



Burwell Village College Primary

School Newsletter

Term dates

Autumn term dates

- Wednesday 4 September to Thursday 24 October
- Friday 25 October INSET day (parent consultations)
- **Half Term: Monday 28 October to Friday 1 November**
- Monday 4 November to Friday 20 December (35 days)
- **Christmas Holidays: Monday 23 December to Friday 3 January**

Spring term dates

- Monday 6 January to Thursday 13 February
- Friday 14 February INSET day (parent consultations)
- **Half Term: Monday 17 February to Friday 21 February**
- Monday 24 February to Friday 4 April (30 days)
- **Easter Holidays: Monday 7 April to Monday 21 April**

Summer term dates

- Tuesday 22 April to Friday 23 May 2025 (23 days)
- **Half Term: Monday 26 May to Friday 30 May**
- Monday 2 June to Wednesday 23 July (38 days)
- Friday 27 June & Monday 30 June INSET days
- **Summer Holiday: Thursday 24 July onwards**

Compassionate, Aspirational, Inquisitive

What a fabulous year! As a school we have really demonstrated that with a clear vision and the combined effort of staff and pupils and the support of parents, governors and friends we can succeed. We have made Burwell Village College Primary school a place to be proud of once again.

We now begin a new stage in the school's development. We have a re-established set of values with which to work over the next few years to continue to embed excellent practice across the school. We will be able to continue to extend children's experiences and opportunities, giving them the chance to aspire to be great. We have a wonderful curriculum, delivered by exceptional staff who can feed children's curiosity and guide them to be even better than they thought possible.

For those leaving us this year, we would like to say thank you for your contribution to the school. For our Year 6 children moving to new schools we know you can achieve really well, you have proven this with SATs results that are well above the national outcomes in all three core areas. We hope you take this confidence with you on to secondary school and make the most of all the fantastic opportunities that they will provide for you. Remember, the more you take advantage of the opportunities you have the more you can achieve and eventually find the things you love to do and be successful and ultimately happy.

For those returning in September, it will be another exciting year of learning, questioning and developing. We look forward to seeing you all back in September.

To parents, carers and our wider supporters, thank you. We really do appreciate the support you give us and your children.

Throughout the year, pupils have been earning house points for their team. Following sports day and the end-of-year science quizzes, the final scores have been announced. Many congratulations to Fire. You are our House Champions for 2023 - 2024!

Fire 1st ~ 2,831

Water 2nd ~ 2,693

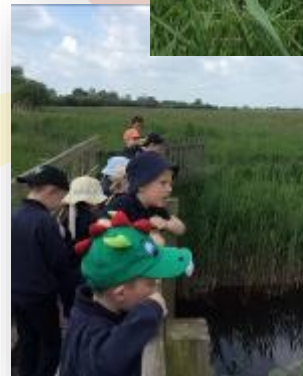
Air 3rd ~ 2,648

Earth 4th ~ 2,256



Reception

This term we have loved learning all about 'Connecting with the Wild'. To enhance our learning we had our first ever school trip to Wicken Fen! We became entomologists like Emily Cheesman and hunted under logs for different minibeasts. We categorised the minibeasts by the number of legs and learnt what they are called. We used our senses to connect with the wild and had a great time discovering what lives in a pond. We were very excited to find a water boatman and some newts. We have also been thinking about how to look after our planet and the creatures that live on it.



We enjoyed designing and making healthy packed lunches. Our favourite part was tasting them!

We have been continuing to work on our letter formation and using our phonics knowledge to write sentences. We are so proud of our amazing writing!

