



## Newsletter – Friday 6th March

Dear Families,

It has been wonderful to welcome the children back for the second half of the academic year, along with the welcome sunshine and early signs of spring. We have had a fantastic start to the term, with Book Week being a particular highlight.

There is lots in store for the weeks ahead, including exciting trips and workshops for all year groups, as well as our Easter celebrations. Although it is a short half term, it promises to be a very busy and enjoyable one. We are looking forward to making the most of the learning and fun with the children.

With warm wishes,

Mrs Chalk & Mrs Jones



1 - The Continual Pursuit of Excellence

# Busbridge Book Week Celebrations



What a week! Our Book Week celebrations were full of fantastic learning opportunities, inspiration, excitement, and fun.

A particular highlight was the fabulous **Zehra Hicks**, who inspired us all to become budding authors with her engaging storytelling. Our **Bedtime Story** session was equally magical—so lovely to see children and staff in their PJs, enjoying a cosy story together.

The **Masked Reader** was a real treat, the children loved guessing who Fox, Firefighter and The Gingerbread Man were, and unmasking the mystery readers brought lots of smiles, cheers and fun! Thank you to Mrs Wilson, Mrs Blackaby and Mrs Chalk for being such great sports. Everyone also enjoyed seeing the fabulous **book-themed costumes** on World Book Day yesterday.

Year 2 had an exciting trip to **Waterstones**, and the children loved having **story time on the playground each day**, bringing books to life in the fresh air. Year 2, Reception and Bear Cubs loved their story time visit from Year 5 and 6 at Busbridge Junior School.

The week finished on a high with our **bouncing fundraiser**, where children had a blast seeing how many bounces they could do to raise funds for the school. Thank you to our wonderful PTA and reps for organizing this event.

Book Week was truly a celebration of imagination, reading, and creativity—thank you to everyone who took part!











## Red Nose Day



Please read below some exciting news from the School Council:

As a school council, we have decided to support Red Nose Day on **Friday 20th March 2026**.

The theme this year is 'Simple Acts of Silliness'. Democratically, we have decided to 'Dress like a Teacher Day' for a small donation to this charity. You could dress up as one of the teachers at Busbridge Infant school or you could come as another teacher, such as a teacher of dance, PE, Karate or gymnastics.

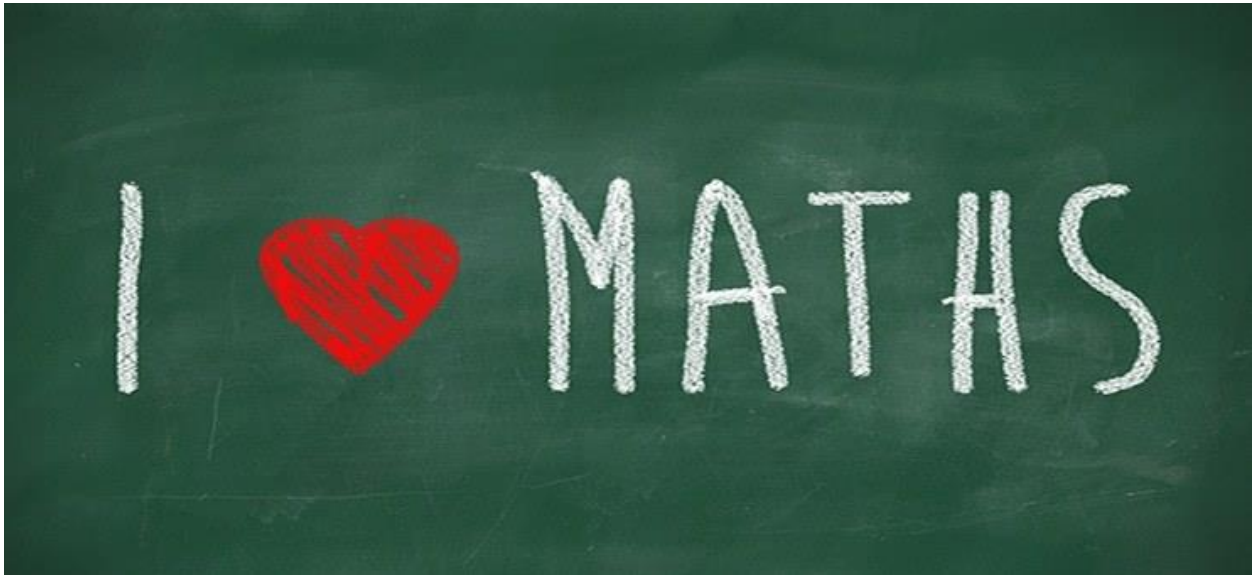
Please donate to the 'Just Giving' page using the link below or bring in a cash donation on the day.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/rnd26-busbridge-infant-school>

Thank you!

From the School Council

## Numbots



We'd like to remind parents that all children have logins for **Numbots**, which is a fantastic way to support their maths learning at home. Just **5–10 minutes a day** can make a big difference to their confidence and fluency.

We encourage you to explore both **Story Mode** and **Challenge Mode** with your child—Story Mode helps them progress through levels, while Challenge Mode is a great chance to rehearse the skills they'll need to move up through the levels.

