NEWSLETTER



GODSTONE PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL

October/November 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you all had a relaxing half term break, although it may seem like a distant memory as we approach Christmas. In my last newsletter, I shared the ways that children learn at Godstone through our learning powers of resilience, resourcefulness, reciprocity and reflectiveness. This is supported by our core behavioural values of respect, responsibility, pride, compassion and ambition. It has been a pleasure to witness the children demonstrating these core values and I look forward to seeing more examples as we progress throughout the academic year.

We have a really active School Council who meet with me half termly to discuss ways that we can improve and enhance the school. This year they will be:

- * organising two fundraising days for Great Ormond Street and The Princess Trust;
- * investigating the implementation of new clubs, such as, Parkour, Computing, Basketball and Cooking;
- * investing in new equipment for the playground, table tennis tables and a sensory play ground and;
- * helping others by becoming Young Leaders and creating friendship areas within the school.

Alongside our School Councillors, we have a very dedicated Parent Representative group. This is a great way for parents to support the school and offer suggestions to help us improve and develop the school. This year, Parent Reps will focus on:

- * supporting with the whole school reading approach through volunteering;
- * reviewing the school uniform policy and make changes where necessary to support families with the cost of living;
- * fundraising to renovate the Key Stage 2 toilet blocks and;
- * enhancing the clubs that are offered across the school.

Thank you to everyone who is involved with supporting our school.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Nick Usher Headteacher



NURSERY

For Black History Month, Nursery were introduced to Florence Price (1887 - 1953), American classical composer, pianist, organist and music teacher. We listened and danced to her compositions and were inspired to experiment with making sounds in different ways, including making our own instruments.

















RECEPTION

This month, Reception have been continuing their 'All about Bears' topic. The children have enjoyed listening to a wealth of bear themed books, including, 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt', 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears' and 'This is the Bear'.

Just before half term, the children brought in their favourite teddy from home. Each child made a sandwich of their choice and all the teddies were invited to a teddy bears' picnic on the field. Back in the classroom, the children looked very closely at the shape and colour of their teddies. They sketched the outline and key features very carefully before painting them.



For Black History Month, the children learned about Floella Benjamin. We shared her story, "Coming to England," and listened to how other children at her school were unkind to her because she was different. The children also learned about Aretha Franklin being one of the first black women singers to be famous around the world. The children listened to the song 'Respect', and recapped the meaning of this core value. Following this, they discussed how in the past, there was inequality between people and people were treated differently because of the colour of their skin. The children all agreed this is not a good thing and would make the other people 'sad'.

"We have to be kind to everyone." Anna

"Respect is when we listen to our friends." Sebastian

"It is not nice to be mean when someone is different." **Leo**

In our history and English lessons this term, we have been focusing on the amazing lives of explorers such as Christopher Columbus, Sir Ranulph Fiennes, Captain Scott, Amelia Earhart and Neil Armstrong. The children have loved immersing themselves in their learning and have asked many engaging questions.







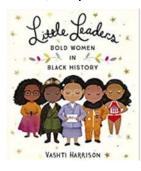


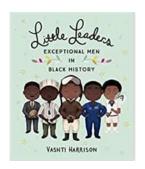
As part of Black History Month, we looked at American engineer, physician and former NASA astronaut, Mae Jemison. In order to understand why it was such a historic moment when she became the first black woman to travel into space, we also learned about the life of Rosa Parks and the impact she had on civil rights.





Many discussions stemmed from learning about these two incredible women and Year 1 spoke with great clarity on differences we all have such as hair, eye and skin colour as well as height and shoe size. Year 1 decided that all explorers would need core values of compassion, respect and resilience to be able to achieve such great things.







Black History Month is celebrated in October every year. It is an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of black people in the past and present.

Year 2 enjoyed learning about the life of Bessie Coleman and the impact that she had on society. They learned about Bessie Coleman's achievements and it helped them to remember the lives of significant individuals from the past.

