

NEWSLETTER

April 2016 – Number 8

Godstone Village School



Dear Parents/Carers,

We really have started this summer term hitting the ground running! This term we are taking part in the 'Run to Rio' challenge to mark the start of the 2016 Olympic and Paralympics Games. The challenge is to collectively with other Surrey schools, run or walk the 5,700 miles from Surrey to Rio. The daily mile encourages children to get fitter, healthier and more attentive through approximately 15 minutes of physical exercise every day. This simple concept has huge impact, proven to reduce obesity, improve pupil behaviour and increase concentration in class. As a school we are fully committed to the health and well-being of all children. Special thanks to the Sports Crew, Mr Kohlbeck and staff for leading this weekly activity!

Our first whole school assembly of the summer term was action packed -it was lovely to hear what the children had been doing over the Easter holidays! A big thank you to our new site manager, Mr Stewart who has been working really hard to improve our school grounds. Twelve lucky children won the reading raffle – how is that for a Monday morning! Thanks to School Council and Mrs Booth who shared the finalised playground charter with the whole school; followed by the launch of Run to Rio! In addition, this week Kingfishers and Owls (and staff!) enjoyed the launch of their superheroes topic and film night was a great success! Thank you to all parents/carers for your support. It has been a great first week back!

Candida Jarrott-Chase
Head Teacher



PARENT UPDATE ON ACADEMISATION OPTIONS

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you are probably aware, the government introduced a policy of academisation some ten to fifteen years ago. This meant that a school ceased to be under the control of the local authority (in our case, Surrey County Council) and was instead funded directly by, and accountable directly to, the DfE.

When the policy was introduced, a number of secondary schools converted straight away, but the primary sector largely did not. This was partly due to a lack of financial incentives for primaries but also because primary schools did not see the process as particularly beneficial to their schools at that time.

Since then, the academy agenda has changed in terms of its priorities. Schools who have a judgement of “inadequate” from Ofsted can now be forced to convert and be taken over by a “sponsoring academy” whose job it is to support them to improve. Also, the preferred model is now a MAT (multi-academy trust) rather than a stand-alone model as it was in the beginning. This is to help ensure that groups of schools work together collaboratively, securing improvements for all the member schools.

Following the election in May 2015, the government restated its intention that ***all schools will ultimately convert to academy status***. The majority of secondary schools are already academies, and the number of primary academies is increasing rapidly. In addition, the local authority is reducing rapidly meaning that schools who are still maintained have less access to local authority support and must increasingly make their own arrangements.

Along with almost all schools, we have been following the academy agenda closely. Over the past year or so, we have been talking to a number of other local primary schools, with whom we already work very closely on a number of areas, about the best way forward, given the fact that the academy agenda is not going to go away. We take seriously the responsibility to secure that best possible future for all our schools.

In brief, it has been the responsibility of the governing body and senior leadership team to consider the options:

- To do nothing; (unwise, as we could end up being forced to join a MAT not of our own choosing)
- To apply to convert as a stand-alone academy; (also unwise for financial and other reasons; and unlikely to be allowed by the DfE)
- To join an existing MAT such as the Glyn Learning Foundation or the Howard Partnership, or a national chain such as Harris
- To form a local MAT with local schools

Given the political climate and the likelihood of school funding coming under significant pressure over the next few years, it now seems the time to begin to make some firmer decisions about the future of all our schools. Heads and governing bodies will continue to explore all options both individually and with our partner schools, and it is likely that we will be opening consultations with parents and the local community in the near future.

Kind regards,

The Governing Body and Head Teacher of Godstone Village School

CORE VALUES

At Godstone Village School we are committed to developing children into lifelong learners. Ofsted state that an outstanding school shows: "Pupils spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development equips them to be thoughtful, caring and active citizens in school and the wider society." *Ofsted Handbook September 2015*

Our school values are the foundation of decision making i.e. the behaviour choices our children make. At Godstone Village School we strive to promote these positive attributes and as one of **key school priorities** this year; we have been reviewing the school values to work alongside Building Learning Power. We evaluated our current school values with the children through pupil questionnaires in the autumn term, school council meetings and with staff.

Following this, staff and the school council representatives suggested possible new school values and these were trialled in class to check if they were most fitting for our children. As a school we found that the new school values were effective in capturing positive attitudes and behaviours. The positive response from the children and staff towards the new values enabled us to know that these are right for our school and to share them with you.

The new school values for Godstone Village School are:

Ambition
Compassion
Pride
Respect
Responsibility

These values will be delivered through the curriculum and during our weekly assemblies. We will be rewarding children stickers for showing these values in school and most importantly, pupils will be able to explain how they demonstrated the value!



Mrs Booth

Reading Competition



On Monday morning we announced the raffle winners of the spring term reading competition. We were all really impressed with the number of children that had gained raffle tickets over the spring term for their reading and spelling- well done to all of you!

