



Strange times...

What a strange few weeks it has been for everyone with the sudden surge of Coronavirus in the UK and around the world. Things have moved very quickly in terms of government advice and protocol. As a result, it has been a challenge to keep on top of all the changes impacting schools and to make sure this is effectively communicated with you all.

In the last few weeks I spent every evening watching the latest press releases by the Prime Minister / MPs. The most significant announcement impacting schools in which the closures were announced was made on Wednesday 18th March giving us two days to prepare! This feels like a lifetime ago now. Thank you all for being so supportive and bearing with us during this time. The impact this has on families is obviously huge and you have all had a lot to deal with and are doing an amazing job to adapt so quickly... especially with having to home school! Buxton is a community I am very proud to be part of 😊

Please know that even though we are technically closed, the school is contactable during term time dates between 8.30am and 3pm should you need any support from us.

Mr Khan 😊

Buxton Has The Power!

As you may have seen on our Facebook page one of our parents, Neil Perry has put together all of the video clips which were sent to him and has created an amazing video to help everyone keep in touch. This truly shows the community spirit which we are very lucky to have here at Buxton. As one parent rightly said we are just like one big family! A big thanks to Mr Perry for making the video; we are all looking forward to the next project! 😊

The link to the YouTube version is below for those of you who haven't yet seen it.

https://youtu.be/6bXI_PDQg2o

Easter Break - Homework & Purple Mash

We are planning on closing over the Easter break period from 2nd April – 20th April as per the normal term time calendar. During this time I have asked my teachers to take a break from working and using Purple Mash so they can focus on spending quality time with their families. As a result, please could you let your children know that teachers are on 'holiday' if they do not hear back from them. This will also mean that our phone lines will not be active during this period. We will continue to be open only for key worker parents from 20th April as we have been over the last couple of weeks.

Please note that homework is set for the Easter period on both Purple Mash and via our website. There is not an expectation that children need to work every day and complete every activity over this period. There might seem like a lot of work set for Easter compared to normal – this is for children that are keen to do lots of work and to keep your children occupied should they need something to keep them busy whilst being stuck indoors.

Key Worker Provision

If there is the need to contact the school in regards to key worker provision, please directly email head@buxton.norfolk.sch.uk and I (Mr Khan) will be contactable via this method at all times, even over the Easter break.

We will be contacting all key workers on Friday 17th April (during the Easter break) to find out what your childcare needs are for the following weeks. We will continue to contact you on a weekly basis so that we are aware of the staffing levels needed in school.





E-Safety regarding the House Party App

Please see the information below regarding the popular 'Houseparty' app being used by lots of children. This information is from 'EST E Safety Training'

"We have received a lot of questions about the increasingly popular app 'Houseparty' along with some worrying stories where children have ended up in unwanted situations where strangers have joined their chats.

With this in mind we are putting this post out in the hope that it will better enable parents to ensure that their children and indeed themselves stay safe and uncompromised while using the app.

Houseparty has been around since 2016 and has always been popular with teenagers. The current situation has caused the use of the app to increase dramatically and the user base has changed to include first time adult users and younger children trying to stay in touch with friends.

When you sign up to Houseparty you are prompted to link it to all of your contacts both on your device and contacts from Facebook and Snapchat. Once linked the app recognises any contacts that are already signed up to Houseparty.

When you start the app you are then shown by default as being 'in the house' i.e. online. Any of your contacts can then invite you to join a live chat.

If you push the home screen up you will see any ongoing 'House Parties' (group chats) that your contacts are involved in. This process applies to everyone, so, if you are in a chat with 3 friends for example, anyone of their contacts that see the chat is happening can then 'drop in'. This is obviously where a risk presents itself. Literally anyone could enter the

chat so it could be someone's boss or worse still a person looking to exploit children.

If you push the home screen to the side you can then access any private video messages someone may have sent you. There is even a facility for people to enter the chat in 'Sneak' mode so you wouldn't know they were there.

If you are using this app or more importantly letting your children use it you should think about taking some simple measures to prevent uninvited guests crashing the party.

When using the app you will see an 'UNLOCKED PADLOCK' at the bottom of the screen.

Once you have added the people you want in an active chat you should then press this padlock. The chat will then be locked to any new visitors. Any of the people in the 'party' can lock the chat. What you don't want, is a bad person that has entered a chat locking it therefore stopping a parent dropping in and seeing what is going on.

Also at the bottom of the chat stream you have THREE DOTS in the bottom left corner. If you click on these you have an option to disable your webcam.

The other button to the bottom right of the chat stream which is a MICROPHONE can be pressed to turn off the active mic.

In summary as long as you set up a group chat and then immediately lock it you should be okay. Please make sure that any children using it realise it is very easy for any user to screen capture them during the chat so they need to make sure they are appropriately dressed."

