



Welcome to Year 5 Gorilla class



Welcome back to school and a very warm welcome to Year 5! We hope you have had a restful and enjoyable summer and are looking forward to the year ahead.

The children can look forward to a busy, engaging and enjoyable year, with a wide range of exciting topics and learning opportunities to explore. As they begin Upper Key Stage 2, we will place an increasing emphasis on developing independence, resilience and organisation, helping to prepare them for Year 6 and the next stage of their learning journey.

This handbook contains important information to help you and your child have a successful year at Buxton Primary School. Please take the time to **read it carefully** and keep a copy somewhere accessible for future reference.

Inside, you will find information about what your child will be learning and taking part in throughout the year, alongside useful details about wraparound care, school events, extra-curricular activities and any equipment your child may need. You will also find an introduction to our class and some of the routines and expectations for Year 5.

The Gorillas team

The Gorilla teaching team for 2026-27 are:

Class teacher: **Mrs Elly Smith**

Supporting adults: **Miss Becky Weir (Mon & Fri)**, **Mr Henry Aspin (Tues & Weds)**, **Mrs Gail Barks (Weds)** and **Mrs Kylie Squirrel (Thurs)**.

If you're not sure what we look like, you'll find a photo of us on the school website. If you would like to speak with us, we are available to speak to on pick up for a quick catch up, if it's something more significant that requires a meeting, please get in contact with the school secretary who will make arrangements to organise a meeting. Thank you 😊

website: www.buxtonschool.co.uk

Our learning

You will find the **year overview** in the curriculum section of the website which details the key areas the children will be learning across the school year. We have set out below further key information:

MUSIC TUITION is provided by the school in all years, and this year your child will receive externally led samba sessions from the music service which are planned for: **Summer on Thursdays**. The school pays for these sessions to go ahead to enrich children's experiences.

SWIMMING sessions – you will have been advised if your child is swimming this year.

PE days will come to you via the school secretary, Mrs Spence, at the start of each term. Your child will need to come to school wearing their school PE kit (underneath a tracksuit or leggings in cooler weather). Long hair must be tied back, and earrings must be removed prior to school on these days if your child cannot do this themselves. Every child will have at least one of their weekly PE sessions taught by our trained PE specialist, Mr Aspin.

FOREST SCHOOL / OUTDOOR LEARNING sessions happen for every child. This year, our class will be taking part weekly across the **first half of the Autumn term (Tuesday)**. Please ensure your child has a named bag with suitable outdoor learning named clothing for these days. This can be kept on their pegs for the term.



These sessions are only able to go ahead because we ask our families for **contributions** towards them. We ask families to either support the sessions in-person or make a payment of £5 per session. Thank you in advance for this support.

RSHE lessons will take place across the year. Our RSE and RSHE scheme outline and vocabulary are detailed on our website, please see the 'curriculum' pages for further information.

Starting in the Spring term (January onwards) children will be taking part in the puberty sessions which form part of the statutory PSHE (Personal, Social, Health, and Economic) Education.

These lessons are age-appropriate and are designed to support pupils' wellbeing, personal development and safety as they grow and mature. The content will be taught sensitively and in a respectful, inclusive way, with opportunities for discussion and questions in a safe classroom environment.

During this unit, pupils will learn about:

- How their emotions may change as they move through puberty.
- How their bodies might change during puberty (including menstruation) and how to anticipate these changes.
- What healthy relationships look like and the skills needed to manage them.
- The correct terms associated with gender identity and sexual orientation, and an understanding that homophobia and transphobia are unacceptable.
- How to keep safe online, including understanding that personal information and images can be shared without their permission.
- How to manage accidental exposure to explicit images online, including knowing who they can talk to if this happens.

Please be assured that lessons will be delivered in a factual, age-appropriate manner and will focus on helping children feel informed, confident and safe. We encourage you to talk with your child at home about what they are learning and to let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT is provided for your child according to their specific learning requirements. All children across the school are assessed termly and the data is analysed to identify any gaps in learning. Children are then organised into groups or supported individually to accelerate their progress in these areas. The **impact** of this support is reviewed so that children move to support another area of learning where identified. The school operates **workshops** where all children take part in sessions to extend their learning or **accelerate progress**, no matter their ability level, this means that children of all abilities receive regular individual support.

