

NEWSLETTER



GODSTONE PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL

Spring 1—February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been an extremely busy start to 2024 at Godstone Primary and Nursery School. So far this term, the Year 5 and 6 children have taken part in Young Voices, Reception class visited Oxted Library and the Nite Owls visited the whole school to name a few. If you want to keep up to date with what the children are getting up to, please follow our Facebook and Instagram pages.

We have lots more exciting events coming up in the remainder of the Spring Term. We have organised a Safer Internet Day and a Mental Health Wellbeing Day for the children to interact with. The children are going to be visited by the Copthorne Silver Band and Travelling Book Fair. The children will have access to an array of trips this term with Year 3 visiting Michelham Priory, Year 2 visiting Wakehurst Place and Year 4 staying at the Sustainability Centre for their residential. To find a list of all of our upcoming dates, please visit our website or look out for the diary dates emails that are regularly sent out by the school office team.

Lastly, please be extra vigilant when the children are accessing electronic devices at home. Several children are currently using devices with WhatsApp, TikTok and Snapchat on them. Please remember that most of these apps are for 13-year-olds, with WhatsApp for 16-year-olds. The use of these apps is causing the children unnecessary stress and puts extra pressure on the school to manage online situations. These forums are being accessed at home and must be closely monitored by parents and carers. It is important that we work together to safeguard the children and teach them how to use technology responsibly.

I hope that you all have a restful February half-term break and we look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 19th February 2024.

Best wishes,

N. J. Usher

Mr Nick Usher
Headteacher



NURSERY

This half-term, Nursery have been inspired by the topic 'On the Move'. We visited Godstone Green to record which vehicles travelled around the green. We have been enjoying many other mathematics activities, both inside and outside, including: creating repeating patterns around a frame, using positional and directional language in the school playground, matching amounts to numerals, building towers and completing puzzles.

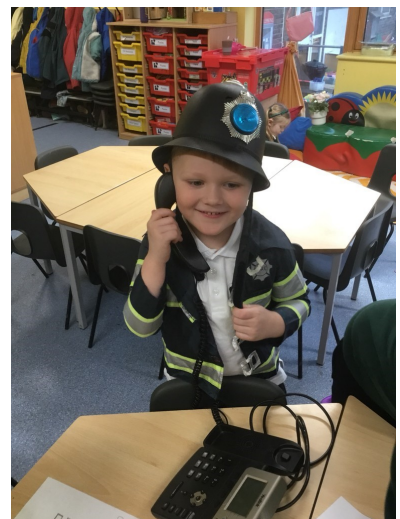


RECEPTION

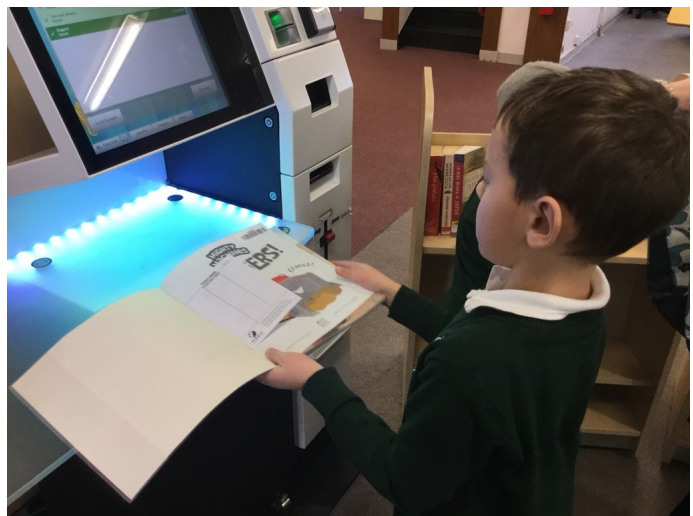
The children in Reception have had a fantastic half-term learning about 'People who Help us'. We started the term by looking at the role of a paramedic and the different equipment in an ambulance. We continued learning about the emergency services; listening to stories about the police and fire services.



