Mrs Wolfe's Weekly Update

15th October 2026

Autumn Term Dates

21st Oct - Y3/4 Dodgeball Tournament@ Outwood Academy
21st Oct - FOBLS Movie Night
22nd Oct - FOBLS Pumpkin Decorating Competition
23rd Oct - FOBLS Pumpkin Winners announced at Celebration
26th-30th October - Half Term Break
2nd Nov - Teacher Training Day
3rd Nov - Children to return to school
4th Nov - Climate Change Pupil Event for Ambassadors & School Council @ RHS Harlow Carr
25th Nov - Year 5/6 Football @ Outwood Academy (TBC)
26th Nov - FOBLS Wreath-making for Grown-ups 7:30@School
2nd Dec - Christmas Crafternoon (funded by FOBLS)
5th Dec - Church Fayre - Children invited to sing @2pm Village Hall
9th Dec - Owl Class Nativity @ Burton Leonard Village Hall
10th Dec - Christmas Lunch
10th Dec - Christmas Jumper Day - Save the Children
11th Dec - Owl Class Postal Museum Workshop
12th Dec - KS2 Royal Hall Christmas Concert
14th Dec - Kite Class Christmas Party
15th Dec - Whole-school Theatre Trip to see Peter Pan at Bradford Alhambra
16th Dec - Merlin Class Christmas Party
17th Dec - Owl Class Christmas Party
18th Dec - End of Term Christmas Service 2pm @ St Leonards Church
21st - 1st Jan - Christmas Break
4th Jan - Teacher Training Day
5th Jan - Children return to school

Weekly Enrichment

Mondays
After-school Times Table Club with Mr Doohan

Tuesdays
After-school Sports Club with Miss M
After-school SATS Club with Mr Doohan

Wednesdays
Lunchtime Library Club with our Reading Ambassadors & Library Grannies
After-school Knitting Club with Granny Lesley

Thursdays
Forest School with Outdoor Adventures
Y1 - 10th Sept
Y2 - 17th Sept
Y3 - 1st Oct
Y4 - 8th Oct
Y5 - 15th Oct
Reception & Y6 - 22nd Oct
Mandarin Club with Mrs Cummings

Friday
Before School Provision from 8am Mon-Fri
After-school Provision from 3:30-6pm Mon-Thurs

Vision & Values

Our Vision - To love our neighbour, enabling everyone to shine and make a difference in the world.
'Love your neighbour as yourself'
Luke 10:27 Parable of the Good Samaritan
Our Values - Courage, Love, Resilience & Service
Our 3Rs - Be Ready, Be Responsible & Be Respectful

Attendance

Our average whole school attendance so far this year is 98.5% We've improved this week! Please do read our attendance section further down below on why attendance is so important for every child.
Well done to Year 1, Year 2, Year 3, Year 4 & Year 5 for achieving 100% attendance this week!

This Week's News

Collective Worship

In Collective Worship this week, we have been exploring The Lord's Prayer and thinking carefully about what its words mean to us today. The children reflected on the different parts of the prayer, discussing themes such as forgiveness, gratitude and trust. Through discussion and reflection, they considered how the messages within the prayer can help us in our daily lives and relationships with others. It has been wonderful to see the children engaging thoughtfully with these important ideas and making meaningful connections to our school values.

Parent Teacher Consultations

Thank you to all the parents and carers who attended our Parent Teacher Consultation meetings this week. We greatly value the strong partnership between home and school, and it was wonderful to have the opportunity to celebrate the children's achievements, discuss their progress and share their next steps in learning.

Working together helps us to provide the very best support for every child, and we appreciate the time you took to meet with staff. Thank you for your continued encouragement, support and commitment to your child's education. We are proud of all that the children have achieved so far this term and look forward to seeing them continue to flourish throughout the year.

Year 5/6 Netball Competition

Well done to our Year 5 and 6 girls who represented school at the Sporting Influence Netball Tournament this week. The children demonstrated excellent teamwork, determination and sportsmanship throughout the competition, supporting one another and playing with great enthusiasm.

We were incredibly proud of the positive attitude shown by all the players, both on and off the court. They represented our school brilliantly and should be congratulated for their effort, resilience and commitment. Thank you to everyone who took part and to the staff and volunteers who supported the team. We look forward to seeing the children continue to develop their netball skills throughout the year.

Roll Up & Read

A huge thank you to all the parents, carers and family members who joined us for our Roll Up & Read event this morning. It was wonderful to see our classrooms filled with families sharing books, stories and a love of reading together.

