



Merrow Schools Federation Bulletin - Spring 1 2023

13th January 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Happy New Year! I hope you were able to enjoy the holidays despite all the illnesses going around! We have started the term positively (despite the miserable weather) and the children have settled well back into routines. So much to fit in this term, please make sure you refer to the 'Dates for the Diary' so you don't miss anything!

Last week on our INSET Day, we took time to think about what we want for our children, families, staff and wider community - what is important to us as educators and how this will help shape our vision for the federation. It was a very productive morning and I will be inviting parents/carers and children to get involved with different aspects of this going forward. We also talked about HOPE as we start a new year and reflected on hopes for ourselves, our families, the pupils and the community.

We regularly refer to our value of respect and continuously discuss ways in which we could and should show respect. One way to do this is by respecting the schools' uniform rules - as with all rules, children are praised for following these.

School rules are in place for every child in the school as we strongly believe in the sense of community and the pride a uniform provides. In all establishments there are guidelines that need to be followed and we are helping to teach our children to respect these - **even if we do not agree with them ourselves**. Thank you for your support in ensuring these are followed at all times.

Bushy: Every child should be wearing a shirt and tie (unless otherwise agreed with a senior member of staff). **Both schools:** Black sensible school shoes and black, white or grey **plain** socks. Trainers only on PE days please.

PE kit: School PE t-shirt and shorts with trainers. Optional school sweatshirt or **plain** (green or) black tracksuit bottoms and jumper - no logos. Currently, the children are to wear these to school on the days they do PE.

Hair: must be tied back with a **plain** band if shoulder length or longer.

No dyed hair or extreme haircuts/styles. Hair should be no shorter than Grade 2 please.

Plain Alice bands are allowed, but no hair wraps during term time.

Nail varnish - please ensure this is removed before your child attends school.

Admissions

A reminder that children due to start in Reception or Year 3 in September must apply by this **Sunday - 15th January:**

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/community/surrey-matters/magazine/families-and-young-people/primary-school-admissions-are-opening-soon-on-31-october> .

Emails

Please note that all email addresses have changed. To contact the office, please email:

Merrow: info@merrowfederation.school or Bushy: office@merrowfederation.school

At Bushy, the children have email addresses. These will have changed automatically, but if you log into a new device, you will need to sign in with the new email address. The first part remains the same, but it is then: @merrowfederation.school

Chinese/Lunar New Year



This year we will be celebrating at both schools on Wednesday 25th January. The children are invited to come into school dressed in traditional costume or as much red as they can (there is no obligation to buy anything - the Merrow jumpers are burgundy and there is red in the Bushy ties). During the day the children will learn more about this celebration.

Clubs

Clubs have started this week at both schools and the lists are full and staff are ready to go!

At Bushy we have traditionally had a number of clubs run by staff after school. You may have noticed that over the past few terms, this number has reduced as staff do their clubs at lunchtime. This is to help support the After School Club as numbers had reduced affecting their finances - without them many parents/carers would be unable to fulfil work commitments. Thank you for your understanding with this. I am always so appreciative of our teachers who give up so much of their time to provide these extra-curricular opportunities.

Parking

Please can you make a concerted effort to ensure you are parking considerately and safely. I have observed at both schools some very dangerous practices: double parking, parking on corners, stopping on the yellow lines. I am sure you agree that we do not want a serious incident to happen to one of our families.

PJ Day!



Last Friday the School Council at Bushy Hill organised a pyjama day - the children were very cosy all day! The School Council managed to raise nearly £200 for their chosen ADHD and Autism charities.

PTA Quiz 2023

This is always a very popular event and this year it will be a Merrow based event. Whilst parents/families from both schools are welcome to bring a team, I am sure you appreciate we have limited space in the school hall. Therefore Merrow parent tables will be prioritised - with Bushy parents prioritised next year. If there is sufficient demand, a Bushy Quiz could be arranged later in the year.

Tretower House Development Update:

"Our ecologist was on site (Monday 9th) undertaking some final surveys and preparing a temporary habitat for any wildlife found during the clearing process. We will also have some workers on site carrying out some preparation and clearance of the house and garden as well as starting with some tree removal during the week ahead.

All parties have been made aware of the hours lorries etc can come to site and we will be monitoring this ourselves. Just for clarity we are not commencing the construction of the development at this stage but just preparing the house and garden for when we do. I will certainly be in touch again to let you know when this happens."

Joe Jelley

Volunteers

We are always on the lookout for volunteers to help out at lunch, with readers etc. We would also like 2 parent helpers in the library at Merrow. Please let us know if you are able to help - any time would be really appreciated.

We also need more readers to support in all year groups - if you can spare an hour during the week, your time would be much appreciated.

