



Bunbury Aldersey CE Primary and Nursery School
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Bunbury Primary School Calendar 2026

Break up for Half Term Friday 13th February
 RETURN TO SCHOOL - SPRING 2 Monday 23rd February

February 27th - SENSE Day 1
 FOB Spring Disco
 March 5th - World Book Day
 March 6th - SENSE Day 2
 March 11th - Year 5 Mini Pilgrim Day Visit to Chester Cathedral
 March 13th - SENSE Day 3
 March 16th - 20th Neurodiversity Celebration week
 March 20th Own Clothes Day for Easter Bingo
 March 25th Year 5 Easter Hope Journey Kelsall Chapel
 March 27th FOB Easter Bingo
 March 30th Year 6 London Trip
 April 2nd - Easter Service 10.30am St Boniface Church
 April 3rd - Easter Experience from 2pm - 4pm in school hall open to parents and community

Break up for Spring Break - Thursday 2nd April
 RETURN TO SCHOOL - SUMMER 1 Monday 20th April

April 22nd - Online safety workshops with DC Andrew Kevan for KS2
 April 22nd - Online safety workshop with DC Andrew Kevan for parents 5-6pm

Year 3 residential - 5th - 6th May
 11th - 14th May SATS week year 6
 May 21st. - Sports Day. - whole school

Break up for Wht Break - Friday 22nd May
 INSET Day Monday 1st June - Staff only
 RETURN TO SCHOOL - SUMMER 2 Tuesday 2nd June

June 4th - Sports Day Reserve - whole school
 Year 6 Conway residential - 15th 17th June
 Year 4 and 5 residential - Wed 1st July - Friday 3rd July
 School FEST - Monday 6th - Friday 10th July
 17th July - End of year service for Year 6 - St Boniface Church 10.30am

Holiday Dates for academic Year 2026/2027 have now been approved and our on the school website using the following link.

<https://www.bunburyaldersey.cheshire.sch.uk/page/holiday-dates/2416>

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven” Matthew. 5:16

Dear Parents and carers

What a fantastic end to the first half of the spring term it has been.

This week we have had a number of events in school from Parents evening, takeaway homework exhibition, DT challenge Days, Valentine Disco and our visit from the DFE! I think we are already for a rest after this week.....

On Wednesday the children brought in and shared their takeaway homework projects. The standard of our takeaway homework has been absolutely fantastic this time and it was great to see so many pupils taking so much pride in their work. Pupils across the school produced outstanding examples of work that celebrated every area of our foundation subjects. From creative artwork and imaginative design projects to thoughtful historical research, scientific investigations, and beautifully presented geography work, the range and quality have been truly impressive. It has been wonderful to see children showing such enthusiasm, independence and pride in their learning. A huge well done to everyone who took part—your hard work shines through!



On Thursday children across the school took part in a DT Dragons Den Challenge Day.

The theme of the DT-day was children`s games. The children were introduced to different types of games such as card games, jigsaws, magnetic games and traditional board games. The children then researched, planned, built and then evaluated their games. On Friday we ended the challenge with a Dragons Den style competition which ran throughout the day and ended with a panel of "dragons" choosing an overall winner.

A huge thank you to Mr Robinson for organising the event, our panel of Dragons - Mrs Warriner, Mrs Webster, Mrs Wilson and Mr Neave and to our children for their enthusiasm, creativity and team work throughout the two days. Well done also to our competition winners - some fantastic ideas and creativity on display.



We were thrilled earlier this term to receive a request to take part in a major national project commissioned by the Department for Education (DfE) which took place on Friday.

This research aims to deepen the national understanding of how schools create strong pupil belonging, alongside excellent attendance and high academic achievement. Out of thousands of primary schools across England, only 16 have been selected to take part in this detailed study — and Bunbury Aldersey was one of them!

This is a significant and heartfelt acknowledgement of what our school community has worked so hard to build. To receive national recognition for the work we do every day is truly something to celebrate. Our commitment to helping every child feel valued, noticed, included, and supported is woven into every part

of school life, from classroom relationships to playtime friendships, from the warm welcome at the gate each morning to the nurturing partnerships we share with families.

Identifying Bunbury Aldersey as a school demonstrating strong practice in fostering pupil belonging is a testament to the dedication of our staff, the positive relationships we have with parents, and the wonderful resilience, warmth, and kindness of our pupils.

