



BUXLOW
Preparatory School

Buxlow Bulletin

Date of issue: Friday 6th December 2024

Facta non Verba



Only 10 tickets left!

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 1,2,3,4,5 & 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

Book now to avoid disappointment - only 10 tickets left

School Updates

Congratulations to our *Stars of the Week*:

Reception: Lilly
Year 3: Riley
Year 5: Kaylen

Year 1&2: Grace
Year 4: Ayeza
Year 6: Aryan

House Points:

Nicoll: 60

O'Donnell: 86

Emery: 59

Probyn: 95



Reception

This week in **English**, we have had an enriching and engaging experience in our classroom as we introduced a new story titled "**Stick Man**," which explores the themes of light and dark while reflecting on the Christmas season.

Nature Walk and Stick Man Creation: The week began with a nature walk, where the children collected sticks and other natural materials to construct their own Stick Man figures. This hands-on activity encouraged creativity and helped the children connect with nature while relating to the story.

Vocabulary and Writing: The children actively engaged with key vocabulary associated with the story, which deepened their understanding of the narrative. They created wanted posters for Stick Man, who is lost and whose family is worried. This writing exercise allowed them to practice their phonics skills and comprehension.

Predictions and Visualisation: Throughout the week, the children made predictions about what might happen next to Stick Man in different scenes. They used their senses to visualise events, and through guided writing, they articulated their predictions using sounds and words. Visual aids supported their ideas and helped reinforce their understanding.

Story Mapping: We utilised story maps to visually tell the story, which helped the children recall the plot and understand the sequence of events. They also imagined what else Stick Man could be, which sparked discussions related to our PHSE curriculum, particularly around safety, as we explored what could happen if Stick Man were thrown into a river. The children reflected on the feelings of parents when someone is missing, fostering empathy and understanding.



In **French**, we learned the names of some toys: un nounours (a teddy), une poupée (a doll) and un vélo (a bike).

Reception

Religious Education: Understanding Christmas

We also explored the significance of Christmas within the Christian faith by listening to stories about Baby Jesus. The children used the role-play area to reenact the story, deepening their understanding of the importance of this festival and its themes.



Mathematics: Exploring Four-Sided Shapes

In math this week, we focused on four-sided shapes, specifically rectangles and squares.

The children discussed the properties of these shapes, learning key vocabulary such as "straight sides" and "corners." They explored how different sizes of shapes can create new squares and rectangles, further reinforcing their understanding of geometric concepts. Another nature walk allowed the children to observe and identify squares and rectangles in their environment, reinforcing their learning in a real-world context. We also explored the concept of day and night, discussing daily events and sequencing them visually. This activity supported their understanding of time and the order of daily activities. We listened to a non-fiction book titled "Naughty Monkey," which explained the habits of nocturnal animals, tying into our previous discussions about sleep patterns and nighttime activities.



Understanding the World: Solar System Mobile:

The children enjoyed creating a solar system mobile, which helped them remember the planets in order. We also listened to the "Planet Song" to reinforce their learning.



Expressive Arts: Starry Night Creations

In expressive arts, we studied the famous artist Vincent van Gogh and his iconic painting "Starry Night." The children created their own artwork reflecting the themes of light and dark discussed in our story, allowing them to express their creativity.



Year One & Two

In English, the children have been working on researching, organizing, and writing chronological reports on animals. They practiced distinguishing between facts and opinions and focused on selecting interesting facts to engage their readers.

In Maths, the focus was on 2D shapes. The children enjoyed drawing and creating shapes while also exploring symmetry. They learned how to identify and draw lines of symmetry in various shapes.

In Geography, the children used atlases to locate different cities, towns, mountains, and rivers across the UK, developing their map-reading skills.

In Science, they explored the fascinating world of food chains, learning about predators, prey, and how energy flows through ecosystems.

Lastly, in Art, the children embraced the winter season by creating beautiful snow globes and winter tree artworks, showcasing their creativity and fine motor skills.



Year Three

This week has been a very busy and tiring one as we approach the end of the term. The children have been working hard in all subjects, showing great determination and teamwork.

In English, we consolidated our learning of the *Perfect Tree* adventure story. As a class, we completed a box plot to detail the key events and worked together to write our own version of the story. The students were incredibly creative and engaged throughout the process.

