

NEWSLETTER



GODSTONE PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL

September 2022

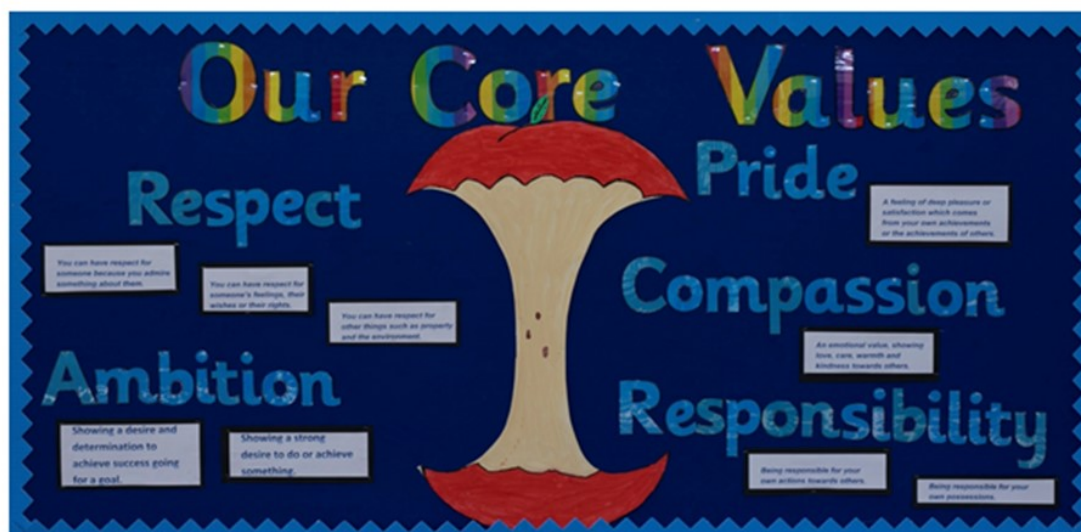
Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been brilliant to welcome the children back to school. They have settled in brilliantly and have already learnt a lot of new things. At Godstone, every child is supported as an individual and this is actively promoted through how the children learn and behave.

We use our learning powers of resilience, resourcefulness, reflectiveness and reciprocity to develop confident children who can learn in a changing world. We believe that these learning powers will empower the children to become lifelong learners.

Resilience the <i>emotional</i> aspects of learning Feeling	Resourcefulness the <i>cognitive</i> aspects of learning Thinking	Reflectiveness the <i>strategic</i> aspects of learning Managing	Reciprocity the <i>social</i> aspects of learning Relating
Noticing Perceiving subtle nuances, patterns and details in experience.	Imagining Using your imagination and intuition to put yourself through new experiences or to explore possibilities. Wondering <i>What if ...?</i>	Meta-learning Knowing yourself as a learner – how you learn best; how to talk about the learning process.	Empathy and Listening Contributing to others' experiences by listening to them to understand what they are really saying, and putting yourself in their shoes.
Managing Distractions Recognising and reducing distractions; knowing when to walk away and refresh yourself. Creating your own best environment for learning.	Reasoning Calling up your logical and rational skills to work things out methodically and rigorously; constructing good arguments, and spotting the flaws in others'.	Planning Thinking about where you are going, the action you are going to take, the time and resources you will need, and the obstacles you may encounter.	Interdependence Knowing when it's appropriate to learn on your own or with others, and being able to stand your ground in debate.
Absorption Being able to lose yourself in learning – becoming absorbed in what you are doing; rapt and attentive, in a state of 'flow'.	Questioning Asking questions of yourself and others. Being curious and playful with ideas – delving beneath the surface of things.	Revising Being flexible, changing your plans in the light of different circumstances, monitoring and reviewing how things are going and seeing new opportunities.	Collaboration Knowing how to manage yourself in the give and take of a collaborative venture, respecting and recognising other viewpoints; adding to and drawing from the strength of teams.
Perseverance Keeping going on in the face of difficulties, channelling the energy of frustration productively. Knowing what a slow and uncertain process learning often is.	Making Links Seeing connections between disparate events and experiences – building patterns – weaving a web of understanding.	Distilling Looking at what is being learned – pulling out the essential features – carrying them forward to aid further learning; being your own learning coach.	Imitation Constructively adopting methods, habits or values from other people whom you observe.
	Capitalising Drawing on the full range of resources from the wider world – other people, books, the Internet, past experience, future opportunities ...		

