



Burwell Village College Primary

School Newsletter

Upcoming dates:

- 15th April - Summer Term Starts
- 19th April - Year 2A Swimming restarts
- w/c 22nd April - Afterschool Clubs
- w/c 29th April - Year 5 Bikeability
- 29th April - Enrichment Clubs
- 6th May - School Closed - Bank Holiday
- w/c 13th May - Year 6 SATS
- 20th May - Year 2 Colchester Zoo
- 24th May - School Closed
- w/c 27th May—Half Term
- 6th June - Reception Wicken Fen
- 12th June - Class Photos
- 1st July - Year 6 Transition Day - BVC
- 1st July - Year 4 School Trip—Ely
- 2nd July - Year 6 Transition Day - BVC
- 4th July - Year Transition Day - SVC
- 16th July - Sports Day
- 22nd July - Last Day of Term

This term has at times felt very short trying to make sure that all the content is taught effectively. At others it has felt very long with so much being accomplished and offered to children. We have had school trips to Cambridge, South Angle farm (a very wet and very muddy year one trip), the space centre in Leicester and the year six residential happening at the moment. We have had assemblies from the local churches, the police and an iRock concert. Busy Bees cafes have continued alongside our new Little Readers cafes which have all been highly successful.

All of these experiences and opportunities are down to the dedication of the staff. They continue to work hard to improve the opportunities for pupils and to ensure that their teaching is of the highest quality. The staff are always trying to find ways to ensure that all pupils progress and achieve and balance this against the other opportunities we can offer children to develop social skills. The staff are what make the school effective and ensure that the children succeed.

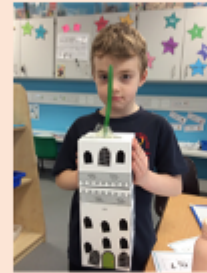
As we take the Easter break to recharge and plan for the summer, I would like to thank the staff for being so engaged in the school and its 'journey' over the last four years. To parents thank you for your support and how you have encouraged children to always try their hardest and celebrated their successes.

We hope you have a wonderful Easter break and we look forward to the summer term.

Reception

In Spring 1, our topic was 'Fairy Tales'. We have read lots of different stories and have been thinking carefully about the similarities and differences in each. We have really enjoyed using lots of different props to help us remember the stories and reenacted the stories in our play.

In Science, we explored lots of different materials and sorted them by their properties. We also investigated how ice changes as it melts. In D&T, we designed and built our own houses for The Three Little Pigs. We were really proud of our models.



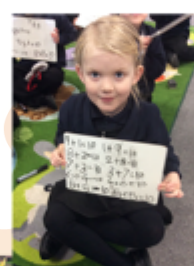
This half-term our topic has been 'Great Growing'. In Science, we have been learning about the life cycles of different animals and plants. We have our own caterpillars in the classroom and are very excited to see them change into butterflies! We loved our Busy Bee Café and enjoyed planting sunflowers. We have also been busy growing lots of plants for our outdoor area.

In Art, we have been looking at Monet and using this for a basis for our own paintings and collages. We have also had lots of messy fun printing with fruit and vegetables!

In Maths, we have been learning about the names of 2d and 3d shapes and their properties. We have been on shape hunts, searching for them in our environment. We have also been thinking about repeating patterns and printing with shapes to make these.

We have been exploring the capacity of different containers and using water, rice and sand to compare and measure.

We have been thinking about the composition of numbers and have been learning our number bonds to 5 and 10. We have been using part-whole models, Numicon and tens frames to investigate which numbers go together to make the bonds.



Year 1

During our second English unit, we have been learning how to write instructions. We have written instructions for lots of different purposes and had to think carefully about the verbs we chose.

For our final piece of writing we wrote instructions for a magic potion. After writing the instructions, we had great fun following them and making our magic potions.

