

Dear Parents and Carers

It's great to be back...

We have had a lovely start to the new school year at Curbar. The children have settled back into old (and some new routines) and the buzz of chatter and learning fills the classroom and corridors. It never ceases to amaze me how well our pupils look after each other. This is especially evident each day on the playground – and noticeable as our new Reception pupils get to know their Year 6 buddies. This is a great opportunity for our new pupils to get settled into school by being partnered with an older child who can support, help and guide them through their first few weeks in school and beyond. It is also an opportunity for our older children to hone their empathetic and nurturing skills by taking on the responsibility of looking after our new reception children. A wonderful partnership. Our children are also enjoying our fantastic new playground and playground markings. Thanks to the PTFA for funding and helping to organise these fantastic developments for all our children to enjoy.



The British weather...

Please ensure your child has a coat in school each day. Even if it is a bit wet and wild(ish), we like to get our children outside (we're a hardy bunch) and it is much more comfortable if they have a coat!

Staffing Update

We welcome two students from Sheffield Hallam University to our school this term. Miss Burton and Mr Mather will mainly be based in class 1 for their placement. Please say hello to them if you see them around. One of our wonderful teaching assistants (previously Mrs Cain) is now known as Miss McBride.

Collection of class 1 pupils

To ensure a safe handover at the end of the day, we ask that parents and adults go onto the school playground to collect their children.

School Uniform

We request that all uniform is named – including preloved uniform. School uniforms should be affordable to all pupils and families. Whilst we have our own uniform provider (<https://www.schooltrends.co.uk/>), you are not obliged to make all your purchases from here. We also ask that children do not wear jewellery to school. For health and safety reasons, any earrings should be studs only.

Mobile Phones

We have a new mobile phone policy that means they are not allowed in school. If you feel that your child needs a mobile phone for communication outside of school, please ask permission from Mr Beahan for your child to bring a simple, non-smart phone. This will be handed in to the school office on arrival and given back at the end of the day. This means a basic 'brick' or 'dumb' phone that does not connect to the internet and does not have a camera. This ensures that we can safeguard our children effectively. A letter was sent out in July with further details and why we are now taking these steps. In support of these measures, we also ask that parents do not use their phones on the yard too.

Toys and fiddly things

We ask that toys and fidget toys are not brought into school unless there is an agreement in place with your child's class teacher. We do not want them getting lost, broken or becoming an unnecessary distraction!

Safeguarding

We ask that parents do not take younger pre school children to the toilets in the main building at the end of the day as the pupils might still be using them. If the need is desperate, please use the individual toilets in the Beehive.

Attendance and Punctuality

The school day begins at 8:40am when the main gates open with a view to children being in class and ready to learn by 8:45am. **The school gate will close just after 8:45am.** Parents are welcome to come on to the playground and take your child to class, especially if your child is in Mrs Callard's class in the Beehive. If children arrive after the gate is closed, you will need to come to the main entrance and press the buzzer to the office. You will need to sign your child in and this could result in a late mark on your child's attendance report.



Children who are in school can learn and achieve more both academically and socially. We understand that children become unwell and cannot always attend school. However, if your child is well enough, they should be at school. The school will send out termly attendance letters to inform you of your child's attendance. If we have concerns about your child's attendance or punctuality, we will contact you to see if we can offer any support.

Requests for leave of absences during term time



Headteachers are only allowed to grant leave of absence to pupils in exceptional circumstances. Department for Education guidelines are clear that taking term-time holidays or extended leave will not be considered as an exceptional circumstance. If leave of absence is declined by the school, yet parents or carers still remove their child, then this would be classed as unauthorised absence for which a fixed penalty notice and/or prosecution could be pursued.

Requests for exceptional term time leave must be made in advance of any arrangement being made. This will allow sufficient time for the request to be considered by the school. The request must be made in writing (letter or email) by the parent/carer using the 'Leave of absence request form' that can be collected from the school office. One form per child per request should be completed. Please note that both parents (if applicable) are required to sign this form. You will be notified in writing about the school's decision as soon as possible.

Medical appointments

We request that you avoid making medical appointments in school time if possible. However, we understand that some urgent or regular appointments will take place during the school day. If this is the case, we will ask for evidence of the appointment so that we can authorise the absence. Please note that this will still impact your child's overall attendance even if the absence is authorised.

School Dinners

Our wonderful school dinners cost £3.25. School dinners are free to those children who are in Reception, Years 1 and 2 and those in receipt of Free School meals. However, for those in key stage 2, meals can be paid for on Parent Pay. Please pay in advance either on a weekly or half termly basis.

