

# School Newsletter

## Spring 2 2025



Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for your continued support this Easter half term - we have been delighted with the learning and passion shown by all your children through the many fantastic opportunities offered to them. We loved sharing their outcomes and next steps at our Parent Consultations last week and would like to thank you all for your kind words about the wonderful reports written by our teachers. We also thank you for all your contributions to make our learning experiences so special, particularly our Multicultural Book Week costumes and your help with so many experiences throughout the term.

Some of our Year 5s are busy training to be Peer Mentors to make our school even better at lunchtimes and our choir have sung at our local Care home. I am sure you will all agree with me that our recent SIAMS report shares the successes of our wonderful school and we are so grateful to our teachers and leaders for their contributions every day to this outcome.

We have been having a really great Easter build up in school. The children really enjoyed our Easter Bonnet Parade and welcomed new parents too. We had a wonderful Easter Pause day, including a beautiful prayer space created by our volunteers. The Easter Service was a lovely spiritual worship wonderfully delivered by Tim, the church team, our children and staff and we thank F@SH for organising the Easter Egg Hunt today.

After the Easter break, F@SH will be surging ahead with our community events including the upcoming Teddy Bears picnic, WESTfest and Abinger Medieval Fayre. A huge amount of organisation goes into these events and volunteers to join F@SH and help out with events are hugely welcome.



Our Friday celebration worships are certainly exciting places to be, and you are all very welcome to join whether you have been alerted to your child being a star of the week or not; we love to share. We celebrate all our values every week and look forward to hearing about your children's learning. Don't forget to look at the School Website regularly. School letters and policies are also on the Website for you to have a look at.

Finally, have a Happy Easter everyone. Have a happy, safe and restful school holiday - we'll see you on Tuesday 22nd April. There is much to celebrate and be thankful for at Surrey Hills. It is only so great because of the brilliant children, hardworking dedicated staff, amazing F@SH and volunteers, our Local Committee, and a whole host of people from the Trust and the wider community.

We would like to offer our huge thanks to you all as parents and carers for all your support and we can't wait to launch into summer term with even more excitement and learning opportunities to come.

Kind Regards

Jacky Fyson

Executive Headteacher



## **Reception Bees Class**

For Easter Pause Day, Bees were re-enacting Jesus's arrival into Jerusalem. Brody said, 'This is fun riding on the donkey and Jesus must have been very happy when he saw all his friends.'





## Reception Bees Class

Look how grown up our Reception children are showing their siblings what fun our Easter Bonnet Parade is!





## Year R-2 Bees and Butterflies

### Easter Bonnet Parade

Thank you to everyone who made an Easter bonnet with their child. As always it was a joyous parade around the playground in front of parents and the rest of the school.



Some of Bees showing off their beautiful hats created for our annual Easter Bonnet Parade.

Abel said ' I liked wearing my hat, but the carrots were a little bit tickly'



## Year R-2 Bees and Butterflies

### Knife and Fork skills

Bees and Butterflies had a session from our catering company learning how to use cutlery correctly. They all tried really hard and by the end had mastered the skill. Well done and don't forget to impress your parents at home when you eat your dinner!





## Year 1 & 2 Butterflies Class

### Easter Gardens

As part of our RE topic Butterflies created Easter gardens in Forest School. We looked for natural materials that we could use to create the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus prayed the night he was arrested, Golgotha, the hill where he was crucified, and his tomb. Our special visitors, The Rev Tim and The Rev Kia came to view them and were most impressed with them!





## Year 3 Hedgehogs Class

### Romans take over Surrey Hills

Hedgehogs have been learning all things Romans. We have looked at why the Romans wanted to invade and how they changed Britain. We designed and made our own Roman shields, practised our marching around the playground and even invaded the rest of the school!





Year 3 also were lucky enough to have a Roman workshop. We looked at real Roman artefacts, studied different coins and got to pretend to be archaeologists.





## Year 3 Hedgehogs Class

### Have a Bright Idea

Hedgehogs worked hard to combine their science and D&T knowledge to create some fantastic electrical posters! They choose a topic which interested them and researched some interesting facts. They then looked at the most engaging way to display their information, thinking about where they were going to position their lightbulb on their poster. They had to ensure their circuits were complete whilst assembling their posters. We put them to the test when Year 2 came to judge which ones were their favourites!





