



Newsletter – Friday 6th February

Dear Families,

As we head into the **final week before half term**, we also reach the **halfway point of this academic year** — a perfect moment to pause and reflect. As the saying goes, *“Learning should be a journey filled with curiosity, joy and discovery,”* and this half term has certainly been just that.

It has been another **successful, fun and positive half term**, full of memorable experiences and exciting learning opportunities. Some of our highlights include the **construction of our new woodland shelter** which is scheduled to be finished next week. Watch this space — the School Council is currently working with their classes to choose a name for this building. We have also thoroughly enjoyed the **Little Gym sessions** along with the **fantastic visitors** who supported Reception with their ‘People Who Help Us’ topic.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We would like to wish you all a **very happy half term** when it arrives — have fun, relax, and most importantly, **stay safe**.

With warm wishes,

Mrs Chalk & Mrs Jones



1 - The Continual Pursuit of Excellence

Looking ahead to Busbridge Book Week



Busbridge Book Week will be taking place the week commencing the **2nd March**. To help you prepare and to know what to expect, please read the information below carefully. Also look out for World Book Day vouchers that will be coming your way.

Monday 2nd March - The start of book week. Bring your favourite book to school (clearly labelled). This day will also see the **Year 2** children visiting Waterstones by foot on Godalming High Street. This trip will take place in the morning. For this, children will wear school uniform but please ensure they have a waterproof coat. We are also looking for two DBS checked volunteers per class to help on this trip. If you can help, please complete this [for m](#). The timings for this are approximately 9.30 - 11.30am. Thank you in advance.

Tuesday 3rd March - The return of our "Bed Time Story". Children are invited back to school at 5.15pm until 6pm in their pyjama's, onesies & dressing gowns for a story with their teacher along with their favourite cuddly toy to snuggle up with. Children will also be given a drink and a biscuit. (If your child is in wraparound care on that day, they will go straight from Cool Club to their Bedtime Story (please remember to bring a change of clothes in a named bag for them to change into at school)).

Wednesday 4th March

Author Visit: Zehra Hicks

We are delighted to announce a visit from **author and illustrator Zehra Hicks!** Zehra is the creator of several much-loved picture books, including *Pug Hug*, *Cheeky Monkey* and *Panda & Penguin Find a Thing*.

During her visit, Zehra will be leading a **whole-school assembly** as well as **individual workshops with all year groups**, giving pupils a wonderful opportunity to explore stories, illustration and creativity with a real-life author.

Book Focus by Year Group:

- **Pre-School** will be sharing *Pug Hug* – a heart-warming and funny story about a lovable pug who just wants a hug, reminding us all about kindness, friendship and being ourselves.
- **Reception** will be focusing on *Cheeky Monkey*, a playful and engaging story about a mischievous monkey whose cheeky antics are sure to delight our youngest readers.
- **Years 1 & 2** will be exploring *Panda & Penguin Find a Thing*. This gentle and thoughtful story celebrates curiosity, teamwork and friendship, and it will be lovely to see how pupils' understanding and responses develop and progress from Year 1 to Year 2.

Book Signing Opportunity

If you would like to order a book for Zehra to sign, her books are available from various online bookshops, including **Waterstones**.

Please ensure any books for signing are **brought into school on Monday 2nd March** and are **clearly labelled with your child's name and class** (please do not send in favourite or treasured books).

We are **so excited** about this upcoming visit - an inspiring experience for all our pupils!



Thursday 5th March - This is World Book Day children need to come to school dressed as their favourite book character. On the day, we will have a book character costume parade.

This day also sees the return of "**The Masked Reader.**"

This massive event enables the Houses and their captains to voice their ideas as to 'who's behind the mask' after they have listened to their clues and of course a wonderful story. Tension always reaches fever pitch when everyone chants 'Take it off!' to reveal who is behind the mask!

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.

Monday until Thursday - We will be welcoming back the Book Fair, where World Book Day vouchers can be used to give a £1 discount or the free World Book Day books - if available. Please note vouchers will be sent home in book bags after half term.

The Book Fair will be open in the Creative Cave:

Monday 3.10 - 3.30pm

Tuesday 8.45 - 9.00am

Tuesday 3.10 - 3.30pm

Wednesday 8.45 - 9.00am

Wednesday 3.10- 3.30pm

Thursday 8.45 - 9.00am

Thursday 3.10 - 3.30pm

For every book you buy, the school will receive one in return, so we thank you in advance for your support. Please note, no cash can be accepted.

