SCHOOL BULLETIN



Head of School Message

No. 04
6 November, 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another lovely and busy period in school, with plenty of opportunities for our children to shine, celebrate their learning and come together as a community. It is always a pleasure to see the enthusiasm, kindness and creativity that our children bring to each day, and I wanted to share a few highlights as well as some exciting things to look forward to.



Bonnie and her beautiful Remembrance Day writing.

Remembering Together

It was wonderful to see so many of you join us for our Remembrance Service at the church. The children represented our school beautifully, with many taking part through reading and singing. I was particularly touched by those who chose to write their own messages reflecting on the importance of the day, making thoughtful links to unity and hope. A huge well done to Auden, Jasper, Bella, Isabelle, Bonnie, Fran, Lottie and Midori for sharing their words and thoughts with us. It was a lovely reminder of the importance of giving our children opportunities to reflect, express themselves and understand the world around them.

Celebrating Our Learning

A big thank you to everyone who joined us for Woodlands' Class Share Afternoon. It was fantastic to see such a great turnout and, more importantly, to see the children sharing their learning with such confidence and enthusiasm. They worked so nicely together and demonstrated our ACE particles brilliantly. Thank you for taking the time to come along and celebrate their achievements.



Well done to this week's ACE of the Week winners including Eddie – here is his certificate celebrating just how AWESOME he has been!

Congratulations also to our first group of Bronze House Point winners, achieving over 50 House Points already this term! We also awarded the first Reading Miles Challenge certificates this week for amazing efforts with reading at home.

Please continue to record your child's reading at home in their reading record as we continue to create a rich environment of reading here at Somersham. Thank you for your continued support – Together we are ACE!





Bringing Our Outdoor Spaces to Life

One of my highlights recently has been seeing our Forest School space really coming to life. A huge thank you to Mr Hitchcock for his fantastic work in creating a safe, exciting and welcoming environment for the children to enjoy, both during the school day and through Mrs Howard's ACE Forest School Club.

The joy of seeing children exploring, engaging and making the most of this space has been wonderful. Equally, it has been lovely to see the adults who help bring these opportunities to life. Creating more inspiring and inclusive spaces across our school is something I am keen to develop further this year, and our Forest School is a brilliant example of what we can achieve together.

Next on my list is our Shepherd's Hut and transforming this amazing asset into another ACE, inclusive space for everyone to enjoy.

Head of School Message Cont...



Lots to Look Forward To!
There has certainly been plenty of colour and creativity around school recently! Our FOSS Dress Down Day on Thursday saw lots of bright, firework-inspired outfits, with children embracing the opportunity to be bold and creative. Well done to everyone who joined in, and thank you to FOSS for organising another fun event.
Next week, we look forward to supporting **Children in Need on Friday**, with donations towards this fantastic cause very much welcomed. The children will also be taking part in a Federation Quiz, bringing classes from Bramford and Somersham together over video for some friendly competition. It will be a lovely opportunity to connect with our wider school community.
Shortly afterwards, we have **Odd Socks Day**, so start getting those wonderfully mismatched socks ready! We will also be marking **Road Safety Week**, with our ACE School Council helping to lead a competition and share some important messages about staying safe on our roads. It is great to see our children taking an active role in promoting important issues and making a difference.
For further information about these and other upcoming events, please do take a look at the Key Dates document previously shared.

New Spaces, New Opportunities
You may have noticed that our new library space is beginning to take shape! I am really excited about the direction this is heading and the opportunities it will bring for our children.
The space was designed to offer much more than somewhere to borrow a book. With new displays, exciting books and cosy reading 'nooks', alongside areas for small-group work and focused learning, we are creating an engaging and inclusive environment where children can read, explore, discover and learn together.
I look forward to sharing more as the space develops and, of course, seeing the children make it their own!



Thank You
As always, I want to finish by thanking everyone who makes our school such a special place. From our dedicated staff and wonderful children to our supportive parents, carers, volunteers and wider community, the contribution you make really does matter. So many of the opportunities and experiences our children enjoy are made possible through people giving their time, energy and enthusiasm, both within and beyond the school gates.
There is lots to be proud of and even more to look forward to. Thank you for continuing to be part of our journey as we work together to make our school an even more inspiring, inclusive and exciting place to learn and grow.

