



Burwell Village College Primary

School Newsletter

Upcoming dates:

- 5th Nov—Flu Vaccinations
- 5th Nov—Year 5B Busy Bees Café
- 7th -12th Nov—Book Fair
- 7th Nov— School Photos
- 7th Nov—Year 5A Busy Bees Café
- 8th Nov—Friends Movie Night
Years 1-3 only
- 13th Nov—Rec B Busy Bees Café
- 14th Nov—Rec A Busy Bees Café
- 18th Nov—Year 1A Busy Bees Café
- 21st Nov—Year 1B Busy Bees Café
- 25th Nov—Year 3A Busy Bees Café
- 26th Nov—Year 4A Busy Bees Café
- 27th Nov—Year 4B Busy Bees Café
- 28th Nov—Year 1 Burwell and
Beyond
- 28th Nov—Year 3B Busy Bees Café
- 2nd Dec—KS2—Cross Country
- 3rd Dec—Year 6A Busy Bees Café
- 5th Dec—Year 6B Busy Bees Café
- 9th Dec—Year 4 Cadburys World
- 10th Dec—Year 3 Flag Fen
- 17th Dec—Year 5 Museum/Panto
- 18th Dec—Reception Nativity
- 19th Dec—Christmas Lunch
- 20th Dec—Christmas Singalong
- 20th Dec—Last day of term

Friends' Pond Project

This time last year, our school pond was less pond and more muddy hole in the ground. Designed within part of a wildlife area, a combination of damage to the pond liner and lack of love during Covid closures and changes in school management had left us with a sludgy pit with little life left – but we could see the potential! Working with local Charity, The Prospects Trust, based in our neighbouring village of Reach, Friends funded and developed a plan to rejuvenate the pond in the most environmentally sensitive way so that the children would get all the benefits of having a pond full of wildlife on site. The Prospects Trust are a meaningful work, skills and training provider for people with additional needs, learning disabilities and autism. Their fabulous Co-workers accompanied their staff throughout the whole process: digging out, relaying liner and replanting. We love that we could support this charity through this project.

Work was completed at the end of the last school year and Friends have purchased a full class set of pond dipping equipment ready for use. Mr Hewitt, Science Coordinator, has been busy ensuring that these new resources will be used throughout the school for science lessons:

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Thank you for your support!

Last academic year, our Year 5 & 6 Fiver Challenge groups (enterprise) raised a total of £712.74. This was donated to Burwell Day Centre and helped to fund events such as their D-Day 80th anniversary celebrations.

This year, it's Year 3 & 4's turn to develop their entrepreneurial skills with Brighten up Burwell. During the autumn, spring and summer term, different groups of children will need to decide how they are going to raise the money necessary to cover their costs of their plant filled flower pots. These will be left in secret locations within the community to be discovered and taken home by passers by.

Reception

In Reception this term we have been learning all about people who help us!

We started the term by thinking about our super bodies and how we can keep them healthy. We talked about healthy eating, keeping the germs away by washing our hands and earned our tooth brushing badges!

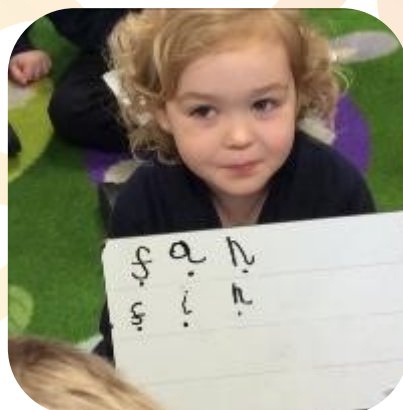
We learnt all about Marie Curie and the amazing work she did in WWI with her x-ray ambulances. We studied lots of different x-rays and enjoyed making our own skeletons out of cotton buds!



