



Burwell Village College Primary

We have come to the end of another term and another year. The end of a quarter of a century! This term has been full of wonderful learning, great experiences and a real sense of purpose for the school. Once again the staff, children and parents have all been instrumental in ensuring that we are maintaining the high standards we expect both academically and socially. There is so much to be proud of working at Burwell. Our new staff have helped us to grow and change and adapt, bringing new and fresh ideas to help children achieve more and better. Our established staff supporting, guiding and innovating established practice. This is a fantastic school to be a part of and thank you to all who are involved. Have a wonderful Christmas and New Year and we look forward to seeing you back in January 2026! And lastly a big thank you to everyone who donated to Children In Need and the Poppy Appeal, you raised £528 and £527.91 respectively.

Upcoming dates:

5th Jan – School Reopens
7th Jan – Rec – Vision Screening
8th Jan – Year 3 Bikeability
9th Feb – Year 1 Animal Experience
12th Feb – Friends Doughnut Sale
13th Feb – Parent Consultants
13th – 20th Feb – Half Term
12th – 17th Mar – Book Fair
20th Mar – iRock Concert
23rd – 27th Mar – Year 6 Residential
30th Mar – 10th April – Easter Break
13th – 16th April – Y5 Bikeability

Roles and Responsibilities

We are committed to supporting every child's personal development at Burwell Village College Primary School. Through a wide range of responsibilities, pupils develop essential skills such as communication, organisation and leadership, preparing them to succeed within and beyond the classroom.

All pupils undertake classroom roles, including register monitors, snack supervisors and cloakroom monitors. By the time they move on to high school, every pupil will also have gained experience in whole-school positions such as Eco-Crew member, lunchtime assistant, digital leader and tuck shop assistant. Pupils may additionally opt to serve as storytellers, librarians, play leaders, club leaders or as House and Deputy Captains.



Y4 Lunchtime Assistant



Y6 Tuck Shop Assistants

Reception

Our topic this term has been Celebrations! We have really enjoyed learning about lots of different celebrations and festivals from different religions and cultures. We shared our own favourite celebrations with our friends during Show and Tell and enjoyed hearing about each other's traditions.

We have particularly enjoyed getting ready for Christmas together. We have talked about the different ways we celebrate and the traditions we enjoy. We have been working hard practising our songs for our Nativity!

The children enjoyed dressing up for Children In Need. They talked and wrote about the job they would like to when they grow up.



We went on a trip to the war memorial and thought about how Remembrance Day is commemorated. We laid our own wreath tributes.



All the children took part in a four-day Bikeability course, learning about the A to E bike check and improved their skills on balance bikes. The instructor commented on how brilliantly the children listened and followed instructions.

