



# Burbage Junior School December 2023

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**The Burbage Way:**  
*striving to be the best version of ourselves.*

Respect Integrity Inclusivity Kindness Excellence Enjoyment

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[Message from our Executive Headteacher.](#)

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff and Governors,

As we approach the end of the Autumn term, I am filled with pride and gratitude for the incredible achievements and wonderful moments we've shared together as a school community. It has been a term filled with learning and joy. It is evident that our children have worked diligently, embracing the challenges of their curriculum with enthusiasm and determination. For example, the writing produced by our students has been nothing short of superb, demonstrating their creativity and passion for learning- we have some young talented authors.

I have been really pleased to see so many of our pupils accessing our improved out of hours learning; whether it is within our school choir with Mrs Melanaphy, sports or dance with Mr Probert or Kidspace for cooking, gardening, Lego and more. Widening this offer has been a positive, high-quality addition to Burbage Junior School.

As we reflect on the past few months, I would like to thank:

- The whole B.J.S team for their hard work during this 9-week term.
- Our dedicated Parent-Teacher and Friends Association (PTFA) who have been tireless in their efforts to organise various events that enriched our children's experiences throughout the term. Their commitment to enhancing our school community is truly appreciated.
- 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.
- Governors for their continuous support and hard work. Their commitment to the success of our school is vital and is instrumental in shaping our vision for the future.

At the end of December, we say one farewell to our Y3 classteacher- Miss Nattrass and in January welcome Mr Langston to 3N. We also send all our best wishes to Mrs Martin who leaves us at the end of term.

Moving into the new year, our school library will continue to provide an inviting space to promote reading for pleasure with the latest texts to capture their imagination or quench their thirst for more knowledge. Remember, your child/family can access this Monday/Tuesday before or after school.

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. I hope our Carol services at St Catherine's Church, helped spread the joy of the season. I thought the children were excellent.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Monday, 8th January 2024, for the Spring term.

Warm regards,

Mrs Zoe Driver

Executive Headteacher



## Christmas Services 2023

Thank-you to all our pupils for their wonderful contributions to our annual Christmas services this week. Our Year 3 and 4 children did us proud, singing the carols in full voice.

Our Year 5 and 6 dance group treated us to 2 performances, one Christmas song, and one track of their own choosing. I know they have had fun rehearsing and our thanks go to Ms Paterson for running this provision.

A special mention goes out to Imogen L and Sam M in Year 6 for their outstanding performances of 'Walking in the air' on their violins. I know they were both nervous, but they persevered and did us all proud.

Well done to our newly formed Burbage Junior School choir, who gave us a fantastic rendition of 'The Moment', one of the songs they have been practising for the Young Voices concert coming up in January. The children really enjoyed this opportunity to perform.

I know the performers are looking forward to our Year 5 and 6 service on Friday. Pupils have been practising the carols and we can't wait to hear their renditions.

## Governor introduction

I have been a Local Authority governor at Burbage Junior School for 2½ years. Some of you may remember me from my time as Deputy Head – I love the school and joining the board was my way of remaining a part of the community!

I am currently an Assistant Professor at the University of Nottingham, leading their primary PGCE course, preparing our next generation of teachers for life in the classroom. This role enables me to bring an overview of policies and guidance, as well as a broad understanding of the wider education agenda through attending DfE briefings and working with a variety of national organisations.

My roles here at Burbage include Vice Chair of Governors, Chair of the Resources committee and member of the Quality of Education committee where I carry out termly monitoring of the school's foundation subject leadership. This is one of my favourite tasks as it enables me to spend time meeting with individual subject leads to hear about all the wonderful work that the school has been

undertaking and ensure that your children receive a broad and balanced curriculum to prepare them for the future.

As governors, we are identifiable by our orange lanyards so if you see me at a school event, please feel free to stop me for a chat.

Best wishes,

Rachel Peckover



## Reading- New library challenge

Leicestershire libraries are running a Winter Reading Challenge. The Winter Mini Challenge continues with the theme of Ready, Set, Read! from the summer challenge. Pupils can join the Winter Mini Challenge reading heroes as they have fun on a winter walk to the library and spark a love of reading even in the most reluctant of readers.

The challenge has already started and runs until Monday 19th February.

Taking part in the Winter Mini Challenge is easy:

- Sign up at [www.wintermini.org.uk](http://www.wintermini.org.uk) to create an online profile (if you took part in Ready Set Read online this Summer you might have a profile already)
- Read at least 3 books over the holidays.
- Rate and review the books on the Winter Mini Challenge website to unlock a limited edition virtual badge and a special Winter Mini Challenge certificate to print off and keep.

