

# NEWSLETTER

October 2015

Godstone Village School



Dear Parents/Carers,

What a busy start we have made to our school year! We are delighted with the way all our children are settling in and embracing the new concept of Building Learning Power across all areas of their learning – even assemblies!

It was lovely to see so many of you at my head teacher presentation, sharing my vision and ethos for the school. The rapturous applause at the end really did make clear your enthusiasm and excitement in taking the school forward together! All class teachers presentations were well attended and we hope you feel well informed about your child's year ahead and the handouts a useful reference.

There are lots of important dates for you to take note of in the diary section of this newsletter. In particular, the dates for parents' evenings, sign up letters are to follow soon. Please remember at any time over the school year members of staff are available to talk to regarding any concerns you may have – the quicker the dialogue we have together, the quicker we can resolve a concern.

Since the start of term I have been reviewing and making changes to our systems and procedures in school to improve communication and efficiency. I would like to thank you for your understanding and patience with this matter.

Thank you for your support.

Candida Jarrott-Chase

Head Teacher

## Maths Day

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September, we visited Salfords Primary school for a “maths day” with the mathematician and lecturer Andrew Jefferies. At the event we took part in lots of activities to help extend our maths knowledge. The different activities included: Sum Sudoku, ordering cards, maths magic and magic circles.

During the Sum Sudoku activity we had to answer some maths Sudoku problems. This was hard at first as we had to put only one of each number per row and column, it got easier after a while once we got the hang of it.

After lunch Andrew Jeffery showed us some fantastic card tricks. Our activity was to recreate the card tricks using our maths problem solving skills. We were given certain clues to help us solve these magic maths tricks.

The last activity in the afternoon was Magic Circles. We were given sheets which contained dots creating a circle on the paper. Our task was to link each dot to the other dots, once we had finished joining the dots we realised we had created a mesmerising piece of artwork.

We had a lovely time and really appreciated the opportunity we were given to further our maths knowledge throughout the day.



Report by:

Jessica Yr6

Hannah Yr6

Isabelle Yr5

Cameron Yr5

Oscar Yr6

Noah Yr5



Thanks to Mrs Jarrott-Chase, Mrs Evans and Mrs Edmonds for organising and taking us to this event.

## **PARKING and DROP OFF**

The rules:

- Disabled bays are for parents/carers who drop off or collect immobile children. This is not to be flouted e.g. displaying a disabled badge in the vehicle then a mobile adult getting out and walking to either drop off or pick up a mobile child.
- The drop off and pick up is a flow system – please ensure children get in or out of your vehicle from the pavement side. Any parking during this time blocks the flow of traffic and reduces visibility to other drivers and pedestrians.
- Drive in and out very slowly and be patient!
- Be aware of blocking the driveways of neighbours and residence.

The reality:

- I have been speaking with residents. One such resident had to clear up kitchen roll thrown under a car with child's excrement inside – this parent then drove off.
- I have seen a parent drive off with a child sitting on a passenger's lap because the bicycle was placed on the back seat. This is against the law and we recorded your number plate details.
- I have also been made aware that some parents are being abusive to my staff and other parents who challenge them over this behaviour. What message does this send to our children? It is suffice to say, a child would face severe consequences at school if they ever spoke to anyone in our school community like that!

Well done to those parents who walk their children to and from school!

If parents/carers continue to not comply, I will start the practice of recording the number plates of cars driving and parking dangerously or anti-socially at school drop off and pick up times, as reported to us by parents and local residents. I will publish these in our newsletters and report them to the police – like other schools do.

I am sure you will agree that we have a collective responsibility for the safety of all our children and this is non-negotiable.

Candida Jarrott-Chase

Head Teacher

## Sports Pitch

We are pleased to report that all the work has been finalised on the new sports pitch and finally after over a year since we won the funding from Sport England it should be open for the children on Tuesday, 6th October (once the fencing is removed). We know it will be a great addition to the school and it will be well worth the wait! It has taken a long time to finally get it installed as we had to request planning permission and have environmental studies undertaken. We want to thank Friends again for all the fundraising they did for the hard surface that had to be put down underneath the sport surface.

Mrs Payne (Bursar)



## Environmental Club

At the end of last term, the school's greenhouse blew down in strong winds. Since then the Gardening Club, now called Environmental club, have been campaigning for a new greenhouse. They have written to several Village organisations including the Lions Club, Godstone Village Association and Godstone Gardening Club, all of whom have offered help, with the Lions Club giving a very generous donation of £200. The Gardening Club have offered to help with greenhouse staging, pots and compost. The Village Association have also offered help, by obtaining a discount from a local supplier and help with putting the greenhouse up. The greenhouse is essential so we can grow plants and vegetables and sell these at the summer fayre, which generates additional income for the club. It is also invaluable when learning about plants, life cycles and growing. If you would like to make a donation towards the new greenhouse, this can be made via the school office.

Thank you from Environmental Club,  
Mrs Barnard and Mr Leonard

Thank you for your support with the removal of earrings. It is good to see all of the children fully involved in PE.



## Harvest

The children will be celebrating Harvest festival at St Nicolas Church Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October. This year we are supporting Caterham Food Bank. A harvest letter will be sent out soon with a list of items they are able to take.

Mrs Skingley



### Dates for your Diary

Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> October		Bags to School bags being given out by Friends
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> October		Flu injections for Years 1 & 2
Wednesday 14 <sup>h</sup> October	4.40-7.30pm	KS2 Parents Evening (Years 3 to 6)
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> October	9.30am	Year 1 & Year 2 trip to Leeds Castle
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> October	3.30-5.40pm	KS2 Parents Evening (Years 3 to 6)
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> October	9.30am	Harvest Festival in St Nicholas Church
W/c 19 <sup>th</sup> October	Times to be advised	Cygnets Parents Consultation all week
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> October	4.40-7.30pm	EYFS & KS1 ( Reception, Year 1 & 2) Parents Evening
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	3.30-5.40pm	EYFS & KS1 ( Reception, Year 1 & 2) Parents Evening
26 <sup>th</sup> – 30 <sup>th</sup> October		Half Term
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November		Inset Day
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> November		Bags to School bags being collected
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> November	6.30-8.00pm	Open Evening for Prospective Parents
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	3.30-5.00pm	Christmas Fayre
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	1.30pm	Nativity Play – Cygnets and Robins
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	2.15pm	Nativity Play – Kingfishers and Owls
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	9.20am	Nativity Play – Cygnets and Robins
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	10.15am	Nativity Play – Kingfishers and Owls
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	7.00pm	KS2 Carol Concert – St Nicholas Church
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Afternoon	Christmas Party
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Morning	Panto
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> December		Christmas Lunch
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December		End of term – school closes at 1.30pm
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2016		Inset Day
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2016		Spring Term – Children return to school