Parent Newsletter – 19th October 2026

Headteacher's message

As we come to the end of another busy half term, I would like to say a huge thank you to our amazing Friends of The Butts (FOBs) and all of the parents, carers, staff and family members who gave up their time to help at our ground's day yesterday.

What was achieved in just a few hours was incredible. Thanks to your hard work, a huge number of jobs were completed across the school site, helping to transform our outdoor spaces and making them even more welcoming for our children. From clearing and tidying areas, to painting, building and improving different parts of the grounds, the difference is remarkable.

Your support, generosity and community spirit continue to make The Butts such a special place. The children will benefit greatly from the improvements, and we are incredibly grateful for every pair of hands that helped.

Thank you for giving up your weekend to support our school. It was wonderful to see so many people working together with a shared goal of creating the very best environment for our children to learn, play and thrive.

Grounds Development Plan

As we shared earlier in the year, we were delighted to welcome Learning Through Landscapes to The Butts to help us look at how we can further develop our outdoor environment and play opportunities for our children. We have now received their report, and it was wonderful to read such positive feedback about the experiences our children already enjoy.

One observation noted:

“During the visit, children were observed climbing trees, using roller boards, playing football, building dens, digging and engaging in many other forms of play. Children were deeply absorbed in their chosen activities, exploring their interests, developing friendships and connecting with nature. The school already has a great deal to celebrate in its playtime provision, providing a strong foundation for further development.”

The report also highlighted that:

“The freedom children have to build dens and shape their own play is something the school should truly celebrate.”

Perhaps most pleasing of all was hearing just how much the children value their outdoor spaces:

“Children spoke enthusiastically about their school grounds and the freedom to choose where and how they play. Football, den building, digging, rope swings and Forest School were particular favourites.”

The visit has provided us with a wealth of ideas, practical suggestions and starting points as we begin to develop a longer-term vision for our grounds. Over the next couple of years, we will be working with children, staff, governors and our wider community to create an overall plan that builds on the fantastic opportunities already available and makes even greater use of our outdoor spaces.

It was encouraging to hear that we already have so much to celebrate, and we are excited about the possibilities ahead as we continue to create an environment where children can play, explore, take risks, develop friendships and connect with nature.

Construction Update

We're nearly there!

After months of hard work, we are delighted to be nearing the end of our refurbishment project. It has been wonderful to see our children back in bright, modern classrooms and making the most of their refreshed learning environments.

A huge thank you goes to Greendales, who have done an outstanding job throughout the project. Their professionalism, commitment and attention to detail have helped transform our school into a space that our children and staff can be truly proud of.
While there are still a few finishing touches to complete, we're excited that after half term the school will be fully operational again, with all areas back in use and ready for learning, play and creativity.

Thank you to our children, families and staff for your patience and support along the way. We can't wait to share the finished result with you all!

Healthy Snacks

A gentle reminder that children in Key Stage 2 should bring a healthy snack for breaktime. Fresh fruit, vegetables, cheese, yoghurt or other nutritious options help children stay focused and energised throughout the morning.

Children in Reception and Key Stage 1 receive a free piece of fruit or vegetable each day through the Government Fruit and Vegetable Scheme, so they do not need to bring an additional snack unless agreed with their class teacher.

We kindly ask that crisps, chocolate bars and other high-sugar snacks are saved for home. Thank you for your support in helping us promote healthy habits and a positive attitude towards food.

Governor News

It was lovely to have the opportunity to look at how the principles of a C.A.L.M. classroom are being used to support children across the school. C.A.L.M. stands for Colours, Acoustics, Lighting and Materials, focusing on how the classroom environment can help children feel comfortable, settled and ready to learn.

We saw lots of positive examples, including natural backgrounds and materials to create calmer spaces, calm corners where children can take time out when needed, and Zones of Regulation to help children recognise and understand their emotions. Movement opportunities, sensory breaks and visual prompts were also highlighted as helpful ways to support children's individual needs and keep them engaged in learning.

It was encouraging to see the thought being given to how small changes to the classroom environment can make a real difference, particularly for children with additional sensory needs.

All teachers will receive training on the C.A.L.M. approach soon, which will be a great opportunity to build on the positive practice already in place and develop a consistent approach across the school. The aim is to create supportive, inclusive classrooms where every child feels safe, understood and able to do their best learning.

