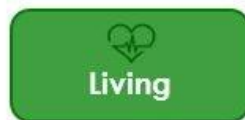




Burbage C of E Infants' Easter Newsletter 2024



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Executive Headteacher's Message



Dear Parents, Carers, Staff and Governors

As we approach the end of the spring term and the Easter break, I want to take a moment to reflect on the significance of this season, thank members of our school community and extend a warm welcome to new members of our team.

Easter is a time of renewal and rebirth, symbolising hope, forgiveness, and new beginnings. It is a reminder of the ultimate sacrifice made for us and the triumph of light over darkness. As we celebrate this important occasion, let us be mindful of the blessings in our lives and the importance of spreading love and kindness to those around us. In the spirit of Easter, I'd like to share a Bible quote:

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." - John 3:16

As part of our Easter celebrations in school, children and staff thoroughly enjoyed our Easter bonnet parade in the school grounds this morning. Thank you for the time and effort put into making the bonnets; the children all looked fabulous! Our Year 1 children then went to Moat House and proudly represented the school, singing Easter songs to the residents. We all had a lovely time! Thank you to our parent governor, Mr Pierce, who gave us his time to run the sound system for us.

A heartfelt thank you also goes out to Mrs L Elverstone for her dedication and hard work in organising major developments within our Forest School area. Her vision for outdoor learning is inspiring. I would also like to extend my gratitude to all the volunteers who have contributed to this project from Forest School session support to physical changes. We are so grateful to Ms Rothwell, Mr Cross (and his digger), Mr Janda, Mr. Eaton, Mr Cowlam, Mr Elverstone, Mr Morrison, Mrs Cross and Mrs Jefferies. Your support and commitment are truly appreciated, and I am excited to see the positive impact these developments will have on our pupils' learning experiences. Changes have included firepit development, new bark, pathways cleared for seating areas and much more. Hopefully, we will be able to invite families for an unveiling - to showcase the changes.

I am thrilled to introduce Mr D Scott as our new Site Manager, who will be joining us after the break. Mr Scott will be working alongside Mr G Pope (Burbage Juniors' Premises Officer) and our dedicated cleaning team to ensure the smooth running and maintenance of our school premises. Both Mr Scott and Mr Pope will be working across Burbage C of E Infants and Burbage Juniors, demonstrating our commitment to cohesion and efficiency across both sites. Their collaborative efforts will undoubtedly enhance the overall environment for our pupils and staff.

Lastly, I extend a warm welcome to our new cleaner, Jade Griffiths. We are delighted to have her join our team and look forward to working together to maintain a clean and welcoming environment for all.

As we enter the Easter break, I wish you all a peaceful and joyous time with your loved ones.

Loving, Living and Learning

Warm regards,

Zoe Driver - Executive Headteacher







Governor Voice



Hi, my name is Andy Pierce, and beyond my governance role, I'm deeply embedded in our school's life, not just as a governor but also as a parent. My daughter is currently exploring the wonders of Reception, and my son, having cherished his foundational years with us, now continues his educational adventure at Burbage Juniors.

As a governor at Burbage Infants School for the past two years, I've had the privilege of contributing to our community's heart—our children's early learning journey, particularly focusing on the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and Health & Safety. I've dedicated myself to a thorough monitoring process, guided by the educational framework's three i's: Intent, Implementation, and Impact. This approach allows for a broad understanding of our school's educational strategies, their execution, and the outcomes they achieve.

My monitoring efforts begin by exploring the intent behind our EYFS curriculum and health & safety policies. This involves understanding the objectives set out for our young learners' development and well-being. On the implementation front, my involvement has allowed me to see how our strategic intentions are brought to life within the classroom and school environment. Evaluating the impact of these initiatives is crucial. The aim is to see tangible outcomes from the interventions, whether in improved literacy and numeracy skills, enhanced emotional resilience, or heightened safety awareness among our children.

My commitment to our school extends beyond traditional governance. As the founder and director of The Pierce Perspective, a mental health charity, I bring a unique focus on the mental well-being of our children and the school community. This role equips me with insights and a passion for integrating mental health awareness and support into our educational framework from the earliest

stages. My experiences as a parent and mental health advocate deeply influence my approach to governance, especially in the realms of Early Years Foundation Stage and Health & Safety, where I actively serve.

In these challenging times, the importance of a supportive and understanding learning environment has never been more critical. My goal is to see our school not only excel in academic achievements but also become a leader in supporting the mental and emotional health of our students. I am dedicated to ensuring that our strategies and resources reflect this holistic approach to education, making Burbage Infants a place where every child feels safe, supported, and ready to explore their potential.

