

# NEWSLETTER



GODSTONE PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL

Spring 1, 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of another busy and successful half term, we would like to take a moment to celebrate the many wonderful events and opportunities that the children have taken part in over the past few weeks.

## **Bikeability**

The children showed fantastic determination and maturity as they developed their cycling skills and road safety awareness. It has been wonderful to see their confidence grow, and we are proud of how responsibly they represented our school out on the roads.

## **Night Owls**

We were delighted to welcome Night Owls into school for a very special assembly. The children had the opportunity to meet a variety of owls and learn fascinating facts about these beautiful birds. There was great excitement as pupils were able to see the owls up close, and many even had their photograph taken with them. It was a memorable experience that sparked lots of curiosity and thoughtful questions.

## **Reading Morning & Maths Morning**

Thank you to all the parents and carers who joined us for our Reading and Maths mornings. It was a joy to see families learning together and sharing in the children's enthusiasm. These events truly strengthen the partnership between home and school.

## **FOGPANS Spring Disco**

A huge thank you to FOGPANS for organising such a fantastic Spring Disco. The children had an amazing time dancing and celebrating with their friends. We are so grateful for the continued support and hard work of our parent community in creating memorable experiences for the children.

## **Reception Class Assembly**

Well done to our Reception children for their brilliant class assembly. They spoke and performed with such confidence and pride – a wonderful achievement at this stage of their school journey. We are very proud of them.

## **Children's Mental Health and Wellbeing Week**

During this important week, the children took part in activities designed to help them understand their feelings, build resilience and learn strategies to support their wellbeing. It was encouraging to see thoughtful discussions and mature reflections across all year groups.

## **Safer Internet Day**

As part of Safer Internet Day, the children explored how to stay safe online, how to communicate respectfully and what to do if something worries them. Supporting children to navigate the digital world safely remains a key priority for us.

If you want to keep up to date with what the children are getting up to, please follow our Facebook and Instagram pages. I hope that you all have a restful February half term and we look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026.

Best wishes,

*N. J. Usher*

**Mr Nick Usher**  
Headteacher



# NURSERY

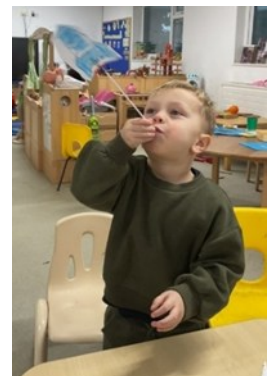
In Nursery this half-term, we have been learning all about things that move!

The children have really enjoyed sharing stories based around various vehicles, including submarines, aeroplanes and diggers. During these stories, the children were introduced to a wide range of new vocabulary. The children have also been learning how some vehicles move on land, whilst others move in the sky or in or under the water.

While learning about aeroplanes, the children developed their mark-making skills in a sensory tray. They enjoyed moving the aeroplanes through the shaving foam clouds and blue paint sky. Whilst mark-making with the aeroplanes, the children also commented on the colours mixing together and the patterns they had created.

Whilst sharing the story, 'On the Submarine', the children were able to recall that submarines move under the water. In circle time, the children dived deep down under the waves of the parachute to discover different coloured fishes, helping to extend their knowledge of colour recognition.

During this topic, the children especially enjoyed learning about rockets. They enjoyed singing the song, 'Zoom, Zoom, Zoom were going to the Moon'. They crouched down low and practised counting backwards from ten, before taking off and zooming up into the sky, developing both their number and gross motor skills.



# RECEPTION

Reception has had a fantastic half-term learning about 'People Who Help Us'. We started the term by looking at the role of a paramedic and the different equipment on an ambulance. We continued learning about the emergency services, listening to stories about the police and fire services.



We have been very lucky to welcome lots of visitors. The local fire brigade came to talk to us and showed us their fire engine and equipment. A police dog handler talked to us about his dogs and gave us a demonstration of the jobs they do. A doctor and two nurses told us about their jobs and let us practice with some of their equipment. We even learned some sign language.



The children have loved taking on these roles in their play, both inside and outside of the classroom.

They finished the half-term by putting on a fantastic class assembly to showcase their learning, proudly singing the songs 'Can I help you?' and 'I am a firefighter.'



# YEAR 1

What a whirlwind of a term it has been for Year 1! The children returned from the Christmas break full of excitement and eager to learn, settling back into school life with enthusiasm and curiosity. It has been wonderful to see their confidence grow as the term has progressed.