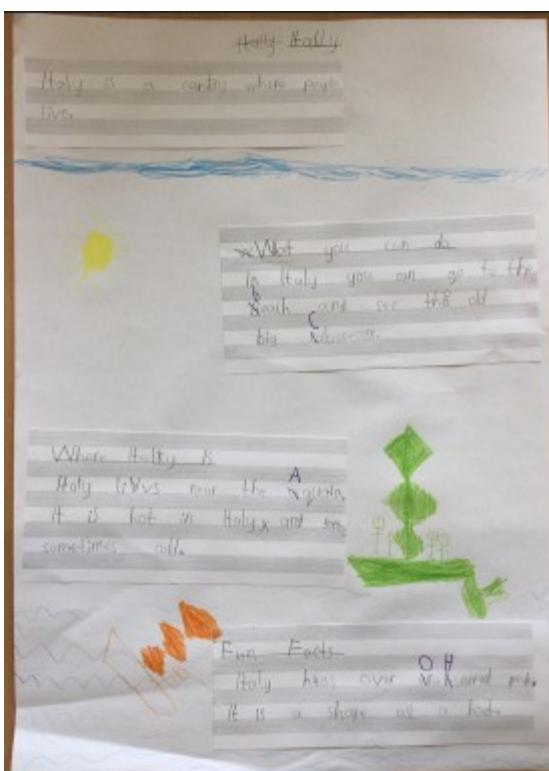
We have loved our pirate ship role play area this half-term. We have been designing maps and using positional and directional language.

Year 1



In science this term, Year 1 have continued to learn about plants. In groups we grew some cress and measured their growth over a week using string, cubes and dienes.

In maths this term, Year 1 have been learning about money. We have looked at the value of different coins and notes as well as discussing the difference between pounds and pence. The children explored how many different combinations of coins they could use to make various amounts.



In English this term, Year 1 have worked really hard to write their own non-chronological reports. They collected their own information and then turned this into full sentences and presented this as an information page. The children worked hard to ensure that their proper nouns had capital letters, they had topic vocabulary and included appropriate subheadings for each section.

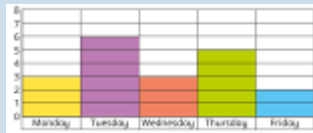
Year 2



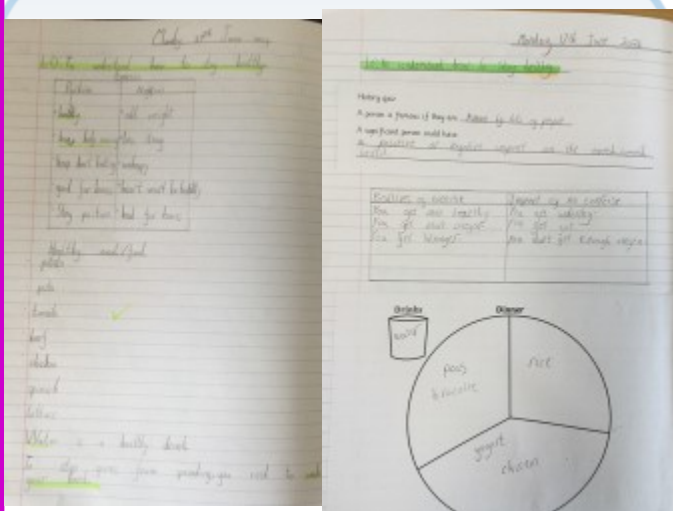
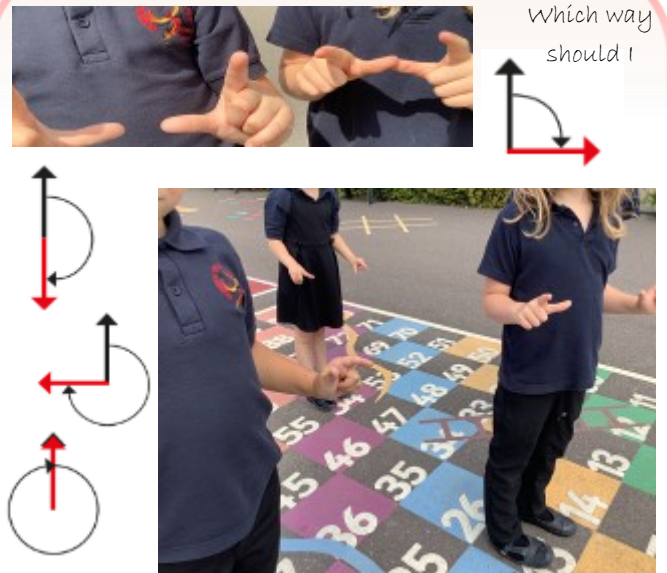
This term in English we have been focusing on non-fiction texts. First, we focused on writing detailed instructions. We learnt how to use commands and all the children were very good at using imperative verbs to be bossy! The children were excellent at using their imaginations to write detailed instructions on how to feed a unicorn, catch a dragon or tame an ogre!

