



Buxton Junior School Newsletter March 2026

I'm really not quite sure where this term has gone. These five weeks have passed in a blur of children working hard and having fun with some amazing showcase events in school. We have had an excellent turn out at all of these events; thank you to those of you who have been able to attend. We do understand how tricky it is for those of you who may have other commitments.

As you know, we are well on our way to becoming an Embark school and the final conversion date looks to be on the 1st April, with the Infant School converting on the same date. We are looking forward to working with our new trust to deliver the best educational experience for the children and for the staff.

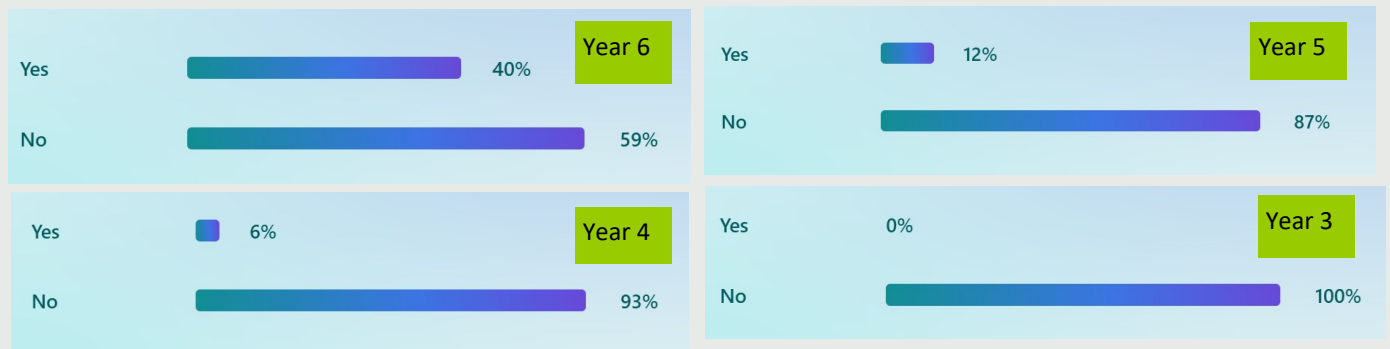
We have also been working really hard to get school back up and running following the flood in January. It took a long time to dry school out which has slowed the restoration process as we had to wait until the floor was completely dry before we could put down a new carpet. However, most of the work has now been done with the remaining works scheduled to take place over the Easter holidays, so we very much hope we will be back to normal for the summer term. The children have coped really well with the changes and I have been very proud of them, as always.

I hope you have a lovely Easter holiday and look forward to seeing the children back in school on Monday 13th April.

Term dates 2025 – 2026		
	Term Starts:	Term Ends:
Term 5	Monday 13 April 2026	Friday 22 May 2026
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 2 Jul 26	5.00pm—6.00pm	School Disco Y3/Y4	Y3/Y4
	6.15pm—7.15pm	School Disco Y5/Y6	Y5/Y6
Year 3			
Tues 9 Jun 26	3.35pm – 4.00pm	Art Showcase	Year 3
Year 4			
Weds 29 Apr 26	3.35pm—4.00pm	Showcase Event	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			
Weds 20 May 26	11.00am	Wild Week Walk and Picnic	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

Results from our smartphone survey last term. Does your child own a smartphone?



Buxton Junior School will be a smartphone-free school from September 2026

I recently attended a headteachers' conference where the charity Smartphone Free Schools presented even more evidence that smartphones have a negative effect on childhood. A recent study by Sapient Lab found that 'the younger a child is given a smartphone, the worse their mental health today', and that teens are three times more likely to suffer from depression if they have owned one from an early age. The evidence is showing us loud and clear that apps are designed to be addictive, damage mental and physical health, reduce children's ability to learn, and expose them to an alarming range of safeguarding risks.

When I look at our termly surveys, it's great to see how the number of children who own a smartphone is dropping. Many parents have said to me that they don't want to acquire a smartphone for their child but are at a loss as to how to avoid it. We strongly believe that the government should make smartphone-free schools mandatory but this could take time so school and parents must work together to protect this generation of children before their childhood is gone. I would urge you not to acquire a smartphone for your children at all. Instead, at the point at which you feel they need more independence, acquire 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.

In September, our intention is to become an entirely smartphone-free school so no smartphones will be allowed on site at all. If you have a child in Y5 and are debating whether to acquire a smartphone, firstly please consider whether your child needs one at all as the evidence is so strong that they are damaging and secondly, bear in mind that they won't be permitted to bring them to school in September. Only brick phones will be permitted in school.



Thank you to our PTFA for the fabulous new benches and tables around school. The School Council chose them and then we planned where to put them in the playground. The PTFA have donated over £2000 to pay for them and we are very grateful to them for their continued support. The fundraising events which they organise for parents, carers, friends and family make a real difference.

We had a brilliant musical assembly on Tuesday morning when the Chapel Strummers came into school and serenaded us with some lovely songs. At the end, we all sang Three Little Birds together—fantastic.

On another musical note, we are very proud of Fred, Walter and Rory in Y6

who all achieved a merit in their Grade 1 violin exam last week. I often hear them playing with Gavin, their music teacher, and am very impressed by how much they have come on.



Mrs Bentley and I accompanied the children from our dance club to the 'Making Space' festival on Monday night at Buxton Opera House. It was great to see them perform in a professional environment. Their dance was based on Willy Wonka's sweet factory and full of imagination and expression.

Year 3 had a fabulous visit to Trinity Church earlier this week. Thank you to the Trinity Church team for putting on such an interesting Easter event.

