

NEWSLETTER



GODSTONE PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL

Autumn 1, 2026

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!

We have enjoyed a number of enrichment opportunities this term, including Forest School, class assemblies and our Harvest celebrations. A special thank you to Toria Willson for writing our wonderful new Godstone School song, which was showcased so beautifully at our Harvest performance. It is a fantastic addition to our school community and something for us all to be proud of. We also have some very exciting news to share: Godstone School has been selected as one of the main feature schools in the promotional videos for Children in Need 2026. This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our school and shine a spotlight on our fantastic children and community.



A strong home and school link is the best way to support your child's education and personal development. It is important that children attend school regularly, as missed learning can significantly impact their long-term progress. Reading is one of the most important skills a person can develop, so 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 2nd November**.

Yours sincerely,

N. J. Usher

Mr Nick Usher
Headteacher



NURSERY

This half-term in Nursery, we have been learning all about under the sea.

The children have really enjoyed this topic, sharing many great stories, including Tiddler, Sharing a Shell, Who's in the Ocean?, and Ocean Noises.



The children have been very busy in the workshop area, crafting and have created some brilliant sea creatures. They have made handprint crabs, paper plate jellyfish and a giant octopus with paper chain legs. During these activities, they have demonstrated and extended many of their skills, such as mark-making, pencil control and scissor

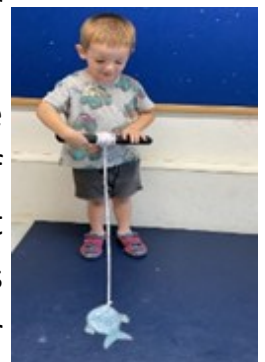


skills. The children are very proud of their creations, and have enjoyed seeing them displayed in the nursery classroom.

The children have had lots of fun engaging in messy, hands-on learning. They loved getting stuck into the giant ocean-themed water trays, exploring textures with blue shaving foam, and using large tweezers to carefully pluck tiny sea creatures out of colourful strands of spaghetti! We have also been matching sea creatures to their silhouettes and exploring different colours to see how mixing blue, white, and green paint can create different shades of the ocean.



The children have also been developing their fine motor skills, whilst 'going fishing.' They practised their turn taking skills and enjoyed twisting the tube to reel in the fishes. Whilst they reeled in the fish, they shared lots of great language, such as longer, shorter, closer, caught and escaped. Many of the children returned to this activity for multiple turns and enjoyed racing their friends to see who could reel their fish in the quickest.



NURSERY

The children had a great time playing with the parachute and singing a new 'Under the Sea' song. They moved the parachute up and down like the waves, passed it around the circle to represent the fish swimming round and round, and snapped like the shark by clapping their hands. Afterwards, they enjoyed climbing under the parachute and practised counting to ten before the parachute was raised above them.

In circle time, they enjoyed a variety of activities developing their vocabulary based around the topic. They have especially enjoyed exploring the 'under the sea' sensory bottles, moving the bottles, by twisting and turning them to discover what may be hiding within. They had lots of fun discovering a variety of items, including sea creatures and shells. During the activity, they used descriptive language to describe what they could see and how it sounded as they moved it.

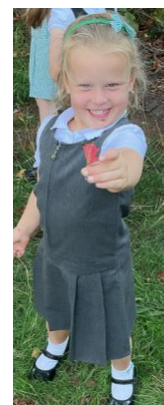




RECEPTION



Our Reception children have made a wonderful start at Godstone Primary and Nursery School. They have settled happily, made new friends and enjoyed exploring the resources in both the inside and outside areas. The children have thoroughly enjoyed our 'Beware of the Bears' topic. They have loved listening to a range of bear stories, have shown great observational drawing skills of their own teddies and have enjoyed making sandwiches for a teddy bear picnic.



Reception class have seen the seasonal changes autumn brings through walks, collecting natural materials for collages and talking about harvest. The children carefully followed instructions to cut and peel vegetables to make a delicious vegetable soup. It has been great to see their confidence, curiosity and independence growing each day!



YEAR 1

We have had a fantastic time learning, exploring and discovering new things together. The children have been working incredibly hard across all areas of the curriculum, showing enthusiasm, curiosity and a brilliant attitude towards their learning. Here is a little look at what we have been getting up to recently!

We have been learning all about some amazing explorers and their incredible achievements in history. We discovered how Sir Ranulph Fiennes explored some of the world's most challenging environments, Neil Armstrong became the first person to walk on the Moon, Amy Johnson made history as a pioneering aviator, and Mae Jemison became the first Black woman to travel into space. The children have loved finding out about these inspiring people and learning how they showed courage, determination and a sense of adventure.

In English, we have been working incredibly hard to develop our early writing skills. We have been practising sounding out words carefully, forming our letters correctly and remembering to leave finger spaces between our words. The children are becoming more confident writers, and it has been wonderful to see their effort and progress. Keep up the fantastic work, Year 1!

