

NEWSLETTER



GODSTONE PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL

Summer 1, 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are extremely proud of everything that the children have achieved this academic year. This half term, our Year 6 children completed their end-of-year SATs assessments. Although naturally feeling some nerves, they approached the week with determination, resilience and maturity, working incredibly hard throughout. We look forward to receiving the results in July, and every member of Year 6 should feel immensely proud of all they have achieved.

At Godstone Primary and Nursery School, we value the school's core values of Respect, Responsibility, Compassion, Ambition and Pride. The children have been earning house points throughout the year and I am delighted to share that Amelia Grehan has now achieved the amazing feat of earning 500 house points. As a reward, Amelia got to eat cake with myself, Miss Hellier and her friend Annabelle. Well done Amelia – what a fantastic achievement!



There is a lot more to look forward to next half term. Please remember that you can follow updates about the school on our Facebook and Instagram pages. We are looking forward to welcoming you all back to school on Monday 1st June for the final half term of the academic year.

Yours sincerely,

N. J. Usher

Mr Nick Usher
Headteacher



NURSERY

This half-term, we have been learning all about minibeasts.

We have shared lots of great minibeast stories, including 'Twist and Hop Minibeast Hop', 'Mad about Minibeasts' and 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar.'

In the outside area, the children have had lots of fun on minibeast hunts. The children used their checklist and clipboard and ventured off to look for minibeasts. They looked under tyres, plant pots and logs, and were very excited by what they discovered. They loved ticking them off on the checklist and sharing their finds with their friends. They built their confidence by taking turns to hold the minibeasts in their hand, and described how they moved around.

The children have been very excited to have their very own caterpillars in nursery. They have loved watching the process of their growth. They have watched carefully as the caterpillars have grown bigger, commenting on their changes and are excited to watch them transform into butterflies.

In the workshop area, the children have been busy creating their own bee pictures. They drew a bee by drawing a circle for the body and the wings. They then recalled their knowledge of repeating patterns to create the bee's stripes. They used bubble wrap to create a honeycomb pattern, and have created some beautiful pictures which are on display in the classroom.



RECEPTION

We have had a great half-term learning about minibeasts. We learned that an insect has three body parts, 'a head, a thorax, and an abdomen', six legs and two antennae. We went for minibeast hunts around the Forest School area. We used our phonics skills to segment and blend words we needed to write lists of the minibeasts we spotted. We have also enjoyed creating observational drawings of different minibeasts we found.



The children really enjoyed learning about butterflies. They watched with fascination as our caterpillars grew and changed into chrysalides and then emerged as butterflies. We have also learned how important butterflies and other minibeasts are for our environment.



We consolidated our learning with a fantastic trip to Kent Life. We carried out minibeast hunts and made minibeast houses. We went on a tractor ride and saw owls and meerkats, as well as many farm animals.



YEAR 1

Year 1 has been working extremely hard this term and we are very proud of all their efforts. The children are now getting ready for the Phonics Screening Check after the May half term and have shown fantastic determination and progress during their phonics lessons.

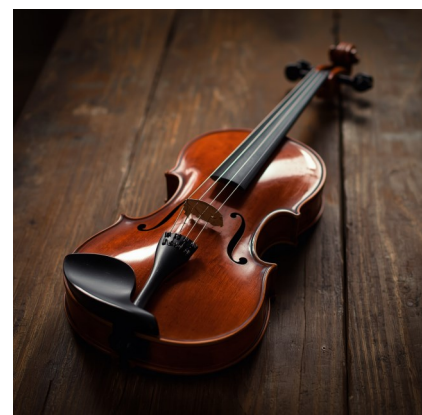
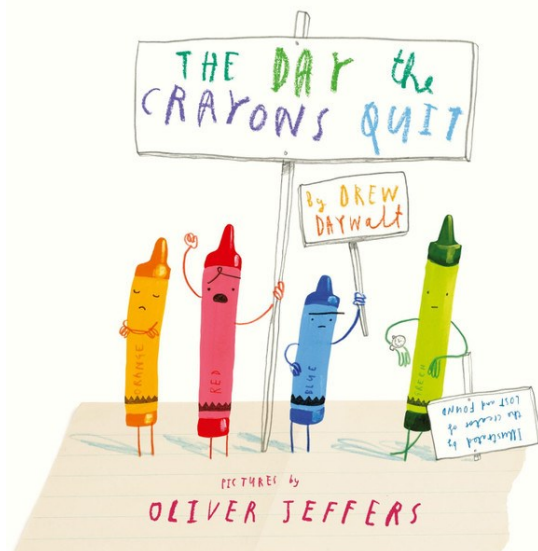
One of the highlights of the term was welcoming the ducklings into our classroom! The children loved helping to care for them and wrote some wonderful pieces of writing explaining how they looked after the ducklings and what they observed during their time with us.