We use the core values of respect, responsibility, compassion, ambition and pride to set expectations for how every child behaves in school. We believe that these core values will allow the children to develop lifelong behaviour skills that will help them become successful now and in later life.



Respect: having respect for someone's feelings, wishes and rights, the environment and property

Responsibility: being responsible for your own actions towards others and for your possessions

Compassion: an emotional value showing love, care, warmth and kindness towards others

Ambition: showing a desire and determination to achieve success

Pride: a feeling of deep pleasure or satisfaction, which comes from your own achievements or the achievements of others

On Friday 16th September, children and families laid flowers to remember Queen Elizabeth II and prepare for her funeral on Monday 19th September. Please see some of the pictures below/overleaf:-





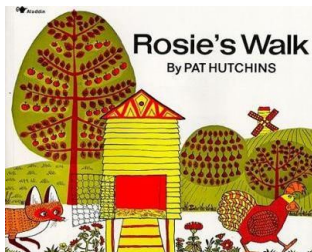
Yours sincerely,

N. J. Usher

Mr Nick Usher

Headteacher





NURSERY

We have had a lovely start to the Nursery year, visiting new families in their homes and welcoming the new children to our classroom. We are enjoying reading our class book **Rosie's Walk**. We have been retelling the story using puppets, picture cards and small world figures, in both the inside and outside environments. Rosie had laid lots of eggs around the classroom. We had to find one egg and draw it on the large computer screen. There were 22 eggs in total! We are learning all about the number one. We are beginning to recognise and read one, know how much one is, write the numeral and count out one item. Some of the children have been finding one more than a number. We are also enjoying the beginning of Autumn with playing in the rain and discovering patterns in the environment including on the leaves that have fallen in our outdoor space.



NURSERY

Nursery donation requests — Please can we have:

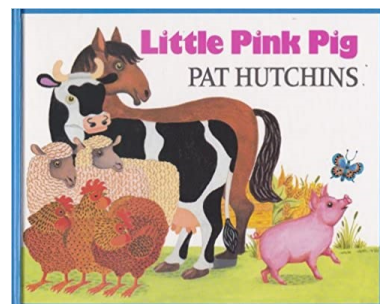
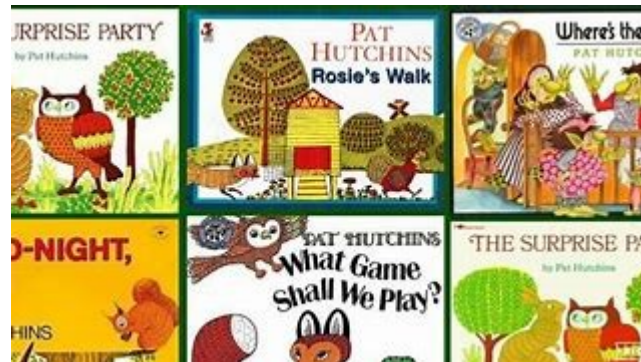
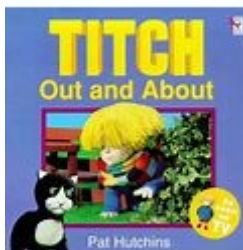
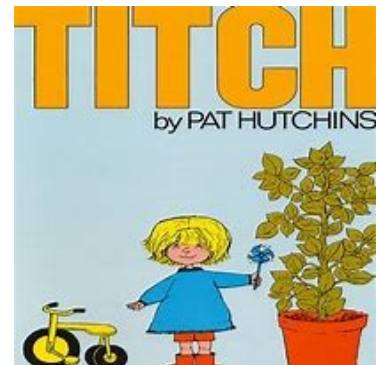
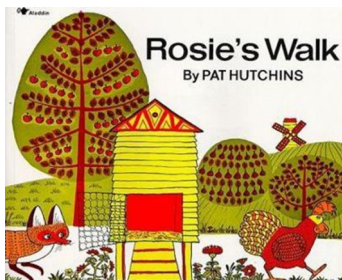
Spring bulbs to plant over the next two weeks — narcissi, daffodils, tulips, snow drops, etc.



