



Burbage C of E Infants: Newsletter February 2026



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Executive Headteacher's Message



Dear Parents, Carers and Families,

As we move through February, our focus on developing strong Oracy skills continues across the school. Children are being encouraged to agree, build on, or challenge the ideas of their peers and adults using clear stem sentences. It has been wonderful to see their confidence grow as they learn to express themselves thoughtfully and respectfully.

We are also having a whole-school push on handwriting. This includes everything from correct pencil grip to posture and seating, as well as accurate letter formation. We are reminding children where each letter begins and ends, helping them develop neat, fluent and consistent handwriting that supports their wider learning.

Our current **attendance is 94.5%**, which is below our target of 96%. Please can we ask for your continued support in ensuring your child attends school regularly and arrives on time each day. We would love to see every class win our new weekly attendance trophy at least once before the summer holiday!

Thank you to all families who booked a **virtual Parents' Evening appointment**. The online system ensured the event ran smoothly and to schedule, and we appreciate your engagement.

Looking ahead, next term is a short one—only five weeks—but it promises to be a busy and productive period for everyone.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support.

Warm regards,

Zoe Driver

Executive Headteacher
The Burbage Grove Road Schools Federation

Governor Update



Thank you to parents and staff for responding to our recent survey. We will be considering all your ideas as part of our strategic planning in the coming months.

Year Groups - Curriculum Updates



Reception

Another busy half term comes to an end! This half term we have been learning through our themes – 'Ice and Snow' and 'Chinese New Year'. The children started their learning here in our school grounds and we spotted signs of winter around school. We explored the polar regions through non-fiction texts and the children loved finding out about penguins and polar bears.

During our Chinese New Year theme, it has been lovely to see the children enjoying making a range of Chinese New Year crafts. We also had a fabulous time trying out Chinese writing and Chinese dragon dancing.

We are really pleased to see how confident the children have become with their phonics sounds and they are beginning to show this in their writing. We're sure those of you who were able to come to our recent 'sharing our learning' evening will agree how much progress the children have made.

After the half-term break, we are looking forward to our themes 'People Who Help Us' and 'New Life', during which we hope to have some visitors in school to bring our themes to life.

Year 1

We have had a wonderful and busy term in class, full of fun and hands-on learning!

In DT, the children created their own fairytale character puppets. They enjoyed choosing their preferred joining methods and were very proud of their finished creations.

In science, we explored our senses by tasting different foods and smelling various items. The children loved these activities and it was wonderful to see their curiosity and excitement.

In geography, we had fun using compasses to find the different points and observing what we could see around us. It was a great way for the children to learn about direction and their environment.

In religious education, we have learnt so much about Judaism. We particularly enjoyed the story of David and Goliath, discussing its meaning and lessons.

Year 2

The Year 2 children have made a fantastic start to the term and should be very proud of their efforts. They have approached their learning with enthusiasm and maturity, and it has been a pleasure to see the strong progress they continue to make.

In English, the children have been busy exploring a variety of fiction and non-fiction genres, including information texts and narratives based on stories from around the world. They have shown great creativity and are developing confidence in their writing skills.

Our art unit - 'Painting and Mixed Media' - allowed the children to experiment with different techniques to create texture in their work. They produced some beautiful collages and demonstrated excellent reflective skills by editing and improving their creations.

In geography, the children explored the question, "Why is our world wonderful?" and enjoyed taking part in geographical fieldwork around the school grounds. In science, they have been curious investigators, examining the properties of different materials through engaging, hands-on activities.

In maths, we focused on money, multiplication, and division. It has been wonderful to see the children grow in confidence when counting in 2s, 5s, and 10s, and applying these skills to a range of calculations.

Next half-term, we will continue to build on the children's writing by exploring new genres, developing speaking and listening skills, and learning more about the features of language. We will also begin practising reading and maths assessments to help the children feel confident when applying their knowledge in different contexts.

In addition, we welcome Miss Anderson, our Student Teacher From Nottingham University who will be mainly based in Class 2G.







SENCo Update



Hello!

My name is Mrs Philippa Jesson. I am the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo) for Burbage C of E Infants.

At our school we strive to make sure that pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) are included in all aspects of school life. We provide support for children and young people with a wide range of special educational needs.

If you have any concerns regarding your child, please first contact their class teacher to discuss them. If you would like to speak with me as well, we also provide *Time to Talk* sessions each week. These can be booked through the school office on 01455 239391.



SEND Reviews

Just a reminder, SEND reviews are coming up next term on Wednesday 11th March 2026. They will be held after school. Your class teacher will invite you to a meeting with them at an agreed time to review their targets and to look at next steps.

At the meeting we will give you a link to their Individual Education Plan, Pupil Passport or School Initial Concerns document which you will be able to access at home. If you can't make that date, speak to the class teacher and we will try our best to accommodate you at a different time in person or with a phone call.

