




**BUXLOW**  
Preparatory School

# Buxlow Bulletin

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Date of issue: Friday 2nd February 2024

*Facta non Verba*



# Update from Mrs McLelland, Headteacher

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This week we welcomed Jenny Barber from ILG to the school for our Early Years Governance Meeting. It was wonderful to show Jenny the learning environments in Nursery and Reception and to be able to share the positive impact that Miss Timea (Nursery Manager) and Mrs Patel and Miss Sana (Reception) have had on the pupils in their care and on the wider school.

March sees the 10th Anniversary of ILG being established. We look forward to welcoming Amit Mehta to Buxlow after half term as he has chosen our school as the location for a special video where he will talk about his motivation for establishing ILG back in 2014 and his vision for the group moving forwards. Buxlow was the first school he purchased, so I know that Buxlow holds a special place in his heart.

Many of you will know that in the academic year prior to my joining Buxlow, I took a sabbatical to pursue a life-long dream of learning to be a chef in a professional kitchen. Last weekend I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to buy some items for sale at Le Gavroche, owned by one of my favourite chefs, Michel Roux Jr., which has sadly closed its doors after 56 years. I couldn't resist buying one of their dining chairs which is upholstered in Buxlow red leather. The chair now takes pride of place in our reception area. I wonder who may have sat on it over all those years?

# School Updates:

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Stars of the week:

Reception: Ayah Year 1: Elijah Year 2: Suraj Year 3: Anaya  
Year 4: Ellie Year 5: Gabriel Year 6: Kiana

Congratulations to the recipients.

House Points - Well done to **Nicol** for a total of 93 points this week!

Probyn = 92

Emery = 91

O'Donell = 90





# Reception



In our math lessons this week, we continued our focus on addition. We explored different methods, such as using the number line, to help us understand and practice addition. We also incorporated practical activities using manipulatives, like beads, to enhance our understanding of addition. These activities not only reinforced addition skills but also helped develop fine motor skills through threading beads. This combination of hands-on learning and mathematical practice has been beneficial in strengthening your child's understanding of addition.

In English, we have been reading a book called "Zog and the Flying Doctor." This book has allowed us to delve into the role and responsibilities of a doctor. We have explored key vocabulary related to the topic, discussed different places where doctors work, and examined the equipment they use and carry in their doctor bags. The children have enjoyed using the role play area to reenact visits to the doctor, allowing them to apply their understanding in a practical and interactive way.

To provide a real-world experience, we took a trip to the pharmacy, where the children had the opportunity to see doctors in practice. They had the chance to talk to a pharmacist and learn about their role and responsibilities. This firsthand experience heightened their understanding and enthusiasm for the topic.

In addition to exploring the role of doctors, we also focused on the role of a policeman. We were fortunate to have a visit from a police officer from Wembley, who talked to the children about staying safe and how the police help us in this regard. The children had the opportunity to ask questions, touch and feel the equipment used by police officers, and even try on the police uniform. They were particularly excited when they got to sit in the police car and hear the siren. This hands-on experience brought the role of a policeman to life and deepened the children's understanding of their responsibilities.

Throughout these activities, we have also been exploring the equipment used by doctors and why they use it. The children had the chance to create their own stethoscopes using junk modeling materials and used them to listen to each other's heartbeats. This activity not only allowed them to engage in a creative task but also reinforced their understanding of the equipment used by doctors.

# Year 1

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Children in Year 1 are currently learning about the four countries in the United Kingdom. Using their maths skills, they used scales to measure and weigh ingredients in order to make Scottish shortbread cookies. In English, children worked on creating and answering questions about fairy tales and fairy tale characters. Additionally, they focused on writing compound sentence with conjunctions. In maths, they are developing their understanding of reverse operations and the relationship between addition and subtraction. They created number sentences using fact families. In Art, they studied the Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama, created polka dot pumpkins inspired by the artist.

Questions to ask your children:

What inspired Yayoi Kasuma to work with polka dots in her artwork?

Can you come up with three questions about this story?



