



The Butler Buzz

R A Butler's Weekly Newsletter – 13 February 2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

This half term seems to have flown by with so many exciting activities across the year groups. Wishing you all a restful half-term and hopefully some sunshine!

We send our congratulations and best wishes to Mr Knight and his wife who welcomed baby Rosie this week. We look forward to meeting her soon.

Diary Dates Next Week

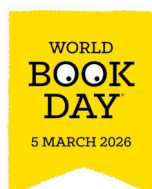


23-27 Feb	Lunch Menu Week 2
23 Feb	Children return to school
23 Feb	Y2 Rainforest Rangers Day
23 Feb	Y3 Circus Skills Day
23 Feb	Heidi Pearson Drop in 3pm
27 Feb	Y3&4 Swimming @ LBLC

Parent Visits

We were delighted to welcome so many of you this week to the EY-Y4 Maths workshops, the Y5 reading workshop as well as the Book Look. We are very excited about the Maths Scrapbook initiative and we hope you enjoy taking on the challenge alongside your children.

World Book Day



We look forward to welcoming parents at the end of World Book Day to come for our **Read & Treat**. Do let your teacher know by Friday 27th February if you are able to provide any goodies (no nuts). If your child has allergies, please can you provide an appropriate snack for them on the day. We are looking to make it a fluid and relaxed experience, particularly for those who have siblings across the school. You will be able to collect siblings and find a nook to read together as a family and spaces will be set up around the school that families can go to. This will run from 3pm to 3.45pm.

Toy Plea

If you have any of the following toys looking for a new home, they would be most welcome at school. Do just bring them to the office. Thank you.

- Small World Figures
- Little People
- Doll house sized figures
- Barbies
- Plus Plus
- Duplo
- Stickle Bricks



Gardening Club Spring Bulb Sale

It may be grey, but our Gardening Club have got just the thing to brighten up your garden. They will be holding a Spring Bulb Sale on Wednesday 4th March by the blue exit gates. Cash only please.

Chess Champ

Daniel in Y4 has loved Mr Belzar's lunchtime chess club and it inspired him to join the Anglian Learning Chess Academy back in December. On Saturday, he played in his first ever competitive tournament, the ALCA Junior Rapidplay U1000 and he managed to finish first in the under 10 age category! Well done Daniel, what a great result.



Future Diary Dates

4 Mar	Gardening Club Spring Bulb Sale 3.30pm	w/c 23 Mar	Parent Consultations
5 Mar	World Book Day	27 Mar	End of Term 1.30pm
6 Mar	PTA Uniform Sale 3.30pm	13 Apr	Children return to school
6 Mar	PTA Quiz Night	You can find term dates for this year and next here .	
9 Mar	Y1 Pop Up Play Village		
11 Mar	Reception Parent Lunch (pre-booked only)		
19 Mar	Y4 Epping Forest Trip		

Guinea Pigs Galore!



Year 1 have loved having guinea-pigs in their classrooms this week. As part of their science work, the children have been learning about animals. They have been looking at the features of different animals and their animal groups and learning how to look after a pet. The children had hands on experience of making sure our class pets had food, water, shelter, activity and love.



MIND Parent Support

Parenting at times can be hard and here at RAB we have access to MIND who support parents in dealing with their children's challenging behaviour or anxiety. If you feel this could be of interest to you, please follow [the link](#) to self-refer to MIND or contact the school for more information.

Midday Assistant Vacancy

We have an opportunity for someone to join our fabulous team of Midday Assistants who support our children during lunchtime. You can find further details [here](#).

SAT CFO Vacancy

An exciting opportunity has arisen to join Saffron Academy Trust as Chief Finance Officer. If you would like to find out more about this role, please visit the Trust's website via this link: <https://www.saffron.academy/blog/?pid=1039&nid=7&storyid=13>

Young people, have your say!

