

Headteacher's note

I can't believe that we are in the final half term of this academic year! With only 7 weeks left, we have lots to pack in before the summer holidays arrive, so don't forget to look at Tapestry and our Facebook page to find out what we have been up to.

At this time of year, we start thinking about transitions - many of our children will be moving onto school in September, others will be moving to new spaces in the nursery and we will be welcoming lots of new children and their families into Bushy Leaze in September. We have started our transition meetings and visits with schools and our younger children will be visiting the 3-4-year-old base. Staff are putting the finishing touches to the school transition reports, which will be sent to parents later this term.

Best wishes,

Becky Hussey

Head of Centre



The children have had a lovely time during the first half of the summer term. They have seen the arrival of ducklings, have learnt about Barbados, and even had time for a spot of gardening, as well as a variety of other experiences.



Thank you to the parents and grandparents who have taken the time to pop into the nursery and have helped the children develop skills or find out about other cultures and countries. They have really enjoyed this and are often relaying details of the special visits to their parents at the end of the day.



A BIG THANK YOU to all the children who took part in the sponsored walk on the 22nd May and for all your generous sponsorship.

A grand total of **£311.00** has been raised so far. We know some parents still have sponsorship money they wish to hand in, so we will let you know the final total in the July newsletter.





Congratulations and thank you!
to the wonderful Balfour Beatty Hub Team. What a great achievement by all of those that took part

The walk was an amazing experience — a true test of our physical and mental limits. From the start, team morale was sky-high. On Friday, we all made our way to the campsite and then headed to the pub for dinner before settling in for what turned out to be one of the worst nights' sleeps many of us had ever had.

Saturday morning came, and we got up, had some breakfast, and set off on our journey around the island. For the first two legs, we stayed together as a team, and spirits were high. After leaving the first major checkpoint, we began to break off into smaller groups, each finding our own pace.

At the 32km mark, the blisters started appearing, and the thought of a cold beer crept into our minds. Around 42km, we found our first pub of the journey — it took the barman longer to pour four pints and take our money than it did for us to drink them!

Approaching the halfway mark at 52km, a few of the team had reached their limit and made the difficult decision to call it there. A huge achievement in itself. For those of us continuing, the halfway point was a chance to eat, strap up our feet, change into warmer clothes, and brace ourselves for the night ahead.

Walking through the night was the hardest part — the scenic coastal views had gone, replaced by quiet towns and industrial estates. We were now in smaller groups, each walking at their own pace.

The 72km checkpoint, around 3–4 AM, was a serious mental battle. We were exhausted, and that was the point many of us could have easily given up. But we pushed on. The next leg was brutally physical, and at the 82km checkpoint, most decided to call it. That left just six of us: Tom, Tim, Fraser, Elliot, Harry, and Daniel.

With 24km to go, we downed coffee, wrapped our feet again, and set off. The route took us down towards the sea, and while morale lifted slightly, fatigue was real — we were now battling to stay awake while walking.

We hit the final checkpoint at 92km, knowing we had just 14km left. Spirits were up — briefly. That final stretch included an unforgiving uphill section, and I think every one of us had a moment where we hit our limit. But when we saw the 104km marker and glimpsed the finish line, something shifted. Spirits soared, and the pace picked up.

Crossing the finish line was an unbelievable feeling — a huge sense of pride. We had pushed ourselves beyond what we thought possible and come through the other side. It was a brutal, unforgettable experience and a real testament to our resilience, grit, and team spirit.

I am ridiculously proud of my team.

I already knew we had an amazing group at AWE – The Hub but seeing those who took part in this challenge has left me in absolute awe of their mental and physical strength.

It's not just the team members who took part that deserve recognition—the support, generosity, and encouragement from everyone else has been just as inspiring.

We all work under an immense amount of pressure to deliver what we're building here, but the way we pull together as a team—especially when it matters most—shows just how special this group is.

Raising **£12,400** for a local facility that does so much good is an incredible achievement. I honestly can't thank everyone enough.

Tom Budd

Back to Basics
GIVE



Make a card or gift together for a special family member

Allow your child to share their toy with a friend or someone who may be visiting your household for the first time

Perhaps consider going with your child to the next local litter pick or alternatively, let them help you sort out your household recycling

Help your child to look after a household pet or help you to walk the family dog

Let your child help you with some household chores, like sorting out their clothes after they have been washed

Have fun together deciding if there are any toys or clothes you wish to donate to one of the local charity shops.