# Year 2

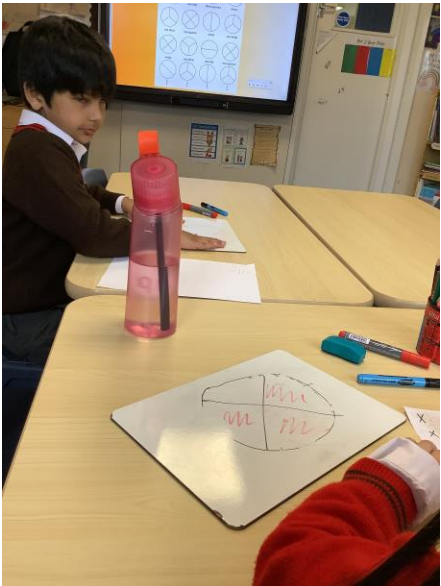


In Year 2 English this week, we've been focusing on traditional tales! We have chosen the story of Jack and the Beanstalk and have been analysing the key vocabulary used. Year 2 also further developed their understanding by utilising their prediction skills to sequence the order of events. One of our favourite things about this story is that it is super magical and full of surprises! Year 2 have been working hard to understand the definitions of key words and phrases in the story, to use in their story maps. We are looking forward to writing about Jack's adventurous journey next week using all the skills we have learnt this term!

In Maths, we are learning about fractions. Year 2 are enjoying using manipulatives to understand halves, quarters, and wholes. Although it was challenging at first for them to understand, it has been wonderful to watch their understanding further develop. Today is Number Day and we are celebrating by taking on a super challenge quiz against the clock, using our math skills and earning points!

## **FRENCH:**

Year 2 made a little recording of the French book they have been using to name clothes. Scan the QR code to watch it.



# Year 3

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Year 3 have been continuing their English work on Non-Chronological Reports by completing cross-curricular writing about London now and in the past. This builds on the very important skill of paragraphing by ensuring that we collect information about the same ideas in the same part of our text.

We have continued to develop our mental calculation skills by working on division, applying our tables facts and knowing the effect of multiplying and dividing by 10. We are increasingly confident at working fluently with larger numbers!

Science has been a lot of fun this week – we showed our knowledge of the human skeleton by constructing and labelling our own models using paper bones. This helped us to remember the functions performed by each part of the skeletal structure.

Other highlights of the week include learning how conjugate the verbs for 'to write' and 'to work' in Latin (very challenging content!), completing a collaborative landscape in Art and learning about the upcoming Children's Mental Health Week in PSHE.

# Year 4

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In English, Year 4 have been developing their reading skills and understanding the method of clarifying text. They have used this skill to work through comprehension questions. It has been great to see that the children have learnt their lines for Oliver and this was evident in the rehearsals.

Word problems can be very challenging in Maths. Year 4 have been learning strategies to enable them to solve the problems as this is key to their 11+ preparations. They have been practicing 1-step and 2-step word problems.

Year 4 always enjoy their Science lessons and find it very intriguing to learn about the human body. They have been fascinated by the lessons, understanding about the parts of the digestive system and what happens to the food after it is eaten. They were able to label the parts of the digestive system and describe their functions.

History has been really fun this week as the children have been learning about the Anglo-Saxon kings and role playing. They had to imagine that the kings had come back from the dead and were debating who was the greatest king.





# Year 5

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Year 5 were thrilled to have a chance to meet Albert, our school dog! Albert was a little unsure about the members of Year 5 but quickly warmed to them when he realised that duck and turkey treats were involved. We are hoping that Albert will become a regular visitor to our class.

This week we were finishing our art topic centred around Wassily Kandinsky. We looked at his abstract paintings, using colours and shapes, before copying some and then creating our own pictures, inspired by what we had learnt. You can see the wonderful pictures displayed in the classroom

On Thursday, Year 5 went over to St Christopher's for a game of netball and football. The children thoroughly enjoyed themselves and played very well, scoring **LOTS** of goals!



# Year 6



We are finishing our work on poetry creating a strong mood. We are using adverbials, similes and metaphors, and powerful vocabulary to create sestets.

We are practising and reasoning about long multiplication as well as practising 2-digit by 2-digit mental multiplication strategies.

Some of the highlights in our foundation lessons have been learning about how Western and Soviet societies functioned, to help us think about whether WW2 could have been averted, by earning "money" by playing rock paper scissors and then simulating a revolution. We learned about how natural disasters are distributed throughout the UK in Geography. We also investigated fossils in Science to see how different animals experienced different evolutionary changes over thousands of years.