Reading is at the heart of everything we do at school, and events such as these help to foster positive reading habits and demonstrate to children that reading can be a joyful experience both at home and at school. The children thoroughly enjoyed having the opportunity to share their favourite books and reading spaces with their families.

Thank you for your support and for helping us to promote a culture of reading for pleasure. We look forward to welcoming you to our next Roll Up & Read event in the spring term.

Forest School Donations

Thank you to everyone who has already made a contribution towards our Forest School sessions. We kindly ask that any donations are made before the end of this half term so that we are in a position to confirm arrangements with Outdoor Adventures and organise sessions for next half term.

In response to questions from parents, we would like to clarify that the proposed contribution of £10 per child covers the cost of the Outdoor Adventures provision per child, as well as materials and resources used during the sessions, including items such as biscuits and marshmallows.

Our aim is to continue offering one Forest School session per year group each half term. However, this is dependent on receiving sufficient contributions across the school. If we do not receive adequate funding to make the programme viable for all year groups, unfortunately we will be unable to proceed with the proposed offer.

Should this be the case, any contributions received will be fully reimbursed.

We are incredibly grateful for your support in helping us provide these valuable outdoor learning experiences for our children. Thank you!

Pupil Voice Pleas

Eco Champions

How Our Families Can Help

We would be very grateful for support from our school community with some of our upcoming projects:

- Donations of bird feed for our bird feeders.
- Volunteers who may be able to help build wooden planters for growing vegetables.
- Any suitable materials or expertise to support our plans for bug hotels and planting areas (including helping us build new planters and compost areas).
- Any volunteers to support a lunchtime or after-school gardening club in school (DBS will be required)

If you are able to help with any of these projects, please let us know. Thank you for supporting our Eco Champions as they work hard to make a positive difference to our school environment and the wider world.

Donations for Library

Our Reading Ambassadors would like to invite every child and family to contribute to the new library by donating a new book of their choice. This could be a favourite fiction book, non-fiction text or poetry collection. To recognise each donation, the Reading Ambassadors will create a special bookplate featuring the donating family's name which will be placed inside the front cover. These books will become a lasting part of our library collection for future generations of Burton Leonard children to enjoy.

We would be very grateful to receive any book donations by the first week back after the Autumn Half Term break.

Finally, we are on the lookout for any new or nearly-new furnishings that may be suitable for our library. In particular, we would love to create a cosy reading area and are searching for a comfortable two-seater sofa. If you think you may be able to help, please get in touch with the school office.

Thank you for helping us create a vibrant and inspiring reading space where all of our children can develop a lifelong love of reading.

Learning Across the School This Week

Owl Class

Owl Class had a wonderful time welcoming families to our Roll Up and Read session. As well as enjoying stories together, the children loved playing a range of games and sharing their learning with parents. In Drawing Club, the children have been exploring The Gruffalo, using their imaginations to draw, talk and write about the much-loved story. Year 1 have also been working hard in maths, using their reasoning skills to solve problems, explain their thinking and find different ways to reach an answer. We are very proud of the enthusiasm and resilience they are showing in their learning.

Merlin Class

Merlin Class have been busy developing their creative writing skills and are currently writing a sequel to Goldilocks and the Three Bears, inspired by the beautiful picture book 'Me and You'. The children have enjoyed exploring characters, settings and imaginative story ideas to create their own engaging narratives. In Science, the class have completed their learning on habitats, investigating how different animals are suited to the environments in which they live. In Guided Reading, the children have been reading After the Fall, an alternative Humpty Dumpty story, and have enjoyed comparing it to the traditional tale while discussing themes, characters and the messages within the text. We have been impressed by the thoughtful discussions and high-quality work produced across the curriculum.

What's Been Happening in the Robin's Nest?

This week, Year 3 and Year 4 have been exploring homophones and practising how to use the correct spelling within different contexts.

In maths, we have been discussing what challenge really looks like and how we can deepen our understanding by explaining our reasoning, spotting patterns and making connections. These are big concepts for our Year 3 and Year 4 children, and I am incredibly proud of the progress they are making as they begin to understand what mastery in maths means.

In English, the Year 4s have begun their work on speech dialogue, focusing on punctuation and reporting clauses. As part of our writing stimulus, Shackleton's Journey, the children re-enacted the dramatic moment when Shackleton left part of his crew on Elephant Island and sailed to South Georgia to seek rescue. Through drama and discussion, they explored the thoughts and feelings of those involved while developing their understanding of the author's technique of 'showing not telling' and creating some fantastic dialogue between crew members.