Safeguarding, Child Protection and Wellbeing

- [Child Safety and the Metaverse](#)
- [Understanding the Playground - Fortnite](#)
- [Building Healthy Relationships whilst Socializing Online](#)

https://www.getsurrey.co.uk/news/uk-world-news/parents-warned-over-app-targeted-25946562?utm_source=linkCopy&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=sharebar

This article is about a new app called Yubu, which is inappropriate for young people.

If you have any concerns, please contact Mrs Dormer/Mrs Aldridge at Bushy or Mrs Hooper/Mrs Jewson at Merrow.

Community News

Families Magazine

<https://bit.ly/FamiliesMagJanFeb23Digital>

This issue has a what's on listing for January and February, Valentine's craft ideas, batch cooking recipes and lots more.

Half term activity:

We are running our tech camp this February half term at RGS Prep School, GU1 2EL on the 13th – 17th of February 2023 from 9 am to 4 pm each day.

Next Thing's Tech Camps are all about making learning fun, encouraging skill-building and giving children the opportunity to try something different! From programming challenges, Robot Coding, Photoshop Skills, Minecraft, DJ mixing and LEGO programming, we have all the creative boxes ticked! Whether your child is a tech whiz, or new to STEM education, let them come along and make new friends, have a blast, and gain skills that will last a lifetime.

The main themes for the week are the following:

Bot Builders and Coders 🤖

Meet our Robots and learn visual coding and programming skills that make them come to life! Kickstart your career in STEM as you navigate your robot, create games, and explore new challenges. This is a great activity to help develop problem-solving skills.

Ingenious Inventors 💡

Flex your circuitry skills to make anything from buggies, alarms, and light sensors to an FM Radio!

Creative Tech 🧑🔬

Digital art, rocket propulsions, wearable technology, Augmented Reality, Virtual Reality and Laser Tag. A fun-fuelled tech day awaits.

Expert Engineers 🚀

Fantastically fun! Discover how to construct and make mechanisms move. We challenge children to create new inventions using modular electronics, helping to develop their problem-solving skills.

Media Madness 🎬

Unleash your inner creative genius and create your own music or start and produce your own film! The opportunities are endless on our media day!

Don't forget to use the code FEB5 for £5 off your booking

With the world becoming more digital, this is the perfect camp to develop STEM skills and keep your child ahead. Our camps are for ages 5-11 (years 1- 6) only, for more information please see our attached flyer or visit our website: www.nextthing.education

Complete Active Surrey's survey on physical activity for a chance to win a £50 Amazon voucher

Active Surrey would like to hear from parents and children about how we can improve physical activity opportunities and the Specsavers Surrey Youth Games.

Here is the survey link:

<https://wss.pollfish.com/link/8a3cc349-445c-4df8-9c97-afe78a0e15e7?apik=%apik%&transid=%transid%>

Active Surrey have asked [Magenta Research](#) to run this survey on their behalf to; explore families' preferences for taking part in physical activity; how parents/children find out about activities in their area; and how Active Surrey could provide improved ways for children to be more physically active.

We really want to hear your views if you haven't heard of the Specsavers Surrey Youth Games, which offers children the chance to try sports and activities they haven't done before, **for FREE!**

Active Surrey will be running a free and online '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. The course is for parents/carers of primary aged children.

Dates of the workshops will be:

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

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



Be Your Best is a children's weight management programme with a difference, offering families judgement free support to make small changes to improve each child's complete physical and mental wellbeing.

Families who enrol on the programme receive tailored one-to-one sessions, alongside online group sessions. These cover a wide range of topics including portion size, managing screen time, encouraging movement, positive body image and much more.

There are even online cook-alongs where parents and children can learn to prepare nutritious meals together and fun, active 'Family FIT' sessions – all free of charge.

To hear from a family who have completed the programme, watch this video: [Introduction to Be Your Best Surrey](#)

The Be Your Best programme is open to families with a child aged 0-12, above the healthy weight range, living or going to school in Surrey. It is led by Active Surrey in partnership with Children and Family Health Surrey and the University of Surrey's Dietetics Department.

Website: www.bybsurrey.org.

Thank you for your ongoing support.
Have a lovely weekend!

Mrs L. Dormer
Executive Head Teacher

Time Out For Parents Dads

Workshops for all fathers of children up to 16 years
Single, separated or married Dads. Whatever your situation, join us.

Dates
Duration: 5 weeks
Starting Wednesday 1st February 2023

Time
7.30pm - 9pm

Cost
£10.00, includes manual and refreshments

Venue
Mole Valley Family Centre, Goodwyns Road,
Dorking, Surrey, RH4 2LR

More information
For more details and/or to book your place, please call Mole Valley Family Centre on 01306 740095.

positiveparenting
Common sense, jargon-free information and ideas to help you to engage with your children and boost your relationship