

Burghfield St Mary's Primary School

Monthly Newsletter

Welcome back to the Spring Term.



Our whole school topic this term is 'God's Green Planet', you can find further information about the topic on your child's class page on the school website. The topic was started by a wonderful performance of 'Jack and the Beanstalk' by the West End in Schools Theatre company. The children (and staff) really enjoyed their visit to our school. After the show every child took home a special silver purse containing seeds for the children to grow at home. Perhaps one of the seeds is a magic bean!! Good luck growing your seeds at home, and enjoy the produce they give.

As well as an exciting and enjoyable start to the topic, our children have also enjoyed taking part in sports competitions out of school. The juniors have enjoyed indoor 5 a-side football, outdoor 7 a-side football (winning the silver medal) and ten-pin bowling. Miss Roe has plenty of other sports organised for the children, including Hi-5 Netball and Tag Rugby.

This term our Year 4 children have the pleasure of performing at the Anvil Theatre in Basingstoke. They will be joining other West Berkshire primary schools for the annual Maestros choir concert. Every week the Year 4 children learn how to play the oboe or clarinet, once again we have organised for the Year 4 children to celebrate their music skills at the Anvil Theatre. Good luck year 4's!!

As well as the Year 4's singing and playing an instrument at the Anvil Theatre, our Year 5's are taking part in a very special Maestros choir concert at The Royal Albert Hall. The children have already started learning the songs and I'm sure it will be a very memorable day. We have also booked our Year 5 children in to the Princess Diana Memorial Playground in Hyde Park (before the concert starts). This term we have four student teachers from Reading University working with Years 1, 3, 5 and 6. The students will be exploring Shakespeare plays with the children. Last week we started the Friday afternoon team swap overs, where the children spend a lesson working with children who are in their House (Mars/ Saturn/ Neptune/ Jupiter) across the year groups. This is a great opportunity for children throughout the school to learn together.

Our PTA are working so hard this term, on 1st March they will be running the annual Quiz & Curry night, come along and enjoy a social evening and help raise money for our school. The School Council (children) are looking at how they can improve the school grounds by installing new play equipment on the field.

On our school website, we have created an 'Anxiety and Pupil Well-Being Resource' page, there is useful information to support parents in helping their child at home. Mrs Carmichael has also arranged for a member of the Emotional Health Academy (West Berkshire Council support services) to visit our school and discuss how parents can help support their children at home. The meeting is on Monday 18th March from 1:30-3:00pm. Also to remind parents that Parent Evening meetings are on Monday 25th February and Monday 4th March.

Our assembly story for this term is 'The Bird of Paradise', the theme is 'Jesus the healer'. In the story we are remembering how Jesus set people free from the things that stopped them living life to the full. Rev Glynn has also been sharing her adventures with the children. At the start of January Rev Glynn went on a Pilgrimage to Ethiopia, she has enjoyed sharing photos and videos from her pilgrimage with the children during Thursday mornings assemblies.

Friday 1st February

Spring Term 2019

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Our School Values

Our Christian values of faith, hope and love lead us to..

Respect for God and his creation
Excel in all we do
Speak to each other kindly
Peacefully resolve our problems
Encourage one another
Care for other people and their belongings
Treat others as you wish to be treated

The Burghfield St Mary's pathway to a happy and successful school



Our School Vision



At Burghfield St Mary's we create a caring Christian learning environment that inspires each individual in the school community to fulfil their unique potential and become a responsible, concerned and active member of God's world.

(based on Philippians 4:13 'I can do all things through Christ because he gives me strength.')



As parents, the support you provide for your child(ren) at home is crucial. I would encourage all of our parents to regularly read with their child. It does make a huge difference to your child's progress in school. The more you read at home with your child then the more progress at school they WILL make. Last term we had a staff training day exploring 'Improving children's reading' using Pie Corbett's Talk for Reading. Those children that are listened to everyday DO make significantly more progress and may end up in the top 10% Nationally. Please, please, please read with your child at home. The difference it will make to their education is **MASSIVE**. The children also have the opportunity to improve their maths skills by using MyMaths website, every child (in KS1 and KS2) has their personal login. We do have laptops in school that children are able to borrow (long-term) to help them with their homework.

Children (and adults) will become **anxious** at times, this is only natural. As adults, it is our responsibility to guide them through their **anxious** times. This term we will be working with external specialists to teach the children strategies to reduce their anxieties and gain resilience.

Your support of our School Values will help the children succeed. Thank you for your continued support. If you have any individual worries please don't hesitate to contact us.

Anthony Dench – Parent Governor / Vice-Chair of Finance Sub-Committee

My name is Anthony Dench and I have been a Parent Governor at Burghfield St Mary's since October 2016. I have a son in Year 3 and a daughter in Reception.

In my day job, I lead a team in a Corporate Internal Audit function in a soft drinks company. This role requires me to observe and challenge the financial and operational activities of the company and decisions made by its senior management. The role of a school governor uses many of the same skills, albeit in a very different 'industry'.

In the Finance Sub-Committee, which meets five times a year, the governors look for ways to support and enhance the difficult decisions faced by the school's leadership team as they seek to deliver the best educational outcomes for the children at the school. In addition to reviewing key annual budget decisions, the Sub-Committee also monitors the in-year spend. Governors are expected to engage in an 'eyes on, hands off' capacity, holding the school leadership team to a high standard of diligent and responsible decision making.

Parking & U-Turns

Please can we ask that all parents and carers be mindful of careful driving outside the school gates and also remind everyone that the lay-by (by the car park) is for dropping off only in the mornings. If you need to park please can you move further down the road. School Road needs to be kept free of school traffic, it's one of our 'Safe' crossing points for the children.

Help keep our children safe, please use the entrance to Green Farm to turn around.

Those parents that perform U-turns outside the school risk hitting our children.

Park Safe - Drive Smart

Please report any incidents you witness to the police, and if possible take a photo/ video of the incident. This will allow the police to deal with the motoring offence.

Dates for Diaries

A reminder to check the termly Diary Dates sent home (copies available from the school office)

Friday 1st February Reception Class Bake Off

MONDAY 18TH TO FRIDAY 22ND FEBRUARY HALF TERM HOLIDAY

Monday 25th February	Parents Evening
Friday 1st March	Year 5 Bake Off
Friday 1st March	Quiz & Curry Night
Monday 4th March	Parents Evening
Wednesday 6th March	Ash Wednesday service at Church
Monday 11th March	Rags 2 Riches—Recycling collection
Monday 11th March	Year 5 Royal Albert Hall Trip
Wednesday 20th March	Governing Body Meeting
Thursday 21st March	3:15—5:00 p.m. Cinema Night (No Sports Xtra or Netball)
Friday 22nd March	Year 1 Bake Off
Wednesday 27th March	Year 4 Junior Music Festival @ The Anvil
Thursday 4th April	Easter Service at Church
Friday 5th April	2:30 p.m. End of Term

EASTER HOLIDAYS MONDAY 8TH APRIL—TUESDAY 23RD APRIL

Tuesday 23rd April	Staff Inset
Wednesday 24th April	Start of Pupil Term