

NEWSLETTER



GODSTONE PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL

February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been great to welcome the children back following the half term break. We have lots of exciting activities planned for the children and are pleased that we can also welcome parents into school to share this with their children.

We are particularly looking forward to welcoming parents into school for our upcoming maths and reading mornings. This is a great chance to see your learning and to support them with grasping new concepts. In addition, we will be taking part in exciting events such as World Book Day, Comic Relief, East Surrey Dance Festival and Able Maths Day. I hope that we all have a great half term and I look forward to hearing about the children's successes this half term.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Nick Usher
Headteacher



NURSERY



On the Move!

The Nursery children have loved learning about things that move. They have used books to research a vehicle they would like to make. They drew the vehicle, then made it with recycled materials. The children created a carwash outside and a ramp inside. They experimented with different forces to make boats and other objects move in water. They did some great mark making in playdough, sand and paint with vehicle tyres and talked about the marks they had made.



RECEPTION

Reception have been out and about in Godstone this month. The children had a simple map with photos of some of the places in the village for them to spot as they walked through the village. The children loved looking at the map and following the route from the school to St. Nicholas Church.



The children practised using lots of geographical language including road, footpath, church, tennis courts, The Green, the village pond, stream, weir, Bay Pond.

The children also thought about the past

as we talked about which buildings looked old and how the school used to be opposite the church but now the old school is a house. They also enjoyed looking at the war memorial and remembered the poppies they learnt about in November.



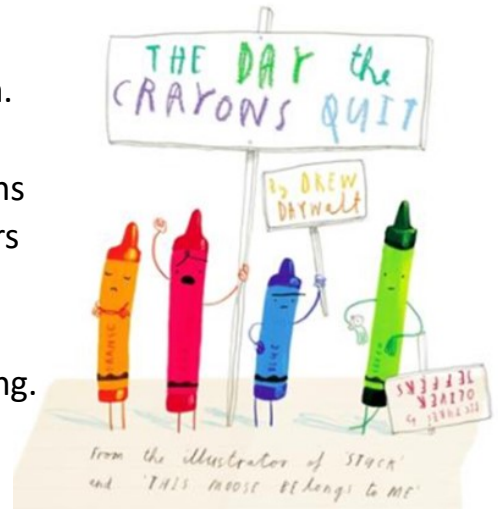
At the church the children loved exploring all the different parts of the building. Rev. Peter O'Connell explained to the children what the different things were used for and explained some of the stories in the stained glass windows. There were lots of interesting mosaics on the floor and the walls. The tiny door at the bottom of the bell tower was the most fascinating part of the day, and it was great to see the bell tower outside and hear the bells ring as we were leaving.



YEAR 1

The children have had a great start to the spring term.

In English we have been learning all about The Crayons Who Quit. We had an exciting day where all the letters arrived addressed to someone called Duncan. The children helped solve clues and were so engaged. We are now responding to the text through our writing. It is very exciting in our English lessons.



In art we have started to learn about composition and are going to make a landscape picture thinking about all the elements that makes it interesting. We are looking at famous pieces of art and looking at what makes them different and the same.

In PE we are linking our previous work on feelings and how music makes us feel when dancing. We are learning how to move around from the tallest to the smallest shapes. The children are loving this learning and enjoy recreating their dances in the playground.

In phonics the children are working hard on their phase 5 sounds. Their reading is really improving and they are really enjoying the non-fiction books at the moment. Their love for reading is really showing and one of their favourite things to do during golden time is to read the Guinness World Records books.

