



BUXLOW
Preparatory School

Buxlow Bulletin

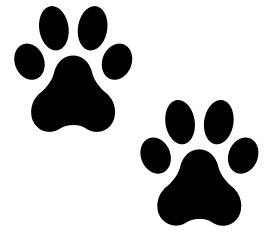
Date of issue: Friday 22nd November 2024

Facta non Verba

Reminder from Albert our School Dog

It has been a very chilly week - please remember to provide your child with enough warm clothing on cold days:

- Jumper
- Hat
- Scarf
- Gloves
- Coat





KS1 and KS2 Trip: Swan Lake at Sadler's Wells

I am **very** pleased to announce that (many months ago) I have secured tickets for our pupils to see Matthew Bourne's interpretation of Swan Lake at Sadler's Wells.

[You can read more about this awe-inspiring performance here.](#)

[Click here to see the trailer](#)

Pupils in years 2,3,4,5 & 6 will see the matinee performance on Thursday 9th January 2025. We will travel by coach (paid for by the school) after lunch and will return after the end of the normal school day. There are 30 pupil tickets available, on a first come, first served basis.

Payment of £15.00, in advance via Wisepay, is required to secure your child's ticket.

Bookings for this trip close on 10th December 2024

Mrs McLelland

School Updates

Congratulations to our **Stars of the Week**:

Reception: Ayah Year 1: Shlok & Amir
Year 2: Grace Year 3: Soreachny
Year 4: Faaris Year 5: Dia-Ellie
Year 6: Madison-Dior

House Points:

Nicoll: 55

O'Donnell: 88

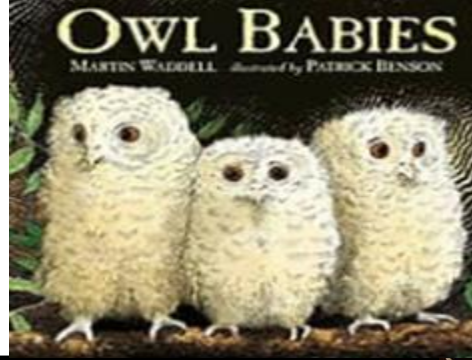
Emery: 60

Probyn: 81

We forgot to take the usual photo of our **Stars of the Week**! Thank goodness for Vitoria (Y4) who has drawn them brilliantly!



Reception



In **Literacy**, we introduced the story "Owl Babies," which aligns with our topic of light and dark. The children actively participated in the storytelling by acting out the narrative using story map. They engaged in labelling captions, answering comprehension questions, and identifying rhyming words within the story, such as "mice" and "nice," as mentioned by the character Sarah.

We also connected the story to **Personal, Social, Health, and Citizenship Education (PSHCE)**. The plot revolves around three baby owls who wake up to find their mother missing, which prompted discussions about feelings and emotions. We referred to the 'colour monsters' to help children articulate how they might feel in that situation. Questions such as, "What would you think, if your mummy wasn't there?" and "Where could she be?" encouraged them to express their thoughts and feelings. This led to an important lesson on safety, emphasising the need to inform a staff member or parent if they need to leave designated area.



In **Science and Understanding the World**, we explored the concept of nocturnal animals—those that are active at night. The children learned about animals that come out after dark and were introduced to the vocabulary word "diurnal" to contrast with nocturnal animals. We discussed various facts about nocturnal creatures, including their habitats, as described in our story.

The children created homes for owls using materials such as leaves, feathers, and twigs, reinforcing their understanding of the natural world and the environments in which these animals live.



Reception



In our **Science** sessions, we conducted a hands-on experiment where the children created glowing stars using glow-in-the-dark materials. This activity allowed them to explore the concepts of light and dark interactively. They discussed the differences between day and night and learned new vocabulary words such as "light," "dark," "glow," "shine," "bright," and "dim." The children observed how the glow-in-the-dark stars emitted light after being exposed to a light source, learning that light can be absorbed and later released in the dark.



In **Mathematics**, we focused on the concepts of "one more" and "one less" up to five, as well as the composition of four and five. We are taking small steps to help the children develop strategies and knowledge following the White Rose scheme, which emphasises a deep understanding of numbers and their relationships.

Understanding the World (Weather):

We also had discussions about the changing weather as we transition from autumn to winter. The children noted the need to start wearing warmer clothes and expressed excitement about the snow that arrived this week. They had the opportunity to go outside and experience the snow firsthand, which added to their enjoyment and understanding of seasonal changes.

Year One & Two French

In **French**, Year 1 and Year 2 have been talking about the different kinds of weather.