Kindest regards

Andy

Year Groups - Curriculum Updates



Reception

What a quick half-term that was and we've certainly packed in lots of learning and fun for our EYFS children!

Our first theme, 'People Who help us', started by considering those close to us who help us every day. We then looked more widely at our school and community and the children had chance to think about the job they might like to do when they grow up. We have quite a few doctors, firefighters and paramedics in the making!!! We were very lucky to have some special visitors in school:

Mr Janda came to talk to us about his role as a firefighter and brought his uniform to show the children. We were very excited when Mr Cross came along with his tractor and told the children all about his role as a farmer. We even had a turn to climb on the tractor! We would like to express our

thanks to the visitors for giving up their valuable time to bring our learning to life. World Book Day happened in between all this and we all certainly had fun dressing up as book characters!

Our next theme was 'New Life'. We began our learning here in our school grounds and we spotted signs of spring around school. We have also focused our learning on Easter and learnt all about the Christian celebration and the Easter story and that's not all! We have finished our half-term with a some more exciting activities; our Easter service at Church, Science Day and Easter bonnet fun.

After the half-term break we are looking forward to our themes 'Traditional Tales' and 'Safari Adventure' which will include our trip to Twycross Zoo.

We hope the children have chance for a rest and enjoy any Easter celebrations you have planned.

Year 1

The children have been working hard, even though it has only been a four week half-term!

They have all continued to enjoy taking part in Forest School and exploring the outdoors and have helped to clear the area for the new fire pit! We had a visit from the Fire Service and the firefighter taught us how to *Stop. Drop. Roll.*

In English, children have really enjoyed writing their own ending to stories with lots of focus on spoken language and in maths, the children have been measuring length and height and learning about capacity and volume.

In Design & Technology, the children have really enjoyed designing and making their own puppet and have learned how to join the fabrics together.

The children have been working hard at learning the Easter songs to sing to the residents at Moat House.

Next half-term in geography, the children will be learning about Shanghai, making and tasting smoothies in DT and exploring the outdoors for the *Plants* topic in science! Lots of new learning!

Year 2

With being a shorter half-term, our year two children have been super busy! In science, we have loved learning about human and animal life cycles. We have been investigating growth and using our measuring skills to spot trends and patterns.

In computing, the children have enjoyed making music using a program to build pitch, tempo and dynamics.

In PSHE, the children have been looking at how to be healthy.

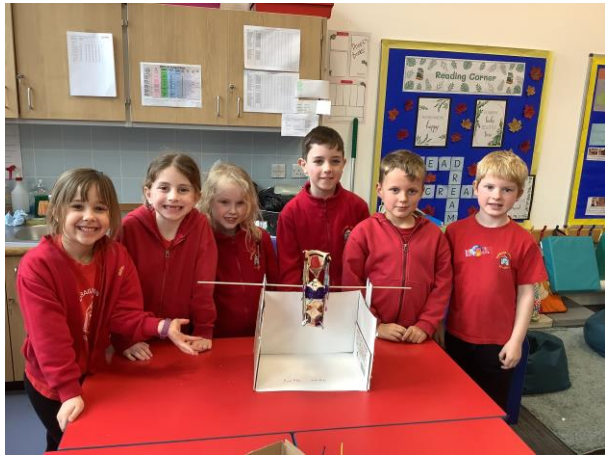
We covered fractions and the children loved using the Burbage Star Pizza method to calculate fractions of numbers in maths. We have also moved onto statistics, looking at tables, tally charts, pictograms and block diagrams.

For Design & Technology, we have been having lots of fun making ferris wheels.

The children have also enjoyed looking at the genre of poetry and letter writing in English – they are becoming more adept at using different features of writing for the purpose of the genre.

The children will be finishing off their history topic in the first week after half-term at Beaumanor Hall looking at how schools were different in the past. We are all really raring to go on our residential trip to Beaumanor Hall after the Easter Break – it is always a real highlight of the year!





Readathon & World Book Day



Thank you to everybody who took part in Read for Run in February. It is lovely to see the children are reading lots at home and from our recent Readathon, the Infant's school has raised a whopping £2,410.99! This is a fantastic amount of money that we have already started to spend on new books to support the children's reading within school.