In some special news, we were visited by a representative from TfL to teach us about using the transit system safely. The kids were enthralled the whole time and bombarded him with questions!

We also had a friendly football and netball match against St Christopher's with the Year 5s.

FRENCH: After learning about physical descriptions, Year 6 played a game of *Guess Who* in French to practice using the vocabulary and speak in full sentences.



# School Council

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School Council had our first meeting of 2024, this week. We continued our regular discussion points about what we have enjoyed about Buxlow since our last meeting and what we would still like to improve.

The students have enjoyed many things since last meeting:

They really liked the House productions performed in the Christmas Concert and also the Christmas activity day; Y4 is particularly excited about being included in this year's residential trip; Y3 and Y5 have asked for even more opportunities to practise their musical Oliver Twist, and the Year 6s are thankful that their 11+ season (for work, at least) is over.

Update on our ongoing project: School Council was tasked at the start of the year to budget for upgrades to the playground equipment. In the Autumn Term, we canvassed the whole school's opinions of the best equipment that we could get, and we spent some meetings talking about the practicality of each idea and seeing how much support each idea has. We have now made a short list that we will begin to research costing and budgeting and will learn how to create a purchase order for Mrs McLelland.

# ILG Photography Competition 2024

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- All pupils in Nursery through to Year 6 are invited to participate in the ILG Photography Competition.
- Deadline for all submissions to be sent to Buxlow: Wednesday 28th March 2024.
- Please email entries to [h.hamilton-turner@buxlowschool.org.uk](mailto:h.hamilton-turner@buxlowschool.org.uk)

## Photography Competition 2024



On the theme of

## ***Movement***

### Competition Rules:

- The photograph must be taken by a pupil
- No digital editing allowed
- One entry max per pupil

### Categories:

- Early Years
- Year 1/2
- Year 3/4
- Year 5/6
- Year 7/8

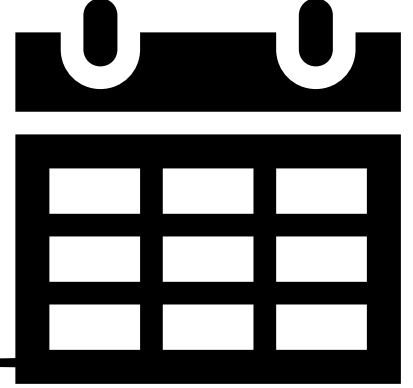
The competition will be judged by professional photographer **Jon Cartwright**. Jon has photographed some of the world's most famous people and his work has appeared in all major UK newspapers and most popular magazines. He has also exhibited in galleries including the Saatchi and the National Portrait Gallery, and featured in the British Journal of Photography.  
[www.joncartwright.com](http://www.joncartwright.com)

The winning photograph in each category will receive a £20 book token. The overall winner of the competition will receive a £30 book token. Results will be announced Week Beginning 18th March. Winning and runner up entries will be displayed in a virtual gallery.

**Closing Date: Friday 1st March**

# Dates for your diary

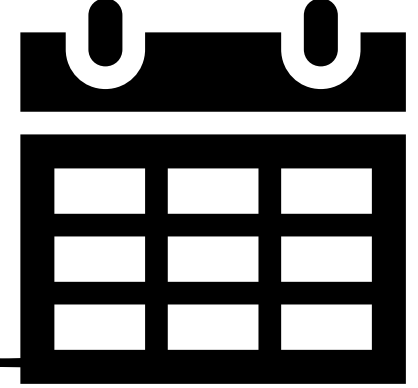
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- Monday 5th February – Children's Mental Health Week
- Wednesday 7th February - Safer Internet Day, ILG Parent Workshop on Teams at 19:00
- Friday 9th February – Chinese New Year celebration - The Year of the Dragon
- **Monday 12th - Friday 16th February - Half Term for pupils in R, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6**
- Monday 19th February - Years 3 & 4 to National Gallery (all day). Please wear full winter uniform and bring a disposable packed lunch.