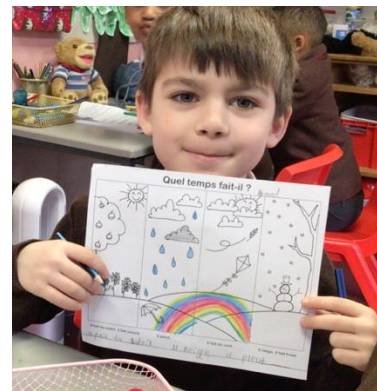
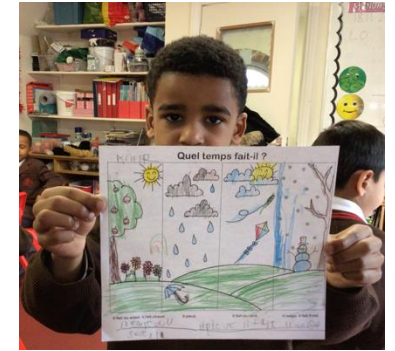
Il fait chaud = it's hot

Il fait froid = it's cold

Il fait du soleil = it's sunny

Il neige = it's snowing

Il pleut = it's raining



Year One & Two

This week in Year 1/2, the children have been engaged in a variety of exciting learning activities. In English, they completed their reading, writing, and problem-solving assessments and began learning how to plan and prepare their own stories. In maths, the children focused on addition and subtraction. Year 1 students worked on adding and subtracting within 10, while Year 2 students practiced adding and subtracting two-digit numbers with regrouping and compared number sentences. In geography, the children enjoyed creating their own treasure maps, and in history, they learned about Walter Tull and discussed why he is an important historical figure. In science, we explored the polar habitat and examined how animals adapt to survive in extreme conditions. In art, children created and decorated wonderful Christmas ornaments and cards. A highlight of the week was a special livestream with the London Museum, where the children learned about the Great Fire of London in an interactive and engaging way.



Year Three



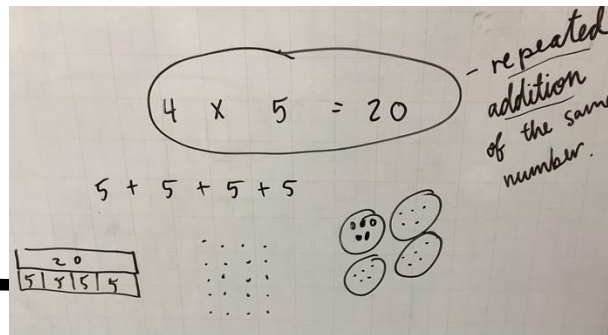
This week the Year 3 children have been busy completing assessments in Maths and English. They did a GL Assessment NQRT Reading Test, a CAT4 test online, a Ros Wilson Writing Assessment and also a 9+ Maths paper! On Tuesday they had a wonderful visit to the Apple Store in Brent Cross where they learned how to use the "Garage Band" app. The session was very practical, and the children enjoyed making their own music.

In Science this week the children have been learning about push and pull. They discussed many examples and then completed a worksheet to show their understanding.

In P4C this week, Year 3 explored the question "If you could choose just one thing to change about the world, what would it be?" It was great to see them involved and articulating their reasons for their choices.



Year Four



What a week! Year 4 had assessments all week as well as some big events!

Firstly, we did our reading, maths, and writing assessments. The students worked very hard on a range of tasks and should all feel very good after a long week of challenging work.

Year 4 also had some field trips this week: on Tuesday, we visited the Apple Store in Brent Cross to learn about Garage Band. We made some great songs!

Some Year 4s also had field trips on Wednesday and Thursday: on Wednesday, the Year 4 members of the Debate Club went to a Debate Competition in South Hampstead. On Thursday, some Year 4s were selected for the Buxlow football team to play in the ILG Football Tournament. They performed fantastically in both events, and they should be very proud of their efforts!

In Maths, we worked on short multiplication and deepening our conceptual understanding of what multiplication is. Take a look at all the representations we can use to explain multiplication!

In English, we have found how the structure of Finding Tales are organised, and we will use that to plan our own Finding Tales next week.



Year Five

Another busy week for us! Year 5 completed their assessments early on and spent the rest of the week doing lots of cross-curricular and creative work.

A highlight was continuing our coding work, where some of us were able to create our own music tunes through blocks of code! It was challenging but a lot of fun.

We wrote stories based on the story 'Dobber and the Silver Ring' which really showed an improved understanding of how stories are structured. We might make a book out of them...

A combined Art/RE afternoon saw us begin to make decorations celebrating both Hanukkah and Christmas. This prompted interesting discussions about a range of festivals celebrated during the winter.

