



***Working Together, Learning Together, Growing Together  
Where Children Matter Most***

## **Merrow Schools Federation Bulletin - Autumn 2022**

18th November 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

The weather is definitely turning, ready for hats and gloves! Please ensure your children have named coats etc in school at all times so they are still able to enjoy time outside.

The next few weeks are incredibly busy, so please ensure that you read the newsletter and 'Dates for the Diary' so your children don't miss out!

### **Christmas Fair - Saturday 26th at Merrow**

Preparations are in full swing and we are all looking forward to the event next Saturday. We still need volunteers to help out on the stalls - very happy to have Year 6 pupils or ex-pupils to take a turn of 30 minutes between 11 and 2pm. If you are able to help, please let either school office know.

### **Christmas Productions**

Please look out for letters from each school with details about the upcoming performances.

At Bushy Hill:

Wednesday 7th December - everyone from years 4 and 5 needed in school for the performance

Thursday 8th December - everyone from years 3 and 6 needed.

Mrs Friend Smith also asks whether anyone could get her a bale of hay (and creature free!)

### **English workshop**

We have received a lot of interest in our Reading, Writing and Literacy Workshop taking place next Tuesday 22nd November from 3.15 pm until 4 pm and everybody is welcome to come along.

There will be a session on reading, a session on writing and one on phonics each lasting approximately 15 minutes. You can attend as many sessions as you would like. Please complete the Google Form by clicking <https://forms.gle/J2agv3DUJK9oD8Vm8> so that we know which of the 3 sessions you would like to attend.

Children will be supervised whilst the sessions take place (please note we cannot supervise babies or toddlers).

### **Fireman Visit**

*Last week a Fireman came in to talk to us about Fire Safety. We learned that dogs can be in the fire station to help out. The most important message when there is a fire is: Come out, Stay Out, Call 999. If there is a fire anywhere, you must move. We really enjoyed it - it was so fun!*

Feola and Ryan

### **Football report**

*On Thursday (3rd Nov.) we went to George Abbot for a football tournament and to represent Bushy. We lost our first two matches, drew the next and won the final two. Although we didn't win, we still enjoyed it and made a few memories. I hope we can participate in another tournament/match and well done to the winners.*

*Will - I liked defending so I can stop goals going in!*

*Ethan - I liked the fact that we got to be an ambassador for the school.*

*Dylan - I liked tackling in mid field, playing the ball up to strike and having a shot or 1!*

*Kayden - I really liked playing in goal because it was fun and everyone was very supportive.*

*Special thanks to Lewis for helping us all and being an amazing team captain!*

Will and Dylan

### **Leaves**

A reminder for Merrow parents, if your child shows any of our values of Kindness, Respect or Responsibility, you can nominate them for a leaf which will be read out in assembly.

### **Odd sock competition**

Congratulations to the following children who won the competition this week:

Lily W., Eli F., Sophie W., Zachary N., Layla W. and Natanael.

### **Ofsted**

Bushy Hill were delighted to receive their 'Good' report last week - a real testament to the hard work of all the staff over a number of years. Unfortunately as it was an 'ungraded' report, there was not a great deal of detail included. Further details below.

### **Open classrooms**

As you were unable to view the children's work due to the arrangements of consultations, I would like to invite you to visit the schools at the following times where you will have the opportunity to view your children's work and meet up with other parents in the class.

Bushy - Thursday 1st December at 9am. Please congregate in the gym where there will be a cup of tea and other information available. You will then have the chance to go to your child's classroom before returning to the gym at 9.30am.

Merrow - Thursday 8th December at 3pm. Please collect your child at usual time and then they will take you back into the classroom to show off their work.

