



Buxton Junior School Newsletter December 2025

It has been a really busy term in school with lots of amazing learning (both inside and outside) and sporting experiences happening. I feel very lucky to lead such a brilliant team who are always working their hardest for the children and families in our school. I have added a few photos to this newsletter but there isn't space for all of them so please check out our school Facebook page too.

Our plans to become a school within the Embark Trust are gathering pace and our provisional date for conversion is 1st March 2026. In the meantime, we are already receiving lots of support from Embark and feel very positive about our plans. As part of the conversion process, schools are entitled to include an additional INSET day to the academic year. This INSET Day will be taken on **Friday 26th June and we will be closed to children that day**, as will Buxton Infant School and Buxton Community School.

I hope you have a lovely restful Christmas and we look forward to seeing the children back in school on Tuesday 6th January (Monday 5th January is an INSET Day).

Term dates 2025 – 2026		
	Term Starts:	Term Ends:
Term 3	INSET – Monday 5 January 2026) Tuesday 6 January 2026	Thursday 12 February 2026 (INSET – Friday 13 February 2026)
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
	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
Year 3			
Wed 28 Jan 26	9.15am – 10am	Mouth-watering Maths	Year 3
Thur 12 Feb 26	5pm - 6pm	School Disco	Year 3 & Year 4
Tue 17 Mar 26	9.15am – 9.45am	Romans showcase	Year 3
Year 4			
Tues 27 Jan 26	9.15am – 10am	Mouth-watering Maths	Year 4
Thur 12 Feb 26	5pm - 6pm	School Disco	Year 3 & Year 4
Year 5			
Wed 14 Jan 26	11.45am	Parents to Lunch	Year 5
Thur 5 Feb 26	3.35pm	History Showcase	Year 5
Thur 12 Feb 26	6.15pm – 7.15pm	School Disco	Year 5 & Year 6
Fri 27 Mar 26	9.15am	Easter Assembly	Year 5
Year 6			
Fri 6 Feb 26	9.15am – 10.00am	Mouth-watering Maths	Year 6
Thur 12 Feb 26	6.15pm – 7.15pm	School Disco	Year 5 & Year 6
Fri 6 Mar 26	9.15am – 9.45am	Windrush Showcase	Year 6
Weds 18 Mar 26	11.45am	Parents to Lunch	Year 6



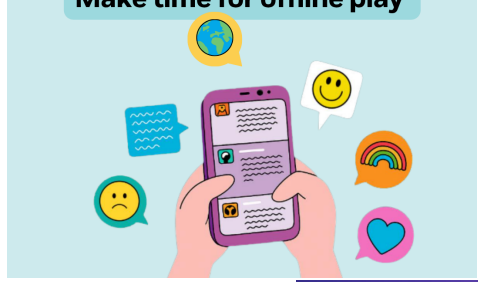
We have attended some NSPCC training sessions recently with advice for parents about how to keep your children safe online. At this time of year, new devices might be under the Christmas tree and the advice is clear; set up parental controls on devices from the very beginning as it's harder to install them later, and talk to your children about screentime limits and expectations from the outset. Below are some infographics which might be helpful. The NSPCC suggest using an online safety family agreement to start a conversation about online safety, agree expectations and boundaries, and help keep your children safe online. [The link to the agreement is here.](#)

Finally, thank you to all of you who are helping us with our ambition of becoming a smartphone-free school and for our children to have a smartphone-free childhood. We would encourage you not to purchase a smartphone for your child for Christmas if possible so that we continue to keep numbers down. We will be sending out another ownership survey in the new year.



