

# NEWSLETTER



GODSTONE PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL

Autumn 1, 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a really successful first half term, with the children already showcasing their amazing talents. It has been wonderful to see how quickly the children have settled into their new classes, routines, and friendships. Our Reception children, in particular, have made a fantastic start to their primary school journey—we are so proud of them!

The children's end of year outcomes from the last academic year are beginning to be published and I am pleased to inform you that our school has performed extremely well. We have produced results that are consistently above other schools Nationally and other Surrey Schools. This is a phenomenal achievement – well done to all of the children for their successful outcomes and to the staff for supporting the children to meet their full potential. You can access our end of academic year results using this link to our school website - [Godstone Primary and Nursery School - Ofsted & Performance Tables](#).

We've enjoyed a number of enrichment opportunities this term, including sports tournaments, forest school, class assemblies, and harvest celebrations. A huge thank you to the staff for their dedication in organising these experiences, and to the parents for your continued support with volunteering and fundraising.

A strong home and school link is the best way to support your child's education and personal development. It is important that the children attend school regularly, as missed learning significantly impacts their long term progress. Reading is the most important skill that a person can develop. Please take the time to read with your child every single day.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a restful and enjoyable half-term break. Thank you for your ongoing support—we are proud to work in partnership with such a positive and engaged school community. I look forward to welcoming the children back to school on **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November**.

Yours sincerely,

*N. J. Usher*

**Mr Nick Usher**  
Headteacher



# NURSERY



This half term in Nursery the children have been learning about wild animals!

They have enjoyed sharing stories such as 'Dear Zoo', 'Walking Through the Jungle' and 'Handa's Surprise'. During these stories they were introduced to various animal names and have begun to recall these animal names during small world play. We have played lots of listening games, such as animal bingo where the children used their listening ears to identify animals by the sound they make.

The children have been using their observational skills to identify and recognise animal patterns, including spots and stripes. They have used paint to recreate the animals' patterns, producing some great pictures for our display board. This activity has led to many great discussions, allowing the children to identify similarities and differences between animals.

In the playdough area the children have been very creative building a variety of animal enclosures using wooden lolly sticks. They problem solved when enclosures tumbled down and came up with new ideas to construct their enclosures. Once they had built their enclosure, they then selected an animal and animal sign to add to their build.

The children in Nursery especially enjoyed going on safari. They have been working together as a team to build a den, and have made their own binoculars. They used their binoculars to spot animals hidden around the outside area and marked them off on their safari checklist.

Whilst sharing the story 'Handa's Surprise', the children were introduced to some unfamiliar fruits, including passion fruit, guava and mangos. They especially enjoyed a fruit-tasting session, where the children used their senses to touch, smell and taste these fruits. They used descriptive vocabulary to describe them, whilst expressing their likes and dislikes.





# RECEPTION



Reception class have settled into school life so well - it's hard to believe it has only been a few weeks since we started! We've been busy exploring both our indoor and outdoor environments and investigating the wonderful resources available to us.



As part of our 'Beware of the Bears!' topic, we've been enjoying lots of bear themed stories. The children have worked hard on using expression in their voices to bring repeated refrains and character dialogue to life.



We've also made a fantastic start in phonics, practising our sounds both in isolation and when identifying them within words. In maths, the children have been focusing on subitising groups of up to four objects and have had great fun singing a variety of counting songs.



# YEAR 1

## We are explorers!

The children have settled into Year 1 brilliantly and are adjusting well to a more 'formal' style of learning, while still enjoying plenty of opportunities to explore through continuous provision.

It's been a busy and exciting half term! One of the highlights was our first visit to St. Nicholas Church for the harvest festival. The children sang beautifully and represented both themselves and the school with pride.

In English, we have continued to build on the success of Drawing Club. The children have been working hard to write phonetically plausible sentences using finger spaces, and they are now beginning to incorporate capital letters and full stops with growing confidence.

In history, we've been learning about famous explorers—what they achieved and the qualities that made them successful. The children decided that these explorers must have been brave, dedicated, and resilient—qualities they are now striving to show in their own learning and behaviour.