In English, the children completed their first full story-writing piece based on *The Day the Crayons Quit*. We were so impressed with their creativity, descriptive language, and enthusiasm for writing.

In maths, we have been learning about fractions. The children now confidently understand that you cannot have the “bigger half” of a cake! We have also explored multiplication and division and have been developing our understanding through practical activities and problem-solving.

In science, we have been investigating different materials and discussing why certain materials are more suitable for particular purposes than others. The children enjoyed testing and comparing materials and sharing their ideas scientifically.

This term, we also had the opportunity to begin learning to play the violin. The children have thoroughly enjoyed learning how to hold and pluck the strings correctly, as well as beginning to learn the names of the notes.



YEAR 2

What a brilliant half-term Year Two has had! The children have shown great ambition with their swimming lessons and have worked really hard to develop their water skills. It was great to see so many children bravely jump into the deep end. We are so very proud of them!

Throughout science this half-term, Year Two has been exploring what the basic needs are for animals, including humans, to survive. Year Two had great fun learning about the importance of eating a balanced diet and investigating the impact of exercise on our bodies. They compared how their bodies felt both before and after exercise.



The children applied their mathematical knowledge of 3D shapes to their DT lessons this half-term as they created a range of 3D shapes out of Play Doh before testing their stability using a ramp. It was great to hear the children talking about the properties of different shapes and how this would impact their stability.



Finally, the children were so very excited when watching the start of the life-cycle of a duckling. They monitored the eggs closely, observed them hatch and watched as they swam in water. What a fantastic experience it was!



YEAR 3

What a wonderful half-term Year 3 has had! It has been a real pleasure to see how engaged, curious and enthusiastic the children have been across so many areas of learning.

One of the highlights of the half-term was having the ducklings in school. The children absolutely loved watching them hatch and were fascinated to see the ducklings begin their journey into the world. They also had the special opportunity to hold them gently and watch them play in the water, which created some truly memorable moments in the classroom.

In science, Year 3 have enjoyed learning all about their skeletons and the important jobs that the bones in our bodies do. They have shown a great deal of interest in how the skeleton supports us, protects us and helps us move.

In maths, the children have worked really hard on money. They have made excellent progress in adding and subtracting pounds and pence, as well as finding change. We are so proud of the confidence they have shown when tackling these skills.

Year 3 have also loved our class text, *The Iron Man*, this half term. Inspired by the story, they produced some fantastic retellings of their own, which we have proudly called *The Iron Spider*. Their creativity, imagination and writing skills have really shone through.

Well done, Year 3, for such a brilliant half term!



YEAR 4

Year 4 has had a very busy half-term since Easter. We have been learning all about the Vikings in our English and history lessons. We have particularly enjoyed reading Viking myths and learning about all of the different Norse gods and mythical creatures. We then wrote our own myths featuring the same characters, such as the powerful Thor and the mischievous Loki! Below are photos of Year 4 writing their Viking sagas.

In maths, we have been learning all about decimals and fractions and how they link together. This has been a bit tricky, but we have persevered and now feel more confident about it. We have also been practising our times tables a lot in preparation for the Multiplication Tables Challenge which will take place in the first two weeks after half-term. Our scores are getting better and better, showing how all of that practice is paying off!

In PE, we have been learning, practising and choreographing a street dance. We explored different ways of travelling within the dance. Additionally, we have also been training for athletics in preparation for future sporting events! Finally, we enjoyed meeting the ducklings and watching them grow over their first week of life. Below are a few photos of this.



YEAR 5



This half-term, Year 5 was lucky enough to experience the excitement of having ducklings visit our school. From watching the eggs hatch to seeing the ducklings confidently swimming in their pond, the children were fascinated every step of the way. It was such a lovely opportunity for them to see the life cycle up close and develop a real sense of care and responsibility

towards living things. Experiences like this bring our science learning to life and help to build children's curiosity about the world around them.

The children also spent time reflecting on the experience through diary writing, where they were able to capture both the events and their emotions brilliantly. It was wonderful to see how engaged they were, with comments such as, "I loved watching them swim for the first time!" really showing the excitement the children felt.

Year 5 has also thrown themselves into our active storytelling unit based on Macbeth. Through drama, discussion and performance, the children have explored Shakespeare's famous play in a way that feels exciting and accessible. The unit ended with a fantastic class assembly where the children confidently showcased everything they had learned.