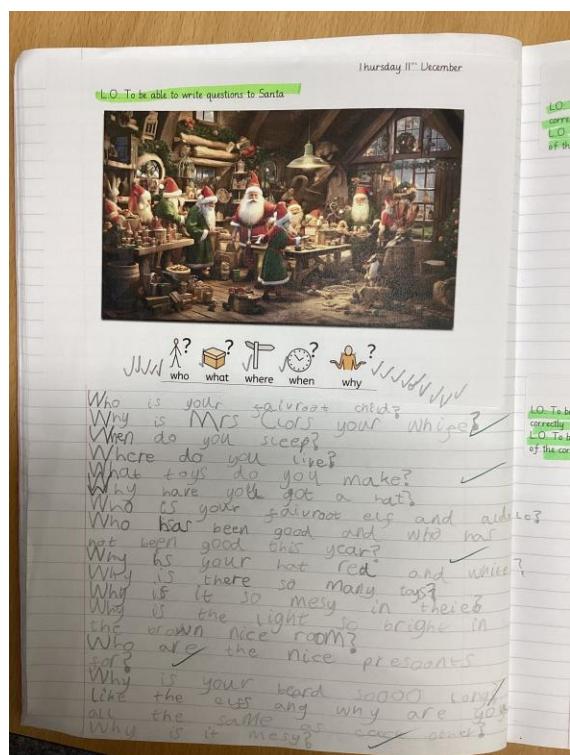
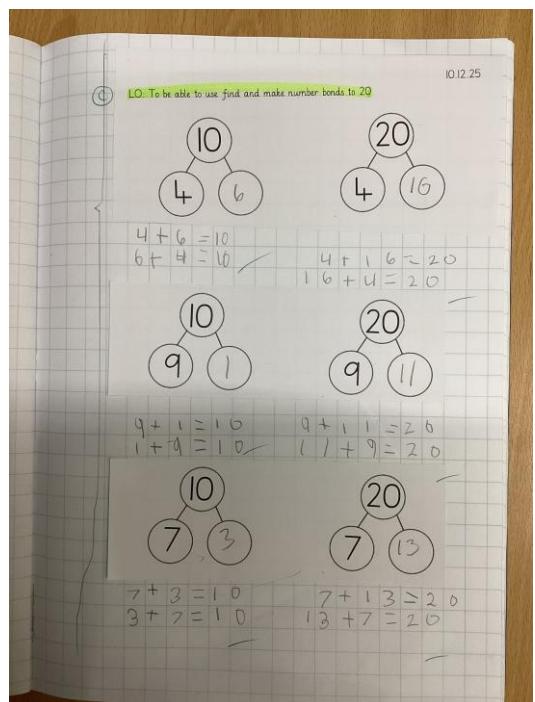


Year 1



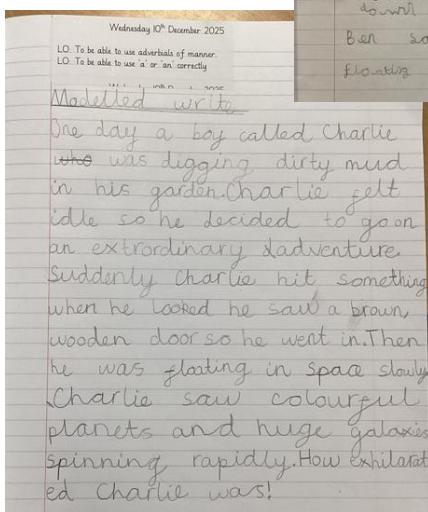
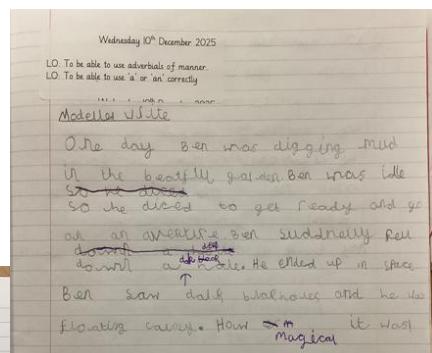
This half term we went on our walk around Burwell for our topic in geography which is looking at Burwell and Beyond. We were out walking for the whole day! The children really enjoyed this trip, the main highlight was seeing the windmill.

In math's this term, we have been extending our knowledge about place value. We have been looking at numbers up to 20!

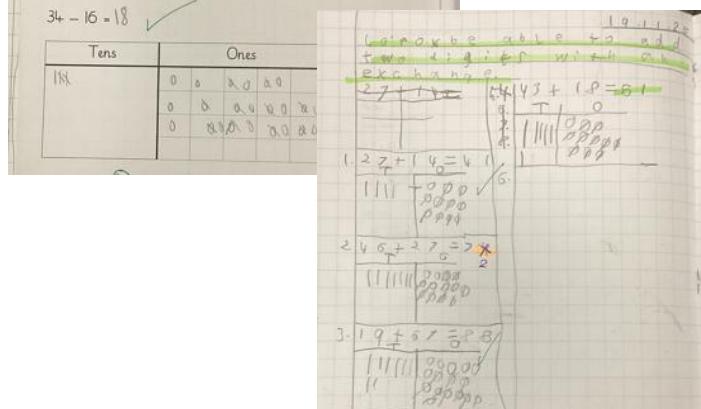
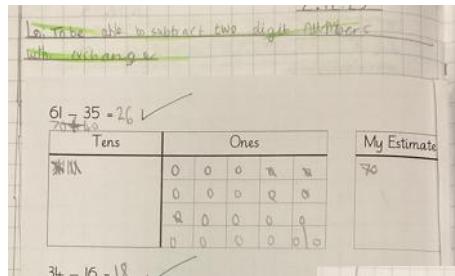


In English, we have been preparing for Christmas! We have been thinking about different questions that we could ask Santa. We have been focusing on using question marks correctly.

