



MERRY  
*Christmas*

AND HAPPY NEW YEAR



**As we approach the Christmas holidays, I would like to say a huge thank you to our amazing children and young people across ACT who we have the privilege to teach and to care for. It is wonderful to observe our children and young people engaging in their learning, making progress and enjoying themselves. I would also like to thank each and every one of our parents and carers for their continued engagement and support.**

**I would like to express my enormous thanks to our staff for their continued hard work, commitment, and tenacity. We also have an amazing team of dedicated and committed Members, Trustees, Governors and volunteers who I would like to personally thank for their services to ACT.**

**We have come together as a family of schools and we are evolving as a valued ACT community.**

**I am sure that the complex education landscape will continue to bring us more hurdles as we move forward into 2025, but I am absolutely confident that we will face these challenges together. I am so proud of everyone who is part of the ACT family.**

**I would like to wish you all a very happy and restful Christmas.**



It's been an exciting half-term so far at Burrough Green. In the first week of November we had a school video made (you can see it on the About Us dropdown on our website). The children loved making it and the film crew were exceptionally professional. This was an incredible experience for some of our children and I am sure they will remember it for a while!

Mrs Leadbeter has delivered another parent's morning – this time for KS1 maths. Parents were invited in to view (and take part) in a lesson and left with increased knowledge of how to support their children in this subject.

Mr Sandford introduced 'No Outsiders: We Belong Here' to Burrough Green. He taught a sample lesson to Y4, 5 and 6 with parents invited in. The feedback was incredibly positive. Following this, parents were invited in to learn about the scheme, which will promote diversity and inclusivity throughout our school and the community. This was very well attended and parents enjoyed the various readings from texts, looking at lesson plans and discussing the goals of the scheme.



We now have 'continuous provision' on our playground! Children can now enjoy that EYFS/Y1 feel when they are on their well-earned breaks. We have stacking crates, board games, a 'theatre' area (complete with dressing-up costumes and musical instruments, sand pits, mud kitchens, water play...the list is extensive. Feedback from the children is so positive and they are all proud of their new equipment. EYFS, Y1 and Y2 visited Anglesey Abbey to hunt bears! They had an amazing time, finding all 10 (including the elusive Golden Bear) and managed to walk a much extended distance – literacy and fitness in one go – tremendous!

The school has had a visit from Steve Clifford – he is a renowned author and has published many children and adult books. He came in to work with all of our children. Y4, 5 and 6 learnt about 'Glue Words' and how they make editing simple – this certainly taught me a thing or two! Children engaged in various writing tasks and each class had an hour long writing workshop.

Burrough Green did not escape the snow that hit most of the country. We had about a centimetre and the children made little snowmen!

I have recently begun my role as Attendance Director with the Trust this term and have taken the opportunity to visit several schools within the Trust. I plan to continue these visits in the New Year.

We now have an established Attendance Team network, with regular meetings scheduled for the upcoming academic year. Our initial meeting served as an informal introduction, and I know we are all eager to share our expertise across the group. This term, my main focus has been to finalise and publish the ACT Attendance and EBSA policies, as well as to enhance our understanding of EBSA (Emotionally Based School Absence). Some of our Attendance Champions have already enrolled in the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) training offered by NESSi to further their knowledge in this area and to help implement the EBSA policy, supporting our more vulnerable children and their families.

Having recently attended the Attendance Conference organised by the Department for Education (DfE) on analysing attendance, as well as the Cambridgeshire County Council Attendance Cluster Meetings, I am looking forward to collaborating with our schools next year. Together, we will enhance our understanding of the new Statutory Framework regarding Attendance and share advice and strategies for support.

*Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.*



**Michelle  
Dunford  
Director of  
Attendance**

At ACT Trust, Safeguarding and SEND are at the core of everything we do. We believe inclusion is the golden thread that connects and strengthens all our work.

This term, we have focused on establishing robust processes for SEND and Safeguarding and ensuring cohesion across all schools within the trust. Our Safeguarding and SEND link Trustees have been collaborating closely with the Director of Inclusion and Safeguarding to understand each school's unique strengths, celebrate their successes, and support their continued growth. We have felt truly welcomed in each of our schools, and we look forward to continuing to foster these relationships as the year progresses.

This collaborative effort has included visits to individual settings, meetings with central teams, and hosting safeguarding and SEND network sessions.

In addition, we have been facilitating visits between staff across our settings to foster learning and collaboration. We believe this is an invaluable tool for continuing professional development and are committed to expanding this initiative as our trust grows.

We have also begun working with the Flourishing Trusts Network as part of our partnership with the diocese. Exciting opportunities are on the horizon, including leading projects focused on inclusion and well-being and courageous advocacy—look out for more on these initiatives in the spring term as we open out this offer to all of our schools.

As a trust that places great value on inclusion, we have invested in opportunities to strengthen our connections with experts in this field. This term, we began working with Whole Education through their SEND MAT Leadership Programme. This partnership will enable meaningful collaborations with local and national organisations dedicated to SEND improvement, ensuring that our practices remain aligned with the latest research developments.



