



Burbage C of E Infants' Spring Newsletter 2024



What's in this issue

- **Executive Headteacher's Message**
- **Governor Voice**
- **Spare Clothes and Wellies**
- **Head Bumps - Further Explanation**
- **Year Groups - Curriculum Updates**
- **Beaumanor Hall Residential - Year 2**
- **Read for Fun in February & World Book Day (March)**
- **My Voice Matters - Children's Mental Health Week**
- **SENCo Update**
- **Collective Worship**
- **PE and Sport**
- **Computing**
- **PTFA News**
- **Dates for Spring and Summer Terms 2024 (*February update*)**
- **Contact Us**



Executive Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff and Governors

It has been lovely to see so many of you in school recently: last week for our *Sharing our Learning* open afternoon and at parents' evening appointments this week. We are really proud of the progress the children have made this half-term across all three year groups. Thank you for your continued support at home with your children's learning.

We would like to say a very special thank you to Louise Brown, our School and Community Support Worker from St Catherine's Church. She has supported the school for many years, delivering regular Collective Worship, welcoming us to the church for our services and visits, she has helped in classrooms and the Forest School sessions. Louise is moving on to continue her work but with older children, still within Leicestershire. We wish her the best of luck for the future.

Joining our team this term, we welcome Mrs Woodhouse and Mrs Cramp as new Learning Support Assistants, working in Reception and Year 2 respectively.

We are also pleased to have a student teacher from Nottingham University, Annie Leach. Annie is doing her teaching training in Mrs Dyment's Year 2 class.

Future staff arrangements:

As we prepare for the upcoming academic year, we want to express our gratitude for your continued support and collaboration in fostering a positive learning environment for our pupils. Historically, parents/carers have occasionally contacted school to share their staffing preferences for the new academic year. It is with regret that we must inform you that, due to various factors, we are unable to accommodate specific requests or preferences regarding staffing for the upcoming school years.

We understand that these preferences may arise from valid considerations, and we appreciate your understanding as we strive to maintain a fair and balanced approach for the benefit of the entire school community. Our primary focus remains on providing a high quality education for all pupils and we assure you that our dedicated team is committed to achieving this goal.

Finally, congratulations to our entrants for the Parish's allotment competition, Seren and Pippa in Year 2! Here is the link to the Parish newsletter if you would like to have a look: [Parish Council newsletter out on Monday in The Local Rock | Burbage Parish Council \(burbage-council.co.uk\)](https://www.burbage-council.co.uk/newsletter-out-on-Monday-in-The-Local-Rock)

I would like to wish you and your families a very happy half-term.

Loving, Living and Learning

Warm regards,

Mrs Zoe Driver

Executive Headteacher





Governor Voice

Hi, I'm Mike Gladwin and I joined as a co-opted governor at the beginning of this school year. I live in Stoke Golding and have been married to Denise for 38 years, we have three grown up children and three grandchildren. Professionally I held senior leadership posts in IT at companies such as Sainsbury, Accenture, Eversheds, and Siemens. I was minded to retire, but have now taken up a part time role as Head of IT for a not-for-profit organisation which helps people in hardship.

As you may know, governors are charged with guiding the strategy of the school as well as the school finances and the accountability of leadership performance. I have been asked to look at the finances - always a challenge in the current climate, but even so you will have seen the investments that are being made, not least the enhancements to the Reception classrooms, giving our children the best chance of a first class start to their education. The culture and love in our school shines brightly, and whether I have been chatting to parents in the queue for the nativity, doing Quality of Education visits for IT, or working with committee colleagues, it has been an absolute delight. This 'fresh pair of eyes' can see that we have a wonderful school!

Hello! My name is Emma Wrighton-Turner and I have been a parent governor for just over a year. My eldest son, Teddy, is in Year 2 and my middle son will start Reception this September. I have taught science at a secondary school in Coventry since 2009 and am currently on maternity leave.

Through having children at the school, parent governors have a first-hand experience of the delivery of the curriculum and how the school is perceived from the parental point of view. This enables us to bring a different perspective to the strategic management of the school.

As part of my role, I am responsible for monitoring the English curriculum across the school. I meet with the curriculum lead once a term to discuss the intent, implementation and impact of the English curriculum, which encompasses reading, phonics, speech and language, writing and handwriting. I am also a member of the Vision and Values Committee whose purpose is to evaluate the relevance and impact of our school's vision and values.