Year 2



In English this half term, the children have been learning how to write voyage and return narratives. They have explored ways to improve their writing by using adverbials of manner to describe how a character carries out an action, as well as incorporating exclamation sentences for added impact. We have also focused on key grammatical features, including the use of possessive apostrophes. The children have produced some wonderfully imaginative stories, and it has been a pleasure to read their work!



In maths this term, we have been looking at adding and subtracting. We have been introducing how to add and subtract two-digit numbers with an exchange and we have been so impressed with how well the children have understood this and applied their learning to word problems! We have been so pleased with all their hard work over the autumn term and we hope to see more of this in spring!

To conclude our History topic this term, the Year 2 children enjoyed an exciting visit to Burwell Museum. They explored a wide range of Victorian artefacts, including classrooms and washrooms, gaining a real insight into what life was like in the past. The children also learned about early forms of transport and even had the chance to sit on one of the old buses. One of the highlights was trying to figure out how to use a traditional rotary-dial telephone—much trickier than the button-operated phones they're used to! The trip was a fantastic way to bring our learning to life.



Year 3

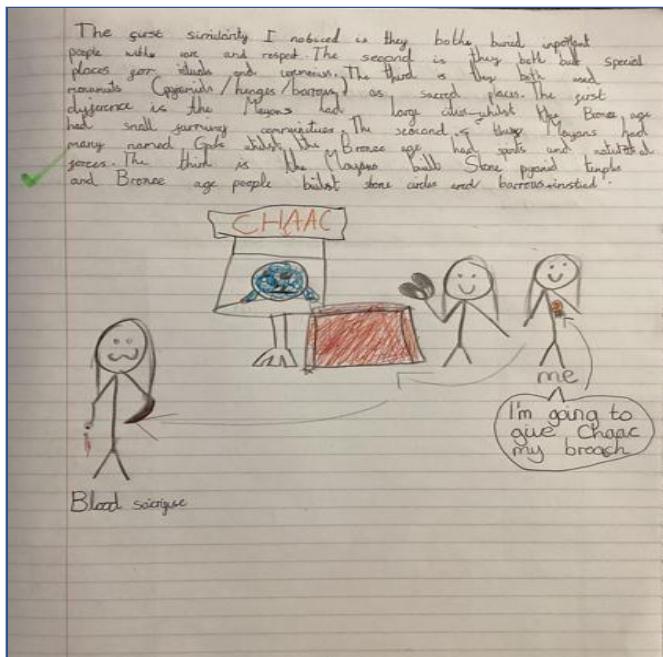


In Theme this half term, the children have been continuing their investigation of prehistory up to the end of the Iron Age in Britain and therefore the beginning of history itself! They have made stratigraphy models of the Stonehenge barrows that our significant individual, William Cunnington, so carefully investigated when he began modern archaeology. The children had to find the buried Neolithic artefacts within the stratigraphy model without disturbing the Bronze Age and Iron Age layers of primary evidence. They realised that William Cunnington's methodology of cutting a trench through a barrow was the best way to not 'mix up' the different historical layers!