The winners of the EYFS/ KS1 books were Harry (year 2), Evie (year 2), Izzy (year 2), Alastair (year 2), Rocco (Robins) and Isabel (year 1). The winners of the KS2 books were Sophie (year 6), Izzy (year 4), Adam (year 3), Anna (year 4), Joshua (year 3) and Jack (year 4).

The summer term 1 reading competition is now underway and children have 6 new books to choose from. Please continue to support your child(ren) with their reading and spelling at home. The winners for the next reading competition will be announced after the May half term.





FRIENDS OF GODSTONE VILLAGE SCHOOL UPDATE

APRIL 2016

FOGVS wanted to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support of our fund raising events and to give you an update on how we are doing this year.

We have run two events so far and have raised an impressive £1,400 at this stage. The school disco in January made £668 profit, over £70 above the total from last year! And the Easter Fayre generated £582 in a swift 1.5 hours! Thank you to everyone who came along to enjoy it and to all those who baked cakes – who knew we had such talented bakers in our midst!

We have also generated £182 from easyfundraising.com in 2016 so far – please continue to think about the school every time you shop online – it costs you nothing and is panning out to be extremely lucrative for us! To register to help raise funds for our school, please go to www.easyfundraising.org.uk and follow the 3 easy steps. Our cause name is '**Friends of Godstone Village School – Surrey**'. Thank you very much for your support.

Dates for your Diary

- Thurs 5th May – open meeting at The White Hart 8pm for anyone interested in joining FOGVS or anyone who just wants to be more involved in helping out at events
- Sat 2nd July – Summer Fayre

Many thanks again and here's to continued success in 2016!

Kind regards,

Friends of Godstone Village School

FUNDRAISING FILM NIGHT



On Thursday after school we had a fundraising film event. The event was planned to raise money for superhero costumes and books for years 1 and 2 to have in their role play areas. The film 'The Incredibles' was shown to 110 pupils and all children enjoyed popcorn and a drink. The children thoroughly enjoyed the event and £255 was raised! This will be ample to buy costumes and books so we will ask the children of anything else that they would like for their 'Superheroes' topic. This event was hugely successful and popular so we will plan to run similar events in the future. Thank you to all parents who supporting this.

SUPERHEROES DAY



On Tuesday Kingfishers and Owls enjoyed a superhero themed dress up day to kick start their 'superheroes' topic. Children were allowed to come into school dressed as their favourite superhero and enjoyed a range of fun superhero activities throughout the day, including a superhero drama workshop, superhero games and superhero themed art work. The children thoroughly enjoyed the day and wrote some fantastic sentences to describe their favourite part!

Hayley Beegan



NEWS REPORTER OF THE WEEK

From the last two weeks before the end of the Spring term, we have been running a new initiative called 'News reporter of the week.' This involves one child in each class per week researching a news story and then writing this story up as a news report themselves, including pictures and an explanation of why the story interested them. Years 1 and 2 write about a news story from somewhere outside of the United Kingdom, years 3 and 4 write about an event from in the UK but outside of Surrey while years 5 and 6 write about events within Surrey. All writing is then read out during key stage praise assembly at the end of the week.

So far we have seen an enormous amount of enthusiasm from the children to be the news reporter of the week and we have had some beautifully presented pieces of writing from Izzie Kerr, Imogen Dolling, Leia Jones, Louie Bradley, Lily Shooter, Jessica Hinds, Lewis Tuffey, Evie Walker, Millie Campbell, Jamie Waters, Sofia Sanchez and Lucy Sturgeon. The articles ranged from endangered hedgehogs in Surrey to rare fossils being found in Brazil and have provided the children with a better understanding of our locality and how it fits into a wider understanding of society in our county and our country.

All newspaper reports are displayed in the hall each week – please come and have a look!

Mr Adam Kohlbeck

Geography Leader

PARENT PROTOCOL

It has come to my attention that a minority of parents take it upon themselves to contact another parent to complain about their child's behaviour. This is wholly unacceptable. **DO NOT** telephone a parent to have a go at them OR visit their home address to do the same. This bullish behaviour from some parents has no place at our school. If you have any concerns about your child's safety or well-being you must speak to the school and let us deal with it. Very often any issues are quickly resolved between children. The children are a credit to us. They learn to demonstrate good reasoning and communication skills in resolving friendship issues at school.

Mrs Jarrott - Chase



ACTIVE KIDS SCHOOL VOUCHERS

Thank you very much to everyone who has kindly given us the Active Kids Schools Vouchers. The last day for handing in the vouchers is 8th July 2016. These vouchers go towards sports and cooking equipment for our school – so please keep collecting. Many thanks!

School Office

SCOOTERS

A child's scooter has gone missing from the school -outside the Nursery. Please could parents/carers check to see if you have your own scooter.

Thank you.