



5th December 2025

**I baptise you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.
Matthew 3:11**

Pupil Premium/Free School meals

Once again, we are asking FOR ALL parents to look to see if they are eligible for Free School Meals (even if your children are in Reception/Year 1 or Year 2). If you are eligible and apply, then this brings much needed funding into the school to help us help all of the children achieve their best. Please see the information below:

If your child is in a Key Stage 1 year group and you get one of the qualifying incomes shown below it will help the school if you make a claim for free school meals, as they can get extra funding.

From Year 3 onward free school meals are only available if you get one of the following:

- Universal Credit - and your earned income is less than £7,400 a year, after tax and not including any benefits
- Income Support
- Income-based Job Seekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit, providing you are do not get Working Tax Credit, and your annual gross income is less than £16,190
- Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

If you get Working Tax Credits you will not be eligible unless you are receiving the four week 'run on' payment after stopping work.

Free school meals are available for pupils at local authority maintained primary and secondary schools, including academies. They are not available for children at private or independent schools.

They are also available for eligible households with:

- children at local authority-maintained nurseries, providing they receive education before and after lunch
- students aged between 16 and 19 who go to Elms Bank Specialist Arts College sixth form
- students who receive Income Support or Income-based Jobseekers Allowance in their own right

Applications can be made on the Bury council website www.bury.gov.uk (type in Free school meals). If you need any support, please ask at the school office.

Teeny Tiny Nativity

This Advent, we are encouraging all of our children but especially our children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 to make their own 'Teeny Tiny Nativity'. The scene of Mary, Joseph, the baby Jesus, shepherd etc in the stable can be created out of anything at all: egg boxes, cardboard tubes, painted stones - anything! It would be lovely to have as many as possible and all different ones. They can be brought into school once made and we will display them around the school during Advent.

Bury Homeless Project Shoe Box Appeal

We are once again collecting shoe boxes filled with supplies for those in need. Hats, scarves, gloves, toiletries or little gifts which would put a smile on someone's face this Christmas. Please label 'man/woman/boy/girl/pet' which helps with the distribution. Thank you for your continued generosity.

Year 6 Selling Toast for MacMillan Cancer Support: Y3/4/5/6

From next week, the Year 6 children will be selling toast at breaktime for 30p a slice (50p for two slices!) to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support.

No Toys/Football Cards in School Please

Please make sure that your child/children do not bring in toys or football cards into school. They are not allowed and when they have been brought in, they have got lost/damaged and caused upset. Thank you for your cooperation.

Christmas Fair

We have a great Christmas Fair this afternoon. Thank you to everyone who could come and share in the festivities!

Christmas Jumper Day

On Monday 15th December children are invited to wear a Christmas Jumper with their uniform – this is not a non-uniform day - should they wish to do so.

Christmas Nativity Plays

A letter has gone out via Arbor regarding the upcoming EYFS and KS1 nativity plays and the purchase of tickets.

Golden Ticket Reading Challenge

The Golden ticket challenge continues this half term. The winners will be invited a special Christmas Grotto experience in school during our last week of term.

Thank you for all of your continued support in hearing your children this term in hearing your children read!

School Uniform

It has been great to see all of the children looking smart in full school uniform. Thank you for this. Please do ensure that all uniform is labelled (especially jumpers which have a habit of getting lost!) and that children bring a coat to school, even if the weather is sunny- just in case. A polite reminder that school shoes must be worn for school and not black trainers (except in Nursery/Reception where black trainers are permitted)

Please make sure that your child has their full PE kit in school. PE consists of white T-shirt and black shorts. Pumps must be worn inside and trainers are allowed for outside only. Plain black jogging bottoms or plain black leggings can be worn for outside lessons.

Support and Help

It is really important to us at school to know that if any parents/families are struggling for whatever reason then we are here to help as much as we can. Please do speak to the class teachers or directly to me if you need any support in any way. Sometimes we can direct you to other professionals for support or we may be able to help ourselves. We are here to help.

Reception Admission

The online portal for applications for children to attend Reception in September 2026 is now open. This can be accessed via www.bury.gov.uk/primaryschool/admissions. The deadline for this is Thursday 15th January.

Afterschool Clubs (NOT After 3's)

All clubs have now finished apart from Choir. The last Choir will be on Monday in order to practice for the upcoming visit to the Care home. Clubs will recommence w/c 12th January 2026.

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 9 th December	1.30 pm	EYFS Christmas Production – details to go out on Monday
Wednesday 10 th December	9.30 am	EYFS Christmas Production – details to follow on Arbor
Thursday 11 th December	9.00 am	Christmas Panto for the whole school
	6.30 pm	KS1 Christmas Production – details have gone on Arbor
Friday 12 th December	1.30 pm	KS1 Christmas Production – details have gone on Arbor
Monday 15 th December	9.00 – 10.00 am	Nursery & Reception Craft Morning
	1.30 – 2.30	Nursery Craft Afternoon

	12 noon 1.30 pm	(please note that parents of full time children can come to either session) Christmas Lunch Choir to perform for the Alexander Care Home Christmas Jumper day (with their uniform please)
Tuesday 16 th December	2.00 pm	Advent Mass in Church
Thursday 18 th December	9.00 am	Year 5 Stay & Pray
	3.05 pm	School closes for the Christmas holidays

Attendance Matters

As a school, we have always had really good attendance compared to other schools in the local authority. Good attendance is everyone's responsibility and we must maintain this and continue to improve. There is currently a renewed drive from the Department of Education and schools must be seen to promote excellent attendance. Whilst we appreciate there are times that children cannot come into school and individual children that we know about have medical conditions that impact on their health, we still need to do everything as a school to promote and celebrate excellent attendance.

Class attendances for this week.

Year Group	Attendance %
Reception	93.5%
Year One	95.2%
Year Two	98.1%
Year Three	99%
Year Four	98.6%
Year Five	100%
Year Six	99%

Well done to Year 5 for having the best attendance this week!

The class with the best attendance will receive an extra playtime each week.

A Final Note

This week we have been talking about the importance of Hope. The children were asked to think about the different things that they hope for and how they can help others have hope too. On Thursday morning our Y4 children reminded us that Advent is all about preparing for the coming of Christ. We can prepare by growing closer to Jesus through our prayers and actions – especially helping others. This Sunday we light the second Advent candle- the candle of Peace.

Wishing you all a peaceful weekend

God bless,

Mr McRae
Head Teacher



**Artsmark
Silver Award**
Awarded by Arts
Council England