



# Buckshaw Primary School and Nursery

Headteacher: Mrs S Price

## SPRING TERM NEWSLETTER WEEK ENDING 28TH FEBRUARY 2025

It has been a super busy week at Buckshaw this week, but with lots of exciting things going on!

The swimming pool has been here all week, with lots of children in Years 3 to 6 taking part in sessions. We have now managed to include Year 2 in lessons who will start their lessons next week. The swimming pool will be returning to school in the autumn term.

On Monday, Mrs Lewis, Miss Crowder, Mrs Robinson and Mrs Heyes took our choir to Manchester, to perform in the Young Voices concert at the Co-Op arena. The children in the choir have been rehearsing for this concert for months and on Monday, rehearsed and then performed with thousands of other children. Not only were the children amazing singers and dancers, but they represented school brilliantly, showing lots of enthusiasm and with great behaviour. It was a very late night, returning to school well after 10pm, but all the children (and staff) managed to get into school the following day and continue to work hard. Well done everyone and thank you to all the staff team who gave up their time to organise and support the event. Children in Year 4, 5 and 6 will have the opportunity to take part in this again next year.

Also on Monday, the remainder of Year 4, 5 and 6 took a trip to Blackpool Tower, where we were lucky enough to see a concert performed by the National Youth Orchestra. This was an amazingly talented group of children aged between 13 and 19, who performed music such as the Star Wars theme tune and Let it Go from Frozen, in addition to some classical and party music. We all enjoyed this wonderful show!

On Thursday, I took a group of our Year 6 children to London after Sir Lindsay Hoyle invited schools in Chorley to apply for places on his 'Speaker's Day' tour of the Houses of Parliament. We got a very early train to London, and in addition to visiting The Houses of Parliament, we managed to take in sights such as Buckingham Palace, Big Ben, Downing Street, a Thames River cruise and a trip on the London Eye, before getting the train back. I was very proud of the way the children represented Buckshaw and received a lovely compliment from the guide at the Houses of Parliament about their conduct and knowledge.

**WHOLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE:**

**93.97%**

**LUNCHES: W/C 10/02/25**

**WEEK 2 Autumn/Winter Menu**



*'Learning, believing and growing together.'*

Thank you to all the parents and carers who attended this week's parents' evenings. We hope that you enjoyed looking at your child's work and found the meeting with their teacher helpful and informative.

Next week, Year 6 are off to the Anderton Centre on their residential trip and on Thursday we are celebrating World Book Day by dressing up as our favourite characters and taking part in lots of book themed activities. Parents and carers are invited into school to join in with some activities during the day. Please see the time slots below - we hope you can join us.

Mrs Price

Next Thursday, 6th March is World Book Day!

A reminder that children can come to school dressed as their favourite character.

We are also holding open sessions during the day for parents and carers to come into school to take part in some book themed activities with their children. There is no need to book and the sessions are as follows:

9.00-9.45am

Nursery & Reception in their classrooms

Please enter via the classroom doors

9.00-9.45am

Year 1 and Year 2 in the hall

Please enter via the hall doors

10.45 - 11.30am

Year 3 and Year 4 in the hall

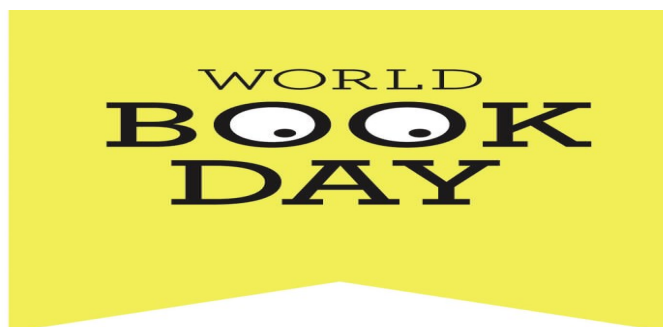
Please enter via the hall doors

2.30 - 3.15pm

Year 5 and Year 6 in the hall

Please enter via the hall doors

We hope to see lots of you there!





A fabulous time was had by all!! Our Year 6 pupils who were invited to the Houses of Parliament.



Our amazing singers at the Young Voices Concert who represented school at the Co-op Arena, Manchester.



Mrs Heyes took a team of Year 5 and 6 children to Parklands High School last night to take part in a dodgeball competition. Well done to all the children who took part and showed fantastic team spirit!



A huge well done to some of our Reception pupils who did a brilliant job representing the school in the Balance Bike Festival at Clayton Green Sports Centre!



