

Newsletter – Friday 7th November



Dear Families,

Welcome back to what we think is a really exciting and magical term! It's already off to a fantastic start with an inspiring talk from Smart Phone Free Childhood (see attachment via this week's newsletter) and another successful school tour for prospective 2026 Reception families. We're always so proud to show off our wonderful school, with children working hard, taking great pride in their learning, and displaying such lovely manners. **This term is a busy one, so please do take some time to familiarise yourself** with all the fun festivities and events we have planned — it's set to be a memorable one!

With warm wishes,

Mrs. Chalk & Mrs. Jones



Year 2 Visit to Shah Jahan Mosque



Our Year 2 children had a wonderful time visiting the Shah Jahan Mosque in Woking. They were warmly welcomed by the Imam and enjoyed exploring the beautiful mosque, learning about its different parts and their significance. The children took part in some fantastic activities and showed our school value of *Respect* brilliantly throughout their visit. They were so inspired by what they saw that, later in afterschool club, we even spotted some of them recreating the mosque out of LEGO — a true sign of their curiosity and enthusiasm!





Anti-Bullying Week & Children in Need

Anti-bullying Week

Anti-bullying week kicks off on **Monday the 10th of November** where we invite children to **wear odd socks** to celebrate our individual differences. There will be an assembly in which this year's theme of 'Power for Good' will be introduced, children will learn what bullying is and become familiar with the acronym 'STOP' – Several Times On Purpose.

Throughout the week, children will learn how they can use their 'Power for Good' and participate in a poster making competition to promote this. They will also listen to stories that relate to themes such as celebrating differences and being kind.

Children in Need

Please read the message below from our school councillors:

On **Friday 14th November** at 3.15pm, we will be holding a cake sale to raise money for Children in Need. We would be grateful if you could donate some delicious, nut-free bakes and bring them to the nest on the morning of the 14th to support this special charity.



Christmas Celebrations



It's coming! Only 48 sleeps to go... Christmas is such a magical time for us here at school. We have lots of fun and exciting learning opportunities in store. We are also aware of how this can cause additional organisation and stress for our families, so please read the information below carefully to help you keep abreast of what's coming up for Christmas. Please expand each window to see the detail in more detail.

What? Create & Make Family Event at School

When? Friday 28th November at 2.45pm (entry via Pre-school or Hambledon Road gates only)

Who? Pre-school, Reception, Year 1 & 2. No siblings other than babes in arms.

What else do I need to know?

One parent, carer or relative is welcome to join their child's class to enjoy a session of creating and making something Christmassy! If you have multiple children then two adults are welcome (one per child) or you can split the time across your children. In the latter scenario, we'd suggest starting with the youngest and telling the eldest so they know they can start their crafting

without you. Due to space, we are unable to accommodate any siblings, unless they are babes in arms.

The class teacher will have organised the resources for the activity, so you only need to come along and enjoy learning with your child. Please complete the online [form](#) to indicate who will be coming, as we only have space for one adult per child. It is very important to complete this so that we know which children to pair up, if you are unable to make it.



What? Christingle Service

When? Wednesday 3rd December at 2.30pm (please be seated by this time)

Where? Busbridge church

Who? Year 2 children & families only

What else do I need to know?

Year 2 families are welcome to attend the service at Busbridge Church. There will be **no** Woodland for Brown Bears on this day. As this is also Christmas jumper day, children will wear their Christmas jumper with their uniform to the Church.



What? Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas Lunch at School

When? Wednesday 3rd December

Who? Whole School & Pre-school

What else do I need to know?

Children are invited into school, wearing a Christmas jumper over their usual uniform. They may also bring in one piece of headwear (a Christmas hat or Christmas head boppers) to put in their tray and wear at lunchtime on this day. if your child has a packed lunch but would like a Christmas lunch then please let us know [here](#).



What? Elfridges PTA Christmas Shopping Event for All Children at School in the Creative Cave

When? Friday 5th December

Who? Whole School & Pre-school

What else do I need to know?

