



Burwell Village College Primary

School Newsletter

Upcoming dates:

- 24th Feb - School Reopens
- 24th Feb - Year 4B Maths Workshop
- 26th Feb - Year 4A Maths Workshop
- 27th Feb - Rec Vision Screening
- 3rd Mar—Year 2 School Trip
- 3rd Mar - Year 4A Library visit
- 4th Mar - Rec B Burwell Library visit
- 5th Mar - Year 1/2 Cultural Capital - Litter Detectives—Burwell village
- 6th Mar - World Book Day
- 6th Mar - Year 2B Library visit
- 10th Mar - Year 3A Maths Workshop
- 10th Mar - Year 4B Library visit
- 11th Mar - Year 6A Maths Workshop
- 11th Mar - Rec A Library visit
- 12th Mar - Year 6B Maths Workshop
- 13th Mar - Year 1 South Angle Farm
- 13th—18th Mar—Book Fair
- 13th Mar - Year 2A Library visit
- 17th Mar - Year 3B Maths Workshop
- 17th Mar - Year 5/6 DT Cooking—parents invited
- 18th Mar - Rec A Maths Workshop
- 19th Mar - Rec B Maths Workshop
- 19th Mar - Year 5/6 Cultural Capital Community Games Event
- KS1 Egg Scene House Competition
- 24th Mar - Year 5B Maths Workshop
- 25th Mar - Year 1 B Maths Workshop
- 26th Mar - Lower KS2 Egg Scene House Comp
- 26th Mar - Year 1A Maths Workshop
- 27th Mar - Upper KS Egg Scene House Comp
- 31st Mar—2A Maths Workshop
- 1st - 4th Apr - Year 6 Residential

And just like that Christmas is a distant memory and we are half way through the school year!

There has been so much going on and so much still to look forward to. We started the term with year 5 visiting the space centre. They had a fabulous time. We have had our termly iRock concert where the children have showcased their improvement. We have some amazing musicians who have clearly worked hard over the term to develop their skills.

Our sports teams have been out competing this half term culminating in our girls' football team finishing runners up in their competition on Wednesday. Well done girls!

Continuing our road safety theme from last term Miss Mansfield and Mrs. Taylor have put the winning competition posters up in Tina's shop window. We would like to thank Tina's for supporting our campaign along with Turner's who sponsored the event and brought the HGV cab into school for our children to experience the size first hand.

A real positive from this half term is the increase in participation in Maths Whizz in key stage 2. We can see the impact of this increased usage in the speed and application of mathematics skills. Your support in ensuring that children are using Maths Whizz is really valuable. The same is true of reading which again we can see a significant increase in the number of children reading everyday.

Following half term we are excited that the maths workshops will be starting again. These will be straight after drop-off this term. We look forward to all parents coming along to find out about the maths work in the classes. Letters will be coming via email for the dates for individual classes.

We would like to thank you for your ongoing support for the school. We are fortunate that the staff give so much of their time and energy to their roles to ensure that children get the best opportunities we can provide and your support of them is extremely valuable.

We hope you have a wonderful and safe half term. We look forward to having everyone back safe and rested on Monday 24th February 2025.

Reception

This term our topic has been 'Fairy Tales'. We have discussed how fairy tales have been passed down through generations which often results in many different versions. . We have really enjoyed reenacting the stories in our play and putting on shows for our friends, using hand made puppets. We used lots of different props to help us remember the stories and enjoyed chanting the repeated phrases that appear in the stories. In PE, we dramatised the stories and worked hard to improve our hopping, skipping, jumping and rolling skills.

Another highlight of this term was learning all about Chinese New Year. We looked at the origins of the festival and enjoyed exploring some of the customs associated with Chinese New Year.

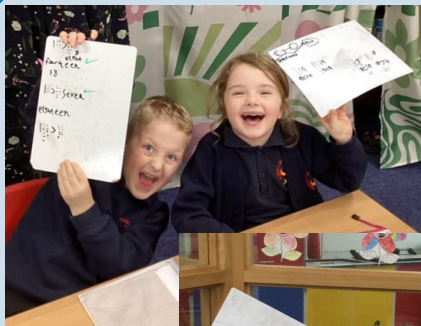
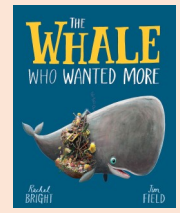
We then learnt about dragon and lion dances performances and made our very own reception dragon, working together to create a wonderful collage. Once complete, we paraded our dragon around the playground creating our own dragon dance complete with drummers and percussionists. We also created Chinese lanterns and used our fine motor skills to create some beautiful Chinese character paintings.