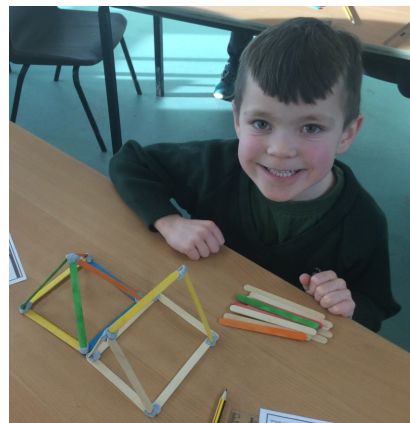
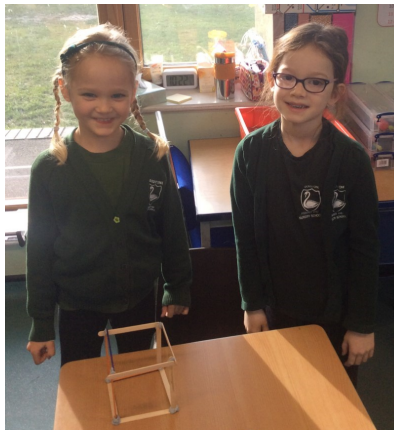
The children are looking forward to starting the new topic in History and discovering what both Sir Francis Drake and Sir Francis Chichester have in common. I am sure they will tell you all about this in the upcoming week.



YEAR 2

Year two have worked very hard with our 'properties of shape' topic in maths.

The children have been recognising, sorting and making patterns with 2D and 3D shapes. We have also looked at key vocabulary, such as edges, faces and vertices, and have used our knowledge of these to better understand the properties of different shapes. To help us become more confident with the properties of different shapes, we spent some time making our own 3D shapes using lollipop sticks and blue-tac!

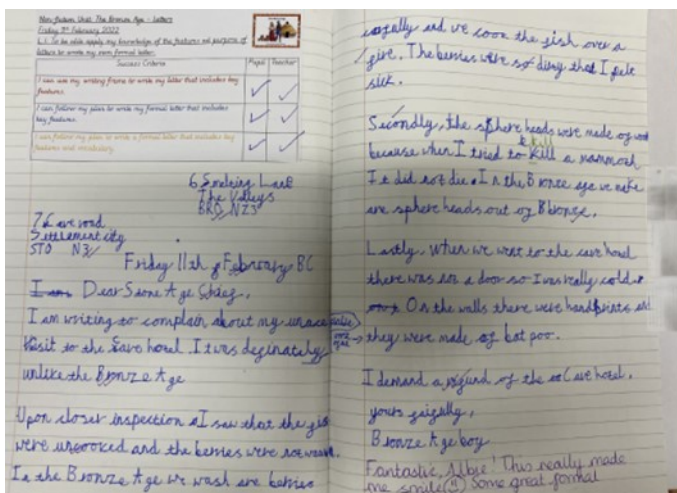


In Design and Technology, we have been making *moving monsters*. The children learnt all about how they work before designing one of their own. It was great to see all the different monster designs that the children came up with! After designing their moving monster, the children were then able to put it all together and decorate it! It was a challenging project so it was great to see all the children demonstrating reciprocity and resilience.



YEAR 3

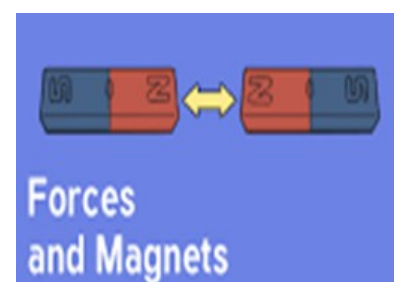
What an exciting month February has been! On Thursday 10th February, Year three performed their class assembly to parents, based on all of their knowledge of Stone Age and Bronze Age Britain. The children took on the roles of different characters and worked hard to learn their lines. The children had great fun playing around with the use of expression and volume and had lots of ideas to add into our assembly. Year three demonstrated fantastic resilience and reciprocity and put on a fantastic show. The children were so very proud of themselves – as were we!



The children have loved their history learning all about The Bronze Age and have made some fantastic comparisons to The Stone Age. The children enjoyed writing an informal letter to Stone Age Boy to invite him to live in The Bronze Age and thought carefully about the chatty language they would use. After this, they

explored formal letters and wrote to a Bronze Age Chief to complain about their recent visit. They had great fun writing for different purposes and using all of their knowledge of these time periods to include extra information and key vocabulary.