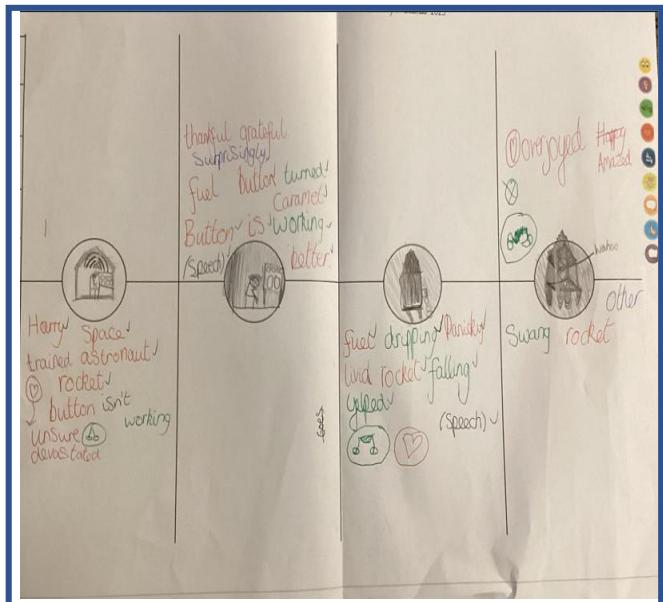
We enjoyed an exciting visit to Flag Fen Archaeology Park! Exploring life in the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age. The children handled real artefacts, investigating what they reveal about prehistoric people and their lives. They became experimental archaeologists, creating clay pots, using techniques from the past. A favourite moment was gathering in the Iron Age roundhouse to enjoy a traditional prehistoric story, experiencing the atmosphere of ancient storytelling around the fire. It was a fantastic day that brought history to life!

Year 4



In Theme this half-term, we have been discovering about ancient civilisations. The children have learnt about the mathematical advancement of the Mayans in comparison to our current base-ten system. They have explored how the Mayans used astronomy as part of their rituals which included the sacrifice of slaves and animals. The children were amazed at ancient lifestyles.

In Science, we have been investigating the different states of matter! Our unit started with us pretending to be particles and dramatising the changes of state. In our investigations, we observed the changes of state when we heated and cooled different materials. Interestingly, honey and sand behaved like a liquid but are actually solids!

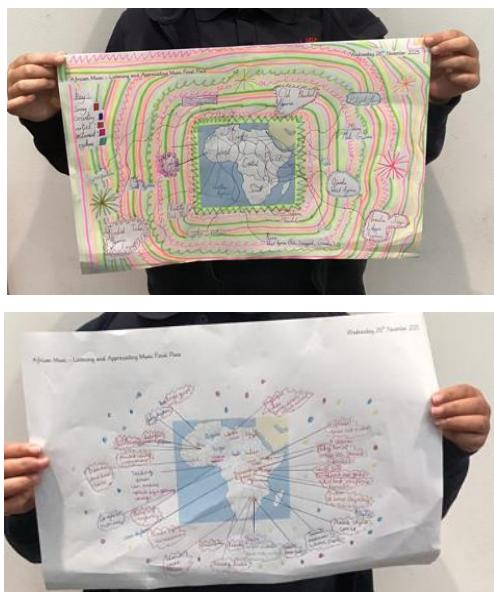


In English, we have innovating our 'Rags to Riches' narrative. The children have developed their writer's voice with direct speech, use of reporting clauses and vocabulary to engage the reader. Their ideas have been diverse showing a creative flair for writing.

Year 5

This term, in theme, we learned about a significant Kenyan figure – Wangari Maathai. Maathai founded the Green Belt Movement, which helped vulnerable people – mainly women and girls – become financially independent while also working to conserve the natural environment. The children created beautiful fact files, based on their own research, about her incredible achievements.

We concluded our science learning about materials and their properties. We tested various objects for thermal and electrical conductivity and magnetism, amongst other characteristics, and considered what this meant for their uses in everyday life.



Some of Y5 have continued with their learning of Kenya in Miss Fox's music class.

They have been listening and appreciating a range of songs and artists from Africa. The children have learnt about different instruments, rhythms and musical patterns. They have created their very own musical map of Africa as their final piece.

In maths, we have focused on applying our understanding of addition and subtraction to different contexts – namely money and measure, which has also developed our understanding of decimals. We have also worked on using known facts to work more efficiently. For example, using known facts to 100 to find compliments to 1.

