

Burbage C of E Infants' Winter Newsletter 2023





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Executive Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff and Governors,

As we approach the end of the autumn term, I am filled with immense pride for the incredible achievements and wonderful moments we've shared together as a school community. It has been a term filled with joy, learning, and the spirit of togetherness.

Our youngest learners in Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), as well as Year 1 and Year 2 delighted us with their heart-warming Nativity performances, showcasing their talents and spreading the joy of the season. The enthusiasm displayed by our pupils were truly commendable.

A heartfelt thank you to our dedicated Parent, Teacher and Friends Association (PTFA) for their tireless efforts in organising various events that enriched our children's experiences throughout the term. Your role in enhancing our school community is truly appreciated.

As we reflect on the past few months, it is evident that our children have worked diligently, embracing the challenges of their curriculum with enthusiasm and determination. For example, the artwork produced by our students has been nothing short of spectacular, demonstrating their creativity and passion for learning.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to all the parents for your unwavering support. Your involvement in your child's education is invaluable, and it truly makes a difference. Thank you for being active partners in their learning journey.

A special commendation goes to our hardworking and dedicated staff. Your commitment to providing a nurturing and stimulating environment for our students is evident in their achievements and growth. Your passion for education is inspiring, and I am grateful for the positive impact you have on our school.

I also extend my thanks to the governors for their continuous support and guidance. Your involvement is vital for the success of our school and instrumental in shaping our vision for the future.

I would also like to thank two members of staff who have left us this half-term. Our Learning Support Assistant, Mrs Hasler-Cope and our Midday Manager, Mrs Greatwood. We wish them both all the very best in their new roles.

As we approach the Christmas season, let us take a moment to reflect on the true meaning of this festive time. In the spirit of Christmas, I share a quote from the Bible: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6)

May the joy and peace of Christmas fill your hearts and homes. I wish each and every one of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May the holiday bring you moments of love, laughter, and cherished memories.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Monday, 8th January 2024, for another term of learning, growth, and shared experiences.

Loving, Living and Learning

Warm regards,

Mrs Zoe Driver Executive Headteacher





Christmas Message from Father Andrew

It's nearly that time again!

Only four more sleeps to Christmas Day! Where does the time go? It only seems like two minutes ago it was the summer holidays.

I would like to wish you all a 'Happy Christmas' to all the pupils, parents, grandparents, carers, all the staff and teachers at the school.

Our partnership is something to really treasure and working together this next year, I hope we will all grow to be more like Jesus and live a life worthy of him.

I leave you with a blessing for Christmas:

"May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the Magi, and the peace of the Christ Child. May Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever." Amen.

Fr Andrew



Governor Voice

Foundation Governor

My name is Clement Morrison and I am one of the foundation governors at Burbage Church of England Infant School. There are two other foundation governors at the school. Reverend father Andrew Hall (Rector of St Catherine's Parish Burbage) and Louise Brown (Children's and Family worker St Catherine's Burbage). All three governors are nominated by the Parochial Church Council and approved via the Bishop's Office. We are appointed to serve for a term of four years after which time we have to be reselected or replaced by another foundation governor. All Church of England Schools have foundation governors and they have been involved in schools since the early 19th Century. At present 25% of primary schools in England have foundation governors.

What is our role? To preserve ,encourage, and assist the Christian religious character of the school and to support the management, staff and governors in ensuring the ethos and practices within the school reflect true Christian values in the care and provision for the children and adults in the school.

Staff Governor

My name is Charlotte Dyment. It is a privilege to serve as a staff governor at our wonderful school. As Staff Governor I serve as a bridge between the staff members and the governing board, ensuring that the staff's views, concerns, and needs are heard and considered in the decision-making processes. Being part of the governing board is a rewarding experience, that allows me to actively contribute to the school's vision and direction and therefore providing our children with the best outcomes. Working alongside colleagues and parents, I witness first-hand the dedication and commitment that goes into providing our students with the best possible start to their educational journey. Together, we strive to create a nurturing and inclusive environment where every child can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. I'm honoured to play a role in shaping the future of our school and supporting the aspirations of our young learners.

The governing board have set up a Google form to enable you to share your views on the school. We would appreciate a few minutes of you time to complete this. Here is the link: Autumn 2023 Feedback Form



Year Groups - Curriculum Updates

Reception

This has been a busy half-term! We have learnt so much! Our themes 'Hello Autumn', 'Nocturnal Animals' and 'Christmas' have provided use with a range of learning opportunities across all areas of the EYFS curriculum. The children particularly enjoyed the *Owl Babies* story. We also introduced the children to non-fiction texts so we could find out more information about barn owls and other nocturnal animals. We have also been busy learning in our outdoor garden - one highlight was making a pretend bonfire. The children set up the fire, made hot chocolate in the mud kitchen and toasted marshmallows on the "fire"! In addition, we have extended our learning by using our beautiful school grounds. We have been on three different 'hunts' - we looked for autumn signs, shapes and light sources.