We have been very excited to start Phonics in Reception! We learn a new sound every day and have lots of opportunities to explore the sound throughout the environment. We make a prop for each sound to help us remember it and are learning how to find our sounds on the phonics sound mat.

We have been working on listening for rhyming patterns, clapping syllables, identifying initial sounds and are beginning to segment all of the sounds in words. We know how important it is to develop our fine and gross motor skills to help us with our pencil grip and control. We have worked very hard to hold our pencil correctly and practice every day!

We also love reading stories and are very excited that we are learning how to sound out and blend words so that we can read books to our families and friends.

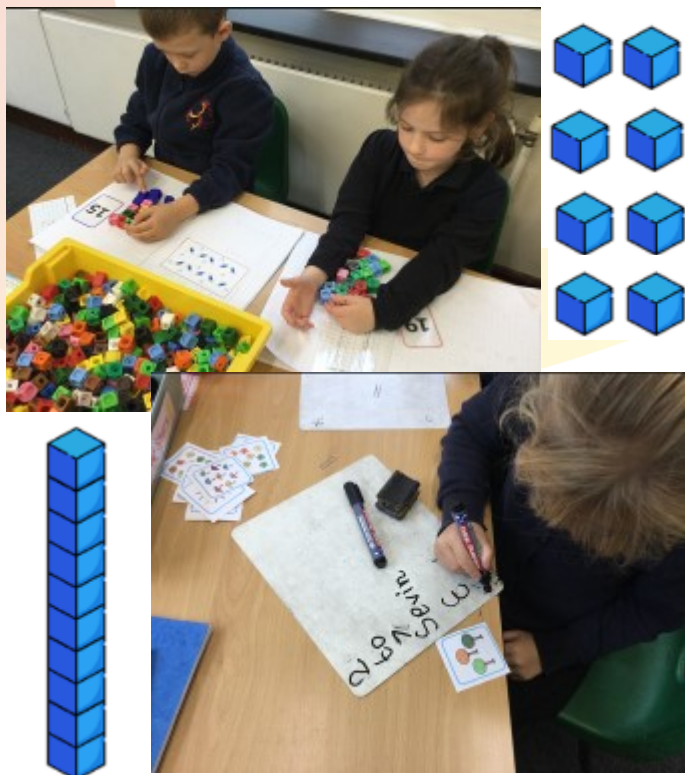


Our English lessons have been brilliant this half term! We have introduced them to a new text type: Rags to Riches. We have enjoyed reading *The Bear and the Piano*, *Yeti and the Bird* and *Aladdin*.

Children have learned about **adjectives** and **nouns** to describe friends and rivals.. We have been reminding children what SUPER sentences need: capital letters, finger spaces, adjectives and nouns and full stops.

To finish off our unit, the children worked hard to complete their first ever independent write!

Year 1



During our place value topic in maths, the children have been practising their counting forwards and backwards. To support their learning, they have been given number tracks and counters to find one more and one less of any given number.

We have introduced numbers as words so children can start to associate the spelling of numbers up to 20. Children have been exposed to the mathematical terms of 'greater' and 'fewer' to compare numbers. The children impressed us with their use of the mathematical symbols to compare numbers.

Children have been using dienes to represent numbers up to 20. They have been practising drawing dienes as tens and ones.

As part of our 'Burwell and Beyond' theme, we have been exploring the school and its grounds using a compass. We have also been using maps and atlases to locate Burwell within the country.

When we learnt about the human and physical features of Burwell, the children used their historical skills to compare different features of Burwell 'now' and 'then'.

We are looking forward to our fieldwork around Burwell in the next half term!

