

NEWSLETTER



GODSTONE PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL

Autumn 2, 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a brilliant first term at Godstone Primary and Nursery School. I am extremely proud of all of the children for their successes so far this academic year. In particular, I was delighted to watch the Early Years Christmas Special, Key Stage One Nativity and Key Stage Two Christmas Carol Concert at St Nicholas Church – they were amazing!

Thank you to the parents for their ongoing support of the school. It was great to see so many parents supporting their children at the end of year nativities and concerts. Thank you to FOGPANS for organising this year's Christmas Fair and for supporting the school with Christmas lunch. Working together makes such a positive difference to the children who attend this school.

Lastly, but certainly not least, I would like to thank the staff for all of their hard work and effort. There is so much that goes on behind the scenes of a school that is not seen by the children or parents. The staff work tirelessly to ensure that the children get a great educational offer and I am extremely proud to work with such a great staff team.

As we look ahead to the Christmas break, I hope it provides a well-earned opportunity for rest, family time and celebration. We look forward to welcoming the children back refreshed and ready for a new term of learning and exciting opportunities on **Wednesday 7th January**.

Yours sincerely,

N. J. Usher

Mr Nick Usher
Headteacher



NURSERY



This half term, the children have had a great time celebrating Christmas!

They have been very busy using their senses to explore different themed tuff spots. In the rice tray, the children have been exploring capacity. They used spoons and scoops to fill the snowmen cups. Whilst using a range of mathematical vocabulary, including more, less, full and empty.

It was lovely to see the children enjoying decoration morning and sharing this experience with their families. The children were very excited to take their creations home. The children have decorated the nursery and shared the decorations well. They showed compassion, helping each other to put them onto the tree.

The children have been creating their own stables using different blocks in the garden. They created an obstacle course to develop their gross motor skills. They then travelled along the obstacle course whilst following the bright star to Bethlem to visit the baby Jesus.

On the play dough table, the children have used their skills to mould snowmen and create cookies. They enjoyed using new tools such as the pestle and mortar to explore natural materials. They then used those items to change how the play dough looked and smelled.



RECEPTION

The children have continued to enjoy a range of bear stories as part of their topic, 'Beware of the Bears!' After reading Goldilocks and the Three Bears, the children created puppets to help them retell the story. The children loved making porridge as the characters did in 'Who's Been Eating My Porridge?' They got to add a variety of toppings and flavours before voting on their favourite flavour.

Lots of our drawing club writing has been inspired by our bear theme, and children have loved creating their own bear characters and thinking of alternative breakfasts. We have been really impressed with how the children have progressed in their writing this term. They have all worked hard to develop their tripod pencil grip and challenge themselves to write simple three-letter words.



Reception put on a fantastic performance of 'The Twinkly Nativity'. They sang with enthusiasm, showing off the Makaton actions they had learned for each of the songs. Each child worked so hard to learn their lines and all of them had a go saying these in front of an audience. We were so proud of each and every one of them!



YEAR 1

Year 1 has had a fantastic half term, from being introduced to Professor Klunk in English and discovering how he lost all his words, to performing an absolutely amazing Nativity. Well done, Year 1 – I am so proud of each and every one of them.

They have worked incredibly hard in their writing and are now able to write the sounds they hear, identify nouns and verbs, and, for the most part, use finger spaces securely. They also loved learning about their bodies and how the circulatory and nervous systems work. Each child made a 'body' book, which is now proudly on display.

In DT, the children created moving picture books based on the nursery rhyme *Humpty Dumpty*. However, I think science has been their favourite subject this half term, as they learned all about their senses. As well as understanding how touch keeps us safe and realising how incredibly lucky they are to have the gift of sight and hearing, they were also able to taste and smell a variety of foods, which they thoroughly enjoyed.



YEAR 2

What a tremendous half-term Year 2 has had!

How proud we are of the children's Nativity performance! The children have demonstrated such ambition and courage when standing up in front of large audiences to perform their Christmas Nativity at both performances. They showed such commitment to learning their lines, songs and even some fabulous dance moves. The children have put on such a performance to be proud of. Well done, Year 2!