Year 3 have been exploring forces and magnets as part of their science learning. They were interested to investigate magnetic and non-magnetic materials and performed an experiment to see if pulling the same materials across different surfaces would make an impact on the force. They used Newton metres to measure this and recorded their results in a table. After this, they were able to create a conclusion about their findings.



YEAR 4

Year four have started the new half term with an exciting Design and Technology topic, 'Adapting a Recipe.' So far the children have followed a basic biscuit recipe and adapted the recipe by adding in ingredients of their choice. They evaluated the taste, texture, smell and appearance of different biscuits made by members of their team.

The children will finish the unit later in the term with a 'Bake Off' final, that will involve them working in groups to cost out, finalise a recipe and create branding for their biscuits. These will then go in front of a 'celebrity' panel made up of the school Senior Leadership Team!

The recipe can be found below if you want to try the recipe at home.



250g butter softened

140g caster sugar

1 egg yolk

2tsp vanilla extract

300g plain flour

Heat the oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4.

Mix the butter and sugar in a large bowl with a wooden spoon, then add the egg yolk and vanilla extract and briefly beat to combine.

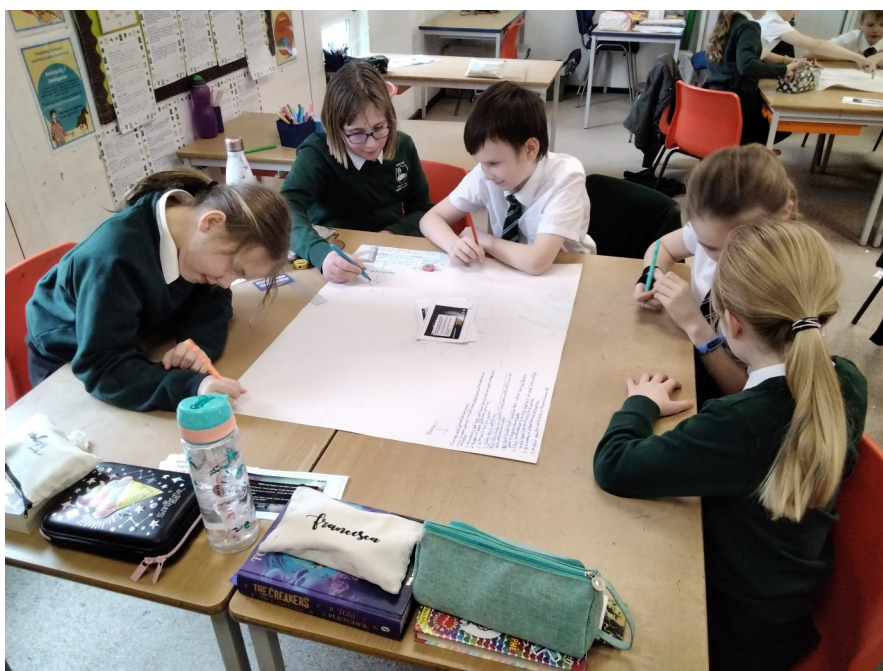
Sift over the flour and stir until the mixture is well combined- you might need to get your hands in at the end to give everything a really good mix and press the dough together.

Scoop the mixture into balls onto a non-stick baking sheet. Space well apart, as they will spread. Flatten slightly, bake for 12-15 minutes, then transfer the soft cookies to a cooling rack to firm up.

YEAR 5

Year five have had another excellent half term. They thoroughly enjoyed their swimming lessons and it was fantastic to see the progress they made during the term. The final session saw Year 5 searching for rubber rings, swimming multiple lengths and even diving off the boards in the deep end!

Year 5 also took part in Online Safety Day 2022. It was clear from their thoughtful discussion that they knew how to keep themselves safe online. They also had sensible solutions and strategies if they ever had any issues online. They then worked in groups to share their ideas and create a poster for online safety. Below are some photos of their work.



YEAR 6

Boys Football Tournament at Oxted School

Who were the members from Year six who made up the football team?

