



Welcome to Year 4 Rhino class

A warm welcome to Rhinos class to our families with a Year 4 child this year. This handbook contains all you need to have a successful year at Buxton Primary School. Please take the time to read this carefully and keep a copy of it handy. You will find information about what your child will be learning and taking part in across the year along with lots of very helpful information around wrap around care, events, extra-curricular sessions and equipment your child may need along with an introduction to our class.



The Rhinos team

The Rhinos teaching team for 2026-27 are:

Class teacher/s: Mrs Buchanan and Mrs Harker-Smith

Supporting adult/s: Mrs Barks, Mrs Squirrell and Mrs Stannett.

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 drop off 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 a subject year overview attached which details the key areas the children will be learning across the school year. We have set out below further key information:

NATIONAL ASSESSMENTS happen in this year group as designated by the Government. The 2027 statutory multiplication tables check (MTC) for Year 4 pupils in England takes place within a two-week window starting Monday 7 June 2027. More information about this will come to you closer to the time.

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: Autumn Term on Thursdays. The school pays for these sessions to go ahead to enrich children's experiences.

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 Summer term on Wednesdays. 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. Your child will take part in at least 10 sessions this year, therefore, we are requesting a donation of £50 towards the cost of these please or an offer to support sessions yourself (please contact the school office to make arrangements to do so). Thank you in advance for this support.

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 and their reading book. Please could you ensure that your child does not bring into school any additional items, for example; fidgets, toys and stationery as it can lead to these potentially getting lost or broken. Every child is provided with the stationery they require for learning and if additional items are required to support any SEND needs these are provided as part of children's individual support plans. However, if items are related to personal achievements such as medals, certificates and photos – we are always so pleased to share these special moments with the class, please send them in!

Reading: Please ensure your child has their reading book in school every day so they can read with other adults and track their reading progress. Children in year 4 – 6 will not longer be required to complete reading diaries but a record of their range of reading will be logged at school.

We will be seeing the children out at the end of the day via the Year 3 door so please feel free to catch us if you need a quick chat or to say hello! If you would like a little longer to discuss anything, please let us know and we will always find time to discuss any queries or concerns you may have. If you email the office, this is always passed on to us so we will respond as soon as we possibly can.

Homework

Homework will come home in a folder;

- ▶ **MATHS** – Children will have a short arithmetic practice activity linked to the learning each week, in addition to this, we are encouraging children to practice 5 minutes per day on TT rockstars to prepare for the Statutory year 4 Multiplication Check (MTC) in the Spring term.
- ▶ **READING** - Children will have a short reading comprehension activity to complete at home in relation to what we have been learning each week to develop their comprehension skills. As always, we encourage children to develop a love of reading and reading regularly (ideally 3 times per week as a minimum) to build reading fluency and develop their vocabulary.
- ▶ **SPELLING** – spelling words will be sent home in a spelling book – We model to the children how to practice them using the look, cover, write check method. If they find spelling tricky, please encourage them to go onto spelling frame for additional practice with the same words. It is a great visual, repetitive, fun way to learn spellings.
- ▶ Homework will be set on a FRIDAY and should be returned on the following WEDNESDAY.

We would really appreciate your support in encouraging your child to complete homework. Even a small amount of regular practice can make a big difference to their confidence and progress as well as preparing them for High School. If there are any difficulties completing homework, please do not hesitate to speak to us. Thank you for your continued support.

Extra-Curricular, Wrap Around Care & Lunch/Snacks

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 pic-nic 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.