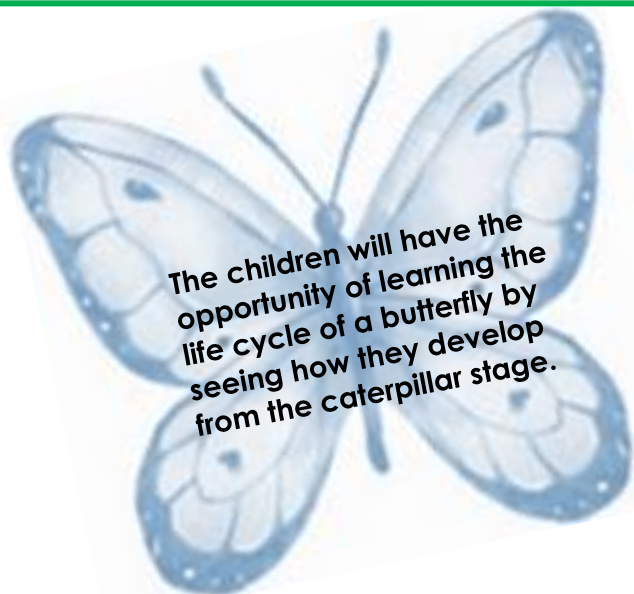
If you wish to find out more visit our wellbeing page which can be found on our website, along with other useful sites <https://www.bushyleaze.co.uk/wellbeing/>

Ginny is also available if you wish to have a word with her or she can provide printouts upon request. Ginny continues to post weekly tips on noticeboards both inside and outside the Centre.

Mill Cottage Farm Experience

You may have seen this farm, which is based in Holybourne, at local events. We are pleased to say they will be visiting our nursery towards the end of the month.

This will be a chance for children to meet small farmyard animals, such as goats, pigs, chickens, etc.



Top Tip for Talking



Have fun with your child.



Use actions, sing and make noises or silly sounds together.

Exploring different sounds will help with talking.

brmmm



During the summer, there are a number of local fun days taking place, which Bushy Leaze will have stalls at. Please see below the events, which are taking place and further details within the newsletter. It is not too late if you wish to help out for an hour or two at any of them. Just sign up at reception. Alternatively, we look forward to seeing you at the events to have some summer fun!

Saturday 14th June - Alton Lions 'Pirates in the Park' the event will be fundraising for the nursery)

Sunday 22nd June – Alton Victorian Cricket at the Butts

Sunday 6th July – 'Thank you Day' Anstey Park



Shiver me Timbers!

Time is fast approaching for 'Pirates in the Park', so make sure you have the date in your diary and are ready for the fancy dress competition!



Judging taking place at 2.30p.m.

Sat 14th June at Alton Town Park

11.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.



ALTON VICTORIAN CRICKET SUNDAY 22ND JUNE 2025

RAISING VITAL FUNDS FOR
Broadlands
Equine Therapy & RDA



Do come along and have some fun at this annual event. It starts at 10.00a.m. In the past Bushy Leaze have been the recipient of the days fundraising. This year's event will see Broadlands Equine Therapy benefitting from the day. As well as having a team playing cricket from Bushy Leaze, Becky will also be running a stall on the day, so do pencil the date in your diary.



Once again thank you to CALA Homes and their contractors. We think you will agree they have certainly transformed the main outside play area.



Rosie, Mike and Dustin took the opportunity to come along to the nursery to see the completed work and spend some time with the children, who were enjoying their revamped play area.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

We advise you not to email individual members of staff, this includes individual members of the admin team, as due to work patterns they may not be able to pick up your email immediately.

If you have any enquiries or messages you wish to pass on, **please email** adminoffice@bushyleaze.hants.sch.uk



If you have any concerns about the health and safety of a child attending the Centre or feel something may be troubling them, please share this information with a member of the safeguarding team - Becky Hussey, Sarah Ameer-Beg, Jess Anton or Tammy Parrott.