Kite Class

Kite Class began their new Art unit this week by exploring light and shade. Using sweets as their inspiration, the children carefully observed how light falls on objects and practised creating different tones and shading techniques in their drawings. In History, the class have been developing their chronological understanding by exploring timelines and identifying where the Anglo-Saxons fit within British history. In English and Guided Reading, they have started reading The Rain Player, which has sparked great interest in the ancient Maya civilisation. The children enjoyed researching the traditional Mayan game Pok-A-Tok and even had the opportunity to experience elements of the game during their PE lessons. It has been wonderful to see such enthusiasm and curiosity across the curriculum.

Attendance, Safeguarding & Health & Safety Updates & Reminders

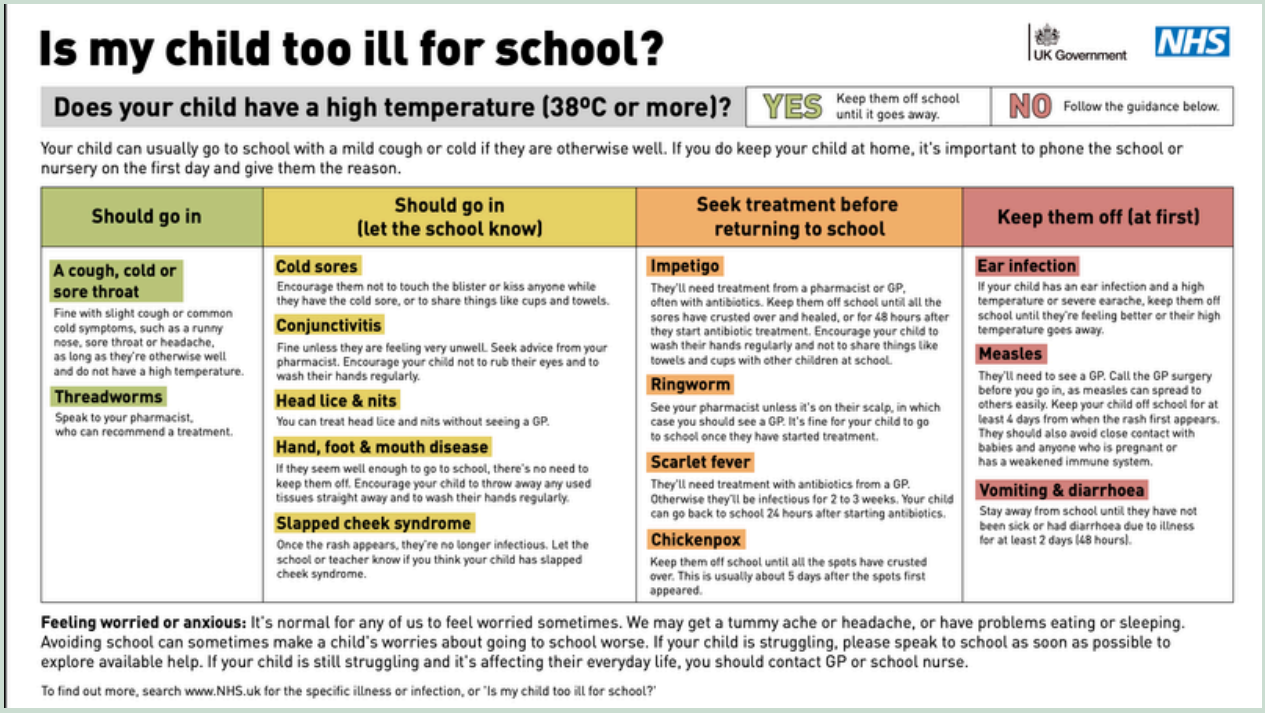
Online Safety Support

This month's theme is Digital Wellbeing. Please click to watch a video providing a quick overview on how to help children build healthier tech habits. October 2026: Digital Wellbeing.

Winter Illness Reminder (typically October-March in the UK)

As we move into the winter months, we would like to remind families that, in line with NHS guidance, children can usually continue to attend school if they have common cold symptoms such as a sore throat, runny nose or cough. Children should stay at home if they have a high temperature and can return to school once they no longer have a fever and are well enough to take part in normal activities. If you are unsure whether your child is well enough to attend, please check the NHS page here and let us know as soon as possible if your child needs to remain at home. Working together helps us to support both children's learning and wellbeing.

We understand that on occasions medical and other important appointments cannot be avoided during school hours. If you have to request time out of school hours, it's important your child attends school before and after the appointment.



Is my child too ill for school?

UK Government NHS

Does your child have a high temperature (38°C or more)? YES Keep them off school until it goes away. NO Follow the guidance below.

Your child can usually go to school with a mild cough or cold if they are otherwise well. If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone the school or nursery on the first day and give them the reason.