## Year 3 Hedgehogs Class

### One Hedgehog class, one huge challenge!

Hedgehogs thought about how they could help a local charity. They set themselves the challenge to collect 100 items in March for Dorking Food Bank. They worked so hard to make posters to raise awareness and to collect as many items as they could. Throughout March, we managed to collect over 231 items which is an outstanding achievement for only 20 pupils in the class. We took all the collected items and delivered them to the food bank. It was great to be able to look around, chat to the volunteers and see how much a little help can make a big difference to support families locally. It has been such a pleasure watching their determination and kindness over the past month and I am so incredibly proud of them all.



## Year 3 & 4 Hedgehogs and Rabbits

### Visit our Local Church

Hedgehogs and Rabbits were very lucky to be able to have an afternoon at our local the Church with Reverend Tim. He taught us all about Communion, what it means to Christians and how it is celebrated. We got to experience what Communion might look like in this church and even play a fun game to put our learning of new terminology to practise!



“I know that communion means community. I know that they have bread and wine because the bread is Jesus’ body and the wine is Jesus’ blood” – Frank in Hedgehogs

“I know they sat at a table and it was just an ordinary table for Jesus’ last supper and in his last supper he shared wine and bread to represent his body and blood.” Max in Hedgehogs



“I know that it is a special time for Christians to remember how Jesus gave his life for others” – Jessica in Rabbits



## Year 3 & 4 Hedgehogs and Rabbits Class

Throughout the whole half term Hedgehogs and Rabbits have been preparing for a very important battle. Will it be the Vikings (Rabbits) or the Romans (Hedgehogs) who win? Each class prepared a battle song as well as accompanying battle shields or long ship. We then performed our songs to each other where we proved to the other class why we should be victorious.



## Year 4 Rabbits

### Make (Super Realistic) Cars

This half term Rabbits have been busy making slingshot cars out of lolly sticks and sugar paper. Firstly, we made our car chassis and launch mechanism, then planned how we wanted the body to look so that it was as aerodynamic as possible. We finished off by racing our cars to see which one would travel the furthest.





## Year 4 Rabbits Class

### Trip to Bury Hill Lakes

Rabbits were extremely lucky to be granted permission to have a tour around Bury Hill Lakes. We saw so much different wildlife they had on their complex and just how large the lakes there are! We were even shown their crayfish traps which had caught an unbelievable amount of the invasive species.



We were so very lucky to have the opportunity to view the lakes and their diverse grounds. Thank you very much to Simon Bucknall for showing us around, we look forward to returning later in the year to see just how much the environment has changed.



## Year 4 Rabbits Class

### Come and float a boat in Rabbits class!

Rabbits learnt how to make origami paper boats following the instructions of our new class text 'Float'. Although some of the instructions were a little bit difficult to follow, we all successfully managed to make 2 boats each (mainly with the help of Josie!) We decorated our boats before setting off to see if they would float along Milton Brook. After testing them once, we decided to do a whole class race to see which boat would float the furthest before sinking. Unfortunately, none of the boats made it back to school in one dry piece.





## Year 5 Otters Class



During World Book Day we had the opportunity to share the pop books that we had made in DT with the Year 1 class. Our pop up books were based on Nursery Rhymes and we worked hard to create interesting mechanisms to make the pop up books fun. We also enjoyed dressing up and sharing a new class book.



## Year 5 Otters Class

In Art we have been looking at Retro-futuristic art as part of our “I need space” art topic. We have been exploring the purpose and impact of images from the ‘Space Race’ era—the 1950’s and 1960s. We have been experimenting with a range of medium to create our own space themed visions of the future. The class especially enjoyed making printing plates for the background of their art work.