The children have thoroughly enjoyed getting stuck into their Design Technology learning: designing and creating a fairground wheel. After exploring different objects that use wheels, the children were given a design brief. They worked hard to design their own fairground wheels based on the local area of Godstone.



It was great to see the children making ambitious design choices that were in line with the design brief, really understanding the purpose of this. The children then explored how axles help wheels to move and created their own wheel using paper plates and a straw. Have a look at some of our wonderful creations!

YEAR 3

Year 3 has had a wonderful half term! The children have loved learning about earthquakes, surprising me with their knowledge week after week. I have been very impressed with their writing about the topic, too. We have had lots of great explanation texts about earthquakes and volcanoes.

The children's multiplication and division learning has also gone from strength to strength, it's clear they have been practicing those 3, 4 and 8 times tables at home! Castle construction was also a great success, with the children making some wonderful creations!

A huge thank you to all the parents who made our open mornings possible, particularly our Christmas decoration morning. We all had such good fun, and it really put us in the Christmas spirit! My favourite part of this half term however, has been learning and practicing the Christmas Carols ready for the Christmas concert. The children have worked so hard to learn some pretty tricky songs, and they sounded absolutely wonderful! A huge thank you to you and the children for a fantastic half term!



YEAR 4

Year 4 has had a very busy half term! We have been going swimming every Monday at Woldingham School. We have been practising different strokes, diving or jumping in, and water safety.

In English, we have studied the 'Just So' stories of Rudyard Kipling, such as 'How the Leopard got his Spots' and 'How the Camel got his Hump'. We then wrote our own versions of the stories and published them in our own 'Just So' stories class book.

Year 4 have been getting into the Christmas spirit in recent weeks! We have been practising hard for the Christmas Carol Concert and also enjoyed Decoration Morning, where we created Christmas mosaics, tree decorations and Christmas jump-up kits.

We also had an interesting and educational trip to Wakehurst Place where we learned lots about different plants and seeds. We also went on a nature walk and did some Christmas crafts. Some photos from the day are below:



YEAR 5

What a wonderful half-term we have had in Year 5! The children have worked exceptionally hard in all subjects and have made some fantastic progress.

In Maths, the children have been learning all about fractions, including finding and recognising equivalent fractions, converting, comparing and ordering fractions, and they have made a start with adding fractions with different denominators. We are going to continue with our fractions unit in January.

In English, the children started the half-term by learning all about volcanoes, creating an explanation text all about how volcanoes are formed and the different types. They focused on using formal vocabulary and modal verbs in their writing. For the last few weeks, the children have enjoyed writing their own version of Frankenstein and are looking forward to publishing their writing, ready to go on display.

We are now ready for a relaxing Christmas after all our hard work. Merry Christmas from Year 5!



YEAR 6

Year Six worked so hard with their learning based on Ancient Greece and their class assembly was the perfect way to demonstrate the knowledge that they had learnt. The assembly involved the Greek language, Greek food, the Ancient Olympic Games, Greek gods and goddesses, the Trojan War and Greek myths, legends and fables. We were so impressed with the effort that the children put into learning their lines, perfecting the songs and getting into character!



In design and technology, the children have been focusing on *structure* which has involved designing and making their own playgrounds using a variety of different resources and materials. They have measured, marked and cut wood to create a range of structures, whilst also demonstrating their ability to adapt their structures in order to reinforce them. We were impressed with the children's ability to effectively, and safely, use hand saws and hot glue guns. There was a great variety in the final structures produced by the children.



School Council

This year, the school council has identified six ways that they would like to help improve the school:

- To enrich the curriculum with more visitors to the school and more trips.
- To enrich the curriculum with a music day.
- To improve the school environment by creating a plan to improve the floors.
- To liaise with the council to improve the footpath across The Green for children walking to school.
- To raise money for NSPCC (linked to our assemblies on mental health and staying safe) through a sponsored run.
- To continue to support Save the Children as part of Christmas Jumper Day.

We had a great time on **Wednesday 17th December**. Parents can donate online at <https://christmas.savethechildren.org.uk/fundraising/CJD250009556> or by scanning the QR code below.

