



St Thomas's

CE Primary School

October 2026 Newsletter

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Message from the Head of School



As we reach the end of a busy and successful first half term, I would like to thank all our families for your continued support. It was wonderful to see so many of you at our Harvest Festival, and we are incredibly grateful for your generous donations of food for our chosen charity. Your kindness will make a real difference to those in need.

Thank you also to everyone who attended our coffee morning to raise money for Manchester Royal Children's Hospital in memory of Heba. Your support, generosity and sense of community were truly heartwarming.

The children have made an excellent start to the school year. They have worked hard, attended well and, as always, have been a delight. We are very proud of all they have achieved this half term.

Everyone has certainly earned a well-deserved rest over the break. We wish you all a happy and relaxing half term and look forward to welcoming you back next half term.

Best wishes

Mrs Butler

Headteacher



Attendance and Punctuality



Our school gates are open from **8:40am** until **8:55am**, and open again at **3:10pm** when school finishes.

The register for the first session will be taken at 8:55am and will be kept open by the class teacher until 9:00am. Following this, any late arrivals will be recorded by staff in the office who will record and update any changes on arrival.

Absence

Parents must notify the school on each day of absence by 8:45am or as soon as practically possible.

When phoning school to inform of your child's absence, please press 1 on the menu unless you need to speak to the office staff. When leaving a message, please clearly state your child's name, class and the reason for their absence.

If your child has sickness/diarrhoea, they must not attend school for 24 hours after the bout of symptoms.

Medical or Dental Appointments

Missing registration for a medical or dental appointment is counted as an authorised absence if the office has been informed of the appointment in advance.

However, we encourage parents to make medical and dental appointments out of school hours where possible. Where this is not possible, the pupil should be out of school for the minimum amount of time necessary.

We request that an appointment card is shown at the office in advance of the appointment so the class teacher can be informed.

Holidays During Term Time

Taking holidays in term time will affect a child's schooling as much as any other absence and we expect parents to help us by not taking children away during term time.

If you need to request a holiday during term time, then you will need to complete a Leave of Absence form which can be obtained from the school office.

Although the school will look at each request for leave on its own merit, requests will only be authorised for exceptional circumstances.

When taking your child out of school when a holiday is not authorised/requested, you may face legal action under Section 444 (1) or (1A) of the Education Act 1966 or be issued with a Penalty Notice under Section 23 of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003.

Penalty Notices are issued **per parent, per child** at £80 each if paid within 21 days and rising to £160 each if paid within 28 days. Failure to pay a Penalty Notice will result in the Local Authority taking legal action against you under Section 444 (1) of the Education Act 1966.

The full version of our attendance policy can be found on the school website. We appreciate your cooperation in supporting your child's attendance and punctuality. Regular school attendance enhances their learning experience and helps them achieve their full potential.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding attendance, please do not hesitate to contact the school office. Together, let's ensure every school day is filled with enriching educational experiences for our children.

ATTENDANCE

WHAT THE NEW RULES MEAN FOR ME

1

I'm a single parent of one child and we want to go on holiday for a week

Your holiday will not be authorised and you must talk to the school before you book anything.

Because your child will miss 5 school days you will be given a penalty notice fine.

The fine is £160 but if you pay it within 21 days it will be reduced to £80

£160



2

IRREGULAR ATTENDANCE

10 IN 10

If your child is absent for 10 or more sessions in 10 weeks and their absences are unauthorised, the school will consider prosecution

1 day = 2 sessions

A PENALTY FOR EACH CHILD



+£160 +£160 +£160 +£160

4 children & 1 parent = £640

Reduced to £320 if paid within 21 days

4

FOR A FAMILY OF TWO PARENTS



+£160

+£160

+£160

+£160

4 children &
2 parents =
£1,280

Reduced to £640 if paid
within 21 days

5

If in any period of not more than 3 years, your child has a 2nd and 3rd leave of absence or pattern of irregular attendance...

SECOND TIME

2 parents and

1 child = £320

2 children = £640

3 children = £960

4 children = £1,280

No discount for early payment



THIRD TIME

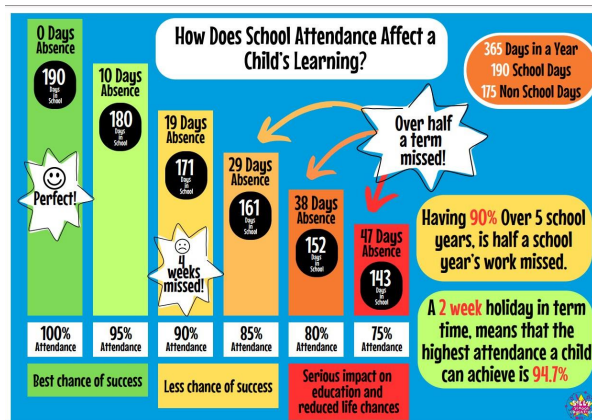
A penalty notice fine will not be given.

Instead your case will be taken to court.

A magistrate can fine each parent £2,500 for each child.