Boys clothing ages 2 — 4 years, especially socks and pants



Books by the author **Pat Hutchins**—some examples below



THANK YOU!

RECEPTION

Reception have had a brilliant start to the term, exploring the resources in both the classroom and outside area. We love being creative and playing outside— whatever the weather! We have been developing our personal, social and emotional skills, making new friendships, listening to one another and taking turns.

Our topic this term is 'Beware of the Bears!' The children have enjoyed listening to a range of bear themed stories, including a series of teddy books by Jez Alborough about the adventures of a little boy called Eddy and his teddy Freddy. The children have loved joining in with the voices and discussing how the characters feel at various points in the stories.



In maths, the children have been learning how to subitise. They have been working really hard on recognising amounts, objects or dots up to 3 and describing how they are arranged.



They have also been helping Matrix the Mouse to do careful counting, saying one number and moving objects when counting to ensure accuracy.

We have started learning to read and have now learned the sounds s, a, t, p, i, n, m and d. We have been blending these sounds together to make words e.g. sat, tin, pin.

YEAR 1

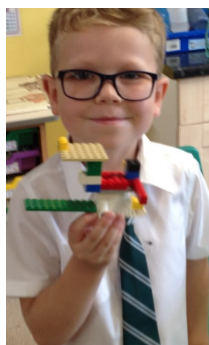
The children have shown great resilience and ambition this term. They have settled well into the routines of Year 1 and are enjoying their learning.



In English we have been writing sentences about explorers and Antarctica. In math's we are developing our understanding of place value to ten and practising our letter and number formation in our handwriting lessons.



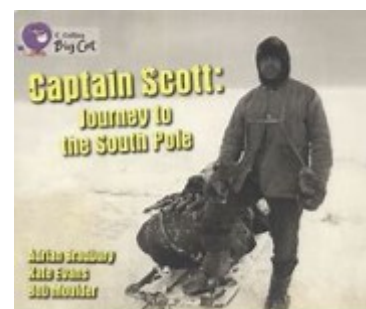
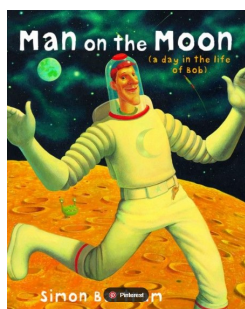
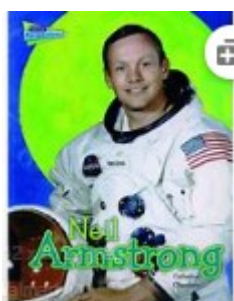
In PSHE we have learnt about games and what it is to have fun. We have shared ideas and put into practice some of the games we have learnt.



In History we have learnt about the first man to travel to the South Pole and the first lady to fly an aeroplane. The children have learnt about the Guinness World Records and have enjoyed looking at non fiction books.



We have listened to a variety of books about space and watched Neil Armstrong landing on the moon.

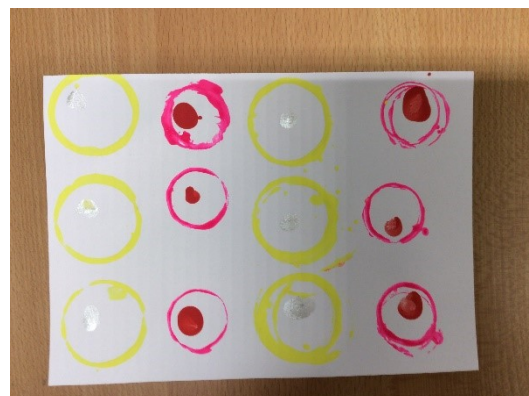
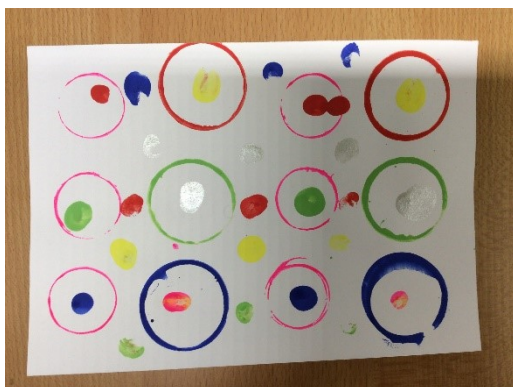


The children are very excited about the harvest festival that is coming up and are looking forward to seeing you all there.