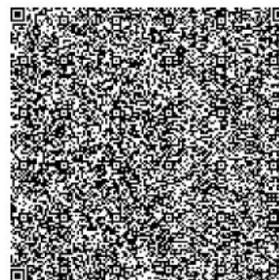
Please note the website says the Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day is 11th December; however, we celebrated it on 17th December.

We're taking part in



Save the Children

**Christmas
Jumper
Day** 



Registered with
FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR
Save the Children Fund is a charity registered in England & Wales (213890), Scotland (SC039570) and Isle of Man (1991).

FOREST SCHOOL

Reception has been learning how to use the palm drills safely to create holes in wooden discs for their Christmas tree decorations. They had to keep persevering with this as they had to use pressure, as well as twist the drill, to make the hole. They then decorated these with felt pens and sequins!

The children have also used natural resources to create repeating patterns, have been on a colour hunt to match leaves to colour charts and built lots of dens.



Year 2 has enjoyed getting into the festive spirit. They have hammered nails into wooden discs and then created a star pattern using glittery thread.

The children loved the session where they got to have a fire and watch popcorn kernels pop and turn into popcorn. When dusted with icing sugar, these were a tasty treat!

They created clay faces by manipulating clay into a face shape on the trunk of the trees and then added features using natural materials e.g. leaves, sticks, sycamore seeds.





WHAT WE HAVE BEEN UP TO



Santa Came to School!
Lucky for us we were on the nice list and Santa paid a visit to each classroom this year.

CHRISTMAS WARDROBE SALE

Our Christmas wardrobe sale was a success and we hope you enjoy your new Christmas clothes!



CHRISTMAS FAIR
We were very proud to raise £1,821 at our Christmas Fair and it was lovely to see so many happy faces enjoying the fair.

THANK YOU

Huge thanks to all the volunteers and staff who have supported our events this term. We just cannot run any of the events without your support!

Thank you to all our donors for raffle prizes for our fair. It is wonderful to be supported by our local businesses.

WHAT WE HAVE FUNDED

DECORATION MORNING

The wonderful annual decoration morning was enjoyed by the children and it was lovely to see so many families able to take part.

CHRISTMAS TREE

We hope you have all enjoyed the lovely Christmas Tree in the hall. This was carefully decorated by Reception class.

DECORATION OF YEAR 4 & 5 CLASSROOMS

Continuing on our quest to improve the environment that our children are learning in the Year 4 & 5 classrooms received a much needed makeover.

CLASS DONATIONS

We are offering each classroom across the school £100 to be spent by the teachers to enhance the learning and environment of the children. We will update you when we know what has been purchased.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS

When Santa visited we asked him to hand out a book gift to each child.

COMING UP NEXT TERM...

SPRING DISCO FRIDAY 6TH FEBRUARY

EASTER EVENTS

More details coming soon via Class WhatsApp groups and Email.

CAN YOU HELP?

We are looking for volunteers. We really struggled to find enough people to help out at the Christmas Fair and looking ahead to the Easter Fair we are worried that we might not have enough support to enable this to happen - SAVE OUR FAIR - and get in touch if you can spare us 30 - 60 minutes.

TO GET IN TOUCH EMAIL - FOGPANS@GMAIL.COM

FOLLOW US ON
FACEBOOK - FOGPANS





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 to 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 9:20am. After this time, if no call is received from 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 will be taken. If there is no further improvement, this may be referred to our Attendance Advice and Intervention Officer.

Attendance Panel School Meetings (failure to ensure regular school attendance)

The Local Authority retains control of the Inclusion Service and every effort is made to maintain close links with the Attendance Advice and Intervention Officer attached to the school. Where school interventions have failed to secure regular attendance, an official referral may be made to the Attendance Advice and Intervention Officer.

Kind regards,

Mr Nick Usher
Headteacher

PENALTY NOTICES



Penalty Notice relating to Exclusions

If a child is excluded from school, Section 103 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 places a duty on parents/carers to ensure that their child is not in a public place without justifiable cause during school hours.

This duty applies to the **first five days of each exclusion**. Failure to do so will render the parent/carer liable to a Penalty Notice. (Alternative education provision will be made available from the sixth day of any exclusion.)