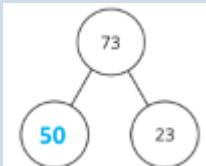
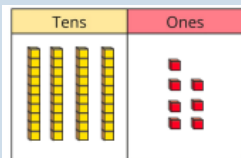
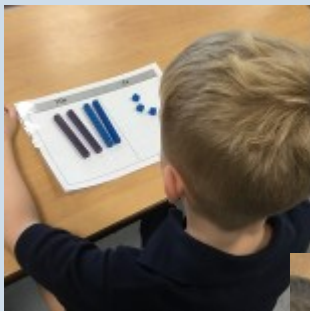
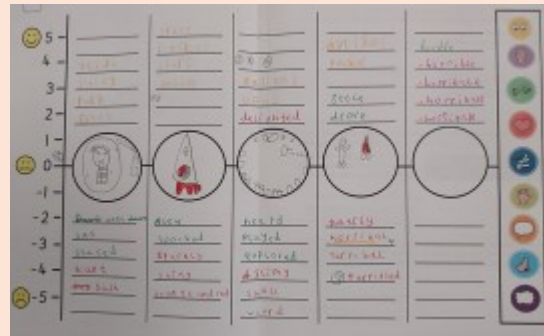
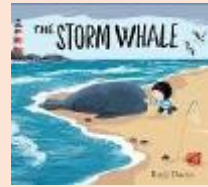


Year 2

In English, we have been learning about Voyage and Return narratives. We read *The Tunnel*, *Storm Whale* and *Where the Wild Things Are* and identified the structure of the narratives.

We learnt how to use coordinating conjunctions to extend our sentences and how to use a/an accurately. We are beginning to wider vocabulary, using adjective beyond size and colour.

The children wrote some amazing independent stories featuring fantastic journeys to strange and wonderful lands. They have been trying really hard with their handwriting, spelling and remembering to use correct punctuation.



The children have impressed us with their number knowledge this half term. During our place value unit, we have learnt how to represent numbers using tens and ones (dienes), how to partition numbers flexibly and we have discovered how to order and compare numbers to 100.

We have also worked hard to practise our 2, 5 and 10 times tables. We hope the children are enjoying using Times Tables Rockstars at home. In school, we frequently recite the times tables facts on order and look for any patterns. During number fluency, we practice recalling these facts in a random order.

We are continuing to reason and problem solve in maths too. The children know that reasoning means 'explaining' and problem solving means 'more than one answer'.

Our theme for this term is 'The Valiant Victorians'. To develop our understanding of chronology, we placed the Victorian Era on the Burwell timeline.

Our main enquiry question is 'How has transport changed over time?' When focusing on the development of bicycles, we identified the similarities and differences during group discussions. We were fascinated by the Penny Farthing.

We now have a basic understanding of the Industrial Revolution and how the use of steam-powered machinery changed people's lives in positive or negative ways.

We had a fabulous afternoon at the Burwell Museum and Windmill. We asked lots of questions linked to our learning in history. In the Victorian classroom, we were able to use artefacts as a source of information in order to answer some of the questions we recorded before our visit.



Year 3

Year 3 have made a fantastic start to the academic year. It has been a challenge to learn all the new expectations and routines and they have all stepped up brilliantly.

In English, the children have been writing a Voyage and Return Narrative this term. They have been focusing on a range of grammatical features included expanded noun phrases, fronted adverbials and conjunctions. Their narratives written were great to read and we had some fantastic character descriptions too.

In Maths, we have been focusing on place value. In Year 3 we work up to 1,000. Children are also continuing to learn their times tables too.

In theme, Year 3 have been investigating how

In Science this half term, Year 3 have actively investigated light. They enquired into how different objects cast shadows and how the orientation of an object affects the shadow by making hand shadows. They also, now, understand the scientific terms opaque, transparent and translucent and that shadows are made when light from a source is blocked by an object and that the shape of the shadow is the same as the shape of the object. Children have also explored mirrors, investigating reflections and how darkness is the absence of



Year 4



Year 4 have had a fabulous start to the new academic year.

In English, we have been learning all about 'Rags to Riches' narratives, and have explored different stories including Egyptian Cinderella and Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. We have used our storytelling skills to retell these stories through acting. The children have been working hard on developing their sentences to include relative clauses using 'who', 'when', 'where', 'which' and 'that'.