Should go in	Should go in (let the school know)	Seek treatment before returning to school	Keep them off (at first)
A cough, cold or sore throat Fine with slight cough or common cold symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat or headache, as long as they're otherwise well and do not have a high temperature.	**Cold sores** Encourage them not to touch the blister or kiss anyone while they have the cold sore, or to share things like cups and towels.	**Impetigo** They'll need treatment from a pharmacist or GP, often with antibiotics. Keep them off school until all the sores have crusted over and healed, or for 48 hours after they start antibiotic treatment. Encourage your child to wash their hands regularly and not to share things like towels and cups with other children at school.	**Ear infection** If your child has an ear infection and a high temperature or severe earache, keep them off school until they're feeling better or their high temperature goes away.
Threadworms Speak to your pharmacist, who can recommend a treatment.	**Conjunctivitis** Fine unless they are feeling very unwell. Seek advice from your pharmacist. Encourage your child not to rub their eyes and to wash their hands regularly.	**Ringworm** See your pharmacist unless it's on their scalp, in which case you should see a GP. It's fine for your child to go to school once they have started treatment.	**Measles** They'll need to see a GP. Call the GP surgery before you go in, as measles can spread to others easily. Keep your child off school for at least 4 days from when the rash first appears. They should also avoid close contact with babies and anyone who is pregnant or has a weakened immune system.
	Head lice & nits You can treat head lice and nits without seeing a GP.	**Scarlet fever** They'll need treatment with antibiotics from a GP. Otherwise they'll be infectious for 2 to 3 weeks. Your child can go back to school 24 hours after starting antibiotics.	**Vomiting & diarrhoea** Stay away from school until they have not been sick or had diarrhoea due to illness for at least 2 days (48 hours).
	Hand, foot & mouth disease If they seem well enough to go to school, there's no need to keep them off. Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues straight away and to wash their hands regularly.	**Chickenpox** Keep them off school until all the spots have crusted over. This is usually about 5 days after the spots first appeared.	
	Slapped cheek syndrome Once the rash appears, they're no longer infectious. Let the school or teacher know if you think your child has slapped cheek syndrome.		

Feeling worried or anxious: It's normal for any of us to feel worried sometimes. We may get a tummy ache or headache, or have problems eating or sleeping. Avoiding school can sometimes make a child's worries about going to school worse. If your child is struggling, please speak to school as soon as possible to explore available help. If your child is still struggling and it's affecting their everyday life, you should contact GP or school nurse.

To find out more, search www.NHS.uk for the specific illness or infection, or 'Is my child too ill for school?'

A Prompt Start to the School Day

We encourage all children to make the most of our Early Bird activities, which begin when school opens at 8:45am. Children should arrive and be ready to start learning by 8:55am at the latest.

With Collective Worship now taking place in the afternoon, our mornings begin straight away with important learning opportunities. Arriving on time ensures that children are present for key instructions, lesson introductions and the chance to settle positively into the day alongside their classmates. Thank you for your continued support in helping children arrive promptly, prepared and ready to make the most of every learning opportunity.

Supporting Children with School Drop-Offs

It is not unusual for children to go through periods where they feel worried or upset about coming to school. If your child is finding mornings difficult, try to keep routines calm and consistent, talk positively about the school day ahead, and maintain a confident and reassuring farewell. Although it can be hard, a brief goodbye is often more helpful than a prolonged one. If your child is experiencing ongoing difficulties, please do speak to us. We are here to work in partnership with families and can provide support to help children feel happy, safe and ready to learn.

Attendance Matters

At Burton Leonard, we believe that every school day is an opportunity for children to learn, grow and flourish. Regular attendance plays a vital role in children's academic achievement, wellbeing and social development. Being in school each day helps children build strong relationships, develop confidence and fully engage in the rich experiences and opportunities that make school life so rewarding.

Our vision, "Love your neighbour, enabling everyone to shine and make a difference in the world," encourages us to recognise the value of every member of our school community. When children attend school consistently, they are able to participate fully in class life, contribute to their learning community and make the most of every chance to develop their knowledge, skills and character.

We appreciate that there will be occasions when children are unable to attend due to illness or other exceptional circumstances. However, we ask families to support good attendance wherever possible and to avoid arranging holidays during term time. In line with national guidance, requests for leave during term time can only be authorised in exceptional circumstances.

One of our key teaching principles at Burton Leonard is "Keep Up, Not Catch Up." Learning is carefully sequenced, and children make the best progress when they take part in lessons alongside their classmates every day. Even short absences can mean that important learning is missed. Where absence does occur, staff will do all they can to help children reconnect with key learning and continue to move forward with confidence.