In English this half-term, our Year 1 writers have been on an exciting journey exploring quest narratives. We have read a variety of quest narratives to them, with a few of their favourites being 'The Man on the Moon' and 'The Whale Who Wanted More'.

They have been developing their storytelling skills by learning to use exclamation sentences starting with 'how' and 'what'. We have also revisited time adverbials to help sequence events and have continued to use 'and' to join simple clauses together. We have also focused on the importance of using past-tense verbs to show that their quests have already happened—

Year 1

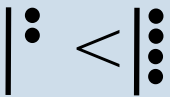


$$4 + 12 =$$

$$12 + 4 =$$

$$16 - 4 =$$

$$16 - 12 =$$

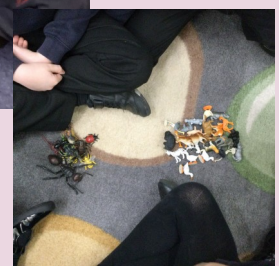
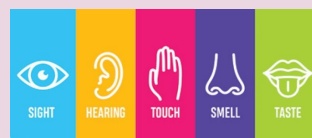


In maths, we have been deepening our understanding of place value to 20, learning how to recognise, represent and compare numbers with confidence. The children have been estimating numbers to 20 on a number line, which has helped them to develop a strong sense of number placement.

To support their learning, the children have been drawing numbers using dienes to represent tens and ones. They have continued to explore fact families to show how addition and subtraction facts are connected.

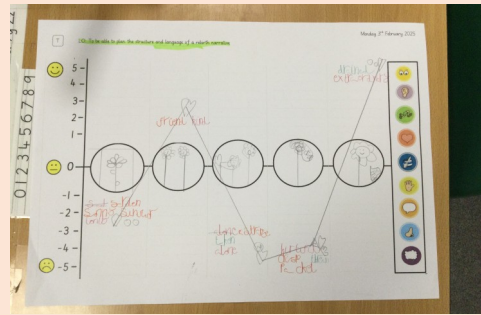
This half term, our young scientists have been exploring the fascinating topic of 'Animals Including Humans'. We have learned all about different animal groups, including fish, mammals, birds and amphibians. The children have enjoyed sorting animals into their groups and learning fun facts about their features and habitats. After half term, we will continue our journey by exploring reptiles.

We have also begun to label the human body. It has been wonderful to see the children's curiosity and enthusiasm as they learn more about the world around them.



Year 2

Our focus texts in English this term have been Traditional Tales and Rebirth Narratives. We enjoyed revisiting familiar stories and identifying common features that they all have. We have learnt how to use apostrophes for possession, subordinating conjunctions and adverbs. We had a lot of fun creating our own exclamation sentences to make our writing more engaging. To finish off our unit we planned and created our own Rebirth Narratives inspired by our WAGOLL 'The ugly Duckling'.



This term in maths Year 2 have been learning all about money. We have learnt how to recognise the value of different coins and notes, we found different combinations of coins to make a pound and combined different amounts to find a total.

We put our maths into a real life context by 'shopping' for different items with a budget of £1 and then calculating the change that we would receive.



We have been practicing our scientific investigation skills through our unit all about plants. We investigated what plants need to grow and grew bulbs in different test conditions. We also planted our own beans with cotton wool to investigate whether soil is essential for a plant to grow. We linked our understanding of significant figures to our key scientist George Washington Carver, who pioneered crop rotation and the importance of nutrients in the soil.



