Spring Term - Newsletter 1

School Update

Dear Families,



Happy New Year! I hope you all had a fantastic break and managed to spend some quality time with your incredible children making lots of new magical memories along the way. Although a little tired, the children have made a tremendous start to life in 2025 full of energy and enthusiasm towards their learning and more importantly meeting back up with their friends.

We have a busy few weeks coming up and next week is no exception. On Tuesday at 18:00 we have our first Family Forum of the year. I will be sharing updates on our academisation journey, sharing all of the 'You Said, We Did' moments of 2023-2024, asking for start, stop continue ideas and looking at some of the key questions from the recent family questionnaire. It promises to be a productive evening, and following feedback from yourselves, we will be alternating the evenings and finishing slightly earlier at 19:30. Refreshments will be available and I look forward to seeing you there ③.

Also, on Tuesday and Wednesday next week, my team will be running maths workshops for parents. A letter has gone out already from Mrs. Panesar and Mrs. Wakelin explaining the set up for the workshops. The sessions will give you an opportunity as parents to see first-hand how your children are taught maths in school. This again came from feedback from one of our family forums in the Summer Term. I hope as many of you can make the sessions - they will definitely be worthwhile.

Friday 17th January is also the launch of our very first SMILE afternoon. We are constantly trying to think of imaginative ways for you as parents to come into school and experience your child's incredible learning. On Friday the doors will open at 15:00 where you will be able to visit your child's classroom and share their English and Maths learning with them. On entry to the classroom, you will be given a SMILEY sticker which is for you to stick into your child's books at the piece of learning you enjoyed the most. The key is to take some time to share learning together and for your child to showcase how amazing they are!

Nursery will be doing something slightly different. Doors will open at 14:30 and parents are welcome to attend a Stay 'n' Play session, again, sharing time with your children in their learning environment. It promises to be a fantastic new date for the diaries and the idea will be to run them every half term, each time with a slightly different focus (3).

Finally, we have successfully launched the Arbor Parent App. We only have 13 families that have NOT signed up to the portal. If you haven't yet signed up, please do so - our lovely Miss. Lonergan will be making some phone calls to chase ③. Further on in the newsletter is a reminder about ensuring that you have push notifications on for the Parent Portal App. It is imperative that these are switched on so you don't miss any key information from school.

Thank you, for all that you do. I am very much looking forward to seeing you next week. I hope you find the sessions useful, enjoyable and hopefully memorable.

Take care, keep safe and be kind to each other.

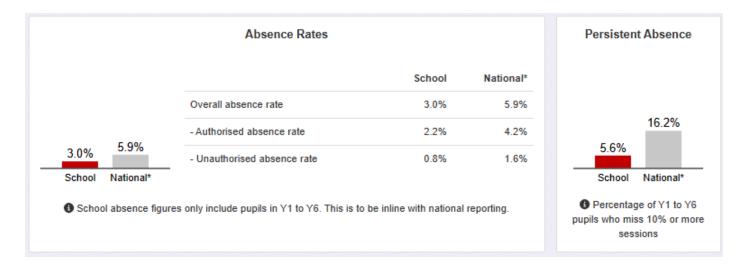
Mr. Cope

Maths and English Superstars

Class	Maths Superstars	Writing Superstars
Mrs Reed	Frankie Johnson	Remi Gilbert
Mrs Wood	Thomas Brockway	Beatriz Afonso
Miss Tomlinson / Mrs Garrod	Darcey Bradley	Arthur Gartland- Wells
Miss Parr	Ivy-May Dowley	Daniel Walduck
Miss Wakelin	Hari Sankar	Emma Clutton
Ms Gardiner	Teddy Holland	Hatice Gozukara
Mrs Read	Niam Mehta	Annabel Gartland-Wells
Mrs Bruce/ Mrs Plumtree	William Irwin	Olivia Cullum
Mr Francis	James Mackintosh	Sophia Eife
Miss Megrath	Sophia Riley	Harper Waldron
Mr Rock	Theo Farrell	Alyssa Dale
Miss Bess	Sienna Funnell	Adam Toporek
Mr Taylor	Harry Sharp	Emmeline Walduck
Mrs Panesar	Dante Olivares Coan	Maisie Pocock
Mr Saunders	Camden Hudson	Katie Yates

Attendance as of January 10th (3) - THANK YOU!

