



Burbage Junior School - February 2024

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Executive Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff and Governors

We are really proud of the progress the children have made this half-term across all four year groups. Thank you for your continued support at home with your children's learning. We look forward to seeing you all in school, straight after half term, for Sharing Our Learning and Parents Evening.

I just want to say how proud we all are of our new School Choir who represented Burbage Juniors superbly at Young Voices (a wonderful new opportunity available for our children, led by Mrs Melanaphy). I am excited to hear they are 'on tour' again on 18th May at St Catherine's Church following Burbage C of E Infants Maypole performance. As both schools are in the 'heart' of this wonderful village it will be a lovely chance for the community to come together, again. So please save the date in your diary.

Joining our team this term, we welcomed Mrs Boffey as our new Senior Teaching Assistant; working throughout school. Following the departure of Mrs Harris, we have been advertising for a new Learning Support Assistant and Midday Supervisor. Unfortunately, to date, we have not been able to recruit. So, if you are aware of anyone, with the relevant qualification and experience- who would add value to our team- please 'share this opportunity'.

Future staff arrangements:

As we prepare for the upcoming academic year, we want to express our gratitude for your continued support and collaboration in fostering a positive learning environment for our pupils. Historically, parents/carers have occasionally contacted school to share their staffing preferences for the new academic year. It is with regret that we must inform you that, due to various factors, we are unable to accommodate specific requests or preferences regarding staffing for the upcoming school years.

We understand that these preferences may arise from valid considerations, and we appreciate your understanding as we strive to maintain a fair and balanced approach for the benefit of the entire school community. Our primary focus remains on providing a high quality education for all pupils and we assure you that our dedicated team is committed to achieving this goal.

I would like to wish you and your families a very happy half-term.

Warm regards,

Mrs Zoe Driver

Executive Headteacher

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

Governor Introductions



My name is Matt McCluskey and I have been a co-opted governor at Burbage Junior school since April 2023. Each governor has an area of responsibility within the school and my area of responsibility is health & safety, naturally we wish that all pupils, staff and visitors to our fantastic school are kept safe and well at all times and we all have a collective responsibility to look after each other. Whilst new to the role, it has been fantastic to be able to provide some of my time and attention to helping our school community in the superb efforts already being made in this area. We will keep pushing forwards to ensure that the school remains to be an enjoyable and safe space for us all.

I live in Burbage with my wife and son and I am a former pupil of Burbage junior school. I wanted to join our school governing board because I had such an enjoyable experience as a pupil and attending our school set the trajectory of my life in such a positive way. I hope that through supporting our very talented team, I can help our pupils to experience the same fulfilment that I experienced and that they are provided with the opportunity to become the very best version of themselves.

If you see me around the school, I would love to hear your thoughts and feedback on our school and I absolutely love a chat over a coffee!

Dear Parents and Carers,

My name is Anita Connell one of the Parent Governors. My specific role is as Safeguarding Governor at Burbage Junior School; a role I have undertaken for 2 years. I currently have 2 children in the Juniors, so know quite a few parents. I became a Safeguarding Governor as I have relevant transferable skills from my day job which benefits the school at a Strategic level.

I have 16 years Policing experience with 10 years working in Child Public Protection and 2 years in Adult Public Protection amongst other roles. I have spent 6 of those years in a Safeguarding specific role as a Sergeant with various partner agencies in a department called a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). I am confident in my knowledge to offer guidance and insight for the Schools Safeguarding Policy and other policies to make our school a safer place for all.

I most recently attended Burbage Junior School for an Autumn Visit and had the wonderful opportunity to talk to pupils from the School. Mrs Melanaphy observed the group chat, where I was able to gain the voice of the children. I asked what they had learned from "Anti-bullying" week and Online Safety which is part of their PSHE. As parents both are important to us to ensure our children feel safe in school and online. The school website has sections on both, should parents wish to familiarise themselves.