It is a privilege to be part of our governing board and to work alongside the wonderful staff here at Burbage Infants to ensure that all our young learners have the best possible start to their school journey.



Spare Clothes and Wellies!

If you are having a half-term declutter and find any children's wellies you no longer need, we would be really grateful for donations (sizes 11, 12, 13, 1). These will be great to use as spares for our Forest School sessions.

Also, any old joggers or shorts (ages 4 to 9), girls' leggings, boys' socks and girls' tights would all be really useful too for our First Aid room for when the children have a little accident.

If your child has come home in school spare clothes, would you please make sure to return them to us.

Many thanks.



Head Bumps - Further Explanation

Last month we introduced our new system to advise parents of your child's head bump via email on ParentMail.

Following a few queries, we want to reassure you that *any* bump to the head - including the face - will generate this email. The email is just for your information; please rest assured that if the bump is more serious or your child needs collecting from school, we will phone you.



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 'share 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

The first half of the spring term seems to have passed so quickly and the children have been busy and working hard!

It has been a lovely term with lots of learning! One of our topics has been Judaism and the children really enjoyed going to the Leicester Synagogue to make their learning come alive and get a first-hand experience.

The children have all continued to enjoy taking part in Forest School, exploring the outdoors and making their bird feeders.

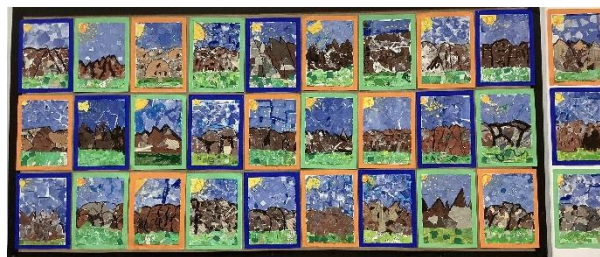
In English, children have been reading all the fairytales and relishing the role play involved! In maths, the children have been doing lots of counting to and back from 50.

In art, the children have made 3D Sculptures, including a big 3D spider.

Year 2

The Year 2 children have settled into the spring term well; they have done a great job with their learning this half-term and have continued to make good progress. We have covered a range of fiction and non-fiction genres in writing such as non-chronological reports on Zambia and narratives of stories from around the world. This half-term has consisted of an art unit, called "painting and mixed media" and the children have produced some beautiful collages using a range of techniques to create texture. They have also edited their work to make amendments and improvements. In Geography, the children have learnt about Zambia where they have made comparisons between Burbage and a village called, Mugurameno. The children have enjoyed investigating different properties of materials in science. In maths, we have covered a unit on multiplication and division and the children are more confident at counting in 2s, 5s and 10s as well as applying this to different calculations.

Next half-term we will be preparing the children for their exciting trip to Beaumanor Hall, as well as making assessments on their reading, writing and maths to continue to monitor their progress closely.



Beaumanor Hall Residential - Year 2

As you will have just read in the Year 2 curriculum update, Year 2 are already looking forward to their residential trip to Beaumanor Hall in Leicestershire in April.

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.



My Voice Matters - Children's Mental Health Week

The school took part in Children's Mental Health week. This year the theme was "My Voice Matters". We held a Collective Worship based on empowering the children to express themselves in different ways and encouraging them to share their ideas and also listen to others' ideas.

In class we looked at top tips about how to speak up about our worries and talked about the people we are grateful for who help us to feel heard.

Research has highlighted that as many as 1 in 6 children and young people now have a diagnosable mental health condition. By taking part in Children's Mental Health Week we hope that our children feel listened to and know they are not alone.

TIPS FOR FAMILIES

Talking to your child about mental health

Are you a parent or carer who wants to talk to your child about mental health?

This Children's Mental Health Week we want all children and young people, wherever they are, and wherever they are in the world, to be able to say - and believe - 'My Voice Matters'.

We visited primary and secondary schools to ask students what they wanted from the week - to help shape the activities we create for schools; the messaging we give to teachers; the tips we give to other children; and the advice we give to parents, carers and families.

