



**BUXLOW**  
Independent Preparatory School

## Summer 2020 Review

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we near the end of this academic year, the word tumultuous springs to mind. Yet, as a community and within our own families, many of us have sought support, adjusted to the new reality and tried to continue our lives bound by a number of constraints, but with the purpose of maintaining a semblance of normality, where possible.

Yet the school has been the very opposite of tumultuous. We have remained open since the official start of lockdown, acting as a base for the children of key workers. Our staff have risen to the herculean task of continuing to deliver the curriculum via Zoom and Showbie and I am proud of our pupils for their commitment to using this process and for their parents for supporting this. I too have been sustained by the support of staff, here in school and would like to publicly state my appreciation for all their endeavours. Buxlow has navigated a course of challenges since its inception in 1927 and in my opinion, Covid19 had pre-empted the most exigent of circumstances since Mrs Probyn faced uncertainty during World War Two.

We are truly grateful for all support shown and look forward to a new, fresh start in September, when we anticipate all pupils returning to school armed with the same vigour that they have undertaken when managing home learning and lockdown.

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Moving forward, I have a number of announcements to make. It is with regret that I announce that Mrs Killeen, Mrs Arden, Miss Ramsammy, Mrs Jacunska and Madame Mehta will be leaving Buxlow at the end of this term.

Firstly, I would like to pay tribute to Mrs Killeen, who has taught in Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4 at Buxlow. Mrs Killeen has worked at the school since 2005, with a dedication to the school has been unwavering and steadfast. My own observation of Mrs Killeen would not be complete without acknowledging the level of art teaching in her class and the skills passed to her pupils, which are certainly not limited to Art. The memory of her delicious home baked apple crumble and cream will remain also with me.

Mrs Arden has worked at Buxlow since 2011, teaching in Year 1 and Year 2. I am immensely grateful for the support that Mrs Arden has shown to the school during our Summer Fayre and Christmas Market and to me personally. She has admirably adapted to teaching remotely and fully embraced this concept. Our shared love of Earl Grey tea is only one aspect of the commonality that we all share with Mrs Arden, but more particularly the desire for all pupils to succeed and flourish.

Miss Ramsammy began as a 1 to 1 support in Year 1 before moving into Year 2 as a TA which a commitment to supporting pupils. During and since that time, Miss Ramsammy has supported Buxlow by attending swimming and PE lessons, for which I am very grateful. Her encouragement during the Christmas Market, by dressing as Santa's elf was much appreciated and indicative of her good humour.

Mrs Jacunska has worked in Year 1 and Year 2, supporting pupils in Reading, Writing and Maths. Her enthusiasm and diligence are just two characteristics that have made Mrs Jacunska a valued colleague.

Madame Mehta has worked at the school since September 2019 and has created opportunities for our pupils to develop a love of French and French culture.

I would like to express my very best wishes to staff leaving Buxlow this term and wish them well for their future with the invitation that they are most welcome to visit the school.

We are currently finalising recruitment for the Year 1 and Year 2 teachers and look forward to introducing the pupils to their teachers via video link during the summer holidays before they return to school. Recruitment during Covid19 has also been quite challenging and we look forward to securing our shortlisted candidates within the early start of the summer break.

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I look forward to welcoming all pupils, parents and staff back to school in September.

There are 2 inset days scheduled for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020, with all pupils to return to school on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September.

Please be mindful that if you are due to travel overseas that you carefully follow government guidance when returning to the United Kingdom.

I wish you all a restful and above all healthy summer break.

Regards and best wishes,

Darren May