



School News

Issue 13: Wednesday 25th April 2018

International Evening – Friday 11th May



You are warmly invited to an informal International Evening on **Friday 11th May at St Stephen's church. This will be followed by a family supper in our school playground.** The event will be from **5-7pm**. It would be lovely to see everyone in their national / traditional dress.

The international performances will start promptly at 5pm. If you want a good seat, please arrive at the church by 4.45pm.

We would like parents to bring a dish to eat with their family and to also bring a small dish to share on our International Table.

The international meal will **be held in the school playground and the ground floor hall, from 5.45pm.**

All food can be dropped off from 4pm on **Friday 11th May** in the ground floor hall. Please understand that we cannot accept any food with nuts, coconut or almonds, because of food allergies.

Angela Burdett-Coutts Day!

On the third day of the summer term, the whole school celebrated the life of one of our school founders, the **Baroness Angela Burdett-Coutts**.

We decided to have a special service at St Stephen's church in her honour because we

wanted the children to have the opportunity to learn about her good deeds and how she was an inspiration to all!

The year 4 children performed **Angela Burdett-Coutts - The Musical** which was set in the Victorian era. The Angela Burdett-Coutts Trustees, **Celia Catchpole** and **Elizabeth Szewczyk** presented attendance awards to:

- **Daniel Shillingford** - best attendance in Reception, 100%
- **Ella El Safi** – best attendance in Nursery, 98%
- **Hannah Bangao** – best attendance in KS1 (99%)
- and **Tayah Rose** for having 99% attendance throughout her time at Burdett-Coutts, from Reception to Year 6.

School governors, **Narissa Bowles**, **The Reverend Catherine Duce** and **The Reverend Graham Buckle** presented the prestigious **Angela Burdett-Coutts Award**, to **Laarayb Saleem** for demonstrating the school values through her work, conduct and demeanor. Thank you to everyone who came and supported the event.

Running the marathon!



Kayden in Year 6 ran the London Marathon last Sunday. We are very proud of his achievements.

Thought for the week



“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.”... “Love your neighbour as yourself” Matthew 12 v 30 and 31.

More about the Baroness!

Angela Burdett-Coutts was born in Piccadilly, London, on the 21st April 1814. Queen Victoria, her friend, was also born in that year.

Angela Burdett-Coutts inherited a vast fortune from her grandfather's estate when she was 23. Her grandfather was the owner of *Coutts Bank*, one of the richest banks in the world.

Angela had many famous friends, including the author Charles Dickens, David Livingstone (the great explorer) and Queen Victoria.

She supported many of the poor people of London through countless schemes and donations of money. She became well-liked and respected by many Londoners (who were at that time very, very poor!)

The area which Dickens called 'The Devil's Acre', chosen by him and Angela for her church and school was the worst area in London. Some of its street names were 'Rogue's Acre', 'Pickpocket's Alley', 'Dirty Lane', 'Long Ditch' and 'Bandy-leg Walk'!

In 1849, the Baroness established the school called 'St Stephen's School', which was later renamed 'Burdett-Coutts'.

She also co-founded the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC), a charity that still exists today.

During the Crimean War, Angela Burdett-Coutts wanted to help her friend, Florence Nightingale. Angela paid for a huge drying machine, which helped the nurses to clean and sterilise sheets, towels and bandages - thereby stopping the spread of diseases.

Angela Burdett-Coutts was very religious and attended church regularly. She built two St. Stephen's churches – our school church in Westminster and another in the North of England, in Carlisle.

Angela set up St Stephen's church as a tribute to her father. She wanted it to be a very practical centre for working Christianity - a centre for education and social work as well as a place of worship.

It took more than five years to clear the site for this church. Rotting houses had to be cleared, landowners compensated, and the land had to be cleaned up and all the rats killed!

Angela did not give *all* her money away. She had a very comfortable life with several houses, lots of parties and she travelled a lot in Europe - often going on cruises with her friends!

Angela insisted that the spire of this church had to be tall enough so that she could see it from her house in Piccadilly!

After the consecration of this church, Angela gave a party for the construction workers in a tent on the school playground.

Angela also paid for the bells of St. Paul's Cathedral!

Throughout her life, it is estimated that she had spent nearly three million pounds to help those in need. That is still an enormous sum of money today, but in those days it was an *incredible* amount!

In 1871, in recognition of all her good work, Queen Victoria made Angela a baroness – *Baroness Burdett-Coutts of Highgate and Brookfield*. She was the first woman ever to be made a peer in her own right.