Just a HUGE thank you to you all for your efforts in getting our children into school and on time. As you can see we are better than National Averages for the whole school and Persistent absences (children with less than 90% attendance). Thank you all for your efforts; it really does make a huge difference - children need to be in school to be able to learn.



Maths Workshops – in case you missed the letter ©

You're Invited! Maths Parent Workshops for All Year Groups.

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are thrilled to invite you to our upcoming **Maths Parent Workshops** for each year group! These sessions are designed to help you understand how maths is taught at Owlsmoor Primary School and provide you with practical ways to support your child's learning at home.

Dates and Times

- Year 2 and Year 3 Tuesday 14th January at 3:20 till 4:00
- Reception, Year 1, Year 4 and Year 5 & Year 6 Wednesday 15th January at 3:20 till 4:00

Location

Reception - in class

Year 1 – Woodpeckers

Year 2 - Parakeets

Year 3 - Herons

Year 4 - Hummingbirds

Upper Key Stage 2 (Year 5 and 6) - Emus

This is a wonderful opportunity to engage with your child's maths journey and ask any questions you may have.

Kingfishers

Welcome back and a very happy new year to you all!

I hope you had a very restful and enjoyable Christmas.

December was a very busy month for Kingfishers and a definite highlight for us was our trip to the pantomime ("Oh yes it was!) to see Cinderella. The children (and staff) enjoyed it, particularly joining in with the 12 Days of Christmas song.







Our topic this term will be 'Space'. We will be learning all about the stars and the planets. Kingfishers will be creating a planet mobile and other space-based craft. We will also be learning all about light and dark in our science lessons.



Wrens

Welcome back and a very happy new year! Thank you for all our Christmas gifts from the children.

Last term was busy and the children loved the celebrations – particularly the Rudolf Rave and the pantomime.





This term we are reading 'The Gruffalo' and 'Meg, Mog and the Moon'. We will be reading stories about the moon and working on crafts all about space.

Reception

A huge welcome back and a Happy New Year to you all.

What a fabulous half term we have packed full of exciting learning opportunities for our little ones.

We started the term off with our Bedtime stories - We love reading! We had such a lovely time holding our *Bedtime Story Evening*, where both the children and teachers got to come back to school wearing their pyjamas and bring in their favourite bed time bear. The children got to listen to a few bedtime stories while enjoying a hot chocolate filled with marshmallows and a biscuit. Thank you so much for bringing them in; we all had such a wonderful time and want the children to foster a love for books and reading in our school.



The children have loved learning in the new outdoor and indoor spaces: they have learnt about measures in Maths lessons; they have built stages to perform on and planted bulbs. Looking at the season of Autumn, the children have loved learning about pumpkins and everything to do with Autumn.























We ended the term with Celebrations. We have been looking at Diwali and Christmas this term. The children made Rangoli patterns to welcome in Diwali. They each made a diva lamp to take home — which they all loved! We had lots of Christmas festivities from Christmas Nativity productions, Christmas lunches, Rudolph Raves and Christmas parties, with a very special visit from Father Christmas. We wanted to take this opportunity to say a HUGE THANK YOU for all our lovely Christmas gifts.







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Please can we ask for any contributions of boxes of tissues - due to lots of sniffles and colds last term we have now run out. Thank you so much.

Year R team

Nursery



Happy New Year and hope you all had a lovely festive break. We would like to say a huge **Thank You** for all the heartfelt cards and gifts that we received before the holidays. We were totally overwhelmed.

