



The Butler Buzz

R A Butler's Weekly Newsletter – 21 November 2025



Dear Parents and Carers,

At the end of this term we are sad to be saying goodbye to Katie Brown. She joined us over ten years ago, initially as a teacher and more recently as an Assistant Head, and then Acting SENCO over the last few months. Katie leaves a wonderful legacy to the school with all the work she has done over the years to make both schools UNICEF Gold Rights Respecting Schools. From introducing the concept to the school and taking us through all the levels - culminating in the highest award, she has instilled in the whole school community an understanding of children's rights and responsibilities and given children an understanding of what it means to be a global citizen. Katie is going to begin training in children's counselling and play therapy and we wish her all the very best.

From January two new members of staff will be joining. Hayley Doone will be our new SENCO, she comes with ten years of experience in the role. Joining her in the team is Heidi Pearson, in the new role of Pupil and Family Support Practitioner. Both are very excited to be joining us and we look forward to welcoming them.

It was lovely to see so many of you coming to the parent workshops over the last couple of weeks. We hope you enjoyed the opportunity to find out how you can support your child and going into class to put your learning into practise.

Winter Fayre

Thank you all for your generous donations today. We're very excited about next week's Fayre. There are full details in communication from the PTA but **don't forget for the vast majority of stalls you will need tokens rather than cash. These can be bought in advance at drop off on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday morning and pick up on Thursday afternoon.** They will also be available to purchase at the event.

Friendship Afternoon



There was such a lovely atmosphere during our Friendship Afternoon with older and younger children coming together to create Group Kindness Agreements and "One way I could use my power for good..." pink hearts. The also had the opportunity to do mindfulness colouring and play games together.



Y1 Parent Lunch

This week it was Y1 parents who had the opportunity to join their children for lunch. We know how popular this event is and we hope to host another for those that were unable to make it.



Triathlon Triumph

Congratulations to Ruth C who has been competing in the East Region Junior Triathlon League. She won two triathlons and finish third in the league overall. Ruth was then selected to represent the East Region in the Inter Regional Duathlon held in the Olympic Park where she finished 7th overall. We know how hard you must train to achieve these results Ruth, we're very proud of you.

Dodgeball Competition

On Tuesday morning, RAB took 35 children to attend the Year 4 dodgeball competition at Lord Butler Leisure Centre. Our school was represented by 4 teams: RAB Navy, RAB Green, RAB Yellow and RAB Orange. The teams were divided into 2 tournaments for the 1st round of games- with RAB Navy and RAB Orange playing in tournament 1 and RAB Green and RAB Yellow in tournament 2. All teams played some excellent dodgeball, all finishing in the top 3 of their tournaments. This meant all the teams went into a second round of games in a new tournament to determine the winners of the day- playing each other along the way.

RAB Navy went on to win all their games on the day, finishing 1st overall. RAB Yellow showed some great dodging and ducking skills to finish in 4th place by 1 point. RAB Green did superbly well to finish 5th overall, and RAB Orange finished 6th overall. All teams finished in the top 6, which is a brilliant achievement for the school. Congratulations to everyone involved, it was a very fun and action-packed Tuesday morning. RAB Navy and RAB Yellow have qualified for the next round of competition, due to take place at the start of December.

Diary Dates Next Week



24-28 Nov	Lunch Menu Week 1
25 Nov	EY Pop Up Village
26 Nov	Club Sign Up Opens 8pm
28 Nov	Y3&4 Swimming @ LBLC
28 Nov	PTA Winter Fayre 4-6pm

15 Jan 2026 Y2-3 & Reception 2026 Deadline
www.essex.gov.uk/admissions

Uttlesford Tag Rugby Finals



Two teams took part in the Uttlesford Tag Rugby Finals on Thursday, with 15 other schools from across the district playing in some extremely cold and wintry conditions. There was lots of rugby played with the teams playing in 10 games back-to-back, with some amazing tries scored, showing off great teamwork. RAB Green (our Y5 team) came 3rd in Tournament 2 which builds nicely for next year.

RAB Navy won their first 7 games and narrowly lost 2 of their final games placing them in joint third in Tournament 1, winning bronze overall. We are so proud of all involved. Well done, great rugby played by all!



Book Look—Thursday 11 December

Between 8.40 and 9.10am, all parents will have the opportunity to go into your child's class where you can share their books and learning with you.

Spring Term Clubs

You have received details of how to sign up for Spring Term Clubs via the following links:

[SchoolCloud - RA Butler Academy Infant School](#)

[SchoolCloud - RA Butler Academy Junior School](#)

The window for signing up opens on Wednesday 26th November at 8pm and closes at 9am on Monday 1st December.

Cancer Detectives

Some of you may be watching the Channel 4 documentary *Cancer Detectives*. It follows the groundbreaking research and surgery of parent Richard Mair. In this week's episode on the 27 November, Emily, William and Alex will be making a cameo appearance with their dad so do look out for them.