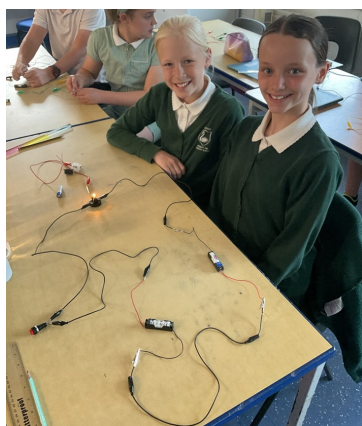
As part of the unit, the children explored important themes such as ambition, choices and right versus wrong, while also developing their teamwork, speaking and performance skills. It has been wonderful to see their confidence grow throughout the topic, particularly during the interactive activities and rehearsals.



YEAR 6

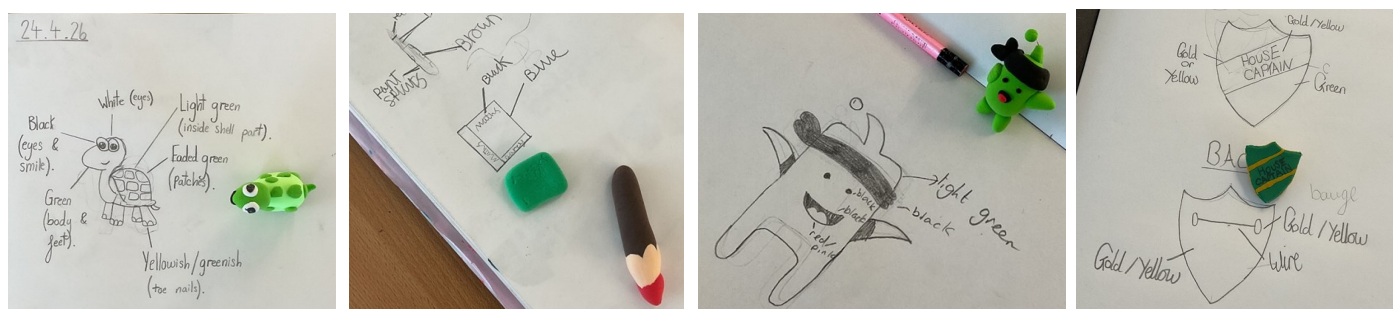
Year 6 has worked incredibly hard in the months leading up to their Key Stage Two SATs and we can now say that they have officially completed them! We are so proud of the ambition that each one of you has shown—well done for challenging yourselves to be your very best!

A highlight of the half-term has definitely been the hatching of the five ducklings! The children enjoyed the opportunity to experience them first-hand from when they first hatched until they were just under two weeks old. Even in such a short space of time, they changed significantly.



The practical learning that has taken place in science this half-term has seen the children further develop their knowledge and understanding of electricity. They have challenged themselves to work collaboratively to investigate what affects the output of a circuit. After identifying independent, dependent and control variables, they were able to carry out tests to explore the impact that changing the numbers of batteries, bulbs and buzzers had on circuit output.

As the first half of the summer term comes to an end, it has been the perfect opportunity for Year 6 to explore our *making memories* unit in art and design. The children demonstrated their creative talents by producing an aspect of school life that was both relevant and memorable to them, to create into a 3D model using air-drying clay.



DUCKLINGS

This half-term, the children were incredibly fortunate to experience something very special — the arrival and birth of five beautiful ducklings! It was a truly magical experience for both the children and staff, and one that created lots of excitement, curiosity, and wonderful learning opportunities throughout the nursery and school.

The adventure began when the eggs arrived in an incubator. The children were fascinated to learn about how the incubator kept the eggs warm and safe, just like a mother duck would. Each day, they eagerly checked on the eggs, talking about what might be happening inside and patiently waiting for signs that the ducklings were ready to hatch.

Then came the most exciting moment of all — the children were able to witness the ducklings beginning to hatch before their very eyes. They watched in amazement as tiny cracks appeared in the shells and little wet, floppy ducklings slowly emerged. It was such a memorable experience for everyone involved and sparked lots of discussion and questions from the children.

Over the next few hours, the children observed how the ducklings gradually dried off and transformed into fluffy, bright yellow ducklings. Once they were ready, they were carefully moved into a larger cage with a heat lamp to keep them warm and comfortable.

The children loved visiting them throughout the day and enjoyed watching them eat, sleep, waddle around together, and splash happily in their water. We also noticed how instinctively the ducklings began preening themselves, which the children found particularly interesting.