YEAR 2

Year 2 have made a fantastic start to the new school year! They have been working so hard and have shown real ambition. Miss Boden and Mrs Jones have been so proud of what they have achieved so far.

In art, we have been beginning to look at some of the formal elements of art. We began by looking at pattern, focussing on the idea of repeating patterns and producing some of our own. The children used a range of different sized bottle tops to produce their designs. We were all so impressed with the finished pieces of artwork!



We then moved on to look at texture and spent some time thinking about what texture is and what we could use to produce artwork to show these different textures. The children enjoyed investigating with lots of different materials and objects to see how different textures produced different outcomes.

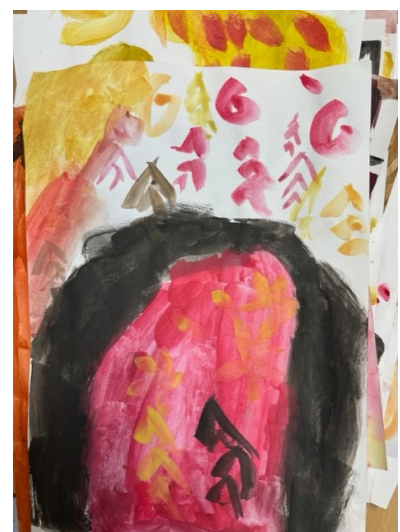
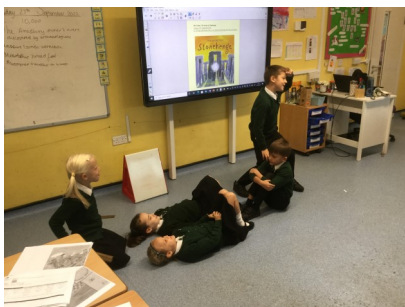
The children are looking forward to finding out about, and exploring, tone in the coming weeks!

YEAR 3

Year 3 have had a fantastic start to the year and have fully immersed themselves into their exciting new topics! In English, the children have used their creative imaginations to plan and write their own story about travelling to a different time period, all inspired by the book 'Stone Age Boy'. They aspired to use powerful adjectives and expanded noun phrases in their writing, as well as, looking to develop their handwriting in order to achieve their goal of receiving their pen licence this year. We have also been learning about the formation of Stonehenge through our non-fiction text called 'The Secrets of Stonehenge'. The children have been looking closely at the different features of a non-fiction text and learning lots of exciting historical facts through text retrieval and drama to create their own leaflet at the end of the half-term.

The children's enthusiasm for the Stone Age has been further enhanced across the curriculum. This can be seen in History, where the children have taken on the role of archaeologists to enquire how people in the Stone Age lived in comparison to how we live now. The children have also been developing their art skills through their exploration of prehistoric art, practising with methods and materials that were used during the Stone Age.

Year 3 have shown their love for learning in their many other subjects across the curriculum too, especially in PE where they have demonstrated fantastic sequencing performances in gymnastics whilst simultaneously, having a great time developing their hockey skills with Ben from Woldingham School.



YEAR 4

Year 4 have made a great start to the school year. We have all enjoyed coming back to school and learning about lots of new topics. Well done to Year 4 for winning the attendance trophy for one week for having the best attendance in the whole school! Let's keep it up and try and win it again.

In English, we have been reading the story 'Escape from Pompeii' and learning all about life in Roman times. We re-wrote the story in our own words and then wrote our own version but with a twist. We also used all of our best descriptive writing skills such as using powerful adjectives, verbs and adverbs and even included paragraphs and speech.

