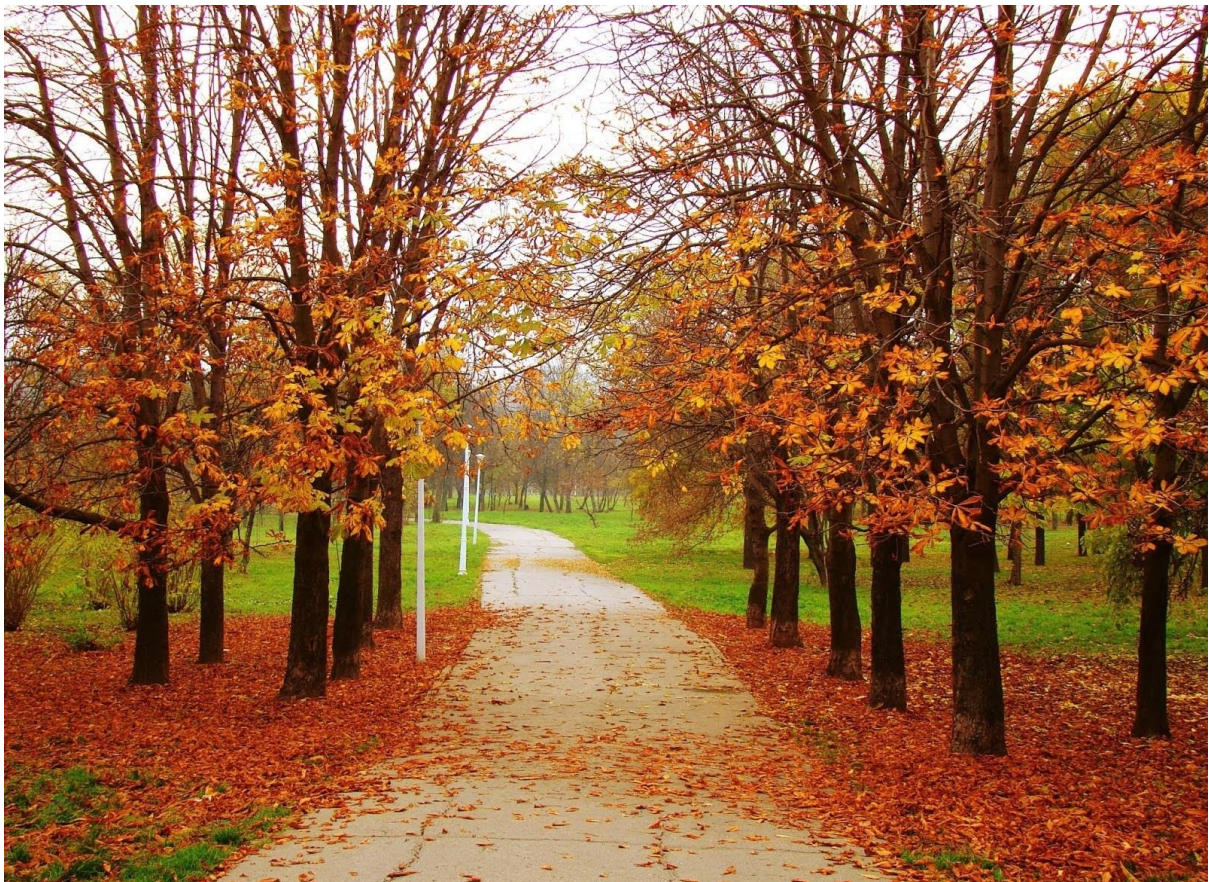




Burbage Junior School Newsletter October 2023

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Executive headteacher's message



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this newsletter finds you well as we embark on a new academic year at Burbage Junior School. It gives me immense pleasure to share some exciting updates and achievements from our school community.

Outstanding Key Stage 2 SATs Results

Hopefully, you have all had the opportunity to read the first letter from our new Chair of Governors, Rebecca Jones, who was delighted to announce that our Key Stage 2 pupils achieved superb SATs results were well above the national average. This accomplishment is a testament to the dedication and hard work of our pupils, teachers, and support staff. Congratulations to all involved!

Exemplary Representation in Sporting Events

Our pupils have already represented our school in various sporting events, where they not only showcased their athletic skills but also demonstrated our school's vision and values. We are proud of their sportsmanship and commitment to excellence.

A Passion for Learning

Our pupils continue to impress us with their enthusiasm and eagerness to learn. Their curiosity and willingness to recall past learning and explore new concepts are at the core of our pedagogical approach. To keep parents and carers informed about the exciting learning journey ahead, our dedicated teachers are currently devising new curriculum maps. These will be readily accessible on our school website, providing you with insights into what your child will be studying this academic year.