The children read lots of information and watched videos about the life of Bessie Coleman. They used what they had learned to order some of the key events that happened throughout her life. After this, they spent some time thinking about why they thought she was famous and an inspiration for others. The children shared some fantastic thoughts with the class.

"'Queen Bess' or 'Brave Bessie' was the first African-American female pilot in America."

"Bessie Coleman did not stand for racism. She did not perform at air shows where black and white people were treated differently."

"She inspired many females to become pilots and changed the world by standing up for her beliefs."

"Bessie performed cool stunts in her aeroplane in the sky and sadly died doing something she loved."



As we neared the end of the first half-term, the children continued to consolidate their knowledge of non-fiction texts through the production of their own non-chronological report of how Stonehenge was formed. The children have shown such a keen interest in this topic and their recall of key facts and vocabulary has been fantastically demonstrated through a variety of both verbal and written work.

The children have demonstrated this same determination in mathematics where they have been working tremendously hard to perfect their skills in adding and subtracting numbers of up to three digits.

Year 3's floor book and knowledge of online safety is really coming along in our PSHE sessions covering different aspects of staying safe online. The children have been offering fantastic contributions to our discussions and have shown a strong understanding of both the advantages of the internet and the issues that can come

with it.







As part of Black History Month, the children participated in an enquiry-based lesson about Ruby Bridges, a civil rights activist and the first African-American child to attend an all-white elementary school in the USA after the supreme courts announced the end of racial segregation in 1960. Year 3 should be so proud of all the history they were able to learn in the lesson, as well as the heart-warming and considerate contributions they gave in our discussions. Each of their ideas were written down and placed on a mind-map centred around the history of Ruby Bridges and the messages that her story conveys.

Year 4 have had lots of great learning during the Autumn term. In English, we have continued learning all about the Ancient Romans. We then created non-fiction reports to show all of the knowledge we had discovered. For example, we learned about Roman food and what they ate in their extravagant banquets. In addition, we learned all about Gladiators and how it was a huge spectator sport for Ancient Romans. Finally, we found out about the Roman invasion and occupation of Britain and how the Ancient Celts (led by Boudicca) fought back. Below are some photos of one of our lessons where we worked in groups to research the meaning of different Roman words.

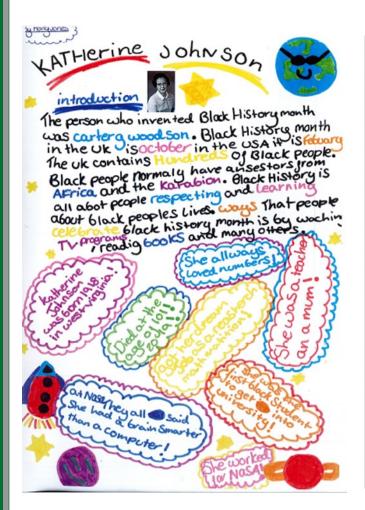


In maths, we have studied addition, subtraction and area. We have also been working hard on our arithmetic tests and trying to get a 'personal best' each week. We were also pleased to welcome parents to our 'Maths Afternoon' where we solved an investigation involving the number of animals in a zoo. We discovered we could use our times table knowledge to help us which made it much easier!

Year 4 took part in the Harvest Celebration with the rest of the school. We sung Everywhere Around Me as a class as well as several whole school songs. Year 4 did a fantastic job singing and everyone can be very proud of themselves.

Finally, as part of Black History Month, Year 4 learned all about famous black footballers such as Ian Wright and Marcus Rashford. We found out about their careers and some of the discrimination they had faced. We also looked at their campaigning and charity work and how they have tried to improve the lives of others.