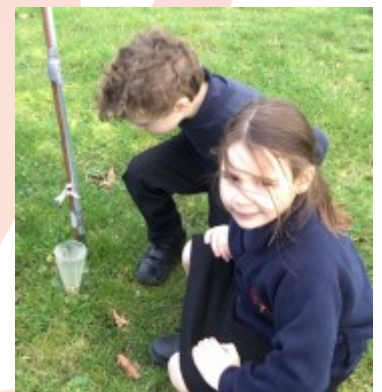


In Maths this term, we have been learning how to measure. We have used cubes and rulers to measure the length and height of things. We learnt how to measure mass using scales and compared items to see which was heavier or lighter. Finally, we explored capacity and volume using water.

As part of our ongoing 'seasons' topic in Science, we have been investigating the weather and daylight. Each week, we have measured the rainfall using our rainfall gauge and recorded how the amount of daylight changed.

We found that lots of our predictions were actually wrong because there was lots more rainfall in Spring compared to Winter.

We made a chart to show how the daylight hours increase as you move into Spring.

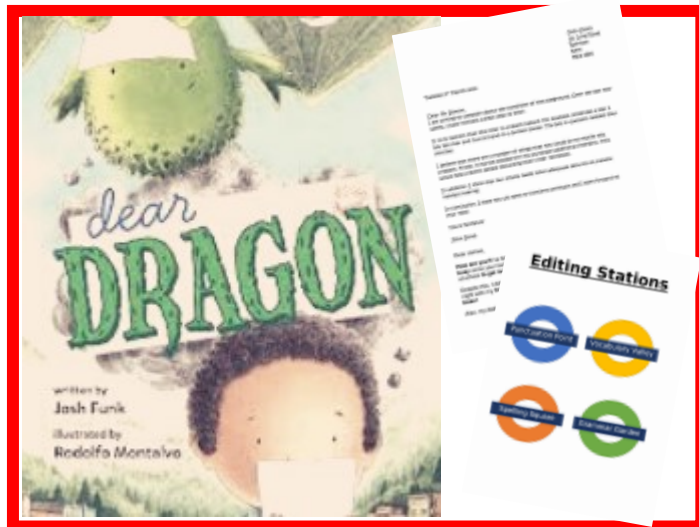


Year 2

English this term has been focused on informal letters. We looked at the language and text features, which included some tricky concepts, e.g. recalling past events and a sign-off.

Although it's been a short term, we have still been busy practicing our editing and improving skills, as well as learning new content.

At the end of his term, we eventually wrote our own informal letter to a friend of our choice.

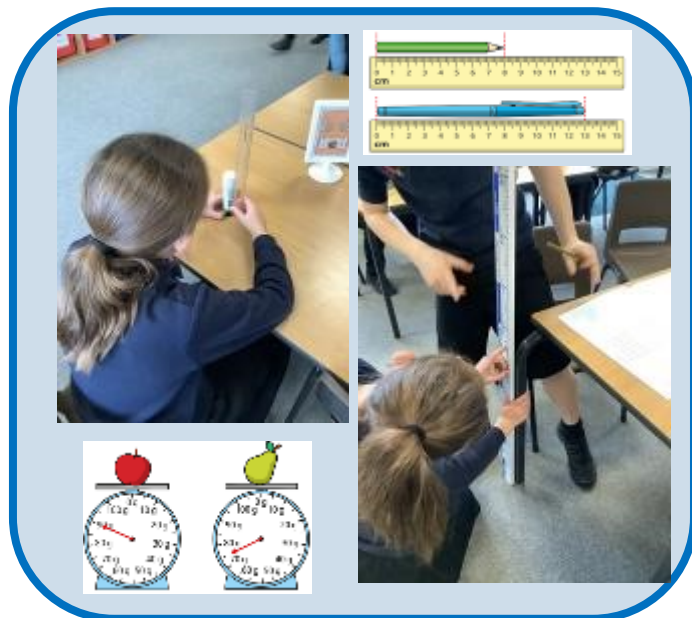


In maths, we have been busy measuring accurately with rulers, scales, metre sticks, thermometers and containers. We have been working practically using objects in the classroom.