The children have come back excited and ready to learn and have settled back into the routines really well. They have been exploring the different activities and have loved telling us about their holidays.

Last half term was a busy one and we have much to celebrate! As I am sure you will all agree with me, the Puffins were all amazing in our Christmas Nativity. All the teachers were extremely proud of how well they learnt and performed all the songs in front of an audience at the church. They did such a fantastic job!





We had great fun at our Christmas party, where we played party games, danced to our favourite songs and were so excited by our special visit from Father Christmas. We also really enjoyed the pantomime and taking part in our first Rudolph Rave.







On top of all the exciting Christmas activities, our main theme for the half term was Traditional Tales. The Puffins really enjoyed sharing the stories of Goldilocks and the Three Bears, Jack and the Beanstalk, Little Red Riding Hood, and many others. One of the top activities was definitely decorating our own Gingerbread Man. The Puffins loved joining in with the stories and became really good at acting them out with the characters and repeating the lines from the stories they had learnt.











At the start of the half term, the Puffins enjoyed creating their own fireworks using different materials, from chalks to toilet rolls with paint. This allowed them to be as creative as they liked and was great funnot to mention messy! They also enjoyed sharing their own experiences about the displays that they had been to or seen.









This half term we will be looking at **People Who Help Us**, starting with the fire services. The children are really enjoying learning about the roles and responsibilities of firefighters and dressing up and role playing at being a firefighter. Over the coming weeks, we will also be looking at other services that help us in different ways such as police, ambulance, dentists, vets, mechanics, etc.

Please can we ask for any contributions of boxes of tissues - due to lots of sniffles and colds last term we have now run out. Thank you so much.

Miss Grant and the Team

Year 1

Welcome back and Happy New Year.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all the lovely Christmas gifts you sent in; we all felt thoroughly spoilt and we have enjoyed hearing about all the things the children experienced over the Christmas holidays.

The children had a super last few weeks at the end of last term. We were very proud of them all during their performance at the Rudolph Rave. Each class created a Christmas wreath to display in the hall, making our school feel very Christmassy indeed.





Last term, the children had great fun in our topic of 'Fire and Light'. They learnt all about The Great Fire of London, Guy Fawkes and the festival of Diwali. The children enjoyed learning about The Great Fire of London and how our houses have changed and fire services have been developed since the great fire took place.

We have an exciting term planned with our 'I need a hero' topic. During this half term, we will be exploring all types of heroes from superheroes to real life heroes such as Firefighters, doctors and family members. The children will have an opportunity to learn about the significant historic hero, Florence Nightingale and the impact she had on our world today.

In science, we are leaning about Winter. When you are out and about, please encourage the children to look for signs of Winter and to discuss changes as we slowly move towards Spring.

Year 1 Team

Year 2

Year 2 Shop 'til you drop

What an incredible half term we had with our topic 'Shop 'til you drop!', finding out how the high street has changed in the last 50 years. The children were so excited when they returned to find that we had set up an old fashioned high-street in our outside area, with a green-grocer, a sweet shop and a cobbler's shop. It didn't take them long to get stuck in!







We kicked off our writing with that arch thief of the highway – 'The Highway Rat' and followed up with the Roald Dahl classic 'The Giraffe, the Pelly and Me'. Some of the children tried to build a giraffe out of crates for the 'ladder-less window cleaning company' and they all enjoyed designing, making and eating their delicious sweets!





The children were very interested in their learning when they found out how the way we shop has changed dramatically in the last 50 years. We had some great discussions about walking to a fishmonger in the past versus getting a 'Hello Fresh' delivery today! They were very interested to find out how 'Gusto' and 'Amazon' shopping works. Most children had not seen their parents pay for goods with cash at all but had seen them pay with credit and debit cards, phones and even Apple watches.

Finally, we started to practise for our amazing Nativity. The children worked so hard to learn all the songs and their lines. They performed no less than 3 times (twice in the school hall) and the grand finale in the church – a truly magical setting. We were so proud of all their efforts and we are sure you were too! A

special well done to the handbell children who turned up *every lunch time for 3 weeks* to practise 'Twinkle'.

