

NEWSLETTER

October 2015 - Letter 2

Godstone Village School



Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for all your support this half term. We have enjoyed meeting with you over the last two weeks during the parent consultations to share with you how well your child is learning and their personal successes. In our whole school assembly on Friday the children could clearly articulate to me how I know how well they are learning! Their examples included that I have been popping into lessons; talking to teachers and staff about their learning; looking in children's books and seeking their pupil voice through internal questionnaires to find out what children think about school! I was very impressed with their responses and use of their noticing muscles! This supports us as a school, gathering evidence to consolidate to 'Good' this year under the new Ofsted framework before working towards 'Outstanding'.

I would also like to thank parents who have come to speak with me if they have any concerns. I can honestly say that all meetings have been enriching for both parties. It means ultimately that no one is living under a misconception and that we are working in partnership together! So please encourage any heard concerns to my direction or indeed to any member of staff.

Please check the updated diary dates at the end of this newsletter. In particular Friday 6th November parents/carers are invited to share their enjoyment of reading with their child in school - we will be taking photographs to capture the experience!

I hope you all enjoy the half-term break ready for another action packed half term ahead!

Best Wishes

Candida Jarrott-Chase

Head Teacher

Harvest



In the autumn term we look forward to celebrating harvest festival. We busily prepare our performances in class and practice our songs in assembly. Coming together to perform at St. Nicholas' church really motivates us all. A real buzz could be felt on the morning of the 16th October!

The service was introduced by reverend Derek Harding, who kept us all entertained with his intermittent use of Maori! Cygnets and Robins opened with their joint performance of 'Dingle Dangle Pumpkin'. We were proud of their performance as it can be a daunting experience for our youngest children. The Key Stage One classes captured many of the things we associate with autumn such as 'Scarecrow, Scarecrow' performed by Year One and Year Two's rendition of 'Pumpkins, Pumpkins'.

While we follow a traditional harvest festival, Year Three gave us the opportunity to learn about how harvest is celebrated differently around the world followed with 'When will there be a harvest for the world?' with Year Four. We particularly enjoyed the drama performance of the story of 'Maximus Mouse' by Year Four with Freddie playing the lead role with remarkable enthusiasm.

It was wonderful to see the different ways that each class were able to recognise harvest festival and this continued with Year Five's performance poetry which combined their literary and musical talents! Year Six joined Year Five to perform 'Harvest of Love' before completing the service with harvest prayers.

We all welcomed the enthusiasm of Reverend Harding, particularly at the close of the harvest festival where we learned and performed some more Maori. While we enjoyed the performances (in particular our enthusiastic performance of 'Conkers!'), we were also reminded of our good fortune to have enjoyed a good harvest this year. It is easy to forget the impact of a 'poor' harvest and the huge amount of work and sacrifice that goes into providing the food on our tables. We were all united in giving thanks for this and sparing a thought to those who are not so lucky.

With the support from so many of you we were able to display all the items that were donated to the 'Caterham Foodbank'. This is our local food bank which is a very well used resource and a really valuable service. Thank you to all who were able to make a donation. Reverend Harding also passed on a personal thank you to you all.

As always, these events are not possible to hold without so many of our parents giving up their time to walk to church with the children. A huge thank you to you all – the children really take pride in working towards performances and having so many of you there makes the thanks giving all the more meaningful and memorable for the children.

Mrs Skingley and Mr Kohlbeck



We are really pleased to announce that we have achieved a 'Silver' award for our commitment and development to sport. The School Games Mark is a government led award scheme introduced to reward schools for their commitment to, and development of, sport and competition across their school and into the community. For the previous two years we have achieved a bronze award, but through the introduction of additional lunchtime and after school clubs, to increase the participation in extra-curricular sport and our continued attendance at our local Tandridge Primary School competitions, we have reached and exceeded the criteria to achieve silver. Over the foreseeable future we will be endeavouring to achieve the gold award. After half term we will no longer be having Premier Sports teach our PE lessons, they will, however, continue to run lunchtime and after school clubs. Premier Sports have been hugely beneficial in introducing a range of alternative sports and developing staff knowledge on how to teach a range of skills.

Miss Beegan

Update on the Greenhouse

I attended the Godstone Village Association meeting on Wednesday, 21st October and I gave a talk about the School's Environmental Club, the Green Flag award and the greenhouse. I explained why the greenhouse is important, what benefits the children gain and what we grow. I am pleased to announce that we now have sufficient funding to buy the greenhouse. A full breakdown on the funding will appear in the next newsletter.

Mrs Barnard

Cross Country

On Tuesday 6th October a number of children took part in a cross country event at Oxted School. The weather had been dismal all day but it stayed dry long enough for years 3, 4 and 5 to complete their races without getting wet. Unfortunately for Year 6 it began to rain just as they set off. The children had such a positive attitude towards the race and should be commended on their effort and behaviour. Well done to all involved.

Mrs Evans



News from Robins

As of next half term, from Thursday 12th November Robins will be holding a Parent and Carer morning from 9.00am to 9.25am each week. We would be delighted if you could attend and share in some activities with your child.