Saffron Walden Town Council (SWTC) and Saffron Walden Youth Outreach Project's (YOP) are asking young people to complete the YOUTH CONSULTATION 2026. What is it like for young people living in Saffron Walden? Do they feel safe? What do young people do in Saffron Walden out of school? And, what would they like to have more of? 13 -19 year olds can **"have their say"** and shape where youth funds are spent in 2026 and beyond - the survey can be found here: <https://forms.gle/fKTs22JHBpyHcFkg6>

Under 13's (age10-13) can have their say too; this will be paper based and will require parental consent, a copy of which is available from the Tourist Information Centre.



SWYOP
Saffron Walden Youth Outreach Project
Working with the young people of Saffron Walden

Young people have your say!

Fill in this
quick survey for a
chance of winning a
£30 voucher!



Paper copies available from the Tourist Information Centre
Survey found here: <https://forms.gle/fKTs22JHBpyHcFkg6>
Closes 5pm on Monday 16 March 2026

  [swyouthclub](#)  SWYOP Registered Charity Number: 1051335



PTA QUIZ NIGHT – tickets online now available

We only have 4 tables left for our annual PTA Quiz Night on Friday 6 March, book soon to avoid disappointment! Tickets are £10 each or you can take a table for £75 (booking fees apply).

You'll be asked for your child's year group when you book a single ticket and you can choose the option to be seated with parents of the same year group where possible. Don't be shy, if you don't know your fellow players at the start of the evening we guarantee you'll be fast friends by the end of the night! With quiztastic fun, prizes to be won and a well-stocked bar, it's always a brilliant evening – no swotting up necessary.

Book online now at www.trybooking.com/uk/events/landing/103861

Mother's Day Gifts for Grownups – on sale now until Friday 27th February

A reminder that you can buy your tickets for Mother's Day gifts online until Friday 27th February. Visit <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/FXRA> to select either a '1 GIFT' ticket or a '2 GIFTS' ticket for each child you are buying for. Booking fees apply.

We'll also have ticket stalls in the car park and KS1 playground at pick up and drop off on Thursday 26th February and Friday 27th February – cash and card payments both accepted.

You can also send your money in a sealed envelope clearly labelled 'G4G' with your child's name, class and number of gifts (max 2 gifts per child) and hand this in to the School Office or to the staff at Early/Late Play.

Each gift costs £3.50. Maximum 2 gifts per child. Tickets can only be purchased in advance.

Strictly no ticket sales after Fri 27th February so we can manage stock in advance of the scheduled 'shopping days'.



KS2 Disco Fever!

We had a brilliant time on Wednesday seeing so many of our KS2 children across Years 3-6 throwing some pretty impressive shapes on the dance floor. The atmosphere was buzzing and it looked like everyone had a blast. A big thank you to our PTA Disco Team!

New RAB Library: Can you help?

This summer, RAB has the chance to build a brand new, open plan library to excite and inspire our children.

Sponsorship Challenge: Who can you read to?

Children can collect sponsorship from family and friends to share a book with as many different people as possible until 9th March. Let's spread the magic of reading far and wide!

Picture competition: My favourite special read

Snap a photo or create a drawing of one of the people you read with and explain what made reading with them special. The winning photo will take pride of place on our new library wall.

Donate during the 2026 National Year of Reading

If each child was able to raise £20.26 in celebration of the national year of reading, we would raise our target to fund this wonderful new library. Any donation you can make will take us a book, shelf or cabinet closer to our new library! Help now by donating at:

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/who-can-you-read-to?>

See Monday's parentmail for all the details.

Take a book for a walk

Who can you read to?

Spread the magic of reading

New RAB library: Can you help?

This summer, RAB have the chance to build a brand new, open plan library to excite and inspire our children. Can you help us make it happen?

Sponsorship Challenge: Who can you read to?
Sponsor your child to share a book with as many different people as possible until 9th March. Let's spread the magic of reading far and wide!