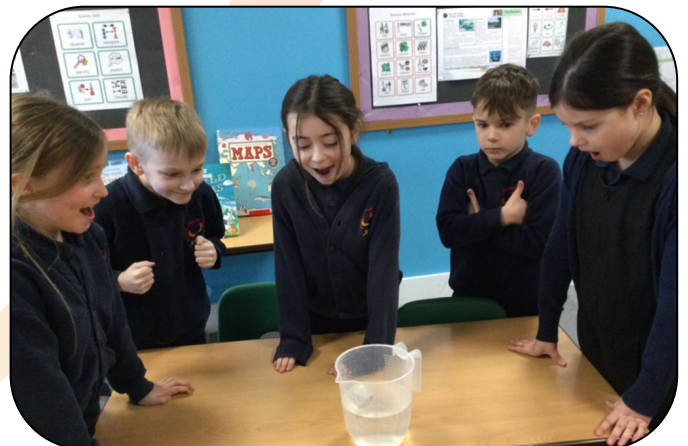
Year 3

In Theme this half term, Year 3 have been studying The Romans in Britain. This unit creates a brilliant progression from last term's history focus on The Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age, as The Romans ended in the Iron Age in Britain by bringing literacy to us. Year 3 have been learning who, when and how the Iron Age Celts resisted the initial invasions of Julius Caesar but finally succumbed in 43 CE to Emperor Claudius. They have roleplayed being Celts and Roman soldiers, including using the Latin commands necessary to control a Legion of 5,000 men!

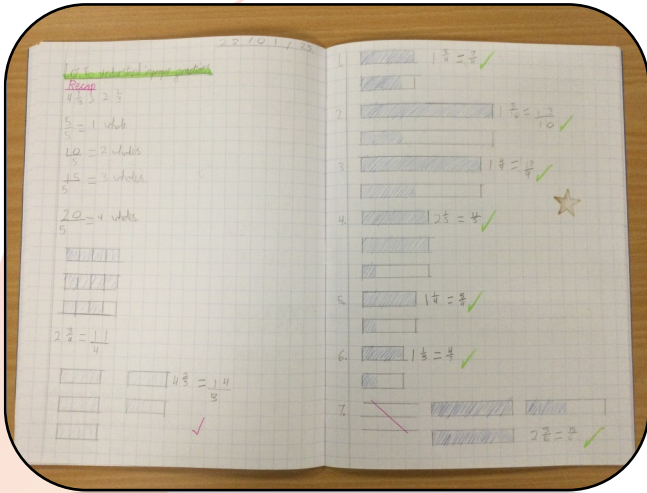


In Science, Year 3 have been investigating rocks and fossils this half term. They have classified different rocks into whether they are sedimentary, igneous or metamorphic as well as investigated whether a rock's permeability helps us to identify which type of rock it is. Year 3 have also studied the life and work of pioneering and self trained female scientist, Mary Anning, and her contribution to our understanding of fossils.

In English this half term, Year 3 have been reading and writing Overcoming The Monster narratives. They have read many different traditional stories, the legend of Robin Hood, The Skull by Jon Klassen and The Wolves in The Walls and Coraline by Neil Gaiman.



Year 4

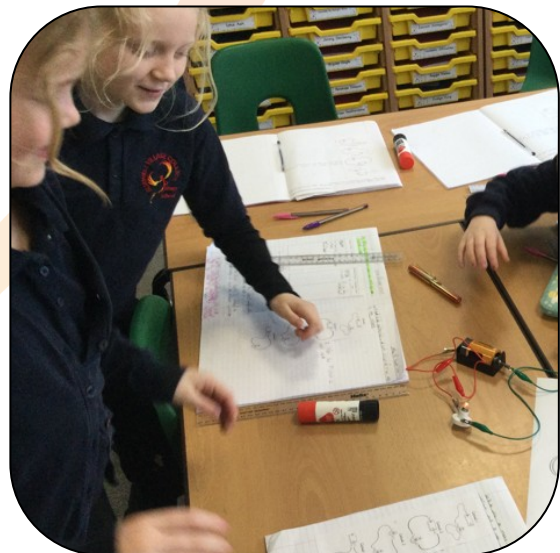


In the first half of the spring term, Year 4 have been diving into the fascinating world of Ingenious Inventors! Pupils have explored the basics of electricity by learning how to create and draw simple circuits, testing their problem-solving skills to predict whether circuits will work. They've gone on an exciting hunt around the school grounds, discovering the many devices that run on electricity and sparking their curiosity about how things work.

The children have also been investigating the advantages and disadvantages of batteries versus mains power, engaging in lively discussions about which is better suited to different scenarios. It's been an electrifying start to the term, and Year 4 are excited to continue their journey of discovery!

