



Newsletter – Friday 5th December



Dear Families,

It has been an exciting yet busy few weeks in school. We've jumped straight into the Christmas season with our delicious Christmas lunch (thank you to our wonderful catering team at Twelve15) — it was wonderful to see the variety of festive jumpers and the joy on children's faces as they pulled their crackers. Our library has had a touch of Christmas magic added to it, and the whole school is looking beautifully festive. It truly is a magical time of year.

We are also mindful that this season can feel overwhelming for some children (and families too), and we are doing everything we can to support everyone through this busy period.

We're looking forward to our performances over the next few weeks and we can't wait to welcome you into school.

With warm wishes,

Mrs. Chalk & Mrs. Jones



1 - The Continual Pursuit of Excellence

Create & Make

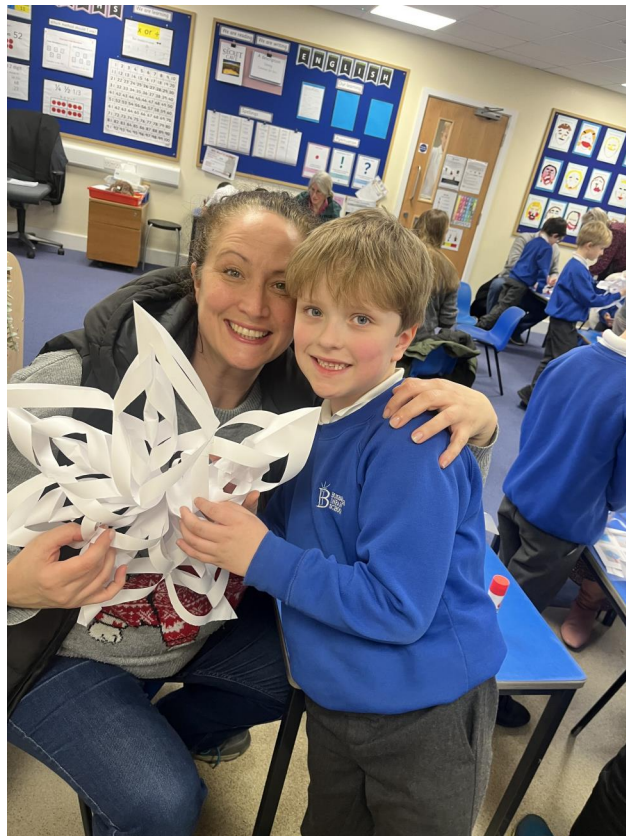


Our **Create and Make** event was a huge success. It was lovely to see children collaborating with their adult and friends throughout the afternoon. Together, they crafted **giant snowflakes**, **green Christmas tree cones**, **wooden Christmas trees**, and **hand-painted candle jars**. Our school value of **creativity** was on full display in every corner of the room.

It was a wonderful community event, and fantastic to see a wide range of family members joining in — many even teaming up with other children. The generosity, kindness, and teamwork shown was truly heart-warming.

Community events like this are so important, so **thank you for taking the time to join us** and for making it such a special occasion.







Year 2 Christingle

Year 2 visited the church for their beautiful **Christingle service**. The children created their own Christingles (thank you to the church for providing all the resources) and learned about the meaning of each part during their RE lesson.

It was wonderful to see every child walking down the church aisle with their lit Christingle, showing great care and respect. The service was filled with singing (including some lovely contributions from parents), a life sized Christingle with a "real life" Ben from the Church, and moments of reflection.

A huge **thank you to the church (particularly Ben for being such a good sport in his inflatable costume)** for leading this very special service.

Year 2, you did us proud.









Christmas Celebrations



We have had a wonderful first week of December with lots more still in store.....here is a reminder of the upcoming events. Top tips have been added to the show information to help you know where your child's class will be positioned during their performance as well as information about where to wait before each show.

Pre-school and Reception present Whoopsie Daisy Angel!

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

For the morning performance you will be asked to queue outside the Hambledon Rd green gate only - unfortunately you will not be able to wait in your seat as we will be busy getting ready for you.

Top Tip: Panda Bear class will be seated to the left of the stage (as you look at it) and Polar Bears to the right of the stage. Bear Cubs will enter down the middle aisle half way through and will be seated centrally on the stage.

Costume:

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/Woodland outfit in a bag.

Please note children will be barefoot on the stage.

What else do I need to know?

For health & safety reasons, it is essential that tickets are brought to the performance to gain entry.



Year 1 and 2 present Christmas in Concert

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

For the morning performance you will be asked to queue outside the Hambledon Rd green gate- unfortunately you will not be able to wait in your seat as we will be busy getting ready for you.

Top Tip: Sun Bears and Black Bears will be seated to the left of the stage (as you look at it) and Spectacled Bears and Brown Bears will be seated to the right of the stage (as you look at it).

Costumes: A Christmas jumper and blue denim jeans for all (children will be bare foot for the show)

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?

For health & safety reasons, it is essential that tickets are brought to the performance to gain entry.



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.



Stay & Puzzle

We are excited to invite families to join us for a special **Stay & Puzzle** session taking place on **Monday 12th to Thursday 15th**, from **8.45–9.00am**.

Please **sign up using this [Google form](#)**.

This event is a fantastic chance for children and adults to work together and explore the *reasoning* side of mathematics.

Key information:

- Attend **one session** during the week (8.45–9.00am).
- Families with more than one child may bring **two adults**, or **book separate slots**.
- If you cannot attend, **your child will still complete the puzzle-based maths activity in class**.

We look forward to welcoming you and sharing in some collaborative mathematical thinking!