Safer Internet Day

As part of Safer Internet Day 2026, our school will be exploring this year's theme, *"Smart tech, safe choices – Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI."* During the day, all classes will take part in age-appropriate activities designed to help children understand how to use technology safely and responsibly. To support learning at home, our partner Eduthing is hosting a free online safety webinar for parents, providing practical guidance on keeping children safe online.

You can sign up to the webinar using the following link [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#). We encourage all parents to join and learn more about how to support your child in the digital world.

World Thinking Day

To celebrate World Thinking Day and Founder's Day, children who are members of **Girlguiding or the Scout Association** are invited to wear their uniform to school on **Monday 23rd February**. This includes **Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts**. Children who are not part of these groups should wear their **usual school uniform**. This day celebrates the shared birthday of Lord Robert and Olave Baden-Powell and the worldwide Guiding and Scouting community.

Calling all Squirrels, Rainbows, Beavers, Brownies, Cubs, Guides and Scouts!

Wear your uniform to school on Monday February 23rd to Celebrate World Thinking Day & Founder's Day!

Join the fun! Find out more.

Girlguiding
www.girlguiding.org.uk

Scouts
www.godalmingscouts.co.uk

A Fantastic PE Experience with The Little Gym!

Earlier in January, the children at **Busbridge Infant School** were very lucky to take part in a special PE lesson run by **Matina**, a specialist from **The Little Gym**. The session was full of energy, excitement, and smiles as the children explored new movements, challenged themselves, and learnt some brilliant new skills. We all had *lots of fun* and came away feeling proud of what we had achieved!

Why Gymnastics?

The Little Gym's approach to gymnastics goes far beyond cartwheels and handstands. Gymnastics helps children build **strength, flexibility, balance, and coordination**, supporting their overall physical development. It also enhances important cognitive skills such as **problem-solving** and **spatial awareness**, while encouraging discipline, perseverance, and goal-setting. Mastering new skills gives children a fantastic confidence boost and supports healthy self-esteem. Gymnastics naturally promotes **teamwork, communication, and social skills**, helping children feel part of a supportive community. These skills play a valuable role not just now, but in shaping confident and resilient young people who enjoy being active throughout their lives.





Are you interested in working or helping in a school?

We currently have a vacancy in our **kitchen team** (please see the flyer for further details). In addition, we are still looking for **parent volunteers to help during lunchtime**.

It has been fantastic having two parent helpers join us recently — they have added so much to our team and have made a real difference to the children. We do still have opportunities available, and this could be as little as **30 minutes a week on a day of your choice**.

Lunchtime support slots are:

- 12.00–12.30pm
- 12.30–1.00pm
- or the full hour

If you are thinking of working in a school, or are interested in becoming a teacher, this hands-on experience is invaluable.

For more information, please contact the **school office** or speak to **Mrs Jones**.



We are
HIRING

SCHOOL CHEF MANAGER

Busbridge Infant School

Looking for a local, term -time only
position with great work life balance
and benefits?

25 hours per week (Perm)

Don't miss out - apply now.



Join our team



Donations Request



With Christmas in the back of our minds, you may be having a toy clear-out. If so, we would be very grateful for **toy donations** to support our **after school club, pre-school and Reception**.

We are currently looking for:

- Large construction toys (*not LEGO or Duplo*)
- Small world play items (*e.g. pirate ships, castles, etc.*)
- Dolls and action figures
- Wooden play food
- Role play sets and **dress-up clothes (ages 4–5)**

If you think you can help, please bring donations to the **front office**, or send us a **photo first** so we can check their suitability.

Thank you in advance for your support.

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



Over the past month, the children have been exploring transport and travel, learning about different types of vehicles and how we use them in everyday life. They investigated the shapes and sizes that make up vehicles, focusing on 2D and 3D shapes, and used this knowledge in creative ways through drawing, construction, and junk modelling. These activities supported early mathematical thinking and problem-solving.

