

School Newsletter

Autumn 2 2025

Together we Nurture, Grow
and Flourish



Dear families,

Thank you to you and your children for making me feel so welcome in my first few weeks at Surrey Hills. I have very much enjoyed getting to know the community here and I already have a sense of what a special school this is. I have had the pleasure of teaching in class, leading collective worship, eating lunch with the children and meeting with pupil groups such as our 'playleaders'.

Christmas is always a special time to be part of a school - and this is certainly true at Surrey Hills! The sense of awe and wonder has been palpable at the numerous events that have occurred - from the wonderful infant nativity, to choir performing at the village coffee morning, the carol service at the church, the Christmas fair, the Christingle service and the amazing Christmas school lunch! Thank you to the staff team, parent volunteers and Holy Trinity team who have shared their expertise and time to create these important experiences for the children.

The staff team have continued to work tirelessly to provide enriching learning experiences for the children; I hope you enjoy reading about what has been happening this half-term across the school in the rest of this newsletter. Hedgehogs & Otters enjoyed working with Surrey Wildlife Trust to plan how to enhance our outdoor environment, Bible club launched with Reverend Tim, Reception had a visit from the fire service and Y6 have visited NW Surrey synagogue to name but a few of the opportunities offered to the children!

I would like to take the opportunity to focus on the importance of attendance; thank you for ensuring your child is in school on time, every day. A link to our attendance policy can be found [here](#); we are grateful for your support.

- Please could I ask, where possible, medical/dental appointments are made outside of the school day and, if this isn't possible, your child attends school before and/or after (as appropriate).



- It can be challenging to know if your child is too unwell to attend school and to support the decision, the NHS has produced a useful guide that can be accessed [here](#). If your child is feeling 'under the weather', for example, they didn't sleep well or have a cough, cold or headache, we would encourage them to attend school. Please rest assured, we would always contact you if we felt they were too poorly to remain at school.
- Please could we ask parents complete a leave of absence request form prior to the first day of any planned absence. The form can be found [here](#).

I would like to draw your attention to the current consultation regarding admissions at SHAS for 2027/28. Further information can be found [here](#) and the consultation closes on 23rd January.

At the end of this term, we will be saying farewell to Mr Memish - our caretaker - and Mrs Roberts - our sports coach and wraparound care leader. I am sure you will want to join me in thanking them for the contribution they have made to the school over the years and to wish them well in their new roles.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our families and the staff team a wonderful Christmas! We look forward to welcoming the children back to school in the new year on Tuesday, 6th January 2026.

With best wishes to you all for the festive season

Kelly Frost
Acting Head of School

Reception Bees Class

This half-term in Bees we have been learning all about people who help us. We were very lucky to welcome Isla's mummy into our classroom to talk about dentistry and caring for our teeth.



Austin said "it was really good to learn about how to look after our teeth, especially as I have a wobbly tooth."

Reception Bees Class

We were also very lucky to have a visit from the Fire Brigade. We learnt all about the importance of a Fire Fighter's uniform. We got to climb into the back of the Fire Engine and we even got to use the hoses!



I was using the hose to try and hit the cone with water. It was really fun.

Important Notice

Did you know that the Fire Service has introduced a service to provide personalised advice about fire safety? It's totally free available 24/7, and they will even fit free smoke alarms during the visit if you need them. They will visit your home at the arranged time, day or night, and share their expertise. The visit is friendly and informal, and there's no need to tidy up or provide refreshments. They are here to keep you safe, not for the tea! After a chat about fire prevention, they will ask you to show them around your home so they can provide personalised advice on:

Cooking and smoking

Heaters and heating

Candles and fireplaces

Detection systems (smoke and heat alarms)

Bedtime checks

What to do if there is a fire

Extra help and support

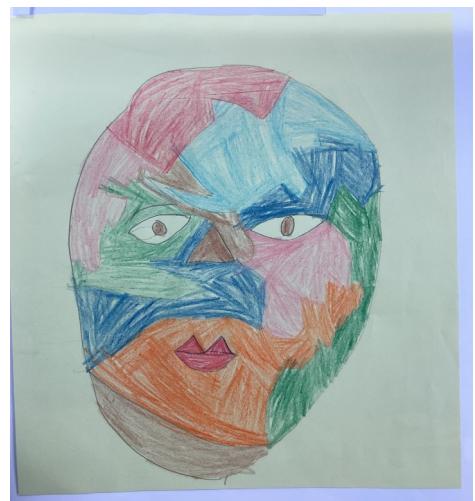
For more information and to book an appointment please email: -

Michael.crawley@surreycc.gov.uk

Year 1-2 Butterflies

Butterfly and Bee class performed this year's Nativity to two packed audiences. Well done to all of Year 2 for learning their lines and speaking up so well, every word could be heard. Also a big well done for those who sang solo or in small groups-a very brave thing to do and beautifully performed! We are all very proud of every child who took part and how well they behaved, performed and sung. A big thank you also to Mrs Spokes for altering all our star costumes by hand!