Photo competition
Snap a photo or create a drawing of one of the people you read with and explain what made reading with them special. The winning photo will take pride of place on our new library wall.

Donate during the 2026 National Year of Reading
If each child was able to raise £20.26 in celebration of the national year of reading, we would raise our target to fund this wonderful new library.
Any donation you can make will take us a book, shelf or cabinet closer to our new library. Help now by donating at:
<https://www.justgiving.com/page/who-can-you-read-to?>

RA Be INSPIRED | PHASE 2:
Sport | Music & Drama | Reading | LIBRARY

Saffron Walden Children's Orchestra (SWCO) runs holiday courses for children, aged 7 and above, who play an orchestral instrument of a standard between grade 1-5. The Saffron Walden Children's Orchestra is a training orchestra for young musicians living in and around Uttlesford.

The Easter course 7-8th April, is 2 days long, 9.30am-3.30pm taking place at SWCHS with 2 whole days of orchestral playing with supervised lunch and playtime. The cost is £80 per child, with a second sibling discount of 50%, and financial assistance is available to those eligible for free school meals. The aim is to provide a quality orchestral experience for children who are proficient on their instrument grade 1 - 5. It is an ideal place to play a range of music, meet new friends and have fun. Children come from a variety of schools and everyone is most welcome. Visiting tutors give expert advice and support. Richard Hull is the conductor and the final concert will take place in Saffron Hall at the end of the course. The repertoire is varied, ranging from Pirates of the Caribbean to Beethoven's 5th.

For further information please contact Pippa Hopewell on swco.bookings@gmail.com or visit the web site www.saffronsymphony.org/childrens-orchestra

COURSES 2026

SWCO Saffron Walden Children's Orchestra

Fun holiday courses for instrumentalists grades 1-5

Easter: 7 - 8th April, 9.30 - 3.30

Summer: 27-30th July, 9.30 - 3.30

The courses will be held at:
Saffron Walden County High School

For more information including prices visit:
www.saffronsymphony.org/childrens-orchestra
swco.bookings@gmail.com

Essex Roadshows

It does not matter where your child will be going to school, Essex are hosting a Starting Reception Roadshow at RAB for all local families. They are also hosting SEND Roadshows. Please see flyers below for both.

Essex County Council
Children and Families

Starting Reception Roadshows

Is Your Little One Starting Reception in September 2026?
Come along to our Starting Reception Roadshow!
Get ready for a fun, friendly, and totally FREE event designed to help you to support your child feel excited and confident about starting reception.
Essex Early Years has teamed up with local schools plus education, health and care partners to bring you a lively, helpful session packed with top tips and advice.

Want to join in?
Ask your child's childminder, preschool, or nursery for details about your nearest event, or visit the Essex Talk, Listen and Cuddle website to find out more about dates and times across Essex.

Starting Reception Roadshow near you:
Where: [R.A. Butler Academy, Saffron Walden, CB11 3DG](http://www.ra-butler.academy)
When: Thursday 19th March 2026
6:00pm until 8:00pm

You can find out information about the event by scanning the QR code or visiting www.tlc-essex.info and searching 'Starting reception'

Follow us on social media to join our Starting Reception Campaign

Instagram Facebook

Spring Term
The Essex SEND Local Offer Roadshows

Are you a parent or carer of a young person with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) aged 0 to 25? Do you want to know what support is available in your area? Come along to one of our Essex SEND Local Offer Roadshows.

You can chat with teams from Education, Health and Social Care, as well as local support groups and activity providers.

The marketplace is free and there is no need to book. Children are welcome!

Drop in between 9:30am and 12:30pm

This term we are in Chelmsford, Harlow, Colchester and Basildon

Scan the QR Code for all the information, including dates and venues or visit the Essex Local Offer at:
<https://send.essex.gov.uk/i-think-my-child-needs-help/essex-local-offer-roadshows>

In Partnership with