

# NEWSLETTER



GODSTONE PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL

January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is such a pleasure to write this newsletter to you as the newly appointed Headteacher of Godstone Primary and Nursery School. I am so pleased that I get to continue my journey with the school and make a difference for the children who attend.

In my interview, I was asked what my long term vision for the school was. It would have been easy to talk about OFSTED gradings and SATs data but I answered that I want Godstone Primary and Nursery School to be the school that every parent in the area wants their child to attend. I want the whole community to be united behind the school and help drive us forward. Most importantly, I want each and every child to thrive by accessing an ambitious curriculum that is purposeful and tailored to the individual.

I look forward to working in partnership with you all during this exciting time of school development.

Yours sincerely,

**Mr Nick Usher**  
Headteacher



# RECEPTION

This term Reception's topic is 'Helpful Heroes' and they have been learning about how paramedics and the police help us. Last week they were very excited when Inspector Vale visited.



The children had been reading fiction and non-fiction books about the police so they had lots of questions. They found out about how the police help us and how they investigate crimes and catch criminals. Inspector Vale showed the children all the things he uses to help him including a torch, camera and handcuffs. He brought lots of police uniform for the children to try on which was great fun. Finally, we went outside to see the police car. He showed us some of the equipment they carry and how they help people who may have been in a road accident. It was very exciting when he turned the lights on and put the siren on. Thank you Inspector Vale!

How do you arrest people?  
Thomas

Do you have a police  
motorbike? Carter



# YEAR 1

## DT

We have learnt to make textile puppets with safety pins. It has been quite tricky but they have really enjoyed learning a new skill and really impressed me with how resilient they became when things didn't always go to plan. They will be bringing them home soon.



## History

In History we have been learning about Elizabeth I and the Spanish Armada. The children have been so engaged and wanting to know more. There has been some amazing homework and it has been great to share some of this in class.

## Forest School

Here are a few pictures of all the life skills we are learning at Forest School including den building and whittling.



## Science

We have been learning about everyday materials and the children have really loved this topic. All the children have loved the challenges and investigations. We really love working in small groups.

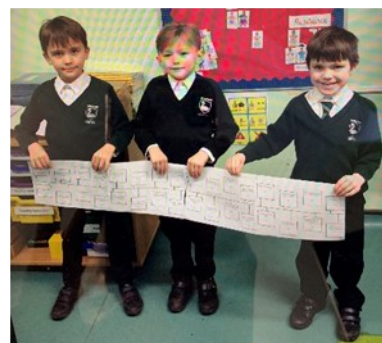




# YEAR 2

Year 2 have been really enjoying our historical enquiry for this half-term – how do our favourite toys and games compare with those of the 1960s?

The enquiry began by looking at the different ways in which historians divide up time, such as using BC and AD. Using their new knowledge and understanding of BC and AD, they were challenged to create a timeline of numerous historical events in chronological order. It was fantastic to see the children applying their knowledge so confidently and using lots of new vocabulary, but to also see the children working collaboratively within their small groups.



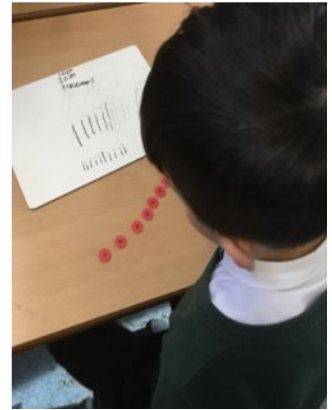
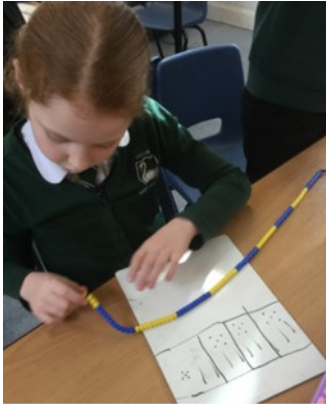
We also looked at a wide range of toys from the 1960s and noticed that lots of them have remained much the same over time, but there have also been some important changes in toys as well!