Speech, Language and Communication Toolkit for Parents and Carers

This 'Speech, Language and Communication Toolkit' has been developed by speech and language therapists to help you support your child's communication at home. Whether you're looking for quick tips or detailed guidance, you'll find practical advice, videos, and resources tailored to your child's needs.

Find it on the Health for Kids website here:

<https://www.healthforkids.co.uk/grownups/healthy-communication/speech-language-and-communication-toolkit-for-parents/>

Year 2 Residential Trip - Beaumanor Hall



The Year 2 children are already looking forward to their residential trip to Beaumanor Hall in Leicestershire in May.

This is an educational trip covering our national curriculum topics of history and science. The class teachers are talking to the children about their forthcoming visit.

Trip Information Meeting:

The Beaumanor information meeting for parents will be on **Wednesday 25th March from 4.45 to 5.30 pm** in the school hall. We would urge you all to come along to that meeting when we will also share lots of

photos from the children enjoying last year's trip.

Thank you to those of you who have already completed the form and returned it to us. If you have not already done so, we shall need all forms in by w/e 27th March before we close for the Easter break.

Any questions or concerns in the meantime, please speak to your class teacher directly.

Collective Worship - Perseverance



During Collective Worship this half-term we have been thinking about **Perseverance**. We have linked this to our discussions on New Year's resolutions and the challenges we face as children and adults. We have shared with the children the following acrostic:

Pressing on

Eager to continue

Running the race

Sticking with things

Encouraging each other to keep going

Valuing the support of others

Eyes fixed on the target

Reaching a goal over time

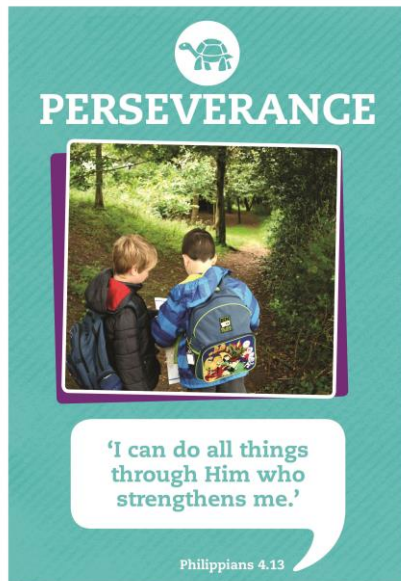
Aiming to complete a task

Not giving up

Commitment to keep going

Ending up where you want to be.

We have also had collective worship based on Epiphany, Candlemas and Ash Wednesday.



Children's Mental Health Week



☑ Children's Mental Health Week 2026

We are taking part in this year's Children's Mental Health Week. It is an annual awareness week launched by the children's mental health charity *Place2Be* to support the wellbeing of children and young people and to give them a voice.

☑ This Year's Theme – "This is My Place"

The official theme for this year is, "*This is My Place*", focusing on **belonging**. We are encouraging children and young people to feel accepted and connected in their families, schools, friendships and communities. Feeling like you belong can have a powerful impact on mental and emotional wellbeing, helping young people feel supported, confident and ready to grow and contribute.

☑ How we have got involved

- This week we have had a whole school assembly on belonging, being yourself and including others;
- The children have created an art project – designing a personal map, which includes places, groups, or activities where they feel they belong;
- PSHE activities where the children created a class mosaic of the things that make them who they are and how they can all connect together;
- Walk and Talk – the children are being encouraged to walk with friends or

someone new during their breaks and lunchtimes to make connections with others and enjoy each other's company;

- Dressing up on Friday! Come as you are – happy to be you and try something new with your hair!

☑ Why Belonging Matters

Belonging is a basic human need. When children feel they truly belong, they are more likely to:

- Feel secure and supported
- Develop positive relationships
- Engage confidently in learning and life
- Have improved long-term mental health and wellbeing

Online Safety



Safer Internet Day 2026

The children took part in **Safer Internet Day 2026**, which took place on **Tuesday 10th February**. The theme this year is **“Smart tech, safe choices: Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI.”**

In class, the children explored what technology and artificial intelligence (AI) are in a simple, age-appropriate way. Through stories, discussions and classroom activities, we talked about how computers and apps can

be *smart tools* that help us, but are not magical and do not always get things right.

Using KS1-friendly resource, the children:

- learned that AI can be found in everyday tools, such as voice assistants and apps;
- practiced thinking carefully about what they see and hear online, understanding that not everything online is real or trustworthy;
- discussed simple rules for staying safe, such as sticking to safe websites, not clicking on unknown links, and always telling a trusted adult if something feels confusing or worrying;
- talked about healthy screen time and balancing technology with other activities.