Please try to let your child complete the tasks independently, as this helps build their long-term understanding. If they need support they can listen to the instructions being read out using the blue speaker button or you can help to explain it to them using any of the strategies found within the blue information button. We are continually monitoring this in school and will support their learning at home in school. Thank you for your continued support with your child's education.

## Spring Term Parents Evenings

These will take place for all year groups including Bear Cubs on **Monday 23rd & Wednesday 25th March**. Appointments are ten minutes each and will run from 3.45pm until 6.45pm for Reception to Year 2 and 3.45pm until 5:45pm for Pre-school. On these days, Mrs Wilson will be available to book an additional ten minute appointment to discuss your child's progress during their ELT (Extended Learning Team) sessions for families of children who are receiving ELT provision in Years 1 and Year 2.

Bookings can be made via MCAS (for Reception - Year 2) and via an emailed online Form (for Pre-school families only) **from Monday 9th March at 7pm.**

These appointments are an opportunity to discuss how your child is progressing at school. All appointments are for **adults only** and will take place in your child's classroom or the Meeting room for ELT appointments. As per our last Parents Evening, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 books will be available to view beforehand in the hall and we ask that you arrive early to view them before moving into the "waiting area" outside your child's classroom/meeting room a few minutes before your appointment and knock at your allocated time. **For Reception - Year 2, please enter via the school office.** For Pre-school, please wait outside the Pre-school gate and buzz at your allocated time. **It really does help the teachers keep on time.**

A **reminder** that enrichment clubs are **not running** this week but that after school club care is still on. Please try to book after school club for this week early.

## Easter Events

### Easter Competition

In true Busbridge style, we will be holding our annual Easter Competition. This is a fantastic opportunity to embrace the spirit of spring and enjoy some creative time working with your child at home.

The categories this year are:

- Easter bonnets or hats
- Easter gardens
- Easter writing (poems, stories — let the creativity flow!)

Due to its popularity, we will also be bringing back the **Adult Easter Garden** category.

There will be prizes awarded in all categories across each year group (including Bear Cubs). If you would like to enter, please clearly label your entry with your child's name/class and bring it to the **sheltered area by the Hambledon gate (gardens along the floor, hats on tables and writing to the Nest- the areas will be clearly indicated)** the morning of **Wednesday 25th March**. Entries will then need to be collected from there at the end of the day.

There will also be an opportunity for the children to marvel at the wonderful creations — it really is a sight to behold!

### Spring Service

On Wednesday 25th March, children in Years R, 1 and 2 will walk to the church for our Spring Service. The service will also feature performances from our choir and percussion group.

If your child attends choir or percussion enrichment club, we would like to warmly invite you to join us at the church however due to capacity we can only accommodate one adult per child. The service will begin at **2.30pm** and will last approximately **20 minutes**.

Please note that children in Brown Bear Class will need to wear school uniform for Woodland that day.

### 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



Pre-School had a wonderful time celebrating Book Week and sharing their love of stories. The children brought in a favourite book from home and enjoyed telling their friends about the stories they love during circle time.

Our focus story, Mr Wolf's Pancakes, inspired the children to explore traditional tales. They particularly enjoyed using puppets and props to retell familiar stories and create their own imaginative performances for their friends.

A highlight of the week was a special visit from author and illustrator Zehra Hicks, who read her book 'Pug Hug' and talked to the children about how she creates her illustrations. The theme continued at snack time when the children helped make banana pancakes inspired by the story. They were very proud of their efforts and loved tasting their delicious creations.

The Bear Cubs also joined the school in the Masked Reader and Bouncing for Books events, enthusiastically taking part in the Book Week celebrations.

We will soon be visiting the church for our Easter celebration, where the children will be making Easter bonnets and enjoying a hot cross bun snack. If any family members are available to volunteer their time to support us, we would be very grateful. Volunteers would need to join us at school to help with the walk to and from the church and stay for the duration of the visit. Please contact the office if you have a valid DBS and you are able to help.

## Safeguarding

### 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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> leave of absence OR pattern of irregular attendance, which is unauthorised, then...

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


**3<sup>rd</sup> 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

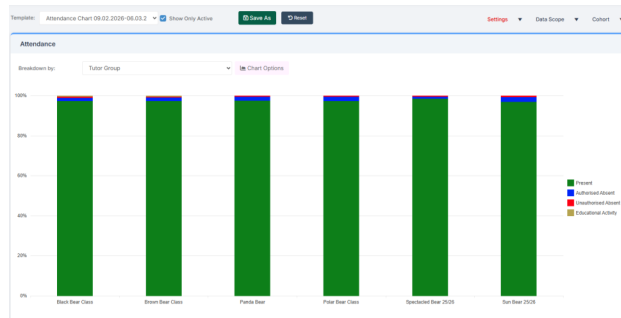


**Attendance is a safeguarding priority.**

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 and ahead



### March

**Monday 9th March** - Skipping day workshops

**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**)

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

**Wednesday 25th** - Spring Service at the Church. 1 adult per child who attends choir/ percussion enrichment club to attend only. (*new date*)

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

**Thursday 26th - Y1** Milestones trip

**Friday 27th** - End of Spring Term

### April

**Monday 13th** - Summer Term begins

**Monday 20th - Thursday 23rd** - Stay and Read: families, please sign up to one session [here](#)

**Tuesday 21st** - Phonics Check meeting for Year 1 families at 2.30pm

*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.*