



The Sport Buzz

R A Butler's Half- termly Sports Update— March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a very busy and fantastic second half of the spring term with great sporting success at RAB. This term, we have attended 11 sporting events as well as competing in the weekly Year 5 & 6 hockey fixtures on a Friday afternoon at JFAN. We are immensely proud of everyone that has participated in sport this term, and we look forward to the summer term with hopefully lots of sunshine! We would love to thank our great staff for supporting the events as well as all the parent that have helped during this busy term.

KS2 Cross Country

Our term was kick-started with a great result at the KS2 cross country finals at Carver Barracks. 48 children qualified from the previous round to attend this level of competition, with a place in the Essex finals up for grabs. It was a fantastic afternoon, with the sun shining and a huge number of children participating in the event. All the children did superbly well and ran amazingly, being cheered on by their RAB peers- it was a great atmosphere. On average,



there were around 90 children per race, and 15 schools were in attendance. The results were as follows: Year 3 Girls 1st, Year 3 Boys 2nd, Year 4 Girls 1st, Year 4 Boys 2nd, Year 5 Girls 1st, Year 5 Boys 6th, Year 6 Girls 4th, Year 6 Boys 2nd. This meant that our Year 3,4 and 5 girls teams had qualified for the Essex finals, as well as Joseph T in Year 3 and Freddie W in Year 6 qualifying individually.

Onto the Essex finals...

And exactly 1 month later, it was time for the finals. We attended this event with 18 children on a very windy and blustery day. It was a superb achievement to get to this competition, with so many of our children competing and challenging to become the best cross country runners in Essex. Despite the wind, rain, hail and even SNOW at times, the children wrapped up warm and performed some excellent running. Each race consisted of the best 130-150 children in the county- with Year 3 & 4 running 1200m and Year 5 & 6 running 1500m.

Our Year 3 girls were first up in the first race of the day- being cheered on by all. It is always very challenging being the first race of the day, and the excitement shone through with some great running- with some great sprint finishes at the end. Joseph T ran a fabulous race in the Year 3 boys event. Joseph finished in 14th place, which was an excellent achievement, making the school very proud.

The Year 4 girls team were up next and showed their great determination and resilience to perform to the highest position possible- finishing 4th place as a team. Holly N ran superbly well and finished 3rd overall individually, collecting a bronze medal for her valiant efforts!

The penultimate race of the day involved our four Year 5 girls, where the sunshine came out to make it more enjoyable! The girls held a consistent pace throughout the race and all finished so strong. For all their great effort, the girls were rewarded finishing in 2nd place. 2nd overall in Essex was such an impressive achievement and everyone could not be prouder.

And for our final race, Freddie W competed in the Year 6 boys category. He was cheered on by all the children watching, with the Year 3's making all the noise! Again running a great race, Freddie finished 29th overall in Essex with 150 children competing. All the children should be so proud of all their achievements with cross country this term.

Netball

The children enjoyed 2 sunny afternoons at SWCHS competing in 2 different netball competitions over the term. In the first competition held in February, the squad showed great teamwork to play some excellent netball. They won several games giving it their all. The competition was split into 2, with 2 of our teams in Tournament A and 2 teams in Tournament B. Our teams did exceptionally well, winning both tournaments on the day.

In the 2nd competition, our 3 teams competed against other local schools across Uttlesford. RAB 1 won their pool games only conceding one goal and scoring a whopping 49 in the first 6 games. RAB 2 was our year 5 team, winning 2 and losing 2 of their first matches. RAB 3 also won 2 and lost 2, drawing one as well. This took us straight through to the playoffs with RAB 1 competing for top spot, Unfortunately, they just missed out to a strong Great Dunmow team, placing 3rd overall. RAB 2 battled hard but narrowly missed out and finished 9th overall. RAB 3 placed 11th overall. Well done to all!

Diary dates Provisional 2026

April

Fri 17 Year 5 & 6 Swimming Finals
Weds 22 Year 2 & 3 Football
Thurs 23 KS2 Archery Finals
Weds 29 Three Tees Cricket

May

Wed 7 Year 4 Rapid Fire Cricket
Weds 13 Inclusion Festival
Tues 19 Year 5 & 6 Dynamo's Cricket



R A Butler's Half– termly Sports Update



Year 4 Tag Rugby

This term, our Year 4 tag rugby team attended 2 competitions in the space of 3 weeks. First up was the Level 2 Uttlesford finals held at Carver Barracks on an extremely foggy morning. Despite not being able to see the pitches very well, the children played several matches against the top schools in the local area and managed to show excellent play, showing what they have learnt in training over the last few weeks. Every game was very close- usually only being won by a single point, again showing how tough it was. However, after all the matches, the children finished 3rd overall, taking home a bronze medal. This result means that the squad had secured qualification to the Level 3 Essex Finals in Harlow at the end of the month.

Many training sessions later, it was time for the finals in Harlow. The children made the long trip on a windy but sunny day. The afternoon was action-packed with 20 different schools in attendance, split into 5 different groups. RAB were put into the toughest group on the day, with some of the top teams in the county to play. During the group stage, the team drew 2 games and lost 2 games– with games all being decided by one point. During these matches, the children showed excellent teamwork and scored some sensational tries. From our placings in the group stage, we entered a new round of matches and won all the remaining games. Unfortunately, we didn't manage to secure a top 5 finish in Essex and are still awaiting confirmation of our final position. We are so proud of them for making it to this competition. Tag rugby has been a new concept to all of the children this year and we are very proud of how quickly they have picked it up. All the children were lucky enough to meet the local mascot!



