



*Building confidence; inspiring achievement*

# BURBAGE NEWS

**Headteacher's Letter**

**July 2021**

Welcome to the July newsletter.

The end of a very busy school year is drawing closer and I would like to take this opportunity to repeat my gratitude to our wonderful school community for the support, understanding and care shown in these challenging times. We have always prioritised the well-being, happiness and safety of our children as we have navigated the changes and adaptations required by the Covid-19 pandemic and sought to maintain as much stability and security as possible. Please find information, updates and a few reminders within this final newsletter of the summer term.

## Thank you

I accept that I am biased. However, during the pandemic more than ever, I have learnt about the strength, adaptability, dedication and determination of our **staff team**. I would like to express my heart-felt thanks to each one of our staff team for their hard-work, support and positivity during this particularly challenging academic year. I am in the fortunate position of meeting lots of teams of staff from a range of schools and settings. I can provide the reassurance to parents and carers that the Burbage staff team is, without doubt, the best team I have worked with and our children are very fortunate to be taught by and cared for by such great people.

I also wish to express my thanks and gratitude to our team of **governors** who have supported the school this year. A special thank you is due to Paul Hodge, who steps down as co-chair of governors at the end of this term, and comes to the end of his term as a member of our governing board. All of our governors are volunteers who dedicate a huge amount of time and effort to support and challenge our school. Thank you all on behalf of our school community.

We have missed welcoming **parents and carers** into school in our normal way this year. Our PTFA have been unable to arrange their normal range of exciting and engaging events due to the pandemic and we have been unable to host many visits and visitors due to the restrictions. However, the support of our parents and carers has remained invaluable as we seek the best provision for our children. Thank you for showing patience and understanding and for your kind messages of support or for raising open-minded concerns. We are very aware that this has been a difficult year for many of you and we look forward to the prospect of you resuming your closer involvement in school life during the next year.

Finally, and most importantly, well done and thank you to our **children**. They have adapted to new circumstances, followed new rules and continued to work hard, play hard and support one another despite disruption, change and restrictions. They are a credit to their parents and carers, our school team and our wider community. I wish them, and you all a very happy and safe summer break—you deserve it.

Thank you all and here's to a step towards 'normality' from September 2021!

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## ONLINE SAFETY

### Parental controls

Internet Matters have created a [Set-up Safe Checklist](#) to provide guidance for a range of devices and consoles.

### Online gaming advice hub

Internet Matters again, have created some [useful advice and a video](#) to explain online gaming.

## Emotional health and wellbeing over the holidays

With the summer holidays ever-nearing we know that this time can present some challenges as parents and carers. [Qwell](#) is a free mental health and wellbeing service commissioned by Derby and Derbyshire for parents and carers of children under the age of 18 and requires no formal referral.

## SEND online safety hub

Netaware has partnered with Ambitious About Autism to share online safety tips for parents and carers of children with SEND. Click [here](#) to access the website.

## Think Nina

ThinkNinja is a mental health app designed for 10 to 18 year olds. Using a variety of content and tools, it allows young people to learn about mental health and emotional wellbeing and to develop skills they can use to build resilience and stay well. Click [here](#) for a link to the app.



## Parent View Survey

Our summer term Parent View survey is now open until 5pm on Monday 19th July 2021. Please complete the survey via the following link:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=1aZzSuZAckOo2S2Z->

## Academic Reports

Please complete and return the reply slip, received with you child's academic report, as soon as you are able.

## Progress reviews

We are currently holding our summer term progress review meetings in school, where we discuss the progress and attainment of all children across the school via team meetings. This process involves a review of the impact of various teaching and learning strategies and the consideration of any barriers to learning for our children and means to overcome them. Next year's class teachers are involved in these discussions to ensure smooth transition between year groups

The value of **confidence** and **independence** in enabling children to make good progress in school has been a common thread in the reports from teachers and one impact of the Covid-19 disruption has been an adverse effect on some children's confidence and ability to work independently. In September, we will have an additional focus on the development of independence amongst children and we will continue to promote confidence via our positive approaches and recognition of achievement. Academic data reports will be shared early in the Autumn term, in advance of parents' evenings (except for Y6—their data reports will be shared before the end of term).