Children will be coming home with a reading record in their book bag and any pupil who completes the challenge of reading 3 books can return this record and receive a GOLD DOJO!



## Sporting Update

A big well done to all children who have represented the school in the last half term.

This half term is the longest by far and we have had another packed calendar. Both the boys and girls football teams have competed: the boys narrowly missing out in the Rice Bowl and the girls playing a couple of friendlies, winning against the team that knocked them out in the final previously. Both teams will continue into next term, playing in a tournament over at South Charnwood college.

Cross country continued at Mallory Park and well done to all runners again who turned up and ran in a very muddy field! There will be one more race in the Spring term so please look out for that date.

Well done to the year 6 basketball team who represented the school and won their tournament. They will now play in the final in the Spring term.

A group of children have also represented the school at dodgeball and tag rugby with some great performances in all year groups.

Taking place next term will be the rearranged Sports hall athletics, year 4 dodgeball, Kurling, football, basketball and gymnastics.

I am so impressed with the attitude and desire to represent the school and the continued level of performances that the children are showing in all events. Please look out for all of these updates in the next newsletter.

Mr Little

## SEND update

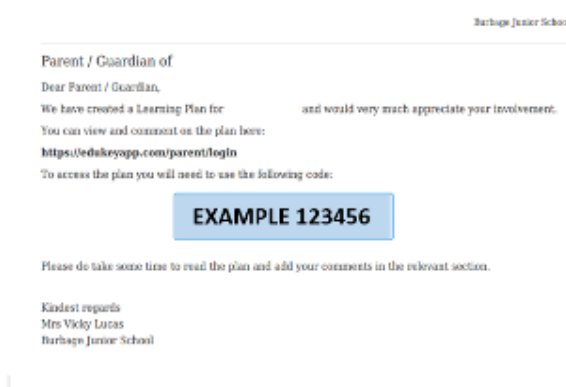
### Reminder- Individual Education Plan

This year, we have introduced a new system to further develop the input that parents and carers have on their child's Individual Education Plan (IEP). In school, we now use an online system called Edukey Provision Map. This is how staff create and update your child's Individual Education Plan or pupil passport throughout the year. We can now provide you with your own personal log on so you are able to view your child's IEP or pupil passport at home whenever you wish.

At the SEND review meeting on Wednesday 6th December, you should have received your unique access code so that you are able to access your child's targets or pupil passport from home.

The link to the Edukey website is: [Access pupil details \(edukeyapp.com\)](https://edukeyapp.com)

If you need your unique access code, please Dojo Mrs Lucas.



**We are very excited to launch our new room in school called The Den.**

#### **What is The Den?**

The Den is the large room near The Hive and The Nest. Invited children can start their school day from 8:45-8:55am in The Den. This allows them to have a more settled and calm start to their day so they are ready for learning.

#### **Where and when will do children go to The Den?**

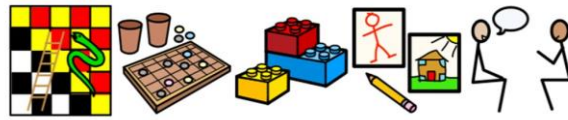
The Den is open from 8:45-8:55am every morning. Children enter The Den through the door that is used for Kidspace/on the way round to swimming.

The Den is open at break time and lunch time (after/before eating) so invited children can spend time in The Den instead of on the playground. Invited children can choose to come to The Den every break and lunch time or whenever they choose.

#### **What can children do in The Den?**



In The Den, children have the opportunity to play games, talk to their friends, draw, play with Lego and much more. It is also a chance for adults to share any changes to the day. At 8:55am the children go to their classroom to start their lessons.



If you would like to find out more about The Den or if you think it might benefit your child, please contact Mrs Lucas (SENCO).

## School Council

The school council have been very busy this term. They have all taken their responsibilities very seriously and are proud to represent their class during our meetings. The cake sale for Children In Need was a great success raising £504.07.

Our year 6 school councillors took part in a tree planting ceremony with the Mayor of Hinckley and Bosworth. Pupils prepared items for a time capsule that was buried beneath the tree that marks the King's birthday.

We look forward to seeing what they have planned for the spring!



## Year Groups- Curriculum Updates

### Year 3

We have had a great half term in year 3. In our geography we have been studying our local area and looking at the history of Burbage and Hinckley. Our walk around the village allowed us to look at the different ages of the buildings and a visit from two parish councillors helped us to understand how the population and boundaries of Burbage has changed over the last 100+ years.

