



Burradon Community Primary School



Monday 5th January 2026

Dear Parents / Carers

On behalf of the Staff and Governors, may I wish you a Happy New Year and send our best wishes for 2026? I hope you all had a good and relaxing time over the Christmas holidays and are ready for the Spring Term!

1) Autumn Term 2025 Attendance update

Below are the individual class attendance figures for across the whole of the Autumn Term 2025. Our expectation is 96% and this should be the minimum that we are all aiming for this year.

Attendance for Tuesday 2nd September 2025 - Friday 19th December 2025

<u>Year Group</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Year 5/6	94.6%
Year 4/5	95.5%
Year 3	95%
Year 2	94.5%
Year 1	93.2%
FS2 (Ladybirds)	95.1%

The average attendance from Y1-Y6 across the Autumn term was 94.8% which is below our 96% target. Across the Autumn term, we had a large number of holidays and absences to attend events before Christmas taken during term time. In addition, we also had a sickness bug across school.

Hopefully, we can have a spring term whereby we see an increase in attendance figures so that all classes are above 96%.

Attendance letters were sent out before the Christmas holidays. We did manage to speak to all parents / carers before the end of term where attendance was below 90% (red letter). All red letter pupils will have a period of monitoring for rapid improvements across January 2026. If you would like to discuss your child's attendance with me, please call or email the school office and I will book an appointment over the phone or face to face.

2) Visit from Emma Foody (MP)

On the last Friday before Christmas, we welcomed Emma Foody (MP for Cramlington and Killingworth) into school. The visit was linked to the Christmas card design competition which was held in November and the wonderful news that one of our Year 5 pupils was the



winner! Ava was presented with a special prize by the MP as part of a class assembly. Ava's design will be sent out to residents, local organisations, the Prime Minister and the King by Emma Foody, MP.

Well done, Ava – a brilliant achievement and well deserved. We would also like to express our thanks to Emma Foody for coming to our school to present Ava with her prize.

3) Punctuality

Our gates open at 8:40am so that children can come into school and be ready for good start to their day.

A reminder that school officially starts at 8:50am with registration. Our lessons start promptly at 8:55am. We have a number of children who are coming in through the key stage doors between 8:55am and 9am and a few children who are coming in through the main door after 9am. This means that they are missing the start of their lesson which causes disruption for them but also for the rest of the children in the class who are ready to learn. Please can I ask for your support to ensure your child is in school on time at 8:50am? Many thanks.

4) School Uniform

To ensure we start the Spring Term off in good fashion, a quick reminder of our agreed school uniform, **including black shoes** and PE kit.

Our agreed school uniform

<u>School Uniform</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• White or yellow polo shirt• Royal blue sweatshirt• Grey or black trousers• Grey or black skirt• Blue or yellow checked dress (in summer)• Grey or black shorts (in summer)• Black shoes

Please can I ask for your full support with our agreed school uniform? Phone calls home will be made where children are not in the right uniform. Many thanks.

5) PE Uniform

All children, from FS2 to Y6, will need to bring their correct PE kit into school and leave on their peg each week to get changed into. **The correct school PE kit must be worn.** We will make phone calls home to arrange for the kit to be brought in or will provide a spare kit for your child to wear if they do not have the correct kit. **Children are to wear their school jumper if it is cold on top of their PE uniform.**

Our agreed PE uniform



PE uniform

- White t-shirt
- Dark shorts (navy blue or black)
- Dark tracksuit bottoms (navy blue or black for the colder weather)
- Suitable footwear, e.g sandals or trainers
- School jumper (if cold)

We have our Year 4/5 class (Wednesday afternoon) going swimming across the Spring term with the letter being sent out before the holidays via School Comms. Your child's class teacher will let you know the dates for individual class PE lessons in their class newsletter for this half term.

6) Jewellery

Please can I remind parents / carers that it is school policy that no jewellery is worn in school. Jewellery can be a serious risk to the children's safety during P.E sessions, playtimes, lunchtime sport activities and after school activities. There are lots of opportunities for children to get jewellery caught which can cause nasty injuries. Towards the end of last term, staff have noticed pupils coming into school with necklaces, chains, rings and earrings. Clear earrings are also not allowed in school or plasters over earrings.