We feel immensely proud that the ethos of our village school is being recognised at a national level.

During the visit, time was spent talking with staff, pupils, and leaders to understand:

- What helps children feel they truly belong at school
- How a sense of belonging supports good attendance, motivation, and academic progress
- How other schools can learn from our culture and approaches

Their findings will directly inform the DfE's upcoming national guidance on pupil engagement and belonging. We are proud that what we do here in Bunbury will help shape wider national thinking and contribute to improving children's experiences far beyond our own community.

Being chosen for this research is a powerful reflection of something we believe strongly: that children flourish when they feel secure, known, and genuinely valued for who they are. Academic achievement is important, of course — but it is made possible by the strength of relationships, the sense of safety, and the feeling of belonging that lie underneath.

Our pupils, our families, our staff, and our wider village community all contribute to the warm, inclusive culture that makes Bunbury Aldersey special. This national recognition is something our whole community can share in and feel proud of and I wish to thank each of you for the support you give to our school.

Healthy Eating

We would like to take this opportunity to remind all families that we are proud to be a healthy eating school and we work hard to promote positive habits that support children's wellbeing, concentration and learning throughout the day. This commitment applies to all food brought into school, including snacks for morning break. Recently, staff have noticed an increase in crisps, chocolate and sweets being sent in with some children. While we completely appreciate that children often need a top-up snack mid-morning, foods high in sugar or salt are not the healthiest choices and are not in line with our school approach. A healthy snack helps children stay focused, maintain steady energy levels and be ready for their learning. We kindly ask parents and carers to support us by choosing alternatives such as fruit, vegetables, yoghurt, cheese portions or other nutritious options. We understand that mornings can be busy and routines can slip, but making small, consistent choices can have a big impact on children's long-term habits. Where possible, please avoid sending chocolate, sweets and similar treats for morning break. Thank you for your continued support in helping us maintain a healthy school environment for everyone.

Looking ahead, after Easter we are pleased to be working with North West Cancer Research Trust as part of their outreach programme on healthy lifestyle choices and sun safety. This partnership will give children the opportunity to learn more about how their everyday decisions—from what they eat to how they protect their skin—can support their overall wellbeing now and in the future. These sessions will be age-appropriate, engaging and designed to build confidence in making positive choices. We will share further information closer to the time so that parents and carers are fully aware of the content and can continue the conversations at home.

Litter on School Lane

I have recently received a complaint from a local resident regarding an increase in litter along School Lane at drop-off and pick-up times. We kindly ask that if children are having a snack on their way to or from school, any litter is placed in a nearby bin or taken home. Keeping our local area tidy helps us set a positive example for the children and supports our ongoing work on respecting and caring for our

environment. Thank you for your support in helping us maintain a clean and welcoming community space for everyone.

Let Your Light Shine

It is always fantastic to hear about how our pupils Let their Light Shine outside the school environment.

Alice, in year 3 recently competed in a Gymnastics competition and once again performed brilliantly in her different disciplines. Alice was placed 1st on beam in Cheshire and Merseyside at her recent regional gymnastics grades. With an overall outcome of 5th in the North West! All whilst full of a cold! An amazing effort Alice, we are all very proud of you and can't wait to hear what comes next.



Attendance

I continue to receive a number of requests for absences, particularly for holidays. Unfortunately, these will not be authorised as they do not class as exceptional circumstances. We'd like to remind all families of the importance of regular school attendance.

It is important to understand that 1 days absence is counted as 2 sessions and so % can drop quickly especially when taken over the first half term. Children do not have to be absent much from school for attendance to drop below the expected 95% as illustrated in the graphic below.