## Uniform reminder

Please ensure your child is correctly dressed in their full school uniform, as specified on our website, here: [Uniform | Burbage Primary School, Cavendish Avenue, Buxton, Derbyshire SK17 9AE](#) Please also ensure all items of clothing are clearly marked with your child's name.

Children may continue to attend school on PE days in appropriate PE kit but please note, our PE kit is also specified on our website. Children should not be attending in other sportswear. We have been a little more relaxed with this due to Covid restrictions but our uniform rules will be enforced from September and parents contacted if appropriate clothing is not worn by children.

## September 2021 class arrangements

You should now be aware of class arrangements for September 2021 via the information shared with academic reports last week. Staff will be meeting to share information and ensure a smooth transition to new classes in preparation for September 2021.

## September Covid measures

I will provide an update to all parents and carers in advance of September 2021 but we are hoping that the majority of our Covid restrictions will be lifted for the new school year. Please see our previous 'Covid-keepers' letter (and information included to the rear of this newsletter) for some details.



## Sports Days

We were delighted to be able to run adapted versions of our Sports Days this year. The children remained in their 'bubbles' and took part in a range of fun sporting activities, under the direction of Mr Hill. It was lovely to see lots of participation, fun and engagement, as well as a healthy amount of competition.

## Derbyshire Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme

Derbyshire County Council have developed a range of FREE healthy, enriching activities and food for children and families. With the original intention being to support those who are in receipt of benefit-related free school meals, the activities and resources can be accessed by all. The Derbyshire HAF programme has developed a bespoke website [It's about me \(itsaboutmederbyshire.co.uk\)](#) supporting children and families across Derbyshire which also introduces a 30-day summer challenge.

The *Grown Ups*' section contains ideas for days out that are either free or low-cost as well as activities that you could do at home including a summer reading challenge with the library!

Yellow Phoenix House were crowned the 2021 Sports Day Champions!



## 'Covid Keepers'

As explained earlier, there are a number of enforced changes we wish to maintain 'post-Covid'. Please see the list below for information and the separate letter for further details.

- **PE kits on PE days.** We will continue to request that children come to school in their PE kits on the relevant days. Please note: the appropriate PE kit must be worn.
- Separate **morning breaktimes.** Infant and Junior children will continue to have staggered morning break-times.
- **Drop off and collection times.** Our staggered start and end times will end but EYFS children may enter classrooms from 8:45am to 8:55am. Junior aged children will be encouraged to enter and leave the site independently. Parents will only be permitted into school buildings via invitation.
- **Lunchtime staffing.** We will retain our consistent staff members per team for lunchtime provision.
- **Parents' Evenings.** These will be offered remotely AND/OR in person from now on.

Please see further details in the separate letter.

## Extra Bank Holiday 2021-22

In lieu of the 2022 additional Bank Holiday (for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee), which falls in the summer half term holiday, the school year has been reduced by one day next year. This day will be taken on Thursday December 23rd with Wednesday December 22nd becoming the INSET day. The final day of the Autumn term for children will therefore be **Tuesday December 21st 2021.**

## INSET days 2021-22

The following days have been allocated as INSET days for next academic year (school closed to all pupils): Thursday 2nd September 2021; Friday 22nd October 2021; **Wednesday December 22nd;** Monday 28th February; Monday 6th June. Derbyshire term dates may be found on their website: [School term dates and holidays - Derbyshire County Council](#)

## Diary Dates

Friday 16th July 2021	New starters (EYFS) transition session (pm)
Monday 19th July 2021	EYFS 'animal man' visit
Tuesday 20th July 2021	Burbage 'carnival' parade on the school field
Wednesday 21st July 2021	Y6 family picnic 6-7pm
Thursday 22nd July 2021	Last day of the 2021-22 academic year
Thursday 2nd September 2021	INSET day (school closed to pupils)
Friday 3rd September 2021	First day of the new academic year