Maths has been full of exciting challenges. We have been learning to compare numbers using the greater than (>), less than (<) and equal to (=) symbols. With a little help from our Numberblocks friend, Blockzilla, the children have worked extremely hard to recognise the symbols and decide which numbers are greater, smaller or equal. We are so proud of their perseverance and growing confidence.

We have continued to enjoy our Forest School sessions, exploring the outdoors, learning through hands-on experiences and having lots of fun together. In PE, the children have particularly loved our football sessions, developing their ball skills, practising their coordination and learning to work as part of a team.

The children enjoyed trying crisps made from potatoes that we had grown and harvested in school last year. It was a lovely opportunity to see how food can go from growing in the ground to ending up on our plates.

In DT, we have been busy designing and making our own pencil pots. The children explored how to make their structures stable and strong, using their problem-solving skills and creativity to create something useful to take pride in.

YEAR 1



YEAR 2

What a brilliant start to the year we have had!

As part of our art learning, where we are exploring tone and texture, we went on a nature walk to collect different materials. We explored and described each texture through touch.



We immersed ourselves in our English work this half-term by working collaboratively to create beanstalks made of different materials. Some groups twisted their materials, whilst others rolled their materials. It was very interesting to see which of our creations was the tallest, and which was the strongest. We have really enjoyed having them on display in the classroom. We worked collaboratively to sequence the story using key vocabulary and then delved deeper into the characters through acting out key scenes and considering what each character was thinking.



Finally, throughout science this half-term, we have been exploring the use of everyday materials, which has really helped to develop our working scientifically skills. Excitingly, we 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. We made different bridges and tested their strength. We very quickly learnt that if you bend paper in the right way, it can become very strong. What a great learning activity it was!



YEAR 3

Wow! What an incredible start to Year 3! The children have settled in brilliantly, and we are so proud of their enthusiasm, determination and positive attitudes towards learning.

In English, the children have produced some fantastic writing inspired by our Stone Age topic. From imaginative descriptions of fierce sabre-toothed cats to informative non-chronological reports about Stonehenge, they have impressed us with their creativity, growing vocabulary and developing writing skills. One of the highlights of the half term was undoubtedly bringing our Stone Age learning to life by constructing Stonehenge out of biscuits! The children had a fantastic time recreating the famous monument, putting their historical knowledge and construction skills to the test – with the added challenge of resisting the temptation to eat their building materials! We have also had some budding designers in DT, where the children have been busy designing and creating their own product packaging.

In maths, we have been tackling place value, addition and subtraction. Some of our learning has certainly challenged us, but the children's resilience and perseverance have been outstanding. They have shown fantastic determination when working through tricky problems, and it has been wonderful to see their confidence grow. Continuing to practise these skills at home will really help to strengthen their understanding.

Our science topic this half term has been *Light*, and the children have thoroughly enjoyed becoming scientists. Through exciting investigations, they have explored which SPF offers the best protection against the sun's harmful UV rays, how shadows are formed and why shadows change size. There have been plenty of opportunities to predict, investigate and discover.

We have also made a brilliant start to French. The children have been learning how to greet others formally and informally, introduce themselves, ask someone's name and find out how they are feeling. Through games, role-play and conversations, they have been developing their confidence in speaking French. Why not challenge your child to teach you a few French phrases at home?

It has been a busy, exciting and incredibly rewarding first half term. We couldn't be prouder of how well the children have embraced life in Year 3, and we are looking forward to all the wonderful learning and adventures still to come.



YEAR 4

Year 4 have made a brilliant start to the school year and have packed so much learning into the first half of the Autumn Term.

In English, we have thoroughly enjoyed learning about the Romans through our class text, *So You Think You've Got It Bad? A Kid's Life in Ancient Rome*. The book has helped us explore what life was really like for Roman children and inspired lots of our writing. We have written diary entries from the perspective of a Roman child and developed our understanding of historical events through exciting role-play activities.

We also studied the story of Boudica through our class text *The Song of Boudica*. Using our knowledge of the brave Iceni queen, we wrote and performed powerful rally speeches, imagining we were Boudica persuading her followers to join her fight against the Romans. We worked hard on using persuasive language, expression and performance skills to bring our speeches to life.

Our science lessons have been full of fun investigations as we explored the topic of sound. We investigated how sounds are made, how vibrations travel and how different factors can affect volume and pitch. We particularly enjoyed carrying out practical experiments and making predictions before testing our ideas.

In art, we have been developing our drawing skills and creativity by creating beautiful collages linked to our topic work. We experimented with different materials, textures and techniques to produce some fantastic pieces of artwork.

In maths, we have been building our understanding of place value. We have been working with numbers containing thousands, hundreds, tens and ones, as well as comparing, ordering and partitioning numbers. We have also learnt how to round numbers to the nearest 10,000 and have enjoyed using practical resources to support our understanding.

It has been a fantastic start to Year 4, and we are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm, effort and positive attitudes shown by all the children. We look forward to another exciting term of learning ahead.