In art and design, we have been exploring the different types of marks we can make using a range of media, including sketching pencils, oil pastels, charcoal, and felt tips. This work led to a final observational drawing of seasonal fruit and vegetables, where the children applied their mark-making skills with great care and creativity.

# YEAR 2

What a brilliant start to Year 2 we have had!

Throughout science this half term, year 2 have been exploring the use of everyday materials which has really helped to develop their 'working scientifically' skills. Excitingly, the children have completed a range of practical activities to learn how to identify and compare the suitability of a variety of everyday materials including plastic, paper and cardboard. They have also been learning how to find out how the shapes of solid objects made from some materials can be changed by squashing, bending, twisting and stretching.



During our art lessons, we have been exploring craft and design through our unit 'Map It Out'. The children started the unit by sorting map images into groups and explained their choices. Using this learning, they drew their own map of their journey to school, including key landmarks and different types of marking. As a group, the children created a collaborative jigsaw map, carefully considering their overall composition.



In English this half term, we have been reading different versions of 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. The children collaboratively sequenced the story using key vocabulary and then delved deeper into the characters through acting out key scenes and considering what each character was thinking.



# YEAR 3

Wow, what an incredible first term in Year 3! The children thoroughly enjoyed the reading morning and we were elated that so many parents and careers attended. It's truly wonderful to see so many engaging with the school.

The children have written some fantastic pieces of work in English based on their learning of the Stone Age. We changed the ending to the story 'Stone Age Boy' to make it our own and have also written some wonderful non-chronological reports about Stonehenge! We've also seen some fantastic prehistoric art work going on in Year 3 too – from cave drawings of animals to using natural materials (berries, leaves, mud, charcoal) to see what Stone Age people may have used.

We were also lucky enough to have some artefacts from East Surrey Museum in class. They were all pieces that were found locally that dated back to the Stone Age. The children were able to handle some real history and what made it better was that it was found a stone's throw from where they live!

In maths the children have really persevered with their learning on place value and addition and subtraction. We've had some tricky learning but I've been blown away with how well they have taken to all the challenges and worked through all of tasks. It's always great to practise those skills at home too!

Our science this half term has been about light and the children have taken part in some great experiments! They have learnt about what SPF would best protect them from the sun's harmful UV rays, as well as how shadows are formed and why they might change size.



# YEAR 4

Year 4 have had a fantastic start to the school year during the first half of the autumn term. In English, we have studied the Ancient Romans through the story 'Escape from Pompeii' and from various non-fiction information texts. We have learnt about where they lived, Roman emperors, Gladiators, Roman invasions and much more! We then put all of this together in our amazing Romans class assembly. We shared lots of facts about the

Romans and acted out their invasion of Britain. We also explored the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in Pompeii and the impact it had on its citizens. We sang songs about Roman numerals and how to act 'Just like a Roman'. It was lots of fun and we enjoyed seeing so many parents and carers at the assembly. Below are some photos of Year 4 using non-fiction texts to research Ancient Rome as part of an English lesson.



Year 4 have been learning all about place value and addition and subtraction in maths. We have also been practising our times tables using Times Table Rock Stars to help us. We have been extremely impressed by how hard the class have been working and by the excellent scores that they have achieved already. Keep it up everyone!

# YEAR 5

Year 5 have had a very busy and brilliant start to the year! In science, we have been learning about Earth and Space. The children have been consolidating their knowledge of the planets in the solar system, as well as learning about the phases of the moon.

In English, our writing and reading lessons have been linked to our science learning. In the first few weeks of term, the children developed their understanding of adventure narratives, writing pieces inspired by 'A Girl of Ink and Stars'. The class produced some brilliant setting descriptions, focusing on their use of powerful vocabulary and figurative language. In the final few weeks of the half-term, we have been focusing on biographies about inspirational women who have been involved with space travel, including: Helen Sharman, Monica Grady, Peggy Whitson and Mae Jemison. The children have been learning about the features of biographies, as well as using parenthesis and conjunctions to enhance the quality of their writing. The children also spent some time researching and writing about Jane Goodall, following the sad news of her passing.

This half-term, Year 5 had the exciting opportunity to visit the Houses of Parliament! The children (and adults) had lots of fun on their tour and learnt multiple facts about the history of the building and about how laws are created.



