



Newsletter – 15th December 2023

Dear Families,



Welcome to the 'new look' newsletter using Sway, which I hope is better. I would appreciate any feedback to improve communication with you, so please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you.

From January 2024, the newsletter will continue to be published using Sway and will be emailed on Friday 19th January and Friday 9th February. The reintroduction of the **Busbridge Bulletin** will be shared at the beginning of each month and January's edition will be sent on Friday 5th January. This way, I hope to share in more detail some of the developments and ensure that you are all kept abreast of what's happening with areas such as Communications & Expectations, Opening of the New Build and the School Development Plan to name but a few.

There is an important change to Safeguarding following our review of procedures which will be actioned with immediate effect in January. Please note that ***should you wish to change the pick up arrangements for your child on the day because for example something has cropped up and you are unable to collect, please email the request to info.busbridge@sfet.org.uk instead of calling the office.*** Thank you.



1 - The Continual Pursuit of Excellence

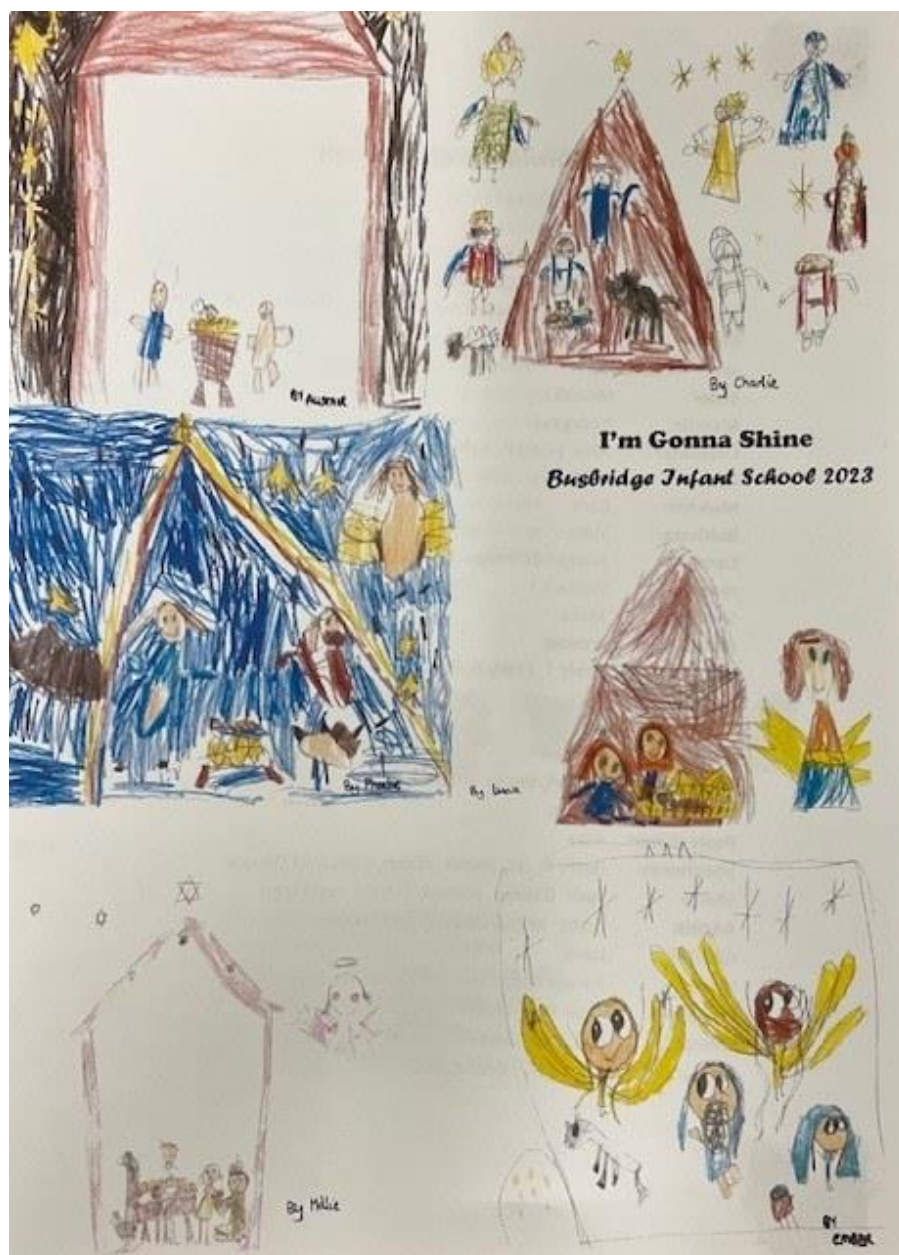
The saying, "***Time flies when you're having fun!***" has definitely been true this term. Sharing the Christmas fun with all the children during these last few weeks has been an absolute pleasure and the following hopefully captures the essence of the festivities.