She died on the 30th of December 1906 - of bronchitis, aged 92, in her London house.

Her body lay in state at her house and over 30,000 filed past the coffin to show respect.

Her funeral took place in a crowded Westminster Abbey on the 5th of January 1907.

The spot where she was buried in Westminster Abbey is to the left of the main entrance (the West Door.) A plaque on the floor reads, 'BARONESS BURDETT-COUTTS 1814-1906':

King Edward VII said, on her death that, "***after my mother [Queen Victoria], she was the most remarkable woman in the kingdom***".



Thought for the week

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Parents' Survey

We value the suggestions and opinions of our parents and carers and one of the ways that we improve our school is by acting upon their views. We consult parents/ carers in a range of ways:

- *At coffee mornings*
- *Informally, in the playground*
- *Through the newsletter*
- *At our parent- school association meetings (the 'Friends of Burdett-Coutts')*
- *And via our Parent Survey*

Thank you for sharing your great ideas through the parents' survey. **The results of the 2018 parents' survey** were collated by the school council reps and are overleaf.

Summary of the results:

- 34 surveys were completed.
- 100% of parents agreed or strongly agreed that their child is happy at this school.
- 94% of parents agreed or strongly agreed that their child feels safe at this school.
- 91% of responses agreed or strongly agreed that children make good progress at this school.
- 91% of responses agreed or strongly agreed that children are well looked after at Burdett-Coutts.
- 94% of parents said that they agreed or strongly agreed that their child receives appropriate homework.
- 97% of parents said that they would recommend this school to another parent.

Strengths – things to celebrate!

Parents commented favourably in the section "*things I like about Burdett-Coutts*". They said that they liked...

- **Safe environment**
- **Happy children**
- **Clean**
- **Learning**
- **Good teachers**
- **Good curriculum**

- **Helpful staff**
- **Good updates and information given**
- **Breakfast and holiday club**
- **Support completing secondary applications**
- **Lots of activities to take part in**
- **Different cultures and religions are embraced**
- **Pupil progress is well communicated**
- **Healthy meals**
- **Workshops for parents**
- **Good discipline being instilled in children**
- **Child feels safe**
- **Child feels proud**
- **Welcoming environment**

Areas for improvement

Parents' concerns have been grouped into the following sub-headings:

- **After School Provision**
- **Pupil progress**
- **Lunchtime**
- **Curriculum**
- **Premises**
- **Resources**
- **Behaviour**
- **Homework**
- **Health**
- **Teaching**
- **School Office**
- **Charity Events**
- **Before and after school**
- **School Management**

In each newsletter we will respond to the concerns raised.

This week's areas for improvement are about the **School Office, before and after school,** and **lunchtime.**

Thought for the week



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Parents' Survey Feedback

Parents' queries / suggestions	School response
School Office	
Can we have the option to pay for school meals online?	<p>Neil Cressy, our school bursar is in the process of setting up an online payment system.</p> <p>We recognise the need for parents to make payments for school meals and for clubs in their own time as opposed to having to visit the school office and we hope to have a system established by June 2018.</p> <p>We will run this system alongside cash payments: therefore, we will continue to accept cash payments.</p>
Before and after school in the playground	
When it is raining can the children come into school before the start of the school day?	<p>The start of the school day is 8.55am. Unfortunately, the start of the school day cannot be changed because of the weather.</p> <p>Our Breakfast Club is our before school club provider and the club admits pupils to school <u>before the start of the school day</u>. Their staff are paid to work <u>before school</u>.</p> <p>The hours of the breakfast club are from 8-8.45am, every day. The cost is £3 per child. Our breakfast club is run by Caroline Hall. She is an extremely experienced child care provider.</p>
Why doesn't the school enforce the rule that parents stay at the gate in the morning?	<p>Staff would prefer if parents say their goodbye to their children at the school gate and for parents to leave via the car park entrance.</p> <p>We will be texting you to remind you of this rule and enforcing it from June.</p> <p>In the past we have been flexible about this as we understand that on occasion parents need to urgently speak with their child's class teacher.</p> <p>However, as the class teacher has to supervise the children in the line, we</p>