The children have been doing a fantastic job of learning the sounds and actions in phonics. They have enjoyed meeting all the animals in Anima Phonics and we are so pleased at how quickly they are learning to blend the sounds for reading. Now we have completed the first Anima Phonics unit, the children are also being encouraged to use their sound knowledge in their writing.

In maths, we have been looking carefully at the composition of numbers to 5. The children have developed a deeper understanding of how the numbers to 5 can be made. We have also used the Numberblocks series to support this and the children love all the number characters.

Finally, I would like to congratulate our EYFS children and staff on the fantastic performances of our Nativity. The children have been incredible during rehearsals and we have been amazed at how well they have learnt all the song words and their own parts. What a show! I hope you are feeling as proud as the EYFS team are.

We would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and we look forward to welcoming the children back for the spring term in January 2024.

Year 1

The first full term in year 1 is nearly complete and the children have worked extremely hard in this long half-term and are ready for a good rest!

It has been an exciting term leading up to Christmas. The children have all continued to enjoy taking part in Forest School and exploring the outdoors. In English, children have really enjoyed writing their own version of *Augustus and His Smile* by choosing their own animal and where they looked for the smile. In maths, the children have been brilliant at adding two numbers together using the Rekenreks.

We have created some amazing Abstract Art in the style of Kandinsky with their own personal interpretation. We have been historians and comparing past and present experiences and how things have changed. The children have been wonderful practising for the Christmas Nativity and have enjoyed all things Christmas! Please do look on Dojo for messages and updates on what is going on.

Have a lovely Christmas and New Year.

Year 2

The children have had a fantastic first term in Year 2. They are becoming more independent in their learning and around school. We strive for our year 2s to be good role models for the younger children now they are the oldest in our school and so far they are doing a great job!

In English, we have continued with a range of genres for writing, including poetry, narrative, non-chronological reports and recounts. Their stamina for writing has greatly improved, along with their handwriting and punctuation. In maths, we have mainly been working on addition and subtraction strategies where they are using pictorial representations to support their calculations. We have also completed a unit on 2D and 3D shapes and the children have become more competent at identifying, naming and describing the properties of these shapes. In our Foundation subjects, the children have greatly enjoyed our history topic of "How we learnt to fly" and have retained many key facts, dates and information about the significant events and people. In science, they have loved to show their scientific exploration skills in the outdoors when learning about microhabitats and setting up investigations where they made conclusions about their findings – we have some keen scientists in the making! In PE, the children enjoyed their dance units and created some fantastic routines in pairs using a circus theme. In PSHCE, the children have enjoyed the unit on celebrating differences including some important lessons about how we can celebrate differences and individuality.

Thank you for all your support throughout this first term. We hope you have an enjoyable and restful Christmas break with your friends and family and we look forward to having the children back in the New Year ready to start their next term in Year 2.

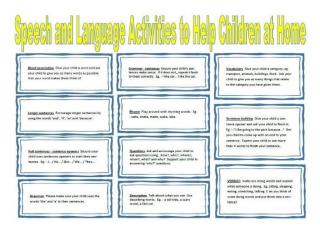


Spoken English

At Burbage Infants we place a strong emphasis on developing our students' vocabulary, communication skills and understanding of language. While we provide a range of activities and exercises in the classroom, we would like to emphasise the significant role parents play in further enhancing these skills at home.

Reading

Reading is a fundamental skill that plays a significant role in your child's overall development and academic progress. In order to monitor and support your child's progress in reading, we kindly request that you record the reading skills books and phonics books your child has read at home; these need to be written inside their *Reading Record*. We understand that busy schedules can sometimes make it challenging to find time for reading. However, we strongly recommend allocating a specific time each day, dedicated to reading with your child.





Applying for an Infant or Junior School Place 2024

If you have a younger child due to start the Infant School in August 2024 - or a child currently in Year 2 due to transition to the Junior School - and you have not already applied for a school place, please follow this link: Leicestershire County Council Primary School Applications

Please note, the deadline for applications for both infant and junior places is 15th January 2024.

Here is the new Virtual Tour of our school. Please feel free to share this: <u>Burbage Infants' Virtual</u> Tour



SENCo Update

I shall be sending out a Christmas edition of our new SEND newsletter this week with details of the next 'Time to Talk' session and other information that you might find useful.

As this is a new venture, we would appreciate parent feedback on whether or not you find it helpful and if there is anything you would particularly like included in the next edition.

Thank you.

Kind regards,

Philippa Jesson



Pupil Premium

The Pupil Premium Grant is additional funding allocated to publicly funded schools to raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils and support pupils with parents in the armed forces. The school uses the grant to support these groups, which comprise pupils with a range of different abilities, to narrow any achievement gaps between them and their peers. We also recognise that not all pupils eligible for pupil premium funding will have lower attainment than their peers. In such cases, the grant will be used to help improve pupils' progress and attainment so that they can reach their full potential. This is delivered in a variety of ways - please see our Pupil Premium Policy details.

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







Collective Worship

During Collective Worship this term we have continued to think about our school 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 *Trust*.

We have been talking with the children about the value of **Trust**. We have explored what it means to be trustworthy and have used an acrostic poem to think about what trust involves:

Trust is ...

