



Dear Parents and Carers

Hello again everyone.

I trust that this, the final newsletter of Half Term 3, finds you all in good spirits.

BMX

It has been another exciting week here at Burrough Green. It all started on Monday with the inspirational visit of Mike Mullen – 2 times world BMX champion and multiple X Games gold medallist (the X Games is like the Olympics, but for extreme sports!). He spent an hour with each KS2 group and he taught them how to ride a BMX as well as few tricks and jumps.

The children I asked said that they loved doing it and that it was so much fun. As you will know from last week's newsletter, BMX is now a certified Olympic sport and the children now have another reason to engage with this summer's spectacular (the second being Jordan Catchpole in the Paralympics).

Mike completed his visit by leading a whole school assembly, where he talked quite inspirationally about 'Flearning' – the idea of having to fail to learn. He completed the assembly, by doing yet more tricks in the hall, culminating in a jump over myself and Mrs Chubb – of course the children loved this and I can confirm that no teachers were harmed in the process!

All of this was organised by Mrs Moxom and the whole school would like to thank her for her efforts. She has organised so many things for the children this year – Olympians, pop bands and now BMX. Thank you.

Healthy Snacks

As you will know, children eating the correct foods is very important to the school. Our kitchen cooks fresh food – very little of it is processed – as we believe that fuelling the children correctly gives them the best chances of doing well in school.

Most children will have a snack at break time. For the younger children there is fresh fruit and vegetables available or children can bring in their own. Unfortunately, there is an increasing amount of chocolate bars and crisps being consumed. I would very much like to change that culture – so please can we equip our children with healthy snacks – foods that do not induce sugar highs (and the inevitable lows that follow) - as it will contribute to giving them the very best chances of maximising their learning opportunities that the staff work so hard to provide – thank you.

Academisation – Questions answered

On the 24th January, Alison Anderson – CEO of ACT, the academy we are joining – answered questions from parents regarding academisation. The minutes of this meeting have now been ratified and I can share them with you all – they will also be appearing in various village publications in the future.

Will the Trust have more influence over the curriculum?

As an Academy, the school won't have to follow the National Curriculum but will have to prove that its curriculum is achieving what it is intending. The National Curriculum doesn't actually give much information or direction so lots of schools are designing their own curriculums already, as long as they meet the requirements of the National Curriculum. Lots of MATs will apply the same curriculum to all of their schools or for particular subjects but ACT doesn't do that. The Trust Board will review the strengths and advise if necessary but as long as it is achieving what it is supposed to, the curriculum will remain in place.

Will the PTA funding get pooled by the Trust?

No, the PTA will keep all of the funds raised for the school. It will have to be accounted for and audited but doesn't go to the Trust for pooling.

How does the Trust funding work?

The Trust will eventually "top slice" the funding – this is where some of the school's funding is given to the Trust to pay for centralised services. "Back office" functions such as HR, Finance, IT, Estate Management and Liability etc. will be centralised at the Trust so the headteacher can focus on the educational purpose of the school.

Are Academies proven to perform better than non-academy schools?

Performance comes down to how a school is led and the support it gets from the Local Authority, which is dependent on their capacity. A Trust has to report on all of the schools within the MAT and oversee the running of them all, which means they must know each school very well. Being part of a Trust will give the school more support and a team to rally round it through challenges. It's more challenging relying on the Local Authority as their resources are very stretched.

This is an opportunity to share resources, strengths and ideas amongst a family of schools, and to shape an emerging Trust.

Will different teachers be teaching or moving classes?

Within the Trust, some teachers are centrally employed but at Burrough Green teachers can work at the school they have chosen, which is Burrough Green. There will be more opportunities for enrichment across the schools as teachers will be able to work together. For example, whole year groups across the schools could get together, or schools within the Trust can compete against each other in sports etc.

Often small schools don't have enough children to get a team together, but this can be different when working across a group of schools. It won't always be the small schools which have to travel out. Burrough Green has fantastic facilities and it is a great opportunity to share this with other schools.