We have been very lucky to welcome the local fire brigade, a police dog handler and a doctor into school to talk to us about their jobs. The children have loved taking on these roles in their play, both inside and outside of the classroom.



At the end of January, we visited Oxted Library. We travelled to the library on a public bus. The librarian told the children all about the library and read them a story. The children then had time to explore the books before selecting one to borrow on the school library card.



YEAR 1

Instructional Writing in Year One

In English, we are learning how to write a set of instructions. The non-fiction text that we are basing our writing on is called *Science Experiments*. We have done three different experiments over the past three weeks. The first one that we completed was the *Magic Pens Experiment*, where we tested the different colours that make up: red, orange, green, blue, purple and black pens. Once we carried out the experiment, we then wrote a set of instructions to give to another person so that they could try the experiment. We all enjoyed doing this experiment and were amazed with the results!



YEAR 2

Year 2 has had a fantastic half-term! They have particularly enjoyed having the opportunity to go swimming at Woldingham School every Monday morning. It has been great to see both their confidence in the water grow and the progress that they have made with their swimming over the last five weeks.

In DT, the children were challenged to make 'moving monsters'. Before beginning their designing, the children learned about pivots, levers and linkages and how they are connected. Everyone created their own design criteria for their moving monster and then produced two different designs. The children helped one another to choose their final design. It was fantastic to see the children showing reciprocity and resourcefulness when making their monsters and, once completed, reflectiveness when evaluating the monster that they had made.



On Thursday 8th February, Year 2 shared their class assembly with the school and their parents. They have worked very hard with their history learning this half-term in which they have explored the enquiry question, 'How do our favourite toys and games compare with those of children in the 1960s?'. The children found it interesting to see what life was like in the 1960s and some of them even interviewed individuals who grew up in the 1960s to learn more about what they remember from this decade.

YEAR 3

Year 3 has had a fantastic start to the new year! They have thoroughly enjoyed their fiction text, 'The Proudest Blue' and have improved their quality of writing through the use of prepositions and inverted commas. They have also discussed different faiths and how they represent their beliefs from around the world to write from the point of view of their characters.

As part of their non-fiction writing, Year 3 has been analysing the features of a recount in order to be able to write their own about a scientific experiment they carried out using Newton metres and magnets this half-term.

In maths, the children have been completing their unit on multiplication and division, multiplying and dividing two-digit by one-digit numbers. They have been getting hands-on with their learning, using place value grids and counters to consolidate what they have learned. This hands-on learning can even be seen within their D&T lessons, whereby the children have been experimenting with balloons to observe how static electricity works with the aim of designing and making their own games by the end of the term.

In PE, the children have been having a wonderful time incorporating their science unit of 'Forces and Magnets' into dance with Miss Madelaine. Year 3 has been experimenting with the ways in which they can move their bodies to represent forces and magnets in action, including clockwork toys and pulling and pushing forces.

In French, Year 3 has become very familiar with the numbers 1-10 and apply these in their answers when being asked how old they are and when being asked to carry out mathematical sums in French.

