



"Working Together, Learning Forever"

4th September 2026

Dear parent/carer,

Welcome back!

It has been fantastic to see you all back safely this week. The children have settled back in extremely well and their behaviour and application to work has been exceptional. Thanks for all your support with this.

Nearly all children have been in on time this week which has ensured a calm and settled start to the day for all pupils-thank you. This will be a major focus this year, alongside attendance. You received a record of your child's attendance last year with their report. This will have given you an indication of where they stand and also identified if they were in the category of persistently absent from school (less than 90% attendance). This is something we will be monitoring closely, as, if children aren't in school, they do not have the opportunity to learn, thus affecting their future chances of success. I'm sure you will fully support your child and us with this.

Nursery places

Nursery places are filling up. If you have a child under or approaching 3 and haven't yet completed a form, please pop in to pick up an application pack from the office.

Meetings for parents

There will be class meetings for parents to discuss the year ahead and expectations on the week commencing 14th September. Your child's class teacher will contact you via Class Dojo with the final arrangements. Meetings will take place at 4 and 5pm.

After school Clubs

After school clubs will start back on the week commencing 21st September. Again, teachers will be in contact with more details and how to sign up.

Parking

I know parking around the school can be difficult and stressful for you. However, a reminder that the car park is for staff and authorised users only. The authorised users are usually pupils with blue badges and families requiring special circumstances as agreed with the Headteacher. If you feel you require special circumstances, please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss. Another reminder not to park on the double yellow lines and zig zags outside of school as this is dangerous for the children. Due to the markings on the kerb, blue badge holders are not authorised to park here either. I'm sure you agree with me that the safety of our children is the number one priority of everyone associated with the school.

Mr M. Thompson B.A. (Educ.) Hons, N.P.Q.H., MCGI (Level7), PgDip
Headteacher

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Our website

Our website contains all up-to-date information about the school. The address is:

<https://www.burlaisprimaryschool.co.uk>

You can find our policies, newsletters to parents, school improvement documents and information on what your children have been doing and learning.

Our updated prospectus for the academic year is also on there, which gives a tremendous amount of information about the school.

POLICY ON SAFEGUARDING PUPILS WALKING TO AND FROM SCHOOL ALONE

Pupils in Nursery-Y4

Our agreed school policy is that no pupil in these year groups should walk to or from school on their own or be left on their own on the school premises either before or after school. Pupils attending Breakfast Club must be handed over at the door to staff, please do not leave them outside the school premises. In addition, we will only hand over pupils to named adults or older siblings (not from our school of primary age). Pupils will not be handed over to other adults unless the school has been informed by the parent that they have made this arrangement. If no one turns up to collect a child in these year groups they will be kept in school and parents contacted.

Pupils in Y5 & Y6

Pupils in Y5 & 6 may walk to/home from school **with written permission**. In deciding whether your child is ready to walk to school you should assess any risks associated with the route, distance and your child's confidence and level of maturity. Work with your children to build up their independence while walking to school through route finding, road safety skills and general awareness. For those living outside our catchment area and a significant distance from the school, serious consideration needs to be given to allowing your child to walk to and from school alone.

There are lots of ways you can prepare your child to make an independent journey. Children who are driven to school do not have the opportunity to develop road awareness and are therefore more vulnerable when they start to walk to school independently. Walking to school is a great opportunity to learn road safety skills. The best way to do this is to walk with your children from a young age, teaching them about crossing the road, learning how to navigate and a host of other skills. This helps them gain the experience and confidence to deal with traffic and way finding on their own, in preparation for walking with friends or alone when they are older.

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Teach your child to:

- Pay attention to traffic at all times when crossing the street; never become distracted.
- Use defined crossing points and the lollipop person; do not cross in the middle of the road. Alternatively cross in a place where you can see clearly in all directions. Avoid parked cars or bends in the road.
- Look both ways before crossing; listen for traffic coming; cross while keeping an eye on traffic.
- Look out for cyclists.
- Remember that drivers may not see them, even if they can see the driver.
- Remember that it is hard to judge the speed of a car so be cautious.
- Never, ever, follow someone who is either a stranger or someone they know but is not a designated "safe" adult. (A safe adult is someone who has been previously agreed upon by you and your child to be safe, such as a grandparent or trusted neighbour.)

When deciding whether your child is ready for this responsibility you might want to consider the following:

1. Do you trust them to walk straight home?
2. Do you trust them to behave sensibly when with a friend?
3. Are they road safety aware?
4. Would they know what to do if a stranger approaches them?
5. Would they have the confidence to refuse to do what a stranger asked?
6. Would they know the best action to take if a stranger tried to make them do something they didn't want to do?
7. Would they know what to do if they needed help?
8. Would they know who best to approach to get help?

If you are not confident about how your child would react then you should seriously consider whether you should allow them to walk on their own.

If you decide that your child is ready for this responsibility, then you must complete the agreement form sent home. **Your child will be prevented from walking home unless this permission has been given in writing.**

Your child will also be responsible for their behaviour whilst on the school premises either before or after school. Should their behaviour not be acceptable, you will be asked them to accompany or collect them until they have proved they can be trusted again.

IF AT ANY TIME YOU NEED TO CHANGE ARRANGEMENTS YOU HAVE MADE PLEASE ENSURE YOU LET US KNOW IN WRITING IMMEDIATELY.

Important dates

W/c 14th September –meetings for parents with class teachers at 4pm and 5 pm

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W/c 21st September – After school clubs start back

Tuesday 20th October – Individual school photos (school uniform)

Friday 23rd October – last day in school before the half term holidays (non-uniform day for pupils)

Monday 2nd November – INSET day (school closed to pupils but open to staff)

Tuesday 3rd November – School starts back for pupils after the half term holidays

Regards,

Mr. M. S. Thompson
Headteacher

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