We applied our knowledge of statistics by conducting a survey of how Buxlow staff and pupils get to school as part of our Eco Curriculum. We then used iPad programmes to turn these into comparative charts. We then looked at another way of sharing information by creating word clouds based on some of Ms Stanton's most used phrases... well, at least we think we're hilarious!

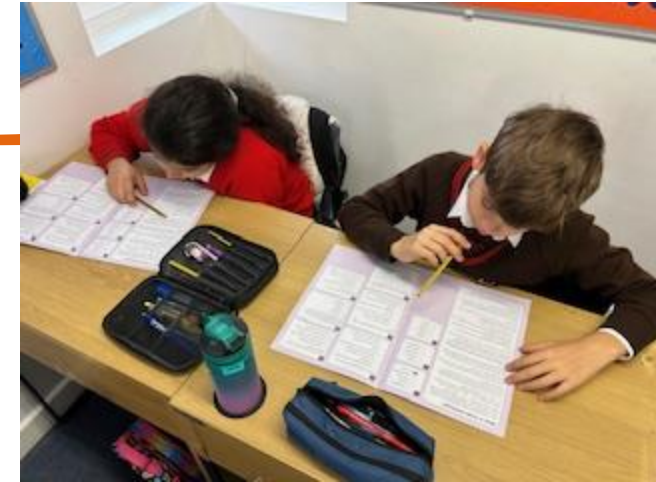
Quote of the Week: "I don't blame Bilbo Baggins for getting annoyed with all those dwarves!" - Zidane



