



Burbage Junior School Summer Newsletter 2023



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Executive Headteacher's Message



Dear parents/carers

What a marvellous year we have had! It has been busy with lots of fun. I could not think of a better place to lead two schools. Thank you for all of your parental support this year.

Over this year, we have been reviewing our curriculum, implementing some changes. The 2023-2024 year will begin with everything in place- creating continuity between both schools- striving towards a world-class primary education for your child.

One of my favourite moments this term has been watching all of our lovely children take part in Sports Day- a real showcase of skill, determination and resilience. It has been such a successful year of competitive sport. The children have represented their school with pride. Mr Little and Mr Probert are looking forward to next year's events!

Our End of Key Stage Two outcomes are incredible!! Placing us significantly above the national average- preparing our children superbly for the start of Year 7. I am very proud of each child and I know they will work hard and try their best. The Year 6 Leavers Assembly was wonderful- children showing creativity and confidence.

On a sad note, we have to say goodbye to Miss Bannister and Mrs Brown who embark on a teaching post in the new academic year. Mrs Warren is retiring and Mrs Glenn, Mrs Caiger, Mr Durose and Mrs Stace leave us for pastures new. I would like to say thank you for their hard work over the years- we will all miss them. Mrs Jesson will still be working at Burbage Infants. Miss Bass and Mrs Silva will still be with us at midday.

A big farewell is in order for Mrs Matthews- who after 50 years at B.J.S- is retiring. So many families know Mrs Matthews and I'm sure we can all agree that she is irreplaceable! We all wish her a happy, well-deserved retirement.

In the new year, we welcome Mrs Lucas as our Special Educational Needs Coordinator and Mr Tilbury as our School Business Manager.

I do have exciting news to share... over the Summer holidays work is being undertaken in the school hall. The Governing Board have commissioned a re-decoration. In addition, we have reviewed our classroom environments and staff will be reducing information on the walls- creating a calming environment which reduces sensory overload. Our generous PTFA have also funded reading areas for all 12 classrooms- each bespoke design has been created by our very talented artist Mrs Barrs. Thank you to her for these wonderful designs that will encourage children to read more! Alongside this, Mrs Paterson has invested in new reading books for all reading areas- to encourage everyone to access 'Our 100 Books To Read' before they leave Burbage Junior School.

In addition, LCC are replacing some of the flat roofing at the Infant School. Due to these works, the Infant staff may need to park on Grove Road, so there may be limited roadside parking during this time- please accept my apologies for this inconvenience. If you are in walking distance, my advice is to avoid transport in vehicles- if you can.

Wishing all of our families a superb Summer holiday. On behalf of all of the Burbage Junior team, we look forward to greeting you all on Tuesday 29th August at the start time of 8:55am.

Kind regards

Mrs ZA Driver

Internet Safety



Lego Build and Talk

The NSPCC, UNICEF and LEGO have teamed up to create 'Build and Talk'. There are 5 LEGO activities to help you talk with your children about digital safety and wellbeing over some LEGO building.

Open the activity on your tablet or phone (a bigger screen will be better). Grab your LEGO bricks (or a pen and paper) and find a comfy, quiet place to sit together. Read the story aloud to your child. You'll find hints on what they need to build as you go along. Use the suggested questions and conversation prompts to start chatting about digital safety and wellbeing.

There are hints and tips on how to handle any tricky questions and links to websites for further support.

PE events round up



This term started extremely well with a group of children competing in an indoor athletics county final at Loughborough University. The team finished second with four of the children receiving the bronze national award for their performance.

This term we have also taken year four children to compete in a cricket festival and the year three/four girls competed in a football festival held at the school, with one team remaining unbeaten in all of their games.

All year groups competed in quad kids narrowly missing out on a place in the county final.

All year groups also competed in a quick stick hockey tournament with both teams remaining unbeaten and the year five/six team progressing to the county final.

The netball team continued to win every game and also qualified for the county final at Loughborough.

Over thirty children competed at the area sports at Saffron Lane. Burbage finished 3rd overall with some outstanding performances. Well done to the year six boys who won overall and a special mention to Ettie (in year four) who broke the sprint championship record with an outstanding run.

