

Burbage Junior School

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September 2018

Newsletter 1



This is the first newsletter for this academic year, and I would like to give a very warm welcome to all the new children and parents that have started this term. I am sure you will join me in welcoming a few new members of staff, including Miss Brennan, Mr Little, and Mrs Graham who has joined us for this year from the Infant School. Also, Mrs Peckover, who has joined us as Deputy Headteacher. As I am sure you will know, I am now permanently the Executive Headteacher for both the Infant School and the Junior School, with Mrs Barwell (Infants) and Mrs Peckover (Juniors) supporting me as Deputies. It has been a busy, but exciting year, for both schools, with many great achievements. We were especially delighted with the Year 6 SATs results at the Juniors. Significant gains were made in all subjects (of 10% +) compared to the previous year. 73% of children achieved the expected standard in all areas. This is 12% higher than the 2017 results and 9% above the results for all children nationally. I would personally like to congratulate all children in Year 6 last year for their hard work and perseverance. Whatever your results, you all made massive progress, and you're all amazing. I am so proud of each and every one of you!

The new arrangements mean that the two schools can work together much more closely than has been possible in the past, and we have already met jointly this term to plan how we can develop the curriculum across both schools to be much more comprehensive and cohesive. We still have many plans that we want to undertake, and this is only the start of the journey for us, but we feel these early achievements demonstrate the hard work and determination that we all have to make Burbage Infant and Burbage Junior School the best possible primary provision it can be. Thank you for your support with this.

Mrs Karen Allen

End-of-year Questionnaires

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete our end-of-year questionnaires; we had 126 responses. They are incredibly useful in helping us to understand your concerns and priorities.

We were overwhelmed by the large number of very appreciative comments we received about our staff and Burbage Junior's caring environment.

There are a number of areas we are currently working on as a result of your feedback. A few parents felt more feedback on children's progress would be helpful. We had already planned to send additional updates about progress as part of the interim reports parents receive in at Christmas and Easter, so we hope this will help here. We are also planning a wider range of clubs beyond sporting activities. We are currently investigating setting up some Forest School provision at the school, for example. We are also reviewing how and when we communicate with parents to ensure you have timely and regular information about the school's work.

	(NB, due to rounding, the totals will not always equal 100%)	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
1	My child has enjoyed school.	80 63%	44 35%	1 1%	1 1%	0
2	My child has made good progress this year.	85 67%	36 29%	2 2%	2 2%	1 1%
3	The school keeps me informed about my child's progress.	38 30%	72 57%	12 10%	2 2%	2 2%
4	My child receives the right amount and variety of homework.	37 29%	67 53%	17 13%	2 2%	3 2%
5	Behaviour in school is good and any issues are dealt with effectively.	39 31%	75 60%	5 4%	1 1%	6 5%
6	The school offers a good range of high quality, value for money after-school clubs.	36 29%	59 47%	12 10%	0	19 15%
7	The school's methods of communication with parents (including texts and emails) are effective.	72 57%	47 37%	6 5%	1 1%	0

Mischief Makers Writing Competition

Well done to all the children who have handed in their entries to our writing competition; we have loved reading all of your short stories! Whilst it was incredibly difficult to choose winners from each year group, these were announced in our Friday assembly:

	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Winner	Emilia L	Tom H	Lucy W	Joe D
2nd	Alyssa B	Abigail H	Isla M	Chloe C
3rd	Joshua H	Noah M	Scarlett S	Evie A



Summer Reading Challenge

It has been encouraging to see how many of our pupils participated in the public libraries' reading challenge over the summer holidays. Prizes for most enthusiastic readers were also announced. Our lucky winners were: Polly in 3G, Eva in 4D, Archie in 5P and Finley in 6B.

Thank you to all our parents who encourage their children to read widely and have supported the reading challenge.

HELP WANTED!

Could you spare a couple of hours a week?
If so, Mrs Peckover would love to hear from you!



We are currently looking for volunteers (subject to DBS checks) to take part in both our bookworm scheme (to come in to school and listen to our children read) as well as any keen gardeners (similar to the army of volunteers over at the Infant school). However, if you have any other interests and talents that you think we could utilise, please get in touch on the school number or send an email via the school office.

Parents' Week

During the week beginning 1st October we will be having Parents' Week. This provides an early opportunity to meet your child's new teacher and exchange information. Letters to arrange appointments will be with you shortly.



