



25th May 2023

Dear Parent/Carer



I have to begin with the outstanding obstacle courses we have run over the past couple of days. The children thoroughly enjoyed the experience - one Year 1 child told us it was his best day ever!! It would not have been possible without the staggering amount of time, organisation and commitment from Chris Sciberras. She has spearheaded the organisation and I would like to thank her along with the incredible team of parent helpers for making it possible for our children to have such fun! (Though not the pesky parents who soaked me at the end of the junior course!!)

A special mention to our Year 6 Sports crew and Year 5 buddies who supported our infant children so well, showing our federation values in their actions. One parent commented, *"Each and every one of them was great, so polite and supportive of their charges. An absolute credit to the school. The Sports Crew especially - please pass on how brilliant we all thought they were at encouraging and supporting the little ones."*



Thank you for all of the sponsorship money at both schools - this is much appreciated and will ensure we can continue to fund resources and opportunities for your children.

Those of you who are eagle-eyed will have spotted our new logo! Thank you to everyone who voted - logo 3 was the winner with 45% of the vote. We will now start using this on our paperwork etc. Again, no need to panic about uniform for a while. I am meeting with Stevensons after half term to get the ball rolling with that. Bushy Hill is now officially Merrow Junior School - please bear with us as we remember to call it that!!

This half term has whizzed by, but so much has been achieved. I would like to say well done to our Year 2s for completing their SATs papers with confidence and great efforts and to the staff team for ensuring this was as stress free as it could be.

We have seen unprecedented staff illness/absence this year and I would like to thank you for your support and patience with the changes to staffing within certain classrooms. Where possible, we have ensured as much continuity as possible for the children.

On the subject of absence/attendance, I have been surprised by the number of parents requesting time off during term time. A reminder that holidays are not authorised during term time and if you are away for 5 days or more, you may be liable to pay a fine. We very much appreciate that the cost of holidays increases during school holidays, however that is not a viable reason. School dates are always published at the bottom of the 'Dates for your Diary'.

Our children have experienced quite a lot in these past few weeks, with most year groups out on trips or welcoming visitors to school - please see the year group reports and our Twitter page for more information. The French trip was a huge success and to see and hear about the opportunities the children had on their final trip, was incredible - so many memories made! Also making memories were our Reception on their first ever trip - a few got on the coach/minibus with some trepidation, but came back beaming with lots to tell us!

Time to Celebrate!

Huge congratulations to Mr and Mrs Foxby who welcomed baby James William on 6th May.

Many congratulations to Huxley (6F) who has recently become British Gymnastics Champion in the Men's Group youth category.

We are very proud of Lilia (3DY) for her achievements in a recent Judo competition. She won all three fights and got Gold!

Swimming gala



The swimming gala at spectrum was a very exciting event where eight schools competed in lots of fun swimming races. The most peculiar event was the t-shirt race where 4 girls and 4 boys had to swim 25m with a t-shirt on and exchange the t-shirt. The Bushy team had a good mix of club swimmers and non-competitive swimmers. The year five boys came an astonishingly 2nd, close to the year 5 girls who came 3rd, and year 6 boys came 3rd. Overall we came 3rd which was surprising because we don't have a pool to practise in!!! It was definitely a fun and memorable event.

By Nina and Harry T



A huge congratulations to our Headteacher Award winners for this half term. They should be so proud of the way in which they have followed our Golden Rules and shown a positive mindset in their learning.

Hedgehogs - Sienna

Rabbits - Esme

Badgers - Jonas

Owls - Siddiq

Squirrels - Lily

Foxes - Danny

3DY - Joscelyn

3H - Aryaan

4K - Piotr

4SL - Charlotte

5F - Samuel

5J - Nina

6SB - Esmee

6F - Beatrix

**Congratulations to Hornbeam House for being awarded the most house points this half term!
Children will enjoy a tasty treat at Breaktime during the week we return.**

Bushy Book Challenge (we will need to change the name!)

Congratulations to these children who have completed the challenge and received their badges today: Ethan N., Lacey P., Elliot L., Klea and Kaden.



Maths Challenges

Well done to the following children for achieving their awards.

Star Challenge: Bronze - Haniya, Zara B, Yasmine, Elliot L, Emily, Aryaan, Harry, Katherine, Ethan H and Amy G

Gold - Javis

Owl Challenge

Bronze: Ewalt, Joseph, Lucas, Eleanor, Jayden

Silver: Flynn, Seb, Elliot R, Louise, Iki, Matthew

Huge congratulations to Noah Nettleship for achieving his PLATINUM OWL Badge



Year group reports:

YR had an excellent trip to Bockett's Farm and were blessed with good weather. Here is what the children said about it.