The members of the team were Rocco, Jack, Ollie, Danny, Hudson, Ayden, Oliver and George. The team was chosen by the team captains Oliver and George.

How did you all prepare for the tournament?

We prepared by working as a team and training in our respective positions.

Who did you play against and what were the results?

We played against Nutfield and beat them 7-0. We then played Lingfield and unfortunately lost, it was a very close match! Finally, we played Holland and won 4-0.

What were your strengths as individuals?

Our strengths as individuals were our prowess in each of our own positions.

How did you show reciprocity?

We showed reciprocity by training as a team, encouraging each other even when we made mistakes and we showed good sportsmanship.

What were your favourite moments from this experience?

Our favourite moments were scoring our first goal and the team photo that was taken by our parents who came as spectators.

If you were to do it again, what would you keep the same and what would you do differently?

We would keep the teams but we would decide to change some of our tactics throughout the game.

SCHOOL GOVERNORS

Introducing the School Governors

We would like to introduce some of the Governing Body of Godstone Primary and Nursery School to the wider community through the newsletter over the coming months. In preparation for this, we invited Year 6 pupils to write some questions that they would like to ask governors, and we have responded by way of introducing ourselves.

This month we are sharing responses from Clare Thurman, Chair of Governors, Liam McGivern, Vice Chair and Matt Sharpe.

Clare Thurman, Chair of Governors

Why have you chosen to be a governor for Godstone Primary and Nursery School?

I have been part of the community in Godstone for over three years and my children attend the school. I am passionate about education and want to do my part to ensure that all children at the school are able to enjoy learning and are inspired to pursue their dreams and ambitions.



What do you like about Godstone Primary and Nursery School?

I went to a small village Primary school myself as a child and so I love the fact that the school is so embedded in the community. I love the warm, happy atmosphere and the sense of team work and support amongst the school community.

What/who inspired you to become a school governor?

I have a background in dance education and I always said that once I was settled in a part of the world (now Godstone!), I would become a school governor to help promote the development of music, dance, drama and art. I believe that all children should have the opportunity to take part in these subjects and that creativity should be a key part of a child's education.

Have you ever worked at any other school before starting here?

I have worked with lots of schools to help teachers gain skills in teaching dance and run dance projects with children, but this is the first school at which I have been a governor.

What stages do you have to go through to become a school governor?

I met with the former Chair of governors to find out what was involved and then had a meeting with the Headteacher and Vice Chair before I was elected by the governing body. I was then elected to the role of Chair in July 2021. As governors we have to undertake a great deal of training to ensure that we have the right skills to carry out our role, which is to provide strategic oversight of the school.

Do you have another job in addition to being a governor for our school?

Yes, I have two other jobs! I run a national network of arts organisations and I create and deliver leadership training and peer learning programmes in the arts and cultural sector.

What changes have you and the other governors made as of now or would like to make in the future?

I would like us to continue to foster a strong sense of community and collaboration in the school, and to ensure that the best interests of the children are at the heart of any decisions or developments.



Liam McGivern, Vice Chair

Why have you chosen to be a governor for Godstone Primary and Nursery School?

I felt that because I have a finance/ accounting / audit background, I had skills which I could use to help the school.

What do you like about Godstone Primary and Nursery School?

I like the vibe around the school. It is a friendly and happy place to visit. The staff are clearly working together as a team to give the pupils the skills and knowledge to succeed when they leave for secondary school and beyond.

What/who inspired you to become a school governor?

My wife was a governor previously, at our daughter's primary school, which she loved and suggested I would be good at it. I could not do it for a long while, as I was working in a role where I spent most of the week away from home, this meant I could not commit the time to the role.

Have you ever worked at any other school before starting here?

No, although now I am a governor at other schools, a mix of primary, secondary, and a special educational needs school.

What stages do you have to go through to become a school governor?

I saw an advert from the school who were looking for governors. I expressed an interest in becoming a governor. I then met with the Chair and vice-chair of Governors to talk about the role and what I could offer the school. Once I became a governor, I had to complete a number of training courses and I continue to build on that.