Towards the end of term, we have been writing our autobiographies. These have been shared with our new teachers so that they can learn more about us.

In maths this half-term, we have been learning about statistics. We have completed and interpreted information presented in tally charts, block graphs, tables and pictograms.



Over the last few weeks, we have been focusing on position and direction. We applied our knowledge of fractions in order to understand whether to move a quarter, half, three-quarter or full turn. We used multiple instructions, including key words such as left, right, clockwise and anticlockwise, to help our figures move across the grid and reach their destination.



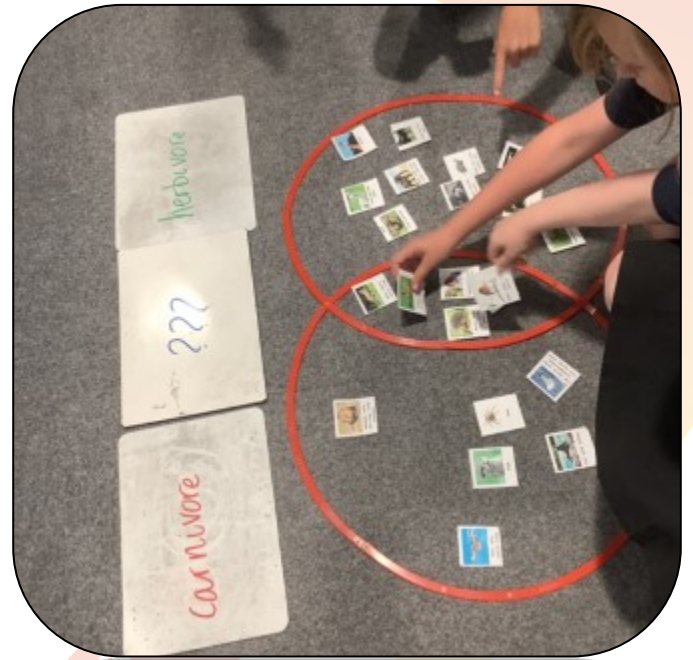
In Science this half term, we have been learning about animals including humans. We have looked at different animals and their offspring and noted how they don't always look like their parents. We have also learnt the three things that all animals need for survival.

Over the last couple of weeks, we have been focusing on how to stay healthy. We have looked at what our bodies need to be healthy as well as learning about Louis Pasteur, who discovered the spread of germs.

Year 3

In Science this half term, Year 3 have enquired into how animals, including humans, cannot make their own food, unlike the plants that they studied in the first half term of this Summer. They have recapped their Year 2 knowledge for carnivores, herbivores and omnivores. Year 3, then, enquired into how humans get nutrition from what they eat and need the right types and amount of nutrition, by designing a nutritional regime for a personal training client.

Year 3 have also been learning how humans and some animals have skeletons and muscles for support, protection and movement. They identified different vertebrates and invertebrates, as well as investigating how the human skeleton works.



We had a fantastic time on our school trip to Ely. The children were able to walk around Ely Cathedral which they have compared to the Sagrada Família in Barcelona. The children also carried out fieldwork in the form of a questionnaire and land use survey. The children had great fun asking visitors about their trip to Ely. This information has used back in school to compare Cambridgeshire with Catalonia, an area in Spain.