Anxiety Workshop for families



Workshop Overview – 14th January, 9am (in the hall)

This workshop is designed for families of children who experience or may experience anxiety, frequent worries, or fears in the future. It's ideal for children who seek constant reassurance, struggle with separation, feel intensely shy, have difficulty sleeping, show strong fears, or rely on repeated routines to ease their worries. Please do try to attend if you can.

Please fill in this [form](#) if you'd like to attend.

Uniform Update

Following requests from families, we have now added **smart, black, flat ankle boots** to our approved **winter uniform footwear** options.

As the weather gets colder, we also recommend that children have **navy joggers or leggings** in their PE bag to ensure they stay warm and comfortable during outdoor PE sessions.

Thank you for your continued support in helping pupils come to school prepared for the season.

Thank you to our PTA

Our PTA has been incredibly busy this season, organising Christmas tree sales, wreath-making sessions, and the ever-popular **Elfridges**. These events provide such lovely opportunities for our families, and the children absolutely loved their Elfridges experience today. We are truly grateful for all the hard work, care, and time that goes into making these events so successful.

We are also thankful for the beautiful Christmas trees the PTA purchased for the school — they have brought so much festive joy to our corridors and classrooms.

Looking ahead, we are eagerly awaiting planning permission for our exciting **fire pit woodland canopy**, which the PTA are generously funding. *Watch this space...*

The funds raised by the PTA are so valued and essential. They help us enhance our school environment and create opportunities that simply wouldn't be possible without this support. A huge thank you to the reps for leading these initiatives and to all our volunteers for your continued dedication and generosity.



2 - A sneak preview of our "potential" woodland project

News from Busbridge Pre-school



Over the last few weeks, the children have been exploring a wonderful variety of topics through stories, play, and hands-on experiences. Our focus books have encouraged the children to listen carefully and join in, especially as they spotted rhyming words throughout the stories. Rhyming plays an important role in early language development, it helps children tune into the sounds within words, supports listening and speaking skills, and builds strong foundations for future phonological awareness.

We have also been thinking about what makes each of us special. The children explored similarities and differences between people and learned about different cultures from around the world. Using an atlas, they looked closely at our planet and discovered how information books can help us find answers and learn new facts. A highlight of the month was learning a little French as we sang *Frère Jacques* together, something the children agreed was lots of fun!

We have been diving into exciting new learning all about our solar system. After sharing our book of the week, *Aliens Love Underpants*, the children developed their Communication and Language skills by listening to the story, joining in with key phrases, and chatting about planets, stars, and the wonders of space. The colourful underpants in the story also inspired us to explore simple repeating patterns, and the children enjoyed creating their own patterned designs.

It's been an exciting and busy run-up to Christmas so far! This week, we enjoyed a delicious Christmas lunch while wearing our colourful festive jumpers. We also took part in Elfridges, carefully choosing special gifts for our families.

Safeguarding

Online Safety Update

The new Online Safety Bill brings stronger rules to help keep children safe online. Games like *Roblox* have been a particular worry because of unsafe behaviour from strangers. To help protect young players, *Roblox* is adding new safety features, including age checks using facial analysis and optional ID checks for users over 13. These changes are designed to make sure people are who they say they are and to create safer online play. More information is available on the SWGfL website.

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

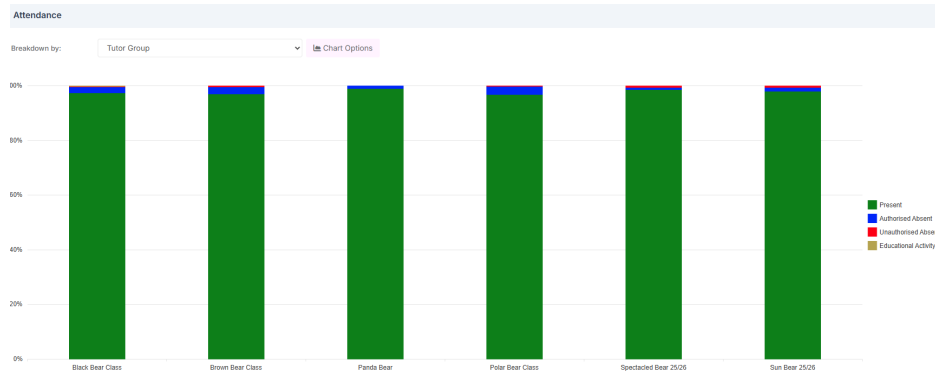
Attendance is a safeguarding priority.

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

Consistent attendance helps build friendships, social skills, and good habits, while missing school can cause a child to fall behind and struggle to catch up.

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 10.11.2025-05.12.2025



Events and dates for December and..... 2026



December

Monday 8th - Pre-school and Reception dress rehearsal to the school

Tuesday 9th & Wednesday 10th - Pre-school & Reception Nativity to parents

Tuesday 16th & Wednesday 17th - Year 1 & 2 Christmas Concert

Wednesday 17th - Reception - Year 2 to the Church, children only

Friday 19th - Class Christmas Parties

Friday 19th - End of term at 3.15pm

January

Monday 5th - First day of Spring term

Tuesday 6th - Open Morning for September 2026 Reception starters

Monday 12th - Thursday 15th - Stay and Puzzle - 8.45am- 9am. Sign up to one session please

Wednesday 14th - Anxiety Workshop for families

February

Friday 6th- PTA Adult Quiz

Monday 16th - Friday 20th - Half Term

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

Dates for the Academic Year 2025 -2026

SPRING 2026

Start of Term: 5 January 2026
of Term: 27 March 2026

Half Term: 16 to 20 February 2026

End

SUMMER 2026

Start of Term: 13 April 2026
of Term: 17 July 2026

Half Term: 25 May to 29 May 2026

End

**** 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.**