Please enjoy the break and on behalf of everybody here, I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you in the New Year (02.01.2024)

Best wishes

Darren Heatley

I'm Gonna Shine!



A very big thank you to all of you who came to see this year's nativity - I'm Gonna Shine! The children did extremely well with their amazing performances, whether it was singing, dancing, acting or narrating - they were brilliant and all the staff felt immensely proud of every child. A special thank you to the talented Mrs. Beamer and Mrs. Scully for orchestrating the show. Your continued support combined with your kind and generous donations raised **£790** for the school, so **'Thank you very much'**.

Sticking with the Nativity theme and trying to promote sustainability, we were wondering if any of the Y2 children would be willing to donate their costumes from the Nativity for us to re-love next year. We are also looking for a handful of Christmas jumpers to have in reserve as spares. Your help with this would be most welcome and if you have anything you would like to donate, then please bring to the school office. Thank you to those of you who already have.



2 - Some of our wonderful Year 2 performers!



3 - The fabulous dancers!



4 - Some of the amazing stars!



5 - Marvellous market sellers and...



6 - ... The one and only King Herod!

Year 2 - Christingle Church Service



This year saw the return of the Year 2 Christingle Church Service which was led by the team at Busbridge Church. The opportunity enabled all the families to share in the celebrations and learn more about the value of the Christingle and its symbolic Christian representation respected by the British Value of acceptance and tolerance of other faiths and religions.

It was also Christmas Jumper day and over £100 was raised to support the charity, Save the Children. It was wonderful to see the children enjoying their Christmas lunch in their jumpers. Thank you to the Twelve15 team for the delicious meal which the children enjoyed with their teachers and staff.

Church Service & Community Collaboration

Everybody at Busbridge Infant School attended a Christmas Church Service on Thursday 14th December. The children listened to Reverend Simon say prayers, share the Christmas story and the choir's Christmas Medley. A clip of **The First Nowell** was shown to the children for the first time but the full and final edition of **The First Nowell** is [here](#) and is set to premiere on YouTube on Christmas Eve at 7pm so the video will be live from then. It's a wonderful collaboration of community involvement.

A message from the team at the Church *"Thank you again for agreeing to take part in the project and for being accommodating in allowing us to come in and do all the rehearsals and recording, we are very blessed to work with some truly amazing schools! "*

Thank you as well to all the children for all their hard work and the joy that they put into the project. I think when you see the final product you will agree it was well worth it.

Finally can I wish you all a very Merry Christmas. I hope you are all able to enjoy a well deserved break with friends and family to recharge before the new term. We look forward to seeing you in 2024!"



7 - Busbridge Infant School Church Service - thank to those who all took part.

Pied Piper Theatre Company - Can Bears Ski?

Yesterday the children saw a performance - Can Bears Ski? The clip below is a taste of the cast signing their roles to the children. The children really enjoyed watching and learned about how it feels to be deaf and to communicate through British Sign Language. They showed their appreciation by waving with both hands to say thank you. Thank you to the performers of the Pied Piper Theatre Company and to the PTA for their support. To watch the full video see [here](https://sway.office.com/OwdDzEO2klargB48#content=mFSCbnbBV85sU2)



<https://sway.office.com/OwdDzEO2klargB48#content=mFSCbnbBV85sU2>

A Message From the Local Authority

In an effort to minimise the number of late applications received, we would be very grateful if you would remind parents with children in your school, **including parents with pre-school siblings**, that the closing date for Reception and Junior applications for September 2024 entry is **15 January 2024**.