Butterfly class have been learning all about lines, shades and tones in art this half term. We found out that a 'line is a dot that goes for a walk'. We worked hard to use different media to produce different shades and found out that holding a pencil in various ways can alter the thickness of lines. Our end product was a self portrait based on the artwork of Paul Klee and we are very proud of what we produced.



Year 3 Hedgehogs Class

Hedgehogs had a visitor from Antarctica!

In geography, we have been looking at all things Antarctica. Hedgehogs had a special visitor to bring their learning to life. Our special visitor went on a 3-week exhibition to Antarctica in 2013 with Walking with the Wounded. He came to tell us all about how to survive the freezing temperatures, what he had to wear, how they cooked their meals, where they slept and what they saw. Hedgehogs were fascinated about his adventure and asked some brilliant questions. They loved trying on his different clothing and even learning about where you go to the toilet in Antarctica!



Year 3, 4 and 5 Hedgehogs & Otters Class

Year 3, 4 and 5 visited Surrey Wildlife Trust at Nower Wood. We spent the day learning about a range of different wildlife, including those we may find in the woodland or in the ponds. First, we went on a leaf hunt to learn how the leaves are different and what clues we can see that help tell us what tree they may be from. We enjoyed looking at what we had find under the magnifying lens on the big screen at the end of the day! Both Hedgehogs and Otters displayed brilliant team work skills alongside excellent ideas!



Year 4 & 5 Otters Class

Otters have a go with VR headsets!

To kick off our 'Why do oceans matter?' topic, Otters had a go at using some VR headsets. They were absolutely amazing and transported us straight to the Great Barrier Reef. We learnt all about different corals and how they survive. It was mesmerising to watch them move right next to you.



Year 4 & 5 Otters Class

Otters and their DT book cover project

During our DT project this half term, we made book sleeves to fit our favourite books. We had to carefully design our templates first out of paper before using pins to attached the paper together to make sure our design worked. Once we had the final paper copy we were able to cut it out of felt and start assembling once again. We added different designs on the front and finished by sewing all the components together and adding a fastening (button) to make sure it closed to contain our book.



Year 6 Owls Class

Last month, the children in Owls visited the synagogue in Weybridge to gain insight into the Jewish faith as part of their learning in R.E. We were proud of the insightful questions they asked and the respect they showed when handling the artefacts.

Additionally, the children all took part in the ROAR project - a nationwide initiative to develop their skills as design engineers. We wish to congratulate all the children for their innovative designs. Saskia and Orla won. Emily, Tegan, Matilda, Bobby and Heath were Highly Commended.



Whole School Art Gallery

Across the school we looked at the picture 'A Shipwreck in Stormy Seas' by Claude-Joseph Vernet.

Each year group focused on a different part of the picture. We focused on using different skills in each year group to show progression across the school. We then displayed all the fantastic artwork in the hall for parents to come and experience our whole school gallery. It was amazing to see so many of you, so thank you for coming to experience it with us.