### **Perform Workshop**

*Yesterday, we went into the hall for a workshop. It was really fun! We were trying to get in the castle to get the dragon. There was a witch and we had to pretend to be a statue - when the witch was out of the hall we could dance, but when she was in the hall we had to be statues. We saw a sword too!*

Matthew

### **PTA Chair**

I am very pleased to announce that we have a new Chair for our PTA at Bushy Hill. Mrs Sam Richmond has been voted in and will resume the role immediately. Our sincere thanks again to Chris Sciberras, our outgoing Chair for all her hard work and fundraising.

The Fireworks event raised an incredible £2,400 to support our children - thank you to everyone who attended.

### School Dinners at Merrow

All children are provided with a delicious hot school meal at Merrow, this is such an important part of their learning and social development. Sometimes the children are presented with new foods. We do expect the children to be polite to the kitchen staff and have a try - we ask that you support us with this.

### Staff news

I am delighted to welcome Ms Leanne Lee (Year 5), Ms Patricia Bailey (Year 3) and Mrs Michelle McDermott (Year 2) to our staff team.

### St John's - Year 3

*On Tuesday we walked to St. John's Church to learn all about it. We looked at lots of old things, saw the font, saw writing on the wall and stained glass windows. Hannah spoke to us about the church and we learned lots! Outside we saw some graves - one had a massive headstone!* Noah and Seb.

### Volunteers

We are always on the lookout for volunteers to help out at lunch, with readers etc. Please let us know if you are able to help - any time would be really appreciated.

## Safeguarding, Child Protection and Wellbeing

### [What is Clare's Law?](#)

### [What is Grooming?](#)

### [Safeguarding Awareness for Parents and Carers \(Football Association\)](#)

Surrey Country Council has collaborated with a range of organisations to provide practitioners and parents with a suite of resources, tools, and training to support work around identifying parental conflict within families and providing intervention to ensure children and young people are living in an environment where parents/caregivers are able to manage conflict appropriately.

### [Our resources for reducing conflict between parents.](#)

At any given time up to 40% of adults and 50% of children (this rises to 80% with a SEND diagnosis) have difficulties with their sleep. Yet in a recent survey, almost 60% of adults felt there was a lack of support for sleep issues. Sleep problems can leave people feeling isolated and lonely.

Our free helpline is run by trained sleep advisors, many of whom are specialists in working with SEND. We can talk to young people directly, or parents (we can also talk to adults, including older people, about their sleep issues).

The helpline is open 5 times a week, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday evenings 7-9pm, and Wednesday mornings 9-11am. The number is 03303 530 541.

You can read more here:

<https://thesleepcharity.org.uk/national-sleep-helpline/>



the national sleep helpline

**Does your child suffer with sleep issues?**

Do you struggle with your child's bedtime?

Will your child not sleep in their own bed?

**WE CAN HELP**

**03303 530 541**

Sunday - Tuesday & Thursday 7pm - 9pm  
Wednesday 9am - 11am

## Community News



We at Hans Christmas Andersen love our local community and nothing is better than sprinkling some festive joy at this particular time of year. Once again, in 2022, we're giving away 25 (yes, 25!) of our beautiful home grown Christmas Trees to 25 lucky schools in our area.

Here's how to enter:

Like the pinned post at [facebook.com/HansChristmasAndersen](https://facebook.com/HansChristmasAndersen) or [instagram.com/hanschristmasandersen](https://instagram.com/hanschristmasandersen), and name the school you would like to nominate in the comments.

You have until 5 pm on Sunday 27th November to share your nomination (and encourage other parents and friends to do the same).

Winners will be drawn and announced on Facebook, Instagram and in our next email newsletter.

Active Surrey will be running a free 'Help your child be their best' workshop in conjunction with YMCA East Surrey's Community Wellbeing Team, giving tips on how parents can help their children reach their potential physically and mentally. Parents will learn about the Tree of Wellbeing and the links to activity, nutrition, hydration and sleep.

Dates of the workshops will be:

Thursday 24 November 2022 | 18:30-19:30

Thursday 19 January 2023 | 18:30-19:30

Thursday 9 February 2023 | 18:30-19:30

Find out more about the workshop and how to book on the website: [Parent Workshops - YMCA East Surrey](#)

Booking form: [Helping your child be their best Tickets, Multiple Dates | Eventbrite](#).

