



Burston Primary School

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Karen Millar
Head of School: Miss Sally Underwood

18th December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

After a long and busy term, we wanted to write and thank you all for the positive way you have continued to engage with the school this term. Your support, encouragement and involvement play such an important role in helping our children thrive, and we are very grateful.

This term has been rich in learning and creativity. Oak Class have enjoyed a wide range of hands-on experiences, from practical science lessons exploring electricity, to immersive history sessions that truly brought the Stone Age to life. These enrichment opportunities, some supported by our talented parents, have inspired curiosity, creativity and enthusiasm for learning. Cooking sessions, art and music experiences, outdoor learning and sporting activities — including archery, glow-in-the-dark dodgeball and a virtual hockey tournament where our Year 3 and 4 pupils finished first overall — have all helped our children grow in confidence, independence and teamwork.

Reading has been a major focus this term, and we are delighted with the progress made across the school. Our KS1 Phonics and Reading Café and Oak Class Reading Café were wonderful opportunities to welcome families into school to share our approach to reading and celebrate reading for pleasure. The children have recently completed their end-of-term assessments, and we are very pleased with the progress they are showing. The hard work they are putting in during lessons, alongside your support at home with reading, is really starting to pay dividends.

Our MARK values — **M**otivation, **A**spiration, **R**esilience and **K**indness — have been evident throughout the term. From children demonstrating resilience when facing challenges, to showing kindness through charitable fundraising and community support — these values have truly shone. We also marked World Mental Health Day with thoughtful discussions about wellbeing and self-care, reminding us of the importance of looking after ourselves and one another.

We have also seen some important changes within our staff team this term. We have been delighted to welcome Mrs Schultheiss and Mrs Martin to Burston. They are both

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wonderful additions, bringing a wealth of knowledge, experience and team spirit, and the positive impact they have already had across the school has been a pleasure to see. As the term draws to a close, we are incredibly sad to be saying goodbye to Mrs Kerr, who has been a committed member of the Burston community for nearly 20 years. Her professionalism, dedication and care for our children and families have been exceptional, and she will be greatly missed. We wish her every success in her new adventure outside of teaching. We also say farewell to Mrs Shaw, who has worked in Willow Class, and we thank her for her contribution and commitment during her time with us. Whilst recruitment is underway for a permanent replacement, we are delighted to have secured the services of Mrs Christou in Willow class, a highly experienced EYFS and KS1 teacher. Mrs Grant will now work on a Monday and Tuesday and Mrs Christou on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. She is already looking forward to meeting you all and we know you'll make her feel welcome.

We continue to be extremely grateful for the support of our Friends of Burston Primary School (FOBS). This term, FOBS have welcomed and appointed new members who have already made a fantastic impact — organising a Halloween disco, purchasing books for KS2, creating tea towels to sell at the Christmas Fair, and ensuring every child received a gift before Christmas.

We thank them, along with the whole committee, who selflessly give their time, energy and skills to enrich school life. From the Halloween Disco to the Christmas Fair — which raised an incredible £636.57 — their hard work makes a real difference to the opportunities we are able to offer our children.

We are proud of the strong links we continue to build within our local community. Our Remembrance activities were particularly meaningful this year, with pupils' poems and artwork displayed in Diss and warmly received by local veterans. Thank you also to families who supported our Harvest donations, Jeans for Genes and Children in Need fundraising, once again demonstrating the generosity and kindness of our school community.

Children wrote to the parish council to request nets for the goals on the public playing field, demonstrating initiative and a strong sense of civic responsibility. The letter was very well received by the Chair of the Parish Council at our Christmas lunch; she was extremely impressed by the children's work and went away to begin her 'homework',

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promising to find an answer for them. Oak Class have also been out exploring the new educational insect hotel, which will link to many areas of the curriculum as we move forward.

If you are a user of social media, please do make sure you are following and sharing information about the school:

Facebook: [Burston Community Primary School](#)

Instagram: [@Burstonschool](#)

We regularly share examples of the exciting learning taking place in school, as well as reminders about forthcoming events.

Below is a message from Sapientia Education Trust and changes to the October half-term break:

Many of you will be aware that several trusts / schools have recently realigned the structure of the school year. After reviewing our own pattern, we have decided that a slight adjustment would benefit both pupils and staff, particularly in relation to the length of the autumn term.

Our priority has been to maintain the total number of days pupils spent in school, whilst also enhancing the well being of pupils and staff.

The main change is an extension to the October half-term break. We believe this adjustment will support pupil and staff wellbeing and improve attendance, especially given the national priority.

We can confirm that there will be no reduction to the number of teaching days.

Thank you for your continued support as we implement these changes.

Sapientia Education Trust

It has been an absolute delight to work with the staff and children this term. We are incredibly proud of the children, the school and the journey it is on.

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On behalf of all the staff, we look forward to welcoming the children back to school on **Tuesday 6th January 2026**. In the meantime, we wish you a wonderful holiday season, whatever you are doing.

Very best wishes,

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Burston Primary School is a member of the Sapientia Education Trust, a charitable company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales with company number 7466353.