A group of children also had the opportunity to compete in a tri-golf festival and a tennis festival gaining valuable skills along the way.

All children in the school experienced a coaching session run by Leicester Tigers. A group of year 6 boys and girls were then selected to represent the school at Welford Road in a rugby festival, winning every game and scoring lots of tries.

A group of 8 children represented the school in the swimming county final held at Uppingham School. Every one of them performed so well and deservedly won the trophy on the day making them county swimming champions.

To finish the sporting calendar, the hockey and netball team travelled to Loughborough to represent Hinckley and Bosworth. The standard at this event is extremely high. The netball team finished

5th overall after narrowly losing only two games. The hockey team finished fourth, also narrowly losing two games on the day.

As you can see this has been an outstanding year for Burbage sport and a massive thank you to all who have assisted and contributed along the way.

Mr Little

Music News

The children have now all enjoyed their first term learning music through our new Charanga scheme. They have all memorised a song and have learned to play along to it with their glockenspiels. They have had the opportunity to listen to other music from the genre of the song they have studied. We are looking forward to listening to a wide variety of genres and composers in the coming year.

We are very lucky to have had performances from some of our many musicians this term, with a concert held by the violinists, drummers, guitarists, trumpeters and our own orchestra. Many children were nervous, but they didn't let their nerves get the better of them and showed us the best versions of themselves. It was such a treat for us to see the children shine. If your child is interested in taking up learning a musical instrument, please come and ask at the office for more details.

We are very excited to announce that for the next academic year we have signed up to take part in Young Voices. This is a mass choir event held in Birmingham. More details about how your child can take part will be sent out at the start of the autumn term.

Languages day.

On May the fourth, we were lucky enough to visit the luxurious Dixie Grammar School. When we arrived we were greeted with a delicious French croissant sided with a range of juices. Then, we were divided into two groups - red group which consisted of sixteen children and blue group which consisted of twelve children. At this point, the blue group went to do some cooking and made delicious biscuits and the red group did the amazing language of German, they also did some fun computing. After we had done these activities, we returned to the main hall and had a chocolate chip cookie and juice. When we had finished consuming our tasty cookie, we went outside for a half an hour break where we had a great time playing with our friends or new friends we had made. After break, blue group did Mandarin and German meanwhile red group were doing cooking. After we had all finished our lessons, we all came together to do music after which, we went back to the main hall. After arriving back at the hall, we had the choice of a warm roast dinner or a cold sandwich with an optional dessert. After we had finished lunch, we went out for a break and, lucky for us, it was a very sunny day so we had a great time. When we had concluded our lovely break we had to do another register to reassure everyone was there. After we finished the register, we got onto two minibuses and had a three-minute drive to a fabulous sports ground. When we got there, we went over a few instructions and rules and did a warm up and after that we played some games it was a lot of fun. At three o'clock, our parents came to collect us and try our biscuits we made earlier in the day. Then it was time to go home. It was a bit sad to leave but we were very grateful that we were able to come to this amazing, fun and exhilarating languages day at Dixie Grammar school.

By Darcy and Seb.

5BG BJS



Year 3 news

Year 3 have been very busy! At the start of this term, we had a visitor from Portals from the Past who ran a Roman day workshop for the children. This was a great day filled with warrior training; fact-finding activities and lots of fun! We are in the process of making our sunglasses cases in Design Technology in time for the summer holidays! We have spent lots of time outside learning about plants and investigating the ideal conditions for growing plants.





Year 4 news

Year 4 have been enjoying a busy Summer Term.

We started the term with our trip to the Battle of Bosworth Heritage site. During the day, we enjoyed a sunny and informative walk around the battle site, visited the museum, tried on a range of armour and took part in a bill drill and enjoyed watching a skilled archer while learning all about the weapons used in the battle.

In English, we've been getting passionate about our writing topics. It has been fascinating to learn about the life of deaf solo percussionist Evelyn Glennie while writing a biography about her life. We were able to appreciate the range of obstacles that she overcame to achieve her dreams by showing real perseverance. We have also been debating 'Do we still need zoos?' to enable writing a balanced argument.