For infant schools, this will include reminding parents of children on roll in Year 2 that they must submit an application **by 15 January** for a junior transfer. Applications received after the closing date without good reason will be treated as late and will not be considered until all on time applications have been processed. This may jeopardise the chance of a parent being offered one of their preferred schools for their child. We will **only** consider an application as on-time even if it has been made late if there is a genuine reason why the application could not reasonably have been made before the closing date. If the child lives in another local authority, they should make an on-time application which can include Surrey schools, to that local authority, even if they know they will be moving.

The Mystery Reader



As shared in a previous newsletter, we are always looking at ways to further enrich and promote reading for pleasure. In the Spring Term we will be introducing ***“The Mystery Reader”***.

This new initiative will involve a parent, carer or grandparent signing up on a rota, to be the “Mystery Reader”. This person will then come into school on their given Friday afternoon at 2.50pm to read a story for about 15 minutes to their child’s/grandchild’s class. The story can be chosen by the adult and we will ask that the chosen story will be sent in along with the adult's name. The story may be one of your favourite picture books from when you were a child or one that you enjoy reading to your family now. If you need any ideas or inspiration, please see Mrs. Jones who would be more than happy to help.

This session will happen most Fridays for the next half term (as a trial). If you are interested in this or know a Grandparent who is, then please contact your class rep who have kindly said that they will help to orchestrate the rotas.

The idea behind this is for the children to see that everyone is a reader and to experience having story time with a “mystery” guest. The first session will be on Friday 12th January. The other dates for the first half term are: 19th January, 26th January, 2nd February & the 9th of February. If there are more adults than slots, please rest assured that if successful we will run this session for the remainder of the academic year.

Stay & Read

As part of our ongoing commitment to involving families in school life, we would like to invite you into school to come into the classroom and share a book with your child for **Stay & Read**. During this session there will be a range of books for you to share with your child. These will be reading for pleasure books also known as “choosy” books.

These will take place across four days. This is to limit the number of adults in a classroom at one given time. We also hope that this gives flexibility to fit in with working parent’s diaries. These four sessions will be on Monday 15th, Tuesday 16th, Wednesday 17th & Thursday 18th January. As in previous events we will ask that you fill in a Google form to let us know who is coming on which day. These Google forms are important as they help us to prepare the children, team -up children whose adults are unable to attend and for safeguarding purposes, so we know who is in school at any given time.

These sessions will run for around 20 minutes and can start straight from drop-off at 8.45am. We would ask that only **one adult** sign up for **one session**. Where possible we would ask that pre-schoolers do not attend however we understand for some families this is not possible.

Godalming Library Reading Challenge

Godalming Library are holding a [Winter Event](#) which you may wish to participate in.



Top Table Initiative

Children have been enjoying a trial run of a new idea to improve the expectations during lunch time in the dining hall. The 'Top Table' has been running for the last fortnight and children in Year 1 & 2

are chosen by any adult who notices a child's manners, politeness or any display of the school values. It has had a huge impact on behaviour and the children are excited by the chance to share lunch with a named adult. Both Mrs. Jones and Mr. Heatley have had the pleasure of this to date. The children meet in Mr. Heatley's office and are shown to their table which is noticeably different, laid with flowers, a table cloth and place names by the adult, who also sits and eats their lunch with them.

Celebration Assembly - Information for Reception Families

Next term, children from Reception will start being recognised for their successes and achievements and you too, will be invited to attend this special ***Celebration Assembly*** on Friday at 9.00am. You will receive a call from your child's class teacher to say they have been chosen and you are asked to come to the door closest to the hall to sign in, which will be staffed. Once you have your sticker you can choose your seat, sit back and watch the celebration unfold. It's up to you whether you surprise them on the day or tell them in advance. Once all the children have been celebrated they receive a round of applause and the assembly continues to see who wins the trophy. Each team's house captains read aloud the names of those children who have completed their achievement card, for which they are rewarded with a star. These are totalled and a winning team is announced.