Do you have another job in addition to being a governor for our school?

Not now as I took early retirement from work.

What changes have you and the other governors made as of now or would like to make in the future?

I was part of the panel involved in the appointment of the Headteacher. Looking forward we want to make Godstone the best school locally and first choice for parents.

Matt Sharpe



Why have you chosen to be a governor for Godstone Primary and Nursery School?

My daughters are students at the school and, as a teacher myself, becoming a governor represented the unique intersection of my passions: my family and education. It is also an opportunity to give back to a community of which I have been a member for over 10 years.

What do you like about Godstone Primary and Nursery School?

I have always liked the friendly and welcoming atmosphere of Godstone – whether it be Mr Usher smiling at the door, the teachers and students being so welcoming and positive each time I visit, or the friendships we have built with other parents.

What/who inspired you to become a school governor?

My family: my grandmother was a governor at a primary school and found it very rewarding. My parents were both teachers and spent their entire working lives in schools. My daughters absolutely love Godstone Primary and Nursery School, and I wanted to do whatever I could to ensure that all students do too.

Have you ever worked at any other school before starting here?

This is my first role as a governor in a school, but I am a teacher myself, so I have worked in lots of schools before.

What stages do you have to go through to become a school governor?

I was invited to meet with Clare Thurman, the Chair of Governors, and Mr Usher. They asked me most of the questions I have just answered! They also told me about their plans to continue to make Godstone Primary and Nursery School an incredible place for young people to learn. I then attended a meeting of the Full Governing Body and explained why I wanted to be a Governor, before they agreed to appoint me as a governor.

Do you have another job in addition to being a governor for our school?

Yes, I am a Maths teacher and Assistant Principal at a local secondary school and support the Maths departments of the secondary schools within our Multi Academy Trust. Before that I taught at a secondary school in Sutton for 12 years, including 5 years as Head of the Maths Department.

What changes have you and the other governors made as of now or would like to make in the future?

Being part of the process to appoint Mr Usher as Headteacher will always be a proud moment for me. Moving forwards, I want to ensure we continue to support Mr Usher and the wider staff to provide the highest quality of education, and a positive life experience for Godstone students and families.

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

Thank you to everyone who supported Children's Mental Health week, culminating in our 'Dress to Express' day. The children all looked wonderful.

The children took part in numerous activities over the week, with the focus of 'growing together', where the children considered the different ways they had grown over the years and the support around them that had helped them get there.

Thank you for your donations, we have raised £158.18 for Place2Be; a children's mental health charity.

Nursery

The Nursery children danced enthusiastically to Reach for the Stars, doing well to copy the actions. We talked about the things we used to do when we were a baby that we don't do now. We shared something we would like to do when we are older that we can't do now.



Reception

Reception danced to 'Reach for the stars' and thought about the things we would like to do when we grow up. We drew a picture and made a class ambition star.



Year One

Year one have had a great time during this week learning about how to keep our minds healthy. We celebrated each day with a dance to different types of music: classical, pop, Disney and even listened to some rock music. We talked about how we can have different moods and emotions and how we can relax. We took part in daily exercise including yoga, dance, breathing, meditation and talked about what we liked and what we didn't like.

On the Friday we grew seeds and talked about growth, how we grow all the time and if we don't succeed then we try again. The children enjoyed growing seeds over the half term.



Year Two

We spent some time listening to the growth story of Yolanda Brown, a British saxophonist, composer and broadcaster.

When she was growing up, she wanted to be a Formula 1 racing car driver but she didn't quite know how to get there. She never saw herself as a musician but she is now a very successful one!

Her growth story made us think about:

- ◇ Our dreams and ambitions
- ◇ What we can do to feel better when something doesn't go to plan
- ◇ What we can do if we don't achieve our goal
- ◇ Ways in which we can believe in ourselves
- ◇ How we can help our friends believe in themselves



Year Two

Year Two spent some time thinking about how we have grown together as a class and how we can help others to grow, because we want everyone to be their best and achieve their goals.

