



# January 2026 Newsletter

*Helping your child develop a love for life and learning*

## A MESSAGE FROM MRS O'BRIEN – FEDERATION NEWS

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to school! I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas break with your family, and your children are ready for the term ahead. In this newsletter, you will find information on our new nursery, governor vacancy, academisation update, date reminders and much more.

### **NEED TO KNOW THIS WEEK**

#### **New nursery**

- We are excited to announce that we are on track to open our nursery (which will be based at Wood Street Infant School) in September 2026.
- Our school-based nursery will be a happy, welcoming place where children aged 2–4 years can learn, play, and grow.
- We will provide a safe and caring environment that helps children build confidence, make friends, and develop a love of learning.
- Being part of the school means children enjoy a smooth and familiar transition into Reception. Funded Early Education Entitlement (FEEE) places will be available, helping to make quality childcare accessible for families.
- If you would like any further information or an application form, please contact the Wood Street Infant School office on 01483 235165.

#### **Governor vacancy**

- As part of our commitment to providing the very best educational experience for every child, we are seeking to strengthen our Governing Body by recruiting new school governors to join the Federation of Wood Street Infant and Worplesdon Primary School.
- Details can be found on our school website <https://www.worplesdon.surrey.sch.uk/governingbody>.
- If you are interested in joining us or would like to learn more about the role, please contact the school office at either Wood Street Infant School or Worplesdon Primary School. We would be delighted to speak with you and provide further information.
- Deadline for letters of interest to be received by **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2026**.

#### **Academisation**

- We continue to make good progress in joining South Farnham Educational Trust.
- An example of the work completed so far has been a buildings condition survey which helps the trust understand the funding support the federation requires to improve the buildings such as upgraded intercom, security and decoration to name a few.
- Staff are already benefitting from working in partnership e.g. curriculum planning, sharing expertise in SEND, and much more.

#### **Dates for January**

- Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January      Census Day – packed lunches discouraged (*more info on p4*)
- Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January      Year 5 & 6 Dodgeball (*invitation only*)
- Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January      Year 5 Whizzes & Bangs Practical Science (*invitation only*)
- Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January      Young Voices (*Show Choir*)
- Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January      Year 5 & 6 Netball (*invitation only*)
- Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January      Infants Theatre Company
- Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January      Year 5 & 6 Sportshall (*invitation only*)
- Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January      Year 5 & 6 Cross Country (*invitation only*)
- Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January      Year 5 to Christ's College

Value of the month – Creativity

## **GOOD TO KNOW**

### **Attendance**

- Every day at school matters. Attendance remains a high priority.
- We must reduce persistent absence (currently 8.5% at WSI, 13.7% at WPS). This means that a staggering 74 children at Worplesdon have only attended school for 90% or less this academic year.
- We must improve overall attendance to 96% (**currently 95.6% at WSI, 95.3% at WPS**).

### **Behaviour & attitudes**

A relentless and consistent focus on the implementation of our Behaviour Policy by staff, supported by parents ensures that behaviour continues to be strong. I have been delighted with the exemplary behaviour that the children have demonstrated this week; it is clear that they are working incredibly hard to live by our school values. Last month we focused on the values of 'care and compassion' - I am hoping your child(ren) demonstrated these over the Christmas break! This month, we are focusing on 'creativity' which will explore the importance of finding solutions to problems, thinking outside the box and being resilient.

### **Uniform policy (note change for WSI uniform)**

In addition to teaching and rewarding children's behaviour, research shows that a smart and consistent school uniform helps to give children a sense of belonging and in turn, helps their behaviours. It did come to my attention at the end of last term that some of our school rules regarding school uniform were slipping so I thought it would be helpful to remind parents and children of a number of school uniform expectations ...

- Hairbands should be plain in style without, for example, bows, flowers or animal ears.
- Make up, nail varnish and tattoos must not be worn in school.
- Boys' hairstyles should not include tram lines or shaved patterns of any form.
- Shoulder length hair should be tied back at all times.
- Black shoes / ankle boots to be worn in school.
- Boys should wear grey trousers (long or short), light blue shirt/polo shirt, scarlet v-neck sweater or sweatshirt.
- Girls should wear medium or mid grey pinafore dress or skirt. Mid grey shorts or trousers of approved design. Light blue blouse or polo shirt, scarlet v-neck sweater, cardigan or sweatshirt. Pale blue gingham dress in the summer.

On PE days, children should wear:

- Navy shorts.
- Red Worplesdon T-shirt. A plain red t-shirt is acceptable.
- Trainers for outdoor games lessons.
- Navy tracksuit for outdoor games lessons.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or another member of staff if you need support with financing uniform; we are always happy to help families and we always do this discreetly.

### **MUGA update**

- We continue to apply for grants to support our goal of securing £400k for this much needed facility.
- Your support would be greatly appreciated.
- More to follow.

