What is it like to be a learner at Buxton Primary School ?

Maths & English

In maths, we have developed our own '**Step by Step**' curriculum model. This system enables our children to recall key skills and apply them to solve more complex problems.

Our Calculation Policy shows how our children progress in learning **how to calculate** in different ways. The children move onto the next stage when they are ready with a full grasp of concepts.

In maths lessons, children are guided to recall content from prior lessons in order to successfully **build upon their learning**.

We use the Twinkl phonics programme (our approach to learning to read). This is structured, sequential and ensures that **phonics is taught consistently**.

At Buxton, we know that **reading** underpins and impacts on all learning. It is therefore **integral** to the curriculum. In our younger classes, learning to read through **phonetic knowledge** is a priority. As children develop fluency, we build comprehension through whole class reading and develop **independent** reading skills, whilst maintaining a focus on phonics throughout. Reading workshops, sessions, events and special days develop a **love of reading** across the school.

Free-write Friday is one way in which we develop the **enjoyment of writing**, children write freely about interesting things and are inspired to develop new ideas.

Development of writing starts with **mark making** through in the moment planning in reception all the way to Y6 who experience a wide range of writing styles. Our children regularly take part in **competitions** such as BBC 500 words and Young Writers.

Visits & Visitors

Children learn best through having fun while learning. This is why we always seek to develop **learning experiences** through educational visits out of school and visitors into school.

Well planned visits mean that children build their **resilience** to going on educational trips. Children start with local area visits, then more **adventurous** visits such as the Norfolk Broads boat trips for geography, leading to residentials in both Y4 and Y6.

Visits and visitors are focussed on **subjects** and are linked to children's **learning** in the classroom. This includes visitors to school who share their **expertise** and **inspire** the children such as local artists and performing historians.

Our Curriculum

At Buxton, the National Curriculum has been organised to meet the needs of **our children**, at our school. It enables children to build upon their **knowledge** and develop **depth** of understanding.

Subjects are interlinked and children at Buxton experience subjects in **cross curricular** ways such as developing DT models using programmes online, exploring geographical ideas in maths or studying writing styles through historical content.

Our assessment schedule incorporates **assessment** for all subjects with an aim of ensuring that knowledge is retained and built upon ensuring good **progress**. When a child finds an area difficult to grasp, they are given further support to ensure that knowledge is embedded through **guidance, feedback**, **workshops** and **interventions**.

Our curriculum does not just mean what is written in the National Curriculum, at Buxton we provide much more to ensure a **depth of understanding** and in order to develop successful future citizens. This document, along with our 'Multicultural Learning' gives a peek into what it is like to learn at Buxton.

PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education), along with RSE (Relationships and Sex Education) are a key part of our children's journey at Buxton. These areas incorporate a large part of **developing each child has an individual** and helping them to find their place in the world. We are proud to provide learning environments that enable our children to **build confidence**, **understanding** and **tolerance** of the world around them.

Themed learning such as art days, big write days, science week or family learning days means that children gain a love of different subjects and have opportunities to **develop expertise**. Children show pride in their work and gain **rewards** regularly.

For more detailed information, see www.buxtonschool.co.uk

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Extracurricular

Extracurricular activities are defined as being activities that children do outside of the 'normal' curriculum. At Buxton, we believe that undertaking extracurricular activities has **far-ranging benefits** that feeds into many aspects of a child's development. Our extracurricular provision is part of our offering to ensure children leave Buxton with the tools they need to reach their **fullest potential**. It's not just about learning new skills, enjoying attending school or building confidence, it's about so much more.

Learning **new skills** and instilling **personality traits** help in the classroom and build future passions.

Boost academic performance through better problem-solving, memory and **critical thinking** skills.

Children develop good **self-esteem**, **positive mental health** and build proficient **social skills** to apply elsewhere.

Our extracurricular offering includes (but not limited to):
Enrichment = learning new skills in school time e.g. animation, first aid, cookery, performing arts, animal care, gardening, skateboarding.
School clubs = sport academies, languages, media, choir etc.
Competition entries = music, swimming, sports, writing, art etc
Themed days = multicultural, charity based, care in the community
Performances = auditions, large & small scale regular performances
Outdoor learning = Forest Schools style for all, alternative provision

The impact of the above opportunities ensures that children at Buxton are **well-rounded** and **thoughtful** individuals who have a good understanding of how to use social skills to support each other. In a recent parent survey, **100%** of parents felt that enrichment and forest schools added to their child's **enjoyment** and **engagement** in lessons. Summarising what they liked most, a parent stated, 'The sense of **community**, **warmth**; **education is the focus** whilst embracing those important **experiences outside the curriculum**. The enrichment classes have been an excellent introduction.'

Buxton's Ethos & Core Values

At Buxton, our **ethos** is clear. We believe in preparing our children to become **responsible and well-rounded** individuals who are prepared for a **future** beyond school life. This is underpinned by our motto '**Achieving Excellence Together**'.

Our **restorative** behaviour system further embeds our ethos and **core values**. We award **positive** behaviours with particular values under our 'ARCHER' system:
A=Acceptance, R=Respect, C=Consideration, H=Honesty, E=Excellence, R=Responsibility

Our **core values** link directly to, and are inspired by, our **British Values**.

Our **Growth Mindset** approach is explained through our in-house characters. These are used every day to help children to develop skills needed for **positive well-being**: **Malala Motivator, Percy Perseverance, Resilient Roy, Granny Grit**

"The focus is always on **doing what is best for the children.**" as one parent shared during our recent survey.

Children's **safety is paramount** at Buxton. All staff are fully trained in safeguarding and the Prevent Duty. All children are taught how to keep themselves safe; our annual **safety week** includes a wide range of topics to support children to keep safe in the modern world. Safety is also taught throughout the year in PSHE/Computing.

Inclusive of all

We are a **fully inclusive** and **nurturing** primary school. We believe that every child should have the very **best education** that caters to their needs. Through a wide variety of differentiated activities, our curriculum aims to match the **unique needs** of the children it serves.

We have an **effective** model to identify extra need (**SEND**) in our children and support **individuals** to reach their **fullest potential**. Our high level of **adult support** ensures all children are given opportunities to learn in a **meaningful** way.

Every child receives a **wide range of opportunities**, from **residential** experiences to **extracurricular** activities, we cater to all needs. Our children are also given equal access to our **pastoral support** and **nurture provision** if needed.

All children are taught to stretch their understanding, **deepen knowledge**, and be **inspired**, building their **ambition**. Learning aims to develop confidence and **leadership qualities**.

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