Year 4

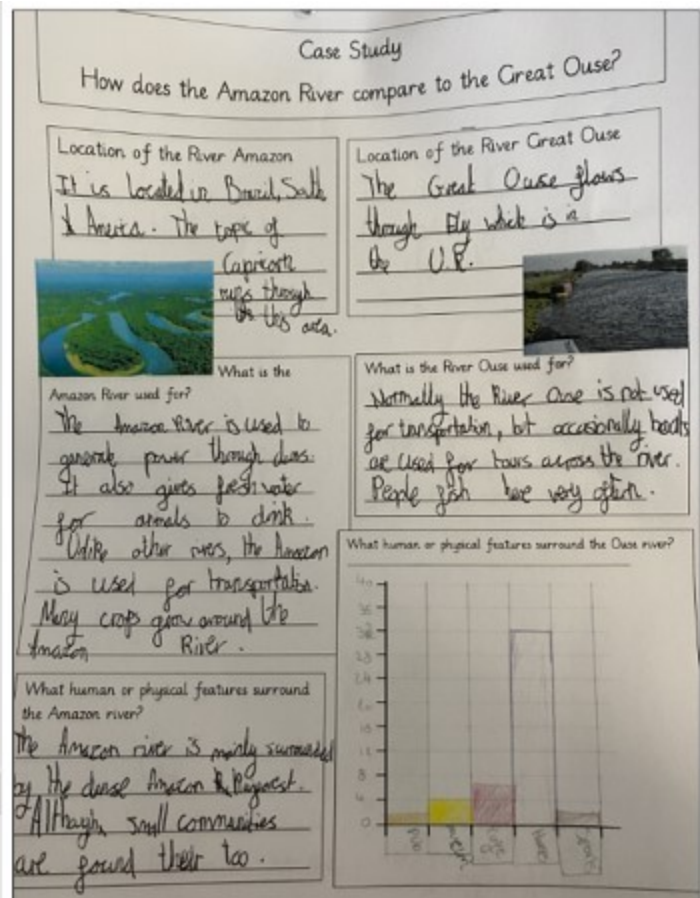


Year 4 have been studying the Amazon Rainforest this term and the impact of Deforestation. They completed their Geography fieldwork by creating a key question related to the rainforest and then carried out primary and secondary research to enable them to answer it. We were very impressed with their results and presentation of their findings.

We also visited Ely this term, to collate research on the impacts of the River Great Ouse and used the results to create a case study comparing the river uses to the Amazon River. We carried out a range of data collection such as a land use and river survey, sketch maps and boat usage tally.

During our trip, we also explored different tourist attractions in Ely which enabled us to create a persuasive brochure for our English writing.

In Maths, we have finished our work on symmetry and angles. We used the rest of the term to consolidate our number understanding - focusing on subtraction and division.



We have loved our year with our fantastic Year 4s and thank them for all their hard work!

Year 5

What a final busy half term year 5 have had!

The children thoroughly enjoyed their Ancient Greek workshop day where they got to immerse themselves in many different activities. The day started with both classes together where they were introduced to life in Ancient Greece. Throughout the day, the children learnt about: battle formations and tactics, where they got to use shields and spears; Ancient Greek board games; city-state management, where they learnt about democracy and took part in lots of voting; and writing like an Ancient Greek scribe, where they got to write with ink on papyrus paper.



