

# Partnership Press

## Autumn 2



### Partnership Press: Introduction

As we approach the end of this term, I want to take a moment to thank you for your support during my first term as Executive Headteacher across our partnership. It has been a privilege to work alongside such dedicated staff and enthusiastic pupils, and I have greatly enjoyed meeting many of you—whether at school and PTA events or during drop-off and pick-up times at the gates.

I am still learning the unique strengths of both schools, and having spent this term committed to my mantra of '*Big Eyes, Big Ears and a Small Mouth,*' this approach will continue into next term as I see more of how the schools operate. Please be assured that I am working closely with our fantastic staff to develop how we work together and to plan ahead, ensuring that our schools provide the very best for every child.

This penultimate week of term is a wonderful opportunity to reflect. I have loved getting to know our school communities and seeing the joy and confidence of our children. Watching the excellent nativity performances and hearing the festive singing has been a highlight for me. Not every child finds standing in front of an audience easy, but I have been so impressed by the way staff have supported and encouraged every child to shine.

Wishing you and your families a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful holiday season

### Curriculum Collaboration: *Working Together to Strengthen Learning*

This term, staff from both schools have been working closely to deepen their understanding of the curriculum taught across our settings and explore ways to collaborate on planning and professional development. These efforts are focused on enhancing the teaching and learning experience for all our children.

We have delivered training sessions that have strengthened our approach to phonics and early reading, ensuring consistency and maintaining high standards across both schools. In addition, we have reorganised our curriculum subject teams, bringing together staff with key interests and expertise in specific areas. These teams have reviewed their subjects in detail and developed action plans for the year ahead.

This work ensures that we continue to provide excellent learning opportunities now, while also preparing for the upcoming changes to the National Curriculum, which will be introduced over the next two years.



### Working with Parents and Carers...

I retain this image from my previous letter as I regularly refer to it and reflect on the far-reaching role we play in the lives of the children and their families within our community. I believe that the strongest communities are built on shared perspectives and open dialogue. Parents and carers play a vital role in shaping the experiences and opportunities we provide for our children

and your insights help us understand what works well and where we can improve, ensuring that decisions reflect the needs of every child. To support this, we have planned a **Parent and Carer Survey** to capture your thoughts on some key themes linked to our provision, including wellbeing, communication, curriculum, and enrichment opportunities. There is also space for you to share any other aspects where you would like to give feedback or suggestions. These surveys are open now and **will remain open until 31<sup>st</sup> December**. We will review the feedback and share highlights with all stakeholders with any actions we aim to undertake in light of your views:

**Limsfield C.E. Infant School:** Click [here](#) for the survey link ([Limsfield Parent & Carer Survey - Autumn 2025 – Fill out form](#))

**St Mary's Primary School:** Click [here](#) for the survey link ([St Mary's Parent & Carer Survey - Autumn 2025 – Fill out form](#))

*If you have a child or children in each school and have the time, please do complete a separate form for each child(ren).*

**Your voice matters, and by working together we can ensure the very best outcomes for the pupils in our schools.**

**Thank you for taking the time to share your views.**

**Confidently me - Belonging Together - Challenged to contribute  
Achieving together in God's light**

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### Keeping Children Safe Online This Christmas



With Christmas just around the corner, many families will be gifting new devices to their children. From tablets and smartphones to gaming consoles and smart TVs, more devices than ever are connected to the internet. While these gadgets offer exciting opportunities for learning and play, they also come with risks if not set up properly. For some parents this will all be absolutely obvious and clear but we feel it is important to signpost to support in order to help keep children safe while online:

Before your child starts exploring their new technology, we strongly encourage you to take time to ensure the device is configured for safety. This includes:

- **Setting up parental controls** on devices, apps, and home Wi-Fi. These controls can help block inappropriate content, manage screen time, and restrict in-app purchases.
- **Creating child accounts** rather than allowing access through an adult account. Child accounts often include built-in safety features and age-appropriate settings.
- **Checking privacy settings** on social media, gaming platforms, and streaming services. Make sure profiles are set to private and location sharing is turned off.
- **Discussing online safety rules** with your child. Talk about what is appropriate to share online, how to respond to messages from strangers, and what to do if something feels wrong or upsetting.
- **Explaining the importance of strong passwords** and why they should never share them with friends.
- **Encouraging open communication** so your child feels comfortable coming to you if they encounter something worrying online.