Also, this term half-term it has been World Book Day. It was wonderful to see the children wearing their costumes and to hear them talking about their favourite books. All the children had a fun-filled day and read lots of stories, visited the school library and took part in some special World Book Day activities in their classrooms and on the playground.







Science Day



The children have really enjoyed Science Day this week. They all looked fabulous dressed as scientists! In school we had a 'Science Boffin' expert come in and do an assembly and they carried out some experiments. All of the children were engaged and asking lots of questions. Some of the children now want to become a scientist!



SEnCo Update



There will be SEND review meetings week beginning 15th April for the children who are either on our SEND register or for whom there are ongoing school initial concerns. Class teachers will be in touch with parents directly to arrange an appointment.

Please remember to have a look at their Individual Education Plan (IEP). You should have an invite letter with your unique Access code to login to this website.

Collective Worship



During Collective Worship this half-term we have been thinking about **Justice**. The children have listened to stories from the Bible showing God's idea of Justice which is to make everyone equal because his love is so generous. We have reflected on what it means to treat people fairly, as well as the importance of rules and making wise decisions in our own lives. We have shared the following acrostic poem with the children:

Justice is:

Judging what is right

Understanding what is fair

Standing up for those who need help

Trying to listen to both sides

Informed and wise decisions

Caring enough to take action

Equal opportunities for all

The children continue to enjoy listening to and reflecting on the big stories from the Bible, read by Father Andrew.

We have had special Collective Worship times this half-term, including Maundy Thursday where Father Andrew washed the feet of some volunteers to imitate the selfless love of Jesus who washed the feet of the twelve apostles at the Last Supper.

The whole school enjoyed going to St Catherine's Church on Wednesday for our Palm Sunday service and the children had a palm cross to take home.

As a school, we are developing prayer space opportunities. This term our Year 2 children engaged in an Easter prayer space activity and we look forward to extending these in the summer term.



JUSTICE



**'Learn to do right.
Seek justice.'**

Isaiah 1.17

QUOTES & QUESTIONS

Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's need, but not every man's greed.
(Mahatma Gandhi)

? How much of what you want is what you actually need?

Justice cannot be for one side alone, but must be for both.
(Eleanor Roosevelt)

? Do you think about what is fair for others as well as what is fair for yourself?

Overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity; it is an act of justice.
(Nelson Mandela)

? Can you rewrite these words spoken by Nelson Mandela in your own words?

If you want peace, work for justice.
(Pope Paul VI)

? Why do you think Pope Paul VI believed justice was essential to having peace?





PE and Sport



In PE the children in KS1 are finishing off their unit on dance using different themes and stimulus's for their ideas. They have loved being clowns, pirates, on safari and in the rainforest to name just a few. In games, the children are working on sending and receiving, building on their ball skills and accuracy of tracking and passing balls in different sports.

Our gym team have competed this week at the county finals and they showcased their fantastic skills and routines. Our school came 4th in the county - just narrowly missing out on the medals by 1 point!



Computing - Gaming



['Setting Healthy Boundaries for Gaming' Poster](#)

What parents and carers need to know about setting boundaries about gaming:

Gaming can be a fun and engaging activity for kids and teens, but like most things, it's important to set healthy boundaries. Here's a breakdown of what parents and carers need to know:

Communication is key

- **Open Dialogue:** Discuss gaming openly with your child. Understand the games they enjoy, why they like them, and who they play with. This helps you set boundaries that make sense and don't feel arbitrary.
- **Finding Common Ground:** Don't demonize gaming. Acknowledge its positive aspects like social interaction, problem-solving skills, and creativity. Then discuss how to balance it with other important activities.

Setting boundaries

- **Screen Time Limits:** Work together to establish screen time limits. Consider age, schoolwork, chores, and sleep schedules. Discuss consequences for exceeding limits beforehand.

- **Content Restrictions:** Research age ratings for games and discuss appropriate content. Consider genres and potential online interactions based on your child's maturity level.
- **Gaming Zones:** Designate areas for gaming, preferably shared spaces. This allows for monitoring and open communication during playtime.

Safety matters

- **Parental Controls:** Utilize parental control settings on devices and consoles to limit screen time, restrict mature content, and monitor online interactions.
- **Online Safety:** Talk to your child about online safety practices. This includes not sharing personal information, being wary of strangers, and reporting any inappropriate behavior.
- **In-App Purchases:** Discuss in-app purchases and potential spending limits. Consider setting up separate accounts with restricted spending abilities.

