

# End of Spring 2 Term Newsletter



Although Spring is beginning to blossom, we have now reached the end of our Spring Term. As we look towards the Summer Term, we are keeping our fingers crossed for brighter weather and hoping our school grounds will soon be full of colour and life!

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## Federation Improvement Plans

As you know, we continue to focus on key areas across the Federation to ensure ongoing self-improvement. Here is a brief update on our progress:

### Maths

Mr Butcher (Sopley) has continued to lead professional development meetings, strengthening consistency in our Maths teaching across the Federation. He has visited classes to recognise best practice, identify next steps, and model effective teaching strategies for colleagues.

### Curriculum

Mrs Carey (Burley) and I continue to work with a network of schools to develop what we hope will be a truly irresistible curriculum.

- Mrs Carey has supported teachers in reviewing key learning expectations for each year group.
- She is also exploring enhancements to our music provision.
- Miss Sewell will be taking on the role of Language Lead, beginning a review of our languages offer and identifying opportunities to build on what is currently in place.

### Vision and Values

This week, we launched our new Vision and Values with the children. They have explored what each value means, worked in their house groups to practice related skills, and created artwork for our hall to act as a daily reminder.

This links closely with our redesigned behaviour policy, which now features eight core school rules. These help pupils make clear connections between their behaviour and our values, and outline our approach to nurturing positive behaviour across the school.

## Assessment

We continue to use clear learning objectives and success criteria to support high-quality teaching and enable pupils to self-assess their work. This begins in Reception, where we model what success looks like and encourage early reflection.

We have also reviewed our approach to tracking progress and attainment, holding progress review meetings to identify where learning is strongest and where adjustments to provision may be needed.



## Staffing News

Many of you will have seen the advert for a fixed-term TA position at Burley. We are delighted to share that we have appointed Mrs Cooper, who will be joining Wagtails Class after Easter.

Across the Federation, we will also be reviewing our staffing structure for the next academic year. This will be based in part on pupil numbers for both schools. Once any changes have been finalised, we will write to parents with further information.

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## Online Workshop

We would like to invite you to an online workshop led by colleagues from Ringwood Secondary School, focusing on the considerations, concerns and risks around mobile phone use for primary-aged children.

This session is part of our ongoing e-safety approach, and we believe it will be valuable for all families -

- whether your child already has a phone,
- whether they do not, or
- even if your child is still at an age where phone use isn't yet on your radar.

The workshop will explore what to be mindful of, the potential risks, and how we as a school can support families with dealing with the pressures which can arise as children get older.

Following feedback from our last parent forum, we have opted for an online meeting rather than an in-person session. We hope this makes it easier to attend, particularly for those managing childcare or busy evening routines.

Details for joining the workshop, including the meeting link and time, will be sent out shortly.

This will be held on **Monday 20th April at 5pm**

We look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible to this important and informative session.

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## Clubs

Communication has gone out this week regarding our teacher led, Educamps and Personal Best Education (Sopley only) lunchtime and after school clubs on offer after the Easter holidays, for Summer 1 term. Our aim is for every child to be able to access at least one club space. Mrs Hodge has arranged with teachers some fun sport and creativity clubs so if your child would like to join in please visit your child's Arbor account to book them a place.

**There is a maximum capacity for each club, it is a first come first serve basis, so be quick to sign up! Please note some clubs are for specific year groups only.**



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## Sports Day

Mrs Hodge is working hard to plan this year's Sports Day. The key aims include:

- Inclusion and Equality: Ensuring all children, regardless of gender or ability, can participate fully.
- Health and Wellbeing: Supporting both mental and physical health, and contributing to the recommended 60 minutes of daily activity.
- Character Development: Building resilience, determination, confidence, cooperation, and leadership.
- Curriculum & Skill Development: Strengthening motor skills and providing supportive opportunities for competition.
- School Sport Strategy: Aligning with the School Sport and Activity Action Plan, including opportunities such as the School Games.

This year's Sports Day will take place on Thursday 4th June.

- Morning: Events linked to the PE curriculum
- Afternoon: Traditional Sports Day activities (parents invited)

Further details will follow.



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## Parking in the Forest – Burley Primary School

You may have seen our recent correspondence from the Forestry Commission regarding parking near Burley. We remain in contact with them to raise concerns and seek practical solutions, especially when meetings or discussions are required. Following our last communication, some additional flexibility has been granted. We have requested written confirmation from the Forestry Commission so that we can share this update with families.



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## School Timings

Thank you to all who provided feedback regarding the extension of the school day. As mentioned in the original letter, the school day is counted from the point of the school gate closing to the end of the day, so altering lunch times or break times does not affect whether the school meets the required number of hours.

The majority of parents (63%) who responded indicated that a later finish time would be preferred. We discussed this at our last governors' meeting and have agreed to implement this change.

Starting from September:

- Gates open: 8:40 - 8:50
- End of the school day: 3:20
- (we will remind you closer to the time)



## Music

Mrs Carey (Burley) has been working hard to look at how we can develop our music offer as a Federation. We are excited to be working with a company for the Summer Term called 'Discover the Music' which will support music teaching and provide a range of wider musical opportunities.

This has been funded by our amazing PTA – so a huge thank you to everyone who has helped, contributed, and got involved. Your efforts will make a real difference to the children at our schools!



## SEND Holiday Clubs

If your child has identified special educational needs, you may be interested in SCARF - this is a charitable organisation who support families with the New Forest and its borders. Find out more here: <https://scarfnewforest.org/>

## INSET Days

- Friday 22nd May 2026
  - Tuesday 1st September 2026
  - Thursday 22nd October 2026
  - Friday 23rd October 2026
  - Monday 4th January 2027
  - Tuesday 5th January 2027
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## Key Dates for the Term Ahead

- 13th April – First Day Back
- Week beginning 11th May – Year 6 SATs
- 22nd May – INSET Day
- 25th–31st May – Half Term
- 1st June – Return to School
- Week beginning 1st June – Year 4 Multiplication Checks
- 4th June – Sports Day
- Week beginning 8th June – Phonics Screening (Years 1 & 2)
- 27th June (Saturday) – Burley Summer Fayre
- 4th July (Saturday) – Sopley Summer Fayre
- 22nd July (Wednesday) – Last Day of Term - school finishes at 3.15pm