

Burscough Priory Academy www.burscoughprioryacademy.org Headteacher Mrs L MacLaren

Ref: 3540 LMA

20 December 2024

Dear Parent,

As we approach the end of the Autumn Term, we would like to give you some information. A copy of the final Weekly Update for 2024 is attached with lots of celebrations that would have, historically been, recorded in this letter. This includes an update from the Kindness for Advent Appeal for the Foodbank, the Christmas Concert and all of the activities from this, the final week of term.

Uniform and Appearance

Father Christmas may well bring some presents next week! Can we urge that these presents, phones, jewellery and make up do not come to school after the break and also a reminder of the equipment list (which are available to order on Gateway):

- Pen
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Calculator
- Whiteboard and pen
- Fully charged Chromebook (Year 9, 10, 11)

As we return after the Christmas break, we would like to remind everyone of our expectations related to uniform, the policy link can be found on this page. A key feature of our policy is what we wear (uniform) and how we wear it (appearance) and in the new year we will have a stringent focus on some aspects of the policy. In summary, some key points of note are:

- Knee length skirts
- Top buttons fastened
- Ties worn at the correct length

In school, we have a range of clean, preloved uniform which we will be happy to give to parents if their child has grown out of their own. We have a range of items, uniform and PE kit in a several sizes but we cannot guarantee we will have everything a family may need. You are most welcome to come to or contact school if you need some uniform. Equally, if you do have any donations, these will be gratefully accepted.





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Reporting Absence

As a reminder, there are two ways to report absence:

- 1. The absence line call school
- 2. Arbor's app.

ClassCharts and School Gateway will close on 6.1.25 for absence reporting. To report an absence via Arbor from Tuesday 7 January:

- a. Home Page
- b. Press 3 lines at bottom left of screen
- c. In Quick Actions Press Attendance
- d. Green Bar across top of page 'Log Absence'
- e. Complete and Submit

Holiday Activity and Food Programme (HAF)

Here are the contact details for the Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) Programme for Christmas 2024 ...

https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/school-holiday-activities/

This is a brilliant support; lots of activities for young people and help with food too. Please, if your child is eligible for free school meals, take a look by scanning the code or clicking the link.

January 2025

Under the leadership of Miss Holcroft (Year 7, 8 & 9) and Mr Collins (Year 10 &11), the dedicated Heads of Year are:

Year 7 - Mr Sawyer

Year 8 - Mrs Graham

Year 9 - Miss Daly

Year 10 - Miss Oldfield

Year 11 - Miss Pardoe Matthews

Mrs Oliver remains in role as Designated Safeguarding Lead, supported by Mrs Hamill, Miss Pardoe-Matthews and Mr Lyons as deputy leads. The team have found this resource which can help families and children at Christmas: Support for Children at Christmas





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Staffing Update

We will also say goodbye to some colleagues and welcome new ones. Mr Williams in Mathematics finishes his contract and moves to his new school. We thank him and wish him well for his new adventure. Miss Taylor joins us in the new year in the mathematics team. She trained at BPA several years ago, knows the school well and after induction in the autumn term, comes to us raring to go. Welcome.

Mrs Clare leaves us for a post at another school. Kindness, respect and ambition are her superpowers – she is the epitome of E Pluribus Unum, and her leadership and teaching has been a key factor in the success of our mathematics team, thus our students. We wish her all the very best of luck, health and happiness as she moves on.

As you may well know, Mrs Nelson retires after 40 years as a music teacher working for 29 of those at BPA. As a passionate and dedicated musician, performer and educator, thousands of young people have been taught by her – instilling, most important, a love of music and all that brings to us as humans. Equally, nurturing technical and performing excellence in the young people of Burscough. We wish her lots of love, peace and joy as she moves onto the next exciting part of her journey. Time to enjoy her music, the gym, travelling and ultimately, her family. Enjoy every single minute!

Finally ...

School is closed over the Christmas break and this extends to all of our colleagues who work for the Endeavour Learning Trust in the Central Team. If you do contact school over the break, you will receive an automated response and these messages will be reviewed at the start of term and directed from thereon in. **School reopens for students on Tuesday 7 January at 8.45am for all students with a session with Personal Tutors and the restart assemblies for all year groups.** In line with the message from the Department for Education, attendance is compulsory for all students and will be a big focus again in the new year.

We would like to thank you once again for your support and kindness; stronger together, our partnership is pivotal to make sure that the students thrive. Our students are first class and we are privileged to work in and serve this proud community.

On behalf of all of the staff here at Burscough Priory Academy and right across our Trust, we would like to wish you a safe and well rested break. Happy Christmas and best wishes for a healthy and prosperous 2025.

E Pluribus Unum.

Yours faithfully,

L MacLaren

Headteacher