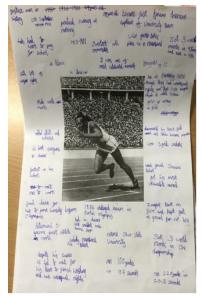
Black History Month is a time set aside each year to celebrate the achievements of black people both past and present. In Year 5, we spent October celebrating Black History Month by learning about a range of black people who were and are involved in space travel. Our studies involved learning that black people have not always been treated equally because of their race. We know this is changing but we need to keep pushing forward to make sure everyone's voices are heard and respected. In particular, we researched the amazing Katherine Johnson, who was one of the first African-American women to work as a NASA scientist. Johnson's calculations of orbital mechanics as a NASA employee were critical to the success of the first and subsequent U.S. crewed spaceflights. Year 5 created some incredible information pages. Here are two fantastic examples by Holly and Daniel:





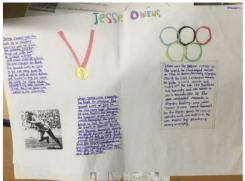
What a brilliant half term we have been having in Year 6!

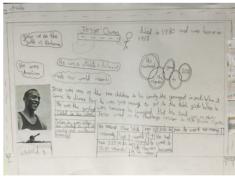
During Black History Month, we have learned about significant black people and the important things that they have done. Year 6 researched Jesse Owens who was an American track and field athlete who won four gold medals at the 1936 Olympics. After this, we had some whole class discussions to talk about the importance of Black History Month.



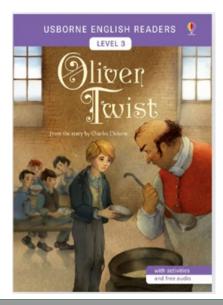








At the start of October, Year 6 performed their class assembly. We were so excited and really used our knowledge of the plot, setting and characters in Oliver Twist to create our own alternative ending. We were excited to rehearse, learn lines and consider costumes and props. We demonstrated great reciprocity and ambition and were very proud of what we achieved!



ONLINE SAFETY



This month's online safety focus was on 'Copyright and Ownership'. The children learned about the importance of naming their work to show others who it belongs to. They discussed why we should not download and claim others' work to be our own and why we need to consider whether we have the right to re-use content we find online.

'National Online Safety' produce free guides for parents and carers on a range of themes. The guide below is for the game Roblox, where you will find tips on a number of potential risks such as in-app purchases and contact with strangers.



HARVEST FESTIVALS



The children practised and participated well in our school and church Harvest Festivals. The singing and behaviour was exceptional. Thank you to the parents and carers who helped to walk the children to and from the church. Thank you also for all of your contributions for the foodbank, which were gratefully received, and to Rev. Peter O'Connell for welcoming us at St Nicholas Church.

Mrs Stephens, RE Lead







Spirited Arts Competition 2022 We have a winner!

Since 2004, the National Association of Teachers of Religious Education (NATRE) have run an arts competition, attracting entries worldwide and this year, Godstone Primary and Nursery School entered the competition for the first time. We entered 10 entries (some can be seen below). This year, 30,000 young people from across the globe, from 523 schools entered. There were only 27 winning entries, one of which was from Godstone Primary and Nursery School! Congratulations to **Sebastian** on his winning entry for the Spirited Arts Competition 2022! You can see his winning entry here: Spirited Arts Gallery (2022) (natre.org.uk).



Sebastian received a certificate and a prize and the school won a voucher that can be put towards RE resources. Sebastian explained his entry saying, "God did create the Earth. I chose a lion because they are the king of the jungle. People are to keep care of the animals of the whole wide world."

Mrs Stephens, RE Lead



Spirited Arts Competition 2022

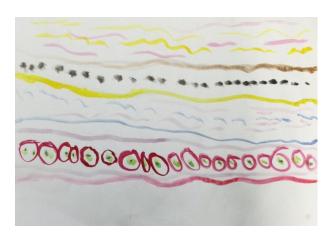
I bouch at the show celebrations and Ideas.
The religion that inspired my work is ladain.
I think my work conseres or religion because
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In RE in good to explore Losh of religions, so you can have about peoples heliges. To make the image, when I did was I drew would suithly a high breaks the I sader place is would suithly a high breaks the I sader place is would suithly a high breaks the I sader place is would be before I a my pictibre, you can see the Saker of Parish and the word.