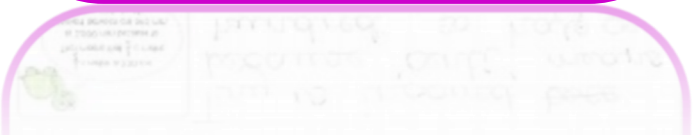
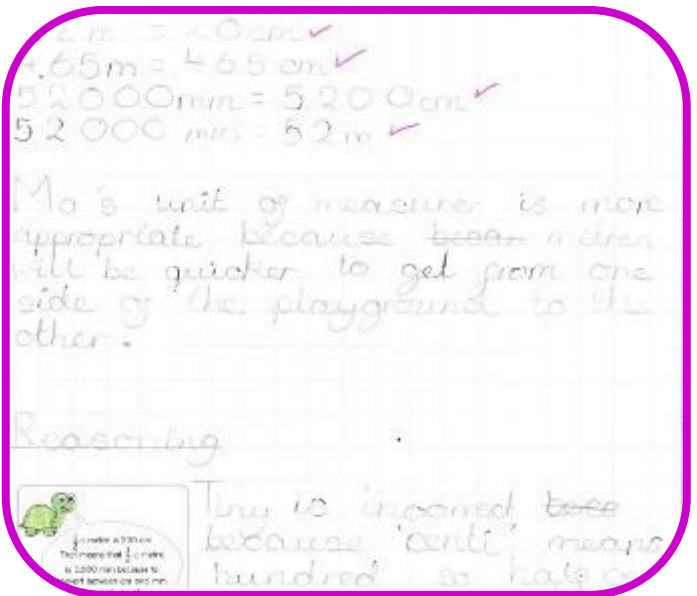
In English, we have focused on non-fiction writing this half term. The first unit was newspaper reports. The children wrote their very own newspaper report, where they got to choose any event to write about. They laid it out just like a real newspaper: they wrote in columns, drew pictures and chose the name of their newspaper.

The second unit of the half term was an informal email. The children got to choose who to write their email to and could write about any topic of their choice. Due to the fact this was an informal piece of writing, they thoroughly enjoyed being able to use abbreviations, such as tbh, and slang terminology like cheerio.



In maths, we have been focusing on measure. The children have been learning about kilograms and kilometres, millimetres and millilitres and converting between metric and imperial units. Additionally, we looked at calculating with timetables, which lead us to think about when we might encounter timetables in real life. This was certainly good practice for secondary school!

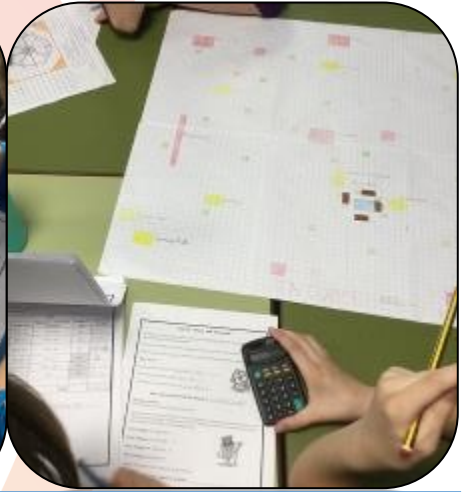
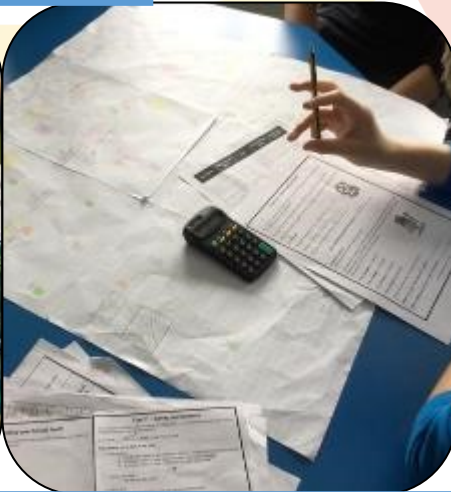
This term we held our maths workshops. Thank you ever so much to those who could attend. The children certainly enjoyed the opportunity to demonstrate their maths fluency and ability to reason and problem solve with their accompanying adults.



Year 6

Year 6 have had another extremely busy term! All the children have been fantastic while they begin to get ready for their journey into secondary school. Students have been partaking in transition days for their secondary schools whilst also finishing their final pieces of work.

Many children have represented the school by taking part in competitions including rounders, athletics and cross-country, bringing back a multitude of medals in the process. In addition, there was a maths challenge in which one team placed first — well done to all!



While other students engaged in transition days within schools, Year 6 worked on planning their own theme park. In this theme park project, the children had the opportunity to work in groups and make decisions as to what the name and logo of their park should be, how their theme park should be set out, the attractions available for guests and what the other facilities could attract visitors.

