

Burbage C of E Infants' Newsletter - October 2023



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Executive Headteacher's Message



Dear Parents and Carers

Autumn has arrived, bringing with it the crisp air, golden leaves, and the sense of gratitude that comes with Harvest time. As we gather the fruits of our labour and give thanks for the abundance in our lives, let us reflect upon the following Bible quote:

"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever." - Psalm 107:1

Celebrating Success

I hope you enjoyed reading the first letter from our new Chair of Governors, Rebecca Jones, which was sent out on ParentMail last week. We are thrilled to share the fantastic news of our Key Stage 1 results. Our children have achieved remarkable success, reflecting their hard work and dedication. These results are a testament to our talented teachers, support staff and the support you provide at home. We are immensely proud of our pupils' accomplishments.

Improving Foundation Stage Outcomes

We are equally delighted to report that our Foundation Stage outcomes have improved significantly. Our dedicated staff have worked tirelessly to create a nurturing environment where our youngest learners can thrive. This work has continued with the classroom refurbishments. We will continue to invest in their development, ensuring a strong foundation for their educational journey and how best we can prepare them for Year 1 and the National Curriculum.

Year 1 Explores Forest School

Year 1 are now enjoying Forest School sessions. These outdoor adventures allow our children to connect with nature, develop essential life skills, and foster a deep appreciation for the environment. We believe that learning experiences extend beyond the classroom walls, and Forest School is just one way we're enriching our curriculum.

New Curriculums: Enhancing Learning

Our commitment to providing a world-class education is unwavering. Our new curriculums aim to engage and challenge our children. These curriculums align with our vision and values, 'Loving; Living; Learning', emphasising holistic development and preparing our pupils for a bright future.

Settling In and Learning Together

I am pleased to report that our children have settled well into the new school year. Their enthusiasm for learning is contagious, and it is heartening to witness their growth and development.

So as the autumn leaves fall and we celebrate the Harvest season, let us be thankful for the blessings in our lives and the opportunities that education provides. Together, we will continue to nurture the potential within each child and help them flourish in the months ahead.

Staff

We were very sorry to say goodbye to Mrs Angie Webster last week, but we wish her every success in her new teaching role. Mrs Webster had worked at our school, both as a Learning Support Assistant and an Early Careers Teacher. She also worked tirelessly for 12 years as one of our school Governors. We are also saying goodbye on Friday to one of our Lunchtime Supervisors, Mrs Janet Chamberlain, and we wish her well in her early retirement.

We are very pleased to welcome Mr Pete Tilbury and Miss Claire Reading. Mr Tilbury is our Business Manager, working across both Infant and Junior Schools. Miss Reading has joined us this week as a new Learning Support Assistant.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Warm regards,

Mrs Zoe Driver
Executive Headteacher

Governor Voice



Welcome to our new 'Governor Corner' where, in each newsletter, a different member of the governance team will write to you about the work that we do to support the school. This is because we know that it is really important that parents understand our role in the strategic direction of the school and how we work to champion the school, but also offer challenge to ensure the best outcomes for our children.

The first core function of school governors is to ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction. Over the last year, governors and senior leaders have been working together to create a strategic plan for our school which incorporates our school vision and values. Now this is in place, our focus this year is to create a three-year strategy of priorities to ensure we achieve this vision. We are looking forward to talking to parents in more detail about this at **our next governor coffee morning for parents and carers on Wednesday 15th November at 8.45am**. It would be lovely to see you if you are able to join us for this.

Our second core function is to hold school leaders to account which we fulfil with a clearly organised structure and in a supportive manner. All our governors are responsible for a particular area to monitor, for example health and safety, attendance, or a curriculum area such as English. Each governor visits the school once per term to monitor their area along with the key member of school staff. Our visits are split into three sections: *Autumn* - where we consider the intent of the subject area, *Spring* - where we are taken on a walk of the school to see the subject being implemented and *Summer* - where we consider the impact of the actions during the academic year and how successful they have been. Currently, governors and staff are busy organising their first visits to school this academic year, and I hope we can inform you more about these as the year progresses.