We encourage you to continue these conversations at home by asking your child about what they learned and reminding them that they can always talk to an adult if they are unsure about something online. Together, we can help children make smart, safe choices as **they grow in confidence with technology.**



PE and Sport



This half-term, the children have thoroughly enjoyed their gymnastics unit, developing strength, balance, and coordination. We were also proud to take four Year 2 pupils to a local gymnastics competition at Hinckley and Burbage Gymnastics Club. They performed their routines beautifully and have qualified for the next round of the competition.

In Mr Probert's PE lessons, the children completed their hockey unit before moving on to badminton. They have shown great enthusiasm during these sessions and are continuing to refine their hand-eye coordination skills.

We were also delighted to take part in a New Age Curling competition, where our team were crowned champions across Key Stage 1! We are incredibly proud of their achievement and the excellent sportsmanship they demonstrated throughout.





PTFA News



This half term has seen some exciting events for the children, and the start of a busy period of planning for the PTFA and our wonderful volunteers!

Operation Encompass



Our school is part of Operation Encompass which is a national scheme that operates jointly between schools and police forces.

Operation Encompass is the reporting to schools, prior to the start of the next school day, when a child or young person has experienced domestic abuse.

As a school setting we have ensured that members of our staff, (Designated Safeguarding Leads) known as a Key Adults, have been trained in the Operation Encompass procedures allowing us to then use the information that has been shared, in confidence, to support the child/ren in our care.

Our Snack n' Snuggle night was widely enjoyed by all the children. They looked so cosy in their dressing gowns and snuggly attire (we were a bit jealous!) and were brilliantly behaved throughout the film - we were all very proud of them. February also marks Children's Mental Health Week, in keeping with this, the children will be able to attend school on the last day of term expressing themselves in their own clothes and with crazy hair styles! Thank you for all donations - it does make a huge difference to our fundraising.

We have the ever-popular Scarecrow Festival coming up on the 2nd - 4th May. This is a fabulous communal event and we would love as many people as possible to get involved and create a scarecrow. This year's theme is 'Let's go to the Movies', so the options are endless! To register your entry, please [click here](#).

As always, thank you to the school, staff, parents and of course volunteers for supporting our events. Have a fabulous half-term everyone!

Emma Thorpe, Lisa Smith, Jess Wood, Emma McWilliams and Viv Robbins.

Thank You



During the Year 2 Christmas Performances held at St Catherine's Church many of you were kind enough to donate to the Baby Basics Christmas Charity Appeal that St Catherine's were raising money for. We have since received a letter of thanks from Father Andrew:

"Thanks to your great generosity St Catherine's raised an amazing £1700. The money will be used to buy new mattresses for Moses baskets, much needed toiletries and essentials for mothers and babies."

A collection was also held at our Reception and Year 1 Christmas performances. We are happy to announce that with your generosity, we raised the amount of £130.65, which has been shared equally between Save the Children and school funds.



Polite Communications



Dogs on School Grounds

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you that dogs are not permitted onto the school grounds whether loose, on a lead, or being carried.

We are a Local Authority owned school and, as owner of the school grounds and building, the Local Authority does not permit dogs or any other domesticated pet onto the school grounds, except for specific educational purposes or as a registered assistance dog with pupils, staff or members of the public.



Scooters

We are pleased to inform you that the scooter park at the front of school will re-open after half term.

In order to ensure everyone's safety, our school does not permit any scooting/cycling on school grounds. Please make sure your children walk their scooter/bike through the school gate.

School Term Dates



Academic Year 2025-2026

Spring Term

School Opens: Tuesday 6th January 2026

Mid-term break: Monday 16th to Friday 20th February 2026

School Closes: Friday 27th March 2026

Summer Term

School Opens: Monday 13th April 2026

May Day Bank Holiday: Monday 4th May 2026

Mid-term break: Monday 25th to Friday 29th May 2026

School Closes: Wednesday 8th July 2026

Dates for Your Diary: [Parents/Letter Bank/School Dates Spring Term 2026](#)

[Parents/Letter Bank/School Dates Summer Term 2026](#)

[2026-2027 School](#)

[Academic Year](#)

Dates for Your Diary



Spring Term 2026	
14 th to 20 th February	Half-term holiday
Mon. 23 rd February	School re-opens at 8.45 am
Thurs. 5 th March	World Book Day – children to dress up as a book character and bring their favourite book to school
Wed. 11 th March	SEND Parental Reviews – in classrooms 3.30 to 5.00 pm appointments to be made via Class Dojo (invitation to follow)
Thurs. 19 th March	Prayer Space Day in school – Grace, Mercy and Peace
Friday 20 th March	Whole School Science Day – Dress as a Scientist
Tues. 24 th March	PTFA Egg-rolling competition – No booking required
Wed. 25 th March	Whole school Palm Sunday service at St Catherine's church at 2.00 pm. Children only. <i>Parent helpers needed – please speak to the school office</i>
Wed. 25 th March	Beaumanor meeting for Year 2 parents – 4.45 to 5.30pm – School Hall
Thurs. 26 th March	Children's assessment summaries will be sent home
Fri. 27 th March	Easter bonnet parade (in school). Every child will need a bonnet, please (nothing fancy – home-made, re-used will do just fine!)
Fri. 27 th March	End of spring term
30 th March to 10 th April	Easter holidays

Updates in blue.

