

# NEWSLETTER



GODSTONE PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL

Spring 2, 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been wonderful to witness all of the exciting learning that the children have been engaged with as another term draws to an end. Several achievements stand out to me, such as the East Surrey Dance Festival, the football tournaments at Oxted School and our amazing OFSTED report to name a few.

I am delighted to announce that we are now working more closely with the charity Barnardo's. They will be offering drop in sessions on the first Thursday of every month for any parents who would like extra advice and support about:

- Family Life
- Cost of Living
- Relationships
- Parenting
- Housing
- Mental Health
- Emotional Regulation

The drop in sessions will be held in our SENCO room. Access to the SENCO room can be gained via the external door leading to the staff car park from 8.45am to 9.15am. From 9.15am to 10.15am, bookable appointments can be offered to parents.

The first session will take place on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April, with the next session on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May. If you would like to book an appointment, then please contact me directly via email – [head@godstone.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:head@godstone.surrey.sch.uk).

There is an attached flyer within the newsletter, if parents would like to learn more about Barnardo's offer at Godstone Primary and Nursery School.

I hope that you all have a restful Easter break and I look forward to seeing you on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April for the start of a new term.

Yours sincerely,

*N. J. Usher*

**Mr Nick Usher**  
Headteacher



# NURSERY



To make pancakes for Shrove Tuesday, Nursery walked to Londis to buy the ingredients for pancakes and the toppings for them. We made the pancakes, put the toppings on and ate them, using our senses to describe them. The children enjoyed role-play in the pancake station, pancake races outside and choosing toppings to go on their pancakes in the workshop.





# NURSERY

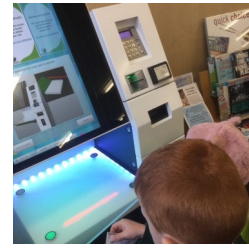


There have been many visitors to Nursery, some as part of our 'People Who Help Us' topic. We have had a past police officer, firefighters, a major in the army, a parent reading to the children in French and parents sharing books with the children. The children loved trying on the uniforms, investigating the different equipment and trying army rations! The children also asked the firefighters lots of questions when they visited with the fire engine.



# RECEPTION

We have had an exciting couple of months with a trip to the library, two visits to St Nicholas' church and numerous visitors - not forgetting our weekly visits to Forest School! As part of our 'Helpful Heroes' topic, we welcomed Godstone Fire service, police officers and an ambulance technician in to talk to us about how they help others and what their jobs entail. We learned great facts from each of these experiences and have been using this to extend our imaginative play.



Over the past few weeks at Forest School, we have looked at the work of Andy Goldsworthy, a British sculptor. We recreated some of his work using natural resources. We also read 'The Gruffalo' and children were challenged with making a log pile house for snake and a Gruffalo crumble in the mud kitchen. As part of our bird themed week, the children made their own bird feeders, observed and listened for birds and created bird hides to watch the birds from!



This half term, the children have been reading a variety of books including, 'Monkey Puzzle' and 'The Gingerbread Man.' These texts have sparked some fantastic oral re-telling of stories and role play! We have baked gingerbread men, written our own version of the story and learned the 'Monkey Puzzle' song for our class assembly at the end of the term.





# YEAR 1

## Class Assembly

I think you will agree that we had an amazing Year 1 assembly. The children successfully told the story of Pompeii and how the events unfolded. They were brilliant and worked so hard. A huge well done!

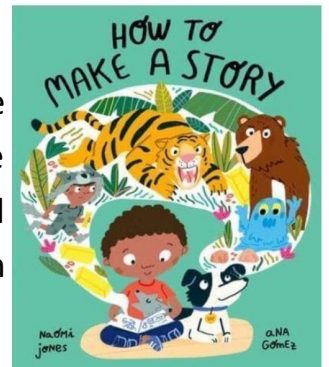
## PSHE



In PSHE, we have been talking about what we put on our bodies such as skin lotion, creams and sprays. We had a great conversation about the importance of taking care of ourselves and that what we put into our bodies also affects this. The children were really interested in becoming adults and what this may look like for them.

## English and Geography

In English and Geography, we have been looking at the weather. We looked at fiction books about rain and non-fiction books about the weather. This has been closely linked with our geography unit and the children have been so excited to monitor our weather in England.



## World Book Day

The children really enjoyed being authors for the day. We read a story all about how stories are made. The children then planned and designed their very own books. They really enjoyed writing and sharing ideas, it really gave them a sense of creativity and ownership. There were also some amazing costumes.

## Forest School

The children have really enjoyed another half term of forest school. Although the weather has been challenging, the children have been resilient in their environment and are always looking forward to a Wednesday morning.