Thank you for your support - have a great weekend!

Mrs L. Dormer  
Executive Head Teacher

## **Ofsted Feedback - key points**

### **Safeguarding**

- There is a good culture of Safeguarding with clear systems and protocols consistently in place.
- Leaders follow procedures and are meticulous about monitoring and following through with any concerns.
- Parents and pupils report that the school is a safe place.
- Online safety provision is good.
- Leaders are vigilant and provide appropriate support when needed, especially with mental health.
- Staff go the extra mile and show kindness.

### **Curriculum**

- Curriculum intent is ambitious in all subjects.
- Pupils study a full curriculum.
- Curriculum is cohesively sequenced and plans build on knowledge.

### **Maths**

- Subject Leadership is very strong and knowledgeable. The curriculum has been evaluated, the effectiveness of the curriculum against the National Curriculum, consulting with staff and providing effective feedback.
- Well sequenced curriculum, well adapted for SEN and MA children.
- Teachers know children and complete prior assessments which help planning.
- Year 6 maths was very strong - expectations met and good questioning.
- Maths knowledge is secure - children are receiving feedback which helps them (children can articulate this).
- Progress over time was very clear.
- VERY STRONG PROVISION

### **Reading is a strength**

- Leader is strong and passionate about the subject area
- Curriculum meets the needs of learners, a clear cohesive curriculum.
- Leaders are ambitious
- School fosters a love of reading
- There is a rich literature spine
- Wide range of strategies used to teach children
- Regular training and development for staff
- Children are well prepared for the next stage of their learning
- SEN well supported and provision used effectively

### **SEND**

- Excellent knowledge of the needs of the children
- Excellent pastoral support
- Graduated response embedded and leaders monitor regularly
- Needs managed well - learning closely matched to EHCP targets.

- SENCo uses advice from others and consults with parents.
- Intervention and support is effective and therefore children are achieving.

### **Modern Foreign Languages**

- Strong rationale for curriculum
- Subject leader strong
- Work in books in Years 5 & 6 is very good. (Year 3 and 4 focus on speaking and listening)

### **PE is a strength**

- Planning well sequenced.
- Subject leader strong
- Clubs promoted for vulnerable children
- Bushy is a sporty school!

### **Behaviour**

- Children are well supported, children self-regulate and staff use a range of strategies to support these children. Staff feel supported by SLT
- School sets high expectations and staff are supported to be consistent.
- Pupils are usually on task, calm, focussed and have positive attitudes.
- Positive relationships are a real strength across the school.
- Systems are in place and all know expectations.
- Poor attendance is monitored well.
- Leaders put the wellbeing of children and staff first.
- Children know the rewards and sanctions in place and feel these are fair
- Low level disruption was not evident.

### **Bullying:**

- Children did say that these behaviours do happen, but incidents happen.
- All incidents followed up with rigour
- No evidence to support bullying is an issue in the school.
- Every child she spoke to said Anti-Bullying Ambassadors were effective
- Behaviour policy followed consistently

### **Personal development is lovely**

- Children appreciate the leadership opportunities and this leads to character development (particularly House Captains and School Council)
- Talents and interests are developed
- Children are resilient and have positive attitudes
- Carefully thought out SMSC and British Values opportunities
- Children know how to identify risks, to stay safe online and in the community
- Plenty of opportunities for mental and physical development.
- Bushy is a sporty school!

**Staff wellbeing**

- Staff are appreciative of the support and feel valued.
- Team spirit palpable.
- All share the commitment to improve the curriculum.
- ECT support is effective and is part of an effective professional development programme and this is due to the positive impact of mentors.

**Governors**

- Governors are strong; they are skilled and ambitious and show a good balance between pastoral and academic challenge/support.