Events and dates for Spring Term 1



- Tuesday 2nd January - First day of Spring Term and Enrichment Clubs start.
- Wednesday 3rd & Thursday 4th January - Woodland School starts for Year 2 then bi-weekly.
- Week beginning 8th January - Woodland School starts for Reception (weekly) and Year 1 (bi-weekly)
- Friday 12th January - PTA children's disco. More details of this event are provided on Classlist.
- Monday 15th & Thursday 18th - Stay & Read - sign up to one slot only.
- Tuesday 30th January - Zones of Regulation @ 9.00am.
- Friday 2nd February - PTA Adult Quiz Night - details to follow.
- Friday 9th February - PTA "Break the Rules day" - details to follow.

Please check the website for more details on dates and for a calendar of events throughout the year.

Staffing

We say 'goodbye' to Mrs Becky Johnston, who leaves us today. All the staff at Busbridge Infant School would like to say thank you for all she has done for the children in Sun Bear class and the time she has devoted to Woodland School. We wish her all the best with her next ventures.

We would like to welcome Mr Asier (Ash) Elgoro who joins us as the site manager for Busbridge Infant School.

Local Governing Body

I have just returned home from watching "I'm Gonna Shine". My children are past nativity age so it was a real treat. A huge thank you for the collaborative staff effort, the children for their amazing performances and of course you, for the fabulous costumes and helping the children with their lines.

The school continues to make rapid progress on its journey since the Ofsted visit two years ago. We were delighted to see the excellent SATs and phonics check results (both well ahead of the national average). Progress was also apparent in governor visits this term. Link governors have visited the school for a Maths and English learning walk, two safeguarding visits and two visits focused on early years. Governors have also attended a children and learning meeting, a full governing body meeting and several events for prospective parents which have been well attended.

We are delighted that the Reception children have settled in so well and are enjoying their learning which they were delighted to show us. We look forward to the opening of the new building next term.

I hope you all have a Happy Christmas.

Anna Dawkins - Chair of Governors

School Council



School Council Children have been talking about different charities to support for next term. They will be deciding which specific charities should be considered for supporting and some examples discussed will be NSPCC, Lifeboats or local charities which may appeal to our local community. If you feel that a particular charity should be considered please email the school office.

Please see the [website](#) for details about our school council.

We'd also like to thank the children who have been School Council members in the Autumn Term. As voted by the children, we will now elect new members for the Spring Term (this will include Reception children). This was decided to give more children the opportunity to take up these roles throughout the year.

Safeguarding



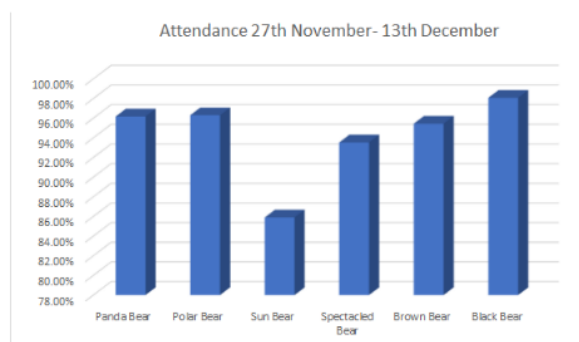
The school's safeguarding procedures are constantly being reviewed and one small change that will be actioned with immediate effect is that ***should you wish to change the pick up arrangements for***

your child on the day because for example something has cropped up and you are unable to collect, please email the request to info.busbridge@sfet.org.uk instead of calling the office. Thank you.

Attendance

The attendance at Busbridge Infant School is another proud achievement. It continues to remain high at 96.8% and above the National year to date figure of 93.6%. This is another factor key to the school's results.

In line with government guidelines, please note that any holiday during school term time will not be recorded as authorised. Please see our school [attendance policy](#) (under Admissions) for further details about the issue of penalty notices.



ACADEMIC CALENDAR FOR 2023 -2024



SPRING 2024

Start of Term: 2 January 2024

Half Term: 12 to 16 February 2024

End of Term: 28 March 2024

SUMMER 2024

Start of Term: 16 April 2024

Half Term: 27 May to 31 May 2024

End of Term: 21 July 2024

INSET Days for 2023-24

Spring Term: Monday 15th April 2024 (after Easter Holidays)

Summer Term: Monday 22nd July 2024 & Tuesday 23rd July 2024.