The children are very much looking forward to continuing with this historical enquiry over the next couple of weeks, where we will be looking at Tim Berners-Lee and how his invention of 1989 changed the toys and games of the 1960s!

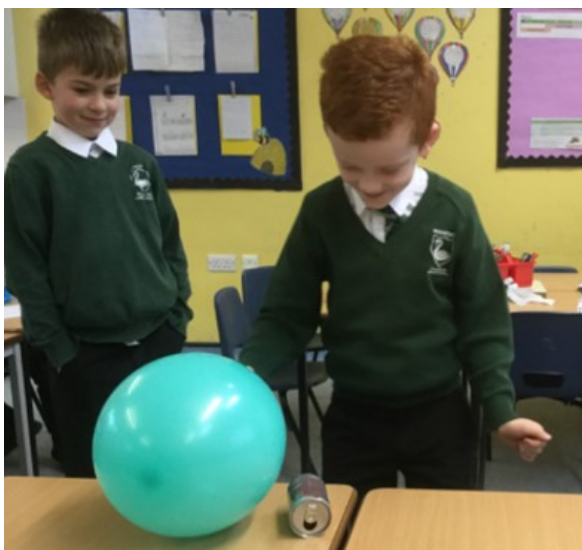
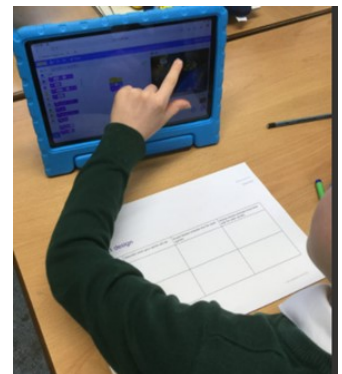
# YEAR 3

**What a fantastic start to the year we have had!**



In maths, we have been focussing on multiplication and division of 2-digit numbers. We have shown lots of resilience with this challenge and are feeling very proud of ourselves. We have been busy investigating how to divide one hundred into equal groups. We used many different strategies and resources and had lots of fun.

During our computing learning we have been looking at Scratch and how to programme different sprites. This has been really fun as we have learned how to programme them to follow a sequence of commands that we have created. Some of us have even challenged ourselves to create a scene and introduce sound into our programme.



Our DT learning has been so exciting, we have been investigating static electricity and have thought about what causes this. We have learned that static electricity is created when positive and negative charges are not balanced so there is an imbalance of electrons. We couldn't believe our eyes when a balloon managed to move a can across the table!



# YEAR 4

## Year 4 Class Assembly

### Malala's Magic Pencil

On Thursday 27th January, Year 4 performed their class assembly to parents, based on the book 'Malala's Magic Pencil.' This is the story of Malala, growing up in Pakistan, wishing for a magic pencil. Initially, she wished to make people around her happy. For example, erasing the smell of rubbish from her city; getting a new football for her brothers; and sleeping in for an extra hour in the morning.

However, as she grew older, Malala saw that there were more important things to wish for. She saw a world that needed fixing and wished for equality, removing poverty and no war.

The Year 4 children made similar wishes, starting by wishing for things that were personal to themselves and their families. These included bigger houses for their families, expensive cars and swimming pools.

After researching wider world issues, the children then came up with wishes that would improve the quality of life for many more. These wishes included removing Covid-19 from the planet; providing enough homes for everyone so that no one needs to be homeless; removal of fuel cars to reduce climate change; and health and happiness for everyone.

The children concluded the assembly with the song, 'For Every Child'. The lyrics mirrored the message from 'Malala's Magic pencil' and included the words:

