

School Newsletter

Autumn 1 2025



We are very impressed at how well our new children have settled in school life at Surrey Hills both in Reception and in Year 3.

Thank you for your support this term both in school, through volunteering, attending year group information sessions and attending our Celebration assemblies as well as at home by supporting with reading and homework.

We have been working very hard to put together a series of additional exciting learning experiences which add to the amazing learning that takes place in class every day. Forest School sessions have taken place, we have worn yellow to support Mental Health day, Hedgehogs and Otters visited Nower Wood to launch their involvement in the Wilder Schools project with Surrey Wildlife Trust and Hedgehogs also had a visit from a variety of Owls to launch their English unit. Many more events and experiences are planned for the term ahead.

We visited Holy Trinity Church for our Harvest Festival earlier this month. The children led the service beautifully and thanks must go to Mrs Thompson for organising the service and to Reverend Tim for hosting us and for introducing the 'Find the Carrot' game to us all! Thank you also to everyone who was able to contribute an item to our harvest collection – these items have been donated to the Dorking Foodbank.

Year 6 have put themselves forward for a number of key pupil leadership roles in school including prefects, faith ambassadors and librarians. Orla and Teagan have been chosen to be our School Ambassadors this year.

Thank you to you all for ensuring that your child is in school on time, every day. Even though there seems to have been a huge number of coughs and colds doing the rounds our overall attendance is currently at 96.8% which is slightly above the national figure.

As the weather gets colder and wetter, please ensure that your child brings a warm, waterproof coat to school every day as we endeavour to get everyone outside at break and lunchtimes as much as possible.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if ever you have any questions or ideas to support us or would like to volunteer in school.

Kathryn Saunderson
Acting Headteacher



Reception Bees Class

Welcome to our new children in Bees, here is a snapshot of some of the fun and learning they have been enjoying during their first term at school.

Beau said “I am making a curly pattern”

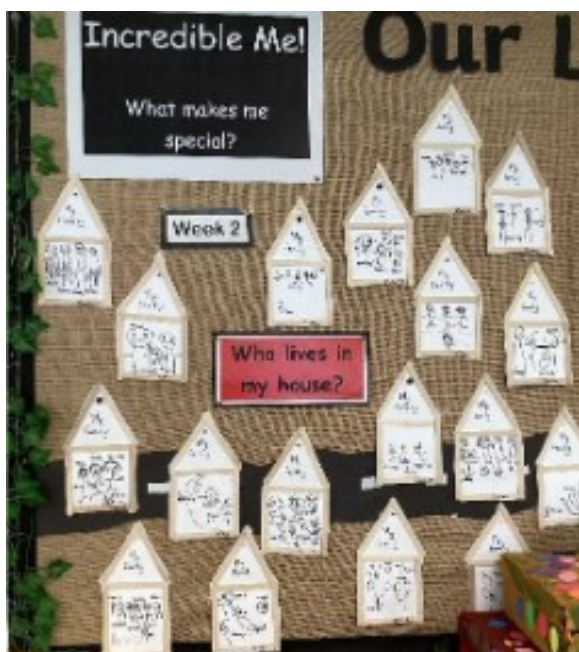


Exploring the provision



Reception Bees Class

Some of our lovely artwork



Sampling our delicious cuisine
"Lunchtimes are just the best!"



Reception Bees Class

Enjoying Forest School

“This is my face I made at Forest School”



“Wow that is a lot of bugs you have found Mabli.”

Leaf printing



Let's not forget our Year 1 Bees, in addition to all the wonderful things they have been doing with Butterflies they have also been very busy honing their mathematical skills – from counting, sorting to becoming human balancing scales!



Year 1-2 Butterflies

Butterflies have been working hard learning all about our local area. We looked at aerial maps of the school and mapped out our playground and routes to school. We thought about things we like in the playground and what we thought could be improved. We made messy maps using objects around the classroom and tried to make them as creative as possible!