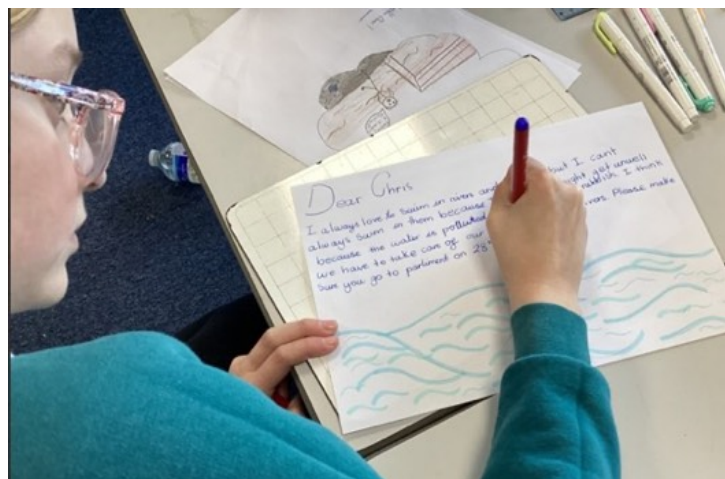
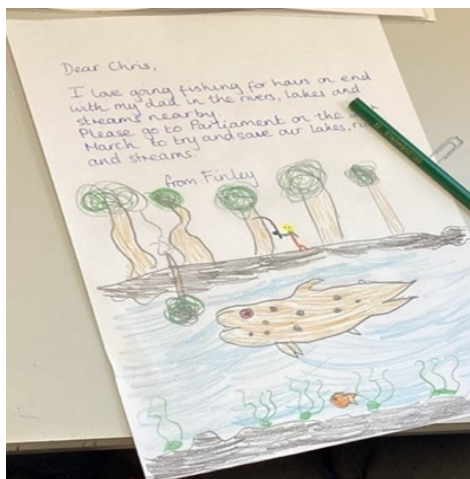
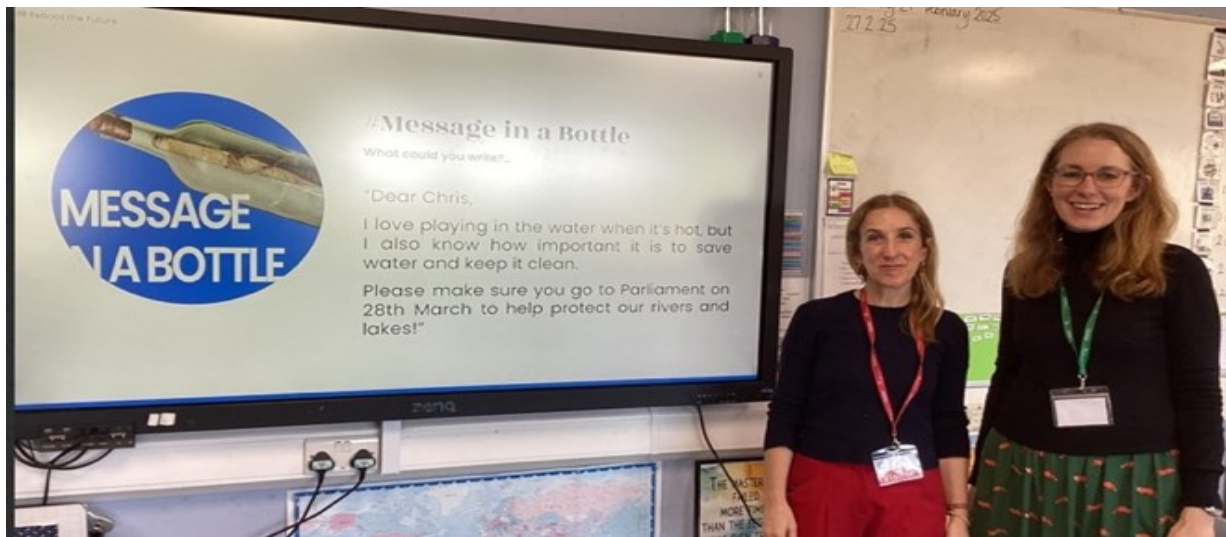




## Otters YR 5 and Owls Yr6

# Reboot the Future

The children in Year 5 and 6 really felt that they could make a difference when Sandy and Catherine from 'Reboot the Future' visited to talk about water quality and the urgent need to protect our streams, rivers and lakes. 'Reboot the Future' co-developed PACTS (Politicians Accountable for Climate to Students); a new school-based government initiative that empowers students to influence politicians and make them accountable for climate action.



The children really felt they should do something to help protect the future water quality on our beautiful planet, inspired by last half term's topic on plastic pollution in our seas and oceans.

## **Year 6 Owls Class**

### **Year 6 Junior Citizens workshop**

We visited Junior Citizens at Epsom Race Course where various schools from our local area attended. We met the British Transport Police who taught us how to stay safe near and on the railways. The police officer taught us different emergency service numbers to phone in different situations. For example, if you are on the train and you see something that doesn't look normal, there is a saying, 'see it, say it, sort it'. On the trains when something doesn't look right you can phone 61016.