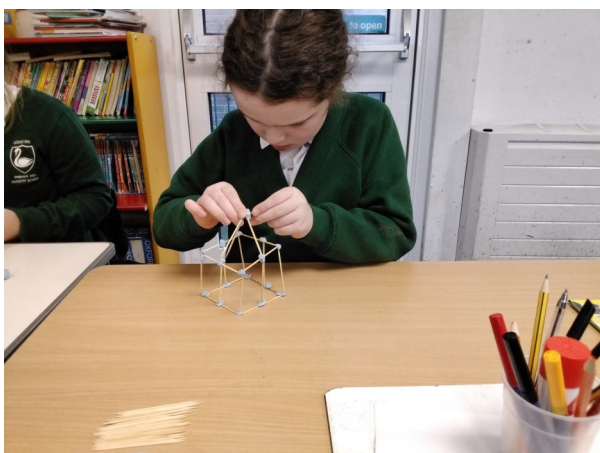
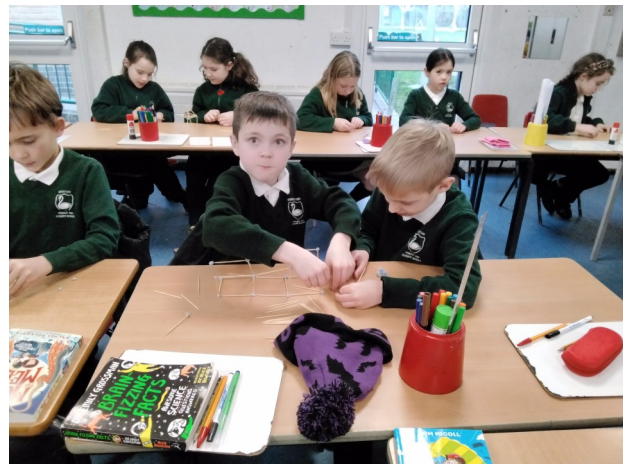


YEAR 4

It has been another busy half-term for Year 4. We have been learning all about the Anglo-Saxons in our English and history topics and have looked at their homes, their jobs and what food they ate. We also learned about famous Anglo-Saxon kings such as Ethelbert and Alfred the Great. In English, we also read the story 'Malala's Magic Pencil' which is an adapted autobiography by Malala Yousafzai. We discovered how she could use the power of her writing to change the world and imagined what we could do if we had our own magic pencil.

In maths, we have been looking at multiplication and division and I have been really impressed by some of the maths homework that Year 4 has completed. Even more impressive has been the commitment and participation in Times Table Rock Stars this term. Lots of children are taking part in it regularly and there has been a huge improvement in the scores achieved in the 'Soundcheck' mode. Keep it up Year 4!

In PE, we have been practising badminton and hockey. We have been especially lucky to have a specialist hockey coach from Woldingham School who has organised some really fun and informative lessons for us. Finally, we have been making models in DT as part of our 'Structure: pavilions' topic. We worked in pairs to plan and create our own models.



YEAR 5



This half-term, Year 5 has been engrossed in learning about World War II, focusing on the Battle of Britain. They have been immersing themselves in the past and created a timeline that chronicles the brave actions and valiant efforts of heroes from the Battle of Britain.

Alongside exploring the timeline, they have been digging into the lives of world leaders during that tumultuous time. Through their research, they have gained valuable insights into the political strategies that shaped this iconic event.



Additionally, our aspiring writers have been delving deep into the reasons why the Battle of Britain was so crucial in 1940. Using their analytical skills, Year 5 will now articulate the importance of the battle in defending our island, preserving our freedom, and boosting morale during the darkest days of World War II through a final piece of historical writing.

This final piece of writing will give all the children the opportunity to show off their new writing skills, using subordinate clauses to add depth to their sentences and adding parenthesis (brackets, dashes and commas) to include more information.

'Never in the field of human conflict was so much been owed by so many to so few.' - Winston Churchill

