



# Newsletter – 8<sup>th</sup> January 2026

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Dear Parents

## **Happy New Year!**

Welcome back to the start of the Spring term. I hope that you were able to enjoy time with family and friends over the holidays and that 2026 has started well for everyone. As usual, this newsletter has some reminders of upcoming events and some important deadlines as well as calendar dates for the rest of the school year.

## **Snow and ice – What happens when the school needs to close?**

The short burst of snow on the first day of term was a reminder that the weather is often a bit unpredictable at this time of year so I wanted to make sure that everyone knew what happens when the school needs to close.

Firstly, closing the school is not something that I do unless I have to. The decision to close is made with the Chair of Governors and I also communicate with the Headteacher at Turnfurlong Junior School. We try to take the decision as early as possible to minimise disruption to families. The decision is always made with Health and Safety in mind as follows:

- Is the site safe for pupils, staff and parents? (*Icy playground, steps etc*)
- Are there enough staff available to be able to open school safely? (*Staff may be unable to attend school because their journey to and from work is unsafe or because their child's schools/childcare has closed*)
- Are the weather conditions likely to worsen during the school day? (*Closing during the day is likely to more disruptive and put everyone at greater risk*)

We let parents know that the school is closed through a number of communication channels:

- The Buckinghamshire Council website  
<https://closures.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/check-if-your-school-is-closed/>
- ParentMail
- The school Facebook page

## **Snow and ice – What learning do the children do at home?**

When the school is closed for a day we send learning via ParentMail for children to complete at home. A proper snowy day in Aylesbury doesn't happen very often so our 'snowy day plan' has lots of fun opportunities for children to learn through playing and exploring in the snow!

If the school is closed for more than one day, we move to remote and online learning through Microsoft Teams from the second day. The children do not have live teaching all day but there will be an online meeting at the beginning of the day where we take a register and where the teacher can explain the work for the day. We then meet online again in the afternoon. All parents have had their child's email and password sent home so please check that you have these to hand in case you need to use them.

## **OPAL update**

Please remember to send back your child's wellies and waterproof coat as we will be outside every day, even if it is snowing! It was wonderful to see the children sledging down the bank on the field in plastic crates.

Providing your child with extra pairs of dry socks (to keep in the classroom) would be very useful as our changing box has a short supply and wet toes get cold very quickly!

If you are having a post-Christmas clean out to make room for new items, please consider donating unwanted, used items to school to add to OPAL. These can be dropped off at the main office, or larger items can be left in the staff car park to be brought in and sorted.

At the end of each half term, Mrs Glen and Ms Moxham re-sort all the boxes, remove broken items and replace stock, and there are a lot of well-played with items which need removing for safety. If your child has 'borrowed' or brought home an OPAL item by mistake, please return it to the class teacher or the office as this rapidly diminishes the resources available to all the other children. We will remind the children in our next OPAL assembly that the toys are for use with OPAL in school, not home use unfortunately.

We are desperately in need of

- Toy cars
- Action superhero figures
- Small world figures
- Old mobile phones, hairdryers, remote controls
- Sticklebricks
- Plastic toy animals
- Kitchen utensils e.g. spoons, spatulas
- Toasters, kettles, microwaves
- Scooters and ride on toys
- Drums and musical instruments
- Buckets and spades for the sand pits

If you, or someone you know works in industry, we would also like more

- Scaffold boards
- Plastic 25L barrels

We have enough saucepans, Lego, Brio and mega blocks for the time being, but thank you. Unfortunately, we cannot accept glass items, or very small parts as these are a choking hazard.