4 top tips to help keep your child safe online:

- Watch and play together
- Set gentle screen time routines
- Talk about what they're seeing
- Make time for offline play

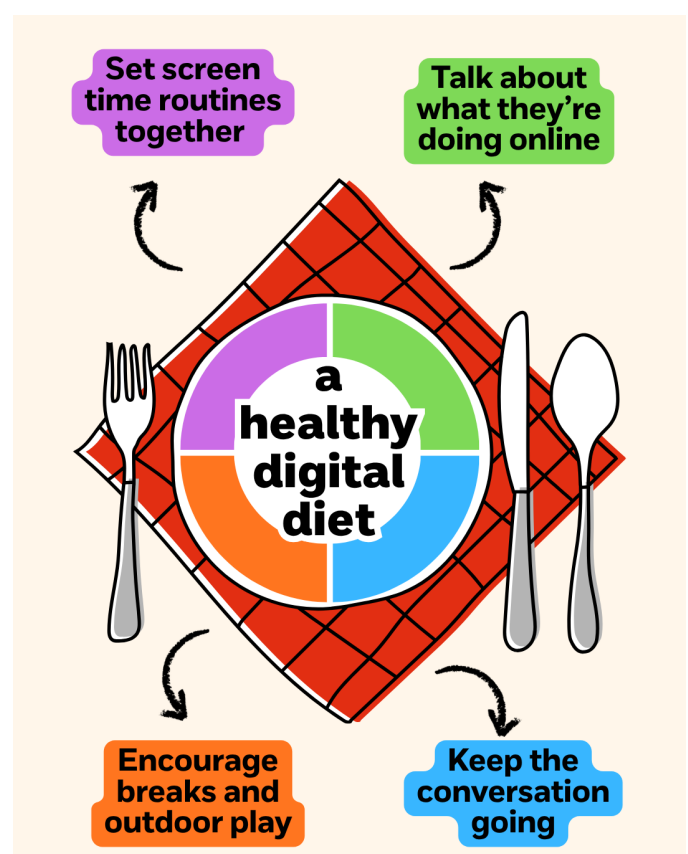


If your child tells you about a mistake they've made online:

- Stay calm. They trusted you - don't punish honesty.
- Don't rush to remove devices. It can stop them opening up next time.
- Ask first: "What happened? How do you feel?"



a healthy digital diet



- Set screen time routines together
- Talk about what they're doing online
- Encourage breaks and outdoor play
- Keep the conversation going

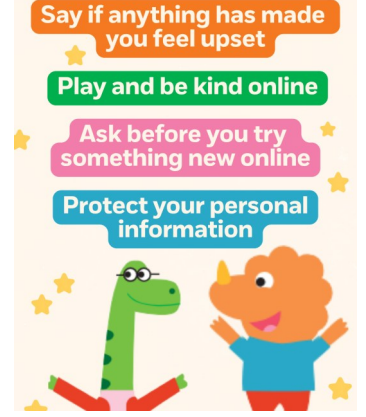
Phone settings for young children

- Set up new devices and apps together
- Talk about what's private vs. public
- Choose privacy settings and explain why
- Review permissions for games and apps



Say if anything has made you feel upset

- Play and be kind online
- Ask before you try something new online
- Protect your personal information



We regularly teach children in school about the importance of staying safe online and remind them to speak to an adult if they ever feel worried about something they encounter. However, some children have shared that they hesitate to tell an adult as they fear their device might be taken away. This can make them reluctant to ask for help when they need it most. We encourage parents and carers to talk openly with their children about this. Reassure them that the right thing to do is to **always** tell an adult if they feel concerned online, and that seeking help is about keeping them safe - not about losing access to their device.



We have had so much going on in school, it's impossible to capture it all here! I was really sorry to miss the Y3 Christmas Play which I heard was a triumph. Thank you to the Y3 team for all their hard work.



We have had some great sporting successes in football and cross-country this term; please see Mrs Bentley's newsletter for more information. We have also, as usual, taken every opportunity to get the children learning outside and have also enjoyed having several visitors into school; Burbage Band was a particular highlight and we also welcomed parents in to school for lunch and mouthwatering maths, and everyone (including staff) really enjoyed taking part in the 'Merry Mile' to raise funds for Blythe House Hospice.