"I liked the pig race because the pigs were running and I liked the colours"

"I liked the pig race because I was cheering the green pigs"

"I liked feeding the sheep"

"We played outside in an adventure playground"

"I learnt how to be nice to animals. You need to feed them and give them hay"

"I liked seeing the baby piglets, they were born yesterday and I saw two of them drinking the mummy's milk"

"I got to go on a tractor ride, it was very bumpy"

"I liked feeding the goats because they tickled my hand and it made me laugh"



Year 1 - The Greatest Show

Today we went to St Hillary's and we practised our dancing and singing. I already knew 'This is Me' because I listened to it four times. We were in groups and learnt a poem. We sat outside and had our lunch. It was good because I was so hungry! We did our poem and sang 'This is Me' to the grown-ups. We were on stage and I felt a little scared but so excited!

Max and Izzy

The children were absolutely brilliant - to go on stage as a group of 99 and perform in front of a full hall of adults at their young age was so inspiring. Thank you to Miss Wyatt for accompanying them all day.

Last Thursday, Year 3 had a Viking visitor, Erik Eriksson. He brought loads of things with him, like animal skins that were used for floor coverings and bedding and weapons like axes, spears and swords. We were allowed to try on the metal helmets and body armour made of chain mail. We also made coins with a heavy hammer. We had a great day.

Oliver, Riley, Antoni and Klea

Year 5 - Our Shakespeare topic

In class recently we have been learning all about Shakespeare. It has been super fun! First, we learnt about Midsummer Night's Dream. Our favourite part was the acting - we got into groups and acted out different scenes. Next, we looked at Romeo and Juliet. It was really interesting to learn about the language used in that period of time!

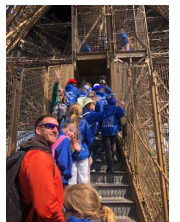
By Amelia and Holly

Year 6 - France



Last week we went to Paris and we stayed at a PGL centre. At the centre we did a silent disco, where you had headphones on and music blasting. We also did lots of activities in the evening including basketball, tennis, swimming and crepe making.

On Tuesday we went to a town called Brie where we did a town trail and we also practised some of our French. Later that day we went to the Sacre Coeur, which was the second highest point in Paris. On Wednesday we went to this amazing palace called Fontainebleau. The best day was Thursday when we went back to Paris. Firstly we went up the Eiffel Tower where we climbed 740 steps to the second stage - you could see all of Paris and after that we went on a boat trip. The last thing we did was a bus tour around Paris seeing loads of sites.



A visit to the hypermarket on Friday was great where most of us managed to spend our last remaining euros. A great trip and a great experience.

By Charles and Elspeth

Pentecost

The Pentecost Service for the Infant School at St John's will take place on 6th June. The service will be led by Rachel Boxer, one of our Governors and a Diocesan advisor. In order to get the children to Church safely it is very important that we have adult volunteers to walk up and back with us and we will be very grateful if you are able to help to accompany us. Parents and Carers are asked to remain after drop off as we register the children etc. and then we walk together up Merrow Street about 9.10. There is plenty of space in Church for everyone and then we return to school by 10.20am. Younger siblings are welcome to join us. Please speak to your child's class teacher if you can come with us. We look forward to as many of you as possible who can join us.

Staffing news

It is with great sadness that I announce the retirement of Mrs Murphy as our Horizons Breakfast and After School Club Manager after 8 years. Mrs Murphy has built up an outstanding club, welcoming children from all year groups into her care and ensuring such a safe and fun environment. Our sincere thanks for her tireless efforts and we wish her all the very best as she starts a new life in Somerset.

Welcome to Annabel who has started in the Infant's kitchen, preparing our delicious dinners alongside Sharon and Becky.

Vacancies

Clerk to the governors

We have a vacancy for this role - for further information, please click here:

<https://www.eteach.com/job/clerk-to-governing-body-part-time---for-september-2023-1309504>

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 much appreciated.

Safeguarding, Child Protection and Wellbeing

Stories to read together about online safety - suitable for children aged 3+:

[Hanni and the Magic Window](#)

[On the internet](#)

[Digiduck stories](#)

[What I need to know about ChatGPT](#)

[Omegle - Internet Matters](#)

[Omegle - Childnet](#)

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

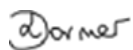
Community

Italia Conti Holiday Club - <https://www.italiacontiassociatesguildford.com/summer-school>

Don't forget to check out the Twitter account - @MerrowSchools, which can also be accessed on our websites.

Lots more next half term, the final of this year! Remember to check the 'Dates for the Diary' so you don't miss out.

Thank you for your ongoing support, it is much appreciated. I wish you all a relaxing, happy and safe half term break!



Mrs L. Dormer
Executive Head Teacher