The only exception to our no jewellery policy is a watch which needs to be removed for PE and Sport sessions. A reminder that we do not allow SMART watches in school as they have the facility to take pictures and send messages which is against our safeguarding policies and procedures.

Please can I ask for full parental support with this aspect of Health and Safety from our pre-school to Year 6. Many thanks for your support.

7) Names

Please can we ask parents / carers to ensure that all items of their children's clothes are names including jumpers and coats? One Y2 sized jumper looks very much the same as another Y2 sized jumper. Lost clothing, once located, is much easier to return to the rightful owner if it is named! Many thanks for your support with this.

8) Reading

Reading fluency and the enjoyment of reading are a high priority across the school. As parents / carers, you can continue to support at home by reading regularly at home with your child and by writing regular comments in their reading diaries each week. You are never too young or old to read or be read a story to!!!

We want to get off to a flying start with reading this spring term and very much appreciate regular reading taking place at home. It makes a real difference and the children love telling the teachers when they have been heard read at home and by who!



9) **Safeguarding**

As we start the new year, can I remind parents / carers that safeguarding is everyone's business? If you have any Child Protection or Safeguarding concerns, please speak to

- Miss Hunter (Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead)
- Mrs Liddle (Deputy Head and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead)
- Mrs Kane (SENDCo and Additional Designated Safeguarding Lead)
- Mrs Hopper (HLTA and Additional Designated Safeguarding Lead)
- Any member of staff (who will pass on your concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Lead)

I am sure you will agree that we all need to work together to ensure that our children are safe both in school and out of school.

10) **New member of staff**

I am delighted to welcome Mrs Harris to our school. Mrs Harris will be working in our pre-school, alongside Miss Charlton, every morning. I am sure you will join with us in wishing Mrs Harris good luck for her new post with us.

Yours Sincerely

A.L.Hunter

Miss A.L. Hunter
Headteacher

Upcoming events at Burradon Community Primary School

Letters for events and activities below, where appropriate, will follow.

5 th January	<u>Teacher Training Day 3 (school closed to all pupils)</u>
6 th January	<u>School re-opens after Christmas holidays</u>
7 th January	Nexus 'Train Safety' assembly
13 th January	Burradon Helpers meeting at 3pm
15 th January	Year 6 Safety Works visit (am)
23 rd January	School Council at Quadrant for Holocaust event
2 nd February	Year 2 skipping training (afternoon)
3 rd February	9am – 10am – Connect Mental Health Team Parent / carer drop in
4 th February	9am – Fairytale session for parents / carers of FS1 children
4 th February	Y2 visit to Newcastle Cathedral (afternoon)



5 th February	9am – Fairytale session for parents / carers of FS2 children
10 th February	Safer Internet Day 'Smart Tech Safe Choices – Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI'
10 th February	House Team event linked to online safety
12 th February	Careers dress up day for the whole school
12 th February	9:05am – Careers sharing assembly for parents / carers in the hall
13 th February	<u>School closes at end of today for February half term holidays</u>
23 rd February	<u>School re-opens after February half term holidays</u>
3 rd March	Parent / Carer Evening (online booking will follow closer to the time)
4 th March	Parent / Carer Evening (online booking will follow closer to the time)
9 th March	STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) week
13 th March	High Borrans Residential weekend (for pupils in Y5 and Y6 who have signed up to go)
16 th March	High Borrans pupils return to school (mid-afternoon)
25 th March	Y2 trip to Newcastle Quayside and Discovery Museum (all day)
1 st April	Y3 trip to Arbeia Roman Fort (all day)
2 nd April	<u>School closes at end of today for Easter holidays</u>
20 th April	<u>School re-opens after Easter holidays</u>
4 th May	Bank Holiday Monday (School closed to all pupils)
11 th May	Key Stage 2 SATs week

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