Remember

- **Be Involved:** Take an interest in the games your child plays. Play together occasionally to understand their appeal and build a stronger connection.
- **Focus on Balance:** The goal is to create healthy gaming habits, not eliminate it entirely. Encourage other activities and hobbies for a well-rounded development.
- **Be Consistent:** Set clear expectations and follow through on consequences. This builds trust and teaches your child the importance of boundaries.

By following these tips, you can help your child enjoy gaming responsibly and safely. However, like most things, it's important to set healthy boundaries.

Top Tips for SETTING BOUNDARIES AROUND GAMING

If your child loves video games, then you'll probably be aware that how long they spend gaming – and which they're actually playing – can occasionally become a source of concern or conflict. The UK's leading body for interactive entertainment, UKiA, has recently launched a campaign to promote safer and more responsible gaming among young people – with parents and carers helping by setting sensible and fair boundaries. Our guide has tips on key areas where you could agree some healthy ground rules for your child's gaming activity.

PROMOTE SAFER GAME CHOICES
 Operating which online games are safe to play, and which are not, is a complex task. UKiA's advice includes checking for parental controls, checking your child's privacy settings, and using parental controls on your console or PC. UKiA also advises parents to talk to their child about what they're playing, and to discuss the boundaries with them.

ENCOURAGE REGULAR BREAKS
 Help your child understand that while it's fun to play, it's important to take regular breaks. Encourage your child to take breaks every 30-45 minutes. Encourage your child to get up and stretch, and to drink water. Encourage your child to talk to you about how they're feeling, and to take a break if they're feeling tired or stressed.

AGREE SPENDING LIMITS
 There's a lot of money in the gaming world, and it's important to set clear boundaries around spending. Agree on a budget for your child's gaming, and stick to it. Encourage your child to use parental controls to limit in-app purchases, and to talk to you about any purchases they want to make.

DISCUSS AGE RATINGS
 Children often ignore the age ratings on games, and it's important to talk to your child about what they're playing. Discuss the age ratings with your child, and explain why they're important. Encourage your child to talk to you about any games they're playing, and to discuss the boundaries with them.

ENJOY GAMING TOGETHER
 Setting time aside to play video games together can be a fun way to spend time with your child. Encourage your child to play with you, and to talk to you about how they're feeling. Encourage your child to take breaks, and to talk to you about any purchases they want to make.

TALK ABOUT EMOTIONS
 Help your child to understand that it's important to talk about how they're feeling. Encourage your child to talk to you about any games they're playing, and to discuss the boundaries with them. Encourage your child to take breaks, and to talk to you about any purchases they want to make.

BE PREPARED FOR TROLLS
 A frequent problem when gaming is dealing with trolls. Encourage your child to talk to you about any games they're playing, and to discuss the boundaries with them. Encourage your child to take breaks, and to talk to you about any purchases they want to make.

Meet Our Expert
 Dr. Sarah-Jane Blain is a leading expert in the field of child psychology. She has worked with many children and young people, and has helped them to overcome a wide range of problems. She is a regular speaker at conferences, and has written many books and articles on child psychology.

NOS National Online Safety
 #WakeUpWednesday

Twitter: @nationalonline_safety
 Facebook: NationalOnlineSafety
 Instagram: @nationalonline_safety
 TikTok: @national_online_safety

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Jigsaw Puzzles



We would be very grateful of any jigsaws (up to 50 pieces) for children in Foundation Stage if you are having a sort-out at Easter. Many thanks.

PTFA News



Thanks to everyone for your support over the last term.

The children have enjoyed the spring term discos, the Great Easter Egg Roll, and we had a successful book sale with the fabulous books that were kindly donated.

As we move into the summer term we have lots to look forward to: non uniform day, discos, sports day refreshments and we'll be welcoming back Frozen Fridays! Plus, our biggest event of the year, the Scarecrow Festival!

As a new committee we can't wait to run our first Scarecrow Festival and see everyone out and about enjoying all of the wonderful scarecrows. We know that those who enter put in so much effort, and we really appreciate it. The festival is in it's fifth year and is a real community event, and a credit to our fantastic village.

The closing date for entering a scarecrow is 8th April, so you've still got a little time to decide which musical you're going to do!

<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/groveroadschoolsptfa/>

If you're a scarecrow novice (like me!) then we've prepared a 'how to build a scarecrow guide' which is attached to this newsletter. Plus, if you need any items for your scarecrow then please feel free to use our events page to request these, we'd love to get a swap shop going! There's also Hinckley Freebies on Facebook where you might find what you're looking for.

