



# The Butler Buzz

R A Butler's Weekly Newsletter – 12 December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,  
We have definitely been embracing the festive spirit this week with Christmas productions and assault courses and more to come next week! **Don't forget we break up at 1.30pm on Wednesday 17 December.**

## KS1 Productions



It was such a delight to watch our two productions—Y1's *The Jolly Christmas Postman* and Y2's *I'm Gonna Shine* and shine they did! The children have worked so hard learning their songs, lines and actions which they delivered with great articulacy and enthusiasm. The singing was beautiful and the appreciative audience thoroughly enjoyed the performances. A huge well done to all the children.

## Christmas Assault Course

We hope your washing machines have forgiven us! A big thank you to the PE team for organising such a fun Assault Course and to all the Y5 and Y6 helpers who cheered and encouraged the other years along.



## Music concert



It's been a wonderful and busy time in the music department. Last Thursday children across Y2-6 performed for friends and family at our annual Winter Concert. Their resilience and commitment to practice throughout the term shone through in wonderful performances. Well done!



Then on Saturday, RAB Voices took part in the *Spirit of Christmas* at St Mary's Church, alongside other local primary schools and Saffron Walden Choral Society. They have worked extremely hard, learning joint repertoire for the occasion and a song chosen by us to perform. The children sang beautifully and represented the school so well. We are all extremely proud of them! You will see them again at the Carol Service next week.

## Lunch Menu 15-17 December

Monday—Christmas lunch, please see below. No need to order in advance.

Tuesday—**Sweet & Sour Chicken with Rice** or **Jacket Potato with Beans & Cheese**, Fruit

Wednesday—**Tomato Pasta Bake** or **Macaroni Cheese**, Fruit Crumble

### Christmas Dinner

**Red Meal—Roast Turkey with Pigs in Blankets**

**Green Meal—Vegan Quorn Pieces & Vegan Sausage**

Roast potatoes, Yorkshire pudding, vegetables, stuffing, gravy

Festive Vanilla Cake

## Christmas Jumpers—Monday 15 December

Children and staff are invited to wear Christmas Jumpers (or something festive) to school on Monday for their Christmas Dinner with a suggested donation of £2 for [Home Start Essex](https://www.homestartessex.org.uk), who work with local families who have children under 5, supporting parents to give their children the best possible start in life. There will be gate collections on the day or you can donate on line at <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/hsecharitychristmasjumperday2025>. The rest of the outfit should be PE kit or school uniform as normal for a Monday. There is no expectation for families to buy a Christmas jumper, we love a home decorated sweater!

## Diary Dates Next Week



15-17 Dec	Lunch Menu See Below
15 Dec	Christmas Dinner & Christmas Jumper Day
16 Dec	Dress The Head
16 Dec	Reception Christmas Play 9.15am
17 Dec	Carols @ St Mary's Church 10am
17 Dec	1.30pm End of term
6 Jan	Children return to school

15 Jan 2026 Y2-3 & Reception 2026 Deadline  
[www.essex.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.essex.gov.uk/admissions)

## Carols at St Mary's—Wednesday 17 December

You are warmly invited to join our Carol Concert which will start at 10.00 at St Mary's Church on the last day of term. Once the children are all seated we will open the West Porch doors (the front of the church) for you to join us, **we kindly ask that you do not enter the church until invited to do so**. There is a no step access through the South Porch, so if you need this facility please make your way there, again we do ask that you wait to be let into the church. Please be aware that we have been advised by the church that food and drink are not permitted in the building. It is a wonderful end to the term and we look forward to seeing you there.

## Sporting Success

### Golf

Huge congratulations to our Year 5 and 6 golf pairs who took part in a competition contested by 28 players from all over Uttlesford. Freddie W and Johnny M won overall with Bale L and Louie D coming third. Not only did the boys do so well on the course but the effort, team work and spirit amongst them was a credit to them and the school. A big thank you to the parents who supported on the day.



### Dodgeball

Last Friday, we took 2 teams to represent RAB in the Uttlesford district dodgeball finals. With 14 schools present, the children played 7 group games and the top 2 from each group then progressed to the semi-finals stage. Both the Blues and Greens played some exceptional dodgeball, with the Greens finishing 9th overall. The Blues made it all the way to the finals, where they showed great resilience to win 2-1 after going 1-0 down, making them Uttlesford Champions. We are all so proud of the children, having 2 teams finish in the top 10 in the district!

### Basketball

Our final sports competition of 2025 was the Y5/6 County Basketball final in Colchester yesterday. They were up against some tough competition against the top 12 teams in Essex. Despite not winning all their opening matches, all the children stayed resilient and kept a positive mental attitude to win all their remaining 3 games very convincingly. As a result of their strong finish, the team finished 9th overall in the county. It is such a great achievement and everyone at RAB is so proud - especially with how they reacted and kept believing in one another. This caps off a brilliant first term of the school year and we look forward to many more sporting successes in the new year.



## Smartphone Free Childhood Update

**Good Tech Gift Guide:** At Christmas, choosing tech that supports children's creativity and development can be challenging. That's why the SFC community have created the very first Good Tech Gift Guide—a collection of family-recommended tools that enrich learning without the addictive pull of unhealthy online algorithms. You can find the guide here: <https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org/resource/the-good-tech-gift-guide>

**Australia social media age restriction for children:** You may have seen in the news this week, in a world-first move, Australia has raised the minimum age for social media to 16 – and deactivated underage accounts. You can read more here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/live/cwy54q80gy9t>

**Additional reading:** Gen Z were the first generation to grow up on social media. Now they are fighting back. This piece shows how a youth movement for digital justice is spreading across Europe: <https://www.theguardian.com/media/2025/dec/09/youth-movement-digital-justice-spreading-across-europe>

With Christmas present buying in mind, we just wanted to remind families of our Smartphone Policy that children in Y4 and below will not be allowed smartphones in school when they reach Y5.

