



Newsletter – Thursday 7th May

Dear Families,

It has certainly felt like the summer term over the past few weeks—though we're not so sure now with the change in weather!

We have already been busy planning transition events for our new Reception children starting in September (including many of our own Bear Cubs). At the same time, we are supporting our wonderful Year 2 children as they prepare to move on to junior school, while also planning how best to help all our remaining children take their next steps. Please read on to find out more information.

We've made the most of the warmer weather and enjoyed our beautiful grounds—taking part in sports day practice, woodland learning, and much more. Two particular highlights were “Break the Rules” day, which brought lots of fun and laughter to everyone involved. Stay and

Read still proves to be a popular event with children and families - such a lovely way to start the morning.

It has been a great couple of weeks, and as always, we thank you for your continued support.

With warm wishes,

Mrs Chalk & Mrs Jones



1 - The Continual Pursuit of Excellence

Break the Rules

A real highlight of the term was our “Break the Rules” day. It was wonderful to see the creativity on display as the children embraced the opportunity to bend the rules in fun and imaginative ways—while still being respectful and upholding our core school values.

In true Busbridge style, creativity was at the heart of the day, with “wacky” hairstyles, fantastic costumes, and a wide range of mufti outfits. It was lovely to celebrate the individuality of both the children and staff alike. The children thoroughly enjoyed the day, especially their chosen treats, and the atmosphere across the school was full of excitement and laughter.

A huge thank you to our PTA for organising such a fantastic event, which raised in excess of £300. These funds are incredibly valuable and will contribute towards the purchase of Chromebooks to enhance the children’s learning, as well as a larger screen in the hall. Thank you once again for your continued support in helping our school be the best it can be.







Transition Updates for All Year Groups

As we begin preparing for September, we know transitions can feel both exciting and a little daunting for children and families. Over the coming weeks, we will put in place routines and opportunities to help every child feel confident and ready for their next step.

Pre-School and New Joiners

If your child is joining us in Reception in September you should have received a letter from us with key transition dates and information. If your child is currently in Pre-School and will be joining a different Reception setting, please look out for communication from your chosen school or contact them directly for further details.

From **Monday 11th May**, to support a smooth transition into Reception in September, we are encouraging all Bear Cubs who will be starting Reception to bring their belongings into the classroom independently and hang them up. This will help prepare them for September, when they will be expected to take responsibility for placing their items in the classroom cloakroom on their own.

Current Reception and Year 1 Children

To support transition, we are introducing some changes to morning routines from next week to help prepare children for September:

Reception:

- For the rest of this half term, one staff member will be stationed at the Reception gate, on the edge of the playground. Families should continue to drop their child at this gate and should encourage their child to walk in independently.
- After half term, from **Monday 1st June**, a member of the Reception team will stand at the metal gate not the edge of the playground. Your child should independently walk through the Y1 area. Adults should remain at the edge of the playground and should not walk into the Year 1 space (Astroturf) please. This will help prepare the children for September when they independently take themselves into Year 1.
- If you need to pass on a message, please contact the school office or speak to the member of staff on the Hambledon Road/Chestnut Way gate if urgent.

Year 1:

From Monday 11th May, children should say goodbye to their adult at either the Hambledon Road or Chestnut Way gate and walk round to the Year 1 classrooms independently (well done to the families who are already doing this). This is a great step in building independence and

preparing the children for Year 2, where adults drop off at the Year 2 gate and the children walk independently into the classrooms themselves.

You will receive information about classes and staffing next half term. Planned assemblies and opportunities for children to visit their new classrooms and meet their new teachers will also take place next half term.

Year 2 Transition to Junior School

If your child is in Year 2, you should now have received confirmation of their Year 3 place. Schools will be in contact with both you and us to plan transition events.

On Wednesday 3rd June, Mrs Barker from Busbridge Junior School will be coming in to meet all Year 2 children (regardless of their next school) to talk about the transition to junior school.

Junior schools will also liaise with our team to gather relevant information about your child's learning and any additional details that will support a smooth transition. This information helps schools to plan effectively for your child and to organise classes.

You are of course, welcome to contact your child's new school directly if there is anything further you would like them to know.