In Maths, we have started learning about division. While this can be a tricky topic, the children are gradually building their confidence. We are working towards mastering the bus stop method and will continue this in the Spring term.

In P4C (Philosophy for Children), we explored the thought-provoking question, "*Is it important to have goals in life?*" The children had insightful discussions about why goals matter and what they are. They shared their thoughts on how having goals can lead to a bright future, helping them become strong and brave as adults.

In French, we learned the months of the year and we asked each other the date of our birthdays.



Year Four

Year 4 are bringing the energy to the end of the Autumn term!

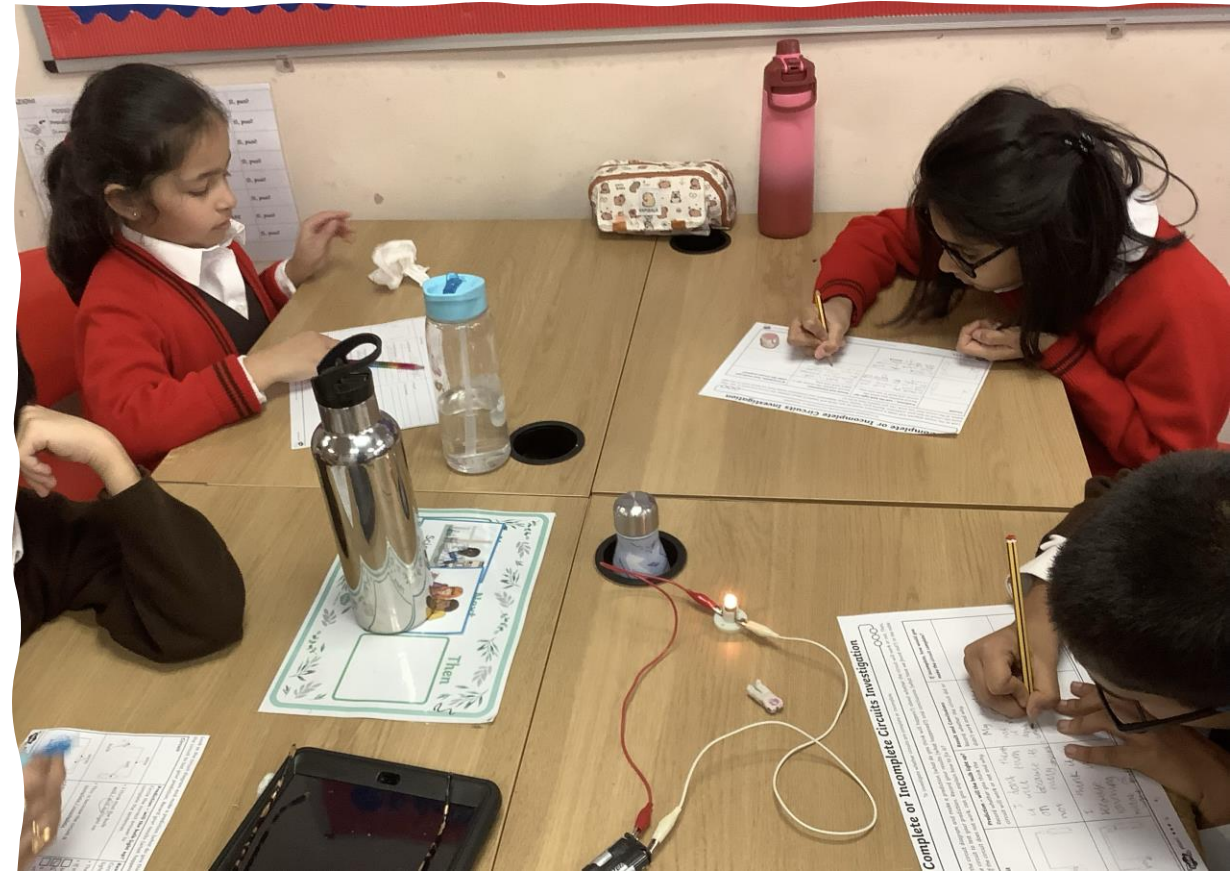
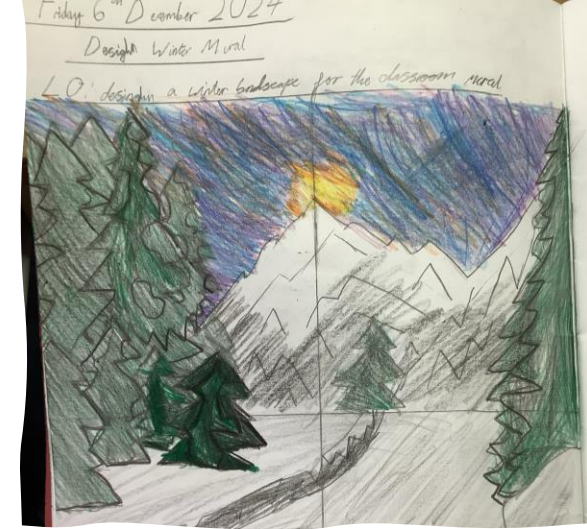
In maths, we have been working hard to use bar models in all kinds of word problems. Using bar models will be extremely helpful as they encounter more and more complex word problems, so it is great to see the children get better at using them.