Year Six



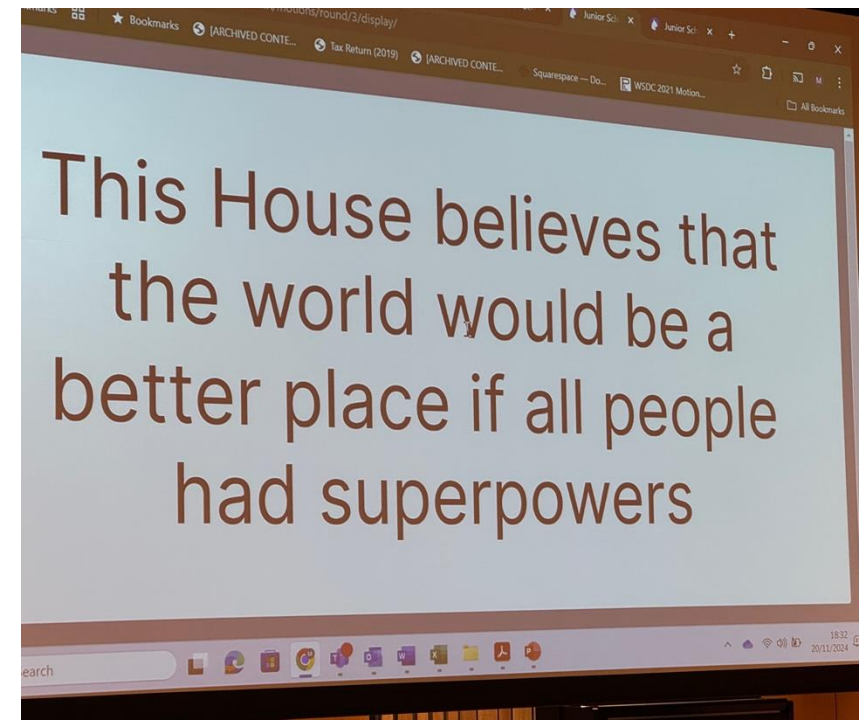
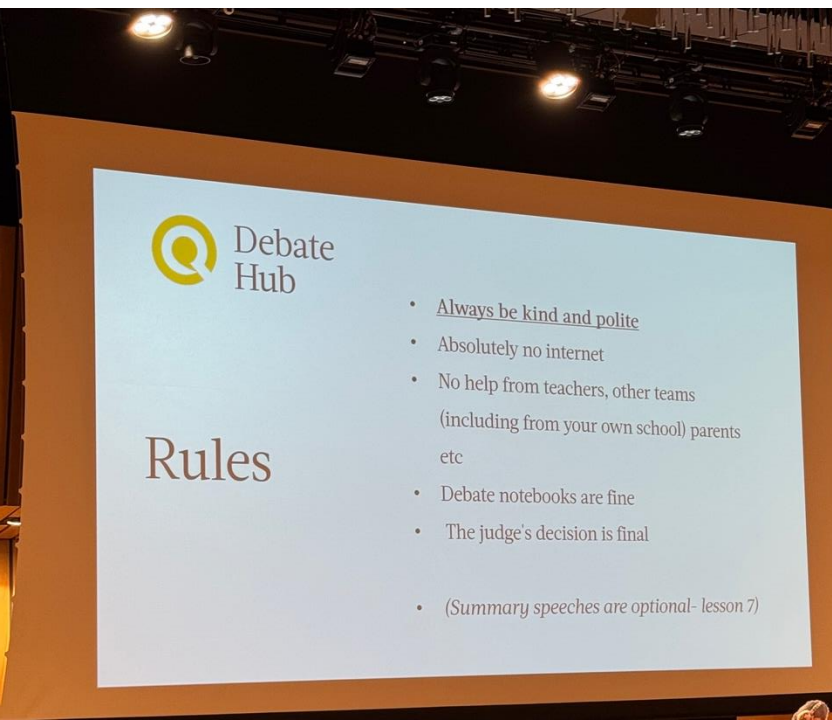
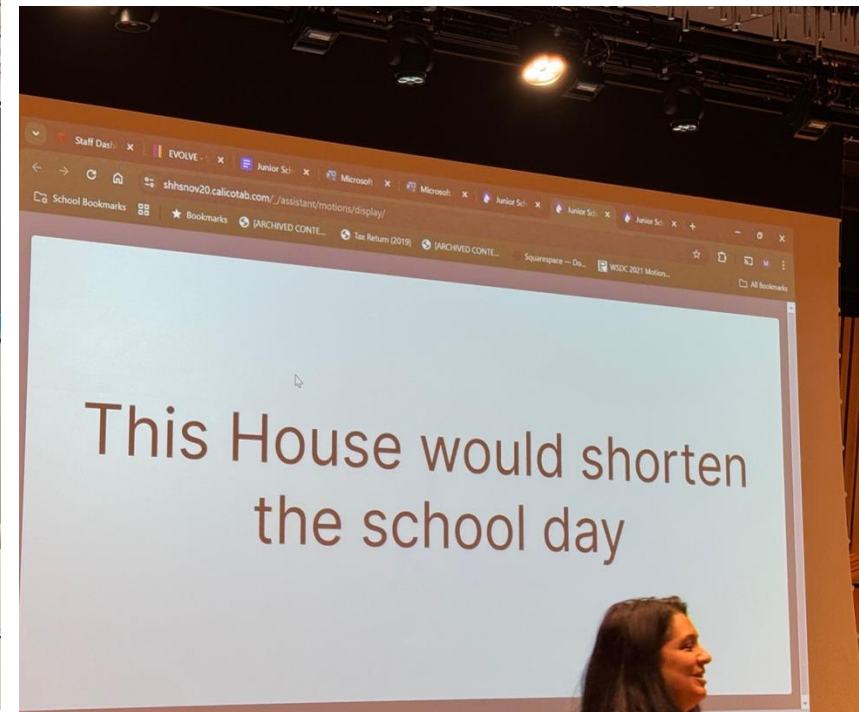
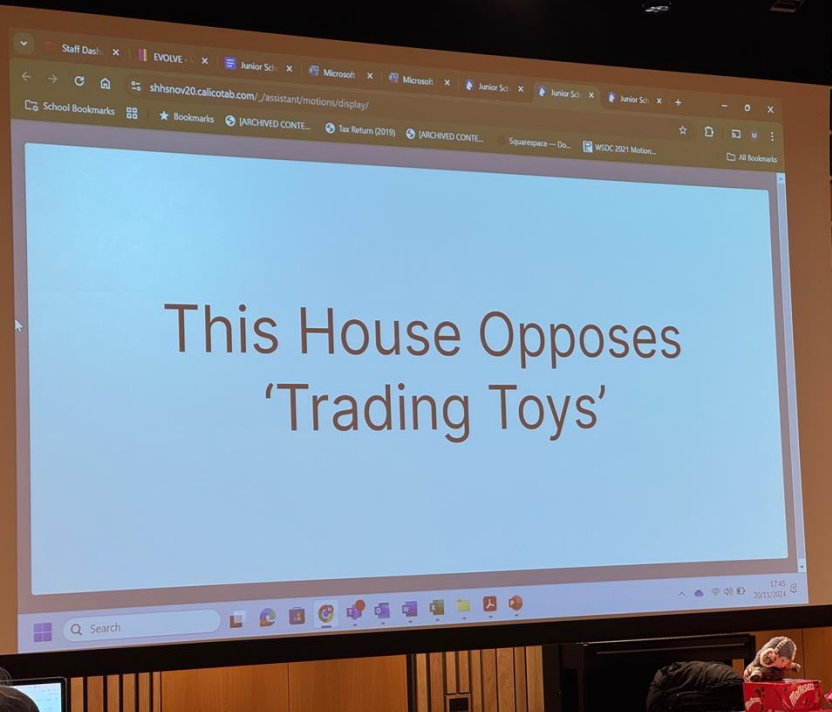
This week was Assessment Week, and the Year 6 children tackled each of their assessments in a sensible and mature manner. They did a GL Assessment NGRT Reading Test, a CAT4 test online, a Ros Wilson Writing Assessment as well as the usual 11+ preparation in terms of completing a Maths and an English paper. Well done Year 6 for coping with the extra assessments this week, you did a great job!