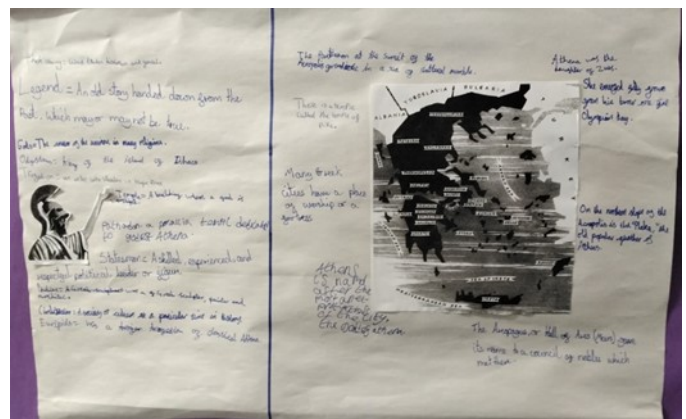
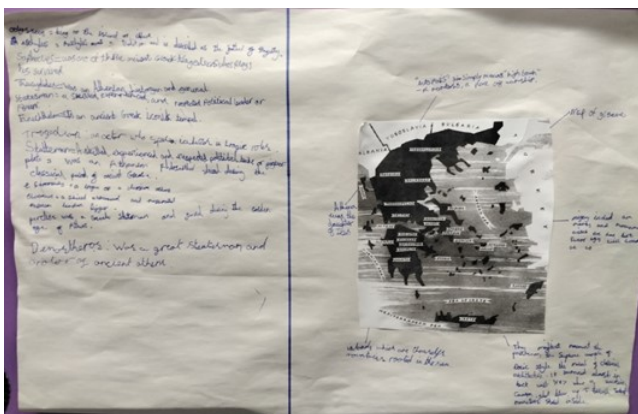


YEAR 6

What a brilliant half-term Year 6 has had. We are very proud of our Year 6 children for their class assembly. They have been learning about The Trojan War and the story of the Trojan Horse. By the end of the half-term, they will reach a judgement based on whether it is a historical fact, legend or a classical myth.



To build on their learning about Ancient Greece, the children have been creating visitor guides in our English lessons. They began by researching all about different landmarks, events and making a list of key, subject-specific vocabulary.



YOUNG VOICES

Young Voices 2024

On Monday 29th January, 31 children from Years 5 and 6 and five members of staff embarked on their Young Voices experience. After many months of rehearsing during lunch times, after school and at home, the big day finally arrived.

We left school at 11:30 and travelled up to London's O2 arena. Once we arrived, we checked in and had some lunch before venturing up to wonderfully positioned seats, as we were in perfect view of the main stage!

The rehearsal session began at 14:15 and finished at 16:15. The choir, which was made up of 9,000 children, all rehearsed beautifully and were ready for the main event to begin at 19:00.

The concert was phenomenal. They sang many songs, participated beautifully and contributed to the performances of three special guests. The children were fantastic representatives of the school and made us all, teachers and parents, extremely proud.

At the end of the evening, the children all agreed that the concert exceeded their expectations and that they would all love to do it again!

We would all like to say a huge well done to the Year 5s and 6s, who took part, you were all pitch-perfect!



FOREST SCHOOL

This half-term, Reception has continued to enjoy their Forest School sessions. These are some of the things we have been up to;

- **Spotting signs of winter.** The children used magnifying glasses to go on a hunt around the playground and Forest School area to spot signs of winter. We looked closely at the frost and ice. We also talked about changes that happen during this season.
- **Games.** The children have enjoyed playing a new game, 'penguin huddle'. In this game, a number is called out and children need to get themselves into groups of that number. When they hear 'penguin huddle,' all children go together in a big huddle. This has been a great activity to practise our maths and keep warm!



- **Fire.** Reception had their first fire this half term. They were mesmerised by it and many of them sat there for the whole session talking about what they could see, hear and smell. Once the fire was established, the children toasted apple slices dipped in sugar and cinnamon.

- **Bird feeders.** As it has been the RSPB's Big Bird Watch recently, the children have enjoyed making bird feeders to encourage more birds into the school grounds. They covered toilet rolls in melted lard and then rolled these in seeds until completely covered. These were then hung in the trees.



School Council

The school council is made up of two or three children from each class who would like to work to improve the outcomes of our school. The school council reps have asked the children in their classes how they think we can improve our school and how we can help others.

The school council meets half-termly to plan, discuss and action the changes they have decided on.

