



Newsletter

Autumn 1 2025-26



***Be on your guard; stand firm in faith; be courageous; be strong.
1 Corinthians 16:13***

Welcome!



It has been wonderful to welcome the children back to school this week, and we are so pleased to see how calm and settled their start to the new school year has been. Our theme for learning this half term is *Belonging*, and the children are already enjoying lots of learning activities linked to this. In Collective Worship, we have also explored what belonging means to us as a school community, especially how it connects to our Christian value of *friendship*. It has been lovely to see the children reflecting on how we can all play a part in making everyone feel included and valued.

We would like to thank you, as always, for your ongoing support. A strong partnership between home and school makes such a difference to the children's experiences and learning, and we are really looking forward to continuing to work closely with you throughout the year ahead. Together, we can make this a truly positive and successful year for every child. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please come and talk to us.

Please note that our Parents Evenings this term are on Tuesday 7th and Wednesday 8th October.

Diary Dates



Tuesday 30th September – RE Workshops in school

Friday 3rd October – INSET Day – school closed to all pupils

Tuesday 7th October – Parents Evening

Wednesday 8th October – Parents Evening

Wednesday 15th October 9am – F2 Welcome Service at St Mary's Church

Wednesday 5th November 9.45am – KS2 Harvest Festival at St Mary's Church

Wednesday 19th November – Year 2 Trip to Eyam

Tuesday 9th December – KS1 Winter Wonderland at Bulwell Gardens

Wednesday 10th December 9.45am – KS2 Christmas Service at St Mary's Church

All our term dates can be found on the school website [HERE](#).

Please note our INSET days for the academic year 2025-26 are as follows:

Friday 3rd October 2025

Monday 23rd February 2026

Friday 3rd July 2026

Friday 24th July 2026

Monday 27th July 2026

Arbor



A big thank you to all our families for your patience and support as we have been setting up *Arbor*, our new information system. We know that learning something new can take a little bit of time, and we really appreciate the way everyone has been working with us to get everything running smoothly. Please do continue to use the Arbor app to order school dinners, as this helps us to be well-prepared each day. It is really important that dinner choices are made in good time so that we can make sure every child receives the meal they are expecting.

We also kindly ask that you check that your notifications are turned on within the Arbor app so you don't miss out on any important updates or messages from school. If you are having any problems at all with Arbor, please don't hesitate to get in touch with the school office, where we will be more than happy to help. Thank you once again for your support—it makes such a difference and helps everything to run so smoothly for the children.

Attendance



At Bulwell St Mary's, we know just how important regular attendance is—it helps children to make the best possible progress, build strong friendships and feel a real sense of belonging in our school community. We also understand that sometimes families may face challenges that make getting to school difficult. Please remember that we are here to help and support you, so if you are experiencing any barriers to attendance, do come and talk to us.

We'd like to remind families that we cannot authorise holidays or other extended absences during term time. Absence of 10 sessions (5 days) or 8 sessions (4 days) attached to a school closure day, such as an INSET day or school holiday, may result in a penalty notice being issued. From 19th August 2024, new national rules came into force which apply *per parent, per child*.

The fines are now: **£160 per parent, per child for a first offence** (reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days). For a **second offence within 3 years**, the fine is **£160 per parent, per child with no reduction**. A **third offence** or further absences will go straight to the Magistrates' Court, where fines can be much higher, and convictions may show on a future DBS check. The key change to note is the increase for second offences, where the reduced rate no longer applies. Thank you for your continued support in making sure your child is in school every day—it really does make a big difference to their learning and wellbeing.

For further information, please see the letter which was sent to parents [HERE](#).

Road Safety



Very sadly, last school year three children were injured outside different Nottingham schools after being knocked down by cars. These accidents did not involve strangers, but parents who had just dropped off their own children and were in a rush to leave. We all want to make sure this never happens again.

As we begin a new school year, we are asking all parents and carers to help keep every child safe by remembering three simple things:

BE TIMELY – Please allow enough time to park a little further away from the school gates, especially avoiding the zig-zag lines, and walk your child safely to the entrance. This helps keep the area outside school clear and gives everyone better visibility.

BE CONSIDERATE – Please park responsibly, without blocking pavements or residents' driveways, and remember to switch off your engine while waiting.

BE PATIENT – Please take extra care and patience when driving away. This is often when accidents occur, and a few extra moments can make all the difference to a child's safety.

Together, we can keep our children safe and make drop-off and pick-up times calmer for everyone.

Healthy Snacks & Drinks



As we begin the new school year, we'd like to remind families about the importance of healthy lunchboxes and water-only bottles in school. A balanced lunch with plenty of fruit, vegetables, whole grains and proteins helps children stay focused, energised and ready to learn, while avoiding sugary snacks and fizzy drinks supports concentration, behaviour and healthy teeth. From September 2025, new national guidelines place an even greater emphasis on children's health and wellbeing, so we kindly ask that all children bring *water only* in their bottles. Thank you for working with us to build healthy habits that will benefit your children for life.

Staffing Update



We are really excited to welcome two new members to our Site Team this term! Many of you will already know Mrs Etches from Breakfast Club and her work as a midday supervisor – and we're so pleased that she has now joined our cleaning team too. We're also delighted to welcome Mr Omotayo as our new Caretaker. He is working closely with Mr Hurst to make sure our school is safe and well looked after, and lots of you will have already spotted him on the bottom gate in the mornings. We feel very lucky to have them both on our team!

Breakfast Club



A gentle reminder for families whose children attend Breakfast Club: please make sure they arrive by **8:20am at the latest**. This gives them plenty of time to enjoy a relaxed and nourishing breakfast before heading into class, ready to start the day feeling happy, settled and ready to learn.

Picking up at the end of the school day



Just a reminder that children must be collected from school by a responsible person aged 16 or over. This helps us to make sure that everyone goes home safely and happily at the end of the school day. If this ever presents any difficulties for you, please don't hesitate to have a chat with Mrs Burge, who will be more than happy to help.

Thank you!

Thank you again for your continued support. We look forward to seeing you in September!



Mrs Burge and the Bulwell St Mary's Team