Year 3 Hedgehogs Class

Hedgehogs get to meet real owls!

To introduce our new English topic of 'the Owl who was Afraid of the Dark', Hedgehogs were lucky enough to have some special fluffy friends come into visit us. We got to have four different types of owls fly above our heads and learn all about their adaptations, habitats and special features. We got to feel the feathers of different birds and watch each of the owls find new interesting places to perch in our school hall. Hedgehogs had the best morning learning all about these beautiful creatures and it has inspired some wonderful writing too!



Year 3 Hedgehogs Class

Hedgehogs have been busy constructing castles!

As part of our D&T project, Hedgehogs have been designing and constructing their very own castle. They had to think carefully about who they were designing their castle for, making a range of different nets and then construct their castle together. We were incredibly proud of our end results!



Year 3 Hedgehogs Class

Hedgehogs enjoy forest school!

Hedgehogs have enjoyed their forest school sessions this half term. They have developed some excellent team work skills through building dens, clearing the vegetable patch and even making jam on the fire!



Year 4 & 5 Otters Class

Otters Visit from Surrey Wildlife Trust

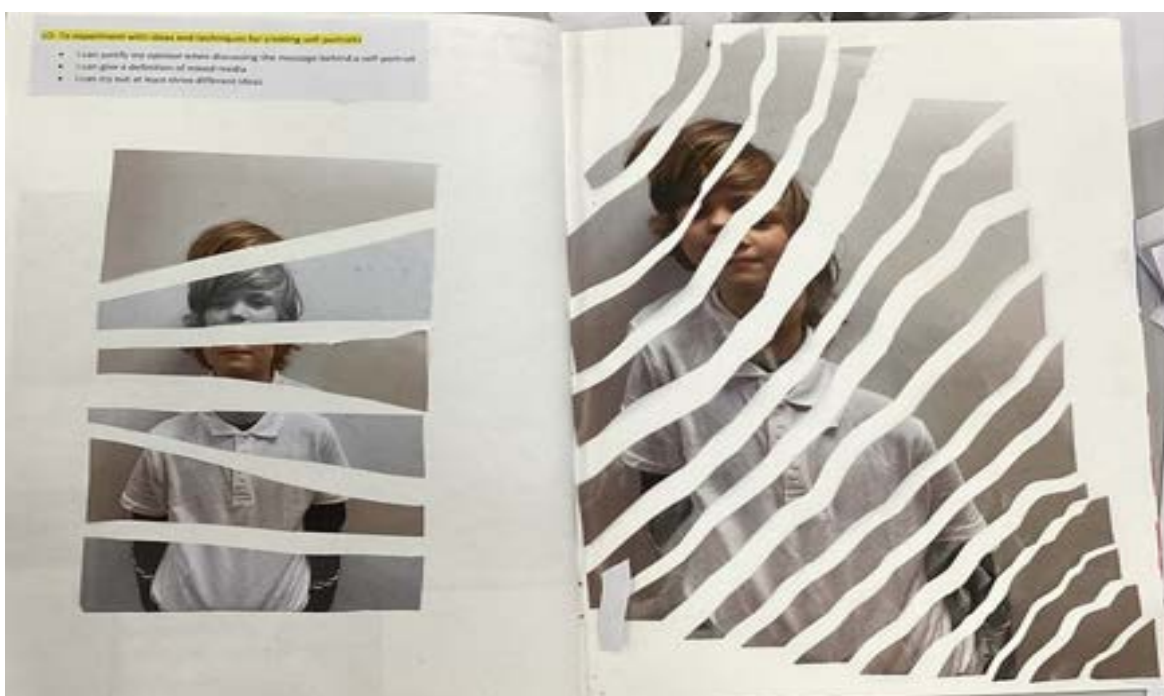
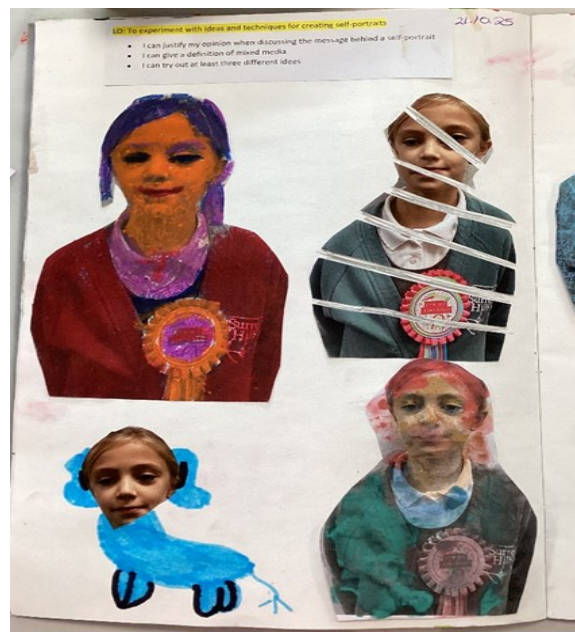
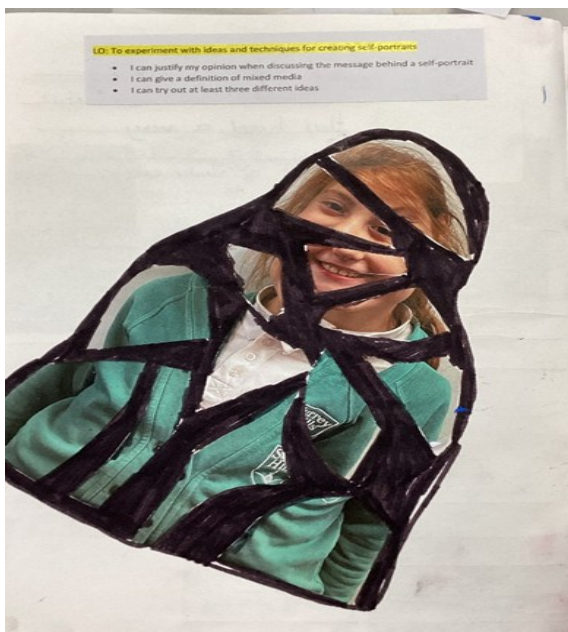
Otters class have been looking around the school grounds and collecting data about the wildlife on our site. We explored under logs, inside bushes and within our extensive bamboo forest to try and find as many minibeasts as we could. As we progress through the year, we will be working with Surrey Wildlife Trust to create more nature spaces within the school and increase biodiversity.