During the Summer holidays, Clubszone ran their 6 week Activity Club. Once again, this was a huge success. Please check out their website www.clubszone.co.uk for more information on up and coming school holidays.

Grove Road School's PTA

We are incredibly lucky to have a fantastic PTA here at Burbage who work incredibly hard to raise money for both the Infant and Junior schools. Recently, their efforts have resulted in an update to our fantastic library (which, we would argue, is possibly one of the best junior school libraries in the county), 30 new tablets, redecoration of the school hall, picnic tables and benches, costumes for the Year 6 production, as well as contributions towards our school trips.

Autumn/Winter Events:

Spooky Bingo—Friday 26th October

Christmas Fair—Date TBC

Secret Room—w/c 3rd December

Christmas Raffle

Christmas Cards and Gifts

If you are able to help in any way (manning an event, stapling books of raffle tickets, work for a company who matches donations), even if it is only for one event, for a couple of hours, please email sbarker@groveroadschoolspta.org.uk

Please like our Facebook page: Grove Road Schools PTA

Uniform

It is so lovely to see the children in their school uniforms at the start of the new academic year. As always, they look fabulous and we thank you for your continued support. Throughout the year, replacements can be purchased from the **Hole in the Wall** or **Swifts** in Hinckley or through Tesco online.

Lost Property

Please ensure that **all** items are clearly named as we always endeavour to return named lost property to its owner. We store unclaimed, unnamed lost property for a period of four weeks in the lost property drawers in the foyer. After this time, any unclaimed items are recycled.

Parents' Coffee Morning

Thank you to everyone who attended our parents' coffee morning last week. It was lovely to see so many of you and share our recent successes and listen to your thoughts and ideas.

We are hoping to make this a half-termly event and hope to see you again at the next time.

Sal's Shoes

At the end of last term our children donated their old school shoes along with £1 to Sal's Shoes. The shoes are to be sent off to Africa to children who don't have any.

Our children donated an amazing **358** pairs of shoes, an increase of 24 pairs on last year!

The shoes will be delivered to Sal's Shoes **FREE** of charge by Mr Jim Barfield, Company Director from **Inter-city Couriers Ltd**, (boxes supplied by Henry & Sons removals).

Thank you to everyone who took part.



Burbage Junior School Academic Year Term Dates 2018-2019

2018

AUTUMN TERM

School Opens	Thursday 30 th August 2018
Mid-Term Break	Monday 15 th - Friday 19 th October 2018
School Closes	Friday 21 st December 2018

2019

SPRING TERM

School Opens	Tuesday 8 th January 2019
Mid-Term Break	Monday 18 th - Friday 22 nd February 2019
School Closes	Friday 12 th April 2019

SUMMER TERM

School Opens	Monday 29 th April 2019
May Day	Monday 6 th May 2019
Mid-Term Break	Monday 27 th May - Friday 31 st May 2019
School Closes	Friday 12 th July 2019

NB These dates have been agreed across the local family of schools and are slightly different to those posted on the County Council Website.

New Year Reminders...

Drinks & Snacks

We encourage our children to keep their brains hydrated throughout the day! Therefore, please could you ensure that they have some water with them each morning.

We would also ask that children bring a mid-morning snack of fruit or vegetables as part of our commitment to being a Healthy School.



Going Nuts!

A reminder that, due to the number of children with life threatening nut allergies, we ask that nuts are not included in either mid-morning snacks or lunch boxes. Thank you for your co-operation with this.

Reminder regarding illness

If your child is absent due to illness, please can you notify us as early as possible, on each day of absence, with a phone call to the school office or through your ParentMail account.

Car Park

We have now made arrangements for children to bring their scooters and bikes through the green gates and around the back of the school so that they no longer have to cross the car park.

We would also ask that parents do not block the road outside of the school gates as we do need to maintain access to the car park at all times.

We have also had a number of complaints about inconsiderate parking and would just ask for your continued support in this matter.

Mobile Phones



Pupils are allowed mobile phones in special circumstances (when explained by parental letter). These should then be handed into the office for safe-keeping throughout the day.

ParentMail (Year 3)

At the start of the new year, please can you ensure that you **log** into your Parent-mail account. This will then show us that your account is still 'Active'. Payments can be made through your account. Should you have any difficulties please contact the school office.

Scooters and Cycles

Year 6 children who have passed their cycling proficiency may cycle to school. Children in other year groups should be accompanied by a parent if they wish to use their bike.