Thank you for taking the time to read this,

Best wishes,

Anita

Sports Update

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

Cross country continued with the local Groby event. Well done to all runners again who turned up and ran in the freezing cold! Medals were given out to the Year 3 boys and girls who continued to turn up in numbers and had some great results.

Year 4 also represented the school at Dodgeball. Both teams were outstanding with one team remaining unbeaten to take home the trophy.

Well done to the year 6 basketball team who represented the school in the area final. Unfortunately, they narrowly missed out in getting to the final but had a great attitude to their disappointment.

Sports hall athletics took place at Hinckley Leisure Centre. All of year 6 were on a trip, so I had to call in some different children to represent the school. They were outstanding and finished fourth out of thirteen schools. A fantastic achievement.

A group of year 3 girls attended a gymnastics competition with Mr Probert and we are still awaiting the results at this time.

The final events of this half term had some year 4 children attending a personal best festival at Green towers and a group of children competing in another indoor athletics event. They won the event and will now represent Hinckley and Bosworth at the county final in April.

Taking place next term will be Kurling, football, netball and swimming. Well done all who have represented the school.

Please look out for all of these updates in the next newsletter

Mr Little

SEND update

Fidget Toys

We have seen a rise across school in children bringing in sensory toys for the classroom. Fidget and sensory tools are tactile objects that are small enough to be discreetly kept in pockets or hands. They are designed to aid focus, concentration and help prevent distracting behaviour.

Some children in school need to use fidgets to help them to learn. If your child needs a fidget, we will happily provide this. In school we are finding that for children who do not need them, these objects are causing distraction and disruption to themselves and others.

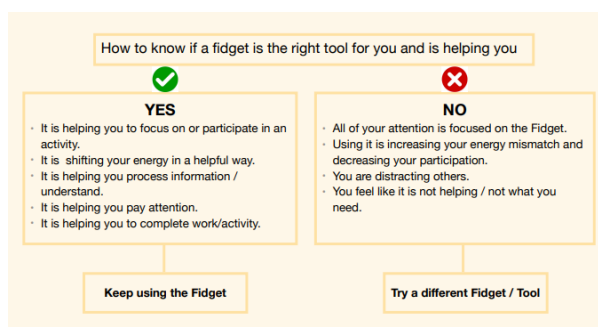
Why use a Fidget?

Fidgets can be used to help children to focus on and more easily participate in activities. For a fidget to become a tool instead of a toy children need to understand how they work and how they help them.

When to use a Fidget?

Their energy doesn't match the energy they need to participate.

For example: • They need help to focus and pay attention. • They need to settle or calm body their or mind. • They need to touch or hold something.



Thank you for your support with this. As always, we are always looking at the best way to support the children and their learning.

Many thanks,

Mrs Lucas

Young Voices Concert

Finally it had arrived, the day we'd all been waiting for- and believe me it didn't disappoint. All our hard work learning words, melodies and actions came together as we joined our voices with 5000 other children. We were lucky to see performances from MC Grammar, amazing drummer Nandy Bushell and soul and jazz singer Natalie Williams. It was fantastic to be able to see Urban Striders performing their dances to our songs and encouraging the children to add their own moves.

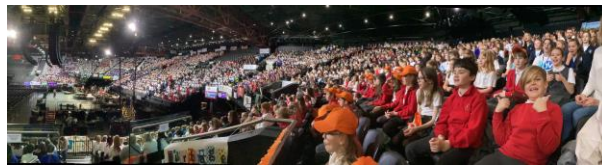
Time for the performance came and the children received their special torches. The effect was amazing! The whole choir sang their hearts out. All of our staff were so proud of each and every one of them, not only for their beautiful singing, but also their outstanding behaviour.

