. We hope that you will find a topic that interests you – come to one – come to all!

Venue: The First Floor Hall

Time: 9-9.30am

[Tuesday 7th February – ICT and Internet safety, led by Mr Carden.](#)

[Wednesday 8th February – Speech and Language workshop, led by a therapist.](#)

[Wednesday 22nd February – Home- Learning \(homework\) policy, led by Mrs Dyer.](#)

[Wednesday 1st March – KS1 SATs meeting for year 2 parents, led by Mrs Dyer.](#)

[Wednesday 8th March – What is coaching? led by Mrs Dyer.](#)



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Spring Term 2017

Dates	Events
February 2017	
Monday 6 th – Friday 10 th February Wiggle week	
Tuesday 7 th	Safer Internet day 9am ICT coffee morning for parents led by the pupils
Wednesday 8 th	9.00am Speech and Language Therapist Workshop for Parents on Dysfluency (stammers/stutters/speech difficulties)
Friday 10 th	Hat Day! 9.15am & 9.30am, Jeffers class assembly Reception
HALF TERM Monday 13 th – Friday 17 th February	
Wednesday 22 nd	9am Home Learning coffee morning for parents & carers
Friday 24 th	9.15am & 9.30am, Lewis class assembly year 5
Monday 27 th February – Friday 3 rd March Book week	
Tuesday 28 th	Shrove Tuesday – Pancake Day
March 2017	
Wednesday 1 st	9am, KS1 SATs meeting for year 2 parents and carers. Ash Wednesday – the start of Lent
Thursday 2 nd	World Book Day – non-uniform day
Friday 3 rd	Launch of Geography competition
Monday 6 th – Friday 17 th – Eggs and chicks in Carle class (the Nursery)	
Wednesday 8 th	What is Coaching? Coffee morning for parents & carers
Friday 10 th	9.15am & 9.30am, Rowling class assembly year 4
Friday 17 th	9.15am & 9.30am, Fine class assembly year 2
Monday 20 th	Geography Exhibition all day in the first floor hall
Tuesday 21 st	Year 5 & 6 choirs participating in Proms for Praise at the Royal Albert Hall
Thursday 23 rd	Parents' evening <i>times to be confirmed</i>
Friday 24 th	9.15am & 9.30am, Burningham class assembly year 1
Friday 31 st	9.15am & 9.30am, Carle class assembly Nursery Last Day of the spring term SCHOOL CLOSSES AT 1.30pm
E A S T E R H O L I D A Y S Monday 3 rd April – Monday 17 th April	

Summer Term 2017

Dates	Events
April 2017	
Tuesday 18 th	First day of the summer term.
Friday 28 th	School closed for Staff Training Day
May 2017	
Monday 1 st	Bank Holiday Monday
Tuesday 2 nd	KS1 SATs testing period begins
Monday 8 th – Friday 12 th KS2 SATS week	
Thursday 25 th	Ascension Day
Saturday 27 th	Start of Ramadan
HALF TERM Whitsun half term holiday Monday 29 th May – Friday 2 nd June	
June 2017	
Monday 5 th	First day of summer term 2
Thursday 15 th	Corpus Christi
Monday 26 th	<i>Eid al Fitr</i>
Tuesday 27 th	<i>Eid al Fitr</i>
Thursday 29 th	The Feast of St Peter and St Paul
July 2017	
Saturday 8 th	'Friends of Burdett-Coutts Summer fair 12-3pm
Thursday 13 th	Year 6 production <i>evening</i> performance
Friday 14 th	Year 6 production <i>morning</i> performance
Tuesday 18 th	Sports Day – <i>provisional date</i>
Wednesday 19 th	Year 6 Leavers' service at St Stephen's church
Thursday 20 th	Last Day of the summer term SCHOOL CLOSSES AT 1.30pm

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