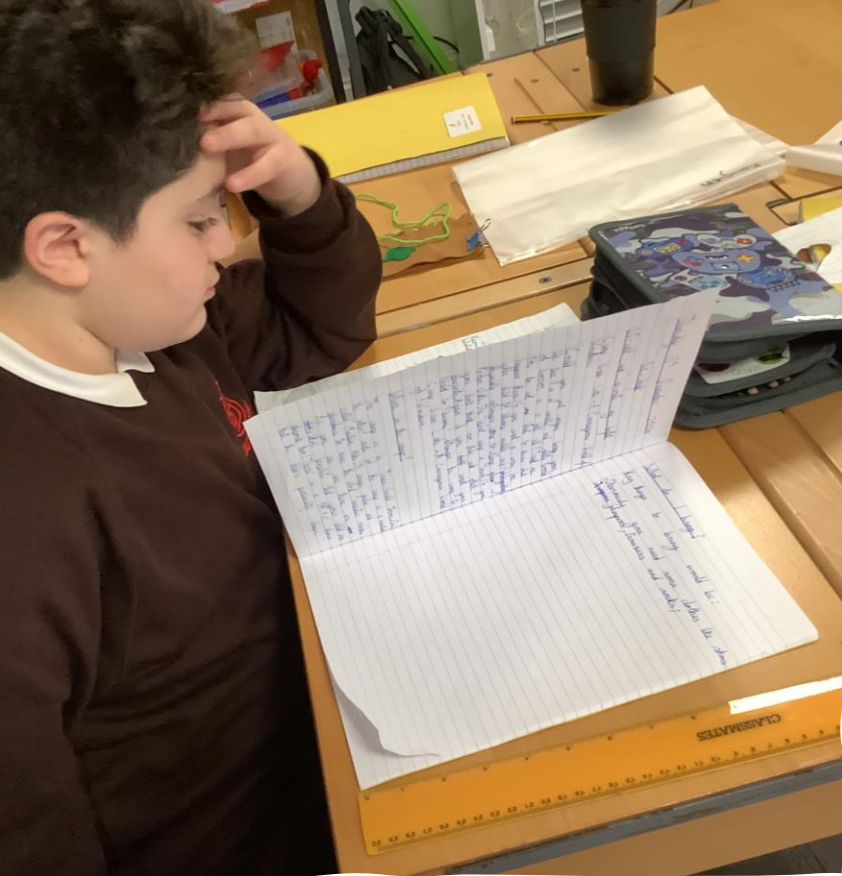
In English, we are trying to finish as much of the *Midnight Fox* as we can! The students are starting to stop the reading to raise their comprehension more often – great to see.

In PSHE, we are continuing looking at bullying and why people bully. We made a freeze-frame yesterday to investigate how each different person feels in such a scenario and to explore how each different person could help.

In Science, we are continuing to work on investigating different aspects of series circuits; we investigated which materials are the best conductors this week.

Finally, in Art, the pupils have designed their own art and voted on what should be put up next as our classroom mural. Take a look at what we chose!