Day to day, the children won't notice the change as the teaching will be the same, but there will be greater enrichment opportunities for them in the classroom, e.g. using technology to connect the children to those at other schools or learning about the geography and environment of the other schools.

Will the school have an input into its future?

There is a scheme of delegation which determines responsibility and authority within the MAT. Members of the Trust have ultimate responsibility, and then the Board of Trustees are like the governing body but at Trust level and have rules they have to follow that are set by the government. Day to day oversight is delegated to the Local Governing Body and there will be regular meetings between the Trust and LGB to review how the school is doing.

Headteachers across schools will also meet and there is a mechanism to give feedback to the Trust Board to shape what is happening.

Is there a way a school can extract itself from a MAT?

It is very difficult for this to happen. As a Church school, the final decision is with the Bishop, and currently their opinion is for Church schools to join a MAT. There are lots of legal intricacies around it as the MAT is a legal entity. The only other circumstance would be if the Trust is failing the school and the DfE steps in and removes the school. The school would then be placed in a different MAT. Being forced to follow set schemes can also happen to any school, not just those in an MAT.

The decision to join ACT was made with the reasoning that Burrough Green could maintain its identity and still have a voice, which is what will continue. There will always be change in the future but joining ACT gives us many opportunities. A lot of work has gone into considering options and making the decision, plus the further work around the legalities of the buildings and estates, but throughout the process, Governors have maintained that the school will be able to keep its identity.

Will the Ethos and Values of the school stay the same?

Yes. If the ethos and values of the school align with those of the ACT, they will not change. They were developed by the school and its community who know it best and so it's really important that this continues. Governors are incredibly passionate about the school and its identity. Academisation was turned down several years ago because it wasn't the right fit but now, ACT gives the school the best chance of support and of maintaining its identity.

There were no further questions.

If anybody out there has any more questions, please send them into me and I will endeavour to answer them for you – either immediately or I will find out.

Speaking and Listening

Here are three (yes three!) more of my 'conversation starters' – another excellent way to nurture mental health! Research tells us that it is so important that we engage in meaningful conversations with our children. It helps them to grow as both speakers and listeners.

I've two discussion pieces for your meal times (or whenever really!) this week:

- 1) Can you feel guilty for something you haven't done?**
- 2) Does a cup of tea weigh more when you add a spoonful of sugar? (possible experiment here!)**
- 3) Can a fly or an ant see a skyscraper?**

These are just fun ideas for a discussion to have with your family or friends. The intention is to provide an opportunity for fun discussions as a family. Hope they are useful! I know some of you used these and have had great fun with them – especially with older children!

Take care everyone and have a wonderful and safe half term
David Sandford

To see what's been happening at BGPS, please visit our [website](#) and our [Twitter](#) feed.