### Mother's Day Afternoon Tea

This year, we will be putting on afternoon tea to celebrate Mother's Day on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March from 2.30pm. Tickets are currently on sale from the office priced at £3 per adult. This will include tea or coffee and a selection of cakes. All mums, grandmas and other family members are very welcome to buy a ticket and come along and enjoy some treats with their child(ren). Tickets must be purchased in advance to attend and places will be limited.



### UP AND COMING THEMED LUNCHES

World Book Day 6th March 2025



Be Happy Day 20th March 2025





## CELEBRATIONS!!

### THIS WEEK'S ACHIEVEMENTS

|           |  |  |
|-----------|---|---|
|           | STAR OF THE WEEK  | ACTIVE LEARNERS   |
| RECEPTION | Harry   | Shanell   |
| YEAR 1    | Miabella  | Charlie   |
| YEAR 2    | Daliya  | Mariam  |
| YEAR 3    | Ellis   | Cayson  |
| YEAR 4    | Freya   | Mikey   |
| YEAR 5    | Skylar  | Macie   |
| YEAR 6    | Danas   | Leila   |

#### Focus Value of the term

Our focus value is **Determination** - we show determination when things get tough

# HOUSE POINTS



OAK

196



CHERRY BLOSSOM

203



BIRCH

299



CEDAR

320



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Monday 3rd March -<br>Wednesday 5th March | Year 6 residential trip to The Anderton Centre  |
| Thursday 6th March                        | World Book Day—Children are invited to dress as their favourite book<br>Characters and parents will be invited in for family activities |
| Saturday 22nd March                       | Buckshaw Primary School guests at Chorley Football Club (more details to<br>Follow)   |
| Tuesday 25th March                        | Mother's Day Afternoon Tea from 2.30pm  |
| Thursday 27th March                       | Mother's Day Afternoon Tea from 2.30pm  |
| Saturday 29th March                       | Inter Schools Cross Country in Astley Park  |
| Wednesday 2nd April                       | Year 4 Trip to Liverpool Museum   |
| Thursday 3rd April                        | Family Bingo Night 6.00pm   |
| Friday 4th April                          | Easter Celebration Day<br>End of Term School Closes   |
| Tuesday 22nd April                        | School Re-Opens   |
| Thursday 24th April                       | Photographer in school  |





# Online Safety Newsletter

March 2025

## The impact of smartphones



There is a growing concern on how excessive use of smartphones can affect our children.

In addition to the effects of seeing inappropriate content online, the risk of cyberbullying and grooming, it is important that we also highlight the effects of smartphone use on our children's mental health.

If your child is using a smartphone then please try to ensure they maintain a healthy screentime limit.

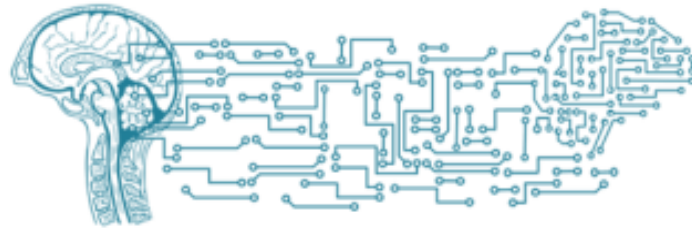
According to King's College London, "two new studies of smartphone habits in teenagers have identified links between problematic smartphone use and depression, anxiety and insomnia." You can read more about these studies here:

<https://www.kcl.ac.uk/news/teens-with-problematic-smartphone-use-are-twice-as-likely-to-have-anxiety-and-many-are-eager-to-cut-down>

Compass have published an article as well on what effects mobile phones have on children here:

<https://www.compass-uk.org/services/compass-changing-lives/what-effects-do-mobile-phones-have-on-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health/>

## Artificial Intelligence (AI)



### What is AI?

AI is when a computer/machine can learn and perform tasks like a human. Its popularity continues to increase, and examples include:

- **Virtual assistants** like Alexa and Siri.
- **Chatbots** such as ChatGPT and My AI from Snapchat

### Potential Risks of AI?

- **Chat apps** - A simple search of "AI Chat" within the App store highlights the number of apps already available and just scrolling through, you can see that they are not suitable for children with many rated as 17+.
- **Image manipulation** – there are AI tools that can be used to digitally remove clothes from photos, which clearly raises serious safeguarding and privacy concerns.
- **Deepfakes** – there are also AI tools that create realistic, fake videos which can be used to spread misinformation or cause harm.