### **Communication survey**

At the end of last term, I asked for your feedback on our methods of communication so that we can sustain what is working for you and refine those areas that you identified as requiring improvement. In summary:

- Keep weekly updates with communication kept for Fridays.
- Have less information & use bullet points where possible.
- Reduce repetition.
- Consider using a must know, nice to know approach.
- Review website so easier to search.



### **WORKING PARTY - FRIDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> JANUARY 9.00AM -12.00PM**

The site team have been working hard over the holidays to clear diseased trees from around the site which is now safer and looking much better.

Surrey County Council have kindly given us replacement trees which we need to plant. There are also some housekeeping jobs to do to enhance the site further. For example, bark chippings to put down and some other areas to begin clearing.

If you are able to help with this, even if just for a short time after morning drop off, please email - [rsherlock@worplesdon.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:rsherlock@worplesdon.surrey.sch.uk) so we can coordinate jobs and make the best use of our helpers!

Thank you for your continued support of our schools.

## **NICE TO KNOW**

### **Progress against our School Development Plan 2025-28**

As we begin a new year, I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of our priorities for school development, our progress to date and our focus for the next two terms. Our School Development Plan 25-28 shows the following progress to date:

#### **Quality of Education**

- Curriculum review underway with SFET colleagues.
- Assessment policy being enhanced with summative measures.
- Maths fluency planning reviewed against high-performing SFET schools.
- Spelling curriculum being redesigned using best practice from successful schools.

#### **Attendance & Behaviour**

- Weekly data tracking system established with colour-coded monitoring (red/amber/green).
- Individual support plans created for persistent absentees.
- Fortnightly review meetings scheduled with parents.
- 'Children's Champions' assigned to target pupils.
- Daily check-in/check-out systems implemented.

#### **Personal Development**

##### **Progress to Date:**

- Curriculum mapping for SMSC and British values in progress.
- Wellbeing support menu established (mindfulness, clubs, peer mentors).
- Pupil leadership roles being reviewed and enhanced.

#### **Leadership & Management**

- Job descriptions being reviewed and updated.
- Monitoring calendar established for lesson observations, book looks, pupil voice.
- SFET faculty group collaboration underway.
- Academy conversion process initiated with DfE registration.
- Statutory consultation completed.

#### **Early Years**

- Nursery Lead appointment planned for April 2026.
- Nursery steering group established.
- Site preparation and funding secured.
- Arc Pathways assessment system to be implemented.

#### **Premises**

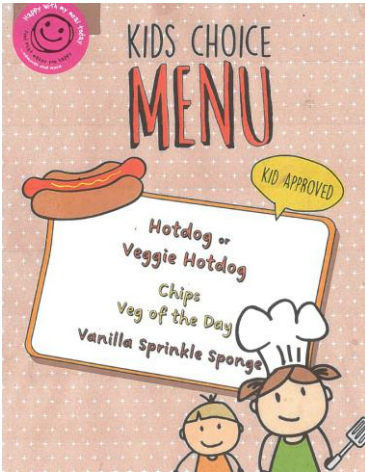
- Condition surveys completed.
- Grant applications submitted for MUGA.
- Nursery site preparation underway.
- Annual H&S audits scheduled.
- Rolling maintenance schedule being developed.

I hope that your first week back has been a positive one and wish you a very happy new year.

Best wishes,



Kareen O'Brien  
Executive Head Teacher



## CENSUS & LUNCHES

Next Thursday (15<sup>th</sup> January) is our school census day when the government collect data about our school. This information impacts our next year's funding and so we would like to ensure Worpleston Primary School is in receipt of the maximum amount possible to future proof the success of the school and give our children the best possible resources and staffing.

In order to achieve this, we are holding a special lunch for children to enjoy (Hotdog or Veggie Hotdog with chips and veg of the day and vanilla sprinkle sponge). All KS1 and free school meal children are eligible for this and will have a school dinner prepared for them. We strongly discourage packed lunches on this day.

Thank you for your support.

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## PENALTY NOTICE INFORMATION FROM SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

Just to remind parents/carers that if they take their children out of school without

authority for 5 or more days (in a rolling 10-week period), then the following will apply:

1. If you have not incurred a penalty notice relating to your child/children in a rolling 3 year period since 19<sup>th</sup> 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 your child/children since 19<sup>th</sup> 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 your 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.



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.



## TEACHING ASSISTANT VACANCIES ACROSS OUR FEDERATION

We currently have a number of Teaching Assistant (TA) vacancies available across our federation. These roles are a fantastic opportunity to support children's learning and be part of our caring, inclusive school communities. If you, or someone you know, may be interested, please see the links below for full details and application information.

- <https://www.eteach.com/job/send-teaching-assistant-1527995>
- <https://www.eteach.com/job/send-teaching-assistant-1527985>

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## SCHOOL LED – EXTRA-CURRICULAR CLUBS

There are still spaces left on a number of our school led clubs (*please see below*). For further information or to book onto a club, please contact the School Office.

- **Reception-Year 3 – Quiet/Calm Club (Thursday 3.20-4.20pm)**

In calm/quiet club, the children will be able to play with a variety of sensory play (e.g. playdough, kinetic sand, water, sand, shaving foam) and small world toys (e.g. dolls house, cars, HappyLand). There will also be relaxing music playing and an area of blankets and pillows if the children would like to rest.