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
3 ½ days off school from September until October half-term holiday will make your child persistently absent	7 days off school from September until the Christmas holiday will make your child persistently absent	10 days of absence from September until February half-term will make your child persistently absent	12 ½ days of absence from September until the Easter holidays will make your child persistently absent	15 ½ days of absence from September until May half-term will make your child persistently absent	19 days of absence over the full academic year (September to end of summer term in July) will make your child persistently absent

PENALTY NOTICE AND PROSECUTION	
<p>Penalty Notices may be issued for</p> <p>Term time leave: Penalty Notice fines may be issued for term time leave of 5 or more days (10 sessions) in a 10-week period.</p> <p>10 Sessions of Unauthorised absence in a rolling 10 week period: A Penalty Notice may be considered when there have been 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10-week period. However, school retain the discretion to request a Penalty Notice before the threshold is met. For example, where parents/carers are deliberately avoiding the national threshold by taking several term time holidays below the threshold.</p>	
<p>Per Parent/Per Child</p> <p>Penalty Notice fines will continue to be issued per parent/carer per child. For example: 3 siblings absent for term time leave, would result in each parent/carer receiving 3 separate fines.</p>	
<p>First Offence</p> <p>The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for term time leave or irregular school attendance the fine will be charged at:</p> <p>£160 per parent/carer, per child if paid within 28 days of the issue, reducing to £80 per parent/carer, per child if paid within 21 days.</p> <p>(Unpaid penalty notices may result in a parental prosecution)</p>	<p>Second Offence</p> <p>Where it is deemed appropriate to issue a second penalty notice to the same parent/carer for the same pupil within 3 years of the first penalty notice, for either term time leave or irregular attendance the second penalty notice will be charged at:</p> <p>£160 if paid within 28 days. (Unpaid penalty notices may result in a parental prosecution)</p>
<p>Third Offence</p> <p>On the third time that an offence is committed within 3 years of the first penalty notice for either a term time leave or irregular attendance a penalty notice will not be issued.</p> <p>The Local Authority will decide on appropriate next steps which may include:</p> <p>*Prosecution under s444 (1) or (1a) of the Education Act 1996 which may result in a fine of up to £1000 or £2500 respectively.</p> <p>*Referral to other agencies.</p>	

Regular attendance at school is not only essential for your child's academic progress and social/emotional reasons, it is also a legal requirement. Whilst we understand that pupils will be absent from time to time due to illness; absence from school for other reasons should only be for exceptional circumstances. **We would like to remind all parents and carers that holidays taken during term time are not authorised unless there are *exceptional circumstances*.** These may include serious illness or bereavement of a close family member, or a parent returning from military service. Family holidays, birthdays, or travel due to cost or convenience do not meet the criteria for exceptional set by the Department for Education. Holidays taken in term time will be subject to a fine.

Regular attendance is essential for your child's learning and development, and unauthorised absences which lead to persistent absence may also result in a fixed penalty notice. Attendance less than 90% is classified as persistent. We appreciate your support in ensuring your child attends school consistently and benefits fully from their education.

Friends of Bunbury

A huge thank you to our Friends of Bunbury team for their fantastic Valentine Disco to end the half term. It was lovely to see so many children at the disco enjoying themselves whilst also raising money for our

playground markings project. A special mention to DJ Ehlen who I think had as much fun as the children and would have carried on all night if we hadn't switched on the lights!

Mrs Badger's Weekly Awards

We have now been awarding children with different Christian values for a while based on the half termly focus value. We will still be working on a half termly value within school and this term we will be focusing on : **courage**. Now that the children have a deeper understanding of our Christian Values we will be asking them to help choose a child from their class each week. This could be in recognition for any value we have been working on in school.

Christian Value Award

Reception - Evelyn -For being a wonderful friend and role model to everyone.

Year 1 - Esme - For being helpful in the classroom and being focused in lessons.

Year 2 - Cooper- For consistently showing kindness to others.

Year 3 - Amelia - For her tenacity and perseverance when making her own dice.

Year 4 - All of year 4 - For their incredible patience and perseverance when designing and creating their board games! Such great work!

Year 5 - Charlie - For taking a stand for what is right and being respectful.

Year 6 - The Y6 Handball Team - For showing courage, resilience and great team work in the handball tournament last night.

Head Teachers Star of the Week Award

Reception - Harrison - For amazing us this week with his amazing writing about Let's All Creep to Crocodile Creek.

Year 1 - Monty - For his super focus and hard work in creating his lion mask art work. Well done Monty!

Year 2 - Ivy - For creating an outstanding dragon eye artwork using a variety of artistic styles and techniques. Well done Ivy!

Year 3 - Lucas - For his fantastic focus and concentration making his board game.

Year 4 - Jaime - For his fantastic re-telling of our story Escape to Pompeii, some beautiful detail and description. Well done Jaime!

Year 5 - Lachlan - For his positive attitude and resilience towards his learning in maths and with his writing. Keep up the great work!

