

NEWSLETTER



GODSTONE PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL

Summer 1, 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another fantastic half term at Godstone Primary and Nursery School. I am extremely proud of our Year 6 children who completed their SATs tests this half term. Whilst SATs can be stressful, it is also a time to celebrate all of the progress that the children have made throughout their time at this school. Well done Year 6—you have all done amazingly well!

On a personal note, I had the pleasure of meeting HRH King Charles III at Buckingham Palace this half term. This was a fantastic experience and one which I thoroughly enjoyed in my capacity as Headteacher of Godstone Primary and Nursery School.



I hope that you have a restful half term break and I look forward to seeing you all after half term on **Monday 2nd June**.

Yours sincerely,

N. J. Usher

Mr Nick Usher
Headteacher



CAKE WITH THE HEADTEACHER

This half term, two children have achieved over 500 house points for the academic year. A really big congratulations to Sebastian (Year 1) and Charlotte (Year 1) for this brilliant achievement. When children reach 500 house points, the reward is to have cake with our Headteacher.

The children earn house points by demonstrating the school's core values: respect, compassion, responsibility, ambition and pride. Every piece of homework completed also earns a house point.

Sebastian said that he managed to amass the 500 house points by always doing his homework. Charlotte commented that she had gained lots of her house points by being kind and compassionate to others.

Well done Sebastian and Charlotte. We hope that you enjoyed the chocolate cake!



NURSERY

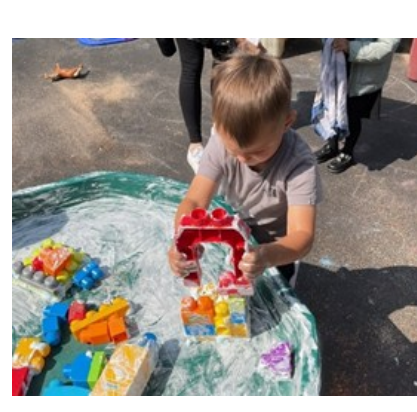


This half term the children in Nursery have enjoyed sharing the stories *Jasper's Beanstalk* and *Jack and the Beanstalk*. Inspired by the stories the children were very excited to grow their own French beans. They decorated their own greenhouse cut-outs and planted their beans in a bag. They regularly checked on their bean's growth, commenting on the changes they observed.

The children were excited to take their bean plants home and show their families and we hope once they are potted, they will continue to grow and produce some French beans for the children to eat. The children have been measuring their heights against the giant beanstalk in the outside area, engaging in multiple conversations about who is the tallest, shortest and the same height within the class.

The children have been practising their threading to create their own golden harps and have drawn some lovely chalk beanstalks on the garden floor. They have been busy building giant castles with the mega bloks in the clouds (shaving foam) in the tuff spot and played various group games like What's the time, Mr Giant?, taking giant footsteps as they moved up the leaves.

The children have created their own name beanstalks, recognising letters from their own names and using their name cards to put the letters in the correct order before sticking them on the paper. They have also engaged in retelling their own versions of the stories using the story tray and props.





RECEPTION



Reception have had a great half term learning about minibeasts. We learned that an insect has three body parts, 'a head, a thorax, and an abdomen', six legs and two antennae. We went for minibeast hunts around the Forest School area. We used our phonics skills to segment and blend words we needed to write lists of the minibeasts we spotted. We have also enjoyed creating observational drawings of different minibeasts we found.



The children enjoyed learning about bees in our non-fiction text, 'Why Do We Need Bees?' They were fascinated to find out how bees spread pollen, that there are three types of bee in a bee colony and that some bees make honey. At Forest School the children enjoyed toasting crumpets with honey to have a taste!



We consolidated our learning with a fantastic trip to Kent Life. We carried out minibeast hunts and made minibeast houses. We went on a tractor ride and saw owls and meerkats, as well as many farm animals.



YEAR 1

Another end to a quick but busy half-term and Year 1 surely have a lot to show for it!

Year One have got stuck into their writing in English, getting to know and rewriting the popular fiction text, *The Day the Crayons Quit*. It has been wonderful to see how much progress Year One have made since the beginning of the academic year. They are now confidently inventing their own stories, including expanded noun phrases and rhetorical questions, alongside using capital letters and full-stops in their sentences. Keep up the incredible hard work Year One!

In history, Year One have been learning more about their local area, Godstone. Within each lesson, the children have had the opportunity to explore the village's amazing history from its historical buildings to its fascinating past in relation to smuggling, quarrying, and John Edward Trenchman; a crew member of Captain Henry Morgan in the 17th century. As part of their learning, Year One have undertaken investigations, role-play and a local visit to the church where they gained an even greater depth of knowledge from Reverend Peter.

In other areas of the curriculum, Year One have had lots of fun exploring materials and their properties in science; multiplication, division, fractions and direction in maths; and enhancing their ball skills in PE.