# Dates for your diary *\* new dates*

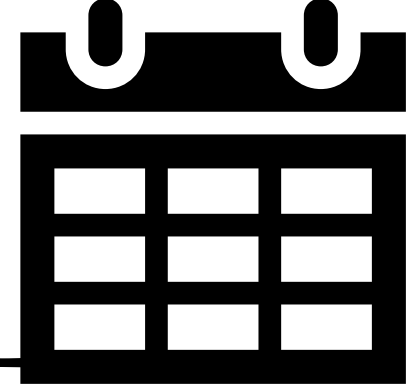
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- Tuesday 20th February - Year 5 & 6 to Natural History Museum
- Tuesday 20th February - Year 1 & 2 to Transport Museum
- *Tuesday 27th February - HSBC Workshops for Reception, Year 5, Year 6*
- Friday 23rd February - Dress up in your House Colours
- Monday 26th February - 09:00 - 10:30 Open Morning for Prospective Parents
- Wednesday 28th February - Nursery Parents Stay & Play
- *Monday 4th March - School photos for all pupils (and siblings) - full school uniform required*
- *Thursday 7th March - HSBC Workshops for Years 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6*
- Thursday 7th March - International Womens' Day

# Dates for your diary

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- Friday 8th March – World Book Day - Dress up as your favourite book character
- Monday 11th March - Parents' Evenings this week
- Wednesday 13th March- Year 5 & 6 to National Gallery
- Friday 15th March - Science Week Rotation Day
- Wednesday 20th March – Year 3, 4 & 5 production of Oliver! 16:00 at The Lycee International de Londres, Wembley
  
- Thursday 21st March - World Poetry Day: Buxlow Poetry Competition
- **Friday 22nd March - 12:00 End of term for R, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, & 6. Easter Break**
  
- Summer Term starts on Monday 15th April 2024

# Term dates for next academic year

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## TERM DATES - 2024/25

### Autumn Term 2024

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> & Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September - Staff INSET  
Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September - Start of Autumn Term  
**Half Term** - Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October - Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November  
Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November - Return to school  
Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December - **End of Term (1200)**

### Spring Term 2025

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> & Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> January - Staff INSET  
Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January - Start of Spring Term  
**Half Term** - Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February - Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February  
Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February - Return to school  
Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March - **End of Term (1200)**  
Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March - Staff INSET

### Summer Term 2025

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April - Start of Summer Term  
Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May - May Day Bank Holiday  
**Half Term** - Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May - Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May  
Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June - Return to school  
Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July - **End of Academic Year (1200)**



# E-Safety Workshop for Parents & Carers: Wednesday 7th February, 19:00

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Please find below the Teams link to an ILG Parent Talk about **Keeping Children Safe Online**. This talk is for all parents with children in any Inspired Learning Group School. The talk will be suitable for parents and guardians with children from Nursery through to Sixth Form age. It will take place on **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024 from 7pm**, with the opportunity for questions after.

The talk will be presented by Alan MacKenzie, a well known esafety advisor with years of experience working with children and families and other key agencies in promoting and advising on keeping safe online. Please do click on the link below where Alan shares a short video on introducing himself and the key areas he will be covering.

<https://vimeo.com/801544412/48bc0eae86?share=copy>

I look forward to you joining the presentation, and no doubt we will all learn more on how to keep our children safe online.

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 346 594 079 312

Passcode: hw6RJK

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)



# ILG Refer a Friend Scheme

Did you know you could receive up to £750 rebate on your fees by referring friends and family to Buxlow?

For every family that you refer whose child/children join, and completes at least two full terms, you will receive a rebate on future fees, as a thank you.

Buxlow community is special and unique, and we want to share it with as many families as possible. By referring your friends and family, you are not only helping our school grow, and expand our facilities, but also giving others the opportunity to experience the same high-quality education and supportive community we strive to provide.

If you have someone in mind who has not yet contacted us, but would welcome our call, simply provide their contact details to the School and we will take care of the rest. The rebate will be paid once the child / children referred have completed two terms at Buxlow.

Thank you for your continued support, we look forward to welcoming new families to our school.