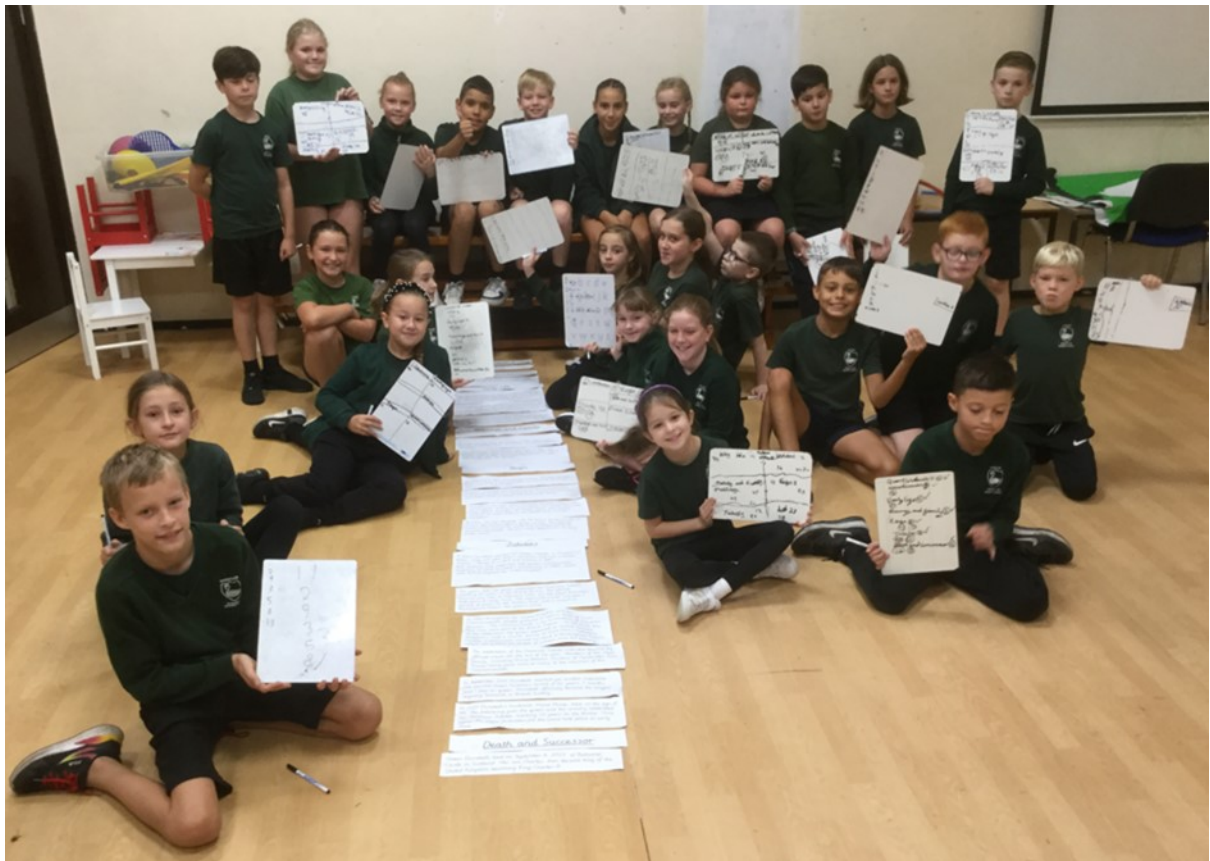
In maths, we have been learning all about place value. In addition, we have looked at topics such as Roman numerals and rounding. Year 4 have impressed me with their maths as they have regularly completed lots of extra tricky maths challenges.

We have been very lucky to have a specialist hockey coach visit to teach Year 4 this half term. The children have really enjoyed the sessions and learnt lots of new skills within the sport. So far, they have practised passing, dribbling and tackling and will start playing matches very soon. In science, we have been learning all about sound. Below are some photos of a experiment we conducted to investigate how far sound travels. The children had to drop a pin and then measure how far away they could hear the sound from. This helped us understand how sound travels in waves.



YEAR 5

In the first few weeks of term, Year 5 have been busily reading and writing biographies about inspirational women who have been involved with space travel, including: Ada Lovelace, Nichelle Nichols, Helen Sharman, Sally Ride, Monica Grady, Mae Jemison and Peggy Whitson. Following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, we also wrote fantastic biographies about her amazing life and her many achievements. The children developed an understanding of how to use brackets for parenthesis within their writing, a sound knowledge of organisational features to structure the text and how to use a range of sentence types (simple, compound and complex) to vary sentence structure and engage their reader.