Also, the children have been learning about “People Who Help Us”, discovering the important roles of community helpers such as doctors, nurses, vets, dentists, police officers, and firefighters. A memorable highlight was our visit from the firefighters, which helped bring this learning to life. Through asking questions, exploring equipment, role play, and sharing topic-related fiction and non-fiction books, the children have been developing their communication and understanding of the world, which links with the Early Years areas of learning.

Safeguarding

Front Doors

When you are waiting in front of the school office, can we please kindly remind you to keep your children away from the sensors on the automatic doors. If the doors are deliberately being triggered, then this poses a safeguarding risk. Many thanks for your co-operation.

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

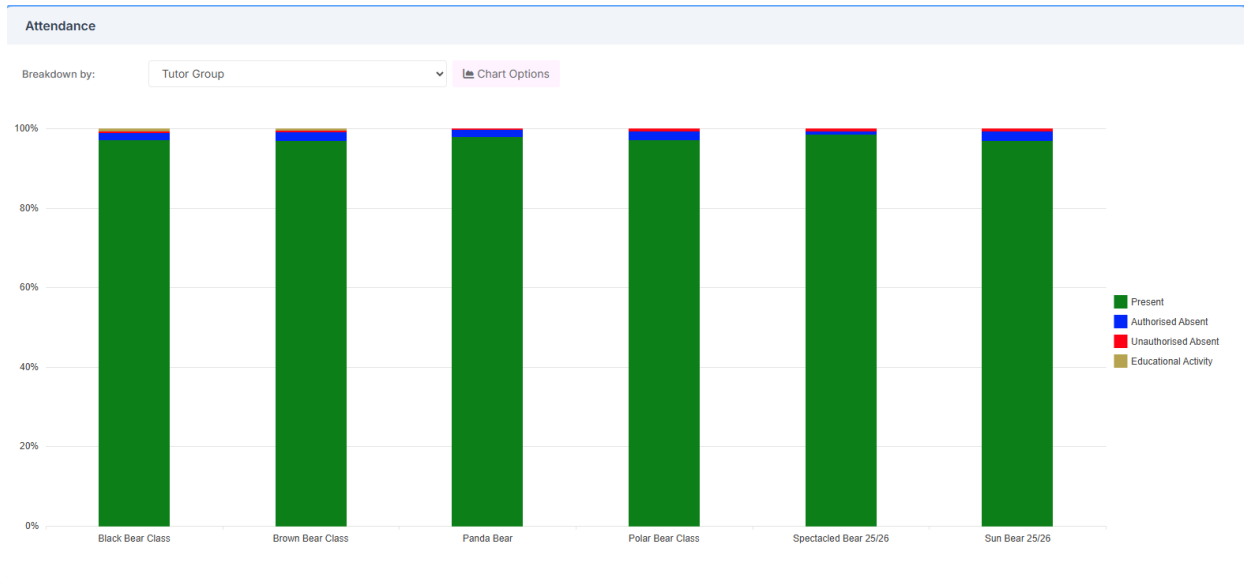
A family member's birthday	Sickness of parent or sibling
Shopping for uniforms	Sibling's school closed
Inadequate clothing for school	Refusing to attend, but able to
Child being used as a carer	Poor family organisation
Problems with transport	Family holidays
	No absence request completed

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.

Being in school every day helps children feel settled, confident, and ready to learn. Regular attendance supports strong routines, friendships, and steady progress in learning.

With half term and Easter holidays approaching, we are seeing an increase in absences and holiday requests. Time away from school can be unsettling for children and has a significant impact on learning.

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



Events and dates for Spring Term



February

Friday 6th - PTA Adult Quiz

Monday 16th - Friday 20th - Half Term

Monday 23rd Feb - World Thinking Day Celebration

March

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

Monday 16th March - Y2 Great Fire of London Workshop (in school)

Monday 23rd March - Pre-school visit to the Church

Monday 23rd & Wednesday 25th March - Parents Evenings (this is a 10 minute information session for adults, children not to attend please)

Tuesday 24th - Music Works Assembly pm- Music works families to attend- more details to follow (*new date*)

Wednesday 25th - Easter Competition -hats, bonnets, gardens and poetry (*new date*)

Wednesday 25th - Spring Service at the Church. Families of choir and percussion enrichment club children to attend only. More info to follow (*new date*)

Thursday 26th March - YR & Pre-school Mill Cottage Farm experience

Thursday 26th March - Y1 Milestones trip

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

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.*