Child Rescue Coalition discuss the dangers in more detail here:

<https://childrescuecoalition.org/educations/the-dark-side-of-ai-risks-to-children/>

### How can I protect my child?

As always, to keep your child safe online, it is important to:

- Develop your child's digital literacy by highlighting the risks of AI and showing them how important it is to verify what they see online.
- Set up appropriate parental controls on their devices/ broadband.
- Chat to your child regularly and ensure your child knows that they should talk to you or another trusted adult if anything concerns them.

### Further information

For further information, the NSPCC and Internet Matters provide useful guides on their websites:

- <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/about-us/news-opinion/2025/artificial-intelligence-safety-tips-for-parents>
- <https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/parent-guide-to-artificial-intelligence-ai-tools/>

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# TikTok

**You must be over 13 years of age to use TikTok.** TikTok is a social media platform for sharing and watching short video clips. Some of the videos may not be appropriate for your child to view and there is also the risk of strangers contacting your child. If your child is using TikTok then make sure appropriate security/privacy settings are applied.



## Account set up

It is important that when setting up an account, your child enters their real date of birth as accounts are tailored by age e.g., Direct Messaging is disabled for accounts aged 13-15. In addition, advertisements are tailored by age. By default, accounts for people under 16 are set to private and we would recommend keeping it as this. This means your child must approve follower requests. You can read more about the other settings available, such as switching off comments and restricted mode here: <https://support.tiktok.com/en/account-and-privacy/account-privacy-settings/privacy-and-safety-settings-for-users-under-age-18>

## Family Pairing

This allows you to link your own account to your child's account. You can then set controls such as restricted mode. You can find out more here:

<https://support.tiktok.com/en/safety-hc/account-and-user-safety/family-pairing>

## Inappropriate content, themes and challenges on TikTok

Whilst against TikTok's guidelines, explicit and inappropriate content can be found on this platform, for example nudity/sexual content and hate speech. Some of the songs available to lip sync to may contain inappropriate lyrics or adult themes. We often see viral challenges on social media, some of which can be dangerous. If your child is using TikTok, chat to them regularly about what they are viewing.

## Stranger contact

Talk to your child about who is following them online and ensure that they understand that people may not be who they say they are when online. It is important that children understand not to share personal information.

## Refresh your feed

You can refresh your "For You" feed to update the content recommended:

<https://support.tiktok.com/en/account-and-privacy/account-privacy-settings/refresh-your-for-you-feed>

## Blocking and Reporting

Ensure your child knows how to use the safety features available to them, including how to report comments, direct messages and another user.

## Further information

- <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/tiktok>
- <https://safeguarding.thekeysupport.com/factsheets-and-briefings/child-safety-tiktok-parent-factsheet/>

## Talk PANTS with the NSPCC

Talk PANTS was developed to help you have conversations with your child to help them understand that their body belongs to them.

You can find out more here as well as a further link to helpful questions:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/pants-underwear-rule/>

## LEGO Arcade

Are you looking for games for your child to play online? LEGO have a selection of fun games including Lego Ninjago and Lego Friends:

<https://kids.lego.com/en-gb/arcade>

## Stars Messenger App

The Stars Messenger App is rated as 4+ on the App store. It is a free messaging and video app designed for children to use. Users need their friend's username as well as their unique private Friend Code to add each other. There is also an optional Parent View available for a monthly charge.

South West Grid for Learning provide a full guide to staying safe on this app as well as safety considerations:

<https://swgfl.org.uk/magazine/a-guide-to-staying-safe-with-the-stars-messaging-app/>

**Join us for some Easter holiday Fun!**  
**Do you know someone who loves to sing, act and perform?**



**Monday 7th April**

**Snow White Inspired Workshop!**

At Bamber Bridge Methodist Church, PR5 6GS



**Tuesday 8th April**

**High School Musical Inspired Workshop!**

At Bamber Bridge Valley Church, PR5 6GS



**Wednesday 9th April**

**School of Rock Inspired Workshop!**

At Bamber Bridge Valley Church, PR5 6GS



**Thursday 10th April**

**Wicked Inspired Workshop!**

At Bamber Bridge Valley Church, PR5 6GS

Little Voices brings you an exceptional performing arts holiday workshops for fun, stimulating and educational childcare in the holidays.

**PRE BOOK  
YOUR PLACE  
TODAY!**

**Little Voices**

Drama & Singing Lessons of Distinction

**Join us for 4 days of singing, acting & performing!**  
**Make friends and have fun!**