1 parent & 4 children = £10,000

2 parents & 4 children = £20,000





Important Update Regarding School Attendance and Unauthorised Leave During Term Time



We would like to make you aware of an important update to the way that unauthorised absences, including term-time holidays, may be considered by the Local Authority.

Changes to Penalty Notices for Unauthorised Leave During Term Time

The Department for Education's statutory guidance, *Working Together to Improve School Attendance*, expects schools and local authorities to take a consistent approach to promoting attendance and addressing absence.

In line with this guidance and following revisions to Bury Council's Code of Conduct for Issuing Penalty Notices for Unauthorised Absence from School, the Local Authority may now

consider issuing a Penalty Notice before the national threshold is reached where there is a pattern of repeated unauthorised absence during term time.

This means that where a child is taken out of school for multiple unauthorised periods of leave during the same academic year, even where each individual absence is fewer than five school days, the cumulative impact of those absences may be considered when determining whether enforcement action is appropriate.

This may include holidays that are taken immediately before or after INSET days, Bank Holidays or Polling Days.

Schools can only authorise leave during term time in exceptional circumstances and parents are therefore strongly encouraged to avoid booking family holidays during school term time.

Why Attendance Matters

Regular school attendance is essential for a child's academic achievement, wellbeing and future opportunities.

Even short periods of absence can result in:

- Missed learning opportunities
- Gaps in knowledge and understanding
- Difficulties maintaining academic progress
- Reduced opportunities to develop friendships, routines and positive learning habits

Under Section 444 of the Education Act 1996, parents have a legal responsibility to ensure that children of compulsory school age receive a suitable education through regular attendance at school.

What Happens if an Unauthorised Holiday is Taken?

Where a child is taken out of school during term time without authorisation:

- The absence will be recorded as unauthorised
- The school will notify parents where leave has not been authorised
- The Local Authority will consider the circumstances of the absence and any previous unauthorised leave recorded during the academic year
- Where a pattern of repeated unauthorised leave is identified, the Local Authority may consider issuing a Penalty Notice, even where individual periods of absence are fewer than five school days
- This means that multiple shorter periods of unauthorised leave, when considered cumulatively, may result in enforcement action

- Repeated unauthorised absences linked to holidays taken immediately before or after INSET days, Bank Holidays or polling days may also be considered as part of this assessment.
- Enforcement action, including the issue of a Penalty Notice, may therefore be taken in accordance with Bury Council's Code of Conduct.

Working Together

Our priority remains to work positively with families and provide support wherever attendance concerns arise. We encourage parents and carers to speak to the school at the earliest opportunity if there are any barriers affecting their child's attendance so that appropriate support can be explored.

Charity Fundraising in Loving Memory of Heba Noor

We would like to say a **huge thank you** to all of our wonderful parents, carers and families for their kindness and generosity in supporting our recent charity fundraising efforts for **Macmillan Cancer Support** and **Manchester Children's Hospital**. We have raised a total of **£859.00!**

Our coffee morning was a lovely opportunity to come together as a community in memory of Heba and raise money for two incredibly worthwhile causes. Your generous donations and continued support mean so much to us and will help make a difference to those who need it most.

We would also like to extend a **very special thank you** to **Tesco, Bury** and **Bury Superstore** on Hurst Street for their kind donation of cakes, and to **Kashmir Superstore** for their generous donation of biscuits. Your thoughtful contributions helped make our coffee morning extra special, and we are extremely grateful for your support.

Events like these remind us of how wonderful our school community is. It is heartwarming to see everyone coming together, showing kindness and making a positive difference.

Thank you once again to everyone who donated, contributed or supported our fundraising efforts. Your generosity is truly appreciated! Together, we can make a difference.





MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT



**SUPPORTING
MANCHESTER
CHILDREN'S
HOSPITAL**



High School Applications



The deadline to submit your high school applications for September 2027 is on 31st October 2026.

Information on the application process, key dates and how to apply online can be found on the Bury Council website via the following link;

[Bury Council - Secondary School Admissions](#)

Bury Remembers Art Competition

The poster features a background with a red and blue color scheme, overlaid with a watercolor-style texture. A silhouette of a soldier in a trench, wearing a helmet and blowing a trumpet, is positioned on the left side. The text is arranged in a clear, hierarchical layout, starting with the title at the top, followed by the age range, the purpose of the competition, the target audience, prize details, submission instructions, and contact information at the bottom. Logos for The Fusilier Museum and Bury Grammar School are included in the footer.

BURY REMEMBERS

2026
Art Competition
Age 4- 11 Years Old

Create a piece of **artwork** that celebrates Bury's past or commemorates Remembrance Day

Open to primary-aged pupils
Two categories: EYFS & Key Stage 1
and Key Stage 2

1st Prize:
£50 Amazon Voucher
Highly Commended:
£10 Amazon Voucher

Entries must be submitted via email as a high resolution jpeg. If submitting a sculpture, please photograph from at least two angles.