In history, the children have thoroughly enjoyed learning about Pompeii and Mount Vesuvius. They were fascinated by the story of the volcano and loved exploring what life was like in Pompeii before the eruption. This topic sparked lots of thoughtful discussions and questions, and the children showed great engagement and interest throughout.

This learning flowed beautifully into our art project, where the children explored how paper can be shaped and manipulated to create different forms. They experimented with tubes, arches, twists and rips, developing their skills and creativity along the way. The project culminated in the children bringing all of these techniques together to design and create their own volcano sculptures, which they were incredibly proud of.

In maths, the children have continued to work hard and show great perseverance. They have been using their secure knowledge of number bonds to 10 to help support and deepen their understanding of number bonds to 20. It has been fantastic to see their confidence grow as they apply these skills in a range of activities.

In English, the children have continued to cement their use of basic punctuation. They are increasingly confident in using their sounds, finger spaces, capital letters and full stops in their writing. They have also begun developing their understanding of what an adjective is and how it can be used to make their writing more interesting and descriptive. The children particularly loved writing instructions explaining how to make their volcano explode, carefully sequencing their ideas and using clear, step-by-step language.

Overall, it has been a busy and rewarding term filled with hard work, creativity and enthusiasm. The children should be very proud of all they have achieved, and we would like to thank parents and carers for their continued support.



# YEAR 2

What a fantastic half-term Year 2 has had!

In our PE lessons, we have been exploring moving our bodies to rhythm. We have been learning to move confidently and safely around the space, using changes of speed, level and direction. We have learnt a dance routine based on a range of animals and had to think about how these animals would travel around. We worked hard on our timing and made sure that we completed the dance moves in the correct order. What great fun we had!



Our computing learning has been really exciting as we have been exploring the importance of clear instructions and how to use different commands to create an algorithm. It was so exciting to explore using the Bee-Bots to make predictions and plan our own routes.



We also had a visit from the Fire Safety Team, who taught us all about how to keep safe in the event of a fire and the steps that we should follow. We engaged in a number of different activities, from sequencing a story to practising what to say on the telephone in an emergency.

Year 2 has also put on a fantastic class assembly this half-term based on our history learning. It was so interesting to look at toys from the past and think about how and why some toys have changed. We were so surprised to learn that there were no smart toys and that the internet wasn't invented until the 1980s.

# YEAR 3

Year 3 has had a fantastic first half of the Spring Term, and it has been wonderful to see their enthusiasm, confidence and enjoyment of learning continue to grow. They have settled back into school routines quickly and have approached the half-term with positive attitudes and a real willingness to challenge themselves across all areas of the curriculum.

One of the clear highlights for the children has been Forest School. Whatever the weather, they have thrown themselves into outdoor learning with great enthusiasm, showing resilience and teamwork – even when conditions have been muddy! The children have loved exploring the natural environment, working together on practical tasks and developing independence and problem-solving skills. These sessions have been a fantastic opportunity for them to build confidence, cooperate with their peers and enjoy learning in a different setting.

There has been a strong focus on multiplication and division this half-term. The children are cementing their understanding of key number facts, and most children are showing steady improvement in their weekly scores. They are becoming more confident in recalling times tables, applying their knowledge to problem-solving and explaining their thinking, which is helping to build strong foundations for future learning.

History lessons have been full of curiosity and engagement as the children have explored the Bronze Age. They have shown great interest in how people lived during this period, learning about tools, settlements and daily life. Class discussions have been thoughtful and enthusiastic, with many children making comparisons between the past and the present and using new historical vocabulary with confidence.

In science, Year 3 has particularly enjoyed learning about magnets and forces. The children have been fascinated by how forces work and how magnets attract and repel, and practical experiments have been a firm favourite. These hands-on investigations have encouraged curiosity, teamwork and careful observation, helping the children to develop their scientific enquiry skills in an exciting and memorable way.