# YEAR 2

## Year 2 have had a busy spring term!

In science, we have been looking at plants. We have spent time thinking about seeds and bulbs and understanding that bulbs have everything they need inside them to grow. The children enjoyed looking at the different ways in which different seeds are dispersed—including by animals, explosion, water and the wind. After this, we spent time looking at a wide variety of fruits and predicting how many seeds we thought would be found in each piece of fruit, before finding out the actual answers. They have also learned all about germination and they worked very hard to plan and evaluate an investigation which looked at whether seeds need water and warmth to germinate. The children made some accurate and detailed predictions and were able to draw conclusions using the results of the investigation too. We finished our science learning for this half-term with a trip to Wakehurst!



This half-term we have been looking at '*human form*' in art. The children enjoyed using their own bodies to create the letters of the alphabet as well as designing human skulls and creating self-portraits.





# YEAR 3

Year 3 have shown such a fantastic interest in learning about the life cycle and features of trees this half-term with the aim of constructing their own non-chronological report of 'The Major Oak' in Sherwood Forest. The children have been so creative through role-play and within their writing to create quirky headings and sub-headings for their reports and adding the relevant research they have discovered in their own words. Many have also aspired to include some wonderful diagrams and captions within their work.

In maths, the children have had many a discussion about pieces of cake and pizza as part of their unit on fractions. Year 3 have been consolidating their knowledge of naming fractions and what it means to be a unit fraction before identifying and sequencing them on a number line.

In PE, the children have been having a wonderful time with Mrs Keogh during their swimming lessons at Woldingham School where they have been learning an array of essential skills. Year 3 have also been getting stuck into their netball lessons with Woldingham School where they have been learning to pass collaboratively to their friends whilst maintaining the rules of the game.

As part of our geography learning, the children have been extremely excited to learn about The Magic Kingdom in Florida and beyond. Year 3 have been building their knowledge of the United States of America and their skills in map reading within each lesson. We have also had some very fun discussions about theme parks when locating each of the rides found in The Magic Kingdom, watching old footage of the Apollo 11 launch and also when creating our own car badges as part of a campaign to conserve sea turtles in Florida.

We loved the children's costumes for World Book Day this half-term! Year 3 looked fantastic and dived right in to all of the activities planned for them with so much enthusiasm. It was a wonderful day!



# YEAR 4

Year 4 have learned lots this half term and had lots of fun in doing so. In maths, we have been learning about perimeter and fractions and have been using all of our other maths skills to help us. In English, we have been writing non-chronological reports all about the Anglo-Saxons and made sure we included all of the required features.

In science, our topic has been electricity. We started by looking at where electricity comes from and how there are different sources. We then learned about how to be safe with electricity and created posters to show what we had found out. Finally, we conducted investigations involving electricity. We built circuits and added lots of different components to see what effect they would have on it. For example, we used bulbs, buzzers and motors to see what would happen. Below are some photos from this lesson.

We have also been lucky to have had some specialists PE teachers help us with our lessons. Madelaine Price from Godstone Dance Academy taught us dance based on an Anglo-Saxon theme and we have also had teachers from Woldingham School teach us netball. We look forward to using all of the skills and techniques taught in future lessons!





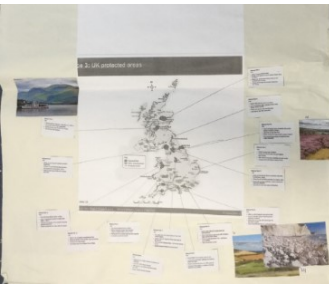
# YEAR 5



Spring Term has been filled with exciting learning this half-term in Year 5. Our science enquiry for this half-term has focused on 'Properties and Changes of Materials'. The children have been learning about: dissolving liquid to form a solution; solids, liquids and gases; forming new materials; reversible and irreversible changes; and uses of everyday materials. We have done some excellent experiments including creating our own jelly to test different hypotheses around the dissolving time, Diet Coke and Mentos to see the gas created from the reaction between the two substances and melting chocolate which we then used to make chocolate cornflake cakes.

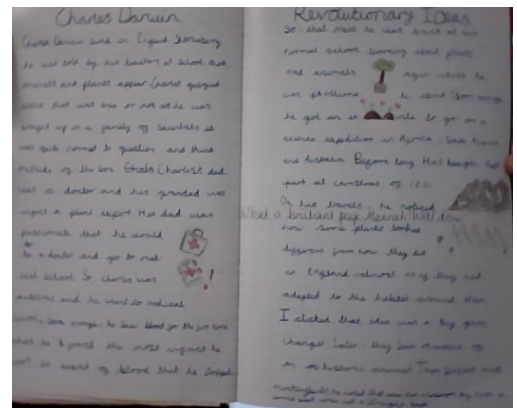
We have made great strides in improving the quality of our writing, taking inspiration from Michael Morpurgo's version of the epic poem 'Beowulf' and his emotive story, 'The Mozart Question'. Our writing is always inspired by reading high-quality texts and, on World Book Day, everyone came in dressed as a character from a book; we had some fantastic costumes and even collective costumes such as The Three Little Pigs.