Income Based Free School Meals

For every child who qualifies for free meals due to family income or benefit levels, our school receives the maximum funding to support your child through something called the Pupil Premium. It is only available to schools **if you apply and are eligible** for income based free school meals. With Pupil Premium funding, schools can organise extra help and support for children.



Applying for free meals is very quick and easy so if you think you may qualify for free school meals, please still take the time to apply. Even though your child might be able to have a free meal anyway, **our school needs the funding that comes from Income Based Free School Meals.** To find out if you are eligible, please go to the Council's website at www.derbyshire.gov.uk and search for 'free school meals'. You are also welcome to contact the school office on 01433 630266.



Curbar Citizenship and Assembly Themes

To support the spiritual, moral, social and cultural awareness of children, we follow assembly themes. Each theme lasts two weeks and is the basis of behaviour for learning across school for that time. The half termly citizenship awards are also based on the assembly themes. The themes this half term are: caring, helpfulness and courage.

Diversity Theme

We celebrate difference at Curbar. This is embedded into our curriculum, but we have a specific half termly focus too. The focus this half term is: **People of Cultures**. Classes have a weekly diversity assembly and use some of our amazing library books as a stimulus for discussion. We will also be celebrating Black History month in October as part of our diversity learning.



The importance of reading



Research shows that learning to read is directly linked to children's success at school and beyond. It also shows that those who read regularly and for longer dramatically increase the number of words they are introduced to. This in turn impacts on their success across the whole curriculum as they know and understand more. Curbar is a 'reading' school and we are always keen to share our love of books and reading.



Read together sessions for parents



We hold monthly read together sessions where parents are invited to come to their child's classroom and read with their child. That's it! Just turn up at the right time, on the right day and the right class and enjoy the sharing of a good book! There's nothing better. Our next session is taking place on **Wednesday 7 October from 2:45 – 3:05pm**. Please see the diary dates below for further dates.

Our School Library

Come and join us! You are welcome to go straight up to our wonderful school library any day after school from 3:15 – 3:45pm to choose something together. Please only choose one book per child and ensure you return any other books you have at home so other children can enjoy them. You are welcome to sit down, relax and enjoy a good book together!



Curbar Commotion – Spread the word!

After a year off, the ever-popular Curbar Commotion fell race is back on Saturday 3 October with all proceeds going to the Curbar PTFA. If you are able to help, the PTFA would love your support. We're looking for volunteers on the day as marshals, to help with catering and for anyone willing to contribute sweet or savoury bakes. If you think you can help, or for more information, please contact Martha at megreengrass@gmail.com And please spread the word online and to friends and family who may be interested in participating! Please see the poster attached. Thank you for your support.

PTFA

Our Curbar PTFA are a hardworking and welcoming bunch who do so much to arrange events and raise money for school – like the Curbar Commotion. However, they are always on the lookout for more volunteers who can provide time, expertise and energy. Please get in touch if you think you can help – no matter how much. The AGM and first PTFA meeting is



set to take place on **Monday 12 October at the Calver Arms at 8pm**. All are welcome to attend.

Educational Visits and Sporting Events



We are always trying to offer our children a broad and balanced curriculum and plan an exciting range of events throughout the year that enrich their opportunities for learning. We are also proud of the sporting opportunities we offer our children by attending cluster events at other schools. We will always try and keep costs down and look at ways of reducing that for parents. For example, we ask the PTFA for contributions or look to share transport with other schools. And this year you will notice that we have some 'double' sporting events where two classes attend. The idea is that transport costs can be slightly reduced for parents and it is also better for the environment! We will continue to ask parents to make contributions towards the cost of visits. If we do not get enough voluntary contributions we might need to cancel the event. Thank you for your continued support in this matter.

Music provision at Curbar

Our peripatetic music teachers provide weekly private lessons in school. There is capacity for children to join Jane Bowns (guitar tutor) and Gavin Usher (violin tutor) for paid lessons. We are in the process of looking for a keyboard tutor through the Derbyshire Music Hub. Please contact the office if you would like your child to have lessons and we can put you in touch with our music teachers for you to discuss further.



Well-being:



The Changing Lives Service is Derby and Derbyshire's Children and Young People's Mental Health Support Team. You can refer your child for support if you have concerns about their emotional wellbeing. You can contact the service for more information and advice on: 0300 303 4663 or email dracs.adminchanginglives@nhs.net.

To find local information about support you can access yourself, this is available via the Derby and Derbyshire Emotional Health & Wellbeing Website: www.derbyandderbyshireemotionalhealthandwellbeing.uk

Swimming and Forest School



School swimming has started for Y5 and Y6 pupils each Tuesday. Forest School has begun each Tuesday for pupils in Reception – Year 4. Years 3 and 4 will swim later in the year and years 5 and 6 will have an opportunity to enjoy weekly Forest School sessions when provision is swapped after Christmas.