YEAR 6



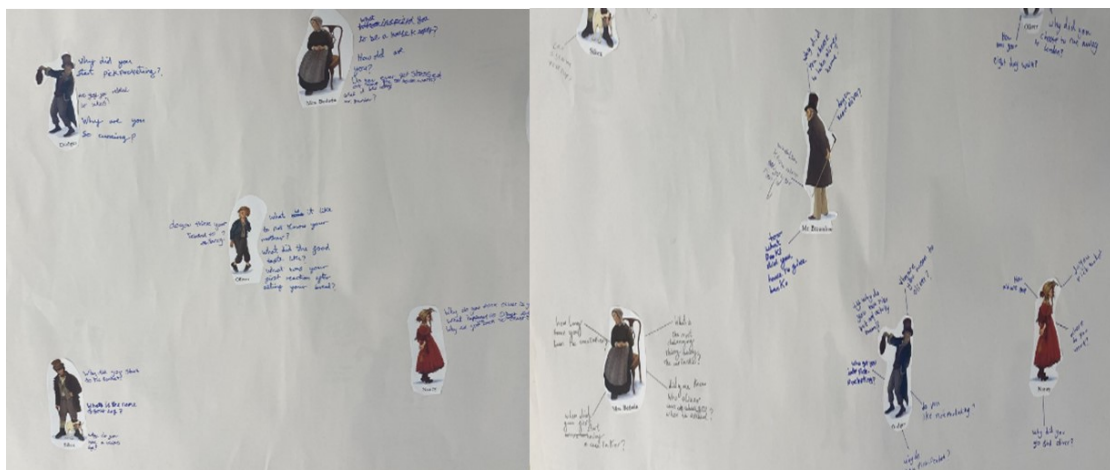
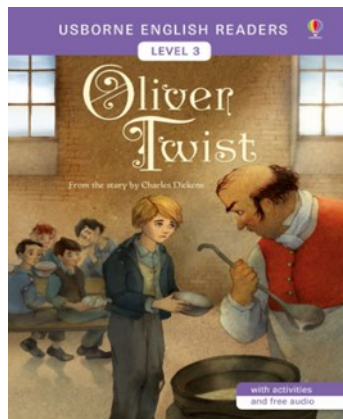
What a fantastic start to Year Six we have had!

We have started the year with our swimming lessons in P.E and have really enjoyed this. We have demonstrated lots of ambition and resilience and all had a go at swimming to the deep end and jumping off the diving blocks!

We have really enjoyed exploring our history unit 'How did a pile of dragon bones help to solve an Ancient Chinese Mystery?' and were surprised to discover that the bones bought by Wang Yirong were in fact turtle shells that had ancient carvings on. Although it was a challenge and some marks were tricky to decipher, we had a go at reading some hieroglyphics.



In our English writing, we have been exploring the text 'Oliver Twist'. We have really enjoyed different activities to understand the characters' thoughts and feelings. We created many alternative endings and have written a script to perform at our class assembly. We are busy rehearsing and learning lines and we cannot wait to show you what we have been up to.



ONLINE SAFETY



Each month, we focus on a different aspect of Online Safety. The children have an assembly and then complete age-appropriate follow up activities in their classes. This month's focus was on 'Privacy and Security'.

In assembly, we began by discussing when we use passwords. The children gave a wide variety of answers of when they use passwords both in school and at home. Following this, we discussed what makes a password strong or weak.

These are key points we highlighted when choosing our passwords;

- Stay away from passwords that use the word 'password', your name or a date like a birth as these make your password easy to guess.
- Choosing three random words is recommended, replacing letters with numbers to make it more secure
- Generally, passwords should:
 - Use letters (upper and lowercase), numbers and symbols
 - Be 8 characters or more
 - Not use obvious names or dates
 - Something you will remember but others can't guess

A key thread that runs through all of our online safety learning is recognising which of our information is personal and who we can talk to if anything upsets or worries us. The children explained that their passwords are private information and should not be shared with anyone. We did highlight that parents and teachers may have knowledge of their passwords if they had set them up or as a way of keeping them safe. The children are aware of the importance of never trying to guess someone else's password.