A thic













to more animals and more oxygen to us, and we can work hader to reduce, reuse and recycle. I think my artwork connects to religion because no matter what religion you are or what belies you gollow, we all have one thing in common and that is to make the right choices and celebrate the beauty of the Earth.

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.
- Pupils who arrive after 8:50am 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 Headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. The Headteacher 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 Headteacher, 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 Headteacher Mrs S Emmerson
Education Welfare Officer

GODSTONE NURSERY

APRIL 2023

FUNDED PLACES AVAILABLE FOR 3 AND 4 YEAR OLDS

We have places available for 3 and 4 year olds for April 2023.

Our Nursery class is led by a qualified teacher, supported by experienced staff to ensure every child is happy: because happy children learn best.

From the term after your child turns three they are entitled to either 15 or 30 hours free early education. To be eligible for funding after Easter your child must be three by 31st March.

We operate either a beginning of the week place (all day Monday, all day Tuesday and Wednesday morning) or end of the week place (Wednesday afternoon, all day Thursday and all day Friday). Full week places are available upon request for those who qualify for 30 funded hours.

We aim to provide the environment to enable your children to be:

- *Нарру
- *Enthusiastic
- *Keen to learn
- *Sociable





RECEPTION ADMISSIONS

····· No internet? ····:

If you don't have internet access at home, why not visit your local library? Just call 03456 009 009 to book a computer and you can use the internet for free.

To request a paper application form or for all other enquiries, you can call us on 0300 200 1004.

surreycc.gov.uk/admissions



Important dates

31 October 2022

You can apply online for a school place.

15 January 2023

Closing date for primary applications but we welcome early applications.

17 April 2023

Primary outcomes will be sent by post or email. If you applied online, you will receive an email in the evening with the outcome and you can also view your school offer online. If you registered for ParentComms, you will also receive a notification with the outcome.

By 02 May 2023

You must confirm whether you wish to accept or decline the place you have been offered.

By 16 May 2023

If you wish to appeal for a community or voluntary controlled school listed on your form, you should submit it by this date so that it can be heard by 18 July 2023. Other schools may have different appeal deadlines.

Is your child starting school in September 2023?

If your child was born between 1 September 2018 and 31 August 2019 you will need to apply for a school place between 31 October 2022 and 15 January 2023.

Is your child in year 2?

If your child attends an infant school you will need to apply for a place at a junior school or a primary school with a year 3 intake.

Apply online
between
31 October 2022
and 15 January 2022



How do I apply?

- The quickest and easiest way to apply for a school place is online. Visit surreycc.gov.uk/admissions to access the application form and more information on the application process and admission arrangements for Surrey schools. It is important that you consider this information carefully when you make your application.
- You can start your online application any time from 31 October 2022 but you must have completed it by 15 January 2023.
- You can download the app ParentComms to your mobile device to receive notifications about your application.
- Once you have submitted your application you will receive a confirmation email.
- On 17 April 2023 you will receive an email with the outcome of your application and, if you have registered for ParentComms, you will also receive a notification with the outcome.
- You will need to accept or decline your offer of a school place online by 02 May 2023.

What else do I need to know?

- You should contact schools directly if you'd like to arrange a visit.
- You can name up to four schools on your application form, in the order that you prefer them. Where possible the local authority will allocate a place at one of these schools.
- Schools will not know where you have ranked them on the application form so the order of your preferences does not disadvantage you.
- The local authority has a duty to provide a place for your child but it does not have to be at one of your preferred schools.
- If your child is attending a nursery attached to a school, you must still apply for a reception place as there is no automatic transfer.
- If your child is leaving year 2 of an infant school, you can only apply for schools which have an intake at year 3.
- If you have an older child already at the school, you must still apply for a younger
- If you have more than one child applying for a school place, you must make a separate application for each of them.
- If you live in Surrey you must apply to Surrey, even if the schools you list are outside Surrey.