### Future Diary Dates

6 Jan	Children return to school
13 Jan	Meet the SENCO & Pupil & Family Support Practitioner 9am
15 Jan	Meet the SENCO & Pupil & Family Support Practitioner 2.30pm
21-23 Jan	Y4 Burwell House
26 Jan	Y6 Holocaust Memorial Service
13 Feb	INSET Day—School Closed to Children
16-20 Feb	Half Term

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



## You've helped to raise £9000 for our school – THANK YOU!

Wow! What an incredible first term of fundraising. Thanks to your generosity and the hard work of our PTA volunteers, we have been able to raise £9,000 this term from across our annual Winter Fayre, Christmas Gifts for grownups, personalised artwork Christmas cards and gifts, pre-loved uniform sales, textiles collection and the regular donations from our team of donors via easyfundraising.

This year's Winter Fayre was truly epic and its success a reflection of the wide and generous support of our brilliant school community: your amazing donations and raffle prizes, the time and energy of all our PTA helpers and RAB staff, and all the children and their parents and carers who came and stayed and made it all so fun and festive. You helped to raise £5,200 in just two hours!

Out of 3000 schools across the UK that use Class Fundraising for Christmas Cards, we were in the top 10 for orders and commission. Your support makes such a difference. We had over 955 items ordered and delivered and have made £1,319 commission for the school.

Christmas Gifts for Grown Ups had a bumper year with over 1011 gifts chosen by the children and carefully wrapped, raising £1550.



Pre-loved uniform sales and the textiles collection earlier this term helped to raise £478.50

And not forgetting our small but savvy gang of easyfundraisers, who each took just a couple of seconds to make that easy extra click when shopping online, meaning hundreds of retailers have donated £254.01 to RAB PTA over the course of this term. It doesn't cost our easyfundraisers anything – they simply raised donations as they shopped online as normal. It may be pennies at a time but you can see how it all adds up! Find out more: [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/rabpta/](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/rabpta/)

### We've invested nearly £11,000 in the school this term

We're delighted to have been able to invest across a number of initiatives this term, including new lunch trolleys, scrapstore refresh, a huge range of books, equipment, puzzles and games chosen by class teachers from our annual class funds donation (£100 per class), SEND 'no bake' cooking class supplies and more. Plus we've committed £1000 per year group to support extracurricular activities within school this academic year.

We work hard to ensure that the money we raise is invested back quickly yet carefully to bring all children the benefit of your generous support. If you have any feedback on our events and projects, or would like to be join us and become part of the team, please email [rabutlerpta@gmail.com](mailto:rabutlerpta@gmail.com)

### Dress the Head update! Tuesday 16th December

The votes are coming in and the winning outfit will be revealed on Tuesday morning. Mrs Vincent will greet the children at the gate either as a beautiful star or a magnificent turkey!

### Coming up next term...

We've got a KS2 Disco in February, the annual PTA Quiz Night in March, Mother's Day Gift Shop plus our Easter Hunt festivities for the children – all to look forward to as we kick off events in 2026.

### Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

From all of us at RAB PTA, we hope you and your families will enjoy a happy and relaxed Christmas holiday – a much-needed break from the school run and book bag scramble! Here's to a fab 2026 for us all...

Essex County Council  
Libraries

**10 January  
to 22 February  
2026**

# Winter Reading Challenge

Children across Essex are being challenged to read and get creative at their local library this winter!

Explore our Pawfessionals' amazing careers as you progress through the challenge.

Choose from twelve fun activities to complete. For each one, you'll get a sticker! Complete six, and you'll receive a certificate and get to enter our prize draw for the chance to win some incredible goodies!

Plus, you can join in with themed events and activities at the library!

Find out more about how to take part in this free activity on our website: [libraries.essex.gov.uk](http://libraries.essex.gov.uk)

# Help for families

**We can help you with:**

- Benefits for families (child benefit, maternity grants, universal credit)
- Disability benefits, including those for children
- Access to foodbanks and community food shares
- Debt, budgeting and reducing bills
- Immigration advice
- Relationship breakdown and child maintenance

Supporting people in Uttlesford and neighbouring South Cambs to find a way forward. CONFIDENTIAL AND FREE

citizens advice Uttlesford

**01799 618840**  
[help@uttlesfordca.org.uk](mailto:help@uttlesfordca.org.uk)

★	Stars of the Week	★
<b>Reception</b> Beau T Tommy Y	Freya I Ali K	Stanley W Lily T
<b>Year 1</b> All of 1RB	All of 1MI	All of 1OJ
<b>Year 2</b> All of 2SH	All of 2MG	All of 2QB
<b>Year 3</b> Jack C Elliot W	Rosabelle Y Hudson M	Ava R Isla P
<b>Year 4</b> Mellisa C Erdem Z	Allie D Pip L	All of 4CC
<b>Year 5</b> Teddy D Ava D	Rory S Jakub M	William W Noah N
<b>Year 6</b> Margaux M Ollie A	Prayas T Alex M	Phoebie E Mary M
Infant Lunchtime Cup Junior Lunchtime Cup	RCR 5VH	

	<b>RAB READING OLYMPIANS</b>	
<b>BRONZE</b>	<b>SILVER</b> Poppy R	<b>GOLD</b> Niamh S Lucie T
	<b>RAB BOOKWORMS</b>	
<b>BRONZE</b> Eddie H Bea M Sam P Ethan R Robyn B	<b>SILVER</b> Robin M Orla L Polly C Joseph T	<b>GOLD</b>