



## Newsletter – 9th February 2024

Dear Families,



This half term seems to have flown by. We're sure you have noticed the evenings getting that little bit lighter which is just in time for half term.

The children have had a very successful and exciting half term. Some highlights have been: a fire engine visit, baking bread over a camp fire in Woodland School, investigating the best material for a gingerbread man and some "scary" writing in Year 2 about monsters.

We are looking forward to Spring 2 and have included some spoilers below.....

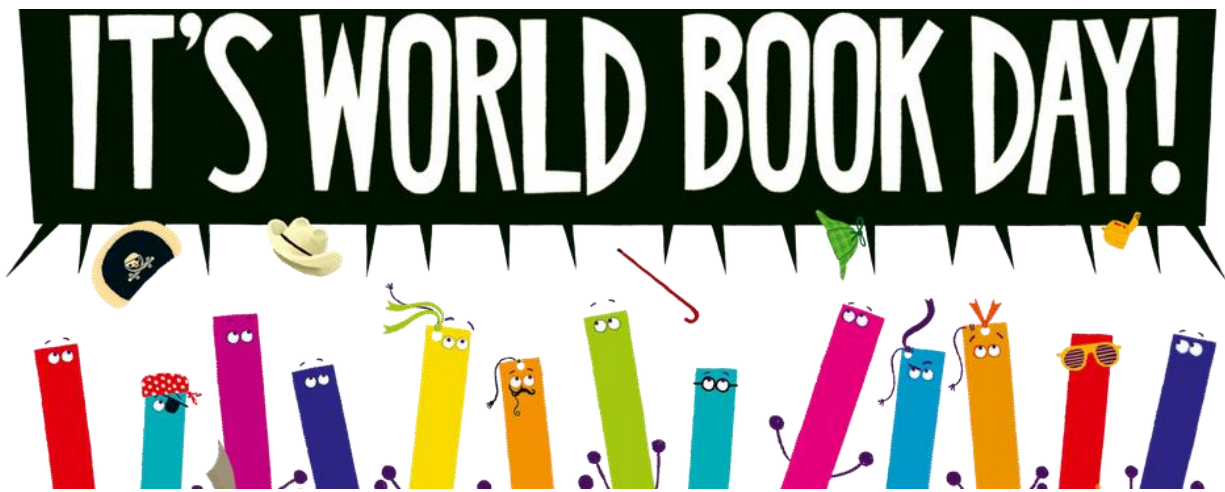
Wishing you a happy, healthy and safe half term.

Mr Heatley & Mrs Jones



1 - The Continual Pursuit of Excellence

## Book Week Spoiler



The week beginning the 4th of March will see the return of our very popular Busbridge Book Week. Mrs Jones is planning lots of exciting events and opportunities to foster the children's love of reading.

Here is a rough outline of the week:

**Monday 4th March** - The start of book week. Bring your favourite book to school (clearly labelled)

**Tuesday 5th March** - Author visit. We are excited to be welcoming Karen Inglis into school to carry out workshops with all the children. The books that she will be using are as follows:

Reception - Ferdinand Fox      Year 1 - Henry Haynes & the Great Escape and Eeek      Year 2 - The Secret Lake and Eeek

We will also be using, "The Tell-Me Tree" throughout the week in classes. This book is all about feelings and links in perfectly with our Zones of Regulation. You should have already received an email about Karen and how to order books if so desired.

Also on this day is the return of our "Bed Time Story". Children are invited back to school at 5.30pm in their PJ's, onesies & dressing gowns for a story with their teacher and they mustn't forget their favourite cuddly toy to snuggle up with. Children will also be given a drink and a biscuit.

**Wednesday 5th March** - The Masked Reader returns!

**Thursday 6th March** - This is World Book Day and we will be inviting children into school dressed as their favourite book character. On the day we will have a book character costume parade. We will also be inviting children on this day to bring in up to three "nearly new" books that they no longer want to read for a big book swap during the day. This was voted for by the school council - what a great idea!

**Friday 7th March** - Bouncing for Books. This event is run by our wonderful PTA. On this day the children bounce as many times as they can in one minute to raise money for new books for the school. Please look out for more details on this event via Classlist and the separate attachments from the PTA.

Finally, we will also be welcoming the Book Fair back where World Book Day vouchers can be used to give a £1 discount on the World Book Day books - if available. Please note vouchers will be sent home in book bags after half term.

## Values Assembly



After evaluating our "Values Assembly" we have decided to give it a new look. Instead of teachers nominating children we are now using a random selector to select four children for each of the values: ***creativity, collaboration, resilience and respect.***

The computer randomly selects one of the children's photos from a PowerPoint slide show. We have chosen this way as all our children are fantastic ambassadors of our school values and it is a good learning opportunity for them to self-reflect on how they have represented a school value. There is also the added excitement of seeing yourself and your friends on the big screen.

