

BURNHAM-ON-CROUCH PRIMARY

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Burnham on Crouch
Primary School
Connected to our world

28TH APRIL 2017

Young Poetry Winners by Mr Keene

Recently, writers from across Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 were asked to take part in a nationwide poetry competition. The response was excellent. Well done to all those who entered! The standard of some of the poems was so impressive that they have been chosen to be published! Congratulations to these twenty-five children who have been chosen to appear in the Once Upon A Dream – Verses from Essex publication scheduled on 31st July 2017. Look out for your poem printed in a real book! Burnham-on-Crouch Primary School now has a chance to win the Young Writer's Award of Excellence! Fingers crossed as this would be a wonderful achievement for everyone involved in the school. Look out for the opportunity to enter a new competition soon!

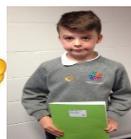


Head Teacher Awards



Adam Feakins Year 5 Chameleon Class was congratulated for trying his best in Art - a wonderful piece that he should be extremely proud of.

Joshua Burke Year 4 Zebra Class for achieving his Platinum in Maths. Well done Joshua.



Sun Cream With the nicer weather approaching Mr Proudfoot has asked that children bring in sun cream which must be in a named bottle which children must be able to apply themselves. ☀️

[What to do if you have concerns about a child outside of school](#)



Contact the NSPCC helpline if you're worried about a child and speak to one of their counsellors

Don't wait until you're certain if you are worried about a child. If you have any concerns or suspicions, contact the free helpline service to speak to an NSPCC counsellor 24 hours a day, 365 days a year or make contact via email. They will listen to your concerns, offer advice and support and can take action on your behalf if a child is in danger. You don't have to tell them who you are if you don't want to, or you can ask us not to share your name or contact with the police or social services

We all have a responsibility to safeguard children.

Please see Mrs Evans if you need further advice

A couple of updates from Miss Stock

Firstly, following the success of our behaviour policy, behaviour across the school is now consistently good and often outstanding. The children are often complimented on their manners and helpful, kind ways from visitors or on trips. Feedback from teachers and LSAs suggest, however, that a small number of children are still finding it hard to meet the high expectations, especially the younger ones in Year 1 and 2. Consequently, we are introducing a system to reward good behaviour in class and around the school. The current behaviour policy will not change – this is simply an add-on to reward children daily, in addition to the half term awards. It is also designed to encourage children to think about their attitudes including being kind and considerate to others. If your child talks about their 'peg being moved up' or 'TOPS time' they are not talking gibberish – this is the new system! Depending on the success, we will then give you more details should you wish to use the system at home.

Secondly, since joining the school, sadly a good deal of my time has been taken up with resolving problems and improving the school. Although I still manage to get into classrooms every day I have not been able to get to know all 400 plus children as much as I would have liked to. Given they were one of the reasons I decided to join the school I am determined to find some time to spend with them! Consequently I will now be inviting groups of children to have a 'tea party' with me as often as I can to get to know each and every one of them better, ask them their opinions about the school and give them the opportunity to show me their best work and share what they are proud of. So if your child tells you they have had a tea party with me you now know what this is! **If for any reason you would prefer your child not to take part in this please let me know.**

Good news and sad news

If you run your own business or have a tight housekeeping budget, you will understand the difficulties of juggling a tight budget and having to make tough decisions about what to spend your money on. In education, it is no different. The Department for Education sets strict guidance on what schools can spend, what funds must be spent on certain things and how much of the total budget can be spent on staffing. We are also obliged to have a five year plan to make sure our budget and spending is sustainable. The school's Governing Body ensures that the school follows this correctly. To put this in context, the percentage we can now spend on staffing is a recommended 85% of the budget, with a maximum of 90%. This is now made even more difficult due to the recent cuts in our funding.

To meet this regulation we may have to look at cutting staffing where we can and this may result in a number of redundancies. Redundancies are very upsetting and unpalatable - many colleagues are friends of the school and community. The school, however, has been very careful in its budgeting in previous years including last year where we managed to save a significant amount of money due to not being fully staffed. This means that we will be able to make sure that we can keep our promise to you to maintain standards and continue to offer the same level and quality of extra-curricular activities and clubs and visits etc. We also will be able to maintain the school to ensure health and safety standards are fully met including new flooring and new external doors.

We also have 'pots' of money that are ring fenced - that's to say that they can only be spent on certain things. For example we receive funding for the children in our school that are eligible for free school meals - this has to be spent only to maximise the learning and opportunities for these children. We also receive funding for our PE and sports - again this cannot be spent on staffing - only equipment and for extra-curricular clubs and fixtures. As you can imagine this is very frustrating - there is money in our account but we are not able to spend it on what we would prefer to - i.e. on staffing including the staffing of swimming lessons.

Regarding a swimming update, the Governing Body have now met twice to discuss this and this has also been discussed at the Parent Forum – minutes are on the website. The Governing Body will make a decision at the

meeting on the 22nd May so we will inform you of the outcome as soon as possible. In the next few months, you will see money being spent on the exterior of the school, on the interior such as new flooring, safer doors and new equipment such as new interactive whiteboards and classroom and office furniture. This has been in the budget for two years now and money has been set aside for this. I hope that this makes sense. I wanted to share this with you so you understand the situation we are in. As in my previous letter I encourage you to write to your MP and express how you feel about these cuts. Please also know that I do not take these decisions alone. Although I am the Head Teacher, the Governing Body make the final decisions, especially when it comes to money. It is important that you appreciate there is not one person making these decisions. As you can imagine this is a very upsetting time for staff - just the thought of potential redundancy is very unsettling for everyone. I would be very grateful if you could support our staff during this difficult time so we can all try to focus on the positives and what the school still has to offer.

The staff are an incredible team and go over and above their roles. Many of them work 14 hour days plus time at the weekends and they do so because they are truly dedicated and want the best for your children. They make every day special for your children and as a result children enjoy coming to school, feel safe and enjoy being part of such a family community. In terms of experiences children now have specialist Art, Spanish and PE teachers and access expert teaching in these areas so they can flourish in all areas of the curriculum. Children with SEND now have access to unique opportunities such as attending Panathlon events and before Easter they even got to meet Tom Daly, Paralympic Gold Medalist Danny Crates and Paralympian Liz Johnson! A significant number of our children in Key Stage 2 won prizes in a national poetry competition and will have their poems published later this year. In terms of standards in the last 18 months the school has gone from being in the bottom 57% of schools to in the top 20% for some areas of the curriculum. This is a considerable achievement and we have lots to celebrate despite these hard times. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you in advance of your continued support and understanding.



New Phone Systems

We have recently had a new phone system fitted. It now gives you the option to transfer to various members of staff and leave messages when the phone lines are not being manned.

**Email: admin@burnham-on-crouch.essex.sch.uk
burnhamprimary.co.uk
<https://www.facebook.com/burnhamoncrouchprimary>**