Click [here](#) to access the booking form for larks and Owls Wrap-Around Care

Our Menu for the first week back after Half Term break.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Main Meal	Hot dogs made with premium sausages in a hot dog roll (G)(SD)	Chicken pasta in tomato sauce (G)(MK)	Ham and cheese omelette (MK)(E)	Homemade beef meatballs with pasta and tomato sauce (G)(E)	Fish finger (G)(F)
Meat Free	Plant based sausage Hot Dog (G)(SO)(SD)	Vegetable Stir Fry with Egg Noodles (E)(G)	Pizza – Margarita (G)(MK)	Vegetable risotto (G)	Pitta Falafel with Hummus (G)
Side dish	Homemade potato wedges, sweetcorn, peas	Carrots, broccoli	Baked beans, sweetcorn	Carrots, broccoli	Chips (G), Baked Beans, Peas
Jacket Potato	Jacket Potato with Choice of toppings, <i>tuna mayo</i> (F)(E), <i>beans, beans & cheese</i> (MK), <i>cheese</i> (MK)	Jacket Potato with Choice of toppings, <i>tuna mayo</i> (F)(E), <i>beans, beans & cheese</i> (MK), <i>cheese</i> (MK)	Jacket Potato with Choice of toppings, <i>tuna sweetcorn and mayo</i> (F)(E), <i>beans, beans & cheese</i> (MK), <i>cheese</i> (MK)	Jacket Potato with Choice of toppings, <i>tuna mayo</i> (F)(E), <i>beans, beans & cheese</i> (MK), <i>cheese</i> (MK)	Jacket Potato with Choice of toppings, <i>tuna mayo</i> (F)(E), <i>beans, beans & cheese</i> (MK), <i>cheese</i> (MK)
Bread Roll	Bread Roll (G) Choice of, <i>tuna mayo</i> (F)(E), <i>cheese</i> (MK) or <i>ham</i>	Bread Roll (G) Choice of, <i>tuna mayo</i> (F)(E), <i>egg mayo</i> (E) or <i>ham</i>	Bread Roll (G) Choice of, <i>tuna mayo</i> (F)(E), <i>cheese</i> (MK) or <i>egg mayo</i> (E)	Bread Roll (G) Choice of, <i>tuna mayo</i> (F)(E), <i>cheese</i> (MK) or <i>ham</i>	Bread Roll (G) Choice of, <i>tuna mayo</i> (F)(E), <i>egg mayo</i> (E) or <i>ham</i>
Dessert	Chocolate chip cookies (G)(SO)(E), Fruit or Yogurt (MK)	Lemon drizzle cake (MK)(G)(E), Fruit or Yogurt (MK)	Banana Muffins (MK)(G)(E), Fruit or Yogurt (MK)	Fruit Sponge (E)(G)(MK), Fruit or Yogurt (MK)	Fruit Sponge, (E)(G)(MK), Chocolate Brownie (E)(G)

Allergen Key: Celery (C), Cereals (G), Crustaceans (Cr), Egg (E), Fish (F), Lupin (L), Milk (MK), Molluscs (MS), Mustard (MJ), Nuts (N), Peanuts (P), Sesame Seeds (SE), Soya (SO), Sulphur Dioxide/Sulphites (SD)



Celebrating Achievement at Burrough Green

Every Monday, in our assembly, we recognise and celebrate children who have shown evidence of our school value Aspiration, Resilience and Kindness.

This week's ARK children are:

Malala Class	Rosie – Oliver - Ellen
Einstein Class	Bea – Jacob - Orson
Teresa Class	Omar – Sidney - Bodhi
Obama Class	Emily – Macie - Yasin



Upcoming Events

Please make sure you check our [school calendar](#) to stay up-to-date with information about future events, term dates, training days etc

BINGO

£6 PER PLAYER

**FRIDAY
22ND MARCH
ALL WELCOME**

NIGHT

**AT: BURROUGH GREEN
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**FOOD AVAILABLE: 17:00-20:00
DOORS OPEN: 18:00
EYES DOWN: 18:30**

**FOOD BY PIMP MY FISH
PRE-ORDER VIA WEBSITE**

PRIZES TO BE WON!

**ALL PROCEEDS GO TO
BURROUGH GREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Don't forget to use the "Easy Fundraising" and "My School Fund" when you are doing your shopping!



Easyfundraising.org –There are lots of retailers and service providers on the list, businesses you normally shop with anyway. Even if you log into your favourite retailer through the app half way through, it saves your basket, so you don't have to do anything different. Try it, it really does make a difference <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk>



My School Fund

In association with Argos and Sainsbury's, we have a new way to fundraise for the school when you are shopping. Every time you make a purchase, both you and BG benefit with cashback. A flyer is attached to this email. Click on the link to register as an individual and link your account to the school. <https://www.myschoolfund.org/#/>

Amazon Wish Lists

A big thank you to parents who have brought items from the wish lists, it is very much appreciated that you are supporting the school. You can find our wish lists here:

Class 1: https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/3NPNW0VXC5B5L/ref=cm_go_nav_hz

Class 2: https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/1G7U68RHVFQ87?ref=wl_share

Class 3: https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/DT99H5C97OM9?ref=wl_share

Class 4: https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/IR87MQS5XAYJ?ref=wl_share

SEND: https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/13U005HZ9BPYF?ref=wl_share