Paramedics from the NHS taught us what to do if someone is unconscious and taught us how to perform CPR.

I found this trip very interesting as it helped to show us what to do in the event of an emergency.

Ellie (School Ambassador)



# World Book Day

The children had a great World Book Day dressed up as their favourite book characters.

A big thank you to Circular Dorking for donating 50 brand new reading books and 10 new poetry books for the children at our school.



## Visit from the Bishop

Surrey Hills was very lucky to have a visit from the Bishop of Dorking. He visited classes, including Forest School, joined our wonderful Open The Book Team and also took time to take part in our Ashing Service.

We were delighted that Bishop Paul said after his visit:

' He was thrilled to experience the culture of the school on his visit today. The Christian distinctiveness of the school is tangible. Clearly, you have a very committed and capable staff and a very happy school community. He so enjoyed the tour of our amazing site as well as a visit to the Forest School (the first time he'd ever seen pancakes cooked on an outdoor fire on Shrove Tuesday!)' They tasted delicious too!





## Lucas Dobson Water Safety Campaign

On Friday 7 February 2025, Peter Faulding the founder and CEO of Specialist Group International (SGI) and Mr Stephen Owen-Hughes (Deputy Lieutenant of Surrey) proudly welcomed Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal to their headquarters in Dorking, Surrey.



An important part of the day was dedicated to raising awareness about the Lucas Dobson Water Safety Campaign. The campaign, established in memory of six-year-old Lucas Dobson who tragically drowned in 2018, aims to promote water safety and prevent further tragedies. The Princess Royal learned more about this vital campaign and met Nathan Dobson, Lucas's father, whose personal loss has inspired other significant community impact and safety initiatives. St John's and Surrey Hills, who have received free lifejackets as part of the water safety campaign, were also proudly in attendance and gave testimony to the Princess Royal about the positive impact that the water safety initiative has already made.

Lucas Dobson Water Safety Campaign:

<https://www.lucasdobsonwatersafety.com/>

## Tag Rugby

Here is our fantastic Surrey Hills team. They all did very well in the Rugby Tournament.





We have ended the Spring term with a fun Easter egg hunt for all the children and they will be bringing home an Easter treat today.

We are busy behind the scenes preparing for our biggest fundraiser of the year, the 42<sup>nd</sup> Teddy Bears' Picnic on Friday 16th May. We will be having a non-uniform day after the Easter break for donations for the adult bottle tombola and children's tombola so if you are having a clear out over the holiday then please put items aside to bring to donation day on the 25<sup>th</sup> April or drop into the school office after the break.

We cannot run this event without the support of the whole school community. So please rally family and friends and sign up to help on stalls throughout the day and assist with the car park.

Please sign up here - <https://signup.com/go/FiHmNcR>



### **Important dates for the summer term:**

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April - Non-uniform day for donations for Teddy Bears' Picnic & Preloved uniform sale

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May - Non-uniform day for donations for Teddy Bears' Picnic

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May - Cake donations for TBP at school (or to TBP on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May)

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June – Preloved uniform sale

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June - Abinger Medieval Fair