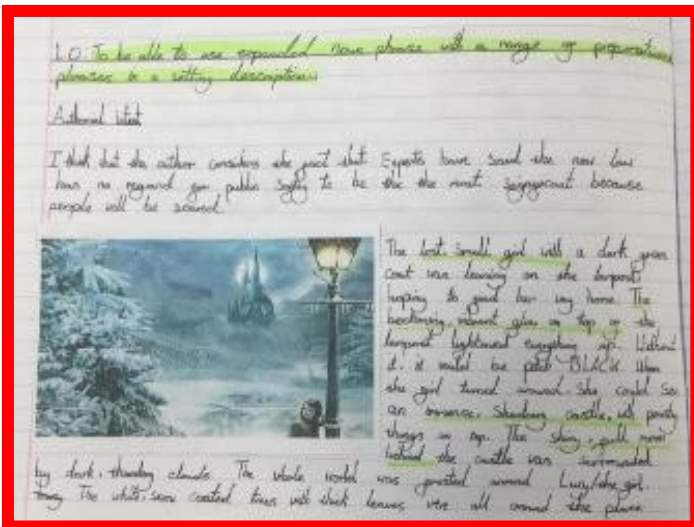
In Maths, we have been developing our knowledge of place value up to the 1,000s. The children have used their problem solving skills along with place value counters to see how many different ways they can partition a number. They have worked hard when learning how to round numbers to the nearest 10, 100 and 1,000 to help with estimating calculations.

In Science this half term, Year 4 have been learning all about the human body. They completed an exciting investigation into the digestive system which involved recreating each stage: ingestion, digestion, absorption and excretion. They have also been investigating our different teeth and the effect of different drinks. Using eggs to represent the enamel on our teeth, we placed each one in a different liquid and observed the effects of the drink on the surface of the egg. It was interesting to see which drinks created a build up of plaque or stained the egg, whilst others had much less effect on the egg.

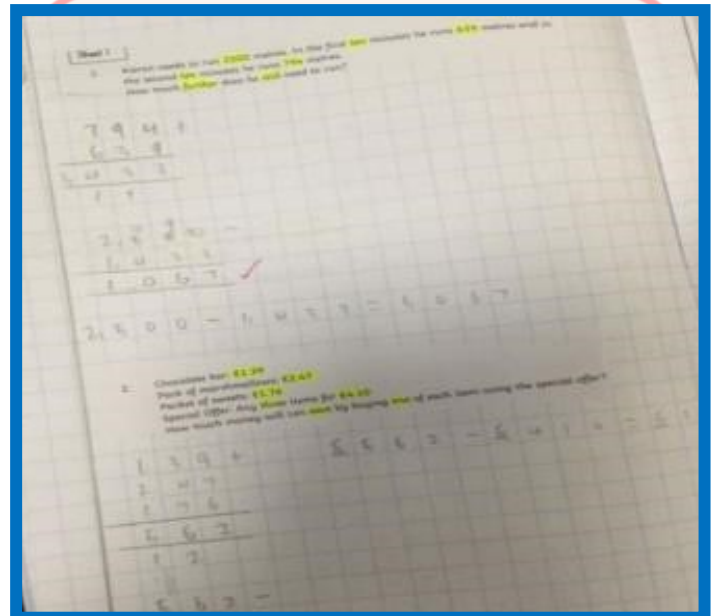


Year 5

The children have really wowed us this half term in their English lessons! They have been brilliant at applying their new learning about expanded noun phrases with prepositional phrases and embedded relative clauses to make their writing more interesting for the reader. They have also been exceptionally aspirational when considering language choice when drafting their independent Voyage & Return narratives.