We have learnt how to measure in centimetres, metres, grams, kilograms, millilitres, litres and degrees Celsius.

The children have been fantastic reading scales on the equipment, especially when some numbers are missing.

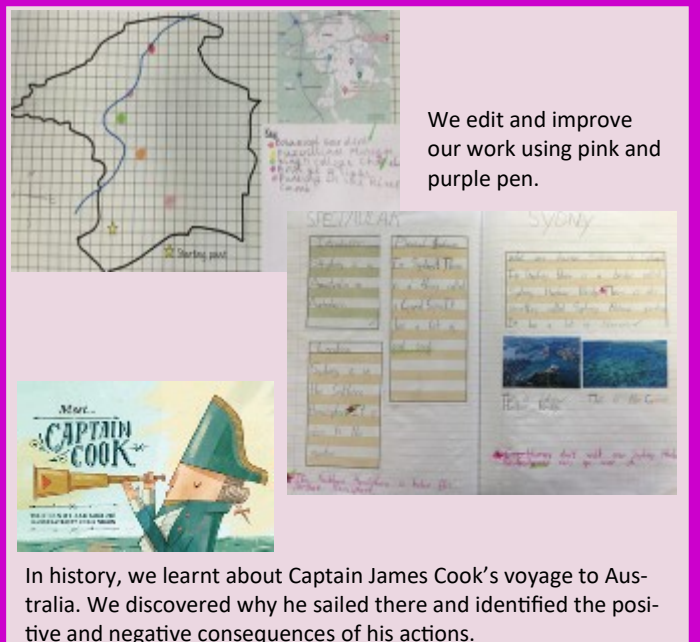
Check with your child to see if they can remember the abbreviations for the measurements above.



During theme this term, we have been exploring our fieldwork question. How does Sydney, Australia, compare to Cambridge, UK? We started by zooming in from the continent, to the country and then into each city using a variety of maps.

Using aerial photographs, we learnt about some physical and human features in both cities. We were very excited to see many of Cambridge's human features whilst on our City Sight Seeing tour.

Following the visit, we created a map with a key. Using locational language, including the main compass points, we described the locations of many of the features from our starting point on the map.



We edit and improve our work using pink and purple pen.

In history, we learnt about Captain James Cook's voyage to Australia. We discovered why he sailed there and identified the positive and negative consequences of his actions.

Year 4

Spring has definitely sprung in Year 4. We have had a very busy 2024 so far. Our maths work is focusing on fractions and decimals. We are now calculating below 1 and into tenths and hundredths as well as converting between fractions and decimals. Additionally, we are continuing to become fluent with our times tables, with so many children now able to answer random selection of multiplications in less than 6 seconds. This will support children in all of their maths next year.



In English, we saw some brilliant tragedy narratives before half term. The children seem to have a hidden talent for writing stories that do not have a happy ending and thoroughly enjoyed their characters meeting a 'doomed' ending. This term our focus is on non-fiction as we look to include relative pronouns, fronted subordinating clauses and a clear structure in our non-chronological reports.

Science has been our overarching focus in theme lessons this term. We studied electricity before half term and now we turn our attention to sound. We have explored what motivated Alexander Graham Bell into developing the telephone. Our enrichment day was memorable! We had two workshops delivered by Fizzy Pop Science Company, as well as a murder mystery event, using all of our scientific knowledge and skills to solve the 'Who Dun-it' murder.



Year 5

The Spring term was off to an amazing start with our trip to the National Space Centre in Leicester. While there, the children took part in workshops about the seasons and day and night, visited the planetarium, watched a live science show and of course enjoyed perusing the exhibits. Thank you again to our parent helpers for accompanying us on our trip!

Our learning about space continued in our science lessons at school. We have learned about the order of the planets, the geocentric and heliocentric models of the solar system and the importance of gravity—both on Earth and in the wider solar system.