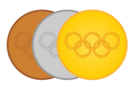

Y2-3 Applications Now Open

Y2 parents have now received information about how to apply for Y3 places for next September 2026. **All applications must be submitted on-line by 15th January 2026.** You can apply via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions Please email Wendy on admin@rab.academy and let her know you have completed your application.

Reception 2026

If you have a child that is due to start school in September 2026. The application window is now open and you can apply via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions **You must apply by 15th January 2026.**

	Stars of the Week	
<u>Reception</u> Otis H Lily G	Michaela M Matilda M	Cece P Oakley R
<u>Year 1</u> Josh C Frankie D	Charlie K Ella S	Edie L Jessica S
<u>Year 2</u> Cat F Enid R	Jessica J Emilia S	Rory G Maxima V
<u>Year 3</u> Soren C Cillian C	Jack H Vira R	Isabella H Alex T
<u>Year 4</u> Archie B Dexter R	Hannah O Riley S	Lyra B Willson Q
<u>Year 5</u> Laurie T Bryher T	Zico C Ernie C	Raphy W George T
<u>Year 6</u> Leo B Darcey D	Daniel W Amber R	Grace A Amelie C
Infant Lunchtime Cup Junior Lunchtime Cup	5VH 2MG	

	RAB READING OLYMPIANS	
BRONZE Zico C Lucas P Finlay F Bea S Tilly S George T	SILVER Alex P Isla B Ruan G Oliver L	GOLD Darcey D Ailbhe C
	RAB BOOKWORMS	
BRONZE Poppy B Isabella H Penny B Isla C Ava R Joseph T Molly C Bea J Yousuf H	SILVER Aahan T	GOLD



WINTER FAYRE 2025

Wow! Thank you for your donations!

We were absolutely thrilled to receive so many fantastic donations for next week's Winter Fayre. Thanks to your generosity we have lots of brilliant prizes to be won, as well as fabulous Grand Raffle hampers filled with treats for all the family. Thank you for all your support.

If you didn't have chance to drop off your donations today, or have any Raffle prizes available, please do email rabutlerpta@gmail.com or drop them into the School Office. Thank you!

PTA Tokens for the Fayre – on sale next week

We are using tokens at the Winter Fayre this year so please note all stalls, except for the BBQ and raffle, will only accept tokens. Tokens can be purchased with either cash or card, and are available to buy on Wednesday morning and before and after school on Thursday and Friday.

Tokens will also be available on the night from stalls in the KS1 and KS2 halls. We expect these stalls at the Fayre will be very busy, so please do buy beforehand if possible.

Cake donations next Friday at drop off please

Calling for cakes, biscuits, mince pies and sweet treats! Whether baked or bought, the PTA will be ready for your cake donations on the morning of the Fayre, or you can drop them into the School Office. Yummy! No nuts please. Do label any 'free from' items with ingredients so they can be displayed properly.

Santa's Grotto – walk up bookings available at the Fayre

If you missed out on our pre-bookable slots please don't worry – we always keep a couple of spaces in every session free for walk-ups at the Winter Fayre. Just head for the Grotto when you arrive at the Fayre and one of our lovely elves will try to find a spot for your child. We work hard to make sure that every child who wants to can meet Santa!

Last chance to buy tickets for Christmas Gifts for Grown Ups

Tickets for your child to choose either 1 or 2 gifts from our fantastic seasonal department store, Elfridges, must be purchased **by 10pm this Friday, 21 November**.

Tickets cost £3 each (max 2 per child). Advance tickets only.

Online ticket sales until 10pm Friday 21 November (booking fees apply): <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/events/landing/97133>

Cash in an envelope clearly labelled G4G and with your child's name, class and number of gifts (1 or 2) and give to staff at Early/Late Play or the School Office by Friday at 5pm.

Friday 28 November 4 - 6pm



Friday 21 November
Winter Fayre Donations Day

Friday 14 November
Grotto booking goes live Friday

Friday 28 November - Cake Donations
Plus any extra donations for the Winter Fayre (drop off)



Future Diary Dates

1 Dec	Spring Term club sign up closes 9am
4 Dec	Music Concert 6pm
w/c 8 Dec	Xmas Assault Course
10 Dec	Y2 Christmas Play 2pm Y1 Christmas Play 5pm
11 Dec	Whole School Book Look 8.40-9.10am
11 Dec	Y1 Christmas Play 2pm Y2 Christmas Play 5pm
15 Dec	Christmas Dinner & Christmas Jumper Day
16 Dec	Reception Christmas Play 9.15am
17 Dec	Carols @ St Mary's Church 10.45am
17 Dec	1.30pm End of term
6 Jan	Children return to school

You can find term dates for this year and next [here](#).