Please find below a link to Internet Matters Parent Controls, where there are step by step guides to help you set up the right controls and privacy settings on networks, gadgets, apps and sites that your children may be using to give them a safer online experience.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/>

FOREST SCHOOL

Over the next academic year, we will be expanding our provision of Forest School to children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. This will involve developing an area on site for the children to use on a regular basis, with a longer term vision of us being able to offer this to pupils from Nursery to Year 6.

Below is a list of a few items that would be greatly received if you are having a clear out;

- Plain white sheets or pillow cases
- Metal baking trays- it does not matter if these are a little used/ rusty as they will be used in a mud kitchen!



- Kitchen utensils– wooden spoons, metal whisks, potato masher, spatula, measuring spoons, metal cups/ kettle
- Sauce pans, sieves, scales

Please send any items in with your child or drop into the school office.

We are also looking for log rounds for the children to sit on in the forest school area and some pallets. If this is something you are able to support us with, please contact me, via e-mail, at hayley.lancashire@godstone.surrey.sch.uk.

Many thanks,

Mrs Hayley Lancashire



MESSAGES FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE

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.

School Start Time

In the last 4 weeks we have had **95** instances of children being late into school. We have worked out how many minutes each child has been late, and **this equates to approximately 17 hours of lost learning time.**

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

Appointments

Please may we remind you that if your child has an appointment, please contact the School Office in the first instance to inform them. We can then pass a message onto the Class Teacher for you.

Uniform Labelling

Please can we ask that all items of school uniform are labelled very clearly.

We receive a high percentage of unnamed lost property and we are unable to return it to its owner when it is not labelled.

Thank you for your assistance.

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 Emerson
Education Welfare Officer



Free online guides for families in Surrey

Bringing up children is a lot of fun but can also have its challenges and understanding your child's emotional development can help to support your relationship and your child's behaviour.

Families living in Surrey can get access to FREE online guides that include top tips from childcare, education and NHS health experts.

- Understanding your pregnancy, labour, birth and your baby
- Understanding your baby
- Understanding your child 0-19 years
- Understanding your teenager's brain
- Understanding your brain (for teenagers only!)
- Understanding your child with additional needs

The guides are available in other languages including Urdu, Chinese and Polish. Register for free using the code 'ACORN' by visiting the Children and Family Health Surrey website: [Childrenshealthsurrey-nhs-uk-services/free-online-guides-families](https://www.childrenshealthsurrey-nhs.uk/services/free-online-guides-families).



FAMILY LEARNING

You can still enrol on courses starting in October and November. We have plenty of courses to help support you and your family. Please see the available courses and workshops below.

[Helping your child manage anxiety](#)

[Exploring behaviour strategies](#)

[Developing children's self-esteem](#)

[Building children's resilience](#)

[Cooking and baking](#)

[English for parents/carers as an additional language](#)

Due to COVID-19 restrictions we are currently unable to work directly in schools and other community venues and our courses have transferred online via Zoom.

Please click on the link below to take you to the latest Family Learning Bulletin:-

[**Family Learning Bulletin 30**](#)

These are government funded courses for parents and carers who would most benefit from FREE tailored courses.

www.surreycc.gov.uk/familylearning

Part of Surrey Adult Learning.



Cookery Courses For Parents



FREE COURSES

FREE courses for parents and carers of children age 4-11

Grab this wonderful opportunity for you and your child to have some quality time together... having fun, being healthy and learning new cookery skills.

HOW DO I BOOK

Click the link or use the QR code to check dates and book your space.



Check Out Our Available Courses!

How to Create a Healthy Lunchbox

Exciting Soups and Perfect Puds!

Get Ready for a Yummy Halloween

Fakeaway V Takeaway

For The Love of Brownies

Christmas Biscuits to Make and Decorate



SCAN ME



ADVERTISEMENTS

Refreshments will be available to buy on the night - but please feel free to bring your own alcoholic beverage!



MOVING PICTURES | COMMUNITY CINEMA

Movies That Move You



Friday
30th
SEPTEMBER



Friday
28th
OCTOBER



Friday
25th
NOVEMBER

Doors Open at 7:00pm - Film Starts at 7:30pm