



# Summerhill Academy

## Term 1 Newsletter

### October 2025



It has been a pleasure to be at Summerhill for the start of the new academic year. We've loved getting to know our new Year 3 children, who are fast becoming excellent Summerhill Citizens and doing lots of great learning. We've also been very proud of our Year 6 children as they have been visiting secondary schools ready for their transition at the end of the academic year.

Our elected Pupil Voice groups have started their important work – whether that's 'community asset mapping' for the Pupil Council or supporting children and teachers with activities for the Sports Leaders, they've had a busy term!

If you haven't already, remember to book a Parents' Evening slot for next term so that you can hear about the progress your own child is making and ask any questions you have for the teaching teams.

There's a piece below asking about support for the Summerhill Academy Friends (SAF) group. They are fantastic help for the school and they need your help. Details below! We hope you all have a lovely half term break.

Chris Barratt,  
Principal

### Let's Get Talking!

Oracy is a key skill for all children in the Summerhill community. Please encourage your child to use their oracy skills at home with the following activity.

Encourage your child to host a mini debate with family or friends over a seasonal topic like:

**“Should we celebrate Halloween with costumes and sweets, or focus on nature and harvest?”**



Children can:

- Prepare their arguments with reasons and examples.
- Practice speaking clearly and listening respectfully.
- Take turns sharing their views and asking questions.

This builds confidence, critical thinking, and speaking skills - all while having fun!

### Start Time Reminders!

Years 3 and 6 – 8:30am

Years 4 and 5 – 8:40am

At Summerhill Academy we know that every moment in school matters – not just for academic progress, but for building friendships, confidence, and life skills that shape your child's future. That's why we expect every child to be on time, every day.

Please remember to support our attendance process by reporting any absences by 9am. If this is due to sickness, we ask for an update every day of continued absence.

Thank you for your continued support with attendance.





## Year 3 Visit the Park!



Year 3 had a great time visiting St George's park this term. They learnt how to navigate around the park using their compass knowledge, and also discovered some interesting facts about the history of our local park. Well done to Year 3 for representing Summerhill with exemplary behaviour.

A big thank you to our volunteers for making this possible!

## Our Place at the Table Part of The Big Draw 2025: **Drawn Together**

Thank you all for joining in with The Big Draw 2025! It was wonderful to see our school community come together to celebrate diversity, food and family through drawing. We will use the plates to create a whole school artwork. Fingers crossed, we may be in with a chance of winning an award from The Big Draw! 🎨🍴



## A Message From Ellie

Hi everyone, Ellie here from the **Mental Health Support Team** (MHST). I just wanted to reintroduce myself and explain a bit about the support available at Summerhill Academy.

The MHST offers a range of support to help promote children's mental health and emotional wellbeing. This includes whole-school activities like assemblies and class workshops, sessions with staff, and parent/carer coffee mornings covering different themes related to children's wellbeing.

We also provide targeted support through Low-Intensity Cognitive Behavioural Therapy, delivered over 6–8 sessions either one-to-one or in small groups. This is aimed at children who may be experiencing difficulties such as anxiety & worry, low mood, or behavioural challenges. Sessions take place either directly with the child, jointly with the parent/carer and child, or with the parent/carer alone, depending on the nature of the difficulty and what will be most helpful. Our service is designed for early intervention, so we're here to help before things become more difficult. We also have access to interpreters, so if English isn't your or your child's first language, please let us know.

If you think that some support for your child could be helpful, please speak to their teacher or to Louise Dunbar.

Warm wishes,  
Ellie



## Clothes Bank

As the seasons change, it's a great time to make use of our **Clothes Bank**, available to all families in our school community. This scheme supports re-use of the unwanted clothes for good causes, and helps raise funds for the school. Please ensure donations consist of clean, usable clothing, shoes, bags and belts.

👉 Check out the latest newsletter from **Care and Give Collections** for more details and a chance to enter their giveaway:  
[October Newsletter & Giveaway](#)

## Autumn Eco Tip

### Nature Walk & Litter Pick!

Why not enjoy the autumn colours with a family nature walk? Bring a small bag and gloves, and turn it into a mini litter pick! It's a fun way to help keep your local area clean, enjoy the outdoors, and learn about the changing seasons. You could even make a leaf collage or nature journal from your findings! Let's care for our planet while enjoying its beauty 🌍🍁



# SUMMERHILL NEEDS YOU!



**Summerhill Academy Friends are looking for volunteers! Every offer of help makes a difference, no matter how small.**

SAF support our community by fundraising and putting on fantastic events and activities, helping make unique experiences possible for our children.

## **Here are just a few reasons to join:**

- Meet other parents and carers
- Make a real difference to the school
- Develop new skills and gain experience
- Fun, rewarding, and flexible involvement

**Join now and make a difference in the Summerhill Community!**

Email [summerhillacademyfriends@gmail.com](mailto:summerhillacademyfriends@gmail.com) to get involved



# Term Dates 2025-2026

Term 1	
First day of term for students	Wednesday 3rd September 2025
Last day of term for students	Wednesday 22nd October 2025
INSET Dates	Monday 1st September 2025 Tuesday 2nd September 2025 Thursday 23rd October 2025 Friday 24th October 2025
Term 2	
First day of term for students	Monday 3rd November 2025
Last day of term for students	Friday 19th December 2025
Term 3	
First day of term for students	Tuesday 6th January 2026
Last day of term for students	Friday 13th February 2026
INSET Dates	Monday 5th January 2026
Term 4	
First day of term for students	Tuesday 24th February 2026
Last day of term for students	Thursday 2nd April 2026
INSET Dates	Monday 23rd February 2026 Friday 13th March 2026
Bank Holidays	Friday 3rd April 2026
Term 5	
First day of term for students	Monday 20th April 2026
Last day of term for students	Friday 22nd May 2026
Bank Holiday	Monday 4th May 2026
Term 6	
First day of term for students	Monday 1st June 2026
Last day of term for students	Tuesday 21st July 2026
INSET Dates	Friday 3rd July 2026