Dates for Your Diary



Summer Term 2026	
Mon. 13 th April	School re-opens at 8.45 am for start of summer term
Weds. 15 th April	Reception trip to Stoneyhurst farm, Leicestershire (info to follow)
Weds. 23 rd April – Fri. 17 th May	Burbage Community Arts Festival – Programme to be confirmed. See website for more details
Sat. 2 nd May	PTFA Spring Fair of Burbage infants
Sat. 2 nd May – Mon. 4 th May	PTFA Scorecrow Festival
Mon. 4 th May	May Day Bank Holiday – school closed
Weds. 13 th & Thurs. 14 th / Thurs. 14 th & Fri. 15 th May	Year 2 Beaumanor Hall residential trips
Sat. 16 th May	St Catherine's Church May Fair - 10.00 am to 2.00 pm
Tues. 19 th May	Year 1 trip to Conkers (info to follow)
Fri. 22 nd May	PTFA non-uniform day – suggested donation £1
"	Break up for half-term
25 th May to 29 th May	Half-term holiday
Mon. 1 st June	School re-opens at 8.45 am
Wed 8 th June	Year 1 phonics screen
Weds. 10 th June	Introduction to Key Stage 1 Meeting 4.45 – 5.30 (in the School Hall) for current Reception parents only.
Fri. 12 th June	PTFA Disco for Reception 4.30 to 5.30 pm and Year 1 5.45 to 6.45 pm <i>Booking essential – this will be via PTFA Facebook page (look out for school page until email nearer the time)</i>
Weds. 17 th June	SEND Parental Reviews – in classrooms 3.30 to 5.00 pm appointments to be made via Class Dojo (invitation to follow)
Thurs. 18 th June	Yr 2 violin concert 10.00 am for parents/carers of violin pupils
Mon. 22 nd June	Sports Day, Families welcome: • Reception – 9.30 am to 10.30 am • Year 1 – 10.45 am to 12.00 pm • Year 2 – 1.30 pm to 2.45 pm
Thurs. 25 th June	Prayer Space Day in school – theme of 'Transition'
Fri. 26 th June	Children's end of year reports going home
Tues. 30 th June	Year 2 leavers' performance at 2.00 pm <i>No younger children or babies, thank you. Email about how to book places to follow nearer the time.</i>
Weds. 1 st July	Year 2 leavers' performance at 9.30 am <i>No younger children or babies, thank you. Email about how to book places to follow nearer the time.</i>
Thurs. 2 nd July	Transfer Day – children will spend the day in their new classroom (for 2026-27 academic year) Drop-in from 3.15 to 4.30 pm
Thurs. 2 nd July	School will be open for you to have a look at your child's new classroom.
Mon. 6 th July	Yr. 2 Leavers' service at St Catherine's Church – 2.00 pm Year 2 parents/carers welcome. <i>Parent helpers needed – please speak to the school office</i>
Wed. 8 th July	School closes for end of academic year

Revised dates are in green

Academic Year 2026-2027

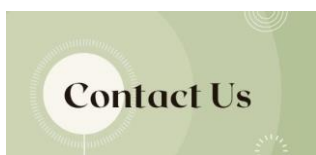
Autumn Term	
Staff Training Days	Thursday 20 th and Friday 21 st August 2026
School Opens	Monday 24 th August 2026
August Bank Holiday	Monday 31 st August 2026
Mid-term Break	Monday 19 th to Friday 23 rd October 2026
School Closes	Friday 18 th December 2026

Spring Term	
Staff Training Day	Monday 4 th January 2027
School Opens	Tuesday 5 th January 2027
Mid-term Break	Monday 15 th to Friday 19 th February 2027
Schools Close	Friday 19 th March 2027

Summer Term	
School Opens	Monday 5 th April 2027
May Day Bank Holiday	Monday 3 rd May 2027
Mid-term Break	Monday 31 st May to Friday 4 th June 2027
School Closes	Wednesday 7 th July 2027
Staff Training Days	Thursday 8 th July 2027

Please note that the school cannot authorise holidays during term time except in "exceptional circumstances". (Please see the Pupil Attendance Policy on our website.)

Contact Us



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**Visit us on the website: [Burbage C of E
Infants](#)**