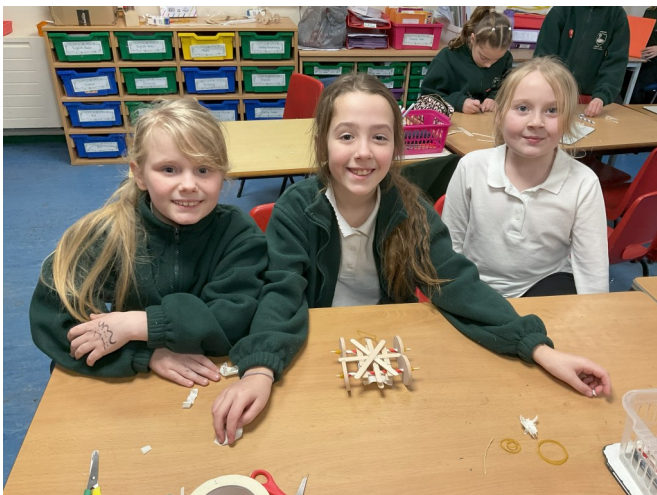
Overall, Year 3 has had a very successful and enjoyable start to the Spring Term. They should be proud of the progress they have made, and we are looking forward to continuing this positive momentum in the coming weeks.



# YEAR 4

It has been another busy term for Year 4. We have been learning all about the Anglo-Saxons in our English and history topics, and have looked at their homes, their jobs and what food they ate. We also learned about famous Anglo-Saxon kings such as Ethelbert and Alfred the Great. In English, we also read the story 'Malala's Magic Pencil' which is an adapted autobiography by Malala Yousafzai. We discovered how she could use the power of her writing to change the world and imagined what we could do if we had our own magic pencil.

In DT, we have been making model cars using various materials such as lollipop sticks and clothes pegs. We used elastic bands to make a slingshot and tested how far the cars would travel. We looked at different designs and experimented to see which would work best. Finally, we planned and created our own cars in groups. Below are some photos of our work.

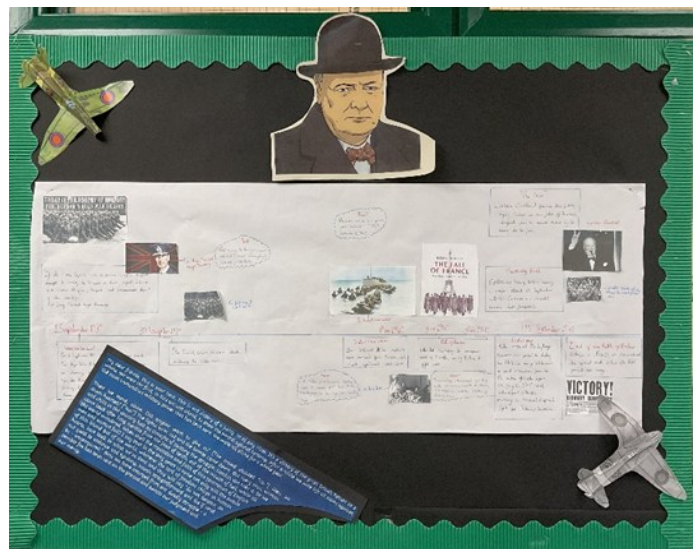
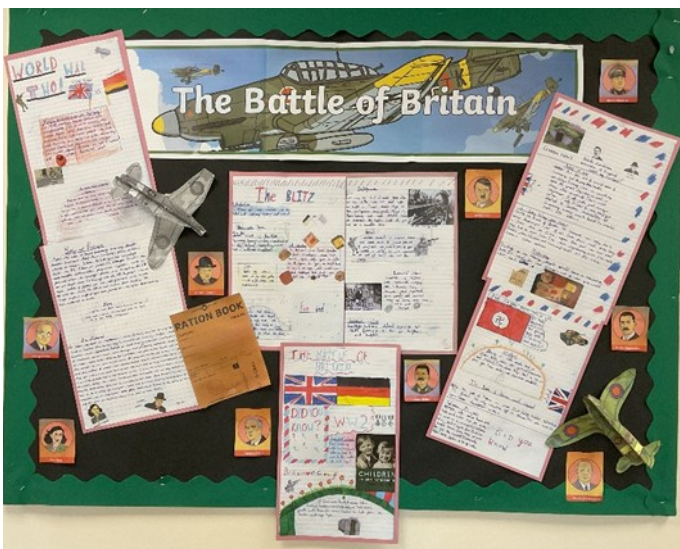


# YEAR 5

It has been a jam-packed and fun-filled half-term! The children returned to school in the New Year with brilliant vigour and determination. They all have demonstrated fantastic enthusiasm for our topic this half-term, learning all about World War 2 and The Battle of Britain. It has been wonderful to see them take this eagerness home with them and share it with their families.