I can help others to grow by...

...helping my friends when they are sad or angry.
...helping my friends when they are finding their learning tricky.
...helping my friends if they make the wrong choices.
...helping my friends by supporting them to achieve their goals.

We then spent some time thinking about the goals that we would like to achieve.

I want to score full marks in my SATs arithmetic paper!
I want to become a footballer so I am going to listen to my coach.
I want to become really fast at running.
I want to make the right choices at school.
I want to be kind and help my friends.



To mark the end of Children's Mental Health Week,
we all took part in 'dress to express'.

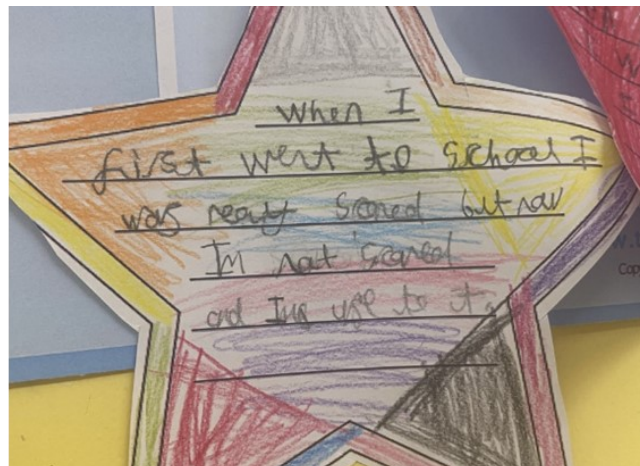
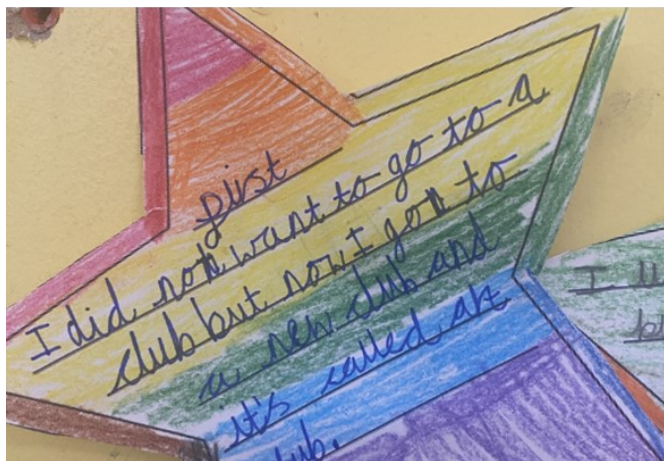
We all dressed in ways that expressed our different personalities and interests!



