

Newsletter 26th March 2026

Easter Holidays – Stay Safe, Stay Active, Enjoy!

As we approach the Easter break, we hope all our families are able to enjoy some well-earned time together. We encourage children to get outdoors, stay active, and make the most of the (hopefully!) improving weather. Whether it's a walk, bike ride, or simply playing in the garden, fresh air and exercise are so important for both physical and mental wellbeing.

Please also take a moment to remind children about staying safe—particularly when out and about with friends, near roads, or using bikes and scooters. We wish everyone a happy, healthy and enjoyable Easter holiday.

Celebrating 26 Years of Service – Margaret Dolton

We would like to share that Margaret Dolton will be retiring tomorrow after an incredible 26 years of loyal service as a Learning Support Assistant. Margaret has made a profound difference to the lives of so many children and families during her time with us. Her dedication, care and commitment to supporting pupils has been unwavering, and she will be greatly missed by both staff and the wider school community. The KS2 Adventure Play area will not look quite the same without her reliable and reassuring presence!!

We thank Margaret sincerely for everything she has contributed to Berrywood and wish her a very happy and well-deserved retirement. We very much hope that she will remain a life-long friend to Berrywood and pay us regular visits. Margaret has specifically requested that no fuss is made regarding her departure, but I am sure those of you who can will want to share a warm word or two with her.

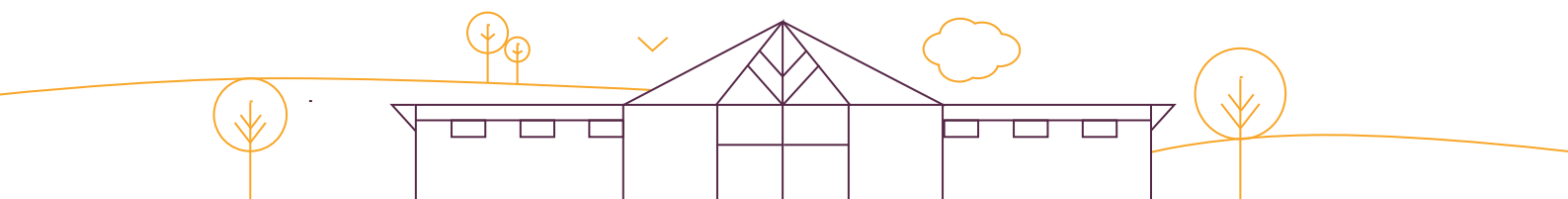
Smartphone Decision – A Significant Step Forward

We recently communicated an important decision regarding smartphone use, and we want to reiterate just how significant this step is for our school community. Speaking as someone who has long campaigned and wished for children to be better defended against the deep damage these devices can cause, I am truly delighted that all the Hedge End schools (including the secondaries) are taking this step jointly.

This decision has been made with children's wellbeing, safety, and focus at the forefront. We believe it will have a positive impact on learning, social interaction, and overall school culture. Thank you to all families in anticipation of your support as we implement this change—it is very much appreciated.

Deputy Headteacher Recruitment Update

We are pleased to share that there has been a high level of interest in the Deputy Headteacher position. This reflects strongly on Berrywood as a school and the community we have built together. Interviews are scheduled to take place in April, and we look forward to updating you once the process has concluded.



School Council

I would like to take a moment to say how proud I am of the work currently being undertaken by our School Council. The children involved are demonstrating impressive levels of maturity, thoughtfulness and wisdom in their discussions and decision-making. They are representing their peers exceptionally well and are a real credit to the school.

Thank you to Mrs Adams for all your hard work and dedication in re-establishing this initiative back in September.

Headlice – A Gentle Reminder

We have noticed an increase in reported cases of headlice across the school. We would respectfully ask all parents and carers to check their child's hair regularly and treat promptly where necessary.

Regular checking and early treatment are the most effective ways to prevent the spread. We appreciate your support in helping us manage this sensitively and effectively across the school community.

Have a great break and thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Chris Reilly