Taking someone at their word

Relying on someone to support you

Unbreakable promises

Showing that you can be trustworthy

Treasuring good friends

Special Services

In November we joined members of the community and other local schools in Pughes' Paddock for our service of Remembrance. We laid down our handmade poppy wreaths and shared songs and poems in commemoration.









PE and Sport

The children have had a good term in PE and school sports. Our Sports Council is up and running and they are promoting and providing activities every Monday. In our games sessions, the children have been working on 'invasion sports'. They have been working really hard on uni-hoc and ball skills which build towards basketball/netball.

In our class teacher PE this half term, the children have been doing dance. They have enjoyed the different themes that provide a stimulus for dance and have worked in pairs to develop their own routines. We are looking forward to returning to gymnastics after half-term with a view to a small group of Year 2 children participating in a local area gymnastics competition.

This half-term a group of children have also competed in a boccia tournament at Green Towers in Hinckley. The children represented our school well and came away with second place, scoring very highly against the other teams. Some children also took part this half-term in lots of fun activities at a 'Change for Life Festival' and they then shared their experiences with the rest of the school.



Online Safety

Setting up new devices for children can be a daunting task, but it is important to take the time to do so properly. By following these tips for the National Online Safety Team, you can help to ensure that your child's device is safe and secure.





NSPCC 'Speak Out. Stay Safe' Programme

Years 1 & 2 participated in the NSPCC's 'Speak out. Stay safe.' Programme on Tuesday 21st November 2023. 'Speak out. Stay safe.' is a programme for children aged 5-11 which aims to help children understand abuse in all its forms and to recognise the signs of abuse. Children were taught to speak out to a safe adult if they are worried.

The content was delivered in an engaging and interactive way with the help of the NSPCC mascot Buddy and a virtual assembly including Ant and Dec. An NSPCC volunteer led face-to-face workshops for children in Year 2.

If you would like to know more about the 'Speak out. Stay safe.' programme, please visit www.nspcc.org.uk/speakout

Reception classes have used the NSPCC 'Talk PANTS' resources and the *Pantosaurus* storybook to introduce the PANTS rules and help keep safe. www.nspcc.org.uk/pants

As always, if you have any concerns and the safety of a child, please speak directly to Mrs Barwell, Designated Safeguarding Lead at school. Thank you.



Head Bumps

From January we shall be implementing a new system to advise you of your child's head bump via email on ParentMail (all three year groups). The wording of the email will be as below. The class teachers will continue to hand the first aid slips to you at pick-up.

Dear Parent/Carer,

This is a message to advise you that your child has had a bump to the head today.

We will continue to monitor your child in school and give you a ring immediately if we have any concerns.

Below is the guidance from the NHS regarding head injuries for you to reference at home:

https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-injury-and-concussion/

Kind regards,

Burbage Infants



At the beginning of the school year, all Year 1 and 2 classes elected two new school councillors to represent them at school council meetings with Mrs Barwell. The school council regularly discuss ways to make our school even better and takes on roles of responsibility to promote national events and represent Burbage C of E Infants in the community.

Time Capsule

Earlier this term, we were invited by Burbage Parish Council to put together a time capsule to be buried alongside a new tree being planted to mark the ascension of King Charles III. The school councillors discussed this with their classes and shared ideas at the school council meeting. We decided to include a map of the school, timetables, photographs, Golden Rules poster, our school vision & values, the school badge, examples of work, pictures of our favourite books and a school dinner menu! Burbage Juniors added to the time capsule too.

The Year 2 school councillors attended the tree planting ceremony, along with other local schools and members of the community, to bury the time capsule at Far Lash Open Space in Burbage.

Anti-bullying Week

As a school, we always support Anti-Bullying Week. The theme this year was 'Make a Noise About Bullying' and the children completed activities to support their understanding of what bullying is and what we can do to stop it. We use the word 'STOP' to help the children to understand that bullying is unkind words or actions Several Times On Purpose and that they need to Start Telling Other People. The school councillors shared examples of work from their classes and will continue to think about how we can promote this further in school.

The school councillors have also promoted our charity work. They took it in turns to visit all classes daily to sell poppies to support the work of The Royal British Legion. Thank you to everyone who donated to this (we raised an amazing £353.12!) and to our other charity work, including the foodbank collection at Harvest time (£96.45 worth of food).

PTFA Raffle Draw

Our Year 1 school councillors completed one final task this term; they had the responsibility of drawing the winning entries for the PTFA's raffle! Congratulations to everyone who won.

We look forward to continuing our school council meetings next term and will welcome representatives from the Reception classes too.

















PTFA News

We have lots of super events planned for the new year including movie night, discos and non-uniform day. We'll confirm dates and information about how to sign your child up to these events in the new year.

In the meantime the PTFA would like to thank everyone for their support in 2023, and to wish you a very Happy Christmas. We look forward to seeing you all for another busy year of fundraising events in 2024!

Kind regards,

Nicky Thorington

PTFA Chair



School Term Dates

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

Please see attached images for our spring and summer 2024

<u>Dates for Your Diary - Spring & Summer Terms 2024</u>



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