Year 6 - Daisy and Noah - For working hard on long division with remainders as fractions. You persisted and you got the answer - well done!

Sporting News

PE Award

The Year 6 Handball Team- For representing the school so well!

TT Rockstars Awards**Year 4****Bronze** - Bronte, Maggie & Ralph**Gold** - Lily D & Lucy**Champion** - Isobel B**Year 5****Bronze** - Ruby**Year 6****Bronze** - Molly, Noah, Alice, Henry,**Champion** - Freya, Sienna, Mia, Florrie, Ben & Isla

Have a fantastic half term break from all of the Bunbury Team and I look forward to seeing you back in school on Monday 23rd February for the second half of the Spring term.

Nic Badger



A warm and friendly group for you and your little one to meet and make friends in your local area.

WEDNESDAYS
9.30-11.30am (term time)
Bunbury Village Hall

Parents, Carers & Grandparents are all welcome

Email us for more info:
bunburytoddlergroup@gmail.com

Toys
Puzzles
Books
Ride-ons
Dolls
Cars
Dressing-up
Crafts
Sing Along
Baby Corner
Snack Time

Find us on Facebook:
Bunbury Cheshire,
Babies and Toddlers



Email us for more info: bunburytoddlergroup@gmail.com

SEND Drop Ins

SEND 0-19+ health practitioners (On behalf of health visitor/school nursing services Cheshire East) for parents of children & Young people for support, signposting and guidance with all SEND-related issues and helping to understand why your child may be struggling and ideas that may help. Think your child may have SEND and not sure where to go or what to do? Need support around toileting, sleep, behaviour or development – feel free to drop in for a chat?? You will be seen on a 1-1 basis, and there is no need to bring your child.

February 2026

Monday 2nd February 9-11 am Ash Grove Family Hub (appts only)

Thurs 5th February 9.15-12.15 Monks Coppenhall SEND Hub (appts only)

Friday 6th February 9.30-11.00 am Disley Library and Community Centre (drop in)

Tuesday 10th February 1-2 pm Oakenclough Family Hub (appts only)

Fri 13th February 9-11 am Congleton Family Hub (appts only)

Tues 17th February 9.15-12.15 am Nantwich Children's Centre (appts only)

Wed 18th February 1.30-2.30 pm Alsager Library (drop in)

Fri 27th February 9-11 am Knutsford Children's Centre (drop in)

March 2026

Monday 2nd March 9-11 am Ash Grove Family Hub (appts only)

Thurs 5th March 9.15-12.15 am Monks Coppenhall SEND Hub (appts only)

Wed 11th March 1-3 pm Congleton Family Hub (appts only)

Monday 16th March 10-11 am Oakenclough Family Hub (appts only)

Tuesday 17th March 9.15-12.15 am Nantwich Children's Centre (appts only)

Wed 18th March 1.30-2.30 pm Alsager Library (drop in)

Friday 20th March 1-2.30 pm Knutsford Children's Centre (drop in)

To book an appointment:

At Congleton, Ash Grove or Oakenclough, email startforlifeforth@cheshireeast.gov.uk.

At Monks Coppenhall and Nantwich call 01270 371240.



Online FREE talk by Jane Keyworth Anxiety Based School Avoidance

March 26th 7-8pm



Book online

www.facefamilyadvice.co.uk

go to PARENTS - Live Talks page

All 16 parent talks **FREE** with our School Membership



Children's Sleep Awareness Month

1st - 28th February 2026

In partnership with YouHQ, this years' theme is 'Teach Sleep' with a focus on schools and sleep. Together, we want to empower teachers, school leaders, pupils and their parents with practical tools to build healthier sleep habits.

[Download 2026 Supporter's Pack](#)

Throughout February, **The Joshua Tree** is looking for 'crafters' to help us with knitted chicks to pop on Crème Eggs to enable us to sell them and raise valuable funds to support our families across Cheshire and North Wales.

Can you help? Do you know someone who can get their knitting needles clicking?

We are hoping you might be able to help throughout February, ready for us to gather up all of the knitted chicks and get them into cafes, shops, schools and suchlike to sell on our behalf.

You can access the pattern her: <https://web.archive.org/web/20140209055718/http://www.pompomemporium.com/content/free-pattern-knitted-easter-chick-containing-creme-egg>