Here's what children and young people told us they need from you:

- 1 We don't need to have 'one-off conversations about our mental health' - sometimes a chat on a journey or at bedtime is enough.
- 2 I need to know it's okay to talk to you about any and all of my feelings. Please hear what I have to say, without interrupting me.
- 3 Please listen to me carefully and acknowledge how I am feeling - it might seem silly to you but what I am going through is important to me.
- 4 Playing with pets can make me feel better. Same with playing football, basketball or whatever type of sport I am into.
- 5 Don't compare my experiences to your own when you were a child.
- 6 Sometimes I just need you to listen and hear what I'm saying - I don't always need answers (or lectures).
- 7 Please don't worry about trying to fix things for me - I often just need to know you are there for me and understand what I am going through.
- 8 If you are open with me about your feelings, this can help me to be more open about mine.
- 9 Sometimes I don't want to talk. Please trust that I will come to you (or another grown-up or someone my own age) when I'm ready. Sometimes it's easier for me to talk to someone nearer my own age - my siblings, cousins, friends, younger teachers at school - because they 'get it'.
- 10 Sometimes a hug is all it takes to make me feel supported.

PRINT ME OUT!

16 CHILDRENSMENTALHEALTHWEEK.ORG.UK

My VOICE MATTERS

Place2Be's
CHILDREN'S
MENTAL HEALTH
WEEK

TALKING TO YOUR CHILD ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH

Are you a parent or carer who wants to talk to your child about mental health?

This Children's Mental Health Week we want all children and young people, wherever they are, and wherever they are in the world, to be able to say - and believe - "My Voice Matters".

We visited primary and secondary schools to ask students what they wanted from the week - to help shape the activities we create for schools, the messaging we give to teachers, the tips we give to other children, and the advice we give to parents, carers and families.

LOOKING FOR FREE PRACTICAL ADVICE TO HELP YOU SUPPORT YOUR CHILD?

Parenting Smart, Place2Be's site for parents and carers, is full of expert advice and tips on supporting primary-age children, and managing their behaviour, and act on their views.

[PARENTINGSMART.ORG.UK](https://parentingsmart.org.uk)

Here's what children and young people told us they need from you:

- 1 We don't need to have 'one-off' conversations about our mental health - sometimes a chat on a journey or at bedtime is enough.
- 2 I need to know it's okay to talk to you about any and all of my feelings. Please hear what I have to say, without interrupting me.
- 3 Please listen to me carefully and acknowledge how I am feeling - it might seem silly to you but what I am going through is important to me.
- 4 Playing with pets can make me feel better. Same with playing football, basketball or whatever type of sport I am into.
- 5 Don't compare my experiences to your own when you were a child.
- 6 Sometimes I just need you to listen and hear what I'm saying - I don't always need answers (or lectures)
- 7 Please don't worry about trying to fix things for me - I often just need to know you are there for me and understand what I am going through.
- 8 If you are open with me about your feelings, this can help me to be more open about mine.
- 9 Sometimes I don't want to talk. Please trust that I will come to you (or another grown-up or someone my own age) when I'm ready. Sometimes it's easier for me to talk to someone nearer my own age - my siblings, cousins, friends, younger teachers at school - because they 'get it'.
- 10 Sometimes a hug is all it takes to make me feel supported.

WHAT MATTERS TO YOU? CREATIVE VIDEO ACTIVITIES FOR FAMILIES

These wellbeing activities can help children and young people think about and share what matters to them.

For primary children: bit.ly/3PzCG0B

For secondary children: bit.ly/3LBD2wK

[CHILDRENSMENTALHEALTHWEEK.ORG.UK](https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk)

My VOICE MATTERS

Place2Be's
CHILDREN'S
MENTAL HEALTH
WEEK

CONVERSATION STARTERS

Some ways to start a conversation with your child about mental health could be...

TELL ME ABOUT YOUR DAY

WHAT WAS THE BEST THING ABOUT TODAY?

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST STRESS / WORRY IN YOUR LIFE RIGHT NOW?

WHAT'S YOUR ONLINE LIFE LIKE?

WHO WOULD YOU TALK TO IF YOU WERE FEELING WORRIED ABOUT YOUR MENTAL HEALTH?

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP YOU?

[CHILDRENSMENTALHEALTHWEEK.ORG.UK](https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk)



SENCo Update

Just a few reminders ...

The next 'Time to Talk' session will be on Monday 18th March.

SEND reviews will be taking place on Wednesday 17th April. Class teachers will be in touch with parents to book appointments.

Any parents of children in Year 2 who are concerned that their child may have dyslexia or processing difficulties, please contact the class teacher to start a conversation about this. Also, if any are concerned about their children transitioning to the Juniors, please let us know.

Thank you.