**REMEMBER WE ARE A
NUT AWARE ZONE**



Stay & Play

We would like to invite parents/carers to spend some time doing some fun math activities with your child in their classes. Please see dates and times below –

The Den – Mon 30th June at 11.00a.m. and 3.00p.m.

The Nest – Tues 1st July at 11.00a.m and 3.00p.m.

The Burrow – Thurs 3rd July at 11.00a.m and 3.00p.m.

Please remember to sign up at reception for the session you wish to attend

For those children who attend The Den for the whole day, we ask that those parents/carers, where possible, attend in the afternoon, allowing parents who normally just have children in the morning sessions to attend. We apologise in advance if this is inconvenient.

Tuesday 22nd July



We will be having our end of year celebration on Tuesday 22nd July. We would like to invite the **children who usually attend the afternoon session to come in for the morning 8.35-11.35 a.m.** there will be no afternoon session.

For those **children who attend for 30 hours, lunch club will run as usual and we ask parents to collect their children at 1pm.**

If this is a problem, then please speak to us.

Saturday Dads

SATURDAY
9.30 - 11 AM

A stay and play session for all dads and male carers with children under 5 on the **first** Saturday of each month

Summer Term 2025
3rd May
7th June
5th July



Bushy Leaze Family Support
Bushy Leaze Children and Families Centre
Eastbrooke Road, ALTON, GU34 2DR



Little Squirrels

SATURDAY
9.30 - 11 AM

An inclusive SEND family stay and play group running every **third** Saturday of each month for families with children under 5

★ Experienced Practitioners ★
★ Social Play ★
★ Safe and Supportive Environment ★



Summer Term 2025
17th May
21st June
19th July



Bushy Leaze Family Support
Bushy Leaze Children and Families Centre
Eastbrooke Road, ALTON, GU34 2DR
Registered Charity Number: 1195659



SUPPORTED BY
CHILDREN IN NEED



From left to right - Glenda Bentley, Sylvia Goodall, Luath Grant-Ferguson, Becky Hussey, Helen Grant-Ferguson, Annette Eyre (Town Mayor), Patti Snook, Jess Anton, Ann Blackman, Amy Rowland and Emma Willmott. Staff, fundraisers and Trustees

On May 6th, the Family Support Team proudly hosted the official opening of their new garden. The event was opened by The Town Mayor, Councillor Annette Eyre.

The garden will provide a year-round venue for the family support groups. Funding for the playground was primarily provided through the Alton Town Council Community Infrastructure Levy and the Local Children's Partnership, with equipment purchased through support from local councillors.

Bushy Leaze Family Support Charity (Registered Charity No. 1195659) is entirely funded through donations/grants. We are grateful for the ongoing support from the local community, which enables us to continue providing valuable services.



Jess



Amy



Emma

Don't forget the Family Support Team are available to give support and advice, so just ask a member of staff to point you in the right direction!



A BIG THANK YOU to Mikey May for organising such a wonderful fundraising event on Friday 30th May. His band Copertura played, as well as Kingsmith and Simon Lane singing some favourite tunes.

The evening raised £1,400.00 through ticket sales and the sales at the bar. Both Bushy Leaze and Alton Dementia Friendly, who provided the venue, will be putting the sum to good use.



Finally, as editor of the monthly newsletter, I thought I would let you know that this will be my penultimate issue, as I will be leaving Bushy Leaze at the end of term.

I have been at Bushy Leaze for 15 years. Initially I started on a one-year part-time contract to cover Tammy who was on maternity leave at the time. The role has evolved over the years and it has been a pleasure working at Bushy Leaze and watching the nursery and family support team develop, as there have been numerous changes throughout the period.

I have enjoyed seeing the changes in the children during their time at nursery. It has been lovely to see families come and go. I have especially enjoyed being able to reignite my creative skills, which has balanced nicely with the day-to-day admin duties. No two days are ever the same at Bushy Leaze, so I have found this interesting and have liked the variety on offer. You certainly cannot get bored or find the job mundane.

With my leaving there also becomes a vacancy for the role of Clerk to Governors. If you or someone you know has experience and would like to be considered for this role, please speak to Becky. Even if you are able to carry out this position for an interim period at the start of the academic year that would be helpful.

I hope you all have a lovely summer and the children have a good start to the next academic year whether they be starting school or returning to Bushy Leaze. Enjoy!

Louisa