**Rebecca Bliss  
Director of Inclusion  
and Safeguarding**



**We ended the term with a house party for the winning house (Emerald) and our Christmas Fayre started the Christmas season off with great celebration.**

**We are so proud of a sponsored walk by one of our parents who has significant health issues. She walked to raise money for the school. Year 6 we're ready to greet her with cheers and bells. Over £1000 was raised.**

**Keystage 1 and EYFS are performing together to present the Nativity musical- A king is born. The story begins with a modern day family gathered around the Christmas tree as they tell the story of the first Christmas. Year 2 have been cast as the main characters and have learnt their lines well. Year 1 are the additional choir and EYFS perform as stars and Children of the World who come to celebrate the birth of Baby Jesus. The singing from everybody is absolutely superb. Thankyou to all the staff for their hard work supporting the children to present to such a high standard. Performances for school and parents are next week- we are sure there will not be a dry eye in the house!**



## **Kim Crisp Director of HR**

**This half term has flown by. The main focus has been behind the scenes embedding processes and procedures and updating policies as well as lots of training. We have also successfully recruited a new member of the central finance team and very much look forward to Emma starting in the new year.**

---

**There has been lots going on behind the scenes this half term.**

**I am in the process of developing a trust wide IT strategy and looking at what equipment is needed across the schools for both staff and pupils.**

**Our premises team have been working hard to prepare documents and evidence needed to try and secure some extra funding across our schools for certain projects. I would like to thank them and the schools for their support with this.**

**We held interviews for a central Finance Officer. I am pleased to inform that we have successfully recruited Emma Beirne who will be joining us following the Christmas break. Emma is highly experienced in working with schools' finances at a trust level and is AAT qualified so brings both the experience and knowledge to enhance our central team. We will arrange visits to the schools early January so please do say hi if you see us visiting.**

**I would like to thank you for your hard work this half term. I know it is a difficult time of the year for many and you feel exhausted by the time Christmas arrives but please ensure that you take some well-deserved rest and quality time with your friends and family.**

**If you need any support please visit:**

**[Education Support, supporting teachers and education staff](#) or call the Education Support Helpline on 08000 562 561**



## **Amy Tandon**

**CFO**





**This half term has been incredibly busy and full of exciting events! We began with two wonderful sharing assemblies where Hedgehogs and Squirrels showcased their learning, with a special mention to Miss Steley and Miss Roberts-Taira for their debut assemblies. The Squirrels, Hedgehogs, and Badgers were also treated to cinema trips, which were a huge success, thanks to Mrs. Crisp and the PTFA. The Children in Need day, organised by the School Parliament, raised an impressive £250, and we are grateful to Mr. Charlie Brown for his participation. We have welcomed two new governors who are dedicated to supporting the school's progress; we thank them for offering their time and expertise. The Fieldmice and Bumblebees delivered a heartwarming nativity performance which brought pure joy to everyone who came to watch. Our mixed Dodgeball team reached the finals of a tournament, showing great teamwork and spirit. We would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas, and we look forward to welcoming the children back in 2025!**





**This term has been a dynamic and rewarding time for ACT Multi Academy Trust as collaboration and professional growth remain central to our work. The importance of the moral imperative to work together for the greater good—both within and across our communities—has been a strong focus.**

**The CST conference this term provided an excellent opportunity to engage with national discussions about the future of education. Bridget Philipson MP’s speech reminded us all of the crucial role schools play in ensuring every pupil has access to high-quality education and opportunities. Her words reinforced the need for a shared commitment to creating positive change across our communities and the broader education sector.**

**Across our Trust, leaders and staff have demonstrated incredible dedication and creativity. Network meetings continue to be key in enabling collaboration and sharing expertise, which is driving continuous improvement in teaching and learning. Discussions around curriculum development and implementation have been particularly impactful, as schools continue to embed knowledge-rich and inclusive approaches.**