**BUXLOW**  
Independent Preparatory School

Come and join us at our Open Day  
Monday 26 February 9-11am

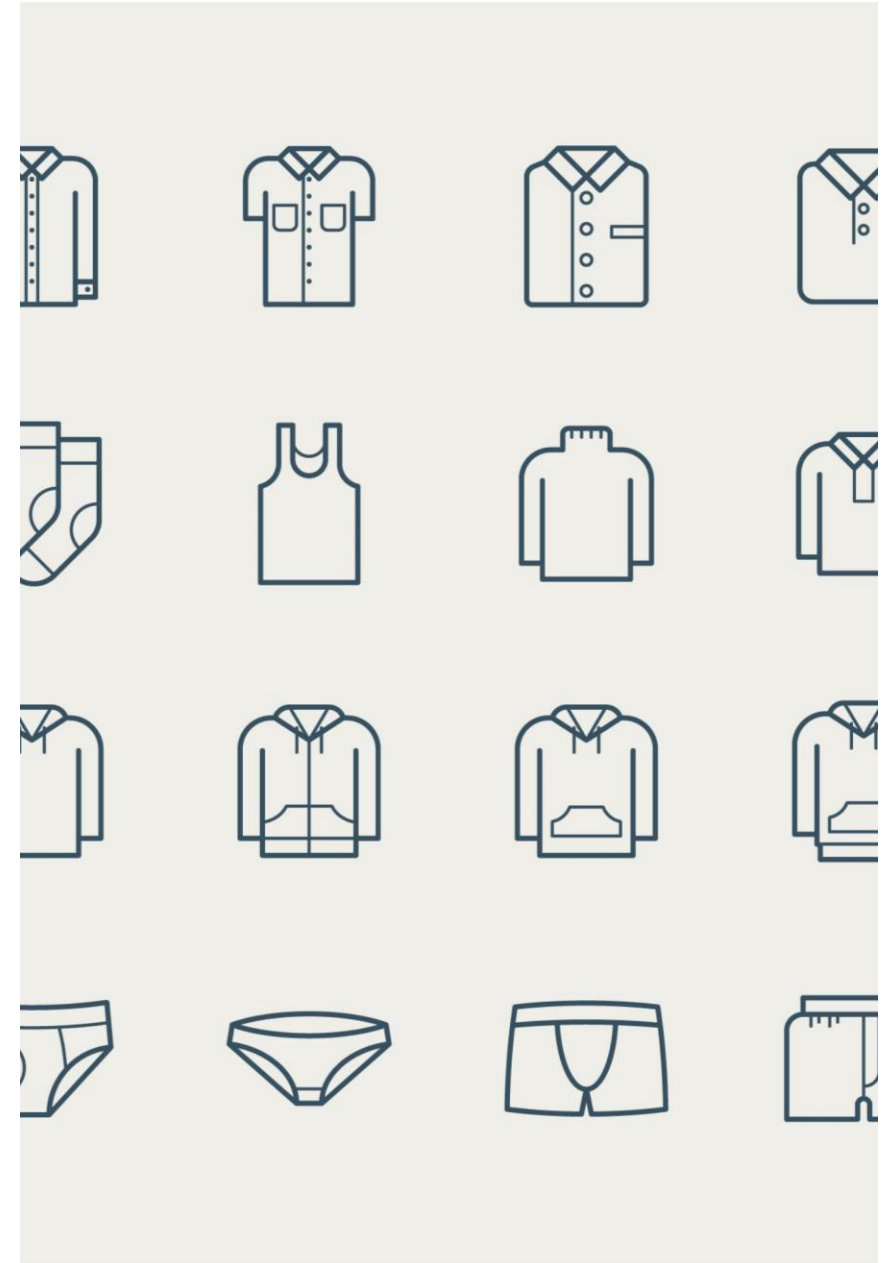


Book your place online at [www.buxlowschool.org.uk](http://www.buxlowschool.org.uk)  
or email: [admin@buxlowschool.org.uk](mailto:admin@buxlowschool.org.uk)

# 2nd Hand Uniform

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If you have any items of Buxlow uniform that your child has outgrown, and that are in good condition, please do consider donating them to the school for resale to Buxlow families.



# Advertising Space Available

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If you would like to advertise your small business or a community event here, please contact Mrs McLelland

[Head@buxlowschool.org.uk](mailto:Head@buxlowschool.org.uk)

# Key contacts:

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- Headteacher: Mrs McLelland - [head@buxlowschool.org.uk](mailto:head@buxlowschool.org.uk)
- Administrator: Ms Shipp - [admin@buxlowschool.org.uk](mailto:admin@buxlowschool.org.uk)
- Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs Zaman - [N.zaman@buxlowschool.org.uk](mailto:N.zaman@buxlowschool.org.uk)
- Nursery Manager – Mrs Gercosne Tama [nursery.manager@buxlowschool.org.uk](mailto:nursery.manager@buxlowschool.org.uk)