Lastly, congratulations to our FOSS Pumpkin Carving Competition Winner - **Poppy** in Woodlands Class! Well done on such an ACE creation!

Mr Becker

Attendance

Attendance:
We would love for every one of our pupils to achieve ACE attendance (of 95% or above) next academic year. To achieve 95% your child will need to miss no more than 10 days of school.

Pupil Absence: please remember to report all absences by leaving a message on the school absence line – **01473 831251**, OPTION 1, absences should be reported by **09.30** or earlier if possible.
Alternatively, you can send an email to the office email address.
Failure to do so may result in your child receiving an unauthorised absence.

Pupil Late Arrival: If your child is going to be late, please let the office know as soon as possible by leaving a message on the absence line - **01473 831251**, OPTION 1.
If you are running late, please also remember to let us know, if your child will be having a school lunch or home packed lunch, to enable us to inform the kitchen staff as soon as possible.

Remember...

When children attend school they:

- Can achieve their potential
- Have better career prospects
- Learn how to look after themselves and be healthy
- Grow in confidence
- Keep up with work and homework
- Make new friends





Attendance - Week (Year to date)

Woodlands - 96.8% (98.3%)

Hedgehogs - 91.1% (94%)

Adders - 97.2% (97%)

	ACE OF THE WEEK
Woodlands	**Arlo** - for always being motivated in his learning tasks and trying his best in all he does. **Soren** - making fantastic progress socially as well as with his academic work.
Hedgehogs	**Jessica** - has shown positive attitude towards tricky learning. She works well with everyone in class - a real team player!
Adders	**Eddie** - what can we say?! Wow! You were simply AWESOME this week.

Parent Information

Suffolk County Council

If your child was born between 1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023,
you must apply for a full-time Reception Year school place by
15 January 2027



You **must** make an application even if your child already has a place in a nursery class, pre-school or family hub.

To apply for a place or for more information you can visit:
www.suffolk.gov.uk/admissions

Information is also available from:
- The Admissions Team on **0345 600 0981**
- Your local school

Helpful Information from the NHS Regarding School Attendance



Is my child too ill for school?

UK Government NHS

Does your child have a high temperature (38°C or more)? YES Keep them off school until it goes away. NO Follow the guidance below.

Your child can usually go to school with a mild cough or cold if they are otherwise well. If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone the school or nursery on the first day and give them the reason.

Should go in	Should go in (let the school know)	Seek treatment before returning to school	Keep them off (at first)
A cough, cold or sore throat Fine with slight cough or common cold symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat or headache, as long as they're otherwise well and do not have a high temperature.	**Cold sores** Encourage them not to touch the blister or kiss anyone while they have the cold sore, or to share things like cups and towels.	**Impetigo** They'll need treatment from a pharmacist or GP, often with antibiotics. Keep them off school until all the sores have crusted over and healed, or for 48 hours after they start antibiotic treatment. Encourage your child to wash their hands regularly and not to share things like towels and cups with other children at school.	**Ear infection** If your child has an ear infection and a high temperature or severe earache, keep them off school until they're feeling better or their high temperature goes away.
Threadworms Speak to your pharmacist, who can recommend a treatment.	**Conjunctivitis** Fine unless they are feeling very unwell. Seek advice from your pharmacist. Encourage your child not to rub their eyes and to wash their hands regularly.	**Ringworm** See your pharmacist unless it's on their scalp, in which case you should see a GP. It's fine for your child to go to school once they have started treatment.	**Measles** They'll need to see a GP. Call the GP surgery before you go in, as measles can spread to others easily. Keep your child off school for at least 4 days from when the rash first appears. They should also avoid close contact with babies and anyone who is pregnant or has a weakened immune system.
	Head lice & nits You can treat head lice and nits without seeing a GP.	**Scarlet fever** They'll need treatment with antibiotics from a GP. Otherwise they'll be infectious for 2 to 3 weeks. Your child can go back to school 24 hours after starting antibiotics.	**Vomiting & diarrhoea** Stay away from school until they have not been sick or had diarrhoea due to illness for at least 2 days (48 hours).
	Hand, foot & mouth disease If they seem well enough to go to school, there's no need to keep them off. Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues straight away and to wash their hands regularly.	**Chickenpox** Keep them off school until all the spots have crusted over. This is usually about 5 days after the spots first appeared.	
	Slapped cheek syndrome Once the rash appears, they're no longer infectious. Let the school or teacher know if you think your child has slapped cheek syndrome.		

