



Newsletter – 12th January 2024

Dear Families,



First and foremost we would like to wish all of our families a belated yet happy, healthy and exciting year ahead. We are looking forward to an exciting Spring term which will boast the much loved Book Week, including the return of Bedtime Story, as well as the start of the Mystery Reader. These are a few flavours of the term to come.

This is our second edition of our "new look" newsletter using Sway. Thank you to all those families who have already given us feedback. We're delighted that you enjoyed the new format. You will have already received our first edition of the reinstated Busbridge Bulletin which we hope you found useful and informative. Please look out for February's edition which will feature Safeguarding and Attendance. As before, any feedback on this revised publication would be welcome.



1 - The Continual Pursuit of Excellence

Kind regards,

Mrs. Jones & Mr. Heatley

Zones of Regulation Workshop



On Tuesday the 30th January at 9am we will be running a workshop around the "Zones of Regulation". Mrs. Scully has written some information about this below:

"At Busbridge Infant School we use the Zones of Regulation, an internationally renowned intervention which helps children to manage difficult emotions and to self-regulate. The zones are based around four colours, designed to help children self-identify how they are feeling and categorise it based on colour.

Sometimes we all (including adults) find it hard to manage strong feelings. This can be overwhelming and can stop us from being able to concentrate and focus. Teaching children how to recognise and manage their feelings will support them later in life so that they don't turn to negative strategies, which could affect their mental and physical well-being.

The workshop will be an opportunity to learn a little more about how we use this intervention at school and to ask any questions that you may have".

If you'd like to attend please complete this [Google Form](#).

Woodland School Volunteers



It has been wonderful to have volunteers in school helping at our popular Woodland School sessions. Last term we were very grateful to the Reception family volunteers who supported us during these sessions.

As this was so successful, we are looking to roll this out and so ask if there is anyone who would like to volunteer and support Year 1 and Year 2 bi-weekly. These sessions offer children a hands on, first hand experience in our wonderful Woodland area. Children benefit from pond dipping, den-building, habitat discovery, fire-building and more. The sessions take place on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons.

If you are interested in doing this, we'd love to hear from you, so please register your interest with the school office. Any volunteer wishing to take part will need to have a DBS check with this school and will meet with Mrs. Jones for some training before starting.

School Council and House Captains for Spring



2 - The House Captains

Congratulations to the newly appointed House Captains and School Councillors for this term. We are very happy with the decision to rotate these important roles to maximise the number of children involved. Children's voice is fundamental and this move has allowed more children a chance to have their voices heard.

The House Captains for Spring 1 are:

Jake & Lana for Team **Baloo**.

William & Charlie for Team **Paddington**.

Alice & Angelo for Team **Rupert**.

The House Team totals are on the website [here](#).

The School Council for the Spring Term are:



3 - The New School Council

Polar Bear Class: Alfie & Elizabeth.

Panda Bear Class: Cece & Matthew.

Sun Bear Class: Harry & Amber.

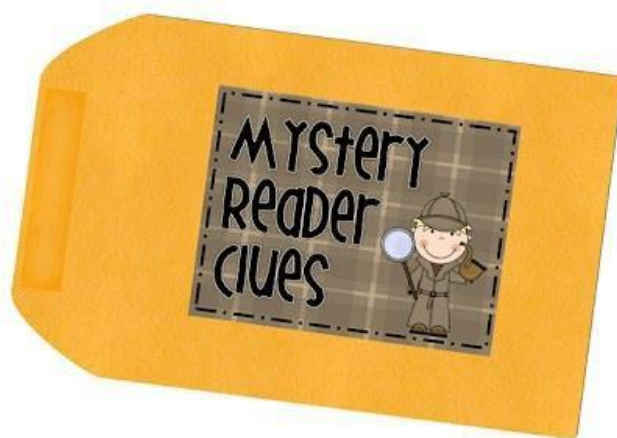
Spectacled Bear Class: Aurora & Charlie.

Brown Bear Class: Poppy & Flynn.

Black Bear Class: Ethan & Mia.

Well done to all of these children and we look forward to seeing you in action this term.

Mystery Reader Success



Today we had our first "Mystery Reader" and what a success it was! The children were so excited to see who was coming into their class to read a story. It was fantastic for the children to see family members as readers, as well as school staff. The variety of books that the adults chose was really engaging for the children. A huge success all round!

Thank you so much to all those involved, including the dedicated Class Reps who have orchestrated the Rota's for the event. We look forward to seeing who the Mystery Reader will be next week.

People who help - Can you help us?



On the week commencing the 22nd of January, the Reception children will be learning about the topic of "People Who Help Us". During this time we are looking for families who may be able to help enrich the children's learning. Therefore we are calling all doctors, nurses, members of the emergency services, scientists, vets or anyone else who feels that their job may fit into this topic.

If you are willing, we would love you to come into school and talk to the children about your job. This would be a ten minute talk about your role and how you help people.