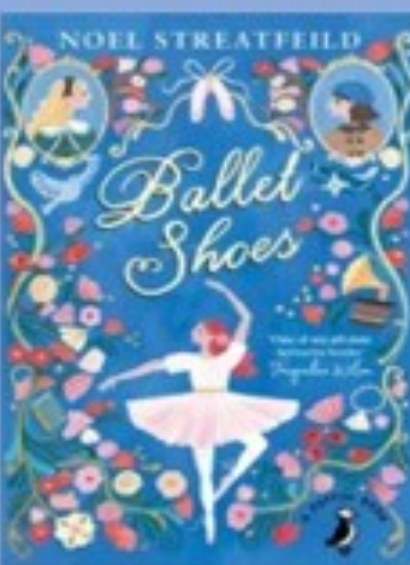
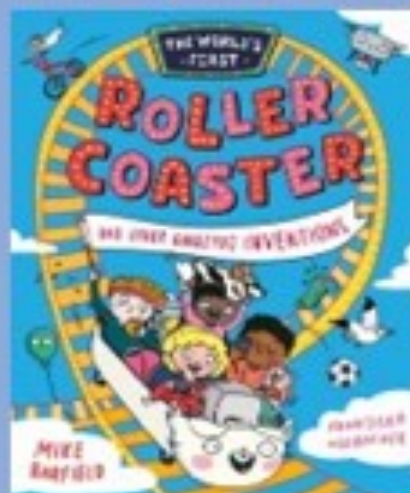
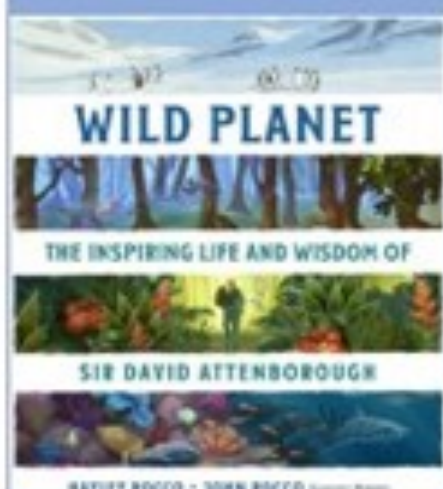
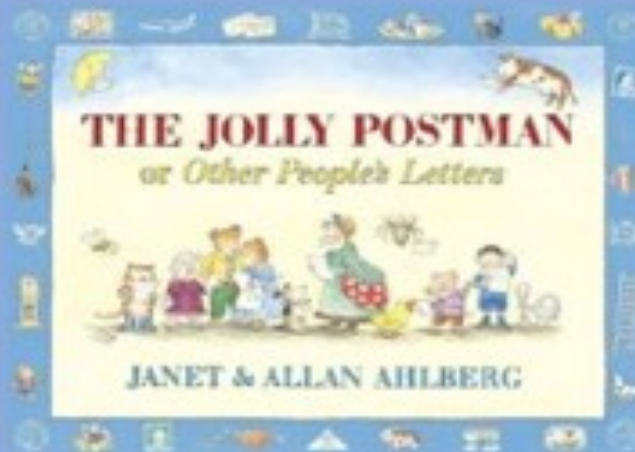
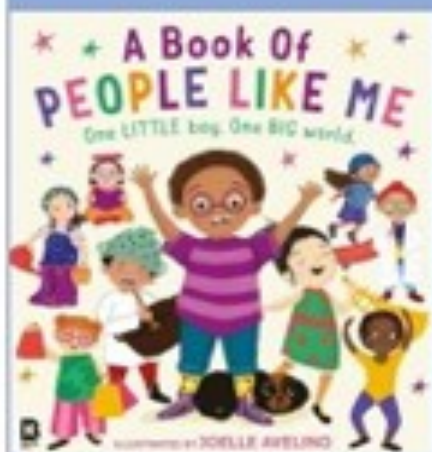
Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> June - WESTfest

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July – Bees and Butterflies Cake Sale & Preloved uniform sale

Thank you for your continued support,

F@SH

# Mrs Dutton's Holiday Reads



Let me know if you enjoy any of these books. Come and see me if you have a recommendation you would like in our next newsletter.

*Happy Reading!*



**Just to remind parents/carers that if they take their children out of school without authority for 5 or more days (which do not have to be consecutive), then the following will apply:**

- 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 s444 Education Act 1996.**

**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.**

### Why is Attendance Important?

Missing school has a huge impact on how well a pupil gets on at school. The more school a child misses, the harder it is for them to get into a routine of attending regularly and catch up on the work they have missed.

### How can you help?

- Be open - Every parent struggles at some point, no parent is perfect! If you're having difficulties getting your child into school come and talk to a member of staff - we can help work through the issues and barriers.
- Engage - We are keen to work with families and support where we can. Helen Young, our Home School Link Worker, is always happy to talk and to signpost parents to further support.



### Be an Attendance Hero...



Here Every day Ready On time



### Absence due to Illness

We understand and appreciate that children can be ill and it is not always easy to decide whether to send them to school or keep them at home. If your child is too poorly to attend school, please contact the school office before 9.00am with full details of your child's illness or symptoms. If you are unsure whether your child is well enough for school then the NHS webpage may help - <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Children often describe feeling unwell - headache, feeling sick, stomach ache - when they are anxious or worried about something. Please contact us for advice and support as missing school will often make that worry grow.

### Term Time Holidays

Just a reminder that school cannot authorise family holidays during term time. Absence from school for any reason can have a negative impact on a child's education and achievement. All requests for leave of absence during term time will be viewed by Mrs Fyson. Absence can only be authorised for exceptional circumstances.