Enhanced Reading Environments

We have introduced new reading areas within classrooms to foster a love for reading among our pupils. A diverse selection of reading books is now available to cater to different interests and reading levels. These are texts from the '100 books to read before you leave BJS'. This can be found on our school website: please click [here](#).

Upcoming School Library

In the near future, our school library will be available for both parents and children to use. Save the date: 30th October, 3:30pm. We believe that a well-equipped library is a gateway to a world of knowledge and imagination, and we are excited to share more information about its opening soon.

I want to express my gratitude to our incredible staff, parents, and carers for their unwavering support in making our school community thrive. Together, we will continue to provide a nurturing environment where every child can reach their full potential. As a result, this year we have launched a new approach to social and emotional support. We are now a Thrive school. Thrive offers a trauma-informed, whole school or setting approach to improving the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people. We currently have 2 licensed Thrive practitioners. We will aim to share more information about Thrive, with you all, over this academic year. For more information about Thrive please visit: <https://www.thriveapproach.com/>

As we journey through the autumn term, let us remain committed to the growth and success of our pupils. Please keep an eye out for further updates and upcoming events.

Thank you for being a part of our wonderful school family.

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. This year, governors and senior leaders are working together to create a strategic plan for our school which incorporates our school vision and values. Once this is in place, our focus is to create a three-year strategy of priorities to ensure we achieve this vision.

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 meet 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.

We would like to invite parents to our first governor **coffee morning for parents and carers on Wednesday 22nd November at 8:45am**. We would like to speak to our parents and talk more about the role governors play in improving our school for all our children.

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

Pupil Premium

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.

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 £1455 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.

Miss Beighton is the lead member of staff who decides how this should best this money should be spent, along with Mrs Driver and it is my role to meet with her to find out what school are 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

Hi all. My name is Kishan Pankhania and I've been a co-opted governor at Burbage Junior's for nearly a year now. Time flies!

My day job is heading up an anti-economic crime function for a world-wide payments firm. Money launderers and terrorist financiers beware! Naturally, with my finance background, I offer oversight and guidance to the school's financial situation. My goal is to help improve how much we can invest in BJS infrastructure, tools and capabilities to enhance the children's time at school.

Why is finance important? Our local schools are under pressure to deliver quality teaching with minimal resources to do it. Every penny in the budget makes a difference so keeping tight control of spending is vital. If you think budgeting for your own home is hard, imagine the job for an entire school!

Why is being a governor important to me? I'm hugely passionate about trying to do everything within my gift to help kids get the best start in life. Adding value to the local community as well as being (a very small part) of the success of the next generation just seems incredible.

I look forward to meeting some of you in the near future. Until then, thanks for reading!

Kish

Finance Monitoring Governor



APPLICATION FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS

If you require any assistance with applying or require any advice about your eligibility, please telephone LTS Catering Services on 0116 305 5417

free.school.meals@lts.org.uk

Please note that the date of entitlement to Free School Meals is the date we receive a valid application and eligibility is confirmed. **NO PROOF OF BENEFIT IS REQUIRED AT THIS STAGE.**

BENEFIT CLAIMANT DETAILS - Please Complete ALL boxes for your claim to be processed.

Surname		First Name
<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>
Mr/Mrs/Miss Ms	Date of Birth	National Insurance Or NASS Reg Number
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Address		
<input type="text"/>		
<input type="text"/>		
<input type="text"/>		
Post Code	Contact Telephone Number	
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
Relationship to Child(ren)		
<input type="text"/>		

CARER/GUARDIAN (if different from above)

Surname		First Name
<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>
Mr/Mrs/Miss Ms	Date of Birth	National Insurance or NASS Reg Number
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Address		
<input type="text"/>		
<input type="text"/>		
<input type="text"/>		
Post Code	Contact Telephone Number	
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
Relationship to Child(ren)		
<input type="text"/>		

NAMES AND DETAILS OF CHILD(REN) IN FULL – TIME EDUCATION

Surname	First Name	Date of Birth	Name of School Attending

BENEFIT DETAIL(S) – (You must be in receipt of one of the following benefits to claim Free School Meals). Please tick the appropriate box.

- ☐ Income Support OR Income-based Job Seekers Allowance
- ☐ Child Tax Credit with an annual taxable income assessed by HMRC of less than £16,190 (If you or your partner also receive Working Tax Credit you **DO NOT** qualify for free school meals regardless of income). **NB** From the 1st May 2009 where a parent is entitled to Working Tax Credit during the 4-week period immediately after employment ends, or after they start to work less than 16 hours per week, they will be eligible to claim free school meals for that 4-week period.
- ☐ The Guarantee Element of state Pension Credit.
- ☐ Support under Part VI of Immigration & Asylum Act 1999.
- ☐ Employment and Support Allowance (**Income Related**).
- ☐ Universal Credit, with an annual income less than £7,400

Data Protection Act 1998: The information that you give on this form will be used for the purpose of processing your free school meals application. Your education authority is under a duty to protect the public funds that it handles and may use the information you have provided on this form to prevent and detect fraud. It may also share this information for the same purposes, with other organisations that handle public funds.