The third core function is to oversee the financial performance of the school and make sure money is well spent. Following the appointment of our new School Business Manager, Pete Tilbury, we are working closely with him and Mrs Driver, to ensure we get the most from our money to provide the children the opportunities they need. As explained above, we have an individual governor responsible for monitoring the school finances, which they do monthly and a subgroup of governors meets at timely intervals with Pete to unpick and understand our finances in more detail. We use this finance information, what we find from our individual monitoring visits and the dialogue at meetings to support our decision making as a board. Hopefully, this new method of communicating will keep you more informed of the work we do as a board and bring current and appropriate topics to your attention. However, if there

is anything specific you would like to know that we have not covered, we are happy to answer any questions. Please email them to: governors@burbageinfants.org

Pupil Premium

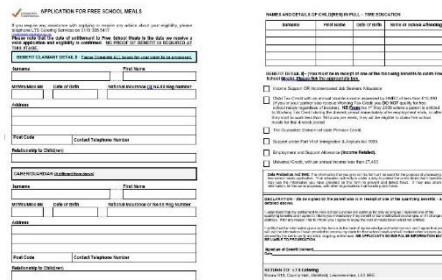
As well as being Chair of the board, I am also responsible for the monitoring of our pupil premium. Any child who qualifies for a free school meal, or has done in the last six years, brings an additional £1,455 into the school fund which is to be focused on effective approaches to raise the children's educational attainment. This includes children in the Infants, even though all children in Early Years and KS1 are entitled to a school lunch for free. I have been part of the governing board at Burbage Infants for six years now and almost two at Burbage Juniors. With a background in education, our children's early learning experiences are something I feel very passionately about. I am proud to be part of both governing boards as we work together to ensure our children get the best possible experiences in their journey through EYFS, KS1 and KS2.

Mrs Barwell is the lead member of staff who decides how this should best be spent, along with Mrs Driver and it is my role to meet with her to find out what school is doing and how effective these approaches are. For example, this might be by being part of a small group for social and emotional skills or writing support or providing music tuition or access to an afterschool sports club.

Please see page 2 of the attached form to find out if you meet the eligible criteria for pupil premium funding.

Kind regards,

Rebecca Jones
Chair of Governors



Hello Everyone!

I'm Andrew Drinkwater. By day, I work as an IT Consultant – helping businesses across the globe to streamline their IT processes, but one of my proudest roles outside of my day job is being part of our school's governing board.

It has been my pleasure to serve as a Parent Governor for the past three years. I joined when my eldest daughter, Emily, was in Reception. She went off to the Juniors this year, but daughter number two is now in Year 1 (and there's yet another daughter due to start in a few years).

I have been supporting the board with various initiatives since starting as a Governor. My current areas of responsibility encompass Training and Development. This means that I help to ensure our governors are equipped with the most current training and are directed towards the right resources. I have more recently picked up the roles of Vice Chair and SEND Governor: supporting our Chair with various initiatives and supporting our school's Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator, and championing the needs of pupils with SEND at the board.

Kind regards,

Andrew Drinkwater
Vice Chair of Governors



Reception

The children have made a fantastic start to school! They have settled really well into school routines and we are so proud of them all. We have now completed our first half-term and we have enjoyed finding out about school, meeting the adults who help us, and making new friends. The children have loved starting Anima Phonics and meeting some of the characters who help us to learn our sounds. We have also learnt about Harvest, Creation and in our PSCHE we have met Jigsaw Jennie and have been thinking about our feelings. Next term we shall be starting with our Theme 'Hello Autumn' which will include autumn walks, making autumn collections and learning about autumn festivals. In maths, we shall be building on our counting and subitising skills, as well as looking carefully at the composition of numbers. Following this, we shall be finding out about 'Nocturnal Animals' before moving onto Christmas Fun!

Year 1

The first half-term in Year 1 is almost complete and the children have worked very hard and they deserve a good rest.

It has been a huge transition from Reception to Year 1 and the children have adapted well. As teachers we are very proud of how well they have done this term.

It has been a busy term. The children have all had a chance to take part in Forest School and exploring the outdoors. They have really enjoyed their Design & Technology lessons where they designed and created a windmill for a mouse.

Next term is another exciting term! The children will continue to do Forest School. It will be national Anti-bullying Week in November. We have a Christmas Nativity for you to watch, we shall be going with the rest of the school to Warwick Arts Theatre to see 'The Gruffalo'. The children will also obviously be making lots of fun things for Christmas.

In Art the topic will be 'Drawing, Make your Mark', thinking about using lines to create a piece of art work. We shall be looking at an artist called Bridget Riley and the children will use their imagination to create their own piece of artwork in her style.

Year 2

Our Year 2 children have settled into school brilliantly! They are working hard and we are pleased with how far they have come in such a short space of time. We have worked on different genres of writing and the children are becoming more apt at writing for different purposes.

In maths, the children have been working on the place value of two-digit numbers and they have started a range of addition and subtraction strategies.

They are working hard on their Harvest poem and songs, and they are looking forward to performing these at St Catherine's Church on Thursday.

They have enjoyed our Geography unit and are becoming more confident at identifying and locating the seven the continents and five oceans.

For all three year groups, please do look on Dojo for messages and updates about what is going on.

Thank you for your continued support with the children's homework as this has such a big impact on their development. We are wishing you all a restful half-term break; we are looking forward to our exciting term ahead with plenty of fun and exciting learning to come!