This year they are working on the following areas:

To be responsible for improving the school environment inside and outside

- ⇒ Improve the book areas in the classrooms to make them more inviting.
- ⇒ Reduce the litter on the playground by reminding children to use the bins, increase the number of bins and pick litter when they see it.
- ⇒ Investigate how we can improve the quality of the grass outside.
- ⇒ Discuss how we can improve the toilets with Mr Usher and the parent reps.



To have ambition for our extra-curricular activities

- ⇒ Reinstate the playground equipment for use at lunchtime.
- ⇒ Suggest ideas for clubs.



To show compassion by raising money for other people

- ⇒ Create a shortlist of charities that we can support.
- ⇒ Explore different ideas for fundraising activities.

Please support us in our sponsored read from 7th February to 7th March to raise funds to improve our classroom book areas.

We hope to share how our plans have developed later in the year.



Christmas Tree Festival

St Nicholas Church Christmas Tree Festival 2023

I am sure you will agree that the Christmas Tree Festival at St Nicholas Church was magical. The Godstone Primary and Nursery Christmas tree was beautifully laden with the children's Christmas decorations.

Mrs Stephens

RE Lead



Pupil Absence Procedure



**Child is absent
from school**

Child is absent
due to **illness**

Child is absent due to a
medical appointment

Day 1: Please contact the School Office either by telephone or email by 9:20am. Please give the reason for absence, together with child's full name and year group.

Contact number: 01883 742326, Option 4

Email: parents@godstone.surrey.sch.uk

Please contact the School Office either by telephone or email by 9:20am.

Where possible, we would ask that dental/ doctors' appointments are made either before or after school.

Please provide an appointment card/letter for each medical appointment.

Contact number: 01883 742326, Option 4

Email: parents@godstone.surrey.sch.uk

Day 2 and every subsequent day(s) after:

Please contact the School Office either by telephone or email by 9:20am. Please give the reason for absence, together with child's full name and year group.

Contact number: 01883 742326, Option 4

Email: parents@godstone.surrey.sch.uk

The Headteacher/Attendance Officer, together with the Inclusion Team at Surrey County Council monitors children's absences every three weeks. If your child is under 90% attendance, the parent will be contacted either by telephone or a letter. If this absence continues to decline, you will be asked to provide medical evidence for each absence. Where medical evidence isn't provided, this absence will be unauthorised and may lead to a referral to the Inclusion Team at Surrey County Council.

If no contact has been made by the parent on Day 1 or 2, or any subsequent days after, the absence will be unauthorised.

If your child has 7 unauthorised absences in a 6 week period, this will be referred to the Inclusion Team at Surrey County Council.

If the school has concerns about the attendance or welfare of any child, a referral to Inclusion, CSPA or Surrey police may be made

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 Garden
Inclusion Officer



DIARY DATES

Friday 9th February - Monday 15th April 2024

Date	Time	Event
FEBRUARY		
Friday 9 th February	3:15pm/3:20pm	Last day of 1 st Half of Spring Term
Monday 12 th – Friday 16 th Feb	N/A	HALF TERM
Monday 19 th February	8:40am	Start of 2 nd Half of Spring Term
Tuesday 20 th – Wednesday 21 st Feb	N/A	Year 4 Trip to The Sustainability Centre
Friday 23 rd February	9:00am	Reading Morning
MARCH		
Thursday 7 th March	N/A	World Book Day
Monday 11 th March	2:30pm	Maths Afternoon
Wednesday 13 th March	N/A	Year 3 Trip to Michelham Priory
Thursday 14 th March	2:45pm	Reception Class Assembly
Friday 15 th March	N/A	FOGPANS: Own Clothes Day: Easter Eggs
Tuesday 19 th March	9:00am	FOGPANS: Bags2School
Wednesday 20 th March	3:30pm - 7:00pm	Parent Consultations - Nursery to Year 6
Thursday 21 st March	3:30pm - 6:00pm	Parent Consultations - Nursery to Year 6
Friday 22 nd March	N/A	FOGPANS: Own Clothes Day: Bottles
Friday 22 nd March	3:30pm—5:00pm	FOGPANS: Easter Fayre
Monday 25 th March	N/A	Year 2 Trip to Wakehurst Place
Monday 25 th – Thursday 28 th March	2:45pm – 3:45pm	Travelling Book Fair (School Hall)
Thursday 28 th March	3:15pm/3:20pm	Last Day of 2 nd Half of Spring Term
Friday 29 th March	N/A	BANK HOLIDAY - GOOD FRIDAY
APRIL		
Monday 1 st April	N/A	BANK HOLIDAY - EASTER MONDAY
Tuesday 2 nd April to Friday 12 th April	N/A	EASTER HOLIDAYS
Monday 15 th April	8:40am	Start of 1 st Half of Summer Term