For more information, please see Classlist



A Joyful Christmas

What? Christmas Production "**Whoopsie Daisy Angel**" in the Hall

When? **Tuesday 9th December at 9.10am and Wednesday 10th December at 2.15pm.** At both shows, doors will open 15 minutes before the show starts. *Please note, entry will be via the Hambleton Road entrance only.*

Who? Pre-school & Reception families only

Costume: An email regarding costumes/ lines etc will be communicated with you next week.

For the dress rehearsal to the school on Monday 8th and the afternoon performance to the parents on the 10th, children should attend school in their uniform with their costume in a bag but for the morning performance on the 9th, children should arrive at school wearing their costume with their uniform in a bag.

What else do I need to know?

In the first instance, two tickets per child can be booked across the two performances. Once bookings have been finalised, you will receive paper tickets in your child's book bag. For health & safety reasons, it is essential that tickets are brought to the performance to gain entry, due to seating numbers. The deadline for ordering your tickets is **Friday 14th November**. With the exception of children who are under five (who will need to sit on a lap) older siblings will need their own ticket.

You can make your preferred booking [here](#) on a first come, first served basis. Please only select your two tickets on the form. Once tickets have been distributed, we will let you know if there are any extras.

To support the school further, we would be most grateful if you could make a voluntary contribution via Scopay [here](#) (please add the amount you would like to donate & then checkout) or there will be the opportunity to do this after each performance using cash.



A Joyful Christmas

What? "Christmas in Concert" in the hall

When? Tuesday 16th December at 2.15pm and Wednesday 17th December at 9.10am. At both shows doors will open 15 minutes before the show starts. *Please note, entry will be via the Hambledon Road entrance only.*

Who? Year 1 & 2 families only

Costumes: A Christmas jumper and blue denim jeans for all.

for the dress rehearsal to the school on Monday 15th and the afternoon performance to the parents on the 16th, children should attend school in their uniform with their costume in a bag but for the morning performance on the 17th, children should arrive at school wearing their costume with their uniform in a bag.

What else do I need to know?

In the first instance, two tickets per child can be booked across the two performances. Once bookings have been finalised, you will receive paper tickets in your child's book bag. For health & safety reasons, it is essential that tickets are brought to the performance to gain entry, due to seating numbers. The deadline for ordering your tickets is **Friday 14th November**. With the exception of children who are under five, (who will need to sit on a lap) older siblings will need their own ticket.

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What? Class Christmas Parties

When? Friday 19th December during the afternoon for the main school. Between 9am and 10:15am for Pre-school

Who? Whole School & Pre-school

What else do I need to know?

Children should wear their Christmas party clothes all day (please ensure their footwear is sensible for outdoor play at break and lunchtime). All children are asked to bring one nut-free party snack for the afternoon (this could be a packet of crisps or a biscuit not a lunch box as children will have only just eaten their lunch) in a labelled pot or bag.



Website Calendar



Following feedback from one of our families, we have now added colour coding to our school website calendar to help you streamline and keep abreast of upcoming events for your child's year group. These are as follows:

Light Green = Pre-school

Blue = Reception

Yellow = Year 1

Purple = Year 2

Green = Main School (YR, Y1 & Y2)

Grey = Whole School

You can view our school calendar [here](#).

Lunchtime Play Volunteers Needed!

We are looking for committed volunteers to help support play at lunchtime. This is a fantastic opportunity for anyone interested in gaining experience in a school setting or who would simply like to be part of our friendly team. Volunteers are needed between **11.55am and 1.00pm**, and you can choose to help for **one day a week or more**—whatever suits your schedule.

A **valid DBS** will be required, and we will provide full training before you start. If you're interested, please **email us to enquire**.

News from Busbridge Pre-school



The Pre-School children have returned happily this half term, reconnecting with the friendships they began to build earlier in the term. It's been lovely to see everyone so settled and confident in their learning environment.