In English, the class have been working hard to create a non-chronological report all about The Battle of Britain. They used a variety of skills in their writing such as subordinate clauses and parentheses, as well as focusing on the basic skills, such as punctuation and spelling. Towards the end of the half-term, they made a start on a new text, 'The Mozart Question' by Michael Morpurgo. They created their own interview questions based on the book and looked at how to use body language to convey emotion.

In maths, the children began the term learning about how to add and subtract fractions with different denominators. As the half-term progressed, they moved on to learning about multiplication and division. The class have learnt how to use written methods such as long multiplication and short division to solve calculations.



# YEAR 6

Year Six have made a fantastic start to the spring term! We are so proud of how hard they have worked over the last six weeks.

In PE, Year 6 have been doing gymnastics. Having previously mastered individual balances, our attention moved towards group balances, which proved to require an element of teamwork and effective communication. The children showed ambition to successfully perfect a number of balances whilst also demonstrating their ability to be resilient when faced with challenges.



Science has had us explore the wide variety of living organisms that can be found on our planet, Earth. We enjoyed developing our understanding of classification by producing classification keys for a varied selection of Liquorice Allsorts.



Learning has also continued outside of the classroom, with the children taking part in their Level 2 Bikeability training. The children spent four days learning practical skills to enable them to cycle safely on the road. This opportunity has given the children the confidence to enjoy the life skill, independence and fun of cycling.



# NURTURE

## Children's Mental Health and Wellbeing Week

Children's Mental Health and Wellbeing Week is an annual event in the UK that aims to raise awareness and promote the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people.

The theme for Children's Mental Health Week 2026 is 'This is my place', which focuses on belonging.

On Monday 9th February, the children engaged in a range of activities, working with children and staff from different year groups. The purpose of this event is for children to try different activities and learn positive ways to look after their mental health.

The children got to select two activities from the following options: The children loved trying out new activities! Thank you to all the parents/ grandparents that supported with this event.

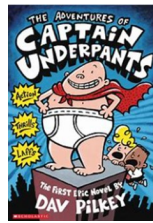
- Lego
- Walk
- Cooking
- Colouring
- Clay
- Forest School
- Dance
- Board games
- Puzzles
- Moana sing-along



## Book Fair and World Book Day

Thank you so much for all the purchases you have made for your children at our last two book fairs.

With the rewards we have received, we have been able to purchase two class sets of replacement thesauruses and some graphic novels for the library which were requested in our pupil surveys.



### **Our next book fair is on :-**

**Monday 23rd March in the hall 2.45pm—3.45pm**

**Tuesday 24th March in the hall 3.30pm-3.45pm**

**Wednesday 25th March in the office area 2.45pm—3.45pm**

### **We will celebrate World Book Day on Thursday 6th March 2026**

As usual, children can come in dressed as their favourite book character. The children will also be given a book token before half-term, which can be used as part payment for a book of their choice or as whole payment for one of the special World Book Day books available at participating bookstores while stocks last.



# School Council

The school council were keen to raise money for the children in our school and for the work of the NSPCC.

In the autumn term the children had an assembly from the NSPCC to help teach them how to stay safe. In the spring term the children will receive further lessons using the NSPCC's TalkPANTS programme to help them learn important safety skills about their bodies.



As part of children's mental health and wellbeing week, the school council helped to organise a sponsored run. Exercise plays an important role in our mental health. It also enabled us to raise money for wellbeing resources and to support the NSPCC.

The children had great fun! Please pay in any sponsorship money via Scopay or in cash by Friday 27th February.



# FOREST SCHOOL

The spring term at Forest School is always a very muddy one and this year has been no exception! The children have loved playing in the mud kitchen and making mud potions.

Both Reception and Year 3 have created bird feeders. Reception coated pine cones in a lard and seed mixture and hung them in trees.

Year 3 created apple feeders using lard and seed. They completed the 'Big Schools Bird Watch' for the RSPB in the school grounds. Following this session, the children enjoyed a trip to Godstone Green to identify common birds on the pond. We used the app 'Merlin Bird ID' on the iPad to listen to the birds and identify those calling in the local area. Whilst on Godstone Green, Year 3 went on a scavenger hunt, created observational paintings of ducks and birds on the pond and created 3D maps of Godstone Green.





# 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***