



Newsletter – Friday 9th January

Dear Families,

Welcome back and a belated Happy New Year to you all – here's to a year of happiness and health.

It is already proving to be a busy and exciting term for the children, with the exciting erection of our new woodland canopy starting next week. The children have been delighted to be back in school and have made a fantastic start to 2026. The recent snowfall made their return even more special, and it was wonderful to see and hear the awe in their eyes and the squeals of excitement as they experienced the snow together.

With warm wishes,

Mrs. Chalk & Mrs. Jones



1 - The Continual Pursuit of Excellence

Cold Weather Procedures



Please ensure your children come to school dressed appropriately for very cold weather. This includes a **warm coat, hat and gloves**, all clearly **named**. We also recommend that children wear **suitable footwear for their journey to and from school in icy or snowy conditions** and bring their school black shoes or school black, flat ankle boots in a separate bag so they can change on arrival.

Children who do **not** come to school with a coat will unfortunately **not be able to play outside** during cold weather, as we must prioritise their health and safety.

In the unlikely event that the school needs to close due to severe weather, we will endeavour to inform parents by **7:45** via **email** and we will post an update on the **school website**.

Exciting Updates at School

We are delighted to share some exciting developments taking place at school.

Woodland Canopy Installation

Our new woodland canopy will be installed on **Monday**, and we are incredibly excited about this fantastic addition. We are extremely grateful to the **PTA and all our families** whose support has enabled us to provide this for the children. The canopy will greatly enhance and support our woodland learning sessions, allowing children to make the most of this space in all weathers.

With Monday in mind, **Chestnut Way will be open as usual**. However, once you enter the school site, we kindly ask that you **stick to the path when making your way to the classrooms** and **do not walk across the astro area**, as this will be in use for installation materials.

Outdoor Lighting Installation

We are also pleased to share that the installation of our new **outdoor lighting** took place on Wednesday. Thank you to everyone who donated so generously to the Christmas show performances. Your donations were an enormous support to this invaluable improvement, which will make drop-off and pick-up **safer for everyone during the winter months**

Spring Term House Captains



Congratulations to our newly appointed House Captains, as they take up their roles for the Spring Term.

Baloo: Ariadne and Nathan

Rupert: Kara and George

Paddington: Jack and Matthew

Staffing News

Happy Retirement

We would like to take this opportunity to wish **Mrs Charles** a very happy retirement at the end of **this half term**. With **30 years in education**, she has been a valued and dedicated member of staff and has been a real asset to our school since joining us **seven years ago**. She will be greatly missed by both staff and children alike.

We would like to thank Mrs Charles for her **hard work, kindness and care**, and for the positive impact she has had on all the children she has worked with during her time with us.

Mrs Charles is looking forward to spending more time with her **young grandchildren** and is also planning a return trip to **Thailand for her son's wedding**. We wish her **all the very best** for a happy and well-deserved retirement.

Welcome back

We are **delighted to welcome Mrs Wilson back from maternity leave!** She will be teaching a range of children across the school, helping to **boost learning across different subjects**.

This is fantastic news for all children, as it provides support for those who need **extra help**, while also offering opportunities for **stretch and challenge** for others.

The children were thrilled to see Mrs Wilson and have all been asking about **baby Owen**.

Welcome back, Mrs Wilson – we're so happy to have you with us again!



2 - Welcome back Mrs Wilson



3 - Good Luck Mrs Charles

Are you interested in working in a school?

We are seeking a **dedicated and enthusiastic individual** to join our **outstanding staff team** as a **Teaching Assistant**. In this role you will work closely with children to support their learning and development.

If you are interested, or know someone who may be, please **contact the school office** for further information.

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 January** 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) and enter via your child's classroom door.
- 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.

O.W.L.S. (Outdoor Woodland Learning Sessions for 2+)



Our next block of **4 sessions** starts on **Friday 23rd January**. Come and explore our **outdoor woodland sessions** in our school grounds. Sessions cost **£8 per child**, per session or **£30 for a block of 4** sessions with **one adult required to attend**.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=rw25qY34TUKgmgIAGXHPUpAiARBoiaBHiH4mwTtUfJUOVc3NUdKUTBJN1NVTktKSzRTTUVIUjBKQyQIQCN0PWcu>

School Lettings – Did You Know?

Did you know that you may be able to hire areas of our school? Available spaces include our field, Creative Cave, hall and woodland area. These facilities are ideal for clubs, events and activities. If you are interested or would like further information, please contact the school office.

News from Busbridge Pre-school



Welcome to the Spring term in pre-School, it has been a pleasure to welcome both returning children and new families into our pre-school community. The children have settled back into their routines beautifully and have enjoyed a range of exciting winter-themed learning experiences. A little dusting of magical snow added extra wonder to our days and enriched the children's understanding of wintry weather as they explored ice, snow, and the chilly outdoors. We shared *The Gruffalo's Child*, which inspired imaginative play, conversations about keeping

warm, and investigations into light and shadow. The children also developed their fine motor skills through creative and practical activities such as cooking, cutting, and making paper snowflakes. It has been a joy to see their confidence grow as they play, learn, and support one another, and we look forward to many more moments of discovery and learning together as the term continues.

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.

Every day counts! Regular attendance helps children learn, grow, and succeed. Thank you for supporting good attendance and punctuality.

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.

Events and dates for Spring Term



January

Monday 12th - Thursday 15th - Stay and Puzzle - 8.45am-9am. Sign up to one session please and enter via your child's classroom door

Wednesday 14th - Anxiety Workshop for families in the hall at 9am

Thursday 22nd - YR Zoolab workshop (in school)

Friday 23rd - OWLS starts for a four week block between 9:10am and 10am. Please enter via Chestnut Way gate

February

Friday 6th - PTA Adult Quiz

Monday 16th - Friday 20th - Half Term

March

Monday 2nd- Friday 6th - Busbridge Book Week- *this will include a dress up day*

Monday 23rd & Wednesday 25th March - Parents Evenings

Friday 27th March - End of Spring 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.*