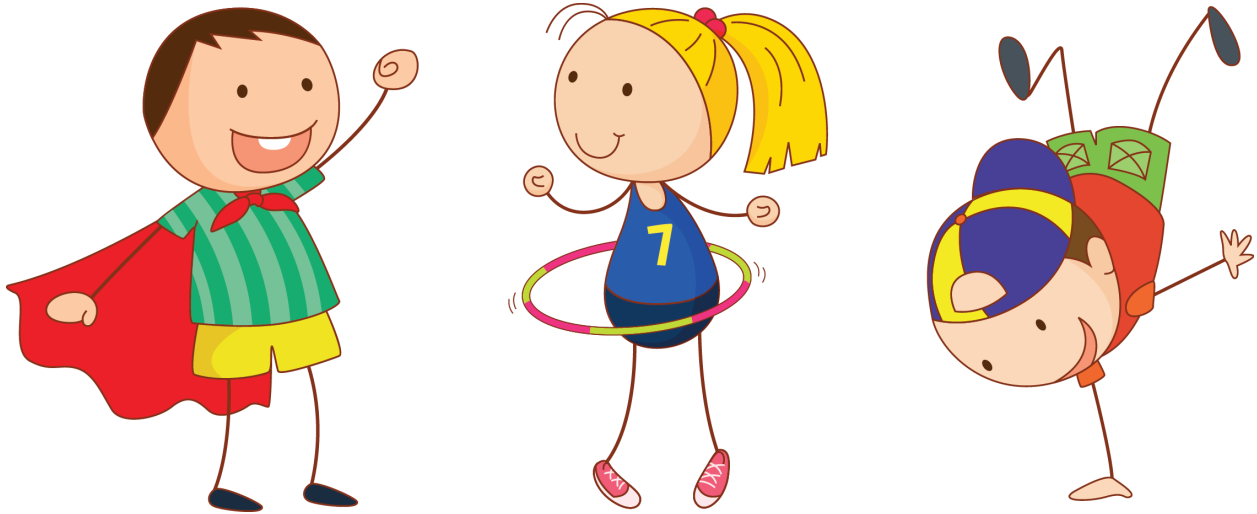
Bump up afternoon for all children is on **Tuesday 30th June**- this is where all children in Surrey visit their new school or class (private schools will vary) If you need any help regarding transition then please do not hesitate to contact us.

Class and Leavers' Photographs



Our class photographs will take place on **Wednesday 20th May**. On this day, our school photographer will be in to take photos of all classes (including Pre-school), as well as a special Year 2 leavers' photograph. We kindly ask that all children come to school in full uniform, including either their school jumper or cardigan. Families may choose whether their child wears a summer dress. **A special note for Black Bear Class:** please come to school in full uniform and bring woodland kit to change into afterwards.

Sports Day



Who? All children and their families (each child can bring two adults and any non-school age siblings)

advice regarding transition for any year group, please do not hesitate to contact us.

When? Friday June 12th: 9 -10am for Bear Cubs and from 1pm - 3pm for the main school.

Where? On our beautiful school field. Entry will be via Hambledon Road only. Gates will open at 9am for Bear Cubs and 1.00pm, once the rest of the school have returned to class from lunch play.

What will happen? Every 15 minutes your child will move stations and you will move with them behind the taped area. Once the event is over, the children will return to class for the usual end of day dismissal. Clubs will run as usual on this day.

What will my child need to wear? or We ask that children come to school wearing their usual PE shorts (Bear Cubs please wear navy shorts, leggings or joggers) and trainers with a t-shirt in their house colour. Where possible this would be plain but it could be a t-shirt with mainly the house colour on. We do not want families to go out and buy new t-shirts. A reminder of the house colours - **Baloo** is green, **Paddington** is blue and **Rupert** is red. On the day, your child will need to bring their named water bottle, a sun hat and have suncream applied before school (if needed).

Do I need to bring anything extra? There will be strawberries & cream and drinks on sale, which can be paid for via BACS or cash. As you will be moving around the field, you do not need to bring blankets or gazebos.

What happens if it is bad weather and when will I be notified of changes? We will make a decision by 7.30am on the morning of the event. A back up date is planned for Friday 19th June with the same timings.

Newsletters and Year 2 Events



Newsletters for the remainder of the academic year will be sent on the following dates:

- Friday 5th June
- Friday 3rd July

Dates for our Year 2 events in Summer 2 have already been shared with families. Further information and reminders will be sent out before half term.

Geography Competition

Are you a Geo-Genius?

It's time to get creative! In this competition, **you should design a real map of a town which you can invent yourself.** Think about what towns need and how people will get around. Your map should look like something that could really exist and should be A4 in size! Try adding a key to help show what each symbol on the map shows.

If you would like to take part - your entries need to have your full name and class written on the back and be returned to Miss Daughtry by Friday 22nd May so that they can be put forward for judging. The top entries in each of the Year groups will be sent forward to take part in a whole Trust competition.