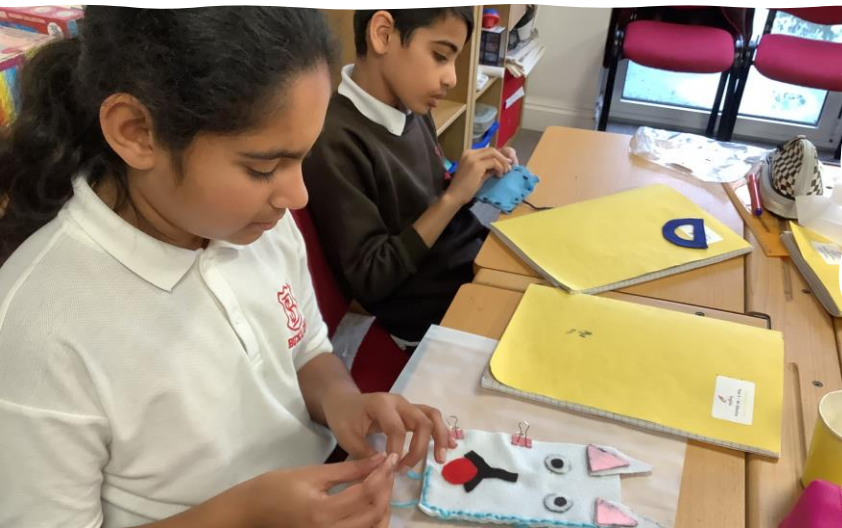




Year Five

Another super busy week for Year 5! In Maths we have been recapping this term's learning and doing 11+ level problem solving by completing some fun *Maths Mysteries* in groups, which even involved some code breaking. In English, we have impressed Ms. S with our recall of the higher-level punctuation we need in our persuasive leaflets, as well as an excellent command of language.

Away from the core subjects we have almost finished our phone cases in DT, and our replica Menorah in RE. We also, appropriately for the season, reflected on priorities in PSHE and even discussed Maslow's hierarchy of needs! It was great to show empathy to child cocoa farmers in Ghana and to reflect on why our priorities might be different, as well as needs vs. Wants.



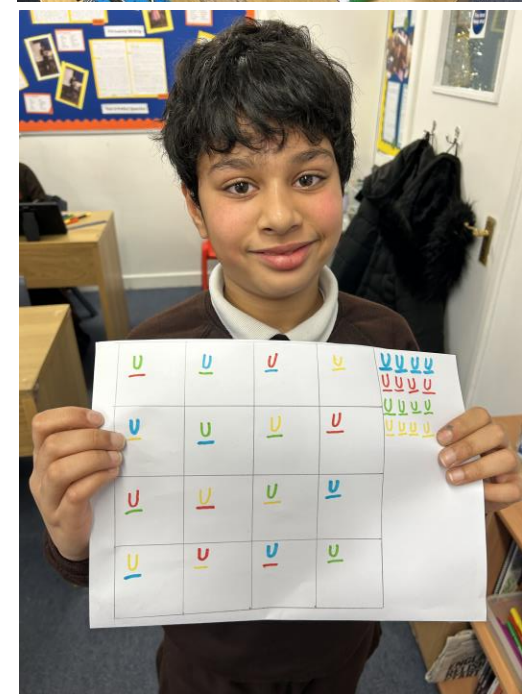
Quote of the Week: "Oh no, I think I've stabbed myself again!"
(multiple members of the class when discussing darning needles!)

Year Six

Last week, Year 6 took a lot of pride and pleasure in producing the school's Christmas post-box! They carefully painted the boxes, before sticking them together and making sure it was hollow inside to allow the cards to drop to the bottom. It was a lot of fun decorating it too and it now sits proudly in the reception area in school. There will be a card collection every day this coming week too, so do keep sending them in.

This week, we have been challenging ourselves with some logic and critical thinking challenges, including matching teacups and saucers so that there were no repeated combinations, nor a cup or saucer of the same colour in any row or column. It was not easy! However, congratulations to Samaarth who was the only person to work out a solution, pictured here. Well done, Samaarth! (Maybe Year 6's could challenge their parents with the same problem?!)

In French, Year 6 have been talking about their daily routine. They can say what time they get up and go to bed, when they go to school and eat. They used Keynote and voice recordings to make a presentation about their own routine.





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 - 6.12.24



EVENT TBC: Next term, the Eco Council will work on a new key stage of the application for renewal of our award, by holding a fundraising event for a chosen charity. The charity, chosen by Year 5 following their Science studies, is the Jane Goodall Institute. Please keep your eyes peeled for a fundraising event in the new term!
<https://janegoodall.org/>

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 finished mural!

