



Brunshaw Primary School

Safeguarding Newsletter

Issue 2-June 2026

Water Safety

It has been deeply upsetting to hear of the tragic deaths of several children across the country who have lost their lives while swimming in open water during the recent warm weather.

Teaching children how to stay safe around water is just as important as teaching them how to stay safe near roads. Many people are unaware that cold water can be dangerous, even on a hot day, and cold water shock can affect even the strongest and most confident swimmers.

We encourage all families to talk to their children about water safety. To learn more about what to do if you find yourself struggling in the water, please scan the QR code to watch the Royal National Lifeboat Institution's 'Float to Live' video.



Attendance and Safeguarding

At Brunshaw Primary School, attendance is about much more than learning – it is also an important part of keeping children safe and well. When children attend school regularly, we know they are in a safe environment, engaging with their education, building friendships, and accessing the support they may need.

If a child is absent from school, especially when we have not been informed of the reason, it is important that we contact parents and carers to understand why. This is not about being intrusive; it is part of our safeguarding responsibility to ensure that every child is safe and accounted for. Schools have a duty to follow up unexplained absences and, where attendance becomes a concern, to work with families to understand and address any difficulties that may be affecting attendance.

We know that every family's circumstances are different, and there can be genuine challenges that make attending school difficult at times. Our aim is always to work in partnership with parents and carers, offering support wherever possible. At the same time, we have a responsibility to promote good attendance and to challenge patterns of absence that may impact a child's education, wellbeing, or safety.

By working together and maintaining open communication, we can help ensure that every child feels safe, supported, and able to make the most of their time at school. Please remember to phone daily by 9am to report your child absent.

Staying Home Alone

There is no legal age at which a child can be left home alone. However, parents and carers must make sure that a child is safe and not placed at risk. Every child is different, and there is no single age that is right for everyone.

As children grow older, it is important to have open conversations about being at home on their own. Talk together about how they feel and whether they would feel confident and safe.

Some questions you might discuss include:

- Do they feel safe in the neighbourhood?
- Are they comfortable being at home after dark?
- Do they know what to do in an emergency?
- Who could they contact if they needed help?

Encourage your child to share any worries or concerns they may have. By listening and talking through possible situations, you can better understand whether they are ready to stay home alone and what support they might need.

Remember, if your child does not feel comfortable being left alone, it may be a sign that they are not yet ready. Building confidence gradually and at their own pace is often the best approach. For more advice and support, visit the NSPCC website. They provide useful information for parents and carers, as well as a short quiz to help you decide whether your child may be ready to stay home alone