DECLARATION – (to be signed by the parent who is in receipt of one of the qualifying benefits – as detailed above).

I understand that my entitlement to Free School Lunches will continue for only as long as I received one of the qualifying benefits and I agree to inform you immediately if my benefit or tax credit situation changes, or if I change my address. If for any reason I fail to inform you, I agree to repay the cost of meals taken whilst not entitled.

I certify that the information given on this form is to the best of my knowledge and belief correct, and I agree that you will use the information I have provided to process my claim for free school meals and will contact other sources as allowed by the law to verify my initial, ongoing, entitlement. **NB APPLICANTS GIVING FALSE INFORMATION MAY BE LIABLE TO PROSECUTION.**

Signature of Benefit Claimant _____
Date _____

RETURN TO: LTS Catering
Room G10, County Hall, Glenfield, Leicestershire, LE3 8RE

Sports update

A big well done to all children who have represented the school in the last half term. This term is always the quietest before the madness begins after half term. The boys 7v7 football team comfortably won their group in the local tournament but narrowly missed out on going to the counties with a 1-0 loss in the final. This was followed a week later with the girls' year 5/6 football team playing their tournament. Once again, some outstanding play in the round robin which got the girls to the final. Unfortunately, this went the same way as the boys with a narrow 1-0 loss. Both the boys and girls will continue to have some league games over the next half term. The boys will also start their Rice Bowl journey with a game at the beginning of November against Kirby Muxloe.

The first cross country meet took place at Groby and we had nearly 50 runners representing the school with some outstanding individual results. The main cross-country races (now taking place at Mallory Park) start in October so please look out for the letter and how to register online for the event. Hopefully I will see the same runners and a few more new faces. A group of children also attended Green Towers and competed in an Inspire event. They sampled lots of games and all had an amazing time learning new skills.

Taking place next term will be Boccia, year 3/4 tag rugby, cross country, boys' and girls' football, 5/6 basketball, change 4 life festival, Sports hall athletics and dodgeball. Sport continues to grow each year at Burbage and I hope to see as many children as possible represent the school. Please look out for all of these updates in the next newsletter.

Mr Little

Judo Champion

Congratulations to Kayleigh in 6AR. Kayleigh recently travelled all the way to London for the English Judo Open competition. She took part in the '52s and under' category and had 3 fights- two against a green belt and one against an orange belt, but still came away with the GOLD MEDAL! Well done Kayleigh!!

She is now looking forward to competing in the British Schools competition later in the year.

Pupil Premium

Pupil premium is a grant the school receives to provide extra support for children who are eligible either through being in receipt of free school meals, looked after (in care), fostered or adopted or has a parent in the forces. All children receive free school meals until they are 7 so you may not have applied previously. However, as the Free School Meals scheme ends when your child is 7 it is worth checking to see if you qualify.

If you are not sure if you qualify for free school meals, please use the following link for further information:

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/education-and-children/social-care-and-supporting-families/free-school-meals>

It does not matter which year your child is in when you apply.

This year we will be offering a selection of support to those registered for pupil premium. This is reviewed at the end of each term.

- Group or 1:1 intervention
- Focused classroom support
- CGP revision guides for year 6 children
- One book per term from the BJS Top 100 Books
- A contribution towards educational visits / external school visitors
- £100 per term towards music lessons or after school sports clubs
- Free attendance to breakfast club – email kidsspaceclubs@gmail.com and state that your child is eligible for FSM.

It is at the school's and class teacher's discretion as to what support your child receives dependent on their needs. However, we do ask that if you have any concerns please speak to your class teacher in the first instance.

If you have any questions, please ask.

Kind regards,

Miss Beighton

SENCO Reminder

Our new SENCO is Mrs Lucas.

Just a reminder that we now offer a weekly 'Time to Talk' parent/carer appointments with Mrs Lucas. This is an opportunity to ask any questions, talk about any concerns you might have or to discuss progress, additional needs or SEN support for your child.

Appointments are available every Tuesday and Thursday at 8:45am and can be made via the office Telephone: 01455 630970, emailing vlucas@burbagejunior.org or messaging via Dojo

Year Groups- Curriculum Update



Year 3 News

In year 3 we have been learning about the Stone Age and Prehistoric times, looking at evidence and reasons for change. We have linked this work to our English topics and even written instructions on how to wash a woolly mammoth which they have thoroughly enjoyed.