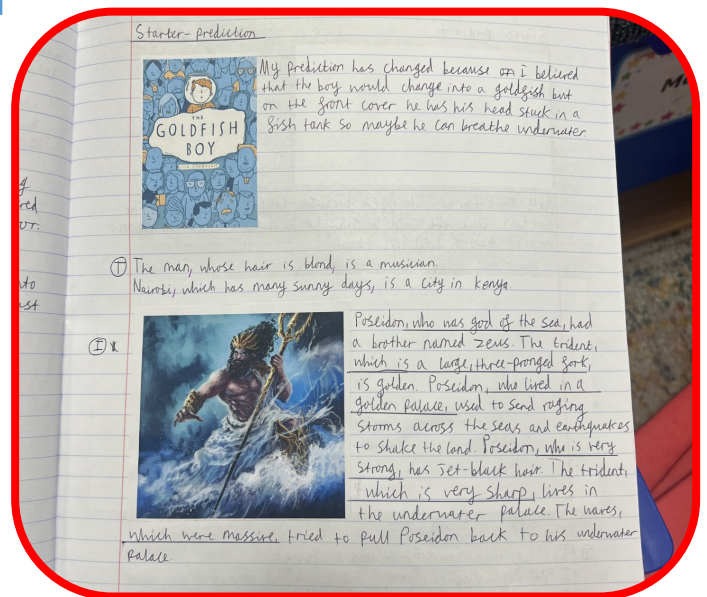
Our focus for maths this term has been all about fractions. The children have worked really hard on learning how to convert mixed numbers into improper fractions using their knowledge of times tables to help them. The children have been fantastic at making connections between multiplication and division to understand fractions more deeply and use this to answer reasoning questions throughout the term. We have also been using lots of pictorial representations in the forms of number line and bar models. The children have also been working really hard on their times tables and we have seen some amazing effort on TTRockstars!

Our focus for English this term has been tragedy narratives. The children have worked really hard on expanding their vocabulary to create spooky and scary tones in their writing. We have explored the importance of setting descriptions for building atmosphere and we have been amazed by some of the wonderful similes, metaphors and personification that the children have used both during our lessons on figurative language and that the children have come up with as part of their own independent writing. Their creativity and attention to detail have really brought their stories to life.



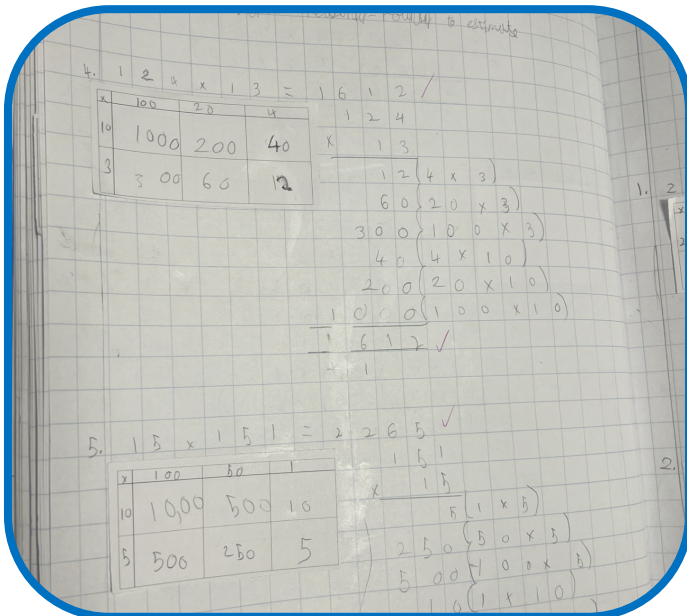
Year 5

This term, in English, we have revisited narrative writing as we take on the Overcoming the Monster text type. We have been immersed in quality texts such as *Peter Pan*, *Who Let the Gods Out?*, *Theseus and the Minotaur* and *Goldfish Boy*. These texts have demonstrated to us the typical structure of an Overcoming the Monster narrative before we embark on our independent planning and writing later in the term. We have developed our prediction skills—progressing from predicting on the basis of a text’s title, to its front cover, to its synopsis, making amendments to our predictions as more information was revealed. We have also focused on punctuating and using speech to advance the action to craft exhilarating, action-packed stories!