# YEAR 6

This half-term, our science lessons have focused on 'Light'. The children have thoroughly enjoyed participating in the many investigations that we have carried out. They have explored: how light travels; which objects best reflect light; how a shadow is formed; why shadows change size; what refraction is and; optical phenomena.



In art and design, we have been looking at photo opportunities. The children have produced their own photomontage designs using a variety of household items to create a skyline. As well as producing portraits and re-creating an iconic piece of art—The Scream, by Edvard Munch—they have also spent time exploring the work of Derrick Ofasu Boateng, a Ghanaian artist famous for his colourful and playful photography taken and edited on his iPhone. His work demonstrates the passion that he has for his culture, as well as illustrating the joy and energy of the people in Western Africa. In groups, the children created their own album covers in the style of his work.



# School Council

The school council have been working hard on this year's plans. They have asked the children in their classes for suggestions in three areas:

- How we can improve the school environment
- How we can improve our learning
- How we can improve the lives of others

They shared all their ideas at the first meeting of the year and they are now putting a plan together for the year.

One way they wanted to continue helping others was by linking our Christmas Jumper Day to the Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day.

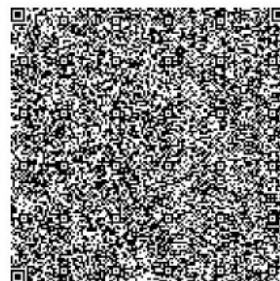
Therefore, children are invited to wear their Christmas jumpers on **Wednesday 17th December** and parents can donate online at <https://christmas.savethechildren.org.uk/fundraising/CJD250009556> or by scanning the QR code below.

*Please note the website says the Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day is 11th December, however, we are celebrating it on 17th December.*

We're taking part in



**Christmas  
Jumper  
Day** 



Registered with  
FUNDRAISING  
REGULATOR  
Save the Children Fund is a charity registered in England & Wales (213890), Scotland (SC039570) and Isle of Man (1991).

# FOREST SCHOOL

Reception have started their Forest School sessions this term. They began by learning key rules that help keep us safe, including 'No pick, no lick, be careful with that stick.' They enjoyed finding autumn leaves, playing in the mud kitchen and finding minibeasts.

Year 1 have loved being back at Forest School this half term. We read the story 'Leaf Thief' which explored the concept of autumn. The children spoke about deciduous and evergreen trees and changes that we observe during the season of autumn. The children enjoyed going on an autumn adventure to Godstone Green where they each had a treasure bag to collect conkers, acorns and brightly coloured leaves. We identified oak and horse chestnut trees and spent some time having a moment of quiet whilst watching the wildlife on the pond. Back at the Forest School site, the children enjoyed conker rolling in paint, creating autumn crowns and using drills to make holes in the conkers to make decorations to hang in the trees.



We are extremely thankful to the Godstone Gardening Club for their generous support in helping develop a section of our Forest School site. They have installed a natural screen along the boundary between the school grounds and the derelict buildings at the rear of the premises, creating a more visually pleasant environment. Over the past few months, the children have been working hard to transform this space into a calm and peaceful area to enjoy during Forest School sessions. The involvement of the Godstone Gardening Club has made a significant difference in enhancing the appearance of this area. Also, a big thank you to a parent who helped clear the nettles and cut the grass so that the site was ready for the children to use when they returned from the summer holidays.



# NURTURE

Godstone Primary and Nursery School is proud to be part of the National Nurturing Schools Programme, which supports the social, emotional and mental health needs of our children by embedding nurturing principles throughout our practice. As a school, we are committed to creating a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment where every child can thrive.

The Nurture approach is underpinned by quality first teaching and the Six Principles of Nurture, promoting healthy outcomes for the children by responding to their emotional needs. The six principles of Nurture are:

- Learning
- Safety
- Behaviour
- Wellbeing
- Language
- Transitions



This half term we have:

- Implemented Zones of Regulation- the children have been learning about the Zones of Regulation which allows them to categorise their emotions and develop self-regulation skills. These are linked to the characters from *Inside Out*. The children will be learning about how their body may look when they are feeling each of these emotions and a range of strategies they can use to help re-regulate themselves.