If there are families out there who this applies to, please fill in this [Google Form](#) and Mrs. Blackaby will be in touch to arrange a time that is convenient. It may also be that we would call on you later in the year, so if you are not available in the week of 22nd January but may be throughout the year, then please respond.

Uniform Reminders



We're sure that you have noticed the drop in temperature this week. With this in mind, please can we remind you to label children's gloves, hats, scarves etc. that come into school? May we also remind you that the children come to school in their Woodland Kit on their respective day. When the weather is colder, you may wish to consider additional layers under their school jumper. Children should continue to bring their waterproof trousers and wellies to change into, as well as an additional pair of socks.

Before Christmas we noticed an influx in novelty headbands including unicorn horns and cat ears. Whilst we appreciate that these are very appealing for children, they are not appropriate for school as they can be very distracting. Please use simple hair accessories in school colours.

Finally, if your child chooses to wear shorts, a reminder that they should be wearing socks and not thermal leggings. Leggings and base layers may be worn under long trousers.

Any new school uniform can be purchased throughout the year using the link [here](#).

Events and Dates for Spring Term



- Monday 15th, Tuesday 16th, Wednesday 17th & Thursday 18th January - Stay & Read - sign up to one session.
- Tuesday 30th January - Zones of Regulation @ 9.00am.
- Friday 2nd February - PTA Adult Quiz Night - Tickets are purchased via Classlist.
- Friday 9th February - PTA "Break the Rules" day - details to follow.
- Monday 4th March - Book week, including: bouncing for books, dress-up, bedtime story and an author visit.
- Next term's family event will be an open afternoon, where the children can showcase what they have been learning at school and show off their successes. This will be held on the 15th March from 2.30pm. We will send a sign up via a Google Forms nearer the time.

- Tuesday 19th & Wednesday 20th March - Learning Together Meetings.
- Thursday 28th March - Great Busbridge Bake Off.
- Thursday 28th March - last day of term.

Safeguarding



I am pleased to inform you that we are participating in the **NSPCC's *Speak out. Stay Safe.*** programme this term. ***Speak out. Stay safe.*** is a programme for children aged 5-11 which aims to help children understand abuse in all its forms and to recognise the signs of abuse. Children are taught to speak out if they are worried, either to a safe adult or Childline.

This child friendly programme is aligned with the curriculum and consists of age appropriate virtual assemblies and supporting classroom based activities, which we have reviewed, alongside NSPCC volunteer led face to face workshops for children aged 6-7 and 9-11. The content is delivered in an engaging and interactive way with the help of the NSPCC mascot Buddy. If you would like to know more about the *Speak out. Stay safe.* programme visit www.nspcc.org.uk/speakout.

An assembly will take place on Monday 15th January for children in Years 1 & 2.

If you'd like further reading and resources, you may find the below links helpful:

Parent/Carer support

Take a look at information, support, advice and activities from NSPCC for parents and carers.

www.nspcc.org.uk/parents

Activities to extend learning at home

Take part in games and activities at home to help children learn about speaking out and staying safe.

www.nspcc.org.uk/activities

Online Safety Hub

For information on a range of different online safety topics including gaming, social media, sharing images, parental controls and more.

www.nspcc.org.uk/online-safety

Childline – under 12's

Childline have an accessible website with advice, support, games and activities. Children can change the language, enlarge text and also listen to the content.

www.childline.org.uk/buddy (5-7)

www.childline.org.uk/kids (7-11)

Talk PANTS with your children

Talk PANTS is a simple conversation to help keep children safe from sexual abuse. From P through to S, each letter of PANTS provides simple but important messages. Download the free resources at www.nspcc.org.uk/pants.

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

If you have any questions about the above information please do see one of the DSL team (Mrs Jones DSL, Mr Heatley DDSL and Mrs Scully DDSL)

Attendance & Punctuality

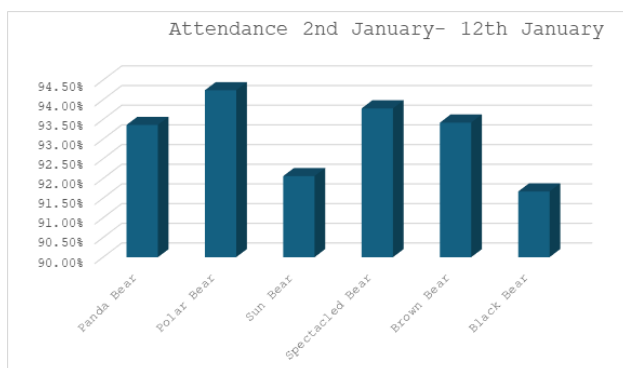


The attendance at Busbridge Infant School is another one of our proud achievements. It continues to remain high at 96.8% and above the National year to date figure of 93.6%. This is another factor key to the school's results.

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.

At the start of a new year, can we please remind families that the school gate closes at 8.55am. Please ensure that your child is in school by this time.

Attendance chart 02.01.2024 - 12.01.2024



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.

Inset Days for 2024 - 2025 are to follow, once confirmed.