SFET Virtual Event: The DOSE[®] Experience

Our trust, SFET, invites all parents, carers, families and staff to an exciting 60-minute virtual session with neuroscientist and bestselling author TJ Power on **Tuesday 16 June at 8pm.**

Learn how four key brain chemicals affect mood, motivation and wellbeing, with simple, practical tips to support family life.

Join from home, via Zoom – book using the link/QR code.

TJ Power

DOSE EXPERIENCE FOR SFET
16TH JUNE AT 8PM

A 60-minute virtual unmissable experience - an engaging, visual and science-backed session, helping parents/carers understand how to manage their family's wellbeing in today's fast-paced, phone-driven world.

THE SUNDAY TIMES
INSTANT
BESTSELLER



Book your place [here](#):



News from Busbridge Pre-school



Pre-school learning has centred around minibeasts, sparking lots of curiosity and excitement. The children have enjoyed exploring a range of insects and small creatures, talking about their features, habitats, and what makes them unique.

As part of this topic, we have been developing early mathematical language such as *longer* and *shorter*, comparing the sizes of different minibeasts. The children engaged well in these discussions and began using this language in their play.

In our creative work, we explored new materials by using watercolours to create beautiful minibeast-inspired artwork. The children enjoyed experimenting with colour and developing their confidence with different paints and materials.

Our outdoor learning in the Woodlands has continued to be a highlight, with opportunities to observe minibeasts in their natural habitats, listen carefully to the sounds around us, and explore the environment through activities such as pond dipping.

Safeguarding

Safety Around the School

Sadly, we are still receiving communication from our neighbours regarding unsafe driving and parking around the school. There has recently been an incident where a member of the community was struck by a wing mirror.

As a community school, we want to maintain positive relationships with our neighbours, and we take these concerns very seriously.

We continue to see instances of driving at excessive speed on Hambledon Road and surrounding roads, as well as families using the school car park inappropriately. This car park is for school staff only. Please do not park or turn in the staff car park.

We ask all families to please be considerate—drive slowly, park responsibly, and be mindful of pedestrians at all times. By working together, we can help keep our children, families, and local community safe, whilst also showing respect for our neighbourhood.

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.



For each child a penalty is given...

+£160 +£160 +£160 +£160

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

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.



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?

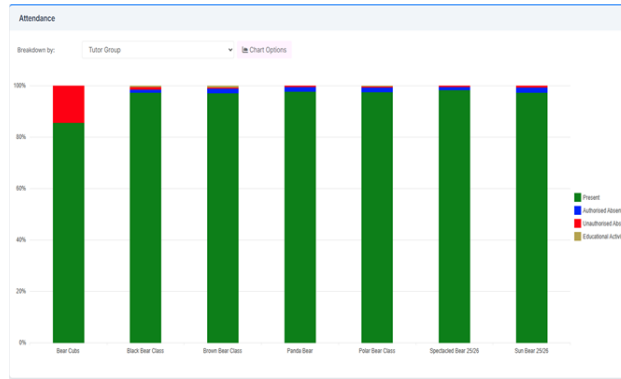
Examples of unauthorised absences

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 is a safeguarding priority.

Being in school every day helps children feel settled, confident, and ready to learn. Regular attendance builds strong routines, supports friendships, and ensures steady progress across all areas of learning. When children attend school consistently, they are able to make the most of every opportunity and fully benefit from everything school life has to offer.

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 Summer Term



May

Wednesday 20th - Class Photos and Leavers Picture: all children need to be in full school uniform (Black Bears bring in woodland kit separately please)

Monday 25th - Friday 29th - Half Term

June

Thursday 4th - Year R trip to Windsor Castle as per the year group letter

Friday 12th - Pre-school sports day (9 -10am) and main school sports day (1-3 pm). All children to wear a house coloured t-shirt

Thursday 18th - Year 2 West Wittering Trip: more details to follow

Friday 19th - Sports Day back up date for all years in case of bad weather. Same timings as the 12th

Saturday 27th - PTA Summer Fair

Tuesday 30th - "Bump Up" afternoon for all years (children visit new class or Surrey Junior Schools and new Year R children attend)

July

Friday 3rd at 2.45pm - Open Afternoon for parents to come into classrooms and spend time looking at their child's work together ahead of reports being distributed for Pre-school - Year 2

Tuesday 7th 2-3pm - Year 2 Production

Wednesday 8th 6.30-7.30pm - Year 2 Production with drinks/nibbles afterwards

Saturday 11th - PTA Summer Camp

Tuesday 14th at 2.30pm - Year 2 Leavers Service at the Church

Thursday 16th at 2.15pm - Pre-school Celebration in the hall

Friday 17th - Last Day of 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.*