



# Burscough Village Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs A Yates

20<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we prepare for our festive break, I wanted to spend some time reflecting on the lovely things that have been happening around school and provide an update.

## **Staffing**

It is great to see Mrs Settle return to school following her maternity leave. She will work with Mrs Berkley in the New Year to teach Year 2. Mrs Berkley will teach Monday to Wednesday and Mrs Settle Wednesday to Friday. On a Wednesday morning, Mrs Berkley will teach Year 4 while Mrs Swift has her leadership time.

There has been an increase in children with additional needs. Overtime, the number of children who have Educational, Health Care Plans has moved from 3 children to 12. This means that we need more staff to meet the needs of all our children. You may have noticed some new faces within our team. As Leadership Team we have reviewed the current staffing and made some changes.

Mrs Smith will be working full time in our Nurture Nest to support children with social and emotional needs. She will be working predominantly with year 1 and 2, however, as the term progresses and we develop the provision, we may be able to cater for more children.

Mrs Rice and Mrs Huxtable will be working with Year 2.

Mrs Blunt and Mrs Whittaker will be working with Year 1.

Mrs Hughes will continue to work alongside with Mrs Swift.

We have a new teaching assistant, Mrs Noonan, who will be working with Miss Lawrence. She is a qualified teacher so will be able to work specifically with Year 5 children.

Mrs Aspinall will support Year 6 in the mornings and Year 3 in the afternoons. Miss Weston will also work with Year 3.

Mr Roointan will continue to provide intervention across the school day.

## **School Improvement Areas**

This year, we are focusing on the following areas:

- Physical Activity to support concentration, communication, social and emotional skills
- Maths
- Music
- English: Grammar and writing

## **Physical Activity**

In the new year, Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will have a daily physical activity session with Mr Roointan and the class teacher. This will help to develop fundamental movement skills (FMS) which are extremely important for children up to the age of seven. FMS are the basic movements traditionally associated with human physical activity. The most common FMS include skills such as running, jumping, throwing, catching, skipping, and hopping. Physical literacy is when children have developed the skills, confidence, and love of movement to be physically active for life.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R8PIXqp3JpA>

Within the physical activity, Year 1 and Year 2 will have a specific focus on listening, following instructions, developing friendships and playing well together. We have used over a £1000 to purchase new resources to support the physical activity sessions. We will be inviting parents in Nursery and Reception to join in with some of the sessions next year.

### **Reading**

In the Spring term, we are going to have a real push on reading. We need your help and support with this to promote reading at home as well. Reading is the key to all subjects. The children should be spending 15 minutes per night reading, and we request that parents complete their child's home reading book daily, even in the juniors.

### **Handwriting**

We have seen a big improvement in handwriting this half term. The children have been focusing on forming their letters correctly. This starts in Nursery with learning to draw lines and shapes, making circular movements and drawing large shapes. It is really important that the children learn to form the letters correctly because this helps them to join their handwriting from Year 1 upwards. We are very impressed. All children will need to be able to write their full name with the correct formation. Keep practising at home over the holidays!

### **Parents evenings**

Parenting evening will be Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March and Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March. Mrs Beevers will be holding an additional parent evening on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January for parents who wish to discuss any SEND aspects. All the links will be sent in the New Year.

### **PTFA**

A huge thank you to Mrs Carten for her hard work and dedication to ensure the children have enjoyed some lovely events this half term. We still await the final official total; however, we are pleased to report that this is going to be over £2000, which is absolutely phenomenal.

Creating these events, is not easy to do, and we can't thank you enough. Quite often, it is easy to comment how the events should have been run, or what should happen, or how they could have been better, however, they are organised by a handful of willing parents. They are doing an amazing job with limited resources. Please, please, please support us in the new year, we need your help for these events to go ahead. We only have Mrs Carten until July so we will need someone to take on this role next year.

### **PE Competitions and Events**

We have attended and taken part in even more Sport evenings this half term. We are providing more clubs so that all the children can have fun and enjoy a variety of after school activities. There are times where we need to select a certain number of children for an event, team or a role in the school performance. It is tricky to only choose some children for these events, however, not everyone can take part. We always talk to the children and explain, and if you have not been picked this time, you might have another opportunity. There will be times in life where you are not successful with a job, or you can't do something, so we have an opportunity to make the children resilient and move onto the next challenge. We use the phrase 'You can't do it, yet!' with the children time and time again. We need your support when we make these decisions.

### **Uniform**

The children have looked very smart this half term. We have seen a rise in the number of children wearing the PE Hoodies and this is keeping them warm in the winter months. Just a few reminders that the children should only be wearing plain stud earrings, and all children need black shoe shoes in the

new year. Year 4 return to swimming in January and Year 5 will start after the February half term, please do not have your ears pierced over the Christmas period because they will not be able to go swimming.

### **Kids' Club**

Early this week, a letter was sent regarding some changes to the Kids' Club menu, please ensure you take a look and make sure your book sessions for the 7<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

### **Snack**

Thank you to all parents/carers who have paid for their child's morning snack, if you would like your child to have toast at break time, please make sure that this is paid by Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

### **School Places**

Please make sure you have completed your school admission form if you have a child starting in September 2025. I have shown a lot of people around this term so I would not like anyone to be disappointed. The nursery is also filling fast, and we are full on certain days in the new year so make sure we have your contact details if your younger children are due to start.

### **How to keep up with your child's mindset**

Our lovely counsellor Jo will be doing a parent's session on 'How to Keep Up with Your Child's Mindset.' The course is psycho-educational that highlights core behaviours and emotions and how we can support our children to navigate those big feelings which they may feel too much for them and even us. You will get assurance about things you are already doing well and ideas and tips about things which might also be helpful.

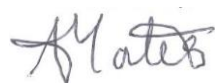
### **Dates for the new term**

- Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January - Stay and Play returns
- Week beginning: 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025 - Come Learn with me sessions – See school calendar
- Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January 1.30pm - Parenting Course – How to keep up with your child's mindset.
- Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February – Safer Internet Day
- Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March – Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March – Travelling Book Fair
- Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March – World Book Day
- Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April – 2.30pm Finish for Easter (No after School Club)

It has been a few busy weeks, and the children have really shone! Well done to the children for all the Christmas events. We have received some incredible comments from the local community about our carol singing. In true BVPS style, we had fun at BVPS's got talent. The children and staff never fail to amaze me with their INCREDIBLE talents! We finished today with a beautiful assembly. It was an honour to present the awards and see the progress the children have made. If we could give them all an award, we really would!

I hope you enjoy some valuable time with your families. Enjoy the Christmas period and I wish you a happy new year. We will see you back on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2025 for another exciting term!

Yours sincerely,



Mrs A Yates

Headteacher