Whole school cluster cross country at Bakewell



Wow. Wow. Wow. We recently took the whole school to Bakewell for the cluster cross country event. Our children were amazing, incredible and wondrous. Every pupil showed determination and resilience to do their very best. For some, that meant finishing in a very high position. For others, it just meant finishing. All with smiles on their faces. However, they all should be proud of their efforts. Every pupil shouted, clapped and jumped up and down to help their classmates get around this challenging course. Some ran together, waited for each other, encouraged each other and held hands to get across the finishing line together. We know we have amazing Curbar citizens, but it was amazing to see it lived out on a lovely day in Bakewell. And a big shout out to all the staff who went home with croaky voices and sore muscles (we had a few staff completing several laps in support of the children too!). Hats off to you all and a big well done!

Smart Phone Free Childhood Event

A Smart Phone Free Childhood event is taking place at the Medway Centre in Bakewell on Thursday 15 October at 7:30pm. A flyer was recently sent out on Parent Hub with details of how to reserve free tickets for the event.

Pupil Premium

If your child is in receipt of income based free school meals, we receive a small amount of funding as part of something called Pupil Premium. You should have received a letter with further information about Pupil Premium funding and how we plan to use some of this funding to further support your child in school. Please contact the office if you have any questions.

Parent Pay and Parent Hub



Please ensure that you are able to access and use both Parent Pay (online payment system) and Parent Hub (app messaging service). These are the main ways we send messages and provide further information and where you can give consent and pay for things. Please do contact the office if you require any assistance.



Changes



Please contact the school office if there have been any changes to you or your child's circumstances over the summer e.g. change of contact details, family dynamic, medical needs etc. We can update our records accordingly.

Diary Dates

Please find diary dates for the autumn term attached. These have been sent previously. Please note that arrangements and dates might change at short notice.

Getting in touch...

Please note that there isn't always anyone in the office. If you need to get in touch then please ring the school, leave a message and we will get back to you as soon as possible. Alternatively, and for all enquiries, please email the school at enquiries@curbar.derbyshire.sch.uk In an emergency, please come to the front door and buzz the office or the classroom.



Kind regards

Mr Simon Beahan
Headteacher

Curbar Primary School Diary Dates Autumn Term 2026

Half Term 1 – 36 days

Diversity Theme - People of the World

Friday 4 September 2026	School Closed to pupils – Staff training
7.9.26 Citizenship Theme for next two weeks: Caring	
Monday 7 September 2026	Start of Autumn Term 1 – School opens to pupils at 8:40am Reception part time for the week (mornings only/lunch included) Homework given out this week Reading books given out this week Weekly Whole School PE begins at school (MUGA) – Class 1 morning/Classes 2 and 3 afternoon
Monday 14 September 2026	Pupil Parliament Elections to take place this week After school second hand uniform sale Class information evening – Birch (Y3 and Y4) - 5pm in Miss Pattison's room Bakewell Town Football – 3:20 – 4:20pm
Tuesday 15 September 2026	Forest School begins weekly for Rec – Y4 Swimming Starts – every Tuesday Y5/6 – 2.00 – 3.30pm - details to follow
Thursday 17 September 2026	PTFA meeting – Bridge Inn – 11:30am Cluster football event and festival for Y5/6 – 12.30 – 3.30pm - Tideswell School 'Kidlino' – weekly Spanish after school club begins – 3:15 – 4:15pm
Friday 18 September 2026	'Celebration Assembly' in school – 8:55am (Invitation only) Flu Immunisations – Rec – Y6 -details to follow PTFA Cake Bake
21.9.26 Citizenship Theme for next two weeks: Helpfulness	
Wednesday 23 September 2026	Woodland Nurture Group (invited children only) Class information evening – Bumble Bees (Rec, Y1 and Y2) - 5pm in Mrs Callard's room
Thursday 24 September 2026	Read Together Session for parents – 8.40 – 8:55am Cluster Cross Country event and Fun Festival – Whole school – 12:30 – 3:30pm -Bakewell Junior School Class information evening – Elder (Y5 and Y6) - 5pm in Mr Beahan's/Mrs Taylor's room
Thursday 1 October 2026	Black History Month – 'Honouring our communities'
Friday 2 October 2026	'Celebration Assembly' in school – 8:55am (Invitation only)
Saturday 3 October 2026	PTFA Curbar Commotion Fell Race
5.10.26 Citizenship Theme for next two weeks: Courage	
Monday 5 October 2026	PTFA Cake Bake Full Governing Body meeting – 6:15pm
Tuesday 6 October 2026	Parent Consultation Meetings 3.40 – 6.00pm
Wednesday 7 October 2026	Read Together Session for parents – 2.45 – 3.05pm
Thursday 8 October 2026	Cluster football event and festival for Class 1 – 12.30 – 3.30pm – Baslow sports field Parent Consultation Meetings 4:00 – 6.00pm
Monday 12 October 2026	PTFA Meeting and AGM – all parents welcome -8:00pm Calver Arms
Tuesday 13 October 2026	Last swimming before half term
Wednesday 14 October 2026	Reception Open Day for starters in September 2027: 2 – 3pm and 4 – 6pm
Thursday 15 October 2026	'Proud Cloud'- open invitation to parents to visit their child in class – 2:45 - 3:00pm
Friday 16 October 2026	'Celebration Assembly' in school – 8:55am (Invitation only)
19.10.26 Citizenship Theme for next week: Reflection	
Monday 19 October 2026	RE Week Standards and Curriculum governor meeting – 6:15pm
Thursday 22 October 2026	Cluster tag rugby event for Y5/6– 12.30 – 3.30pm – Bakewell Jnr Cluster dodgeball event for Y3/4 at Tideswell School – 12.30 – 3.30pm – Bakewell Jnr
Friday 23 October 2026	End of term celebration assembly – 2:45pm at the Village Hall School closes for Half Term break
Half Term Holiday – Monday 26 October 2026 – Monday 2 November 2026	