This week some of the children's reflections were:

"I am good at collaborating as I always tidy-up the classroom when it is tidy-up time." (A Reception child)  
- Collaboration

"I always listen to my teacher when they give me an instruction." (A Year 2 child) - Respect

"When my models break I just make them again or try to make them better." (A Reception child) - Resilience

"I was creative in the playground when I was using sticks to draw different shapes." (Year 1 child) - Creativity

The assembly also features the ever popular birthday song and of course three cheers for those children who have recently had a birthday.

## Road Safety



Last week Mrs Jones led an assembly on Road Safety. The children learnt about the rules for road safety through the power of the character "Super Cat" and his rap which encompasses the, "Stop, Look, Listen, Think" mantra. The children thought about different road safety scenarios, what they should do and what "Super Cat" did. The children also learnt about safety in cars, on bikes and other important messages.

As you are aware, we are continually reminding families about safe driving on the roads surrounding the school. However, it is important that children are not running out into the road, particularly on Hambledon Road. Even with safe driving, accidents can happen and it is important that children stay with their adult and do not run on ahead.

## Winkworth Project

We are excited to share with you our involvement in an exciting project for Winkworth Arboretum. Whilst a new visitor centre is being built, there is hoarding up to disguise the building site and we were invited to collaborate to make a short term design. This is what Winkworth said about the project...

*A section of the hoarding was used to provide visitors information about the project and as an opportunity for community engagement. The National Trust commissioned a specially designed illustration of the Arboretum which included three bare trees. Vulcan Ellis's H&S Manager, Charlotte*



*Barker, engaged with the local school who illustrated the leaves to add to the bare trees. The project was called 'Painting with Trees' linking to the original creator of Winkworth Arboretum, Dr Wilfred Fox, who described the landscape as 'Painting with Trees'.*

We are very pleased with the end result and proud of our children's creativeness. During half term why not pay Winkworth a visit and try to spot the leaves?



## Woodland Dates for Spring 2

Dates for Spring are as follows: Please look carefully as **during Book Week there will be no Woodland School**. The missed sessions for Year 2 will be made up in the last week of term.

Panda Bears: 19th February, 26th February 11th March & 18th March.

Polar Bears: 20th February, 27th February, 12th March & 19th March.

Sun Bears: 28th February & 13th March.

Spectacled Bears: 29th February & 14th March.

Brown Bears: 21st February, 20th March & 27th March.

Black Bears: 22nd February, 21st March & 25th March.

## Events and Dates for Spring Term 2



- Thursday 22nd February - World Thinking Day - Rainbows and Brownies invited to wear their uniform.
- Friday 23rd February - Team Reward - All children invited to bring a soft toy in from home in celebration of all house teams achieving 100 stars (100 completed achievement cards).
- 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. This will also be an opportunity to look at children's work, before "Learning Together Meetings" where books will not be available.
- Tuesday 19th & Wednesday 20th March - Learning Together Meetings.
- Tuesday 26th March- Easter Church Assembly for all children and Reception parents only
- Wednesday 27th March - Children's Easter competition = bonnets, masks, garden and prose.

- Thursday 28th March - Great Busbridge Bake Off. - PTA
- Thursday 28th March - last day of term.
- Friday 29th March - Good Friday - BANK HOLIDAY.

## Safeguarding



In light of a review of our first aid policy we have now added in an additional layer of assurance for children that are on prescribed or acute medicines. If your child has been prescribed a medicine or they have a need for acute medicine, we will continue to ask you to fill out a form (which are available from the school office). Once you fill in a medicine consent form, we send home a white slip, which will inform you of the time that your child had their medicine administered, in line with your instructions.

May we also highlight end of day arrangements. Once children have been dismissed by school staff at 3.15pm or 4.15pm (from enrichment clubs) they are then in the care of the adult that is picking them up. Our staff are vigilant on gates and are there to support families as best we can.

## Attendance & Punctuality

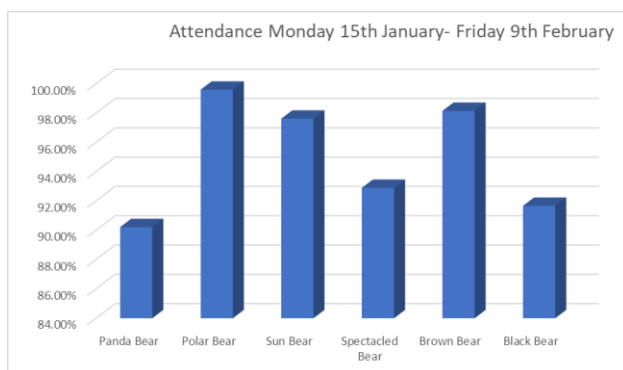


The attendance at Busbridge Infant School is another one of our proud achievements. It continues to remain high at 96.8% and above the National year to date figure of 93.6%. This is another factor key to the school's results.

***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 15.01.2024 - 09.02.2024



## 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.**