



# Summerhill Academy

## Term 3 Newsletter

### February 2026



Despite it apparently raining every day so far in 2026, it has been a great start to the year here at Summerhill.

We continue to be incredibly proud of everything that the children of our Summerhill Community achieve, both in their learning as mathematicians, authors, artists, scientists, athletes and much more, and in growing themselves as kind, safe, respectful Summerhill Citizens.

You all play a massive part in that, and we thank you for everything that you do. It's been a great term with children experiencing all sorts of joy-filled, engaging learning opportunities, and the adults in school have enjoyed it as much as the children!

We had a letter from the Secretary of State for Education congratulating last year's Year 6 children on their fantastic results (more below), and we know that is the result of the incredible efforts of the team here and the rest of the community for the support they give to all children.

We hope you have a restful and enjoyable break, and we look forward to another great term – hopefully with a little more sunshine!

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 skills at home with this exercise.*

Chinese New Year 2026 falls on February 17th, starting a year of the Fire Horse. This rare and powerful combination of the Yang Fire element meeting the horse sign only occurs every 60 years! It is believed that what you do at the beginning of the year will affect your luck in the coming year.

***What would you do to bring yourself good luck?***

*To bring myself good luck, I would ...  
I think if I said/did... that would bring me good luck for the year.*

### Year 5 Swimming Reminder

Year 5 will continue swimming lessons on Wednesdays in Term 4. Children will need to arrive at school with their swimming costumes on underneath their uniform. Boys will need swim shorts that come above the knee. Girls will need all-in-one swimming costumes (no bikinis).

All children will need to bring:

- A towel
- Underwear
- A hairband for long hair (if necessary)
- Goggles are highly recommended

# Summerhill Receives National Commendation!

We were thrilled this week to receive a direct commendation from the Secretary of State for Education, for the fact that Summerhill Academy is among the best in the country for helping children experiencing disadvantage to succeed in school. Bridget Phillipson wrote to us to congratulate the Summerhill Academy team on the excellent outcomes achieved by disadvantaged children during the 2024/25 academic year. Our outcomes placed Summerhill Academy in the top sixth of all schools in the country, and 'demonstrates what is possible' according to the minister.

The Secretary of State said: "Your school's performance places it among the very best nationally, and this is a significant achievement. This success reflects the dedication of your staff and the hard work of your pupils. It shows what can be achieved when ambition and commitment come together. Thank you for everything you do to give children the best possible opportunities to succeed."

Here at Summerhill Academy we believe passionately about equipping all children with the learning, character and resilience they need to succeed in life - and we are delighted this has been recognised by the government.

**We would like to thank the whole community for helping us to achieve this.**

## Eco Tip: Reuse & Repurpose

Before throwing something away or buying something new, try giving items a second life by reusing them in creative and practical ways. Everyday objects such as empty cereal boxes, jars, and cardboard tubes can become brilliant project materials! Reusing things wherever we can is a great way to make the best of the planet's resources.

## Modeshift STARS Award!

We're proud to share that Summerhill Academy has received a Good level Modeshift STARS accreditation. Modeshift is a national accreditation scheme designed to help schools and organizations encourage sustainable and active travel. Well done Summerhill Academy's citizens and thank you to everyone who's supported this journey!



## Start Time Reminders!



8:30am for Years 3 & 6  
8:40am for Years 4 & 5

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.

Please speak to us if you have concerns about attendance. Thank you for your continued support.

## Year 3 Visit Slimbridge Wetlands!



Year 3 had the opportunity for some fun outdoor learning this term – they visited Slimbridge Wetland Centre where they had a fantastic time applying their science learning. They saw ducks, birds, swans, geese, flamingos, newts, voles, harvest mice, incredible frogs and last but not least, axolotls! They also learned all about the magical story of Ava the Osprey, who is trying to fly south to migrate, and became guardians of the wild!

The whole group were very resilient and engaged despite the rain. A big thank you to those who volunteered and helped make this possible.

## CRICKET SUPERSTARS!

Some of our fantastic Summerhill Citizens took part in Cricket Skills events at City Academy this term. As always, they had a brilliant time and demonstrated outstanding sportsmanship - well done to everyone who took part!



## Year 4 Viking Time-Travel Adventure



Year 4 were transported back over a thousand years this week when a time-travelling Viking visited the school to share the traditions, skills and stories of his people. The children learned about what life was really like during the Viking era.

Pupils became Viking scribes for the day, practising how to write their names using authentic runes and discovering the meanings behind these ancient symbols. They also investigated Viking crime and punishment, comparing the sometimes-harsh methods of justice with the systems we use today.

The day ended with an exciting re-enactment of the events of 1066, allowing pupils to step into the roles of historical figures and bring this dramatic moment in history to life. It was a memorable and inspiring day for all! Thanks to the Year 4 Team for arranging this special visit, and to History in Schools for sending in their expert Viking!

## Quidditch Games Event

Some lucky Summerhill Citizens went over to City Academy and had a fantastic time at the Quidditch Inter-School Games event! Great fun and fantastic team playing - well done to everyone involved 🪄🏏🔴



## Clothes Bank

As the seasons change, it's a great time to make use of our **Clothes Recycling 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.

# Term Dates

## 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

## New Academic Year 2026 - 2027

### Term 1

First day of term for students	Monday 7th September 2026
Last day of term for students	Wednesday 21st October 2026
INSET Dates	Thursday 3rd September 2026 Friday 4th September 2026 Thursday 22nd October 2026 Friday 23rd October 2026



# 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



☀️ **Venue Available for Hire – Great Rates!** ☀️

Looking for a space to host your next event or club?  
Our **school hall and field are available for weekend and evening hire at very competitive rates!**

Whether it's for sports, clubs, community groups, or something else entirely, we'd love to hear from you.

All enquiries to [info@sa.clf.uk](mailto:info@sa.clf.uk)



## BRISTOL SPORT FOUNDATION

**ACTIVE. HEALTHY. HAPPY.**

We deliver fun and inclusive sport and physical activity sessions in Greater Bristol to provide children with opportunities to enjoy being active and fall in love with sport.

Find out what Clubs, Hubs & Camps we have available at your school and in the local area at [www.bristolsportfoundation.org](http://www.bristolsportfoundation.org).



**BRISTOL**  
SPORT FOUNDATION

