



Burton Bradstock CE Primary School

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Headteacher: Mr Adam Gough

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Dear Families,

It seems like a long time since the heatwave at the beginning of September but we have finally reached the end of the first half term of school! As you will have noticed, our weekly Burton Bulletin has developed and now includes lots of additional information including pictures of learning, so my end of term newsletter is a little redundant. Therefore, I thought that I would update you on the things we are working on as a school and include some insight into things that you might not have otherwise seen or known about.

School Improvement Plan (SIP)

Here are some of the main things we are working on at Burton this year:

1. Reading is on our SIP because it is central to the whole curriculum and everything we do in school. Mrs Geraghty is our Reading Leader and Mr Proudfoot is our English Lead and they are working together on this important area.
2. All teachers are using Rosenshine's Principles of Instruction and Teaching 'Walkthrus' to enhance the curriculum and ensure that children are getting the most from their lessons.
3. As a school, we want to ensure that our curriculum is inclusive and accessible to all children regardless of needs or background. By looking in depth at this and working with other schools across the trust, we are ensuring that all children are able to access our curriculum. Mrs Rorstad is our new SENCO and she will be working with all members of staff on this aspect of our plan.
4. Improving our cultural capital offer to enable all children to flourish. Cultural capital is defined as all the extra things that children do which enhance their time at school. We have reviewed our trips for the year but are also actively seeking other opportunities such as author visits, music lessons, forest school, sporting opportunities, clubs and time for children to work in cross-phase groups (beach teams) and many other things as well.

Phonics

Those families with children in KS1 and Early Years will be aware that our phonics scheme, Read Write Inc. has been in place for just over a year. Mrs Geraghty leads on this important area of our curriculum and is always striving to improve it. As a result, we have signed up to use the 'online portal' which enables families to access the story books we are reading in school at home. This is a great resource, and we would love to see more of our families using it with their children.

Attendance

Attendance continues to be a focus for schools across the country with national attendance rates still not recovering to pre-pandemic levels. At Burton, our school attendance for 2022-23 was 95.1% which was above the national average of





93.8%. Our school attendance this half term is 96.8% which is fantastic – thank you for your support with this. You can find out more about attendance on our website: <https://attendance.initiolearning.org/>

Sport and outside learning

Getting children active and outside is great for their wellbeing as well as educational outcomes. Although we only have a small school site, we do try to make maximum use of the wider village facilities in order to get the children out and about. This half term, Wagtails and Robins have thoroughly enjoyed Forest school and I know that Owls are looking forward to this on Thursday afternoons after half term. Our weekly trips to the leisure centre for KS2 have also been great with both classes gaining a lot from their sessions. Having opportunities for all children to take part in competitive sport is something that we are striving for, both as a school and in the Bridport area. From preschool onwards, children get the chance to take part in school-based sport, appropriate to their stage and age. For children in KS2, there are more inter-school competitions, and we try to take part in as many as possible. We aim to give every child the opportunity to represent the school if they want to at least once during their time with us. For example, in Owl class almost 80% of children have represented the school at some point during their time with us.

Governors and Friends of Burton School

Our local governing body has been renamed the Local School Committee. Our governors are a group of dedicated volunteers who support and challenge the school. This term they have already been in to monitor maths and science with me, Mrs Varndell-Paulley and Mr Proudfoot and they have more sessions planned for other subjects over the rest of the academic year. If you would like to find out more about school governance, please speak to me or the chair of the Local School Committee, Mrs Lewis-Badgett.

Our Friends of school are an invaluable resource to us at Burton. Like the governors, they are volunteers who give up their time to support our school. Without their support, we would not be able to subsidise many of the different trips, visits and class budgets and the wonderful events that they organise would not be put on for the children to enjoy. For more information about our Friends, please see their page on our school website [here](#) and join their page on Facebook.

Safeguarding

Mrs Varndell-Paulley is our new Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead. She supports me with day-to-day safeguarding at school and attends network and other meetings about this vital area of education. Our safeguarding governor is Mr Brian Puttock and he, along with the rest of the Local School Committee oversee Safeguarding at school. If you have any concerns about a child, please speak with me or Mrs Varndell-Paulley.

Finally, I wanted to say thank you for all the support that you offer your children and their school. We know that when families take an active role in their child's learning, all areas of school life improve. As always, if you have any comments or questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Have a lovely half term and we look forward to seeing you on Tuesday 31st October.

Best wishes,

Adam Gough
Headteacher