1. $0.257 + 0.162 = 0.419$ ✓
2. $0.507 + 0.235 = 0.742$ ✓
3. $0.945 - 0.3 = 0.65$ ✓
4. $1.42 - 0.15 = 0.92$ ✓
5. $0.93 + 0.7 = 0.23$ ✓
6. $1.51 - 0.7 = 0.81$ kg ✓

Year 6

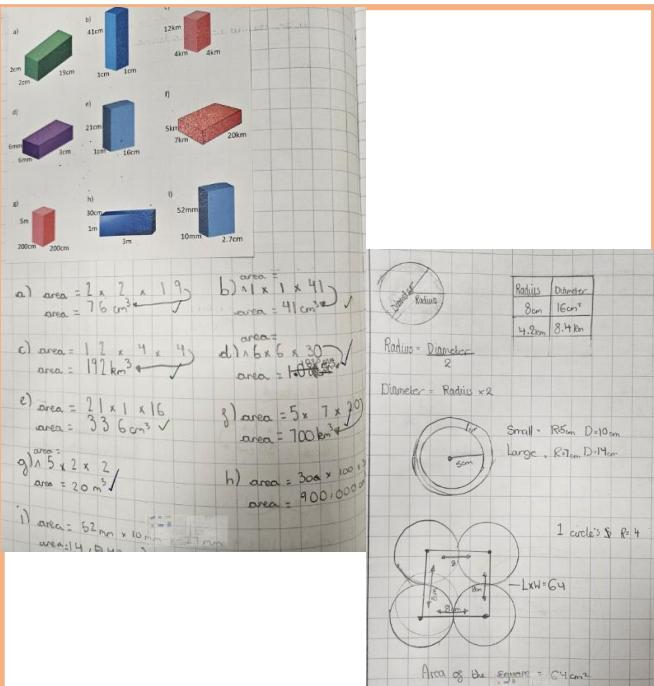
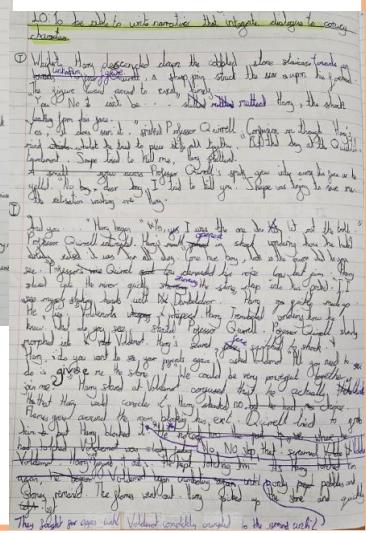
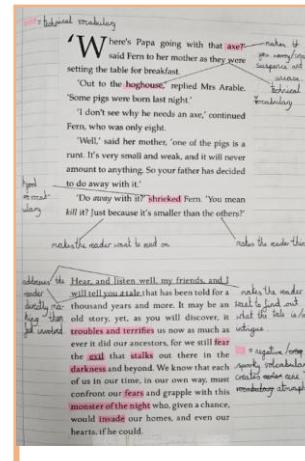


Year 6 have had a very busy second half term. They thoroughly enjoyed their Mini Medics morning where they all got stuck into learning about the importance of basic first aids skills.

Last week, as part of our current theme unit, the children walked through the village to Devil's Dyke where they collected primary data – including their very own sketch of the Dyke – ready to answer their enquiry question: How has Burwell changed over time?

The children have loved switching up their English writing this half term: they have been writing overcoming the monster narratives.

They have learnt about how to integrate dialogue to convey characters and the different ways in which authors describe characters and settings. The children used these to create some fabulously detailed narratives.



In maths, the children have been very busy learning a multitude of units. They started off learning about conversions – both metric and imperial measures – followed by learning different formulas to calculate the area of triangles and parallelograms. They enjoyed learning how to calculate the radius and diameter of circles and are now adding to their existing knowledge of fractions, which will continue in the Spring term.