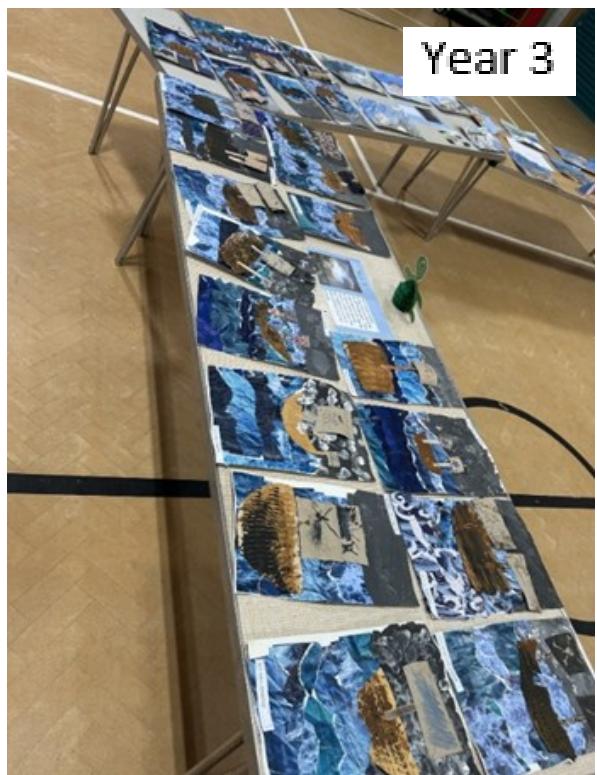
Reception



Year 1



Year 2



Year 3



Odd Socks Day

On the 10th November, we took part in Odd Socks Day to mark the start of Antibullying week. We thought about why it is important to all be different and how it makes us unique. We also took part in the live BBC live lesson about how we can use our power for good. We discussed how it is important to speak up when you notice things aren't right and how we can show kindness to others in a range of different ways. At Surrey Hills, we use our voice to help others and put a stop to bullying!



Christingle

As a school, we have spent time making Christingles. We thought about what each of the different parts represents. We then enjoyed a special ceremony led by Reverend Tim where we got to light our Christingle candles.



Christmas Dinner



Thank you to Dawn in the kitchen for the delicious Christmas dinner she had made for all of the children and staff which was thoroughly enjoyed! and a big thank you to the ladies from FASH for coming in to help.



It has been a very busy half term fundraising for workshops, school trips and the Christmas Pantomime. At WESTfestivity, we ran a children's tombola and Christmas craft stall and raised over £240. It was a wonderful village event and we are so thankful to the WESTfest team for their donation of £120 to support our school.

On Friday, the children enjoyed the amazing Christmas pantomime, Snow White, and after school, we held our Christmas Fair. The fantastic choir opened the fair led by Paige, Dawn made some tasty food and Santa was resident in his grotto. We raised over £1110 from the fair and raffle and this has paid for the pantomime that the children enjoyed during the day.



Corefit Physio held a baking competition this term and as well as donating the cakes to F@SH to sell they also donated proceeds from the competition as well. The cake competition raised over £141. We are very thankful to the Corefit for supporting our wonderful school.

This term F@SH have funded the owl workshop for Hedgehogs class, contributed to the costs for the Nower trip for KS2 and the synogogue trip for Owls class. We will be funding workshops for Bees and Butterflies class next year and covering the costs of the doodle maths subscription.

Important dates next term:

Friday 16th January & Friday 27th February - Preloved uniform sale
 Friday 20th March – KS2 Cake sale
 Friday 27th March – Easter Egg Hunt

Thank you to our fantastic volunteers and teachers for supporting our exciting fundraising events this term and we hope you all enjoy a well-deserved break over the holiday period,
 F@SH

CHRISTMAS CARD DESIGN WINNERS



Ella - Butterflies



Ayana - Butterflies



Ophelia - Hedgehogs



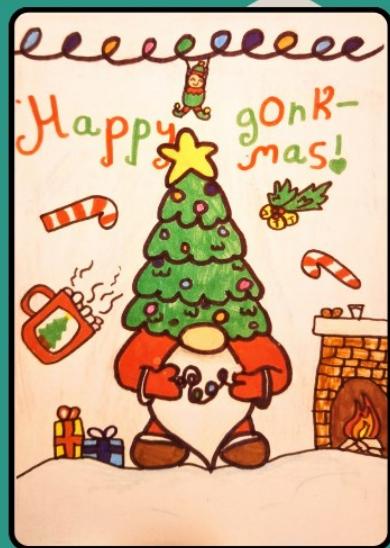
Maggie - Bees & Overall winner



Ocky - Otters



Flossie - Otters



India - Owls

Diary Dates 2025/26

19th December	End of Term KS1 –1.15pm/KS2– 1.30pm Finish
22nd Dec-2nd Jan	Christmas Holidays
January 2026	
5th January	Inset Day
6th January	Start of Term
9th January	Year 4&5 Trip to Winchester Science Centre
16th January	Preloved Uniform Sale
February 2026	
4th February	Year 3 First Feet Walking Training
16th-20th February	Half Term
23rd February	GST Inset Day
24th February	Year 6 Junior Citizen Event
27th February	Preloved Uniform Sale
March 2026	
12th March	Year 3 Trip to Butser Farm
20th March	KS2 Cake Sale
27th March	Easter Egg Hunt
27th March	End of Term KS1-1.15pm/KS2– 1.30pm Finish
30th March-10th April	Easter Holidays