Things to remember ...

NAMED belongings: Please ensure your child's belongings, such as bottles, hats, jumpers and coats etc are labelled clearly with their name. Your child will need a school bag that they bring with them every day. In here they should have a named water bottle, their reading book and suitable clothing for the weather each day.

Reading: Please ensure your child has the book they are reading in school every day so they always have access to a book of their choice.

Please allow your child to walk up the driveway by themselves to encourage their independence in readiness for their next step in their education.



Homework

Homework will be sent home on a Friday to be completed and **returned to school by the following Wednesday** to be marked and set by the end of the week. Homework will be sent home in a named plastic wallet and should be returned each week in the same wallet. Homework sheets will vary each week and could be maths, reading comprehension or grammar.

READING: To best support your child's progress, we encourage children to read at least 3 times per week. They will have regular reading comprehension tasks set as homework covering a range of genres.

SPELLINGS: Children will have spellings to practice in their books five times per word. These must then be used in sentences to demonstrate understanding. Testing will be done through Spelling Frame sessions.

Extra-Curricular & Wrap Around Care

Term dates and school day timings are available on the website. Terms every year are as follows:

AUTUMN term starts in September and ends just before the Christmas break.

SPRING term starts in January and ends just before the Easter break.

SUMMER term starts after the Easter break and ends on the last day of the academic year in July.

HALF TERMS are single week breaks that happen half way through a term. This provides children (and staff!) with a much-needed rest. Clubs **do not** stop either side of a half term, they keep going.

BREAKFAST CLUB operates daily from 7:30am and must be booked by **Thursday the week before** via Parent Pay so the school can arrange enough food and adults to provide for the children booked on. This means drop-ins are usually not possible. In emergencies, please telephone the school to ask if a space is available. If your child is not booked on and there's no space, then they will not be able to join. Children must arrive by **7:45am in order to be fed** please.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS run Monday to Thursday, please see the timetable on our website. A club runs for a **FULL** term (Autumn, Spring or Summer). Clubs are on **every week** from when they start (usually the second week back of term to allow time to organise) up until the **week prior** to the last week of the term. This is because the final week of term (the ones just before Christmas, just before Easter and just before the big Summer break) are exceptionally busy and running clubs that last week causes difficulties, therefore we end them the week before. **Club fees** are due **prior** to the club starting. This means that all sessions for the full term must be paid for in advance. This is so that we can ensure our costs are covered for the term as any changes later mean we may not cover our costs. If the club is not paid for by the end of the first week, your child will not be able to join the group. Children are not to bring snacks to clubs please.

BOOKING LUNCHES is through Parent Pay. These must be booked by the **Thursday of the week before**. Our final food order is sent off first thing Friday morning and so any bookings after Thursday unfortunately cannot be accommodated. Menus are on our website and are emailed home at the start of each term.

MORNING SNACK (KS2 only) is changing. As food standards are changing for schools and coming into force in September 2027, we have changed our snack from September 2026 in preparation. Snack will now be a 'coco slice' with the main ingredients of oats, cocoa, chopped dates, weetabix and honey. These will be available for the same price of 50p. Our EYFS/KS1 pupils will continue to receive free fruit for their snack. All children are permitted to bring in their own snack which must be: **piece of fruit, vegetable or pure protein** (such as mini cheese or meat).



PERFORMANCES happen for every child across the school, and all children will take part in different ways. Reception have a nativity at the end of Autumn term, KS1 have their performance just before the Easter break and KS2 have their performance at the end of the Summer term. Children will also take part in a class assembly during Autumn term.

VISITS are organised to enhance the curriculum. Sometimes these curriculum enhancements happen on school grounds as opposed to off premises. Most visits happen within the school day. **Residential** visits happen in Year 4 and Year 6. Consent and payment for trips will all be via Parent Pay when you make payment. More information about the visits your child will take part in this year will come to you closer to the time.

COMPETITIONS and FESTIVALS also happen throughout the year. The school takes care to select children so that as many children as possible get to have these extra experiences. Visits include sports competitions, music festivals, reading events and more.