The children used a variety of mathematical skills and applied their knowledge from a range of different concepts to ensure their park was set out effectively and operated efficiently. Students had to calculate the area and perimeter of rides and also find percentages of large amounts of money. Students worked diligently over the three days this task took to complete and should be incredibly proud of their efforts.

It has been wonderful to be able to complete these activities with students as their time at Burwell Village College Primary School comes to an end. They should all be commended on a great end to a fantastic year. We wish the students all the best as they move to secondary school.

Thank you Mrs. Barnes

A massive thank you to Mrs. Barnes who is retiring from the school this year. Mrs. Barnes has been working at Burwell Village College for 30 years. What dedication to the children of Burwell! She will have seen school systems change, new leaders coming in with their own ideas about how schools should operate and new children attending with bright minds and an eagerness to learn. All the time Cathy has been here to support children to ensure they achieve the best they can.



Cathy's dedication to the children has been incredible over the last 30 years. With all the changes to systems, structures, the expectations on children's knowledge and ability ever-increasing and the changing nature of her own role Cathy has always put the children first.

We all wish her the happiest of retirements, enjoying time with her family and her dogs. We are sure that she leaves with some very happy memories and a recognition of the difference she has made to the lives of nearly 2000 children.

Thank you Cathy and happy retirement.

Notices

Mobile phones

In years 5 & 6 we allow children to bring their mobile phones to school when they walk home on their own. This year there have been a number of serious concerns raised throughout the year about mobile phone use and the types of communication between pupils. We will be monitoring carefully mobile phone use next term. Should there be any concerns raised with regard to inappropriate use of mobile technology, e.g. cyber-bullying, inappropriate imagery being shared or exclusion of pupils or groups of pupils, we will review the decision about whether mobile phones should be allowed in school at all.

Please talk to your child over the summer about what is appropriate and what is not. Please also view the [CEOP's](#) material with regard to mobile phone use and we would strongly urge you to check the protections on your child's phone and regularly monitor them in conversation with your child.

School meals

We will have a new caterer in September offering a new menu and range of food. More information about this will come out closer to the start of term.

For children in Year 2 please remember that universal infant free school meal entitlement ends and therefore payment for school meals will begin in September for those entering Year 3.

For all parents we would encourage you to check if you are entitled to free school meals based on any benefit entitlement. We know that school meals are great for children to get through a whole school day and that they provide balanced nutritional intake throughout the week. If you believe you may be entitled to free school meals you can either come in and check with the office staff and they will help you complete the information or you can go online with your National Insurance number and check for yourself [here](#).

School uniform

Parents are likely to be buying new school uniform for the new term. Please can we remind you to check the website for up to date uniform expectations, particularly with regards to footwear and PE kit as these have been the biggest areas of non-compliance throughout this year. We do not expect branded school wear, although we would encourage children to have at least one branded jumper or cardigan for their school photo and for school trips. Please can we also remind you about the appropriateness of the length of shorts and skirts. This is particularly for girls but by no means exclusively. We also provide second hand clothes for sale through the school office for £1 per item (cash only).

Attendance

From August new legislation is coming into effect with regards to attendance. The school will review the attendance policy to ensure compliance with the new expectations.

For parents the fundamental changes are:

- A penalty notice will be issued following 10 consecutive sessions of unauthorized term time leave
- The fixed penalty notice (FPN/fine) is rising to £80 per parent per child if paid before 21 days or £160 per parent per child if paid between 21-28 days.
- If the fine remains unpaid parents may be subject to a £2500 fine and/or imprisonment for up to 3 months per parent.
- For a second FPN within a 3 year rolling period the fine rises to £160 per parent per child
- For a third FPN within a 3 year rolling period there will be an automatic consideration of prosecution under the education act 1996.

For irregular school attendance we will continue with current monitoring, however, we are likely to expect more frequent meetings with parents where attendance is becoming a concern.