Year Three

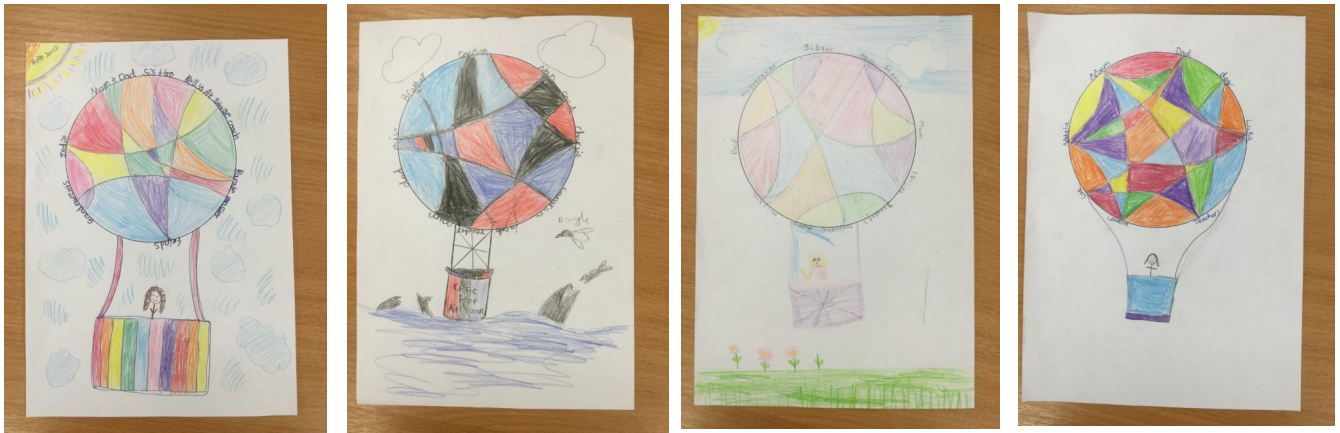


Year Three created a growing together wall. We discussed the growth that we have noticed in ourselves and others since September. We thought of lots of different things and had great fun listening to how other children have grown since September. We noticed that we have all grown in different ways. Some of us felt a bit nervous when coming into school to start Year Three but we have shown great resilience and now we are happy and excited. Some of us started new clubs and made new friends, even though we felt a bit worried to start with. We have displayed these in the classroom and look forward to adding to our growing together wall.



We also spent some time reflecting on who and what helps us when we feel upset, angry or worried. We created some thought bubbles with what helps us feel ok and shared our ideas together.

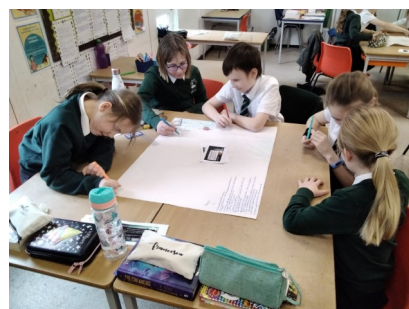
Year Four



Year Four had a great week—they enjoyed discussing the people in their lives that are part of their support bubble, and loved creating their air balloons to illustrate this. We discussed why they had included different people and gave examples of how they were supportive. We talked about the different ways we grow in all areas of our lives.

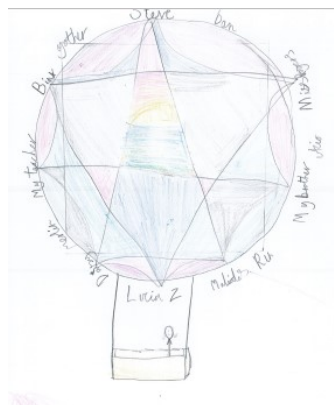
Year Five

In Year five we combined our work with our Online Safety Learning. For example, we talked about how we have grown by learning how to be safe online. We have learned what to do in different situations and how we need to persevere when things are difficult. We also linked it to our swimming lessons by comparing what we did and how we felt in our first swimming lesson compared to the last one and looking at the progress we made. We created mind maps/ posters in groups to pool together all of our ideas.



Year six thoroughly enjoyed creating their 'support bubbles' hot air balloons. It created a really great discussion about why people in our support bubble are so important to us.

The children also created comic strips that illustrated a skill or a talent they had grown in throughout their lives. This showed what is important to us and how far we have come in growing our talents, as well as our goals for the future!



SAFER INTERNET DAY

Safer Internet Day is celebrated globally in February each year to promote the safe and positive use of digital technology for children and young people.

During the week starting Monday 7th February, we celebrated Safer Internet Day exploring this year's theme 'All fun and games? Exploring respect and relationships online'. Across the school, each year group participated in assemblies, discussions and activities about positive relationships online.

In EYFS, the children enjoyed talking about the games that they play and were able to clearly name a range of adults that help keep them safe online. They drew fantastic pictures of their trusted adults.



In Year 2, the children reminded themselves about the need to stay safe online and the different ways they can do this, before they enjoyed the story, 'Digiduck and the Magic Castle.' The children decided that Digiduck made a mistake by putting in a password to a game without permission, particularly when the password contained personal information! The children all agreed that they would not have tried to enter the password and would have instead gone straight to a trusted adult.