Moving forward to Spring, you may have noticed our 'Travel agents' role play has appeared along with an Airport check in desk. This is for our new topic "Around the world in 30 days".





We are looking for old suitcases and bags to 'travel' with if you have them. We will be starting our journey as Arctic explorers and we are also looking for old coats, scarves, gloves and hats if you are having a Christmas clear out. The weather has been very obliging in providing us with some real snow and icy winds, but just in case it didn't, we kicked off the week making our own snow!



With the cold weather in mind, can you please make sure the children have cosy PE kit on Tuesdays as they are outside for PE on that day.

Looking forward to the new term ahead working with you to support your children's learning!

Year 2 Team

Year 3

Last half term in Year 3, we did a deep dive into the topic of LIGHT. In English, we worked on describing what a location would be like in the light versus the same location in the dark and exploring how they would look and feel different. To help them visualise their settings, the children made very creative models of their locations in shoe boxes and we spent time looking at them in the light and in the dark to help set the mood for their writing.





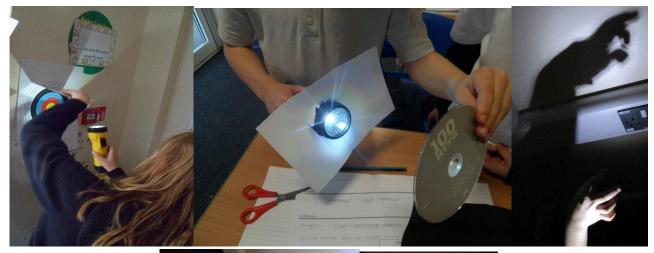








Our science topic for the half term was all about light too. We explored different sources of light and the science behind how light enables us to see things. Throughout the term, we conducted lots of experiments using torches, such as ranking materials in terms of how reflective they were and using mirrors to change the direction light was travelling. We also looked at how shadows are formed and we really enjoyed seeing how creative the children who chose to do the shadow related homework grid activity had been!





In art, the children studied the landscape artwork of the artist Bhavna Misra and used it as inspiration to create striking silhouette pictures against a sunrise or sunset background. The end results were fantastic!

They also used chalks to create their own pictures representing the Northern Lights, which really mirrored the unique look of the lights in the night sky.



During RE last term, the children explored how light was important in different religions. As part of this, they looked at the Hindu festival of Diwali (also known as the festival of lights) and they made *diyas* (small, cup-shaped lamps often used during Diwali) and decorated them in bright colours.



One of the absolute highlights of last term in Year 3 was the Christmas carol concert held after school during the last week of term. The children had worked so hard learning all the songs and actions and sang beautifully! It was fantastic to have such a great turnout in the audience — it was so popular it was standing room only at the back! It really helped kick off the festive period wonderfully!



We would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the many thoughtful cards and gifts we received at the end of term. We really did appreciate the kind gestures.

This term, our focus will be on all things rainforest! We have lots planned, including our trip to The Living Rainforest next week! Full details were provided in the letter sent before Christmas but if you have any questions relating to the trip, please don't hesitate to ask.

Year 3 team 🕹

Year 4

Year 4 have been learning through their topic of 'It Takes Guts' which we interpreted as the journey of

food being digested (in science) and by showing perseverance in guided

reading.

The digestion system

In our science and our writing lessons, we learned about the journey that food takes through the digestion system, understanding the functions of the different organs and their names. To help us visualise the process, we had a practical session where we crunched some food (teeth), squeezed it down a funnel (oesophagus), mixed with orange juice in a sandwich bag (stomach), before squeezing it through tights (intestines) and dropping into a cup.