- The Wellbeing Ambassadors designed, costed and pitched for funding from FOGPANs for resources to set up Calm Corners in every classroom and a central Calm Cave. Calm Corners are available for all children to access if they feel they need some time or space to regulate their emotions. Within these, the children have a range of resources to help them return to the *green zone*, where children are happy, regulated, ready for learning and in control.

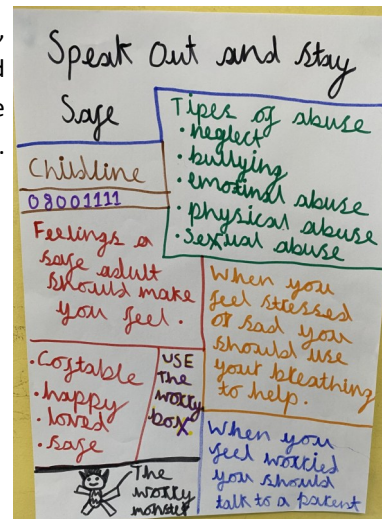


# NURTURE

- The Calm Cave is available for any child to access if they are struggling to regulate within the classroom environment. This dedicated space has a wider range of supportive resources such as mood lighting, sensory equipment, emotion-themed stories, and soft furnishings to help promote emotional regulation and wellbeing.



- The children in KS1 and KS2 attended 'Speak out, stay safe' assemblies delivered by the NSPCC that were designed to help them understand abuse and how to stay safe. The children have had follow up lessons in their classrooms, where they have created posters, talked about safe adults that they can talk to and recapped the ChildLine telephone number. The posters below were designed by Year 3.



- On Friday 10th October (World Mental Health Day), the school came together for Hello Yellow to raise awareness and funds for Young Minds, the UK's leading charity for young people's mental health. Thank you for all your donations for this charity, we raised an amazing £191.03!



# ATTENDANCE

## Punctuality / Lateness

Punctuality to school is crucial and registration at the beginning of the day with the class teacher is one of the most important periods of the day. Lateness to school causes disruption to that individual's learning and to that of the other pupils in the class. It is paramount therefore, that all children arrive at school on time.

As a reminder to parents:

- Please adhere to class drop-off and pick-up times.
- Pupils who arrive after 8:50am will be recorded as late.
- Registers close at 9:20am. After this time, if no call is received from the parent as to why the child is absent, this will be recorded as an unauthorised absence.
- Persistent lateness is monitored by the school office and will be investigated and appropriate action will be taken. If there is no further improvement, this may be referred to our Attendance Advice and Intervention Officer.

## Attendance Panel School Meetings (failure to ensure regular school attendance)

The Local Authority retains control of the Inclusion Service and every effort is made to maintain close links with the Attendance Advice and Intervention Officer attached to the school. Where school interventions have failed to secure regular attendance, an official referral may be made to the Attendance Advice and Intervention Officer.

Kind regards,

**Mr Nick Usher**  
Headteacher

# PENALTY NOTICES



## Penalty Notice relating to Exclusions

If a child is excluded from school, Section 103 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 places a duty on parents/carers to ensure that their child is not in a public place without justifiable cause during school hours.

This duty applies to the ***first five days of each exclusion***. Failure to do so will render the parent/carer liable to a Penalty Notice. (Alternative education provision will be made available from the sixth day of any exclusion.)

## Amount Payable for a Penalty Notice and Consequences for repeat unauthorised absences

1. If you have not incurred a penalty notice relating to this child/children in a rolling, 3-year period since 19 August 2024, then the penalty notice will be charged at the rate of £160.00, **per parent/carer per child**, if paid within 28 days. This will be reduced to £80.00 if paid within 21 days of receipt of the notice. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice will result in Surrey County Council considering legal proceedings against you in the Magistrates Court.
2. If you have incurred a penalty notice relating to this child/children since 19 August 2024, the rolling 3-year period will be activated from the date of the first penalty notice and the second penalty notice will be charged at the flat rate of £160.00, **per parent/carer per child**, if paid within 28 days. There will be no reduction for payment within 21 days. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice will result in Surrey County Council considering legal proceedings against you in the Magistrates Court.
3. If you have incurred 2 penalty notices relating to this child/children in the rolling 3-year period since the first penalty notice was issued, then you will NOT receive a third penalty notice – Surrey County Council will have no option but to consider a prosecution, **per parent/carer per child**, in the Magistrates Court under section 444 Education Act 1996.
4. **Surrey County Council is not responsible for authorising pupil absence and therefore cannot withdraw any Penalty Notice requests without the written permission of the Headteacher.**