	<p>kindly ask parents with messages to go to the school office.</p> <p>At the office, parents/carers can either relay their message to the office staff, who will inform your child's class teacher or they can make an appointment to meet with their child's' class teacher at the end of the school day.</p>
Lunchtime	
Can the school kitchen serve halal food?	<p>When we met at last Friday's coffee morning, parents talked at length about the introduction of a halal kitchen.</p> <p>Our school meals provider is Caterlink. They have a contract which is renewed annually by the Governing Body.</p> <p>In light of parental requests, the Governing Body will be writing a letter to all parents and carers to gauge if a significant majority would be in favour of changing to halal meals.</p> <p>If a significant majority are in favour, the Governing Body will contact the school meals provider to request the change.</p> <p>Please look out for the letter in your child's book bag before the end of May.</p>
The school needs more playground equipment.	<p>The school has recently invested in new playground equipment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bean bags • Jenga • Snakes and ladders • Bats and balls • Skipping ropes. <p>Ms Caroline Hall is the lunchtime school meals leader and she ensures that all children have the opportunity to play with the equipment at lunchtime.</p>



Thought for the week

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Dates for your diary
Summer Term 2018

Dates	Events
April	
Thursday 26 th	9am, History coffee morning for parents and carers
Friday 27 th	9.15am, Burningham class assembly – Year 1
May 2018	
Friday 4 th	9.15am, Cowell class assembly – Year 3
Monday 7 th	BANK HOLIDAY – SCHOOL CLOSED
Thursday 10 th	Ascension Day
Friday 11 th	9.15am, Lewis class assembly – Year 5 NEW DATE: International Evening @ 5-7pm
14th – 18th May – KS2 SATs week	
Friday 18 th	9.15am, Jeffers class assembly – Reception
Tuesday 22 nd	School class photographs today
Friday 25 th	STAFF TRAINING DAY– SCHOOL CLOSED
Monday 28th May – Friday 1st June 2018 Half Term	
June 2018	
Year 6 residential – 4th – 8th June	
Monday 4 th	First day of Summer Term 2
Friday 8 th	9.15am, Fine class assembly – Year 2

Dates	Events
Thursday 14 th	Eid al fitr
Friday 15 th	Eid al fitr 9.15am, King-Smith class assembly – Year 3
Friday 22 nd	9.15am, Rowling class assembly – Year 4
Saturday 23 rd	Summer Fair 11am-3pm
Monday 25 th	STAFF TRAINING DAY– SCHOOL CLOSED
Thursday 28 th	Year 6 Leavers' service at St Margaret's Westminster <i>YEAR 6 parents and carers are welcome to attend</i>
Friday 29 th	9.15am, Blackman class assembly – Year 5
July 2018	
Friday 6 th	9.15am, Carle class assembly – Nursery
Tuesday 10 th & Wednesday 11 th	6pm, Year 6 production <i>For YEAR 6 parents and carers</i>
Wednesday 18 th	10am, Year 6 Leavers' service at St Stephen's church
Friday 20 th	Last day of the academic year SCHOOL CLOSSES AT 1.30pm.



Thought for the week

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Burdett-Coutts 2018 Parents' Survey Results

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No Comment
My child is happy at Burdett-Coutts	20 (59%)	14 (41%)	0	0	0
My child feels safe at school	23 (68%)	9 (26%)	0	0	2 (6%)
My child makes good progress at school	14 (41%)	17 (50%)	3 (4%)	0	0
My child is well looked after at Burdett-Coutts	20 (59%)	11 (32%)	0	0	3 (4%)
My child is taught well at Burdett Coutts	17 (50%)	13 (38%)	2 (6%)	0	2 (6%)
My child receives appropriate homework for their age	14 (41%)	18 (53%)	1 (3%)	1 (3%)	0
Pupils are well behaved at Burdett-Coutts	10 (29%)	18 (53%)	1 (3%)	2 (6%)	3 (4%)
Burdett-Coutts' staff deal effectively with bullying	11 (32%)	16 (47%)	2 (6%)	0	5
Burdett-Coutts is led and well-managed	20 (59%)	12 (35%)	2 (6%)	0	0
Burdett-Coutts' staff respond well to any concern I raise	19 (56%)	13 (38%)	0	0	2 (6%)
I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress	19 (56%)	11 (32%)	3 (4%)	0	1 (3%)
I would recommend Burdett-Coutts School to another parent	19 (56%)	14 (41%)	1 (3%)	0	0

Angela Burdett-Coutts' Birthday Celebrations

Wednesday 18th April 2018

Forgiveness



Hope



Friendship



Trust



Thankfulness



Peace



The winner of the Angela Burdett-Coutts cup was Laarayb Saleem, Morpurgo Class, because she demonstrates all our school's values.