PERSONALISED PROVISION is organised for pupils who may need that little bit extra support. Our SENDCo, Mrs Buchanan, will contact those involved in this. Our personalised provision includes: Alternative Provision, Forest Schools Nurture, Specialist Speech and Language sessions, therapies, bereavement support, social skills sessions, small group teaching.

ENRICHMENT days are run once per term where children will have the opportunity to experience and learn new skills across a full day. We have designed an enrichment programme to develop not only **life skills** but also skills to build on our core values and growth mindset while also giving pupils the opportunity to challenge themselves and find out more about their **interests and passions**. Enrichment brochures will come home to you to discuss the options with your child. They are guaranteed to take part in one of their favourite three.

Behaviour, Growth Mindset & Resilience

The school's **behaviour curriculum** very much centres around supporting our children to become **confident, resilient and responsible citizens**. Our full policy is available on our website under the policies tab.

At Buxton, we know that always starting with the positive leads to children with **positive self-esteem and a positive outlook**, this is one reason why we hold a celebration assembly weekly and there are a wide variety of ways children are praised each day.

We are a **restorative approach** school where children are given time to share their viewpoint should things go wrong, to learn from what has happened, make this right, resolve and decide together how this can be prevented next time. This way, children **learn from their actions** in a calm and focused way and build the understanding that their actions and reactions are their own responsibility. This is also a key factor for children to build their **resilience** which forms a large part of our Growth Mindset system (see website for more details). Children are given **opportunities to learn** that things do go wrong, they will not always be happy and that this is ok as there are actions we can take to resolve incidents kindly and manage our emotions effectively.

It is important that children are given **structure and boundaries** which help them to feel safe so that they can build those core skills to become successful adults.

At school, these boundaries are made clear through our embedded restorative approach, focus on positive praise as the first port of call and **consistent structure** when things go wrong. Should positive praise not support a child and they are struggling to follow guidance, our next course of action is a three step process which is carried out sensitively and calmly: **1) ensure the child is provided with any support needed**, taking into account the particular needs and abilities of the child and providing them time to think, **2) provide a clear warning of what**



could happen next if they are unable to carry out what is needed, reminding them of the support provided/offered and provide them more time to think, **3) implement the educational consequence** shared with the child in step 2.

This system ensures children are supported kindly, according to their need, and given plenty of time to share any difficulties prior to there being any consequences put in place. **Consequences are always educationally based and designed to support the child to learn about what happened, why it happened, how to make it right, and how to change it for the better next time.**

At home, boundaries and structure are **equally important** providing children with the **safe environment** they need to thrive. That safety comes from them **knowing the rules at home, being heard and kindly supported.** There are various agencies who can provide parenting support such as www.justonenorfolk.nhs.uk.

On occasion we need to put in place **restrictive interventions** to keep children safe from harm, such as preventing a child doing something dangerous. We have a legal responsibility to report these incidents to you in writing and so you will receive a phone call to explain what happened with an email to follow this up.

Events & Newsletters

SCHOOL NEWSLETTERS are written to provide our families with important and essential information. At the end of the newsletter, you will find a school calendar of dates detailing what is happening at school across the terms. These are shared regularly via email and are then put on the school website under 'News'.

EVENTS

Family Learning Days – fun days that family and friends are invited to work alongside children.

Fayres – whole school events. Main ones are at Christmas and in the Summer.

Church Services – we visit our local church regularly, notably for Harvest Festival, Christmas and Easter services.

Sports Day – a fun sporty day with a huge community family picnic at lunch time.

VOLUNTEERING

We are always seeking support in school from our wonderful families. If you are at all able to come and support us at school, whether this is with reading, outdoor learning, supporting in class or helping at our enrichment sessions or school trips, we are so incredibly grateful. If you are able to offer regular weekly support, please do get in contact with our office team who will make arrangements to induct you into school as a volunteer.

PARKING SAFELY

The school driveway is not to be used for drop off / pick-ups please – when this happens, it is reserved only for our users with disability access requirements. This is to keep our children, families and staff safe. Please ensure you park sensibly around the village and use the village hall carpark for drop offs and pick ups and do not park within 10 metres of any junction. Thank you for your support with this.