We had a visit from Creative Learning Services who came and did a sculptures workshop. We got the chance to build structures out of willow and tape and bent wires to create our own faces. Other used pencils and charcoal to sketch unusual shapes and sculptures.

In science we have been learning about light and shadow, focusing on light sources and reflectors. In the experiments we have carried out, we have discovered how shadows are created and how we change their size. In our final lesson we created a shadow puppet show, that re-told classic fairy tales, using light sources and puppets.

The children have had a great first term at the Juniors and we are very proud of their hard work and progress. We look forward to starting our Spring term in 2024!

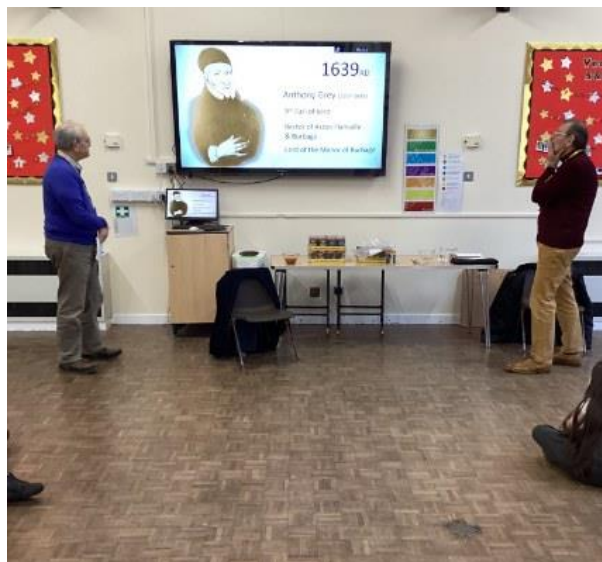
Miss Natrass

Mrs Graham

Mrs Wren

Mrs Williams





## Year 4

Year Four have had an excellent half term. One of the highlights was our faith visit to two Hindu temples in Leicester. The children and staff were inspired by the beauty and serenity of the temples and the warm welcome they received from their guides. The children were very inquisitive and it was a delight to observe them thoughtfully asking and answering questions.

In addition, the children have conducted surveys into litter in their local area. They walked around the local area using maps to plan their route. We collected data on litter and produced bar charts to highlight the areas where litter was found.

In design technology the children have designed and made their own book covers; they are very proud of what they have produced.

In science the children have used scientific enquiry and worked collaboratively to make electrical circuits and test the conductivity of materials.

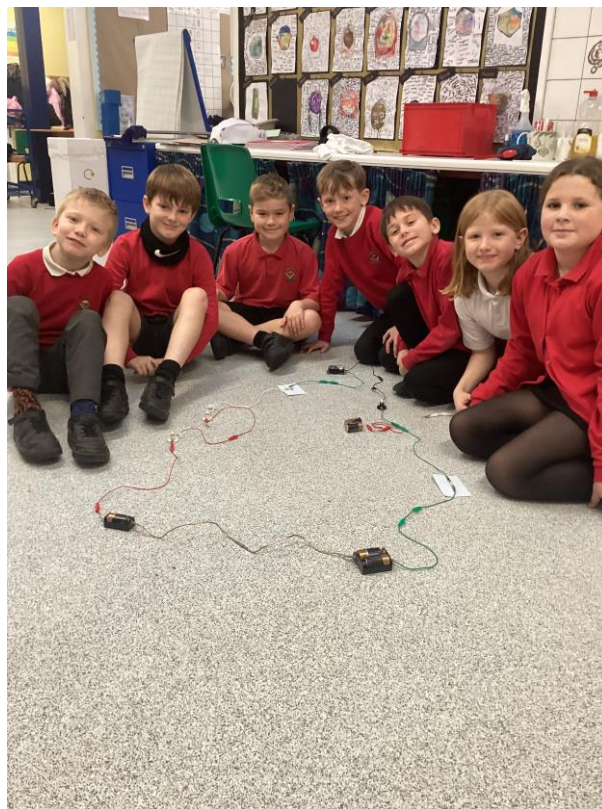
A small group of children represented the school at Green Towers for an interschool sporting event. They were a credit to the school in the way they keenly participated in a variety of alternative sports; from curling to “drumber”- they were a credit to the school and to their families.