Dates are subject to change



Updated dates/timings



PARENTING COURSE



**FAMILY
LEARNING**



Learn, Play & Thrive The Toddler Years

This is a **FREE** online course over two weeks 2 hour session will help you to understand how your toddler's brain develops and why toddlers do certain things in certain ways.

What will I learn?

- Understand your toddler's brain development and the effect that this can have on their behaviour.
- Learn how different parenting approaches can impact on behaviour and the developing brain.
- Learn how play can support your toddler's development and language skills

For course dates, more information and to book your place please click on [this link](#) or scan the QR code



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SOUTH EAST SURREY DYSLEXIA ASSOCIATION

Affiliated to the British Dyslexia Association

SESDA Reg. Charity no.281076

Support Evening for Parents and Carers

Tuesday 27th February 2024

8pm – 10pm

A chance for parents and carers to meet Committee members, who are themselves parents of dyslexic youngsters, and specialist dyslexia tutors, to talk about any concerns they have about dyslexia at home or in school.

An opportunity to talk about assessment recommendations. What do they mean? How can they be implemented in school?

Some resources and games for helping dyslexic pupils will be on display.

This meeting is free and open to all parents and carers who have an interest in dyslexia.

It would be helpful to know numbers beforehand but not essential. Contact: sesdadyslexia@hotmail.com

**Holy Trinity Church Centre, Carlton Road,
Redhill RH1 2BX**

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My VOICE MATTERS

TALKING TO YOUR CHILD ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH

Are you a parent or carer who wants to talk to your child about mental health?

This Children's Mental Health Week we want all children and young people, whoever they are, and wherever they are in the world, to be able to say – and believe – "My Voice Matters".

We visited primary and secondary schools to ask students what they wanted from the week – to help shape the activities we create for schools, the messaging we give to teachers, the tips we give to other children, and the advice we give to parents, carers and families.

Place2Be's
**CHILDREN'S
MENTAL HEALTH
WEEK**



LOOKING FOR FREE PRACTICAL ADVICE TO HELP YOU SUPPORT YOUR CHILD?

Parenting Smart, Place2Be's site for parents and carers, is full of expert advice and tips on supporting primary-age children, and managing their behaviour, and act on their views.

[PARENTINGSMART.ORG.UK](https://parentingsmart.org.uk)

Here's what children and young people told us they need from you:

- ① We don't need to have 'one-off conversations about our mental health' – sometimes a chat on a journey or at bedtime is enough.
- ② I need to know it's okay to talk to you about any and all of my feelings. Please hear what I have to say, without interrupting me.
- ③ Please listen to me carefully and acknowledge how I am feeling – it might seem silly to you but what I am going through is important to me.
- ④ Playing with pets can make me feel better. Same with playing football, basketball or whatever type of sport I am into.
- ⑤ Don't compare my experiences to your own when you were a child.
- ⑥ Sometimes I just need you to listen and hear what I'm saying – I don't always need answers (or lectures)
- ⑦ Please don't worry about trying to fix things for me – I often just need to know you are there for me and understand what I am going through.
- ⑧ If you are open with me about your feelings, this can help me to be more open about mine.
- ⑨ Sometimes I don't want to talk. Please trust that I will come to you (or another grown-up or someone my own age) when I'm ready. Sometimes it's easier for me to talk to someone nearer my own age – my siblings, cousins, friends, younger teachers at school – because they 'get it'.
- ⑩ Sometimes a hug is all it takes to make me feel supported.