- **Reception-Year 2 – Fun Sports Club (Thursday 3.20-4.20pm)**

Get ready to run, jump, throw, and smile!

Our fun-filled sports club for ages Reception-Year 2 is all about **play, confidence, and teamwork**. Through exciting games and age-appropriate activities, kids build coordination, make friends, and discover a love of movement—no experience needed, just lots of energy and big smiles! Join us for active fun every week



## HELP – WALKING BUS

We are looking for a little extra support with our Walking Bus on Tuesdays. If you are able to help by walking with the group, even occasionally, we would be very grateful.

Your support helps keep the children safe and makes the walking bus a positive and enjoyable start to the day. If you are available or would like more information, please let us know.

Thank you for your continued support.

## EARLY BIRDS & NIGHT OWLS

Happy New Year to you all, it has been a pleasure have the children back at Early Birds and Night Owls this week. They have loved telling us all about their Christmas adventures.



We have started the year with some fun activities for the children to take part in. They've had the opportunity to make their own calendars for 2026, colouring in the pages for each month and they could paint an abominable snowman using forks to create a pattern for its fur.



We also set a challenge for some of our Year 6 students, at Night Owls, this week. They were given an Escape Room challenge to complete, where they had to solve lots of different clues, including maths, crosswords and colouring in pictures. The winning pair earned themselves 150 house points! The children have also loved playing bingo this week. Prizes were given for completing a line and then a whole card. With the colder weather, it is not always possible to safely go outside so we have laid on other activities to keep them occupied inside.

Next week our focus will be around arctic animals.

Our Stars of the Week this week are:

- Early Birds: Evie G for being brave and coming in when she was not feeling 100%.
- Night Owls: Mason for showing kindness when being asked to work with another child to complete the Escape Room challenge.

## THE TRAVELLING BOOK FAIR IS COMING TO SCHOOL!

We're delighted to welcome the travelling Book Fair to Worplesdon, packed with lots of brand-new and popular titles that children will love! There will be something for every age and interest, from picture books to exciting reads for older children.

Books will be on sale outside the school office on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup>, Thursday 5<sup>th</sup>, Friday 6<sup>th</sup> and Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February, from 3:20-4:00pm.

Children can use their £1 World Book Day token towards a book.



Payments are cashless and made via QR code, so please bring your physical bank card (Apple Pay is not available, and full card details are required for security). Come along and enjoy a browse! 😊



### Past and Present Families & Staff

please come and join us at our open afternoon

### To Celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

with refreshments, a special cake,  
photo displays and some activities for the children  
On

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2026  
2-4pm**

At The Emmanuel Church  
Shepherds Lane  
Guildford  
GU2 9SJ

Please let us know if you will be attending

RSVP:

[littlestars.preschool@emmanuelchurch.co.uk](mailto:littlestars.preschool@emmanuelchurch.co.uk)



## FRIENDS OF WORPLESDON SCHOOL – NEWS & UPDATES

Happy New Year to you all! We are super excited about the next two terms – with so many exciting events and initiatives in store for your children. We really hope we can raise lots of money for our key fundraising goals:

**Contribution to the MUGA ~ Sensory Garden ~ Chromebook updates ~ Wall murals to support children's knowledge**

This month is kicking off with an Amnesty Day on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> – a chance for you to get rid of all those unwanted (but good quality) toys / games / stationary / crafts / books / kids jewellery etc which we can use as prizes at our fairs this year. And if you have any **fancy dress costumes & accessories** these would be very welcome as we are planning a fancy dress sale for WBD in March.

Please also look out for **Happy Bags** coming home w/c **19<sup>th</sup> January** to fill with unwanted, clean & reusable clothing, paired shoes, handbags, belts, hats, accessories, toiletries and perfumes. Collection day is **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February**.

Please see our events calendar for all details.

Wishing you a happy weekend,

Your FoWS 😊



# EVENTS CALENDAR 2026\*



## JANUARY

16th - Amnesty Day (good quality toys / games / stationary / books to use as prizes at our fairs + fancy dress costumes)

30th - Pre Loved Uniform Half Price Sale

## FEBRUARY

5th - Break the Rules Day

6th - Happy Bags

w/c 23rd - World Book Day Fancy Dress Sale

## MARCH

5th - Wonka Bars in celebration of World Book Day

## APRIL

17th - Infant Entertainment after school

24th - Break The Rules Day

## MAY

8th - *Zactiv* health & wellbeing workshop delivered by Steel from BBC's *Gladiators*

15th - Junior Discos after school

## JUNE

5th - Summer Fair Donations (Mufti)

12th - Happy Bags

19th - Summer Fair Donations (Mufti)

## JULY

3rd - Summer Fair - our traditional fair will be back complete with Soak the Teacher!

10th & 17th - Frozen Fridays

\*Dates & events may be subject to change