Finally, we have exciting news to share! This year we will be having some stalls on Sunday 5th May from 1pm-4pm on The Methodist Church car park (Windsor Street). We're so grateful that the Methodist Church have allowed us to do this so please pop along and visit our stalls whilst you're out and about scarecrow spotting! Details of the stalls will be shared via Parentmail in the coming weeks, but they'll be lots of family fun to be had!

Wishing you all a very Happy Easter from the Grove Road Schools PTFA Team.

HOW TO BUILD A SCARECROW

STEP 1

Build the frame. Begin by centering a 1.5 m stick near the top of a 1.8m to 2.4m stick or piece of wood. This creates the shoulders of the scarecrow. Fasten the shorter stick in place using a screwdriver.



STEP 2

Put the shirt/top on. Dress your Scarecrow, using the horizontal stick for his arms. Tie the arm ends and bottom of the shirt using string or wire.



STEP 3

Stuff the shirt with straw, hay, leaves or grass cuttings. Try to avoid using newspaper to stuff your scarecrow, as rainfall may cause it to become soggy.



STEP 4

Dress the rest of the body. Make a hole in the seat of the garment for the vertical stick to pass through. Tie the ankle cuffs with string or wire. Fill the legs with straw or hay.



STEP 5

Give them hands, feet and a head. Use rubber gloves or old gloves, and wellies or work boots. For the face, use a jute bag, pillow case or bucket, get creative! Make sure everything is secure.



STEP 6

Give your scarecrow a face using paint, markers or cutting out shapes and gluing them on. You can give it hair or a hat too! Secure your Scarecrow firmly into the ground and you're ready for the festival!





Ahead of Stress Awareness Month in April, the Healthy Together School Nursing and Digital teams have worked together on pooling some useful resources, advice and information for parents/carers, children and school staff to support those who might be experiencing stress or worry.

Healthy Together WWW.HEALTHFORKIDS.CO.UK NHS Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust

STRESS AWARENESS MONTH APRIL 2024


April marks the start of Stress Awareness Month 2024, and at Healthy Together we wanted to share with you some resources that can support children who may be experiencing stress and worry.

SUPPORTING THE TRANSITION FROM PRIMARY TO SECONDARY SCHOOL

One of the most common concerns for children in primary school as we approach the end of the academic year is the transition to secondary school for those in Year 6.

To support children, teachers and parents/carers during this time, we have a number of resources that provide support, advice and information:

Click on the images to take a closer look

Lots more advice on feelings, stress and worries can be found on 

STARTING SECONDARY SCHOOL

Our animation designed specifically for children who are starting secondary school in the new academic year

STARTING SECONDARY SCHOOL SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD

Our animation for parents/carers of children who are starting secondary school in the new academic year


WWW.HEALTHFORKIDS.CO.UK


HELP YOUR CHILD LET THEIR FEELINGS, WORRIES AND STRESS FLOAT AWAY
 It can be hard for children to open up about any stress they are feeling or worries they might have. Our lanterns game is designed to help with this as it encourages children to write down how they are feeling and then watch them float away into the distance on one of our lanterns. This can show them the benefit of opening up and expressing how they are feeling, and the weight that can be lifted from doing so.



[CLICK HERE TO PLAY OUR LANTERNS GAME](#)

CONTACTING THE HEALTHY TOGETHER TEAM FOR SUPPORT AND ADVICE
 If you would like to speak to a health professional about any concerns you have about your child, including problems they might be experiencing with stress or worry, you can get in touch via the following methods:

<p> CONTACT A SCHOOL NURSE BY TEXT MESSAGE Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust runs a dedicated, confidential and secure text messaging service called ChatHealth for parents/carers of children aged 0-11 in Leicestershire and Rutland, which enables you to get professional health advice and support. </p> <p> Text a Public Health Nurse (School Nurse) on: 07520 615 382 </p> 	<p> CALL THE HEALTHY TOGETHER HELPLINE You can also call to speak to the Helpline's qualified health and administrative professionals who offer easy to access, safe and free advice, support and signposting. </p> <p> CALL 0300 300 3001 </p> <p> <small>Calls are answered from 9am - 4.30pm on weekdays, excluding bank holidays.</small> </p> 
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School Term Dates



Spring Term

Mid-term break: Monday 19th to Friday 23rd February 2024

School closes: Friday 22nd March 2024

Dates for Your Diary

Please see attached images for our spring and summer 2024

[Dates for Your Diary - Summer Term 2024](#)

Contact Us



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