WHAT MATTERS TO YOU? CREATIVE VIDEO ACTIVITIES FOR FAMILIES

These wellbeing activities can help children and young people think about and share what matters to them.

[For primary children: bit.ly/3PzCGI8](https://bit.ly/3PzCGI8)

[For secondary children: bit.ly/3LBD2wK](https://bit.ly/3LBD2wK)

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**My VOICE
MATTERS**



CONVERSATION STARTERS

Some ways to start a conversation with your child about mental health could be...

TELL ME ABOUT
YOUR DAY

WHAT WAS THE BEST
THING ABOUT TODAY?

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST
STRESS / WORRY IN YOUR
LIFE RIGHT NOW?

WHAT'S YOUR
ONLINE LIFE LIKE?

WHO WOULD YOU TALK
TO IF YOU WERE FEELING
WORRIED ABOUT YOUR
MENTAL HEALTH?

WHAT CAN I DO
TO HELP YOU?



[CHILDRENSMENTALHEALTHWEEK.ORG.UK](https://childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk)

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BE IN YOUR ELEMENT
AT
GODSTONE
DANCE
ACADEMY

8 APRIL - 10 APRIL 2024

MONDAY 8th APRIL

9am-12pm - Age 4 - Reception: £25

9am-3pm - Year 1 +: £50

TUESDAY 9th APRIL

9am-12pm - Age 4 - Reception: £25

9am-3pm - Year 1 +: £50

WEDNESDAY 10th APRIL

9am-12pm - Age 4 - Reception: £25

9am-3pm - Year 1 +: £50

**** DISCOUNT AVAILABLE FOR ****

3 HALF DAY BOOKINGS - £60.00

3 FULL DAY BOOKINGS - £120.00

At Godstone School Hall

DANCE
ACT
MUSIC
SING
CRAFT

to music inspired by
Elemental the movie

to book contact us at
godstonedanceacademy@gmail.com

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CONTEMPORARY & CREATIVE DANCE WORKSHOP

an opportunity to explore
contemporary dance and get creative
with movement and music



11 APRIL 2024

At Godstone School Hall

9am - 12pm: Reception - Yr 2 - £25

12.30pm - 3.30pm: Yr 3 and up - £25

to book contact us at godstonedanceacademy@gmail.com

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Volunteers Needed

Do you have parental experience? Could you spare 2-4 hours a week to help a local family in need? Our home visiting volunteers work alongside families to give compassionate and confidential support, tailored to each family. Full training and expert ongoing support given.

Courses starting throughout Surrey in Spring 2024, contact us today to register your interest.

homestartsurrey.org

01252 737453

volunteers@homestartsurrey.org

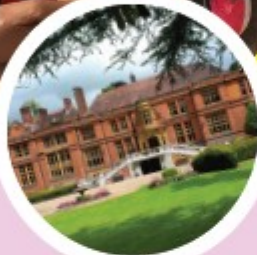
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Build skills,
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& teamwork



The net-it team's
on hand to look
after your every
need to make it
100% FUN



EASTER SLEEPOVER NETBALL

AT WOLDINGHAM SCHOOL, SURREY

DATES: 8th - 10th APRIL | AGES: 6-12 YEARS | FEE: £395 (all inc.)

Come and join us for some brilliant sleepover fun this Easter!
Enjoy top quality netball coaching, rounders, games,
shared dorms, yummy food, new friends, exciting
tournaments and SO much more!

Transport available from Fulham Road to Woldingham and return

To find out more or to book

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