The children also spent time thinking about how they communicate with others online, particularly those who they don't know well. There was lots of discussion around communicating on gaming platforms. The children sorted different pieces of information into 'keep private and offline' and 'safe to share online' and explained why they had chosen to put them where they did.

Year 4 spent time talking about how they are respectful to others online across a range of online social environments before creating their own 'Respectful Relationship Recipes'. Their 'ingredients' included;

- A pinch of listening to each other
- A tablespoon of respecting other people's boundaries
- A sprinkle of compassion and letting other people join your games



In Year 5, the children had great discussions around this year's theme, discussing how to be safe online and what to do if they had a problem. They worked in groups to produce a poster displaying their learning.

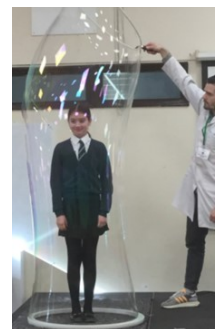
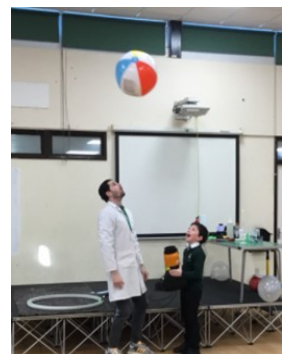
The learning from Safer Internet Day complemented our monthly assemblies and regular classroom activities to educate the children on online safety.



On Friday 25th February EYFS, KS1 and KS2 took part in Professor Bubbleworks' Science Workshop.

The children enjoyed observing a range of activities that helped them to think scientifically. The children were asked lots of questions about air, which included what it is, where we find it and the effect that it can have on different things. Throughout the workshops children were invited up to participate. Other activities included creating a chemical reaction in a rocket, seeing if sound travels through a bubble and creating a cloud by mixing a gas and a liquid together. The children were fascinated by the different activities and left feeling inspired to investigate everything further.

Ask your child to tell you something that they have learned.



DIARY DATES

March-April 2022

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	
Thursday 3rd March	World Book Day	
Friday 4th March	Maths Morning	9:00am-9:30am
Tuesday 8th March	Parent Consultations—Year 2&6	3:30pm-6:00pm
Wednesday 9th March	Parent Consultations—Nursery to Year 6	1:30pm-6:00pm
Thursday 10th March	Parent Consultations—Nursery, Reception, 1, 3, 4 and 5	3:30pm-6:00pm
Thursday 10th March	Years 5 & 6 East Surrey Dance Festival	5:00pm
Friday 11th March	Reading Morning	9:00am-9:30am
Tuesday 15th March	Reception-Heights & Weights	9:30am
Thursday 17th March	Class 2 Assembly	2:45pm
Friday 18th March	Red Nose Day “Comic Relief”	n/a
Friday 18th March	Year 4 Bikeability—Level 1 (x24 spaces)	9:00am-12:15pm
Thursday 24th March	Reception Class Assembly	2:45pm
Friday 25th March	Maths Morning	9:30am
Friday 1st April	Last day of 2nd Half of Spring Term	3:15pm/3:20pm
Monday 4th—18th April	EASTER HOLIDAYS	n/a
Tuesday 19th April	Start of 1st Half of Summer Term	8:40am
Friday 29th April	Reading Morning	9:00am

**** Dates are subject to change ****

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

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Would you like to train to teach in a **Redhill** school?



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Nursery School



Merstham Primary
School



Nutfield Church C
of E Primary
School



St Joseph's Catholic
Primary School



St Matthew's C of E
Primary School



St Stephen's C of E
Primary School

...and many others. We are always keen to work with and welcome new schools into our partnership - please get in touch!

Come along to an information event held at **Friday 18th at Walton on the Hill at 9:30am.**

To register and to see other upcoming events please visit www.ssfscitt.org.uk ('news and events')



the friday night project

sports, dance & social night

For 11-16yrs at de Stafford Sports Centre

Starts 25 February 2022

Fridays, 5.30 - 7.30pm

(during term time)

only **£3** per session



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

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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