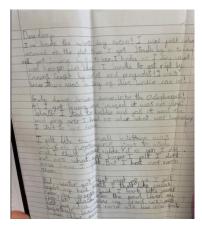


<u>Writing – a journey through the digestion</u> <u>system</u>

Using all their knowledge from the science lessons, the children wrote a diary entry (as a food character) as they travelled through the digestion process. They created them as pop-open designs and are very funny (and informative) to read.

The children needed to include salutations, time conjunctions, fronted adverbials, adverbs, writing in paragraphs, and use emotive language to show how the character is feeling.





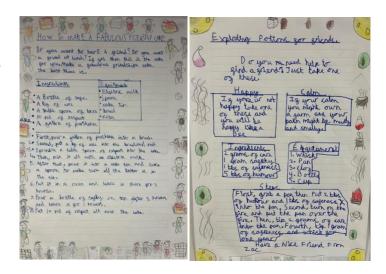




Writing – friendship potion

Linked to digestion, children learned how to write a set of instructions, starting with simple instructions such as 'how to make a sandwich'. They then developed these into a more create potion for friendship.

The children had to carefully think about how to organise the writing, using numbered bullet points, subheadings, and an opening paragraph.



Swimming

Thank you to all of the children (and parents!) for their have-a-go attitude in making swimming so successful, ensuring the swimming kit was in on the right day. We really want to thank the swimming teachers who did a fantastic job in developing the children's confidence and helping them to meet the Key Stage 2 objectives of swimming 25m, swimming with a range of strokes, and learning to self-rescue. If any child wasn't able to meet these, they will be offered another opportunity for swimming boosters as they

move through the school.

Finally, we would like to say a huge thank you to our teaching assistants in year 4 – Miss Raggett, Mrs Moore, and Ms Bess – as they were fantastic in helping ferry the children to the right place at the right time, and helping the children prepare for the lessons.

Just a HUGE thank you to you all for your efforts in getting our children into school and on time. As you can see we are better than National Averages for the whole school and Persistent absences (Children with less than 90% attendance). Thank you all for your efforts, there is still more work to be done (3).



Year 5 - Off with her head!

Welcome back! Last half term was incredible: filled with many exciting learning opportunities. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the families who supported their children in preparing for their stalls and to everyone who attended and purchased their wonderful products at our Tudor market. The children were very inventive with their stalls, ensuring they were Tudor themed and accessible for the children in the school to access and enjoy. This enriching experience not only resulted in a profit of approximately £415, but it also provided the children with a glimpse into the world of business. We will discuss with the children what the money should be spent on, but part of it will definitely go towards a snack and a drink to have during their theatre trip to see Joseph in June.





It was also lovely to see the whole year group show off their amazing dance moves during the Rudolf Rave; there is certainly some dance talent amongst the children. A huge thank you to those that attended and cheered on the children.

We would all like to thank you for the lovely cards and gifts we received. We appreciate your thoughtful gestures.

The children have shown great enthusiasm with their learning, enjoying all aspects of the Tudor topic. In our English lessons, they especially liked becoming Anne Boleyn to write a pleading letter to Henry VIII from the Tower of London. Some excellent writing was produced, well done. The children then carried out their own research to write a non-chronological report about various aspects of Tudor life, using books as well as using the internet. They were quite surprised by some of the knowledge they gained.







Our history topic started with the children immersing themselves in the Battle of Bosworth. They created banners and learned some Latin phrases which they then chanted during the battle. The afternoon ended with the battle being fought and Henry VII being crowned the new King of England.











During the term, the children used their art skills and created a 'Tudor rose' inspired flower from wire and Modroc; the results were amazing, even if the process was somewhat messy! They also had the opportunity to make their own apple pie during their DT unit of work. They learned about the history of the apple and why pies were a staple of the Tudor diet. It was great that the children tasted their pies and were able to decide what they would do different next time.











The children were very interested in the Tudor crime and punishment; they were surprised to learn how harsh some of the punishments were compared to today! They were also fascinated by the Spanish

Armada history, creating collaborative pieces of work depicting the story.