#### Quick Checklist for Parents

- **Enable parental controls** on all new devices and apps
- **Create a child account** with age-appropriate settings
- **Review privacy settings** on social media and gaming platforms
- **Turn off location sharing** and check who can contact your child
- **Set screen time limits** to balance online and offline activities
- **Talk about online safety rules** and encourage open conversations
- **Bookmark trusted resources** for ongoing guidance

#### Top 5 Things to Check Before Your Child Goes Online

1. **Is the device secure?**  
Ensure antivirus software is installed and the latest updates are applied.
2. **Are parental controls active?**  
Double-check that filters, app restrictions, and purchase controls are working.
3. **Are privacy settings correct?**  
Confirm that profiles are private, location sharing is disabled, and only trusted contacts can communicate.
4. **Does your child know the rules?**  
Review what is safe to share, how to report concerns, and why they should never talk to strangers online.
5. **Is screen time agreed?**  
Set clear limits and agree on times for gaming, social media, and homework to maintain balance

For practical advice and step-by-step guides, visit these trusted UK resources:

- [NSPCC Online Safety](#) – Guidance on parental controls, age-appropriate tech use, and starting conversations about online safety.
- [Internet Matters](#) – “Set Up Safe” guides for smartphones, tablets, and gaming consoles, plus family agreements and age-specific advice.
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) – Tips and resources for managing devices and encouraging positive online behaviour.

Taking these precautions now will help ensure that your child’s digital experience this festive season is safe, enjoyable, and enriching.

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### Dates for 2026 / 2027 Academic Year



Following Surrey County Council's recent adjustment to term dates, which now includes a two-week half-term in the Autumn Term, we have reviewed our school calendar to ensure the best outcomes for children, families, and staff. This review, which include discussion with staff and Governors, considered a range of factors including alignment with local feeder schools and Oxted County Secondary School.

### Key Dates for next academic year (2026-2027):

Autumn Term (2026):	
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2026	INSET Day – No children in school
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September.	All Children in School ( <i>Reception Children start dates TBC</i> )
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> October	Last day of Autumn 1 ( <b>2-week half term</b> )
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November	First day of Autumn 2 – all children back to school
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Last Day of Autumn 2 / Break Up for Christmas
Spring Term (2027):	
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> January	First day of Spring Term – all children back to school
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	Last day of Spring 1 ( <b>1-week half term</b> )
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February	First day of Spring 2 – all children back to school
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> March 2027	Last Day of Spring 2 / Break Up for Easter
Summer Term (2027):	
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> April	First day of Summer Term – all children back to school
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> May	Last day of Summer 1 ( <b>1-week half term</b> )
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> June	First day of Summer 2 – all children back to school
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July	Last Day of Summer 2 / Break Up for Christmas
<i>Please note we have just 1 further INSET day to plan as we are using the others to align our school term dates with other local schools and will confirm the date of this early in the New Year.</i>	

## Attendance

Earlier this half term, we shared a letter outlining the legal position of the Department for Education and the Local Authority regarding school attendance. I would like to take this opportunity to remind you how vital regular attendance is for every child. Consistent attendance ensures that pupils benefit fully from the rich learning experiences we provide and gives them the best chance to achieve their full potential.

I am concerned about the growing number of families choosing to take holidays during term time that do not meet the criteria for exceptional circumstances. These absences lead to significant lost learning, which can have a lasting impact on progress and attainment. They also place additional pressure on teaching staff, who work hard to revisit missed content and close gaps that could disadvantage children in the future. By sharing the dates for the next academic year now, we hope this will help you plan ahead and arrange holidays during school holiday periods rather than during term time. This forward planning makes a real difference to your child's education and helps them stay on track with their learning.

As a leadership team, we are working closely with our Governors to address this issue and explore ways to support families in reducing the amount of school time lost to holidays. Your cooperation and commitment to prioritising school attendance are essential in helping us provide the best possible education for your children. Every day in school counts towards building strong foundations for success. We will be sharing more detail on how we can support great attendance at the start of the Spring Term.

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring that your child benefits from every learning opportunity. Together, we can make a real difference to their future.