Year 5 & 6 Hockey Competition

On March 11th, RAB attended the Level 2 year 5 & 6 hockey competition at JFAN, entering 3 teams. On the day, there were 12 teams that attended from the local area, with a high standard on display. Our teams were split up into 3 different groups in a group stage format at the start of the day- where teams had to finish in the top 2 to go through to the next round of matches. All our teams started the competition well, with the Yellows and Blues finishing top of their groups, whilst the Whites also did superbly well finishing 2nd in their group. A new round of matches was formed, again with the mission of finishing 1st or 2nd to qualify for the semi-finals. Our Whites played some fantastic hockey however unfortunately missed out to qualify for the semi-finals. Our Yellow team once again showed their team spirit and won all their games 4-0, 3-0 and 2-0, to secure their semi-final spot. Our Blue team also did excellently well to top their group without losing and went into the semi-finals too. The Whites had one final game to show what they are capable of and won a brilliant game 2-0 to finish as high as possible. It was time for the semi-finals, where 2 of our teams were representing the school. First up it was RAB Blue, who faced a very strong opponent. After such a close game, the team narrowly missed out to make the final and conceded late on. This meant they went into the 3rd/4th play off and bounced back to win and claim bronze. Our Yellow team showed great determination to win their semi-final 3-0 to set up a great final match for Gold. After a tense opening few minutes, the team did so well and claimed the Gold and a trophy for the school. The Yellows won every match on the day without conceding one goal, making them Uttlesford Champions.



Hockey League Fixtures

Since the start of term, our Year 5 and 6 hockey squad have been attending weekly fixtures held at Joyce Franklin Academy in Newport on a Friday afternoon. The league was set up by youth coaches at Saffron Walden Hockey Club, supporting our children in many ways– from leading warm-ups to refereeing the matches. Our hockey squad was split up into 3 teams: Yellows, Blues and Whites– battling it out in a tough and competitive league against several local schools. After many afternoons in the rain and getting soaked through, the children delivered some fabulous performances– even Mrs Vincent was lucky enough to see some action on show. This has been a wonderful opportunity and experience for the children this year, and we feel very lucky to be apart of this league run by Saffron Walden Hockey Club– THANK YOU! We would like to also give a massive thank you to the parents for transporting the children to and from JFAN on a Friday afternoon! We really appreciate the help. The league concludes our very successful hockey season and we look forward to starting again in September. League results will be shared in the Butler Buzz after our final fixture this evening.



Gymnastics and Dance Shows

An absolutely enormous well done to all the children that took part in the annual Gymnastics and Dance Show at Saffron Hall. This is a packed out event on a big stage and the children showed real resilience and risk taking. They have put so much work into their rehearsals and it really paid off, the performances were really fantastic. The gym skills were amazing and the dance was up beat with costumes that dazzled the audience. A very big thank you to Mrs Joubert and Sue Raven for their wonderful choreography and for all the support they have given to children in preparation for the show. Congratulations to everyone that took part.



R A Butler's Half– termly Sports Update



KS1 Dance Festival

A selection of children from Year 1 and Year 2 went to Great Sampford School this term, to perform in the annual KS1 dance festival. The children worked incredibly hard during rehearsals and showcased their dances with great enthusiasm, a big thank you to Mrs Shivers for the choreography and rehearsals. After dancing flawlessly and performing some great moves, the children received some exceptional feedback from other local schools. It is a credit to the children for their hard work and dedication during rehearsals. It was an incredible performance and Mrs Shivers was very proud of the children's risk taking and resilience. Well done everyone!



KS2 Multi-Skills

To conclude our busy and wonderful term, 12 year 3 children attended a multi-skills event at Lord Butler Leisure Centre. Children took part in a number of sporting activities in a fun and non-competitive environment. Activities included bowling, boccia, kurling, and the best of all- trampolining! The children showed excellent listening skills, working with SWCHS leaders and alongside their RAB peers. They were even lucky enough to receive a special gold medal for their great efforts. Well done everyone!



Mileages Makers Fun

This term has seen the return of Mileage Makers. For those unaware, Mr Moss holds a Monday morning breaktime running club for any children in KS2. It is held either on the astro or the Field, and children can come along to see how many laps they can run during a breaktime. These are then recorded throughout the half term and we announce the winner, rewarded with active heroes minutes and a certificate. This half term, Iris M (5VH) was our winner, running 135 laps of the astro– adding up to 9 miles. Well done Iris! This term it was Year 5 that had the most participants. We would love to see as many faces as possible next term!

Top 5-

Iris M (5VH)- 135 laps

Billy O (5MGL)- 128 laps

Finlay F-B (5MGL)- 124 laps

Bryher T (5LT)- 107 laps

Dougie B (5VH)- 102 laps



A message from Saffron Walden Hockey Club

Our junior hockey season as a club has come to an end this week, but if any young player would like to join us from September, feel free to email juniors@saffronwaldenhockey.co.uk, and taster sessions can be arranged. We are also running hockey camps for the children ages 8-18– One in Easter held on Friday 10th April and two in the Summer on 25th and 26th August. Please again email juniors@saffronwaldenhockey.co.uk for more information.

Sporting Achievements

This term, Isabelle Marshall in Year 5 competed in her first knockout competition at Saffron Walden Hockey Club. Her team won the first round of the hockey knock out competition, playing brilliantly as a team winning all of their games convincingly. The next round of the competition will take place in April in Norfolk. We are all so proud of Isabelle, and we would like to wish her the best of luck at the next competition in April.

Looking ahead ...

We will be holding trials for our upcoming summer sports teams in the first week back. These include: Cricket, Athletics and Rounders– with more information to be sent about this. The new squad training timetable will be sent out after Easter once we have finalised our teams for the new term. KS2 PE next term will be Athletics– with hopefully lots of sunshine to go with it! We hope you have a lovely Easter from all of us at RAB and we look forward to many new opportunities in the summer term.