- Some schools may need you to submit a supplementary information form in addition to the application form. Find out more about supplementary information forms at surreycc.gov.uk/admissions.
- If you are registered for council tax you must supply the name of the borough or district and the council tax account number for the property where your child normally lives. Otherwise you will be asked to provide evidence of where your child lives.
- When applying online you must make sure that you press 'submit' at the end of your application and that you receive a confirmation email which sets out your preferences and confirms your application reference number.
- If you do not receive a confirmation email you should check your application to ensure its status has been changed to 'submitted'.
- If you write to us or submit information to support an application, remember to include your child's name, date of birth and application reference number (if you applied online).
- If your child has an education, health and care plan, there is a separate process and you will receive more information from your child's SEND Case Officer.







Friends of Godstone Primary and Nursery School (FOGPANS) is a group of parents who organise events throughout the year to raise funds to support the school. So far this term we have raised £120 through Bags2school. Thank you for all your donations.

Upcoming events include a **Christmas Fair** on **Friday 9th December** after school and a **Christmas Wreath Making Workshop** on **Tuesday 13th December** at 6:30pm.

Funds will be used this term to buy each child in the school a book from Father Christmas, Christmas crackers for the Christmas lunch and materials for decoration morning.

We are also in the process of registering as a charity to allow us to claim gift aid.

Ways you can support the Christmas Fair:

- Christmas Colouring Competition: This will be coming home on Friday 25th November, please return by Wednesday 7th December with a donation attached. Prizes will be available to collect at the Christmas Fair.
- **Friday 2nd December:** Bring a jar filled with wrapped sweets, in return for another own clothes day. If you would like to, you could decorate the jar.
- **Friday 9th December:** Bring a bottle for the bottle tombola in return for your child being able to wear their own clothes instead of school uniform. This can be an alcoholic drink or soft drink.
- **Friday 9**th **December:** Bring cupcakes, biscuits, tray bakes, or a large cake for the cake stall. These can be homemade or shop bought.

On Friday 25th November our Christmas raffle tickets will be coming home for you to sell, with lots of great prizes to be won. The prize draw will take place at the Christmas Fair.

Other ways you can support FOGPANS:

*Come along to our meetings to help plan and organise events or volunteer at events.

*Join the **FOGPANS Facebook page** for reminders and updates from Friends.

*Use the **Easy Fundraising App** to make purchases on Amazon, M&S, eBay, Sainsburys, Argos and many more, to raise funds for the Friends for free. (Make sure you go through the app to do all your Christmas shopping; it may not seem like much but every little helps.) www.easyfundraising.org.uk

We are planning lots of events for the spring and summer terms. With your support, we would like to run discos, cake sales, an Easter or Summer Fair and a stall at the Donkey Derby in the summer holidays.

For more information about joining Friends please speak to:

Madelaine Price 07985 124067

Or Email: FOGPANS@googlegroups.com

Madelaine Price - Chair Tony Long - Vice Chair Katie Cook - Treasurer





The NHS has lots of information and ideas to support your child's language. We know that language development is the most important factor in developing a child's ability to access the school curriculum and learn to read. Visit https://www.nhs.uk/start4life/baby/learning-to-talk/3-to-5-years/#anchor-tabs for more information.

Chat, play, read!

Young children love it when you chat, play and read with them, even if you think they're too young to understand. You can turn almost anything into a game. And every little thing you do together will help set them up nicely for the day they start school.

Tips to help with speech development

Here are some tips and activities to help your child develop their speech skills:

- use things your child is interested in for play, follow their lead and make sure you're
 physically at their level while playing
- if you notice your child looking or pointing at something, talk to them about it before they lose interest in it
- picture books introduce your child to new things they haven't seen yet in real life ask them to tell you the story, or talk about what the characters might be thinking and feeling
- make reading, singing and playing even more fun by using lots of actions and different voices
- take turns to make noises or speak your child will be able to hold longer conversations, so slow down your speech, give them plenty of time to respond and listen carefully to what they have to say
- talk to your child in short, simple sentences, as it's easier for them to understand you and have a go at copying when they are ready
- try to use the same book or sing the same song, as young children learn a lot from repetition.









Festive Wreath Making Workshop

Always wanted to learn how to make your own Christmas wreath..?