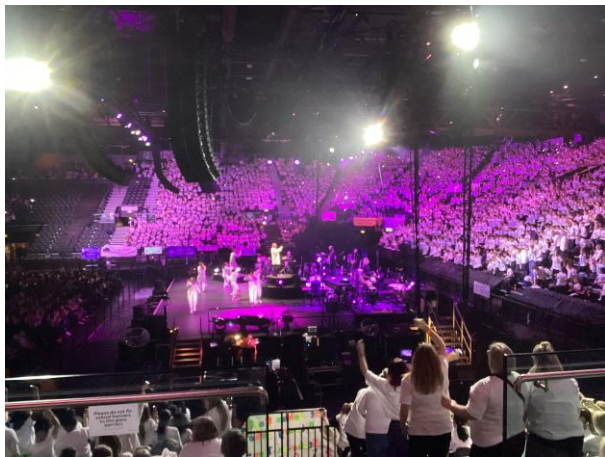
Skip to a week later and we were all ready again for our special Burbage performance at St Catherine's church. The choir did extremely well in this more intimate setting.

Thank-you to parents for all their support in these events.

Mrs Melanaphy









Year group curriculum updates

Year 3

Year Three's have started 2024 with a bang! We have had a busy half term with Roman Day to get us enthused about learning about Roman soldiers. It was great fun pretending to battle against the Celtic warriors and being archaeologist digging for artefacts from the past. We have used our knowledge from this to imagine we are Boudicca, the Queen of the Iceni tribe, and write speeches to rally our troops.

Following this, we have enjoyed a cooking unit in DT where we have been making fruit skewers, apple pie and a savoury tart, thinking about using seasonal fruits and vegetables. The apple pie was devoured in minutes when it came out of the oven!!

In RE we were learning about the Muslim faith. As part of this, we were able to go on a visit to a mosque and a church. We found out a lot about the five pillars of Islam.

Finally in music we have enjoyed listening to reggae music and singing along to Bob Marley's 'Three little birds' song whilst playing our glockenspiels. Some of our children also had the opportunity to sing at the Young Voices concert which was an amazing experience for them after all their hard work practising.





Year 4

This term has been a busy one for Year 4 children. Their times tables knowledge has really improved with the additional Soundcheck practise sessions. More pen licences have been awarded to children with neat, consistently joined handwriting.

In Geography, we have learnt about the European Region including the countries and capital cities, local cuisine and famous attractions.

In Design Technology, we researched and made torches using our knowledge of electricity (last term's Science topic). More recently, we have been analysing and adapting recipes in order to bake biscuits in order to fulfil a design brief.

Our Computing lessons have involved creating our own animations, which the children have really enjoyed. This term, numerous children have represented the school at various sporting events such as the Indoor Athletics and Personal Best Festivals.





Year 5

Year 5 have settled back in well after Christmas. This half term children have enjoyed learning about the Titanic where they have written a newspaper report and a diary entry as if they were a passenger on the ship.

In maths, we have finished looking at fractions and then ordering and comparing decimals. In science, we have completed a range of experiments to separate mixtures using sieves, filter paper, funnels and magnets.

In Design and Technology, children have built a truss bridge from spaghetti (as a prototype) and then from wood. Children enjoyed learning how to saw and use a glue gun. In indoor PE, we have been doing dance. Children have created their own routines using circular movements.







Year 6

Year 6 have had a busy start to the spring term! We enjoyed our trip to The Warning Zone, learning about Online Safety and how to keep safe in many different environments. We really value this trip as the children learn how to handle a variety of risks in an interactive way. Please discuss your child's online behaviour with them; this is particularly important as many children already have (or soon will own) their own mobile phone.

We have just finished working on a speech writing unit, where pupils wrote a speech either for or against the use of child labour in Victorian brickfields. Some children presented their speeches in an improvised House of Commons 1871 debate, with the rest of the year group having the opportunity to question and vote. This resulted in a very lively and valuable lesson for our budding MPs!

We have been so impressed with how year 6 have tackled some tricky new topics in maths this term: algebra and ratio. Thanks for your ongoing support in encouraging your child to complete their MyMaths homework weekly and to practise their tables.