Just a reminder about our new 'Time to Talk' sessions that we are now running each half-term.

The sessions are 15 minute individual meetings with our SENCo, Mrs Jesson, where parents and carers can discuss any concerns about their child and look at the support they are receiving in school.

The next one is between 1.15 - 3.15pm on Monday 27th November 2023. If you would like to book a slot for this, then please contact the school office on 01455 239391.

For those parents whose children are currently on the SEND register or where there has been a School Initial Concerns started, these are due to be reviewed week beginning Monday 4th December. You will be invited directly by your child's class teacher to book an appointment nearer the time.

Collective Worship



During Collective Worship this term we have continued to think about our school values and our vision statement "**Loving; Living; Learning**" and exploring what these mean to us.

As a Church of England School, we follow a scheme for our daily acts of collective worship called "Roots and Fruits" that focuses each half-term on one of twelve Christian values. Our value for this half-term has been **Thankfulness**.

We have been talking with the children about the value of **Thankfulness**. We have shared the acrostic poem below and read stories to help them to understand this.

Thinking of good things
Happy memories
All creation praising God
Not taking anything for granted
Keeping focused on the positive
Feeling blessed
Understanding the sacrifices people make for us
Living joyfully
Not complaining
Expressing gratitude to God
Saying **thank you** to those who help us
Showing gratefulness by our deeds

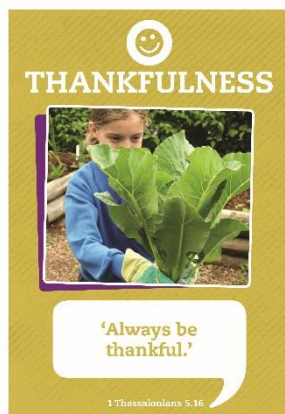
Harvest Festival Services

We are looking forward to going to St Catherine's Church tomorrow (Thursday 12th October) for our year group Harvest Festival Services and you are all welcome to join us for your child's year group. Before the services, we shall be asking you to sign our usual Photo Consent Form, but as always, we stipulate that photos are for your own personal use and must not be shared more widely, especially they must not appear on any form of social media.

- Year 1 10.00 am
- Year 2 11.00 am
- Rec. 2.00 pm
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Thank you for the offers of help to escort the children with school staff to the church. We now have enough volunteers.

Many thanks also to everyone who has kindly donated items of food for the food banks.



PE and Sport



In PE in school this first half-term the children have begun their games sessions with Invasion Sports. They have started football and rugby; Mr Probert has been very proud of their application of skills. In teacher PE, we have been focusing on gymnastics and using the apparatus to develop sequences using travelling, rolling and balancing.

Last week our Year 2 football team travelled to Hinckley Parks School for a local tournament. They played a number of matches, won all of them and did not concede a single goal! We are all very proud of how they played and represented our school. Well done, team!

PTFA News



We've had a busy start to the academic year!

We kicked off our fundraising this term with our 'Fund'raisin' challenge which will conclude in December. Winning classes will be announced via ParentMail/Weduc/Dojo. We managed to squeeze in a final 'Frozen Friday' of the year – thank you to everyone that supported us by buying an ice cream or two! The children have been busy creating some beautiful Christmas artwork that you can now view on the My Child's Art website – the login details were sent home in book bags at the end of last week. Our first movie night of the academic year was really well supported (thank you) and was a huge success. We hope the children enjoyed it!

Coming up over the next couple of months we're excited to be holding our very first Christmas Wreath Making event! Details have been sent out about how to book your place on the PTFA portal. You'll soon be able to book for the winter discos and Secret Room too. More information will be sent out about these events after half term.

We look forward to seeing you at our Annual General Meeting on Thursday (12th October). It will take place at Burbage Junior School at 7.30 pm and online if you can't make it in person. The school has sent out a separate ParentMail message with all the information for you about this meeting.

Have a wonderful half term!

Thank you.
Kind regards,

Nicola Cross
PTFA Chair

New Starters September 2024 - 'Stay & Play' Sessions and Open Days for Parents



We have some new dates for 'Stay & Play' Sessions for Reception children for the 2024 intake. Please see the attached images for the information for these sessions and also for our new-look Open Days.

Please feel free to share these more widely with anyone you know who will be looking for a 2024 Reception place for their child.



School Term Dates



Autumn Term

Mid-term break: Monday 16th to Friday 20th October 2023

School closes: Friday 22nd December 2023

Spring Term

School opens: Monday 8th January 2024

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

School closes: Friday 22nd March 2024

Dates for Your Diary

The updated list of dates for your diary is attached [Dates for Your Diary 2023-24 Terms](#). There was one change to the date of the PTFA Year 1 and Year 2 Disco which has been moved to Friday 8th December to avoid the clash with Burbage Christmas light switch-on.

Contact Us



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