This half term, we've also begun an exciting new journey: tuning into sounds. This week, we introduced our very first sound of the week! Each day, the children have enjoyed taking part in sound games and rhyme time sessions, showing great curiosity and enthusiasm as they learn to

listen carefully and explore new sounds. We'll be introducing a new sound each week, a wonderful next step in their pre-school learning journey.

We're also looking forward to welcoming families to our next Stay and Play session on Tuesday 25th November 9.15-9.45am. If you would like to join us you can sign up [here](#). It's a lovely opportunity for little ones to explore, play, and make new friends. If you know a friend, neighbour, or family member who might enjoy joining us, please feel free to spread the word.

Safeguarding

Inconsiderate Parking

We would like to remind all families that safe and considerate parking around school is an important part of our safeguarding commitment. Recently, several vehicles have been blocked in on the surrounding roads, neighbours' drives have been blocked, and, unfortunately, a member of staff's car has been badly damaged.

We understand that mornings can be busy, but unsafe or inconsiderate parking puts children, families, and neighbours at risk. Please work with us to keep everyone safe by:

- **Walking to school** where possible.
- **Parking a little further away** and walking the last part of the journey.
- **Allowing extra time** in the morning to avoid "panic parking."

Finally, can we please remind families that the same expectations apply at breakfast club and for after school clubs. **There is no parking allowed in the staff carpark and turning here is not permitted either.**

Thank you for your cooperation and support in keeping our school community safe and respectful for everyone.

Mobile Phones

A reminder that our school is a **mobile phone-free zone**. Please **finish all calls before entering the gates on Hambledon Road or Chestnut Way**.

We ask families **not to use phones on school grounds** so everyone can be **present** when collecting their children and to help **safeguard our community**.

Children are not permitted to bring phones to school under any circumstances.

Thank you for your support!

Children's Services

If you have a concern about a child or young person being abused or neglected, or an adult who is concerned about a young person's safety and wellbeing during the weekend or school holidays, please remember that you can contact Surrey Children's Services' Single Point of Access, also known as CSPA. Lines are open between 9am and 5pm from Monday to Friday.

The telephone number for CSPA is 0300 470 9100 or for out of hours, the emergency number is 01483 517898.

Attendance



New attendance rules!


There are new rules for unauthorised absences, whether this is due to holiday, irregular attendance, or otherwise. Don't get caught out!

1 I'm a single parent of one child and we want to go on holiday for 5 days.

Make sure you use the absence request form. Your holiday will not be authorised. Let the school know before you book anything. As your child will miss 5 school days, you'll be given a penalty notice fine.


1 parent & 1 child = £160
Reduced to £80 if paid in 21 days

For each child a penalty is given...
+£160 +£160 +£160 +£160
1 parent & 4 children = £640
Reduced to £320 if paid in 21 days



For a family of 2 parents & 4 children

+£160 +£160 +£160 +£160
£1280
Reduced to £640 if paid in 21 days



What happens if school suspects children are actually on holiday?

Photos on Facebook?
Foreign mobile dial tone?
Other children talking about your holiday?
Amazing sun tan?
Home visit shows no-one at home?

Please don't be offended if we ask for evidence or mention these questions to you. We're required to do this to ensure a fair system!



2 What about subsequent absences? Is it still the same penalty amount?

No, not anymore. If in any period of not more than 3 years, your child has a 2nd and 3rd leave of absence OR pattern of irregular attendance, which is unauthorised, then...

2nd TIME
2 parents and...
1 child = £320
2 children = £640
3 children = £960
4 children = £1280
NO DISCOUNT FOR EARLY PAYMENT


3rd TIME
A penalty notice fine will not be given. Instead, your case will be taken to court. A magistrate can fine each parent £2,500 for each child.
1 parent & 4 children = £10,000
2 parents and 4 children = £20,000

3 What about irregular attendance? Could I get a penalty notice? **YES**

If your child is absent for 10 or more sessions in 10 weeks, and their absences are unauthorised, then the school is required to consider penalty notices / prosecution.

PENALTY!