Continuing with science, we have taken part in a range of investigations to learn more about forces, including friction, air resistance and water resistance.

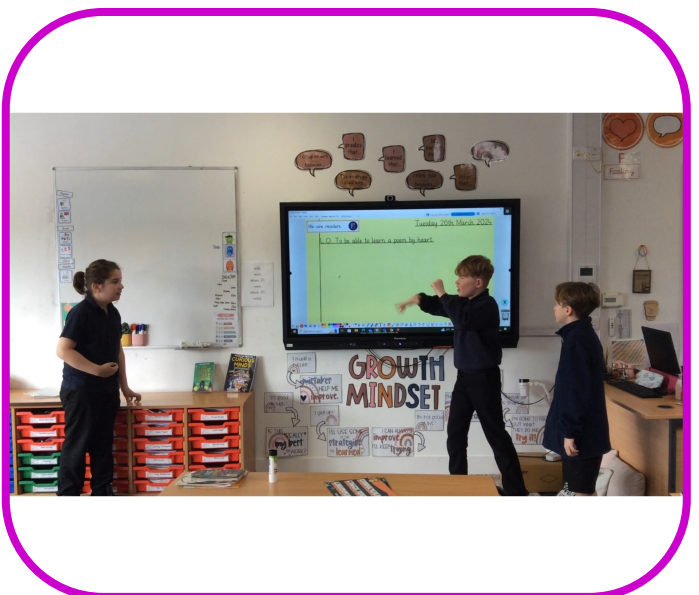
For example, to learn about the effects of friction, we carried out an investigation whereby we tested which material was best for slowing the wheel of a balance bike. To investigate air resistance, we made a range of parachutes and timed how long it took them to land when we dropped them from the top of the Year 5 stairwell.

Of course, all of these investigations required us to think about what makes a fair test. We discussed controlled and independent variables and the reliability of our results to reach a conclusion in each instance.



In the final week of term, in English, we have been concentrating on poetry, specifically classic poems. These are poems that have stood the test of time.

We really enjoyed reading a range of classic poems—from *The Tyger* by William Blake to *Algernon* by Hilaire Belloc. We consulted Michael Rosen's performance poetry top tips to ensure that, when we performed the poems to our classmates, we used facial expressions, body language, volume and intonation to make the poems' meanings clear and to entertain our audience.



Year 6

What a fun-filled term we have had in year 6! In our science, history and geography lessons, we have been learning about Charles Darwin and The Theory of Evolution.

Have you ever wondered how we have adapted? Well, the children in Y6 can teach you all about adaptation and inheritance.

For our investigation, we looked into finches and how their beaks have adapted overtime to suit the food source on their inhabited island. The children became finches for the afternoon and 'ate' different foods with different sized beaks. They were then able to understand why adaptation happens.

Our curriculum offer has continued this term and the children in Y6 have completed the penultimate round of design and technology, art, music and cultural capital lessons.

In Miss Fox's DT class, the children have learnt about mechanisms, especially pulley systems. They spent time investigating different materials, which could be used for the drive belt of a pulley system, and chose the strongest material to create their own pulley system.

Mr Thorne's DT class have been coding a Micro:Bit to assist Mr Bish when he welcomes bus trips back late at night.

The year 6 residential has been the talk of the spring term. The count-down began and our week away quickly arrived.

We have had many conversations which have prepared the children for the residential: discussing responsibilities; making sensible decisions, and encouraging them to take ownership of their packing.

The week of the residential started excellently with the children meeting their PGL group leaders, unpacking their belongings in their rooms and participating in a range of activities. We cannot wait to share more about the residential in the next newsletter.



We would like to say another huge congratulations to Nell and Isla D (6A) who came 1st and 2nd in our Easter house competition. Their 'eggcellent' creations were simply fantastic! Well done to all of the Y6 children who also entered—you have contributed to your house tokens by participating in the competition.