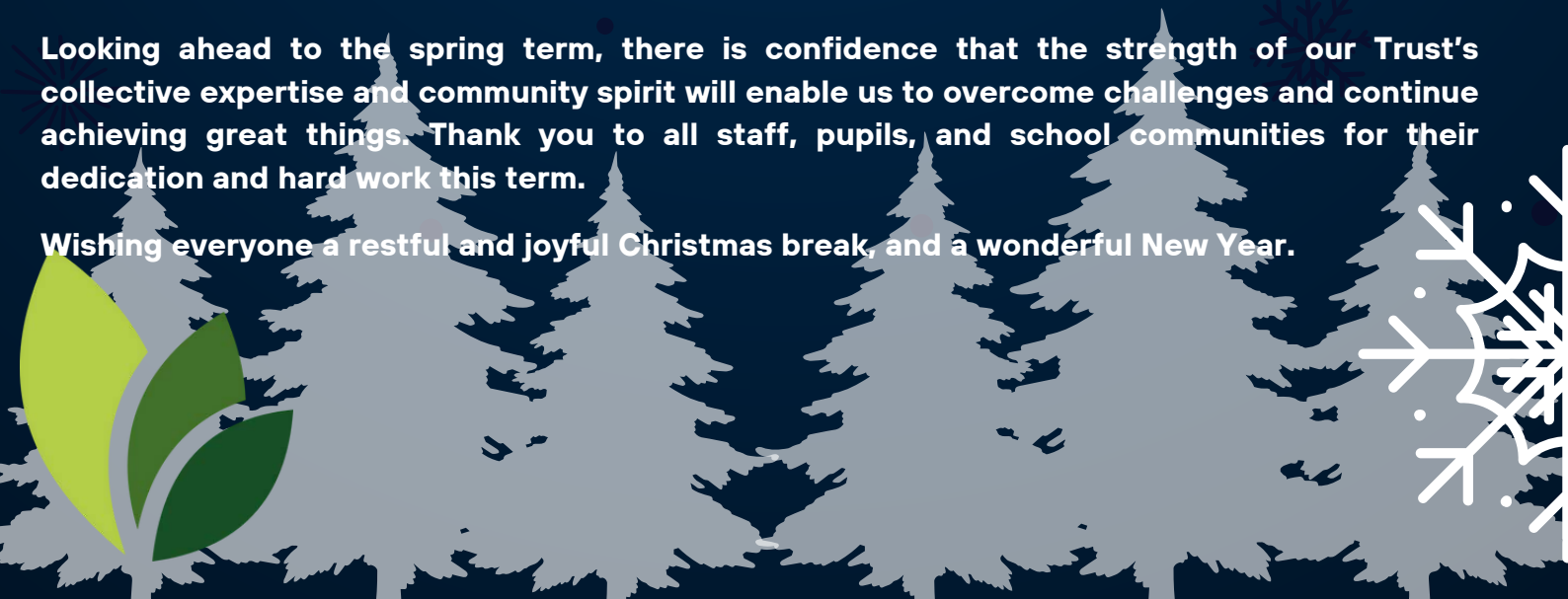
**Visits to our schools have highlighted the impressive work being undertaken to enhance outcomes for pupils. From the structured teaching of phonics in EYFS to the creative and innovative strategies observed in Key Stage 2, the commitment to providing a high-quality education is evident across all settings.**

**Looking ahead to the spring term, there is confidence that the strength of our Trust’s collective expertise and community spirit will enable us to overcome challenges and continue achieving great things. Thank you to all staff, pupils, and school communities for their dedication and hard work this term.**

**Wishing everyone a restful and joyful Christmas break, and a wonderful New Year.**



**Bridget  
Harrison  
Director of  
Education**



The second half of the autumn term is always a busy one, full of performance and wonder. The year 2 and year 4 put on a fabulous performance of Project Planet to family and friends in November.

We put out an appeal to boost our houseplants in school, as we know from research they help our well-being. We had a great response and there is a Care and Repotting workshop planned in the New Year for the plant monitors, so we keep them in tip top condition.

On Tuesday 19th November, Year 2 had a very exciting visit to St Neots to learn more about their Global Learning Goal 'Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions'. The children had a fantastic opportunity to visit St Neots Museum to learn all about crime and punishment in the past. The children loved visiting the old Police Station at the back of the Museum, the prison cells and the exercise yard where criminals who had been arrested were held until they were sentenced. The children learned all about criminals in the Victorian times, and were surprised to learn that most of them were just children and teenagers who were charged for stealing fruit and toys, and then sentenced to days and days of hard labour!

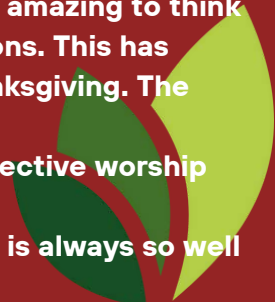


The children in Year 6 were invited along to the village hall to sing and dance at the Monday Club Christmas party for older residents in the village. In History, the children have been studying World War One and they performed a Charleston Dance and sang 'Keep the Home Fires Burning'. Their performance was very well received and we are proud of how they represented our school in giving back to the local community. Well done Year 6!

Our new reception classes were amazing in their rendition of The Sleepy Shepherd, it is amazing to think how far they have come in just one term. They have also been learning about Celebrations. This has included a visit from a parent to talk about Diwali and another parent to talk about Thanksgiving. The children all learnt so much from these discussions and asked amazing questions too.

Our Open the Book performance of the Christmas Nativity Story in St Mary's by the collective worship team has become a tradition that we all enjoy as we get closer to the Christmas break.

We had an amazing Upper School Carol service at St Mary's on Thursday evening which is always so well attended.





# MERRY Christmas

Wishing all of you a blessed Christmas

As we celebrate the birth of the Savior, may  
His love shine bright in our hearts and  
guide us through the coming year