Collective Worship

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 our PSHE Jigsaw Scheme unit on *Dreams and Goals*. We have shared the following acrostic poem with the children:

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

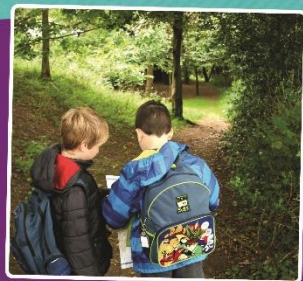
The children continue to enjoy listening to and reflecting on the big stories from the Bible which have been led by Louise Brown from St Catherine's Church. Father Andrew will be delivering these from next half-term.

We have held special Collective Worship times, focusing on Epiphany, Candlemas and Ash Wednesday this half-term!

Louise has also been developing our school's *Rhythm of Life* (please see attached poster). This is a pattern of living for everyone that will enable us all to develop our spirituality and learn more about Jesus.




PERSEVERANCE



'I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.'
 Philippians 4.13

QUOTES & QUESTIONS

By perseverance the snail reached the ark.
(Charles H. Spurgeon)

When the world says, 'Give up', Hope whispers, 'Try it one more time.'
(Anon)

Have you ever made fun of someone who takes a long time to do things? Maybe, like the tortoise in Aesop's fable, they will surprise you.

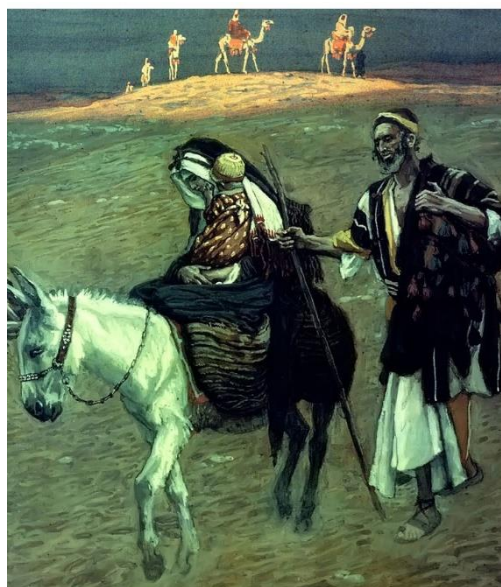
When have you been the voice of hope and encouraged someone to try one more time?

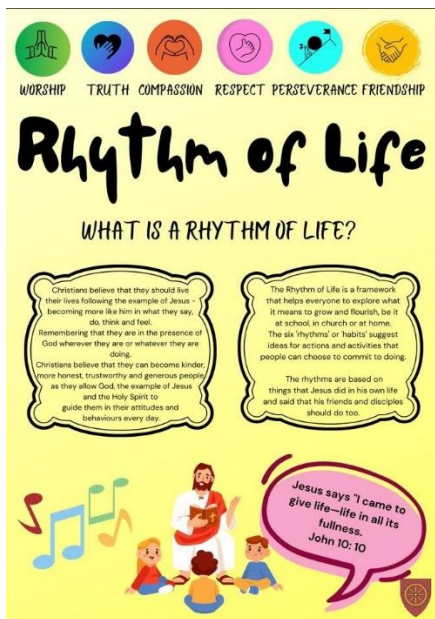
Fall seven times, stand up eight.
(Japanese Proverb)

Dripping water hollows out stone, not through force but through persistence.
(Ovid)

Did you ever have to try lots of times before something was possible?

Have you ever achieved a challenge in small stages, a little at a time?





The children have been enjoying net and wall sports in their PE sessions with Mr Probert. They have particularly liked their badminton sessions, helping to build their hand-eye co-ordination. In teacher PE, the children have finished their gymnastics unit where they built their floor sequences onto large apparatus. They have successfully learnt different ways to travel, rolls, balances and jumps which they have applied to their own individual sequences.

The Year 2 children were all invited to a trial for a *Rise Gymnastics* Competition and the four children selected went to Hinckley and Burbage Gymnastics Club where they won their first heat, so they will be attending the next round after half-term. We are very proud of them as they practised really hard to remember all of their routines and performed superbly on the day.

We are looking forward to starting maypoling practice next half-term too!





Computing

Safer Internet Day took place earlier this month to raise awareness of a safer and better internet for all, especially children and young people.

Studies have shown, that managing a child's screen time can have positive impacts on their cognitive development. The Top Tips poster attached provides you with some simple but effective advice to help you bring your family's screen time down to a healthier level if needed, while suggesting alternative activities that are far less reliant on technology.



PTFA News

It's been a busy start to the new year for the PTFA with lots of planning behind the scenes for all of the exciting upcoming events, and, of course, movie night which the children seemed to love!