Any unauthorised absences, including holidays and unexplained absences are at risk of being referred to Surrey County Council for a Fixed Penalty Notice.



Our Attendance Target is 96%



# Diary Dates 2025

<b>April 2025</b>	
<b>7th-21st April</b>	<b>Easter Holidays</b>
<b>22nd April</b>	<b>Children Return to School</b>
<b>25th April</b>	<b>Preloved Uniform Sale at 15.20</b>
<b>25th April</b>	<b>Non Uniform day– Donations for Teddy Bears Picnic</b>
<b>28th April</b>	<b>Forest School Hedgehogs</b>
<b>29th April</b>	<b>Year 3&amp;4 Swimming 13.15-14.15</b>
<b>May 2025</b>	
<b>5th May</b>	<b>Bank Holiday</b>
<b>6th May</b>	<b>Year 3&amp;4 Swimming 13.15-14.15</b>
<b>9th May</b>	<b>Non Uniform day– Donations for Teddy Bears Picnic</b>
<b>12th May</b>	<b>Forest School Hedgehogs</b>
<b>12th-15th May</b>	<b>Year 6 SATs</b>
<b>13th May</b>	<b>Year 3&amp;4 Swimming 13.15-14.15</b>
<b>15th May</b>	<b>Year R-2 Painshill Park Trip</b>
<b>16th May</b>	<b>Teddy Bears Picnic Abinger Cricket Club 16.00-18.00</b>
<b>19th May</b>	<b>Forest School Hedgehogs</b>
<b>20th May</b>	<b>Year 3&amp;4 Swimming 13.15-14.15</b>
<b>22nd May</b>	<b>Year 4 Residential Meeting– Owls Class 15.30-16.00</b>
<b>26th -30th May</b>	<b>Half Term</b>

# Diary Dates 2025

<b>June 2025</b>	
<b>3rd June</b>	<b>Year 3&amp;4 Swimming 13.15-14.15</b>
<b>5th June</b>	<b>Year 4 Portals to the Past</b>
<b>5th June</b>	<b>Year 5 Residential Meeting—Owls Class 15.30-16.00</b>
<b>6th June</b>	<b>Class Photos</b>
<b>6th June</b>	<b>Preloved Uniform Sale at 15.20</b>
<b>10th June</b>	<b>Hedgehogs Egyptian Workshop</b>
<b>11th-13th June</b>	<b>Year 6 Residential -Thames Young Mariners</b>
<b>14th June</b>	<b>Abinger Medieval Fair 12.30-15.30</b>
<b>16th-17th June</b>	<b>Year 4 Residential Forest Green Mill</b>
<b>18th June</b>	<b>Year 6 Leavers Service at Guildford Cathedral 10am-11am</b>
<b>23rd-24th June</b>	<b>Year 5 Residential –Forest Green Mill</b>
<b>22nd June</b>	<b>Westfest—Cradhurst Recreation Ground 11.30-16.00</b>
<b>23rd-24th June</b>	<b>Year 5 Residential –Forest Green Mill</b>
<b>24th June</b>	<b>Year 3&amp;4 Swimming 13.15-14.15</b>
<b>26th June</b>	<b>Sports Day</b>
<b>30th– 4th July (Except 2nd July)</b>	<b>Year 6 Bikeability</b>



# Diary Dates 2025

<b>July 2025</b>	
<b>2nd July</b>	<b>Move up Day</b>
<b>1st July</b>	<b>Year 3&amp;4 Swimming 13.15-14.15</b>
<b>10th July</b>	<b>Rocksteady Concert at 10am</b>
<b>11th July</b>	<b>Bees and Butterflies Cake Sale 14.50-15.20</b>
<b>11th July</b>	<b>Preloved Uniform Sale at 15.20</b>
<b>16th July</b>	<b>Year 6 Leavers Party 17.00-19.00</b>
<b>17th July</b>	<b>End of Term—Early Finish EYFS/KS1– 13.15 KS2-</b>
<b>18th, 21st &amp; 22nd</b>	<b>Inset Days</b>
<b>23rd July–31st Au-</b>	<b>Summer Holidays</b>
<b>September 2025</b>	
<b>October 2025</b>	
<b>3rd October</b>	<b>Individual &amp; Sibling photos</b>