Diary Dates 2025/26

April 2026	
13th April	Children return to school
13th–24th April	Year 6 Bikeability
17th April	Preloved Uniform Sale
May 2026	
1st May	Non Uniform Day—Donations for Teddy Bears Picnic
4th May	Bank Holiday
11th-14th May	Year 6 SATs Week
15th May	Teddy Bears Picnic
25th-29th May	Bank Holiday/Half Term
June 2026	
4th June	Class Photos
5th June	Preloved Uniform Sale
13th June	Abinger Medieval Fair
9th June	Yr R-2 British Wildlife Centre Trip
July 2026	
10th July	Preloved Uniform Sale
10th July	KS1 Cake Sale
17th July	End of Term KS1-1.15pm/1.30pm Finish
20th-22nd July	Inset Days
23rd July-31st August	Summer Holidays

Diary Dates 2026/27

Dear Parent/Carer

If you consider that there are exceptional circumstances relating to your request, please let the school have full details. Each application for a leave of absence will be considered on a case by case basis.

Penalty Notices to Address Poor Attendance at School

A Penalty Notice may be issued as an alternative to the prosecution of a parent/ carer for their child's unauthorised absence from school (absence without the agreement of the school or not covered by a medical note) and will be used by Surrey County Council in the following circumstances :-

1. Pupils identified by police and Attendance Advice Officers (formerly Inclusion Officers) engaged on Truancy Patrols and who have incurred unauthorised absences.
2. Leave of absence in term time (5 days or 10 sessions or more).

Please be aware that the School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024

state that Headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances.

They may request that Surrey County Council issue Penalty Notices when the absence is not authorised.

Warnings will not be given where it can be shown that parents have been notified that such absences will not be authorised.

3. Finally, the issuing of a Penalty Notice will also be considered where it is judged that a parent is failing to ensure their child's regular school attendance. This will be considered when a pupil has incurred 10 or more unauthorised sessions in the previous 10 school weeks, which may include a pupil arriving late after close of registration.

If you believe at any stage that your child's absence from school may leave you liable to receive a Penalty Notice, it is extremely important that you act without delay to secure their regular attendance.

If you have any questions or require further support to achieve an improvement in your child's attendance, please contact your child's school or the Attendance Advice Officer.

Surrey County Council is not responsible for authorising pupil absence and therefore cannot withdraw any Penalty Notice requests without the written permission of the Headteacher.

Advice and support is available from an Attendance Advice Officer by contacting Surrey

Attendance Service as follows :-

North West - Tel: 01483 518130 South West - Tel: 01483 517874

North East - Tel: 01372 833588 South East - Tel: 01737 737777

Penalty Notice relating to Exclusions

If a child is excluded from school, Section 103 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 places a duty on parents/carers to ensure that their child is not in a public place without justifiable cause during school hours.

This duty applies to the ***first five days of each exclusion. Failure to do so will render the parent/carer liable to a Penalty Notice. (Alternative education provision will be made available from the sixth day of any exclusion.)***

Amount Payable for a Penalty Notice and Consequences for repeat unauthorised absences

1. If you have not incurred a penalty notice relating to this child/children in a rolling 3 year period since 19 August 2024, then the penalty notice will be charged at the rate of £160.00, **per parent/carer per child**, if paid within 28 days. This will be reduced to £80.00 if paid within 21 days of receipt of the notice. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice will result in Surrey County Council considering legal proceedings against you in the Magistrates Court.
2. If you have incurred a penalty notice relating to this child/children since 19 August 2024, the rolling 3 year period will be activated from the date of the first penalty notice and the second penalty notice will be charged at the flat rate of £160.00, **per parent/carer per child**, if paid within 28 days. There will be no reduction for payment within 21 days. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice will result in Surrey County Council considering legal proceedings against you in The Magistrates Court.
3. If you have incurred 2 penalty notices relating to this child/children in the rolling 3 year period since the first penalty notice was issued, then you will NOT receive a third penalty notice –Surrey County Council will have no option but to consider a prosecution, **per parent/carer per child**, in the Magistrates Court under s 444 Education Act 1996.