Email your entries with your name, age, year group, primary school and primary school email contact to buryremembers@burygrammar.com
Deadline for entries: 11/11/2026

 THE FUSILIER MUSEUM LANCASHIRE

 BURY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Dates for the Diary



Our key dates for the diary are listed below, please note that these dates may change and reminders for upcoming events will be sent via email

Friday 23rd October - School closes for half term break

Monday 2nd November - School reopens for Autumn 2

Tuesday 3rd November - Peter Pan Pantomime

Monday 9th November to Thursday 12th November - Year 6 Bikeability

Monday 9th November - EYFS/KS1 Parents Afternoon

Tuesday 10th November - KS2 Parents Afternoon

Wednesday 11th November - Parents Evening

Friday 13th November - Year 5 & 6 Cinema Trip

Wednesday 18th November - Year 2, 3 & 4 Cinema Trip

Wednesday 9th December - Choir Performance at Bury Market

Wednesday 16th December - Christmas Service (A Classes)

Thursday 17th December - Christmas Service (B Classes)

Friday 18th December - Christmas Party Day

Friday 18th December - School closes for the Christmas holidays

Monday 4th January - School reopens for Spring 1

Term Dates for 2026/27

HOLIDAY PATTERN 2026-2027						
	PUPIL DAYS				PAD DAYS	SCHOOL DAYS PER HALF TERM
	BANK HOLIDAYS					
	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS					
	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	
	24	25	26	27	28	38 days
Sept 2026	31	1	2	3	4	
	7	8	9	10	11	
	14	15	16	17	18	
	21	22	23	24	25	
	28	29	30	1	2	
October	5	6	7	8	9	38 days
	12	13	14	15	16	
	19	20	21	22	23	
	26	27	28	29	30	
November	2	3	4	5	6	
	9	10	11	12	13	
	16	17	18	19	20	
	23	24	25	26	27	
December	30	1	2	3	4	35 days
	7	8	9	10	11	
	14	15	16	17	18	
	21	22	23	24	25	
Jan 2027	28	29	30	31	1	
	4	5	6	7	8	
	11	12	13	14	15	
	18	19	20	21	22	
	25	26	27	28	29	
February	1	2	3	4	5	30 days
	8	9	10	11	12	
	15	16	17	18	19	
	22	23	24	25	26	
March	1	2	3	4	5	
	8	9	10	11	12	
	15	16	17	18	19	
	22	23	24	25	26	
April	29	30	31	1	2	Spring Close
	5	6	7	8	9	
	12	13	14	15	16	
	19	20	21	22	23	
	26	27	28	29	30	
May	3	4	5	6	7	33 days
	10	11	12	13	14	
	17	18	19	20	21	
	24	25	26	27	28	
	31	1	2	3	4	
June	7	8	9	10	11	Summer Half Term
	14	15	16	17	18	
	21	22	23	24	25	
	28	29	30	1	2	
July	5	6	7	8	9	
	12	13	14	15	16	
	19	20	21	22	23	
	26	27	28	29	30	
	3	4	5	6	7	
	10	11	12	13	14	Summer Close
	17	18	19	20	21	
	24	25	26	27	28	
	31	1	2	3	4	
August	7	8	9	10	11	
	14	15	16	17	18	30 days
	21	22	23	24	25	
	28	29	30	1	2	
	5	6	7	8	9	
	12	13	14	15	16	
	19	20	21	22	23	Summer Close
	26	27	28	29	30	
	3	4	5	6	7	
	10	11	12	13	14	
	17	18	19	20	21	
	24	25	26	27	28	Summer Close
	31	1	2	3	4	
September	7	8	9	10	11	
	14	15	16	17	18	
	21	22	23	24	25	
	28	29	30	1	2	30 days
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October	7	8	9	10	11	Autumn Half Term
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	26	27	28	29	30	
December	2	3	4	5	6	Autumn Close
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	23	24	25	26	27	
January	30	1	2	3	4	
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February	28	29	30	31	1	Autumn Close
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March	1	2	3	4	5	30 days
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April	29	30	31	1	2	
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January	30	1	2	3	4	
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February	28	29	30	31	1	Autumn Close
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	23	24	25	26	27	
January	30	1	2	3	4	
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	14	15	16	17	18	
	21	22	23	24	25	
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	26	27	28	29	30	
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	19	20	21	22	23	
	26	27	28	29	30	
	3	4	5	6	7	
	10	11	12	13	14	Summer Close
	17	18	19	20	21	
	24	25	26	27	28	
	31	1	2	3	4	

Prayer



Loving God,

Thank You for the gift of this harvest season. Thank You for the food we enjoy, for the people who grow it, and for the kindness shown when we share with others. Help us to be thankful for all that we have and mindful of those who may have less.

As we come to the end of this half term, we thank You for all that we have learned, the challenges we have overcome, and the happy memories we have made. As we take a break from school, help us to rest well, spend precious time with our families, and enjoy the beauty of the changing season around us.

Bring safety, joy and peace to everyone in our community, and return us refreshed and ready for a new half term of learning and growing together.

Amen.

Contact Us



If you wish to contact us

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