In maths ,the children have been working hard to develop their understanding of place value in 3-digit numbers and their addition and subtraction skills. They are starting to use more mathematical vocabulary to explain their thinking too- which is brilliant.

Children have enjoyed making sequences in dance using circle shapes and moving like silk. They have been very creative through this as well as through their sewing when they made cushions. Our next DT task will be to build a castle using 3D shapes which they are all very excited about.

Another engaging experience was when they tried different French food and created a firework picture for Bastille Day celebrations using chalk.

Year 4 News

Year Four has had a busy time. The children have been learning about internet safety in Computing and how to surf the internet safely – watching out for popups and phishing scams. We are now looking at search engines and how you can find out the weather in a different country or the percentage of an amount at the click of a button.

In Science, we have been exploring food chains and looking at how humans and climate change can impact the food chains around us. We have also had great fun building slingshot cars; we have learnt a lot about the importance of measuring and the need for tabs to build accurate cars.

Our English units have been about the great adventures of AJ the dog and Kian as they climb in the foothills of Everest. The children have written and performed play scripts as well as written a diary entry imagining they were climbing the mountain too. This has linked perfectly with our Geography topic on Mountains. The children have loved using atlases and researching all about mountain life.

We have had thoughtful discussions in RE about Christianity and we have looked at our rights and responsibilities in PSHE. This culminated in the class vote for school council representatives. Democracy in action!

In Maths, we continue to work on times tables and your support at home with this is much appreciated

Year 5 News

The children have made a fantastic start to the year and have settled straight into Year 5. We have had a busy half term exploring the Amazon Rainforest, creating rainforest creatures and a rainforest menu that I would not fancy trying! Thankfully, the delights they made in Design and Technology were more successful. The children sampled different Bolognese sauces, before looking at the ingredients and nutritional value. They then designed their own recipe which they created. They all tasted delicious.

The children have been able to further develop their Design and Technology skills by creating a 3D pop-up book suitable for a Year 1 child. They are fantastic and it is clear how hard the children have worked on them. We are sure you will agree when they bring them home.

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. We have had Gardening shops, Sweet shops and a

personal favourite, a Pokemon card trade shop! Keep your eye out in Burbage in case one suddenly appears.

In Science, the children have been looking at Forces. They have been comparing shoes to look at friction, designing the best sailboats to decrease water resistance and increase speed, and investigating paper spinners for air resistance. A very practical half term, which the children have thoroughly enjoyed.

We are looking forward to meeting you at parent's evening after half-term.

The Year 5 Team.

Year 6 News

The Year 6 children are continuing to work hard and are making good progress. Thanks for all of your support during this first half term.

We have completed our first writing unit: Biographies and Autobiographies and enjoyed reading extracts from 'Boy' – one of our 'Hundred Books' choices.

In DT, they have designed a digital, multi-functional navigation tool and a new playground.

Our first science topic was 'Light & Sight' where the children investigated how light travels and made their own shadow puppet.

Their work on rivers and the water cycle in geography will be reinforced next term when they produce their own children's story based on the life cycle of a raindrop.

They have now completed their dance unit and first invasion games unit in PE.

Message from the PTFA



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 bookbags 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.

Have a wonderful half term!

Upcoming dates



Please note the change in date for the PTFA winter discos.

Tuesday 24th October- Parents evening

Wednesday 25th October- Parents evening

Saturday 28th October- Cross country at Mallory Park

Monday 30th October- Library re-launch open evening 3.30pm

Friday 10th November- Remembrance service in Pughe's Paddock

Monday 13th November- Friday 17th November- Anti-bullying week.

Wednesday 15th November- Y4 Faith trip to the Mandir

Thursday 16th November- PTFA disco- Year 3: 5.15-6.15pm, Year 5: 6.30-7.30pm

Friday 17th November- PTFA disco- Year 4: 5.15-6.15pm, Year 6: 6.30-7.30pm

Friday 17th November- Non-uniform day for Children in Need

Saturday 25th November- Cross country at Mallory Park

Monday 27th November- Year 6 trip to New Walk Museum- 6P

Tuesday 28th November- Year 6 trip to New Walk Museum- 6W

Wednesday 29th November- Year 5 Space Centre trip.

Thursday 30th November- Year 6 trip to New Walk Museum- 6AR

Wednesday 6th December- SEND parental meetings

Thursday 7th December- PTFA secret room

Friday 8th December- PTFA secret room

Monday 18th December- Year 3 & 4 carol concert at St Catherine's Church- pm

Thursday 21st December- Pantomime in school for all year groups.

Friday 22nd December- Year 5 & 6 Carol concert at St Catherine's Church- am

Friday 22nd December- School closes.

Monday 8th January- School opens.