Although it was a long half term, we have been impressed by the sustained effort that they made to complete their work to the highest standard. We hope they are just as enthusiastic about their new topic 'I Dream of Africa'.





Please can we remind you to support your children to regularly read at home and to ensure they practise their times tables and division facts; this will help them immensely during their maths lessons. Thank you for your continued support.

Year 6

Welcome back!

Happy New Year to you all! It's hard to believe the Spring term has already begun. Time has flown and we're thrilled to welcome the children back to school after what we hope was a restful and enjoyable break.

Looking back, December was an incredibly busy but rewarding month in Year 6. The children immersed themselves in fantastic learning opportunities and festive fun. A particular highlight was our 'Rudolph Rave', where the children showcased their enthusiasm and energy in rehearsals and during the performance.

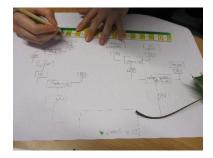


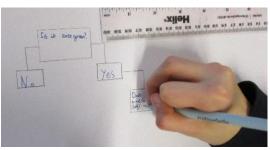


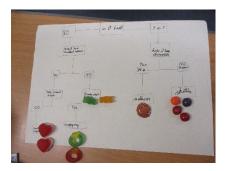


A huge well done to all the children for their effort and a heartfelt thank you to all the parents who braved the chilly weather to support them! We would also like to extend our sincerest thanks for the thoughtful cards and generous gifts we received. Your kindness is truly appreciated.

In Maths, we explored measures, including converting between metric and imperial systems—a challenging yet engaging topic. The children were fascinated by the complexities of pounds and ounces, even though many expressed relief that these units are less commonly used today!







In English, we studied a variety of poems starting with those using imagery and moving onto those that express an opinion on a topic. The children excelled at examining poetic devices and enhancing their descriptive writing skills. They also crafted vivid descriptions of contrasting settings, demonstrating impressive creativity and attention to detail.







In Science, we explored classification keys and used them to deepen our understanding of how living organisms are grouped. The children created informative and engaging posters on PowerPoint, showcasing what they had learned about Carl Linnaeus and his pioneering work in developing the system for naming and classifying organisms. Their creativity and effort were evident in the quality of their work, and it was fantastic to see them applying their knowledge so effectively.

We were also delighted by the fantastic homework projects completed throughout December. Thank you to the children (and their dedicated helpers at home) for the time and effort invested in these tasks.

As we move into the Spring term, there is much to look forward to. In Geography, we will continue our topic of North America and South America, delving deeper into the unique characteristics of each continent with a focus on mountains and volcanoes in that region.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support and encouragement. We're excited for all the wonderful learning opportunities this term holds and look forward to seeing the children thrive.

Year 6 Team

KEY DATES

Tuesday 14 th January 2025	Family Forum 18:00 – 19:30	
Tuesday 14th and Wednesday 15th	Parent Maths Workshops 15:20 – 16:00	
January 2025	Tuesday – Year 2 and Year 3	
	Wednesday – Reception, Year 1, Year 4, Year 5 and	
	Year 6	
Wednesday 15 th January 2025	Year 3 Trip to the Living Rainforest	
Friday 17 th January 2025	SMILE Afternoon 15:00 – 15:45	
	Nursery Stay and Play 14:30	
Saturday 18 th January 2025	Wicked The Musical – PTA Event	
Wednesday 22 nd January 2025	Kiwis Class Assembly 9am	
Friday 31st January 2025	Herons Class Assembly 9am	
Wednesday 5 th February 2025	Woodpeckers Class Assembly 9am	
Thursday 13 th February 2025	Flamingos Class Assembly 9am	
Friday 14 th February 2025	End of Half Term at 3:15pm	
Monday 24 th February 2025	Children Return to School	
Friday 28 th February 2025	PTA Break The Rules Day	
Monday 3 rd March – Friday 7 th March 2025	Book Week	
Thursday 6 th March 2025	World Book Day	
Thursday 6 th March 2025	Year 6 WW1 Workshop (More details to Follow)	
Thursday 6 th March 2025	Year 3 Mayan Workshop (More details to Follow)	
Friday 7 th March 2025	Dressing Up as a Book Character	
Wednesday 12 th March 2025	Pelicans Class Assembly 9am	
Friday 14 th March 2025	PTA Comedy Night (Adults Only)	
Wednesday 19 th March 2025	EYFS Spring Celebration (More Details to Follow)	
Friday 21st March 2025	Red Nose Day (More Details to Follow)	
Friday 21st March 2025	PTA Disco (More Details to Follow)	
Thursday 27 th March 2025	Year 1 to Windsor Castle (More Details to Follow)	
Wednesday 2 nd April 2025	Parent Consultations School Closes at 12 noon for	
	Everyone (More Details to Follow)	
Friday 4 th April 2025	End of Term at 2pm for Easter	
INSET Days Left for 2024 - 2025		
Tuesday 22 nd April 2025		
Monday 2 nd June 2025		