In addition, cooking sessions with the children will start on Thursday mornings from the week commencing 2nd November. Each session will be linked to the learning topic of that week. Many thanks to those of you who have provided us with the funds necessary in order to facilitate this. If you have yet to pay, please do so at your earliest convenience.

Lastly, during this week the Robins and Cygnets enjoyed a fun filled Teddy Bear's picnic. As part of our literacy focus we wrote individual invitations to each of our teddy bears, as well as making our own sandwiches which were enjoyed as part of the picnic after playing several games. Mrs Andrews' teddy, Oscar, had a particularly good time, but unfortunately ate too many jam sandwiches and has had to buy himself bigger trousers!

Mr Stevens and Mrs Andrews

Parking!

Since my first newsletter there has been a considerable effort from parents to comply with before and after school parking expectations. It was all going so well for a number of weeks until we recently have had two incidences reported to us!

This was the factual information given to us by a parent:

“A car was parked in the middle of the painted zig zags outside the school (which is illegal during the hours stated) and was also parked at a natural pinch point in the road which was causing problems for other vehicles in getting past - an emergency vehicle would never have squeezed through. It was also parked across the point where parents cross and would have caused problems for the properties opposite had they wanted to exit their driveways. I had to walk out into the middle of the road with my child before I could see around this vehicle, as did many other parents.” The vehicle registration is: DN56EVM. Furthermore, T31WSN was parked in the drop off slip road at pick up time. There is photographic evidence of both of these.

Please let's work together on this next half term— we were doing so well!

Candida Jarrott-Chase

Head Teacher

We took part in a special LIVE broadcast – Surrey to Savanna!

On Monday 12th October we watched a live broadcast from Africa. We saw lots of elephants, wildebeest, warthogs and antelope. All of the elephants went to the waterhole. There was a baby elephant that was only a couple of weeks old. We got to ask questions. I asked “Why do the warthogs like the very hot sun?”

My question was answered live!

Lawrence Year 1

*Thanks to Caroline George (parent governor)
for informing us about this opportunity
through Surrey Wildlife Trust*



Remembrance Day Poppies

As we mark the centenary of the First World War, a range of fundraising merchandise, including the traditional poppy, has been sent from The British Legion and is available from our school office to purchase.

Friendship Bracelets £1

Flexi Rulers £1

Wristbands 50p

Fluffy Bugs 50p

Tattoo (Pack of 10) 50p

Hair Clips 50p

Pencils 50p

Erasers 50p

Reflective Tag 50p



LIVE ON

TO THE MEMORY OF THE FALLEN
AND THE FUTURE OF THE LIVING



Music!

We have recently had our school piano tuned so it can be used in weekly singing practise assemblies, choir and piano lessons!

One parent has kindly volunteered to play the piano for us during singing practise and for choir after school. If you are musically talented and could help teach our children singing, supported by a member of staff we would like to hear from you.



Football tournament

On Tuesday 22nd October our year 5 and 6 football team competed in the small schools tournament at St. Catherine's school. Of our four matches, we won two and lost two. We were competitive in all four matches, with goalkeeper, Noah rarely troubled in our victories. Harry performed calmly in defence, never letting himself come out of position with Luka and later, Oscar bringing the ball out of defence to start attacks well. Christian displayed outstanding skill on the ball while Cameron controlled the tempo of the game brilliantly, always looking to play the decisive pass. Benefiting from Cameron's vision was, in the main part Lily who scored two goals and was unlucky not to score more, having pulled some excellent saves out of opposition goalkeepers. Our 2-0 and 2-1 victories were more emphatic than the score line suggested while both of our 3-2 defeats were unfortunate as we created significantly more goal scoring opportunities. Overall, our quick passing game was a joy to watch and our ability to keep the ball on the floor when passing, due to our incisive movement and desire from every player to take up possession was exceptional. Thanks to Mr Kohlbeck and parents for taking the children to this event.

Diary Dates - 2nd half Autumn 2015

Monday, 2 nd November		Inset Day
Wednesday, 4 th November		Bags to School bags being collected
Friday 6 th November	9.00- 9.30	Parents/Carer reading in class
Tuesday, 24 th November	6.30- 8.00pm	Open Evening for Prospective Parents
Thursday, 26 th November	9.15- 11.45am	Open Morning for Prospective Parents
Thursday 3 rd December	9.00- 9.30	Parents/Carer reading in class
Friday, 4 th December	Times to be advised	Decoration morning
Friday, 4 th December	3.30- 5.00pm	Christmas Fayre
Tuesday, 8 th December	1.30pm	Nativity Play – Cygnets and Robins
Tuesday, 8 th December	2.15pm	Nativity Play – Kingfishers and Owls
Wednesday, 9 th December	9.20am	Nativity Play – Cygnets and Robins
Wednesday, 9 th December	10.15am	Nativity Play – Kingfishers and Owls
Wednesday, 9 th December	7.00pm	KS2 Carol Concert – St Nicholas Church
Monday, 14 th December	1.30pm	Rainbow Theatre performing We Will Meet Again for Years 5 & 6
Tuesday, 15 th December	Afternoon	Christmas Party
Wednesday, 16 th December	Morning	Panto
Thursday, 17 th December		Christmas Lunch
Friday, 18 th December		End of term – school closes at 1.30pm