Becks Owen, SEND Governor.

Communicating with school

We understand that parents naturally want to share information and support one another. However, if you have a concern relating to school, please contact us directly rather than posting about it on WhatsApp or social media.

Sharing school-related incidents online can sometimes lead to misinformation, unnecessary worry and situations becoming more difficult to resolve. By speaking to us first, we can ensure concerns are addressed quickly, accurately and fairly.

Thank you for helping us maintain a positive and supportive school community. We are always happy to listen and work with families to resolve any issues.

Y5 New Barn

This term our Year 5 children enjoyed a fantastic residential visit to New Barn. Throughout the trip, they embraced a wide range of exciting activities, challenged themselves to try new things and demonstrated our school values brilliantly.

The children showed resilience, teamwork and determination, whether tackling new activities, supporting one another or spending time away from home. They were a credit to the school at all times, and we received many compliments about their behaviour, manners and enthusiasm.

A huge thank you goes to all the staff who gave up their time to make the visit possible and ensure the children had such a memorable experience. We are incredibly proud of every child for the courage, independence and positive attitude they displayed throughout the week. The memories made at New Barn will no doubt stay with them for many years to come.

Art Exhibition

Some of our students were invited to display their artwork at the Art Exhibition at Alton Assembly Rooms. The school was delighted to take part and be able to showcase the creativity, imagination and fantastic skills that the children demonstrated during our Arts week at the end of last year. Congratulations to those that won prizes in their categories:

Year 2-3 – 3rd Prize - Alexander E

Year 4-6 – 2nd Prize – Alice R

Interesting use of colour – Giulia C

Poppy Appeal

After half term, we will once again be supporting the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal. Poppies and a range of remembrance items will be available to purchase in school, with all donations helping to support serving and former members of the Armed Forces and their families.

If your child would like to purchase a poppy, please send them to school with a small donation.

Thank you, as always, for your support in helping us mark this important act of remembrance.

Have You Thought About Hiring Our Hall?

Looking for a space for a club, class, meeting or community event? Our school hall is available to hire during evenings, weekends and school holidays. With a spacious indoor area and on-site facilities, it's ideal for a wide range of activities.

For more information on availability and hire charges, please contact the school office. We'd love to welcome your group or party to our school community!

Could You Spare an Hour?

With our Site Manager currently off, we're looking for a few willing volunteers who may be able to give just an hour a week to help around the school. Whether it's litter picking, moving resources, simple maintenance tasks or helping keep our site looking its best, every little bit helps and is greatly appreciated.

If you think you could help, please get in touch with the school office. Thank you for supporting our school community!

Headteacher Awards

Henry S Amira D Lily G Mahera R Blossom M Piper S
Nancy D Millie H Anaiya R Isla Rose R Scarlett HL Arlo B Joel O
Franceska B William B

House Points

Ackender - 627

Bushy Leaze - 636

Chawton - 684

Amery - 645

INSET Days

The INSET days for this academic year are as follows:

2nd November 2026 (Staff training with Hampshire advisors on Writing)

4th December 2026 (Staff training with Pupil Progress Meetings as a focus)

5th July 2027 (Staff development day on Transitions and the new year)

Dates for the Diary

20th Oct - Parents Evening 3:40 - 7pm

22nd Oct - Year 5 Bing Sing @ Eggars

23rd Oct - Year 3 and 4 Harvest Festival at the Church - 2pm

26th - 30th Oct - HALF TERM

2nd Nov - INSET DAY - Writing focus

4th Nov - 6th November - Year 6 Bikeability

6th Nov - Year 5 Class Assembly

10th Nov - New to Year R tours at 9:30am

13th November - Wolf Class Assembly

16th - 20th Nov Anti-Bullying Week / Assessment week

18th Nov - New to Year R tours at 9:30am

20th Nov - Eagle Class Assembly

26th Nov - New to Year R Tours at 9.30am

4th Dec - INSET DAY - Pupil Progress Meetings

5th Dec (Saturday) New to Year R Stay and Play event (further details to follow)

8th Dec - Year R Nativity to Parents

9th Dec - Year R Nativity to Parents

10th Dec - Christmas Jumper and Christmas Lunch Day

11th Dec - Year 2 Class Assembly

18th Dec - Carols Around the Tree @ 2pm

19th Dec - 3rd Jan - Christmas Holidays