Year 4 & 5 Otters Class

Self-portraits

In Art lessons we have been focusing on creating self-portraits. We have explored a variety of different techniques as well as looked at some famous self-portraits. When it came to creating our final piece, we had to think very hard about what message we wanted our art work to convey and how we were going to do that.



Year 4 & 5 Otters Class

Religious Education- Creation of the world

Throughout this half term we have been looking into the Christian Creation Story and comparing that to the Big Bang. We had some very interesting discussions in which we shared our views on how the world was created and why we thought that. We also looked at the work of Jacqui Parkinson who creates beautiful textile artworks of different biblical events. We then made our own collage version of the Creation Story.



Year 6 Owls Class

DT and the Roar Project in Year 6

This month we had John and Tony come in from the Cranleigh Lions to officially launch the ROAR project with our Year 6 class. The ROAR project, also known as Lions Roar, is a UK-wide competition for primary schools that encourages children to develop an idea that will change the world. It is a partnership between Lions Clubs and 8billionideas, an award-winning education company. The program aims to inspire children to think big and positively change the world by developing their creativity, communication, and teamwork skills. We have already started working on our design prototypes and can't wait to see them develop!



Forest School

The children harvested our potatoes at Forest School and Dawn (the legend that she is!) has produced these for the children!





This half term has flown by! We welcomed new parents to our first F@SH meeting in September, and we have some amazing idea for fundraising events for children and parents in the year ahead. The children have been busy making their wonderful Christmas card designs and it was very difficult to choose the winners. Prizes will be presented at the celebration assembly after half term. Please make sure that you order the Christmas cards, baubles, tote bags and other items with your child's design by **midday on the 7th November** to ensure items are delivered in time for Christmas. 20% of each purchase goes to F@SH.

F@SH will be running a couple of stalls at WESTfestivity on Saturday 15th November and we are looking for volunteers to help run the stalls. We will be selling preloved Christmas jumpers, running a children's tombola, and doing some Christmas crafts.

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

We will be holding our school Christmas Fair on Friday 12th December and we are looking for donations for both events. There will be a non-uniform day after half term on Friday 7th November for donations for the children's tombola, adult's tombola, hampers and other raffle prizes. We would like donations of:

Preloved Christmas jumpers

Bottles e.g., wine, beer, spirits

New gifts/toiletries for the pamper hamper

Packets of sweets, Chocolate bars, Soft drinks, crisps

New and nearly new toys for kids tombola / children's hamper

F@SH would like to thank the Abinger Medieval Fair committee for donating £1900 after their fantastic village event in the summer. We have used some of these funds to support workshops/trips for children in Owls, Otters and Hedgehogs class and will be supporting workshops for the other classes as the year progresses.

Important dates for the next term:

Thursday 6th November – Teddy Bears' Picnic planning meeting

Friday 7th November - Non-uniform day for donations for WESTfestivity/Christmas Fair & Preloved uniform sale

Saturday 16th November - Westfestivity - 10am – 3pm at Westcott Church and Village Hall

F@SH AGM – 20th November

Friday 12th December – Christmas Fair 3.30pm - 5.30pm

Thank you for your continued support,

F@SH

Surrey Hills Turn Yellow!

On the 10th October, we took part in hello yellow day supporting children's mental health. We wore yellow to show children they are not alone and to highlight the importance of looking after our own and each other's mental health. The children enjoyed talking about different ways we can look after our minds along with some calming activities. We are proud to announce that as a school we have raised £220 for Young Minds, a fantastic charity who support children and parents of those who are struggling with their mental health. Thank you to all parents and carers who donated, it is greatly appreciated and will make a huge difference!

Miss Shoesmith



Diary Dates 2025/26

October 2025	
23rd & 24th Oct	Inset Days
27th –31st Oct	Half Term
November 2025	
6th November	Whole School Art Gallery
7th November	Non-Uniform Day for FASH Donations
7th November	Preloved Uniform Sale
10th November	Odd Socks Day for Antibullying
15th November	WESTfestivity 10am -3pm
24th November	Year 6 Visit North West Synagogue
27th & 28th Nov	Year 4 Bikeability
December 2025	
2nd December	Year 5&6 Boys Football Tournament
9th December	YrR-2 Nativity 9.15-10.15am & 2.15-3.15pm
12th December	Snow White Panto
12th December	FASH Christmas Fair
16th December	Christmas Lunch
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

Diary Dates 2025/26

February 2026	
4th February	Year 3 First Feet Walking Training
16th-20th Feb	Half Term
23rd February	GST Inset Day
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
April 2026	
13th April	Start of Term
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
15th May	Teddy Bears Picnic
25th-29th May	Bank Holiday/Half Term

Diary Dates 2026/27

June 2026	
5th June	Preloved Uniform Sale
13th June	Abinger Medieval Fair
9th June	Yr R-2 British Wildlife Centre Trip
25th & 26th June	Year 4 Residential –The Mill
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
24th July-31st August	Summer Holidays
September 2026	
1st-2nd September	Inset Days
3rd September	Start Of Term
October 2026	
19th-30th October	Half Term
December 2026	
18th December	End of Term KS1-1.15pm/1.30pm Finish
21st Dec -1st Jan	Christmas Holidays
January 2027	
4th January	Start of Term

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/carers 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.