# YEAR 6



What a brilliant half-term we have had in Year 6! As part of our geography learning, we have been exploring the question 'Who are Britain's National Parks for?'. We have been learning that National Parks are an extremely significant element in both physical and human geography of the United Kingdom. National Parks are protected areas because of the wildlife, beautiful countryside and cultural heritage found there. We also discovered that they are also very popular tourist attractions. We have had great fun identifying, locating, describing and explaining the distribution of the 15 National Parks in the UK as well as recording the common key natural features of the National Parks.

We have been exploring evolution and inheritance as part of our science learning this half-term. We have been learning about the work of scientists and how this has helped develop our understanding of the process of evolution. We created information pages about the life and work of Charles Darwin.



Finally, we had great fun during World Book Day and enjoyed a variety of activities such as creating bookmarks and entering a competition.





# WORLD BOOK DAY

**Everyone from Nursery to Year 6 enjoyed celebrating World Book Day this year!**

The children's love for reading was definitely shown in the wide variety of costumes that were chosen to be worn on World Book Day. We had princesses, witches, Hermione Granger, Harry Potter, Horrid Henry, Fantastic Mr. Fox and a lot of children dressed up and disguised as Where's Wally!

Throughout the day, the children had the opportunity to engage in a number of activities based around a range of exciting texts selected by their class teacher. The children enjoyed reading lots of new books too.

At the end of the day, we all came together for a whole school assembly where the children were able to show their own costumes as well as enjoy looking at the costumes of children across the school. We also had lots of children enter the 'design your own book cover' competition and the winners of this competition were invited up to the front of the assembly to collect their prizes and show their book cover designs. Well done to all of the winners! We were also lucky to be able to listen to three Year 6 children share a story in the assembly too—thank you to Izzy, Amelia and Evie for reading a story to the whole school!



# ONLINE SAFETY



In January, we looked at 'Online Relationships' and how the internet has opened up lots of new ways for us to communicate to others, including e-mails, messaging, gaming, video calls and voice notes. The children were able to identify who they communicate with via the internet and how.

Following this, our assemblies and lessons in class focused on how we ensure that our online communications remain responsible. These are a few of the key ideas we came up with:

- Be kind when communicating with others online, remembering that people that you meet online are real people with real feelings.
- Always ensure that you get permission before sharing pictures or videos of others.
- Remember to talk to a trusted adult if any communications you have online upset or worry you.
- Remember that anything that you send over the internet can be recovered so don't send something that you may later regret.

In February, we celebrated 'Safer Internet Day'. This year's theme was 'Want to Talk About It?' encouraging all children to talk to friends, family and trusted adults about everything they do on the internet! Whether it be about a funny video they have seen online, a favourite game or something that worries them, the most important thing we can do is talk about it!

Through an online safety assembly and lessons within classrooms, the children discussed all of the different activities they enjoy doing on the internet. All children were able to identify trusted adults, whether that be at school or home, that they can talk to about online safety.

In this month's assembly, we have looked at how search engines work, identifying how carefully selecting key words allows us to find the most relevant information to what we are looking for. The children will continue this theme of 'Managing Online Information' in their online safety lessons.



# SPORTS TOURNAMENTS

Godstone Primary and Nursery School have taken part in several sports tournaments this term. Children from Year 3 and Year 4 took part in a handball festival at Oxted School. Firstly, they practised different skills such as passing, dribbling and shooting. Then they played lots of matches against other local schools. Both teams did very well and had lots of fun learning a new sport.

Boys from Years 4, 5 and 6 represented the school in a 7-a-side football tournament against other schools. We made a great start and won our first match. After that, we had some close games against other schools with lots of older (and bigger!) children. They showed great teamwork throughout and played the game the right way. It was an excellent learning experience and we look forward to returning next year.

Finally, girls from Years 5 and 6 also represented the school in a football tournament. They played very well and managed to come second in the group having won 4 of their 6 matches. They also showed excellent teamwork and sportsmanship throughout and were great representatives for the school. Well done everyone!



# EAST SURREY DANCE FESTIVAL

On the 9th March we were delighted to be a part of the East Surrey Dance Festival. For the past 6 weeks children from Year 3 - 6 have been working intensively with Madelaine Price from Godstone Dance Academy to create two dance masterpieces.

