



Buxton Junior School Newsletter February 2026

Thank you for all your kind words and messages about my retirement at the end of the school year; I have been very touched by your lovely comments. I'm sure you will have heard that Mrs Boyd, headteacher of Buxton Infant School is also retiring. The governors of both schools and Embark Trust, after consultation with the Local Authority, are planning an exciting new chapter for both our Infant and Junior Schools. Instead of having two separate headteachers, they will be appointing one headteacher to lead both schools. This change will support a joined-up approach for children and families, while still celebrating the unique character of each school. Mrs Boyd and I both support this plan as we believe this united leadership will strengthen our community and create even better continuity for every child's learning journey.

Our provisional date for conversion to an academy within the Embark Trust is still 1st March 2026. We will know for sure after half term.

I hope you have a lovely restful half-term holiday and we look forward to seeing the children back in school on Monday 23rd February 2026.

Term dates 2025 – 2026		
	Term Starts:	Term Ends:
Term 4	Monday 23 February 2026	Friday 27 March 2026
Term 5	Monday 13 April 2026	Friday 22 May 2026
Term 6	(INSET - Monday 1 June 2026) Tuesday 2 June 2026	Thursday 23 July 2026 (Early finish at 2pm)
	NEW INSET DAY: FRIDAY 26 June 2026	

Whole School Events			
Date	Time	Activity	Year group
Wed 25 Mar 26	4pm – 7pm	Parents and Carers' Consultation evening	Whole school
Thur 26 Mar 26	4pm – 7pm	Parents and Carers' Consultation evening	Whole school
Wed 10 Jun 26	9.20am – 11.00am	Sports Day	Whole School

Year 3			
Date	Time	Activity	Year group
Tue 17 Mar 26	9.15am – 9.45am	Romans showcase	Year 3
Fri 22 May 26	8.15am – 8.45am	French Breakfast	Year 3 & Year 4

Year 4			
Date	Time	Activity	Year group
Weds 29 Apr 26	3.35pm – 4.00pm	Showcase event	Year 4
Fri 22 May 26	8.15am – 8.45am	French Breakfast	Year 3 & Year 4

Year 5			
Date	Time	Activity	Year group
Fri 27 Mar 26	9.15am	Easter Assembly	Year 5

Year 6			
Date	Time	Activity	Year group
Fri 6 Mar 26	9.15am – 9.45am	Windrush Showcase	Year 6
Weds 18 Mar 26	11.45am	Parents to Lunch	Year 6
Weds 20 May 26	11.00am	Wild Week walk and picnic	Year 6



This year's **Safer Internet Day**, held on **10 February 2026**, focused on the theme "*Smart tech, safe choices – exploring the safe and responsible use of AI.*" It encouraged our children and schools to think about how artificial intelligence—like voice assistants, chatbots and other smart technologies—is becoming part of everyday life, and how to use these tools safely and confidently. The day highlighted both the opportunities and the risks of AI, including issues like misinformation, privacy, and the importance of making informed choices online.

Back in December, the Children's Commissioner launched a guide for parents and carers on managing children's digital lives. It focuses on what children want their parents and carers to know so makes for a very informative read. [The link is here](#) and I have created a brief summary below.

Parenting in a digital world is harder than ever, and the guide aims to make it easier to understand the online spaces children use every day.

Children want parents to guide them, set boundaries, and make decisions—parents don't need to know every technical detail to be effective.

The guide helps **demystify common online challenges**, including harmful content, peer pressure, screen time, and difficult online experiences.

It encourages parents to **talk early and talk often** about online life, rather than waiting for a problem to arise.

Regular conversations help children feel safe to tell parents when something goes wrong online.

Children say many parents **don't fully understand what happens online**, and would be shocked by how common harmful experiences are.

The guide explains how the **Online Safety Act** is beginning to regulate online content, though there is still progress to be made.

It highlights the impact of **everyday digital habits**, like endless scrolling and difficulty switching off, and how these affect wellbeing.

The guide was **created with the voices of young people**, including teenagers with additional needs, who shared what helps them most.

Overall, the message is clear: **be firm, be kind, trust your instincts**, and keep communication open as children navigate the online world.

Our filtering service in school is proving to be a little too effective today as it's blocking me from snipping any photos from the school's Facebook site to share with you—apologies! I hope to get it sorted for the next newsletter. In the meantime, don't forget to look at our Facebook page to see what we have been up to in school.

Thank you to those of you who have managed to make it to our showcase events. It's been fabulous to see so many of you enjoying delicious Mayan soup in Y5, watching some brilliant clarinet playing in Y4, and taking part in our mouth-watering maths sessions in Y3 and Y6. If you have been unable to attend due to other commitments, we hope you will be able to make it to an event before the end of the year. All the dates were sent out in September and are also on our website.