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!

What is something new you want to try?



For students who missed their flu vaccination at school, there is a **catch-up clinic at Stockley Park Community Clinic** to ensure they are protected this flu season.

Clinic Details:

Stockley Park Community Clinic

6-9 The Square, Stockley Park, Uxbridge, UB11 1FW

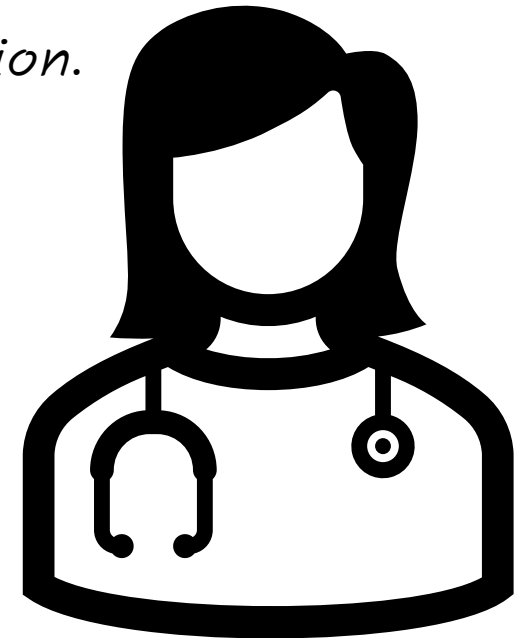
Free parking available—car registrations must be provided at reception.

Dates and Times:

- Thursday, 12th December: 4:15 PM – 6:00 PM
- Wednesday, 18th December: 4:15 PM – 6:00 PM

Booking Link:

<https://nwl.schoolvaccination.uk/flu/2024/book>



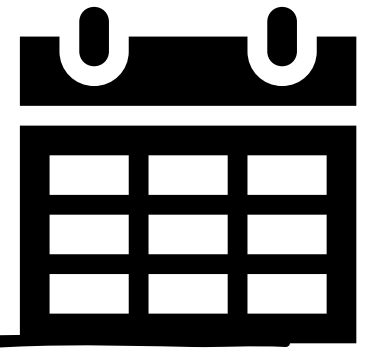
Spring Term Clubs

Bookings are to be made via Wisepay

Clubs commence
Monday 6th January
2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
French Club Leader: Mdm Doyle Cost £30 N° places: 10 (R-Y2)	KS2 Quiz Questers Club Leader: Ms Stanton Cost £30 N° places: 8 (Y3-6 only)	KS2 Art Club Leader: Mr Hamilton-Turner Cost £30 N° places: 8 (Y3-6 only)	KS2 Puzzle Club Leader: Miss Harrington Cost £30 N° places: 8 (Y3-6 only)	11+ Club Leader: Mrs Zaman Cost £30 N° places: 10 (Y4-Y5)
Music Club Leader: Ms Kurunakaran Cost £30 N° places: 10 (Yr3-6)	Italian Club Leader: Ms Falletta Cost £30 No places: 10	Multisports Leader: Coach Cost = £75 N° places: 20 (Y1-Y6) Book through Premier Education	Origami Club Leader: Mrs Qureshi Cost £30 N° places: 8 (Y1-Y3 only)	Chess Club Leader: Jumana N° places 10 Cost = £75
After School Care until 6pm £10.00 after 16:30	After School Care until 6pm £10.00 after 16:30	Debate Club Leader: Mr Smith N° places: 12 (Y4-Y6) Cost £30	After School Care until 6pm £10.00 after 16:30	After School Care until 6pm £10.00 after 16:30
		After School Care until 6pm £10.00 after 16:30		

Dates for your Diaries **New Dates*



- **Tuesday 10th December:** Christmas Concert at The Lycée (morning performance, children to return to school afterwards) Year 1 through to Year 6. Children and staff will depart Buxlow at 09:00. Parents to take seats from 09:50 for a 10:00 start.
- **Wednesday 11th December: Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day** - wear your jolly jumpers with your school uniform. **PE as normal**
- **Thursday 12th December: Swimming as normal**
- **Friday 13th December:** End of term. School and Nursery close at 12:00. Non-uniform Day
- **Spring Term starts on Monday 6th January 2025 - Clubs start this week**
- **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)