



Newsletter – 8th March 2024

Dear Families,



It's been a very busy and exciting couple of weeks here at school. The children have thoroughly enjoyed **Book Week**. We were blown away with the costumes and efforts that had been put in. It was also a joy to see the children return to school in their pyjamas and enjoy a bedtime story, as well as meeting the fabulous author **Karen Inglis**. Please look out for the next newsletter which will feature a Book Week round up.

As we move towards Easter there are lots more exciting learning opportunities and events for the children. This includes the ever popular Easter competition where families are asked to get creative at home by making either an Easter Bonnet, Easter Garden or write some prose. We thoroughly look forward to seeing these in school on **Wednesday 27th March**. We are also looking forward to inviting families into school for a Celebration Afternoon (Friday 15th March) and Learning Together Meetings (Tuesday 19th & Wednesday 20th March). We are grateful for our strong relationships with our families and these events really amplify this.

Kind Regards,

Mr. Heatley & Mrs. Jones



1 - The Continual Pursuit of Excellence

Reception Trip to Little Street



Last Friday the children in Reception went on their first school trip to **Little Street**. Mrs Blackaby said this about the day...

"The Reception children loved their trip to Little Street! This exciting educational trip ignited their curiosity and sparked their imaginations as they submerged themselves into hands-on discovery of the mini world around them. They were able to imitate everyday experiences at their own level and in a child friendly way. The children took turns with resources, communicated with their friends and created 'shopping experiences', 'shows', 'people that help us scenes' and even a little bit of 'pampering in the salon' with some of the teachers! We were so proud of all the children who were fantastic ambassadors for the school".





House Captains for Spring 2



Congratulations to the Year 2 House Captains who were voted in this half term. They have already had a meeting with Mrs. Jones to vote on their next reward (for reaching 150 stars, by completing 150 achievement cards). They unanimously voted for a Numbots Day - please read about this below.

The House Captains will also be helping with the judging of the Easter Competition.

Congratulations to:

Team Baloo - Emilia & Zola.

Team Paddington - Isabelle & Tabitha.

Team Rupert - Dougie and Wilfred.

Science Week



In the Summer Term, we will be celebrating British Science Week from **Monday 22nd April to Friday 26th April**. (Officially, British Science Week is the 8th until the 17th of March.) We don't want to miss this opportunity as we are extremely lucky to have one of our talented parents help us, which is why we have chosen these dates.

Get ready for *BLAST OFF* on **Thursday 14th March** when Liz Avery from the [Royal Observatory Greenwich](#) will be coming into school to run science activities to celebrate British Science Week.

For Reception and Year One - Liz will be doing readings of her book 'Ted's Great Space Adventure' and would love for the children to bring along their most adventurous cuddly toy to join the crew before they all head off into space on a cosmic adventure.

For Year Two - Liz will be running workshops about either stars or gas giant planets depending on which class your child is in.

As part of all the activities, Liz will run a question and answer session. If your child is still brimming with questions after the day, you can find lots of activities and resources at [Learning at home with the Royal Observatory](#) and [The Royal Observatory Greenwich YouTube channel](#). Top tip; the animated videos are especially handy.

We look forward to this day and watch this space (!) for upcoming plans for Science Week in the Summer Term.

Numbots Day



Please read the below from our fantastic Maths lead; Miss Daughtry, who also gets a special mention for all her hardwork and dedication. Thank you Miss Daughtry!

"We have been so incredibly proud of how well the children have responded to Numbots. The buzz around Maths around the school has been wonderful to see and hear. A number of children in Year 2 have now reached the highest levels in the story mode and some have completed this first feature of the game. Teachers are regularly monitoring the children's levels and allowing time over the week for children to access their Numbots accounts to move their learning on. It has certainly seemed to have the impact on fluency that we had hoped for!

Please be reminded to monitor your child(ren) when they are playing Numbots at home, to ensure that the children are not becoming frustrated and disinterested by not being able to complete the level. Helping the children with the technology element is fine (although this is a great skill for them to work on themselves, moving forward) but if they are stuck, it is best to read back through the strategy with them that is suggested in the Information button or allow for some time in Challenge Mode to rehearse that skill. If levels are completed for the children, not only does it take away from the child's success but will also mean that they are not going to be fluent enough to move forward confidently with other levels. We still suggest no more than 5 to 10 minutes a day to keep the children motivated.