Join us in the Godstone Primary and Nursery School Hall on **Tuesday 13th December from 18.30** for a Wreath Making Masterclass with our friends at Darling Buds of Windsor (https://www.instagram.com/darlingbudsofwindsor)

The workshop will last for around 2 hours where you will create a stunning 12-inch festive wreath to adorn your door over this magical time of the year. We will have a range of different foliage for you to use from the traditional fir & holly, along with dried fruits, seed heads, ribbons, and much more.

Tickets are £32 per person which includes a drink and a mince pie on arrival with further festive refreshments available to purchase on the night.

Please contact the Friends of Godstone Primary and Nursery School at FOGPANS@googlegroups.com to book your space. Spaces are limited so please book early to avoid disappointment!





Are you a parent with a child aged 0 - 11 years old living in Tandridge?

Our family support team can offer advice and support on a range of topics including parenting, challenging behaviour, managing your child's anxiety and emotions, SEND, domestic abuse, financial assistance or grants, mental health support and much more. Contact us at: TandridgeFamilyCentre@barnardos.org.uk for further information.

We operate on a referral basis, but if your family have not been referred to us we can still support you.

- * You may like to attend any of our courses and programmes.
- * Contact us on the email address above so that we can provide you with information and advice.

Tandridge Family Centre is based in Hurst Green, Oxted. Please let us know what type of support you need in the local area by completing a short survey (you will not need to give any personal details and it should only take 2 minutes). https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/4EGMEV/ The survey will be open until **Friday 9th December 2022** and we will let you know the outcome of the responses. Thank you

Current groups and courses:

Parenting Puzzle - We offer 4 week or 10 week programmes, either face to face or virtually. The courses are designed to encourage parents and carers to enjoy bringing up children and get the best out of family life. It will help families with strategies to manage behaviour.

Who's In Charge - Online course for parent with children aged 7+. The course is designed to help parents/carers whose children are violent/abusive towards them. It gives strategies and help to manage and defuse these tricky situations and behaviour.

Talking Teens Parenting Group - A 4 week programme to help parents improve and support their relationship with children starting adolescence. Encouraging positive relationships between parents and their children and giving more understanding about the teenage brain.

Managing emotions - A 6 week programme to support parents in building their children's self-regulation skills and to manage their emotions. The first session will be a parent only webinar to help parents understand how the brain functions and stress triggers (suitable for children aged 7+).

Freedom Programme - A 12 week course for women who have experienced domestic abuse.

Rainbow Group - Stay and play group filled with activities for children with SEND (pre-school children) Siblings welcome! Supported by the Early Support team, who are available to offer help and advice.

Time to Nurture - An informal group for parents or careers to come and play and relax with their baby (from 0—24 months).

Baby Massage – A 5 week course to promote parent and baby wellbeing and bonding (for babies aged 8weeks – 5months).

MESSAGES FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE

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

Monday to Thursday:-

8:30am-9:30am*

3:00pm-4:15pm

Friday:-

8:30am-9:30am*

3:00pm-4:00pm

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'. This is an area that the Education Welfare Officer looks very closely at.

ADVERTISEMENTS



Come and join us at the beginning of Advent

Lou & Nathan Fellingham

Streamed Live on the big screen - a Journey through the Christmas Story, singing carols and celebrating together with Mince Pies and Mulled Wine.





^{*}Phone calls will still be taken outside of these times.

ADVERTISEMENTS



£25,000 TO HELP WITH YOUR ENERGY BILLS THIS WINTER







If you have a low income and hard to heat home, you may be eligible for up to £25,000 of home improvements to cut your energy use and reduce your costs.

Find out more and apply at www.actionsurrey.org or call 0800 783 2503.

























ADVERTISEMENTS



FREE Tea, Toast, Cake and Conversations!

Community Support,
Advice and Initiatives!

Warm, Open, Inclusive Space for everybody!

Special celebratory
Events & Workshops!

Want to get involved or volunteer? Please email office@stjhurstgreen.co.uk