Autumn Term 2025

(Inset/Teachers' Training Day) – Wednesday 3rd September 2025

Pupils Start on Thursday 4th September 2025

October Half Term - Monday 27 October to Friday 31 October 2025

(Inset/Teachers' Training Day) – Monday 3th November 2025

Pupils start on Tuesday 4th November 2025

Autumn Term ends on – Friday 19th December 2025 at 2.00pm

(Christmas holiday: Monday 22nd December 2025 to Friday 2nd January 2026

Spring Term 2026

(Inset/Teachers' Training Day) - Monday 5th January 2026

Pupils start on Tuesday 6th January 2026

<u>February Half Term – Monday 16th February to Friday 20th February 2026</u>

Pupils start on Monday 23rd February 2026

Spring Term ends on Friday 27th March 2026 at 2.00pm

(Spring holiday: Monday 30th March 2026 to Monday 10th April 2026)

(Good Friday: 3rd April 2026, Easter Monday 6th April 2026)

Summer Term 2026

(Inset/Teachers' Training Day) - Monday 13th April 2026

Pupils start on Tuesday 14th April 2026

Public Bank Holiday (School Closed) Monday 4th May 2026

(May holiday: Monday 25th May to Friday 29th May 2026)

(Inset/Teachers' Training Day) - Monday 1st June 2026

Pupils start on Tuesday 2nd June 2026

Summer Term Ends on Wednesday 22nd July 2026 at 2pm



Gates open at 1pm

Venue: The **SB Stadium**, **Bottom Meadow**, Sandhurst Memorial Park, Yorktown Road, Sandhurst, Berkshire, GU47 9AH

Please follow us on 'A New Hope for Ethan' FB Page for the latest player announcements coming over the next two weeks

Celebrity Charity Football match at Sandhurst Town FC Tickets, Sun, Feb 2, 2025 at 3:00 PM | Eventbrite

Ethan Treharne – Brain Tumour Research

A New Hope for Ethan – Brain Tumour Research

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How to enable PUSH notifications for the Arbor Parent app.

Parents can enable push notifications when installing the Parent App on their phone, which means they'll be notified when they've been sent a new in-app message (whether they're logged in or not).



Sometimes, parents may stop receiving push notifications to their phones. Even though they may have enabled push notifications on their phones, iOS devices occasionally block push notifications if the phone is receiving a lot of them.

If they do stop receiving messages, they can complete the below steps to enable them again:

- Close the Parent App (make sure that it's not running at the background see this video on how to do this)
- 2. Go to your settings and switch OFF push notifications for the Parent App.
- 3. Restart your phone.
- 4. Go to the settings and switch ON push notification for the Parent App.
- 5. Restart your phone again.
- You should then be able to receive push notifications again.



If after all the steps above have been completed and push notifications are still not appearing, uninstall the Parent App from the device and install it again. When installing the second time, make sure that you agree to receive push notifications from the app.