Advice and support is available from an Attendance Advice and Intervention Officer by contacting Surrey Attendance Services as follows:-

North West - Tel 01483 518130

North East - Tel 01372 833588

South West - Tel 01483 517874

South East - Tel 01737 737777



## PENALTY NOTICES TO ADDRESS POOR ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL

A Penalty Notice may be issued as an alternative to the prosecution of a parent/carer for their child's unauthorised absence from school (absence without the agreement of the school or not covered by a medical note) and will be used by Surrey County Council in the following circumstances:-

1. Pupils identified by police and Attendance Advice and Intervention Officer (formerly Inclusion Officers) engaged on Truancy Patrols and who have incurred unauthorised absences.
2. Leave of absence in term time (5 days or 10 sessions or more).
  - **Please be aware that the School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024 state that Headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances.**
  - They may request that Surrey County Council issue Penalty Notices when the absence is not authorised.

Warnings will not be given where it can be shown that parents have been notified that such absences will not be authorised.

3. Finally, the issuing of a Penalty Notice will also be considered where it is judged that a parent is failing to ensure their child's regular school attendance.

This will be considered when a pupil has incurred 10 or more unauthorised sessions in the previous 10 school weeks, which may include a pupil arriving late after close of registration.

If you believe at any stage that your child's absence from school may leave you liable to receive a Penalty Notice, it is extremely important that you act without delay to secure their regular attendance.

If you have any questions or require further support to achieve an improvement in your child's attendance, please contact your child's school or the Attendance Advice and Intervention Officer.

## Pupil Absence Procedure



Child is absent  
from school

Child is absent  
due to **illness**

Child is absent due to a  
**medical appointment**

**Day 1:** Please contact the School Office either by telephone or email by 9:20 am. Please give the reason for absence, together with the child's full name and year group.

**Contact number:** 01883 742326, Option 4  
**Email:** parents@godstone.surrey.sch.uk

Please contact the School Office either by telephone or email by 9:20 am.

Where possible, we would ask that dental/doctor's appointments are made either before or after school.

Please provide an appointment card/letter for each medical appointment.

**Contact number:** 01883 742326, Option 4  
**Email:** parents@godstone.surrey.sch.uk

**Day 2 and every subsequent day(s) after:** Please contact the School Office either by telephone or email by 9:20 am. Please give the reason for absence, together with child's full name and year group.

**Contact number:** 01883 742326, Option 4  
**Email:** parents@godstone.surrey.sch.uk

The Headteacher/Attendance Officer, together with the Inclusion Team at Surrey County Council monitors children's absences every three weeks. If your child is under 90% attendance, the parent will be contacted either by telephone or a letter. If this absence continues to decline, you will be asked to provide medical evidence for each absence. Where medical evidence isn't provided, this absence will be unauthorised and may lead to a referral to the Inclusion Team at Surrey County Council.

If no contact has been made by the parent on Day 1 or 2, or any subsequent days after, the absence will be unauthorised.

***If your child has 7 unauthorised absences in a 6 week period, this will be referred to the Inclusion Team at Surrey County Council.***

***If the school has concerns about the attendance or welfare of any child, a referral to Inclusion, CSPA or Surrey police may be made***

# ADVERTISEMENTS

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vulnerable families in Redhill & Reigate?

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GIVEN.**

OUR PREP COURSE  
STARTS WEDNESDAYS  
21<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY TO  
25<sup>TH</sup> MARCH  
2026

(EXCLUDING FEB HALF TERM)



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**PLEASE CALL US FOR A CHAT ON 01737 770220**

**OR EMAIL [INFO@HOME-STARTEASTSURREY.ORG.UK](mailto:INFO@HOME-STARTEASTSURREY.ORG.UK)**

**AN ENHANCED DBS CHECK REQUIRED**

**REGISTERED CHARITY 1164164**



SCAN  
HERE