So, half a day here and day there could all add up to 10 sessions in 10 weeks. If unauthorised, then it would be a penalty notice. Remember, 1 day is 2 sessions (morning and afternoon).




4 What are typical reasons given that won't be authorised?

Examples of unauthorised absences

A family member's birthday	Sickness of parent or sibling
Shopping for uniforms	Sibling's school closed
Inadequate clothing for school	Refusing to attend, but able to
Child being used as a carer	Poor family organisation
Problems with transport	Family holidays
	No absence request completed

Where attendance is irregular, or historically poor, sickness absences may be unauthorised unless medical confirmation by a GP surgery is given.



EVERY DAY COUNTS – ATTEND TODAY, ACHIEVE TOMORROW

Attendance

Attendance is a safeguarding priority.

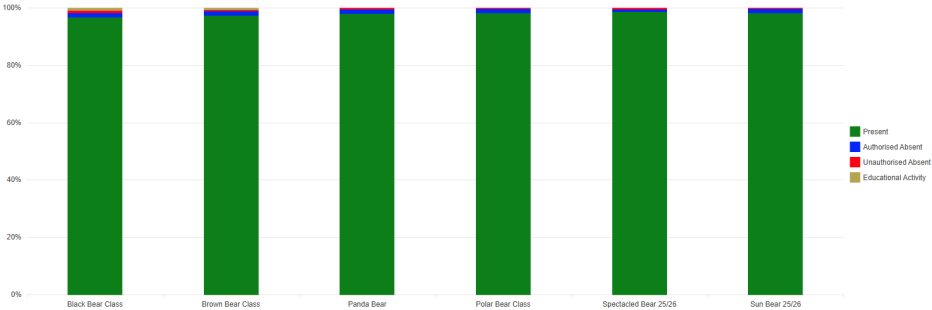
Let's make sure every child has the chance to shine! Regular school attendance and punctuality is crucial for academic success, building friendships, and developing essential life skills

Please book any routine appointments during the school holidays. If this is not possible, please make sure children are missing the least amount of education as possible by just leaving school for the allocated appointment time. Where possible, children should attend school before or after their appointment. **Every minute counts.** Better still, please try to book the appointment for the end of the school day.

Please remember, as per our policy and our recent communication, that we do not authorise term-time holidays and that we do fine families accordingly.

Attendance 06.10.2025-07.11.2025

Attendance chart



Events and dates for Autumn 2



November

Tuesday 25th & Thursday 27th - Wreath Making for adults. PTA event

Friday 28th - Create and Make family event: see details above

December

Monday 1st - Christmas Post Box opens for Christmas cards, please label with the child's first name and initial letter of their surname and class

Wednesday 3rd - Christmas Jumper day and Christmas lunch

Wednesday 3rd - Christingle Service at the Church for Y2 children and families

Friday 5th - Elfridges: PTA Christmas sale

Monday 8th - Pre-school and Reception Dress Rehearsal to the school

Tuesday 9th - Pre-school & Reception Nativity to parents

Wednesday 10th - Preschool & Reception Nativity to parents

Tuesday 16th - Year 1 & 2 Christmas Concert

Wednesday 17th - Year 1 & 2 Christmas Concert

Wednesday 17th - Main School to the Church, children only

Friday 19th - Class Christmas Parties

Friday 19th - End of term at 3.15pm

Remember to check our website for dates further ahead and for Woodland days

Dates for the Academic Year 2025 -2026

AUTUMN 2025

Start of Term: Friday 5 September 2025 **Half Term:** 27 October to 31 October 2025 **End of Term:** 19 December 2025

SPRING 2026

Start of Term: 5 January 2026 **Half Term:** 16 to 20 February 2026 **End of Term:** 27 March 2026

SUMMER 2026

Start of Term: 13 April 2026 **Half Term:** 25 May to 29 May 2026 **End of Term:** 17 July 2026

*** Remaining Inset Days for 2025-2026 are Monday 20th & Tuesday 21st July 2026*

**** In October 2026, in line with Surrey schools, we will be closed for a 2 week half term between the 19th and 30th October.*