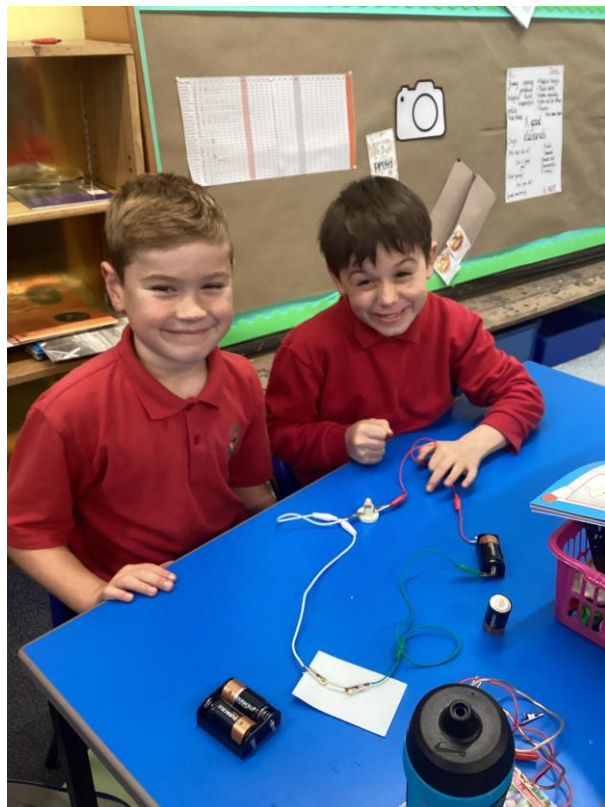
We are very proud of how the children have participated in and challenged themselves throughout this term. Well done Year Four .

Miss Popat

Miss Brennan

Mrs Herd











## Year 5

The second half of Autumn term has been a productive period of time for Year 5. Children have enjoyed learning about Earth and space by exploring whether Earth moves. They then explored this further with a year group trip to the National Space Centre where we watched a show at the planetarium, conducted a weather report and experienced driving a mini version of a Mars rover. We have loved seeing the variety and creativity in the children's space projects this year.

In History, children have learned about the different eras of Maya civilisation and compared it to life in Britain in the same period of time.

We have explored self-portraits using mixed media resources, learned about how (artist) uses different mediums and took part in a workshop from Creative Learning Services.

In English, we have written instructions-linked to the Grinch-in how to steal Christmas, written a persuasive letter-linked to Charlie and the Chocolate Factory-and a description of an alien on Mars.

All of Year 5 have worked extremely hard throughout Autumn term. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

See you next term,

Miss Beighton

Mrs Grantham

Mr Little

Miss Warren





## Year 6

Year 6 have had a busy term learning about fractions, measures and decimals in Maths – they are making super progress! Many thanks for supporting your child with their MyMaths homework; it really is making a difference.

We have been studying Ancient Egypt in History lessons and enjoyed a trip to New Walk Museum. The children were able to see real mummies and handle Egyptian artefacts – they learnt so much. They have produced some outstanding pieces of writing based on their new knowledge.

In Science, we have been learning about the human body – particularly the importance of leading a healthy lifestyle, diet and exercise.











## After-school provision for spring term

Once again Kidspace and Pro-Sports will be running some after school activities for pupils.

Pro-Sports will continue to run year 3 & 4 football on Tuesday and 5 & 6 football on a Wednesday and year 3 & 4 multi-Sports on a Thursday. All these sessions will be taken by Mr Probert- please see the WeDuc communication with details of how to book.

In addition to the before and afterschool club, Kidspace will be running a series of mini-clubs in the spring term. Mondays will be Lego club, Tuesdays will be cooking, Wednesdays will be craft, Thursdays is gardening club and Fridays will be both science and cooking. Please see the communication on WeDuc for further details.

## Message from PTFA

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



## Up-coming dates

Monday 8th January: School opens for Spring Term

Friday 12th January: Young Voices Concert- Resorts World Arena: Birmingham

Saturday 20th January: Cross Country at Mallory Park

Wednesday 24th January: Y3 Mosque trip

Tuesday 30th January: Year 6 Warning Zone Trip

Tuesday 6th February: Safer Internet Day

Friday 16th February: PTFA non-uniform day

Monday 19th February - Friday 23rd February: Half term break.

Wednesday 28th February- 'Share our learning' session 3.30-4pm in your child's classroom.

Tuesday 5th March- Parents' Evening

Wednesday 6th March- Parents' Evening

Wednesday 20th March- Year 5 synagogue trip

Friday 22nd March- End of Spring Term

Monday 8th April- School opens for summer term.