If a child's attendance or absence begins to have an impact on their learning, their class teacher may invite parents to meet and discuss how best to provide support. By working together, we can identify any challenges, put the right help in place and ensure that every child has the opportunity to thrive, achieve and shine.

Looking to the Week Ahead...

Wednesday

- Y3/4 Dodgeball@Outwood Academy
- FOBLS Movie Night TBC

Thursday

- Reception & Year 6 Forest School with Outdoor Adventures
- FOBLS Pumpkin Decorating Competition

Friday

- Celebration Service – we warmly invite parents, carers and family members to join us for our Celebration Service next Friday. As well as recognising our weekly Class Stars, we will be announcing our Headteacher Award winners and celebrating the achievements of our Recognition Team winners. There will also be an opportunity for children to share some of their learning from the week. We look forward to welcoming you as we come together to recognise and celebrate the hard work, achievements and positive contributions of our children. The FOBLS Pumpkin Competition Winners will also be announced.
- Swimming will take place for Y2 and selected swimmers until further notice. Please ensure swimming kits are brought into school.



House Cup

This week's team with the most house points is

Turing Reds



Mrs Wolfe's Recommended Picture Book Read of the Week...



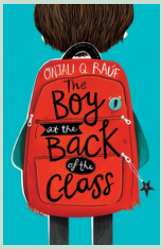
My picture book recommendation this week is Pumpkin Soup by Helen Cooper. Set deep in the woods on a chilly autumn night, this beautifully illustrated story follows three friends who share a pumpkin soup supper every day until a disagreement threatens their friendship. Through kindness, forgiveness and learning to understand one another's feelings, the friends discover that their friendship is stronger when they work together and value each other's contributions.

The story links beautifully to our school vision of "Love Your Neighbour", reminding us of the importance of showing care, respect and understanding towards others. It encourages children to think about how they can be good friends, resolve disagreements peacefully and appreciate the unique strengths that everyone brings to a community.

A perfect autumn read to enjoy together at home!



Mrs Wolfe's Recommended Chapter Book Read of the Half Term...



My chapter book recommendation this half term is The Boy at the Back of the Class by Onjali Q. Raúf. This powerful and heartwarming story follows a group of children who befriend a new classmate, Ahmet, a refugee who has experienced many challenges in his journey to safety. The book beautifully reflects our school vision of "Love your neighbour, enabling everyone to shine and make a difference in the world." Through themes of kindness, empathy, courage and friendship, it encourages children to think about how their actions can positively impact others and reminds us of the importance of welcoming, supporting and standing up for those around us.

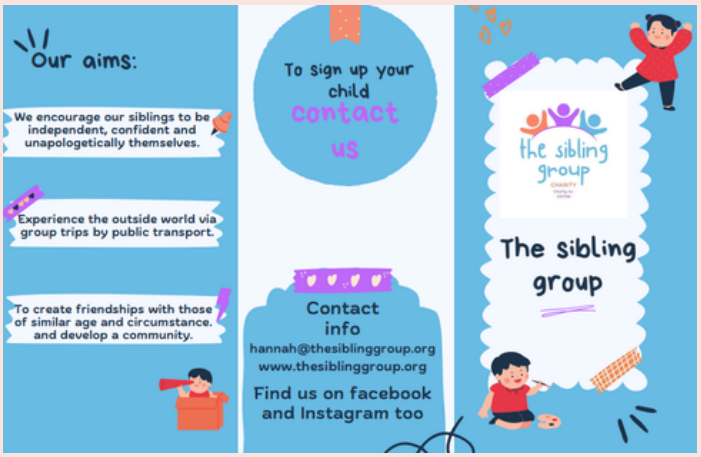
A thoughtful and inspiring read for children and adults alike, it provides many opportunities for discussion about compassion, inclusion and what it truly means to make a difference in the world.

School, FOBLS, Community & National News





School, FOBLS, Community & National News





Would you like to discuss your child's speech, language, or communication development? Bring your child along to our drop-in session to meet with our Speech and Language Therapists, discuss any concerns, and receive advice and information about local support and services. Booking is essential.

Where & When

Thursday 5th November 2026 9.30 – 11.30 at Brougham Street Nursery School, Skipton

Who will be there?

Emma Pollock – North Yorkshire Council Speech & Language Therapist

Carol Moxon – North Yorkshire Council Speech & Language Therapy Assistant

Please email to book a 15 minute slot: carol.moxon@northyorks.gov.uk

North Yorkshire families: Build everyday emotional resilience!

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