



# The Butler Buzz

R A Butler's Weekly Newsletter – 20 December 2023



Dear Parents and Carers,

We come to end of another busy term at RAB. We have seen some wonderful learning across the school, lots of examples of the 6Rs in action as well as many Christmas activities getting us all into the festive spirit. It was lovely to see so many of our families at St Mary's this morning, thank you for joining us. We hope you enjoyed the children's beautiful singing. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a happy and peaceful Christmas break and we look forward to welcoming everyone back on 8th January for the start of term.

## Farewell



We say goodbye and happy retirement to two wonderful members of staff today.

Firstly we say good bye to **Kim Neeves**, our beloved Y2 Teaching Assistant. It is hard to know where to begin. Kim IS RAB! Her links to the school go back to the day it opened in 1965, joining in Y5. She played the recorder at the official opening with RAB himself. Her children and grandchild also came to RAB. In 1991 she joined first as a dinner lady and shortly afterwards as an Infant Teaching Assistant where she has

stayed ever since. For over 30 years her smile has welcomed hundreds, if not thousands of children and she has been a font of knowledge for many new teachers who have joined the school and worked in her class. Her kindness, patience, calmness and twinkly smile have made her a wonderful member of staff, colleague and friend.

We also say farewell to **Jo Webb**. Although many of you may not recognise the name, she is our Finance Officer and has been with us for a decade. Behind the scenes she keeps the wheels of the school turning, ordering all the supplies for the school (we can't even imagine how many boxes of paper and exercise books that is!), ensuring all bills are settled and most importantly for many, making sure all the staff are paid on time. She has been a key member of the office for a long time, she may be focussed and head down in the corner, but never misses a biscuit or a cup of tea.

They go to spend more time with families and on hobbies. We miss both of them and wish them all the very best in their retirement.

## Saffron Academy Trust Newsletter

You can find the latest edition of the SAT newsletter [here](#). It contains a lovely mention of our award winning Mrs Jackson.

## Cost of Living Support

We know that people are worried about rising costs and may be struggling. The Essex Family Wellbeing Team have pulled together a [document](#) which you may find helpful.

## E-Scooters & E-Bikes

We have been asked to share this [information](#) with you by the road safety team at Essex Council. It helps clarify the position around where E-scooters can and cannot be ridden.

## Y2 Applications for Y3 2024 & Reception 2024

Don't forget **all applications must be submitted on-line by 15th January 2024**. You can apply via [www.essex.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.essex.gov.uk/admissions). Please email Wendy on [admin@rab.academy](mailto:admin@rab.academy) and let her know you have completed your application.

## Diary Dates Next Week

5 Jan 24 Inset Day School Closed to Children  
8 Jan 24 Children return to school  
8-12 Jan [Week 3 Menu](#)  
12 Jan Y3 & 4 Swimming @ LBLC

15 Jan 24 **Deadline for Reception & Y3 2024 Applications**  
[www.essex.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.essex.gov.uk/admissions)



### COMMUNITY SCHOOL NURSE DROP IN SESSIONS

Drop-in sessions held once a month around the Uttlesford District, support and advice offered by a School Nurse and the 5-19 Healthy Family Support Practitioner.

Parents can ask advice about behaviour and emotional needs, bed wetting and soiling issues plus other health needs that may be impacting on both home and school life.

**SPANGLES FAMILY HUB**, St John's Rd, Stansted Mountfitchet, Stansted CM24 6JP  
15:30 – 17:00  
9th January 2024  
(Please note the date change above due to Christmas holiday)  
2nd April 2024  
2nd July 2024

**DORDAN PAVILLION** The Causeway, Dunmow CM6 2AA  
15:30 – 17:00  
7th February 2024  
8th May 2024

**SAFFRON WALDEN HOSPITAL**, Radwinter Rd, Saffron Walden  
Clinic Room outpatient's department 15:30 – 17:00  
5th March 2024  
4th June 2024