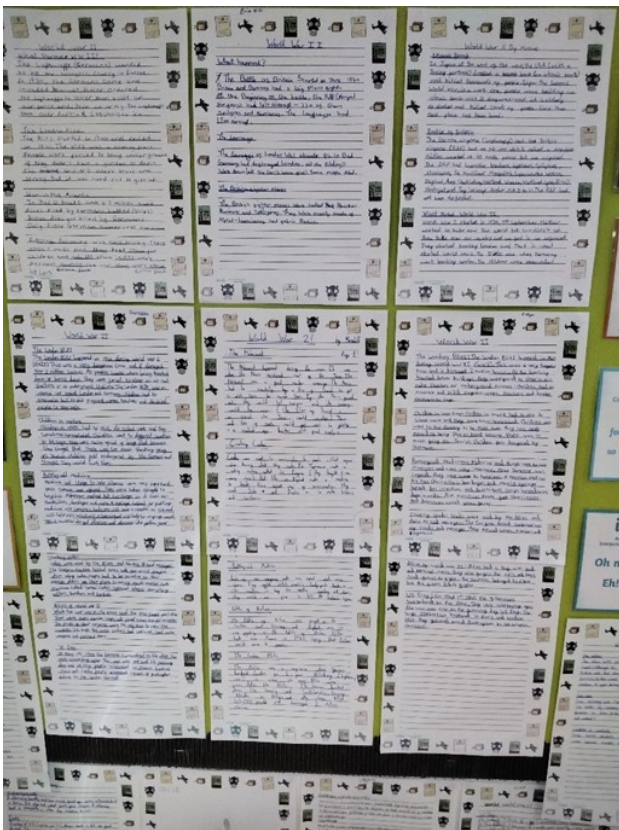
*"Whoever we are Wherever we live Be it North, south, east or west For every child in this wide world We must do our very best We are all the same You and me Should be treated equally All the time A safe place to sleep at night"*





# YEAR 5

Year 5 have been learning all about World War II in English this term. In particular, they have been learning about the Battle of Britain and The Blitz. They have also had the opportunity to research other areas of WWII and learn more about topics such as evacuees and the role of women in the war. As well as learning about the topic, they have also been learning different literacy skills which are often found in non-fiction information texts. These included different types of parenthesis (commas, brackets, dashes) and varying the placement and use of conjunctions within a sentence. Year 5 then put all of these skills and research together to create some fantastic non-chronological reports all about WWII. The final version of these can be seen below.



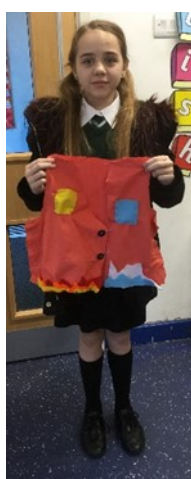
Year 5 have also been taking part in swimming lessons at Woldingham School. This has proved very popular with the children as they all enjoy a trip in the minibus and the chance to improve their swimming skills. As well as practising different swimming techniques, Year 5 have also practised their lifesaving skills and have used different types of equipment such as floats and noodles to further improve their abilities. They are really looking forward to the rest of the sessions to see what they will learn next!

# YEAR 6

## Making Waistcoats in Year 6!

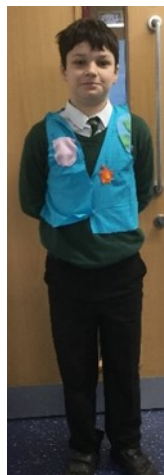
During Autumn 2, Year 6's Design and Technology lessons focused on planning, drawing and making waistcoats. The children's waistcoats needed to be designed around a theme and as a class, we chose to focus on climate change, as this linked to our English and Geography learning.

For our first lesson, the children designed their waistcoats and it was clear that they all had such wonderful ideas.



For our second lesson, the children decided on the fabrics that they would be using and used templates to cut out the correct sized and shaped material.

For our third and fourth lesson, the children were taught how to sew using a running stitch, which then meant that they could sew their fabric together. The whole consensus from the class was that the most challenging part of these lessons was to thread the needle. However, all of the children persevered and had a lot of laughs along the way!



For our final two lessons, the children were able to use a range of materials to decorate their waistcoats, this was something that they all thoroughly enjoyed.

# WELL DONE YEAR 6!



# **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 into 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 as set out on page 4 of this newsletter.
- Pupils who arrive after registration will be recorded as late.
- Registers close at 9:20 am. After this time, if no call is received by 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 is taken. If there is no further improvement, this may be referred to our Education Welfare Officer.

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

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

## **PENALTY NOTICES**

We would like to remind parents that The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013 state that Head Teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. The Head Teacher should determine the number of school days a child can be away from school if leave is granted.