Half Term 2 – 35 days

Diversity Theme – Human Rights, Migrants and Travellers

2.11.26 Citizenship Theme for next week: Enterprise and Cooperation

Monday 2 November 2026	School Closed to pupils – Staff training
Tuesday 3 November 2026	Start of Autumn Term 2 – School Open to pupils at 8:40am Pupil individual photos from 8:30am Swimming resumes – weekly for Y5/6 Reception/Year 1, 2, 3 and 4 Forest School session resumes – weekly
Friday 6 November 2026	PTFA Bonfire Event – Calver Arms

9.11.26 Citizenship Theme for next week: Remembrance

Monday 9 November 2026	Children in Need week
Wednesday 11 November 2026	Remembrance Day in school
Thursday 12 November 2026	Read Together Session for parents – 8.45 -9.05am
Friday 13 November 2026	'Celebration Assembly' in school – 8:55am (Invitation only) Children in Need fundraising including an after-school cake sale Children to wear bright colours (Children in Need)

16.11.26 Citizenship Theme for next two weeks: Anti Bullying and Cooperation

Monday 16 November 2026	Anti-Bullying week – 'Break the Silence' – children wear odd socks to celebrate difference and diversity Road Safety Week – 'Safe People on the Move' Resources Governor Meeting – 6.15pm
Wednesday 25 November 2026	PTFA PJ Day
Friday 27 November 2026	'Celebration Assembly' in school – 8:55am (Invitation only)

30.11.26 Citizenship Theme for next two weeks: Kindness/Advent

Monday 30 November 2026	Enterprise Week
Tuesday 1 December 2026	Decoration Day – children can wear Christmas jumper Last swimming until after Christmas
Wednesday 2 December 2026	PTFA Wreath making event at The Wheatsheaf, Baslow
Thursday 3 December 2026	'Proud Cloud'- open invitation to parents to visit their child in class – 2:45 - 3:00pm
Friday 4 December 2026	Enterprise Week Farmers Market – 2:30pm
Monday 7 December 2026	Autumn Term assessment week RE week Full Governing Body Meeting in school – 6:15pm
Tuesday 8 December 2026	Panto – 'Cinderella' at Sheffield Lyceum 1pm start
Wednesday 9 December 2026	School Christmas Dinner Reception Open Day 2 for starters in September 2027: 2 – 3pm and 4 – 6pm
Thursday 10 December 2026	'Save the Children' Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 11 December 2026	'Celebration Assembly' in school – 8:55am (Invitation only) PTFA Christmas Fayre – Calver Village Hall – 3:15pm – 5:30pm

14.12.26 Citizenship Theme for next week: Christmas and Reflection

Tuesday 15 December 2026	Christmas Nativity – 2pm and 6pm – All Saints Church
Thursday 17 December 2026	Lunch - Christmas party food End of term Celebration Assembly – 2:45pm at the Village Hall

Friday 18 December 2026	Party Day! – children to come dressed in Christmas party clothes End of Autumn Term – School closes for Christmas holiday
Christmas Holidays – Monday 21 December 2026 – Friday 1 January 2027	
Monday 4 January 2027	Start of Spring Term – School Open to pupils at 8:40am