As part of our House Team reward system, the children have voted to have a Numbots day at school. We cannot wait for them to reach this goal! We will be making Numbot masks in school, awarding extra certificates for different skills, taking our Maths learning outside (if the weather improves), listening to stories about our favourite characters and of course trying out some new and exciting Maths challenges.

More information will follow about this day as the totals get closer and what a lovely win for the school that the children are seeing Maths as a reward!"

Pantosaruas



On Thursday 22nd February Mrs Scully led a "Pantosaurus" Assembly. This assembly is produced by the NSPCC and is a nationwide resource that has been successfully going for ten years. It was developed in consultation with children, families and teachers.

Here are the five key messages that were delivered:

1. Privates are private
2. Always remember your body belongs to you
3. No means no.
4. Talk about secrets that upset you.
5. Speak up, someone can help.

The children watched Natalie Dormer tell the story of the 'Pantosaurus and the Power of PANTS' and they learnt the Pantosaurus song. The main message that the children took away was that if someone asks to see or touch under your pants, you say a loud 'NO' and tell a trusted adult.

If you would like to learn more about how to talk to your children about this subject, here is a link:
<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/pants-underwear-rule/>

Woodland "Groundforce" day- Tuesday 26th March



At Busbridge Infant School we are so lucky to have such a wonderful Woodland area but as all you keen gardeners out there will know, it does need continual attention and that tender loving care!

Therefore, we are calling for any families that can set to work in the Woodland on a Spring tidy and help to clear up.

Miss Walker will be leading the team of volunteers and whether you can give half an hour, an hour, all morning or all day, all help is appreciated. If you would like to help, please email the school office. On this day we ask that volunteers bring in their own tools, gloves etc.

On this topic, we are also asking if anyone has or knows anyone that could donate the following: wood chip, edging for paths, woodland plants or flowers.

Events and Dates for Spring Term 2



- Thursday 13th March - Science Celebration: Year R and Y1 to bring an "adventure" teddy.
- Friday 15th March - Celebration afternoon from 2.30pm - entry via both gates.
- Tuesday 19th & Wednesday 20th March - Learning Together Meetings.
- Tuesday 26th March - Woodland "Groundforce" day.
- Tuesday 26th March - Easter Church Assembly for all children. Reception families and choir families only - please be seated in the Church for a 2.15pm start.
- Wednesday 27th March - Children's Easter competition = bonnets, masks, garden and prose - please take entries to the hall before school. Please ensure these are clearly labelled.
- Thursday 28th March - Great Busbridge Bake Off. PTA - please take entries to the Nest before school.

- Thursday 28th March - last day of term. 3.15pm finish.
- Friday 29th March - Good Friday - BANK HOLIDAY.

Safeguarding



May we remind families that we are a no nut school. In light of this reminder, please can families ensure that all packed lunches and afterschool club snacks are nut free. We thank you for your cooperation in keeping everyone safe.

Attendance & Punctuality

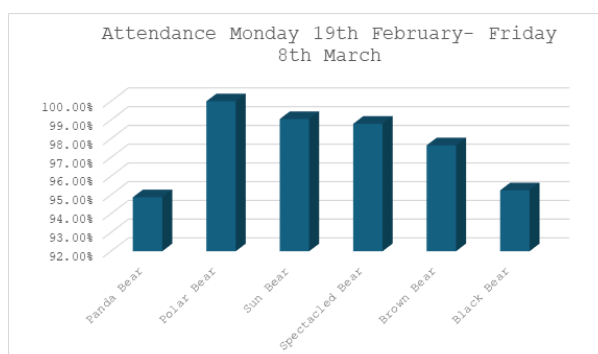


We are delighted to share with you the success of our whole school attendance for the Autumn term. Busbridge Infant School were in the top 10% of FFT (Fischer Family Trust) Schools for excellent attendance. Well done everyone for your contributions to this.

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.

Attendance chart 19.2.24 to 8.3.24

Attendance chart 19.02-08.03



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