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HCRQ Care Services Ltd, company number 7593777 registered in England and Wales at The Maple Business and Technical Park, Rushmore, Chesham HP8 4JZ. See any correspondence to the address at the top of this letter.

|  |               |                                 |
|--|---------------|---------------------------------|
|  <b>RAB<br/>READING<br/>OLYMPIANS</b> |               |                                 |
| <b>BRONZE</b>  | <b>SILVER</b> | <b>GOLD</b><br>Chloe W<br>Ava K |
|  <b>RAB<br/>BOOKWORMS</b>             |               |                                 |
| <b>BRONZE</b>  | <b>SILVER</b> | <b>GOLD</b>                     |



### You've helped to raise £9200 – thank you for your support this term!

It's been a fantastic start to our fundraising year this term and we've loved sharing some of our best-loved events with the school community, including our Winter Fayres extravaganza, Christmas Presents for Parents plus all those gorgeous printed Christmas cards and gifts designed by your talented children! We've also held uniform sales and a textile collection this term. And not forgetting Kelly's £1000 prize draw win and the extra pennies that trickle in from our easyfundraisers. It all adds up. With your generous support, we've raised around £9200 for the school – an incredible amount that every cake baker and ticket buyer and raffle donor and Christmas card giver and fayre goer and hands on volunteer and 100 clubber and easyfundraiser has helped us make. Thank you!

We've been able to invest in the school too: this term we're funding a project to install a brilliant new Trim Trail in the playground (£7k) plus an anti-bullying workshop in school (£870) as well as an enhanced poetry selection (£100) to support the current curriculum. We've also given each year group £100 to be able to choose smaller ways to make a difference to their learning environments.

We will have our Children's Consultation kicking off next term in which we will ask all pupils to suggest ideas for things we can help to fund, from better footballs at break time to ways to make their classrooms even better or visits to places that can bring their learning alive.

There's lots more fun to come in the Spring with school discos to look out for along with the annual RAB PTA Quiz Night!

And don't forget the RAB PTA 100 Club – we've given out £400 this term to our winners, with prizes every month and a Christmas bonus too. Please email [rabutlerpta@gmail.com](mailto:rabutlerpta@gmail.com) if you're thinking of becoming a member.

It may not seem like it, but RAB PTA runs with a very small core committee. If you'd like to get involved in our events and help determine how funds are allocated, please email us at [rabutlerpta@gmail.com](mailto:rabutlerpta@gmail.com). We warmly welcome all parents and carers to join us and find out more!

### Did you know that over £500 was raised by parents this term through easyfundraising just by an extra click?

easyfundraising helps you raise extra donations whilst you shop online as normal (without spending a penny extra yourself). If you'd like to know more about how it works take a look at our [RAB PTA easyfundraising page](#)

And if you register using this link (just click sign up) – once you've raised your first £5, easyfundraising will double it! <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause/step-1/?char=160195&invite=QRK70J&referral-campaign=s2s>

There's no catch or hidden charges – you'll simply be raising funds for our school whilst you shop online with over 7,000 brands such as eBay, John Lewis & Partners, Argos, ASOS and Booking.com.

Merry Christmas!

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We hope you enjoy a fantastic Christmas break with your families. See you next term!

### Future Diary Dates

15 Jan Connections Meeting 9am  
19 Jan Y6 Parent Workshop (SATs Maths) 9am  
24 Jan Y5 History Off the Page WW2 Day  
29-31 Jan Y4 Burwell House  
12 Feb Connections Meeting 9am  
14 Feb Y5 Parent Workshop (Reading) 9am  
15 Feb Y1 Parent Workshop (6Rs/Phonics) 9am  
16 Feb Whole School Parent Book Look 3pm  
19-23 Feb Half Term

7 Mar World Book Day  
11 Mar Connections Meeting 9am  
11 Mar Y2 Parent Maths Workshop 9am  
25-28 Mar Parent Consultations  
28 March Easter Term Ends 1.30pm  
15 April Children Return to School

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