In Maths, the children have been continuing to learn about equivalent fractions, comparing and ordering fractions, and adding and subtracting fractions with different denominators. We ascertained that, before we can do anything with a set of fractions, we must first make the denominators the same. Once we have done this, we can then successfully compare, order etc.

Towards the latter half of this term, we have been looking at strategies to multiply. We have used area models alongside both the expanded and compact methods to multiply to ensure that the children have secure number sense as we navigate multiply up to 4-digit numbers by 2-digit numbers. We will continue to review this learning next half term before moving on to division strategies.



The Spring term was off to an amazing start as we headed to Leicester to spend the day at the National Space Centre. The trip was a brilliant way to kick start our science unit all about Earth and Space. We started the day with a live science show, where we were taught about combustion in an engine. Later, we embarked on an adventure to Mars as we all took on roles aboard a spacecraft, gathering research and carrying out experiments from the planet’s surface. Our day ended with a visit to the planetarium—the largest in the country! All of this was, of course, interspersed with visits to the spectacular exhibits. We saw model rockets, spacesuits and even a chunk of the Moon at the top of the Rocket Tower! The children were, as always, beautifully behaved and were a real credit to the school and their parents. Thank you to those who came to accompany us!



Year 6

It has been a busy half term in English lessons. We have learnt about two types of non-fiction writing: balanced arguments and newspaper reports. One of our favourite lessons was using research to debate whether or not animals should be kept in zoos. The children were very respectful and worked hard to counter arguments with facts that could help to sway opinions. We were amazed with how polite the children were and how deeply they thought about their arguments. We have just finished writing newspaper reports which showcase their fantastic skills at formal writing.

Bring a coat incase it rains. (command)

Text type: Newspaper report ✓ non fiction
 Purpose: to inform everyone about the news ✓
 Audience: Australian people ✓

	Whizz By Deadline	Purpose	Setting	Advanced ending
Attention grabbing headline	✓	✓	✓	✓
Byline (name or job title)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Date	✓	✓	✓	✓
Orientation (when, what, who, where)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Chronology of events	✓	✓	✓	✓
Image and caption	✓	✓	✓	✓
Re-orientation (current and future)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Facts	✓	✓	✓	✓
Direct speech	✓	✓	✓	✓
Indirect speech	✓	✓	✓	✓

A newspaper report is different to a biography because biographies are about ~~people~~ ~~of~~ significant people and what makes them ~~diff~~ significant. Newspaper reports are about ~~the~~ ~~people~~ ~~in~~ the ~~report~~ ~~is~~

Handwritten math work showing various arithmetic problems, including long division and multiplication, with some problems labeled as 'Monday 5/2' and 'Tuesday 5/2'.

In Maths, the children have covered a wide variety of topics already this half term: ratio; algebra; and fractions, decimals and percentages. The children have been practicing these new skills in fluency and then applying that to reasoning and problem solving. They have applied their knowledge to a range of word problems in preparation for their SATs, as well as keeping up with their weekly arithmetic practice too. Please remember to keep up the weekly Maths Whizz time at home to support what we do in class. We are currently striving to get 90% of the class in the hall of fame to earn a Maths Whizz party!

In Science, we have started a topic all about evolution and inheritance. The children have recapped their knowledge about fossils, where they can be found and what they tell us about the past. We then looked at animals and how characteristics are passed onto their offspring. After this, we learnt about how animals and plants are adapted to survive in the habitat they live in. Finally, the children investigated how different finches have adapted on the Galapagos Islands to eat different types of food. They used different instruments to replicate the shape of the different beaks and find out which beak was best suited to which type of food. In spring 2, we shall be finding out about the scientist Charles Darwin and his theory of Evolution.

variation = the difference between different animals and variety of animals ✓
 adaptation = adaptation is when an animal adapts to its self to its habitat ✓
 Characteristic = a feature of an animal that makes it be who it is ✓ Fossil Record = a record that tracks all the Fossils that have ever been found ✓

Task 1

1) <i>Geospiza magnirostris</i>	2)
3) <i>Geospiza parvula</i>	4) <i>Certhidea olivacea</i>