During our Design and Technology lessons, we have been baking a selection of sponge cakes flavoured with different ingredients. We have evaluated our bakes by sampling all of the flavours and voted for our favourite - the overall year group's preferred choice was the iced sponge cake! Again, we learned of chefs (Mary Berry and Jamie Oliver) who have so successfully overcome disabilities. This has inspired Year 4 children to understand that everyone can achieve their dreams.

Our music lessons have focused on ABBA with some enthusiastic performances singing 'Mamma Mia!' and playing on the glockenspiels.





Year 5 news

Over the past few months, Year 5 have boarded the Titanic, explored Mount Everest and put our sewing skills to the test. In our writing lessons, we have learnt about the devastating sinking of the Titanic whilst exploring what life was like on board for passengers of different classes and ultimately debating over who was responsible for the tragedy. The children produced some of their best pieces of writing this year and the emotive recounts they wrote in their diary entries had us reaching for the tissues!

In our DT topic this term, the children researched, designed and made their own tote bags. We practised running, back and blanket stitch and each had a go at sewing on a button. Their finished work is brilliant and their resilience was seriously put to the test when threading needles and detangling thread.

We have also had the opportunity to venture out into our local area and used this trip to gather information on the shops and facilities available to us in Burbage, to then design our own shop or business that could fill the gap in the market. This has been complemented by our new science topic, Life Cycles, in which we have studied our local environment to find and investigate different stages of plant's, animal's and insect's life cycles.





Year 6 news

It has been a busy few weeks in Year 6! We were really proud of how calmly our pupils coped with the SATs - they took each test in their stride!

We were then treated to an informative and enjoyable World War 2 day, delivered by Historic Workshops. Pupils were able to handle a large collection of artefacts from the period, were trained in the role of an ARP warden (putting out "fires" and bandaging the "wounded"!) and listened to a really interesting timeline talk.

Year 6s are now finding time to rehearse for their Leavers' Play, in between learning about light in science, maths calculator skills, map skills in geography, and much more in this busy term - fitting in their much-anticipated three day residential to Beaumanor Hall as well!





PTFA update



What a busy summer term we've had! From the scarecrow festival to discos to the virtual book fair to many 'Frozen Fridays'! Thank you to everyone that's supported us and the biggest thank you to everyone that's committed their time to running one or more of these events. We'll be kicking the autumn term off with our FundRAISIN challenge and a movie night so watch out for details of those after the holidays. Have a wonderful summer!

Thank you.

Kind regards,

Nicola Cross

PTFA Chair

Summer reading challenge



Developed in collaboration with the Youth Sport Trust, the 2023 Summer Reading Challenge will celebrate play and participation, encouraging children to get involved in games and sports in any way that best suits them.

To add to the fun, children taking part in Ready, Set, Read! get a FREE entry to Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre, 1485 Tithe Barn and Country Park, as well as The 1620's House and Garden at Donington le Heath. Each child must produce their fold-out wallet and be accompanied by a full paying adult.

All you need to do is visit your local library and sign up for the challenge. You will receive a special folder to record the books you have read and use it to collect your stickers and rewards.

Save the date!

On Wednesday 13th September we will be holding a curriculum evening for parents. This will take place from 3.45-4.45pm.

All other dates for the year will be sent out via WeDuc during the Autumn Term.

Leicestershire term dates

Autumn Term

Staff training days: Thursday 24th & Friday 25th August 2023

School Opens- Tuesday 29th August

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

School Closes- Friday 22nd December

Spring Term

Staff training day- Friday 5th January 2024

School opens- Monday 8th January 2024

Mid-Term Break- Monday 19th to Friday 23rd February 2024

School closes- Friday 22nd March 2024

Summer Term

School opens- Monday 8th April 2024

May Day Bank Holiday- Monday 6th May 2024

Mid-Term Break- Monday 27th to Friday 31st May 2024

School Closes- Tuesday 9th July 2024

Staff training days- Wednesday 10th and Thursday 11th July 2024