Feeling worried or anxious: It's normal for any of us to feel worried sometimes. We may get a tummy ache or headache, or have problems eating or sleeping. Avoiding school can sometimes make a child's worries about going to school worse. If your child is struggling, please speak to school as soon as possible to explore available help. If your child is still struggling and it's affecting their everyday life, you should contact GP or school nurse.

To find out more, search www.NHS.uk for the specific illness or infection, or 'Is my child too ill for school?'

Parent Information

The NSFT Psychology in Schools Team offer an online parent/carer workshop program that addresses childhood neurodiversity and covers key topics that families have identified as most helpful. These workshops are offered to support families on the neurodevelopmental (NDD) pathway in Suffolk.



Childhood Neurodivergence: Understanding and Supporting Sleep Difficulties
Thu 12 Nov, 10:00 GMT+0
Free



Supporting Your Child/Adolescent with Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD)
Thu 19 Nov, 13:15 GMT+0
Free



Childhood Neurodivergence: Understanding and Supporting Eating Difficulties



Understanding and Supporting Behaviour
Tue 15 Dec, 12:00 GMT+0
Free

Suffolk Family Carers
Supporting Unpaid Carers

Would you like to help shape your community to be more carer-friendly?

At these sessions members of the Family Carer Partnership Board and Suffolk County Council, will be joined by a senior member of the Suffolk Family Carers team to lead a guided conversation.

Together, we'll explore how your local area - including community spaces, shops, and transport - could better support carers. It will also be an opportunity to share what matters most to you.

Adult Family Carer Event

📍 Location: Claydon
📅 Date: Thursday 19th November
🕐 Time: 2:00pm - 3:00pm

Parent Carer Event

📍 Location: Claydon
📅 Date: Thursday 26th November
🕐 Time: 9:45am - 10:45am

Special Educational Needs and Disability Information, Advice & Support Service
sendiass

Suffolk SENDIASS (Special Educational Needs and Disability Information Advice and Support Service)

Confidential and impartial information, advice and support service on issues related to Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND). It is free, easy to access and confidential.
They offer information, advice and support to:

- Children and young people (up to 25 years) with SEND
- Parents and carers of children with SEND
- Practitioners (general enquiries only or who might be supporting children, young people or parents to access our service)

FOSS Update


Paint & Plonk
Christmas Event
Friday 20th November
7pm – 9:30pm
Somersham Village Hall
£15 per ticket
www.ticketsource.co.uk/foss-somersham
Ticket includes all materials, one glass of mulled wine and a festive treat
There will be a bar and soft refreshments available

Flyers & Events









Diary Dates

Monday 9th		Chistmas Shoebox Appeal Collection 3.15 - 4.15pm - Girls Football (KS2)
Tuesday 10th		3.15 - 4.15pm - Boys Football (KS2) 3.15 - 4.15pm - Forest School (All Years)
Wednesday 11th		3.15 - 4.15pm - Arts & Craft (All Years)
Thursday 12th		1.15pm - Woodpeckers' Forest School Session 3.15 - 4.15pm - KICK club - Create & Play (All Years) 3.15 - 4.15pm - BSL Rehearsal (5 of 6)
Friday 13th		Children in Need 3.15 - 4.15pm - Musical Theatre
Monday 16th		Road Safety Week Odd Socks Day 3.15 - 4.15pm - Girls Football (KS2)
Tuesday 17th		School Photos 3.15 - 4.15pm - Boys Football (KS2) 3.15 - 4.15pm - Forest School (All Years)
Wednesday 18th		3.15 - 4.15pm - Arts & Craft (All Years)
Thursday 19th		1.15pm - Robins' Forest School Session 3.15 - 4.15pm - KICK club - Create & Play (All Years) 3.15 - 4.15pm - BSL Rehearsal (6 of 6)
Friday 20th		9.10 - Adders Share Assembly 3.15 - 4.15pm - Musical Theatre