## **Applying for a school place for Reception or Year 3**

All families in Nursery and Year 2 must apply for a school place for their child for September 2026 by midnight on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

Children in Nursery do not automatically get a place in our Reception class and children in Year 2 do not automatically get a place at Turnfurlong Junior School. Everyone has to apply. Further information about the process and key dates can be found here:

<https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools-index/school-admissions/school-admissions-guides-policies-and-statistics/guide-to-starting-school-or-moving-up-to-junior-school/>

## Relationships and Health Education meeting – 2<sup>nd</sup> March 6.30pm-7.30pm

Relationships and Health Education (RHE) is a subject that all schools have to teach from Year 1 onwards. However, please note that we don't teach Sex Education in Year 1 and 2. New statutory requirements for schools were published by the Department for Education in July 2025 and schools must introduce these in September 2027.

These can be found here:

[Relationships and sex education \(RSE\) and health education - GOV.UK](#)

Whenever schools revise their RHE curriculum they should share this with parents and therefore I am holding a meeting for parents about this. Please come along to find out what we teach, how we teach it, what is changing in September and to have your questions answered.

## FoTIS Updates

FoTIS Volunteers 2025/26  
WhatsApp group

## Fundraising

Thank you for all your support last term! We're delighted to say that by the end of the first term of the year we had raised over £4,000! This money will go a long way towards refreshing the books in the school library.



We have some great fundraising initiatives lined up over the next couple of months. Tuck shop will be back on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January, Sponsored Bounce will take place on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February and the Valentine's Bake Sale is back on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February after it's huge success last year.

KEY DATES - 2025-26	
<b>January</b>	
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Sponsored Bounce Sponsorship Forms sent home in book bags
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup>	SEND Coffee Morning with our SENDco, Mrs Gerhardt, 9.00 -10.00 am
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup>	FoTIS Tuck Shop
<b>February</b>	
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup>	FoTIS Sponsored Bounce
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Parent involvement morning
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup>	FoTIS Non-Uniform Day in exchange for baked or bought donations for the Valentine's Bake Sale after school today in the playground
<b>March</b>	
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Relationships and Health Education Meeting for Parents 6.30pm - 7.30pm
<b>w/c 9<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>NO AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITY CLUBS THIS WEEK</b>
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Parent Discussions 5.30-7.30 pm
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Parent Discussions 3.30-4.30 pm

Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Parent Discussions 3.30-4.30 pm
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	SEND Coffee Morning with our SENDCo, Mrs Gerhardt, 9.00 -10.00 am
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Eid party
<b>April</b>	
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup>	SEND Coffee Morning with our SENDCo, Mrs Gerhardt, 9.00 -10.00 am
<b>May</b>	
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Year 2 SATs week 1
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Pyjamarama Day
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Year 2 SATs week 2
<b>June</b>	
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Year 1 Phonics check / Year 2 recheck week
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Meeting for new parents (starting school in September 2026)
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Open Evening
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup>	SEND Coffee Morning with our SENDco, Mrs Gerhardt, 9.00 -10.00 am – <b>Year 2 parents only</b>
<b>July</b>	
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Beach Day
Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup>	FoTIS Summer Social
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Move up day 1
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Move up day 2
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup>	SEND Coffee Morning with our SENDco, Mrs Gerhardt, 9.00 -10.00 am
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Sports Day (am)

<b>TERM DATES 2025-26</b>		
	<b>Open on morning of</b>	<b>Close at end of afternoon of</b>
<b>Spring Term</b>	Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2026
	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2026	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March 2026
<b>Summer Term</b>	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> April 2026	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2026
	Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2026	Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2026
<b>Staff Training Days</b>	Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2025 Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> October 2025 Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2025 Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2026 Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2026	
<b>Bank Holiday</b>	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> May 2026 (school closed)	

<b>TERM DATES 2026-27</b>		
	<b>Open on morning of</b>	<b>Close at end of afternoon of</b>
<b>Autumn Term</b>	Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2026	Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October 2026
	Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2026	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December 2026
<b>Spring Term</b>	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2027	Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> February 2027
	Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2027	Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> March 2027
<b>Summer Term</b>	Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> April 2027	Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> May 2027
	Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> June 2027	Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2027
<b>Staff Training Days</b>	Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2026 Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September 2026 Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November 2026 Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2027 Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> May 2027	
<b>Bank Holiday</b>	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2027 (school closed)	