Similarly, in maths, the children have been working hard to demonstrate their understanding of Year 5 objectives. We have been focusing on securing strong understanding of place value up to 1 million and applying this knowledge to methods for addition and subtraction. We have also been looking at addition and subtraction in the context of word problems to bring our learning to life and discussed which operations to use to solve calculations and why.



Our theme focus this term has been all about Kenya. The children have thoroughly enjoyed collecting data to compare the climates of Nairobi and London, though we have often been jealous of the temperature difference!

We have enjoyed learning about elevation and contour lines, as well as the contrasting biomes that can be found across Kenya.



Year 6

We have had a super start to the academic year in year 6! The pupils have been working hard learning lots of new content already.

We had a fantastic day at Soham Village College focusing on STEM activities. The children took part in a very challenging maths quiz which really made them think hard. After that, they found out about all things science related to flight. All of this learning was put together in the afternoon when they had to design a model airplane. They were all fabulous and an absolute credit to the school.

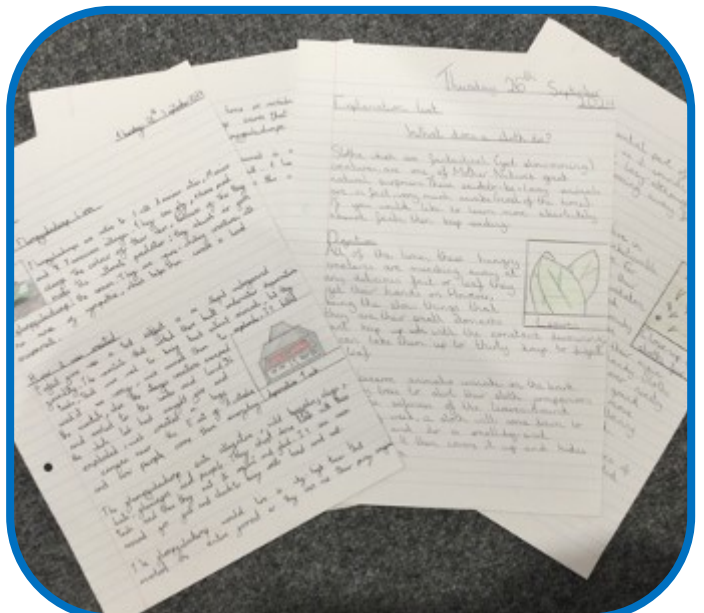


In maths, we have reviewed number and place value. The children have been ordering, comparing and rounding numbers up to 10 million. We have also recapped adding subtracting using formal and mental methods. The children have also spent time using factors and multiples to find more efficient methods when multiplying and dividing. We have also been really impressed with how quickly the children have picked up long division. To support at home, times tables are still important to keep practicing. Even children who know their facts, need to keep up the pace.

We have hit the ground running in English, where we have already covered two units: explanation texts and biographies.

The children have really enjoyed getting their teeth stuck into the year 6 grammar objectives. They have been learning about colons, semi-colons and passive voice.

During our explanation texts, the children all chose something different to write about, whether it be an invention or a life process. For their biographies, they carried out their research on someone of their choice.



Friends' Pond Project

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Reception will explore the pond as part of exploring the natural world around them making observations and drawing pictures of animals and plants.

Year 2 will pond dip as part of their unit, Living Things and Their Habitats. They can use the pond as a micro-habitat in order to identify and name a variety of plants and animals in a local habitat and describe how animals obtain their food from plants and other animals, using the idea of a simple food chain, and identify and name different sources of food with the pond as a model.

Year 6 will be able to pond dip in order to study the micro-organisms under microscopes, describing how living things are classified into broad groups according to common observable characteristics and based on similarities and differences.

But the pond can also inspire many other areas of the curriculum – maths, geography, ICT, DT, English and art lessons can all be linked to pond life. We look forward to seeing the benefits of having this wildlife rich area available for our children for years to come!



A huge thank you to Friends for their hard work in liaising with the charity, providing funding, time and energy to the project.