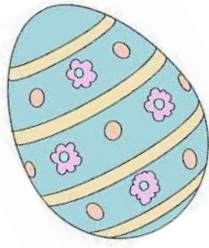
Meeting weekly and working in collaboration they created 'Trip' & 'Up' to the music from Mary Poppins. Madelaine was so impressed with the creative ideas and creations from the children. Their energy and dedication for this project was inspiring and watching them grow over the weeks was very rewarding. Heading off to the Harlequin Theatre in Redhill ready to perform was very exciting and the children enjoyed this special experience. The children all acted very professionally during the rehearsals and performed amazingly in the afternoon.

They certainly made our school proud!

Congratulations to all of the children involved!







## **Friends of Godstone Primary and Nursery School**

Friends of Godstone Primary and Nursery School  
have had a busy couple of weeks and with your help and support  
had a very successful

## **Easter Eggstravaganza!**

Our Easter Eggstravaganza on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March raised a total of **£1,830.00**

Thank you to all children, parents, carers and families who attended  
and helped us to raise these funds.

Thank you to all the raffle prize donors.

Thank you to all of the volunteers, teachers and wider staff for their time and support  
in making this event happen.

## **HOW WE HAVE HELPED**

This term we have committed funds towards purchasing high quality texts for the  
children to use in their learning

We will be providing funding towards stationery and resources for the children to  
use and access at school.

## **REGISTERED CHARITY STATUS**

We are very happy to report that FOGPANS is now a registered charity.  
If you have an event coming up that you could be sponsored, please get in touch  
about doing this in aid of FOGPANS!

## **WE NEED YOU...**

If anyone is interested in joining the FOGPANS committee please get in touch. We are  
a growing committee and the more of us there are, the more ideas we have.

If you are available to volunteer at our events, please get in touch

Friends of Godstone Primary and Nursery School  
would like to wish you all a very

# **HAPPY EASTER**

and we look forward to bringing you more fun next term

# GODSTONE NURSERY

**SEPTEMBER 2023**

## **FUNDED PLACES AVAILABLE FOR 3 AND 4 YEAR OLDS**

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

Our Nursery class is led by a qualified teacher and 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 August 2023.

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 an environment that enables the children to be:

- Happy
- Enthusiastic
- Keen to learn
- Sociable
- Caring

If you would like more information, please do speak to the School Office.





# **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

# 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**

\*Phone calls will still be taken outside of these times.

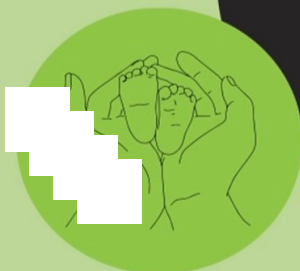
Please may we remind you that children should arrive between **8:40am-8:50am**. If your child comes in after 8:50am, this will be registered as a 'late mark'. This is an area that the Education Welfare Officer looks very closely at.

# ADVERTISEMENTS

## Tandridge Family Centre Drop-in Sessions

From April 2023 on the first Thursday of every month 08:45-09:15. An opportunity to have discussions with the Tandridge Family Centre to gain advice and support about:

- Family Life
- Cost of Living
- Relationships
- Parenting
- Housing
- Mental Health
- Emotional Regulation



## Services:

The Family Centre offers one-on-one support along with the following groups for families in Tandridge:

- Baby Massage (2-5 months)
- Parenting Puzzle
- Time to Nurture (0-24 months)
- Managing Emotions (ages 5-11 years)
- Rainbow Group

Believe in  
children  
Barnardo's



## More Info

Tandridge Family Centre  
Hurst Green Infant School, Wolfs  
Wood, Hurst Green, Oxted, Surrey  
RH8 0HJ  
[www.barnardos.org.uk](http://www.barnardos.org.uk)

## Contact us

[TandridgeFamilyCentre@barnardos.org.uk](mailto:TandridgeFamilyCentre@barnardos.org.uk)  
+447783848271  
+447592593580

## 1:1 Appointments

10-15 minutes of bookable one-to-one appointments available from 09:15-10:15 with Family Support Workers. Enquire with the school for appointments



# ADVERTISEMENTS

## Adult contemporary dance class

A feel good, dynamic dance class that will get your heart beating and give you the chance to escape the stresses of every day life!

Tuesdays 8.15-9.15pm / £8 per class

Suitable for all levels of experience

Venue: Godstone Primary and Nursery School hall

Enquiries: [godstonedanceacademy@gmail.com](mailto:godstonedanceacademy@gmail.com)



# MATILDA

**Inspired Music & Dance Workshop**

**Join us this Easter Holiday**  
**Tuesday 4 April - Thursday 6 April**

year 1+ 9am - 3pm -  
£100.00 for 3 days

age 4 - reception age 9am  
- 12.00pm - £50 for 3 days

Held at Godstone  
Primary School  
Hall

to book your place email [godstonedanceacademy@gmail.com](mailto:godstonedanceacademy@gmail.com)