Thanks to all of the parents who volunteered to make this event possible, without our volunteers the events just can't take place. If you feel that you could spare an hour or so to help at an event then please email me at ptfachair@burbageinfants.org

Over the next few months we have some amazing events to look out for:

- Spring terms disco 15th March
- Egg rolling 18th March
- Scarecrow festival 4th - 6th May

We'll be sharing loads of information on our Facebook event page 'Burbage Scarecrow Festival 2024' so please follow it for regular updates!

The disco and the scarecrow festival are both now live on the booking portal: pta-events.co.uk/groveroadschoolsptfa/

Don't forget we're still collecting your books for our bookcycle scheme (only books in good condition please), and there's still time to enter our Leap Year quiz! Get your completed forms handed into the school office by 29th February with your £2 entry fee, then we'll announce the lucky winner of £25 on 1st March!

Thanks everyone for your continued support, we really appreciate it.

Nicky Thorington

PTFA Chair



Thank you for all your help and support, we couldn't do it without you all!

We look forward to this year's events and can't wait to see how we can help the schools this year.



School Nurse Team - *Healthy Together* Newsletter

We are delighted to share with you the latest termly newsletter from *Healthy Together* and your school nursing team. It includes their contact details, should you need them.

HEALTHY TOGETHER NEWSLETTER

WELCOME TO YOUR LATEST HEALTHY TOGETHER NEWSLETTER

Hello and welcome to the second edition of your newsletter from Healthy Together. Each term you will receive this information leaflet designed for parents/carers and school staff.

In this update, you can find links to our animations to support children making the transition to secondary school, and into primary school for the first time, as well as our brand-new healthy lifestyles animations.

SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD AS THEY MOVE TO SECONDARY SCHOOL

Making the move up to secondary school is an exciting time for your child, however it can also be worrying as they get used to new people, routines and experiences.

To help you support your child through this transition, we have created a short animation with lots of advice, tips and information.

MOVING FROM PRIMARY TO SECONDARY SCHOOL

Alongside our animation for parents/carers, we have also created an animation specifically for children to watch as they prepare to start secondary school.

It includes lots of tips on what to expect from a new school, as well as advice on how best to prepare for making the move.

STARTING SECONDARY SCHOOL: GETTING YOUR HELP

STARTING SECONDARY SCHOOL

[Click here or on the image above to view the animation for parents/carers](#)

[Click here or on the image to watch the animation](#)

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

SUPPORTING YOUR FAMILY IN LEADING HEALTHY LIVES

To support you in helping your family to lead healthier lifestyles, we have devised an online questionnaire and created a brand-new animation. The questionnaire enables you to get advice and tips on the likes of diet, portion sizes and exercise, while the animation explores how certain decisions and choices made can impact on how a child feels through the course of a day.

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS THE QUESTIONNAIRE AND WATCH THE ANIMATION](#)

DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN CONTACT A SCHOOL NURSE BY TEXT?

Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust runs a dedicated, confidential and secure text messaging service called ChatHealth for parents/carers of children aged 0-19 in Leicester City, which enables you to get professional health advice and support.

Text a Public Health Nurse (School Nurse) on:

07520 615 382

ChatHealth

DIGITAL HEALTH CONTACTS

In the new academic year, online health and wellbeing questionnaires, known as Digital Health Contacts, will be made available to schools across Leicestershire and Rutland.

Schools will have the opportunity to send a questionnaire out to parents/carers of children in Reception and to complete in school with children in Year 6.

The questionnaires cover a wide range of topics, with a personalised care plan presented at the end, and follow up face-to-face support provided by the Healthy Together school nursing team where appropriate.

Look out for further information in the new academic year.

They will also be earning points for their school, with prizes awarded at the end of the competition to the best performing schools.

HAVE A BREAK-PAK AT THE NEW MR WEBSITE HERE

MOVE IT BOOM IS BACK FOR 2023

LAUNCHING MONDAY 2 OCTOBER

Move It Boom, the physical activity competition is back with a new look for 2023, with children embarking on a Monster Hunt! Children are encouraged to get physically active and log their activities on the Move It Boom website to unlock new parts of the story, travel around the world, meet new monsters and unlock rewards.



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 2023-2024 \(February Update\)](#)



Contact Us

Burbage C of E Infant School

Grove Road

Burbage

Hinckley

Leicestershire

LE10 2AE

Tel: (01455) 239391

Email: office@burbageinfants.org

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