YEAR 5



What a great first half-term we have had in Year 5! Over the past few weeks, we have enjoyed getting to know the children, building relationships and seeing them settle into their new routines and

responsibilities.

In English, our focus has been on developing independence; as the children become more confident with editing and proofreading, they are beginning to take greater ownership of their writing and make thoughtful improvements to their work.



Our history topic on the ancient Maya civilisation has sparked plenty of curiosity. Taking on the role of archaeologists, the children have examined evidence from archaeological digs, using their findings to speculate about the purpose of different artefacts. Some interesting theories have certainly been shared.



YEAR 6

Year 6 have worked incredibly hard this half-term—it has been particularly busy, but they have certainly risen to the challenge that comes with being top of the school!

Our science lessons have focused on 'Light'. The children have 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.



The children put on an excellent class assembly of '*Odyssey at the Museum*', where they spent the night at the museum with the statues of Greek gods and goddesses. They shared many stories from Ancient Greece during their performance which certainly had a comical element and kept the audience entertained! The assembly was a brilliant way for the children to show-off some of our history and English learning.



HARVEST FESTIVAL

Celebrating our school community

What a wonderful way to celebrate Harvest Festival together! The children worked hard to prepare their Harvest songs, and we were so proud of the enthusiasm and effort they showed.

On Tuesday, we enjoyed singing together in school for our Reception parents, before coming together again on Thursday at St Nicholas Church for our Harvest celebration. Each class performed their own individual Harvest song, showcasing the children's confidence, enthusiasm and wonderful singing voices.

A very special highlight was performing our brand-new school song! This fantastic song was created by last year's School Council, working alongside two very talented parents, Toria and Rob Willson. We were incredibly grateful to them both for generously giving their time, energy and talents to create something so special for our school community. We look forward to singing our new school song together for many years to come.

Finally, a huge thank you to all our families for your generous Harvest donations. Your kindness and support were greatly appreciated and helped us to share the spirit of Harvest by thinking of others within our wider community.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's Harvest celebrations so special.



FOREST SCHOOL

Year One have been loving the autumnal weather and are delighted to be back at Forest School! They have been busy exploring the changing season through a range of exciting, hands-on activities. The children pulped blackberries to create their own natural paint and made paintbrushes from natural materials, using them to explore the different patterns and textures they could create.



During an autumn walk, they spotted signs of the changing season and collected conkers, which they then used to create exciting conker rockets. They also dug up potatoes that they had planted while in Reception last year and, after cooking, enjoyed tasting them as delicious homemade crisps! The children have also been developing their tool skills by using palm drills to carefully make holes in conkers, which they used to create beautiful autumnal wreaths. It has been a wonderful start to the year, filled with curiosity, creativity and plenty of opportunities to connect with nature.



NURTURE

OUTDOOR WELLBEING AREA



Our new Wellbeing Ambassadors have planted a range of flowers and bulbs to brighten up the space. It has undergone an incredible transformation—from a disused area with rotting flower beds into a calm, welcoming space that children can enjoy at break and lunchtimes.

The money raised through last academic year's sponsored run, along with a £1,000 funding grant, helped to finance the project. We still have a little left in the budget to purchase some additional resources for the sheltered area at the bottom of the ramp... watch this space!



SPORTS

Today, Friday 16th October, our Year 6 Sports Crew proudly represented the school as they took part in their leadership training. The children had a fantastic day, developing the skills needed to organise activities, support younger pupils and become positive role models. They showed great enthusiasm, teamwork and responsibility, and we are incredibly proud of the way they represented our school while having lots of fun along the way.





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 8:50 am will be recorded as late.
- Registers close at 9:20 am. 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 of the 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

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.

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

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 2nd November to Friday 18th December**. 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 and 8:50am**. If your child comes in after 8:50am, this will be registered as a 'late mark'.

Uniform Labelling

A gentle reminder, please label all of your children's uniform. We have a huge amount of lost property we are unable to return to parents as these are unlabelled.



YOUNGMINDS

**Hello
Yellow**
FRIDAY 9 OCT

You're inspiring!

This is to certify that

Godstone Primary and Nursery School

has helped show young people they're
not alone with their mental health by raising:

£ £185.50

Date:

09/10/2026



Nas Morley, Director of Income Generation



ADVERTISEMENTS



PUMPKIN HEROES

**Wednesday 28th October @ Godstone Baptist Church
10am-12pm**

Join us for some pumpkin fun.

Crafts, songs, games, story time, snacks and drinks.

Story Time with Patch the Pumpkin will be at 11:30am.

No need to book.

This is a free event however donations are welcome and will go to support the work of World Vision.

Suitable for primary aged children but older and younger children are welcome.

Children must be accompanied by an adult.

www.godstonebc.org

World Vision
NO CHILD WITHOUT A FUTURE

1st South Godstone Brownies are looking for new members!

Make new friends
Get creative
Try new things
adventures
Learn new skills
Help your community
Have fun!

For further information, contact Tracy on brown.owl@yahoo.co.uk

Explore
Create
Learn
Be Kind
Have Fun