In accordance with the above regulations, requests for leave of absence are treated sympathetically, but only in exceptional circumstances can they be approved. The policy of the Government to which this school has agreed, states that parents who take their child out of school for five days or more during term time, without the authority of the Head Teacher, will each be liable to receive a penalty notice. Penalty notices will be issued by the Local Authority.

The penalty is £60 if paid within 21 days of receipt of the notice raising to £120 if paid after 21 days but within 28 days of the notice. If the penalty is not paid in full by the end of the 28 day period, the Local Authority must prosecute the recipient for failing to ensure regular school attendance under Section 444 Education Act 1996.

Please be aware that each parent is liable to receive a penalty notice for each child who incurs unauthorised absence, for example, if there are two parents and one child, each parent will receive one penalty notice. If there are two parents and two children incurring unauthorised absences, each parent will receive two penalty notices, which in this case would amount to £120 each if paid within 21 days.

Mr N Usher  
Acting Headteacher

Mrs S Emerson  
Education Welfare Officer



## Oxted School Tours

Oxted School have resumed their School tours for prospective parents and students as follows:

SCHOOL TOURS	
Date	Time
Monday 24 January	0855 – 0955 (Period 1)
Monday 31 January	1215 – 1315 (Period 4)
Tuesday 8 February	0855 – 0955 (Period 1)
Tuesday 22 February	1215 – 1315 (Period 4)
Wednesday 2 March	0855 – 0955 (Period 1)
Wednesday 9 March	1215 – 1315 (Period 4)
Thursday 17 March	0855 – 0955 (Period 1)
Thursday 24 March	1215 – 1315 (Period 4)

The School Tour Protocol is:

- The School Tour consists of meeting a member of the Senior Leadership Team at the start and end of the tour. Two Year 9 students will take the School tour around the School site and answer any questions
- Small group size, ie no bigger than four families (maximum eight parents + children)
- Social distancing at all times where possible
- Face masks are mandatory in communal areas within School and therefore must be worn on the School tour
- We will be guided by Government COVID advice at the time of the tour

The School tours can be booked through Oxted School reception on 01883 712425 but please be aware there may be a delay in getting onto a School tour due to the limited tour size. More information about the School tours can be found on the School website [here](#).





## Skills School February Half Term Camp



DATES:  
**February**  
**15-17**



**Bletchingley Village  
Primary School**



Times / Ages/ Price  
9:00 - 15:00  
4-14 - All Abilities  
£25 Per Day/ £60 For 3 Days  
Sibiling Discount

07428510384 / [www.skillsschool.uk](http://www.skillsschool.uk)

# ADVERTISEMENTS



Did you know that Godstone Primary and Nursery School can distribute Food Bank vouchers?

We know that times are difficult, particularly with the recent cut in Universal Credit and rising prices. So do please get in contact if you would like a voucher - this will be treated in the strictest confidence.

We also have 'hygiene packs' available, which include a number of toiletries products - often the most expensive part of our weekly shopping - so please let me know if you would like to take one.

I know that approaching others about financial hardship can be uncomfortable, but we are approachable and understanding and want to do all we can to support our community and would love to help alleviate some of the stresses around finances.

**GODSTONE DANCE ACADEMY**

WE OFFER

- ✓ RAD BALLET CLASS
- ✓ PRE-SCHOOL BALLET CLASS
- ✓ IDTA TAP & JAZZ CLASS
- ✓ DRAMA CLASS
- ✓ ADULT BALLET CLASS

MORE INFO:  
@ godstonedanceacademy@gmail.com

CALL 07985 124 067

ROYAL ACADEMY OF DANCE  
**DANCE**  
REGISTERED TEACHER

IDTA  
INTERNATIONAL DANCE  
TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Silver  
STANDARDS  
LICENSED TEACHER

COVID-19  
SECURE

## UNIFORM LABELLING REMINDER

Just a reminder, please can we ask that all items of school uniform is labelled clearly.

We receive a high percentage of lost property and are unable to return to it's owner as it is not labelled.

Thank you for your assistance.

School Office