On Wednesday, four of the class; Madison, Noura, Samaarth and Aryan, represented Buxlow in a Debating Competition, held at South Hampstead High School. This was the first time that they had taken part in such a competition and Mrs. McLelland says they represented the school very well. The two teams participated in 3 debates to **prop** or **opp** a range of topics They did a brilliant job and were so polite throughout, despite the high tension. Congratulations to all four of them, and the other members of Debate Club, for taking part. **"POI!"**

On Thursday, Year 6 took part in an ILG Football competition in Hounslow. All of the Year 6 children were invited to take part, as well as a few other children from Key Stage 2. The children played three matches in total but unfortunately lost all three. They tried their best but were outplayed by stronger teams. Well done to all of them for taking part.







Please ensure that when leaving school premises, **you shut the gate behind you.**

This is to ensure the security of pupils and staff in the school.

Please resist temptation to leave the gate open for others.

All visitors need to press the buzzer for the office or Nursery to gain access.

Thank you for your on-going help with this.

Eco Schools News - 22.11.24



Eco-Schools

Distinction | 2024 - 2025

Buxlow children have been busy in recent weeks completing work linking to the environment and our Eco Schools topic areas (Transport, Marine and Water). Year 5 discovered, through their transport survey, that almost the whole school travels to Buxlow by car... oh dear! We thought that a Walk to School campaign – or at least encouragement to Park and Stride – might indeed be a good idea to help save the planet.

A continued request: We are working on an Art project about single use plastics. If you have any plastic bottle tops – from milk, fizzy drinks or cartons – we would love it if you could help us by collecting these and sending them in. We can't wait to show you the mural in progress!

Speaking of single use plastics, a polite reminder to bring reusable bottles only to school for water, please! These can be topped up in the fountains.

- Ms Stanton (Staff Rep)
- Noura (Year 6 Eco Lead)



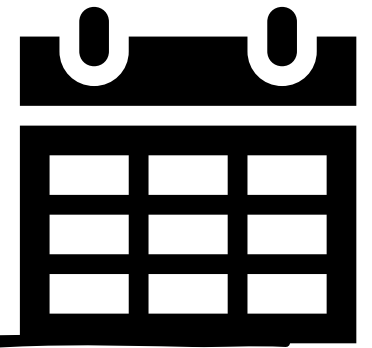
Philosophy 4 Children

We thought you might like to have a mini enquiry with your children and family members at home. With this in mind, we will publish an enquiry question for you to explore each week. Remember, there are no right or wrong answers - the beauty is in the listening to each other and responding to what you hear.

Have a go!

If you could ask tomorrow a question, what would it be?

Dates for your Diaries **New Dates*



- **Tuesday 26th November: Y5 & Y6 to workshop at Brent Cross Apple Store**
- **Tuesday 10th December CHANGE OF DATE** –Christmas Concert at The Lycée (morning performance, children to return to school afterwards)
Year 1 through to Year 6
- **Wednesday 11th December - Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day**
- wear your jolly jumpers with your school uniform
- **Friday 13th December:** End of term. School and Nursery close at 12:00
- **Spring Term starts on Monday 6th January 2025**
- **Thursday 9th January - Trip to Sadler's Wells. Book your child's tickets via Wisepay**

Term dates for next academic year

TERM DATES – 2025/26

Autumn Term 2025

Wednesday 3rd September – Start of Autumn Term

Half Term: Monday 20th October – Friday 31st October

Monday 3rd November – Return

End of Term – Friday 12th December (1200)

Spring Term 2026

Tuesday 6th January – Start of Spring Term

Half Term – Monday 16th February – Friday 20th February

Monday 23rd February – Return

Friday 27th March – End of Term (1200)

Summer Term 2026

Monday 20th April – Start of Summer Term

Monday 4th May – May Day Bank Holiday

Half Term – Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May

Monday 1st June – Return

Friday 10th July – End of Academic Year (1200)