Amount Payable for a Penalty Notice and Consequences for repeat unauthorised absences

1. If you have not incurred a penalty notice relating to this child/children in a rolling, 3-year period since 19 August 2024, then the penalty notice will be charged at the rate of £160.00, **per parent/carer per child**, if paid within 28 days. This will be reduced to £80.00 if paid within 21 days of receipt of the notice. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice will result in Surrey County Council considering legal proceedings against you in the Magistrates Court.
2. If you have incurred a penalty notice relating to this child/children since 19 August 2024, the rolling 3-year period will be activated from the date of the first penalty notice and the second penalty notice will be charged at the flat rate of £160.00, **per parent/carer per child**, if paid within 28 days. There will be no reduction for payment within 21 days. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice will result in Surrey County Council considering legal proceedings against you in the Magistrates Court.
3. If you have incurred 2 penalty notices relating to this child/children in the rolling 3-year period since the first penalty notice was issued, then you will NOT receive a third penalty notice – Surrey County Council will have no option but to consider a prosecution, **per parent/carer per child**, in the Magistrates Court under section 444 Education Act 1996.
4. **Surrey County Council is not responsible for authorising pupil absence and therefore cannot withdraw any Penalty Notice requests without the written permission of the Headteacher.**

Advice and support is available from an Attendance Advice and Intervention Officer by contacting Surrey Attendance Services as follows:-

North West - Tel 01483 518130

North East - Tel 01372 833588

South West - Tel 01483 517874

South East - Tel 01737 737777



PENALTY NOTICES TO ADDRESS POOR ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL

A Penalty Notice may be issued as an alternative to the prosecution of a parent/carer for their child's unauthorised absence from school (absence without the agreement of the school or not covered by a medical note) and will be used by Surrey County Council in the following circumstances:-

1. Pupils identified by police and Attendance Advice and Intervention Officer (formerly Inclusion Officers) engaged on Truancy Patrols and who have incurred unauthorised absences.
2. Leave of absence in term time (5 days or 10 sessions or more).
 - **Please be aware that the School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024 state that Headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances.**
 - They may request that Surrey County Council issue Penalty Notices when the absence is not authorised.

Warnings will not be given where it can be shown that parents have been notified that such absences will not be authorised.

3. Finally, the issuing of a Penalty Notice will also be considered where it is judged that a parent is failing to ensure their child's regular school attendance.

This will be considered when a pupil has incurred 10 or more unauthorised sessions in the previous 10 school weeks, which may include a pupil arriving late after close of registration.

If you believe at any stage that your child's absence from school may leave you liable to receive a Penalty Notice, it is extremely important that you act without delay to secure their regular attendance.

If you have any questions or require further support to achieve an improvement in your child's attendance, please contact your child's school or the Attendance Advice and Intervention Officer.

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 9:20 am. Please give the reason for absence, together with the 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 9:20 am.

Where possible, we would ask that dental/doctor's 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 9:20 am. 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

ADVERTISEMENTS



Support available this



If you need support now, here's what to do:

If you are in immediate danger: call [999](tel:999)

If you have an urgent need, call our crisis line on [0800 915 4644](tel:08009154644). It's open 24/7. You can also call NHS 111 and select the mental health option.

Self help tools & resources

A range of resources, strategies, and tools developed by professionals can be found on our [resources section](#). Resources on self care, anxiety, depression and much more are available, with links through to other useful websites.



Online support

If you need support with life's ups and downs outside of your regular support system, try Kooth which offers a free, safe, anonymous online support (kooth.com) or Chat Health which offers confidential text support with a qualified nurse (chathealth.nhs.uk).



Workshops and groups

We offer free workshops and groups for children, young people, and families - no request for support or diagnosis needed. More information on our [Early Support pages](#).



CYP Havens

[The Children Young People \(CYP\) Havens](#) are a welcoming space for 10 to 18 year olds to talk about worries and mental health in confidence. Provided by Surrey County Council.



Out of hours advice line

A free out-of-hours phone line provides advice to parents and carers who are struggling with behaviours or difficulties which could be related to neurodevelopmental need, such as autism or ADHD. It runs from 5pm until 11pm, seven days a week, 365 days a year. Please call 0300 222 5755