After half term, we will be revising maths, grammar and reading one afternoon each week, and will be sending home further resources to support your child as we approach SATs.

As well as these core subjects, we have enjoyed learning about our local history, looking at the censuses from 1901 and 1911 and have made automata in DT. The children's coding skills are progressing well in our computing lessons – hopefully they've shown you some of the games they've created!









PTFA News

It's been a busy start to the new year for the PTFA with lots of planning behind the scenes for all of the exciting upcoming events, and, of course, movie night which the children seemed to love!

Thanks to all of the parents who volunteered to make this event possible; without our volunteers the events just can't take place. If you feel that you could spare an hour or so to help at an event then please email me at ptfachair@burbageinfants.org

Over the next few months we have some amazing events to look out for:

- Non uniform day 16th February
- Spring term disco 29th February
- Egg rolling 19th March
- Scarecrow festival 4th - 6th May

We'll be sharing loads of information on our Facebook event page 'Burbage Scarecrow Festival 2024' so please follow it for regular updates!

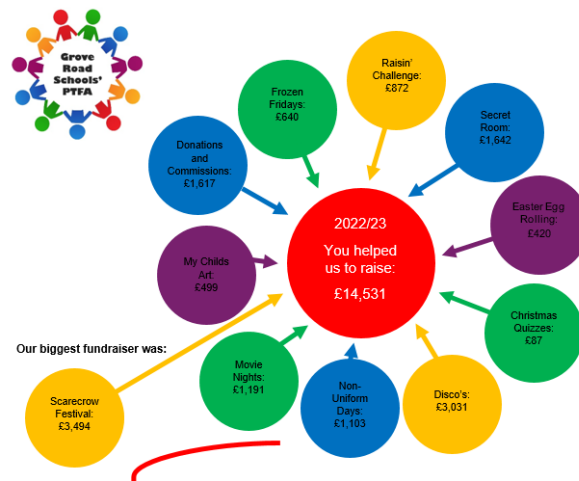
The disco and the scarecrow festival are both now live on the booking portal: pta-events.co.uk/groveroadschoolsptfa/

Don't forget we're still collecting your books for our bookcycle scheme (only books in good condition please), and there's still time to enter our Leap Year quiz! Get your completed forms handed into the school office by 29th February with your £2 entry fee, then we'll announce the lucky winner of £25 on 1st March!

Thanks everyone for your continued support, we really appreciate it.

Nicky Thorington

PTFA Chair



HOW WE HELPED THE SCHOOLS:

- Paid £150 per class towards their reading areas.
- Paid £50 per class towards classroom items.
- Paid £1,500 for the Infant school coaches to see a show.
- Paid £2,399 for the Juniors reading phonics scheme.
 - Paid £2,370 for EYFS classrooms.
 - Paid £360 for Year 2 SATs revision books.
- Paid £3,600 for 1 new iPad per class at the Juniors.
- Paid £100 to cover the cost the Guinea Pigs care over the school holidays.
- Paid £200 for waterproofs for forest school sessions at the Infant school

Thank you for all your help and support, we couldn't do it without you all!

We look forward to this year's events and can't wait to see how we can help the schools this year.

Upcoming dates



Monday 26th February- School open.

Wednesday 28th February- Share our learning 3.30-4.00pm

Thursday 29th February- PTFA disco

Wednesday 6th March- Parents Evening

Thursday 7th March- Parents Evening

Thursday 7th March- World Book Day

Monday 18th March- PTFA meeting at Burbage Junior School. 7.30pm

Tuesday 19th March- Egg rolling

Friday 22nd March- School closes for Easter.

Monday 8th April- School opens for Summer term.

Wednesday 17th April- SEND reviews

Monday 6th May- School closed for bank holiday.

Monday 13th May- Friday 17th May- Statutory testing for Year 6

Friday 24th May- School closes for half term.

Monday 3rd June- School open.

Tuesday 9th July- School closes for the Summer holidays.