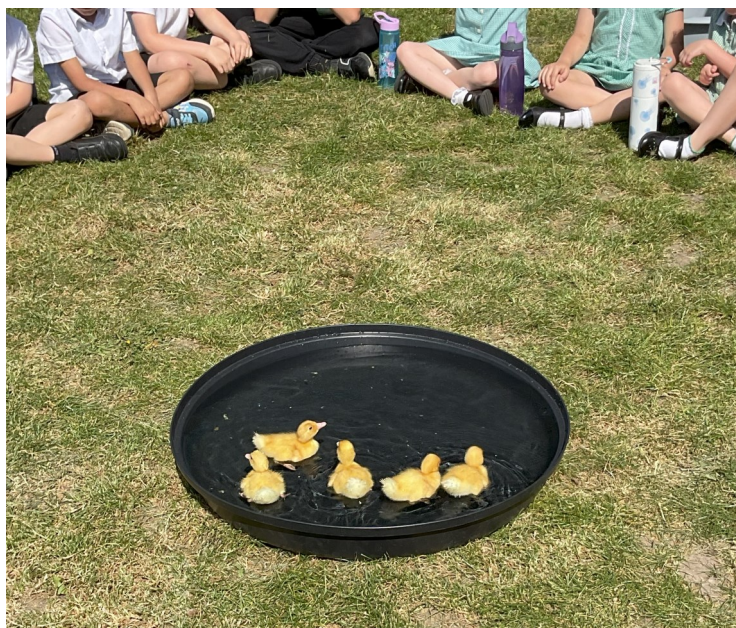
A few days later, the ducklings were ready for another exciting milestone — their first trip outside! The children were thrilled to watch them explore the grass and experience swimming for the very first time. There were lots of smiles and laughter as the ducklings paddled and dived under water confidently and stayed close together.

Having the ducklings with us provided so many valuable learning opportunities. The children learned about life cycles, growth, caring for animals, and the importance of being gentle and respectful towards living things. It also encouraged lots of language development, curiosity, and nurturing behaviour.

It is safe to say the ducklings quickly became part of school life, and not just for the children! The staff were equally excited and would often sneak down for a quick cuddle before heading home or when arriving in the morning. The ducklings have now returned to the farm, where they are growing bigger every day. Although we were sad to say goodbye, we feel very lucky to have shared such a special experience together and created memories that the children will remember for a long time.

We cannot wait to see what exciting experiences next year will bring!

DUCKLINGS



School Council

The school council brought the idea of a music day forward at the beginning of the year. They had lots of ideas about musicians coming into school and creating a whole school song.

This has evolved into an Enrichment Week which will run from **Monday 1st to Friday 5th June**.

The week will start with a music day with the children exploring music and working together to create a school song. All week, there will be visits from professional musicians so the children can experience a broad range of music from experts.



Throughout the week, the children will be exploring Bible stories and developing a piece of art for the national Spirited Arts competition. Every child will create a piece of art linked to their class Bible story. Winners will be chosen from each class and submitted to the national competition. Parents are invited to come into school from 2:45pm (Nursery) and 3:15pm (Reception to Year Six) on **Friday 5th June**, to view all the artwork in our gallery in the school hall.

On Wednesday 3rd June, an artist will be visiting Year One to create an additional piece of artwork linked to their learning about the seaside.



Godstone Goes Global returns on **Friday 5th June 2026**. On this day, each class will be learning about a different country. The day will focus on the geography of the country (people and places) and might also include the language, food, culture, art, history, stories, dance, animals and more.

FOREST SCHOOL

Reception has enjoyed lots of minibeast hunts as part of their 'Amazing Animals' topic. They found worms, millipedes, centipedes, woodlice, and beetles. The children have loved pond dipping. They have watched as the tadpoles have emerged from the frog spawn. We found both palmate and smooth newts as well as pond skaters, dragonfly nymphs and water lice.



The children had a fire and toasted crumpets. As we had been learning all about bees and how they make honey, the children got to taste this on top of their crumpets!



Year 3 worked tirelessly to clear an area outside the back of Year 4 in preparation for the outdoor wellbeing area. They moved two tonnes of soil using spades and wheelbarrows! They also learned how to light their own fires using fire steels. This required a lot of patience and perseverance – they all achieved this – well done!



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

GODSTONE PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL

NURSERY ADMISSIONS

Term Time

Funded Early Education Places for 2, 3 and 4 year olds

15 - 30 hours a week

Places available for
September 2026

For more information, please call:-
01883 742326, Option 4
Or email: admin@godstone.surrey.sch.uk
www.godstone.surrey.sch.uk

MESSAGES FROM THE OFFICE

School Lunches via Scopay

Please may we remind you to book your child's meal via Scopay for the 1st half of the Summer Term.

We are asking that you book your child's meals on Scopay **from Monday 1st June up to Wednesday 22nd July inclusive**. By doing this, it will help us to order the correct amount of food and avoid waste.

When you input the meals on Scopay, the amount will show as being owed; however, we wouldn't expect payment to be made in full immediately. Payment can be made weekly as stated on the lunch menu.

Office Opening / Closing Times

A gentle reminder, please be advised of the updated School Office opening and closing times:-

Monday to Thursday

8:30am—3:45pm

Friday

8:30am—3:30pm

IMPORTANT: Please may we remind you that children should arrive between 8:40am-8:50am. If your child comes in after 8:50am, this will be registered as a 'late mark'.