

I can't believe I have just enjoyed my last Wild Week at Buxton Junior School. Wild Week is my favourite time of the year. To see the children outside, connecting with nature in our amazing grounds and surroundings, gives me a lot of joy. We are so blessed with our pond, trees, woods and field. The tadpoles in the tank outside my office are a constant source of fascination and the eggs in the incubator are due to hatch in the first week back. We'll have very noisy chicks in school for a couple of weeks!

With only one term to go before I retire, I just wanted to reiterate Matt Crawford's (CEO, Embark) message as to how grateful I am to Mrs Dowling for agreeing to be the acting headteacher of our lovely school next year. I know she will do a brilliant job and I feel thankful that I will be leaving the school in such good hands.

We have got a busy term coming up, as ever. Please note the **new disco date is now on Thursday 25th June**. Apologies for the changes, we have had to move it twice to avoid clashes with secondary school transition events.

Please also note the extra INSET day which I mentioned in the last newsletter. **School will be closed on Friday 26th June. All upcoming dates for this last term are overleaf.**

I hope you have a lovely half term and the weather perks up a bit for everyone. **We look forward to seeing the children back in school on Tuesday 2nd June** (school is closed on Monday 1st for INSET day).

After an amazing 31 years at our school, we will be saying goodbye to Mrs Bentley at the end of the summer term. She has been a fantastic teacher and a much-valued member of our community, making a real difference to so many pupils over the years. We are incredibly grateful for all her hard work and dedication. Mrs Bentley has decided to take the opportunity to try something new before she eventually retires. While we will miss her greatly, we are really pleased for her and fully support her in this exciting next step. We know our families will join us in thanking her for everything she has given to the school and in wishing her all the very best for the future.

Following Mrs Bentley's decision, my upcoming retirement, and the plan for Mrs Dowling to step into the role of acting head, we have obviously needed to recruit within our teaching team. We are therefore very pleased to welcome two new members of staff who will be joining us in September. Mr Lockwood will be working alongside Mrs Fox in Year 6, and Mrs Storer will be teaching a Year 5 class. After two days of rigorous interviews earlier this week, we are confident that both teachers will be excellent additions to our team.



Online Safety

Just a reminder that Buxton Junior School will be a smartphone-free school from September 2026 and no smartphones will be allowed on site at all. If you believe your child requires a device, at the point at which you feel they need more independence, please consider a brick phone (so they are contactable) and/or an airtag (if you feel it necessary to locate them). A Nokia 105 brick phone costs about £20. Your child will be allowed to bring a brick phone into school but it must be handed in.

The NSPCC have started producing some interesting podcasts which are worth a listen. Their latest one is full of practical, down-to-earth ideas for helping children build **emotional resilience**. This is such an important life skill, helping children cope with big feelings, deal with everyday challenges, and bounce back when things don't go to plan. It also supports their confidence and independence, and can make a real difference to how they communicate and connect at home. Most importantly, it helps set them up with skills they'll carry with them as they grow.

[Podcast: How to build emotional resilience in children | NSPCC Learning](#)

Listening to the news on the way to school on Thursday morning, I heard yet again about the risks that TikTok and YouTube pose to children as these platforms have failed to commit to any significant changes to reduce harmful content being served to children. [TikTok and YouTube 'not safe enough' for kids, says Ofcom report - BBC News](#) We have many children talking in school about accessing YouTube and TikTok at home; please could I urge you to check your children's devices and monitor their use. Roblox fared better in the Ofcom report as it now allows parents to switch off direct chat entirely for under-16s.

Term dates 2025 – 2026

	Term Starts:	Term Ends:
Term 6	INSET - Monday 1 June 2026 Term starts Tuesday 2 June 2026	Thursday 23 July 2026 (Early finish at 2pm)
	NEW INSET DAY: FRIDAY 26 June 2026	

Key Stage or Whole School Events

Date	Time	Activity	Year group
Fri 22 May 26	8.15am—8.45am	French Breakfast	Y3/Y4
Wed 10 Jun 26	9.20am – 11.00am	Sports Day	Whole School
Thurs 25 June 26 NEW DATE	5.00pm—6.00pm 6.15pm—7.15pm	School Disco Y3/Y4 School Disco Y5/Y6	Y3/Y4 Y5/Y6
Tue 21st July	3.35pm—4.00pm	Celebration of Work	Whole School

Year 3			
Tues 9 Jun 26	3.35pm – 4.00pm	Art Showcase	Year 3

Year 4			
Fri 3 Jul 26	2.00pm	Clarinet Concert	Year 4

Year 5			
Tues 30 Jun 26	3.35pm	Art Showcase	Year 5

Year 6			
Tues 14 Jul 26	2.00pm	Y6 Production	Year 6
Thurs 16 Jul 26	7.00pm	Y6 Production	Year 6
Tue 21 Jul 26	7.00pm-8.00pm	Y6 Leavers' Disco	Year 6
Thurs 23 Jul 26	9.15am – 10.00am	Leavers' Assembly	Year 6



Wild Week 2026

In spite of the weather at the beginning of the week, we have really have made the most of our Wild Week, with Tree ID, a nature audit of the whole grounds with Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, a speaker from the Solitary Bee Nursery, walks and picnics in the woods, pond dipping and much more.