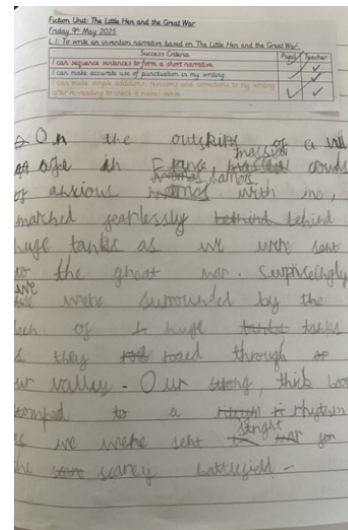
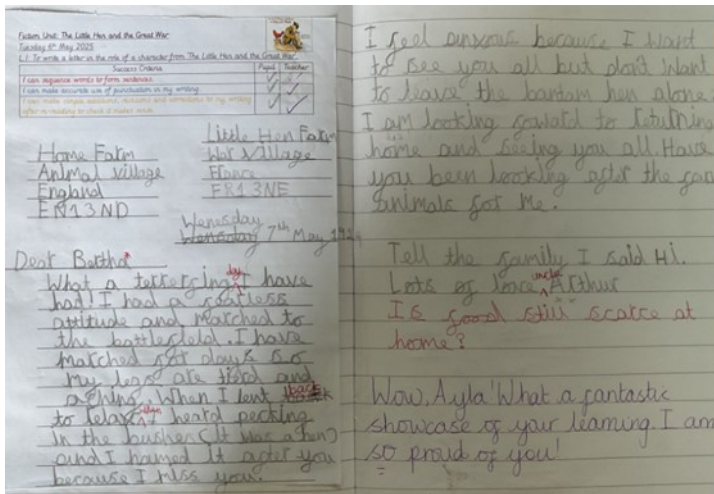
The school were blown away by the incredible effort that Year One demonstrated in learning their lines and songs for the class assembly, *A Day in Pompeii*. The children looked fantastic in their costumes and greatly enjoyed the rehearsals and painting involved in the lead-up to the assembly. We were so proud of their performance on the day and we hope everyone enjoyed it as much as we did.

We wish all the children a lovely half-term and we look forward to all the exciting events we have to come in the last half-term of the year!



YEAR 2

What a brilliant half-term of learning Year Two have had! Firstly, the children have strived for success throughout their writing learning. The children have challenged themselves to use different sentence types, make ambitious vocabulary choices and proofread their work carefully. The children enjoyed writing for different purposes; they spent some time writing letters, short narratives and non-chronological reports. Take a look at some of their fantastic pieces.



During art lessons this half-term, Year Two have been exploring sculptures whilst using clay. They spent some time developing their clay techniques before creating their very own pinch pots.



Throughout science this half term, Year Two have been exploring what the basic needs are for animals, including humans, to survive. Year Two had great fun learning about the importance of eating a balanced diet and investigating the impact of exercise on our bodies.

YEAR 3

We've had a great start to the summer term! The children have thoroughly enjoyed the maths morning and reading afternoon that so many parents and careers attended. It's truly wonderful to see so many engaging with the school.

The children have written some fantastic pieces of work in English based on the story *The Iron Man*. We made changes to the character (*The Iron Spider*) as well as changed the setting (a snowy mountain).

In maths, the children have really persevered with their learning on money and time. We've had some tricky learning but the children have taken to all the challenges and worked through all of tasks. It's always great to practise those skills at home too!

Our science this half term has been about animals as well as humans and the children have really engaged in some great learning about skeletons and how to remain fit and healthy!

The children have also really enjoyed orienteering in PE. They have completed lots of different tasks and exercises involving effective communication, team work and map making!

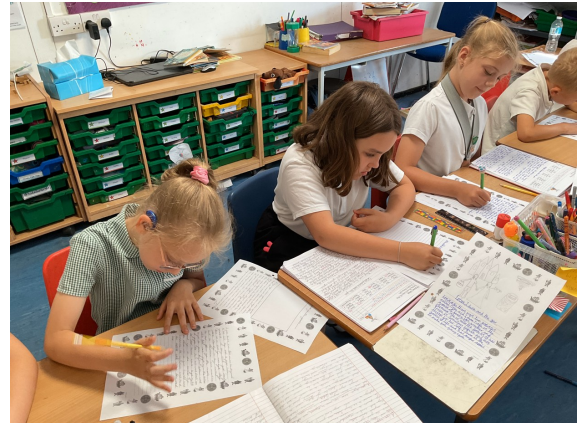


YEAR 4

Year 4 have had a very busy half-term since Easter. We have been learning all about the Vikings in our English and history lessons. We have particularly enjoyed reading Viking myths and learning about all of the different Norse gods and mythical creatures. We then wrote our own myths featuring the same characters such as the powerful Thor and the mischievous Loki! Below are photos of Year 4 writing their Viking sagas.

In maths, we have been learning all about decimals and fractions and how they link together. This has been a bit tricky but we have persevered and now feel more confident about it. We have also been practising our times tables lots in preparation for the Multiplication Tables Challenge which will take place in the first two weeks after half-term. Our scores are getting better and better showing how all of that practise is paying off!

In PE, we have been learning, practising and choreographing dances based on the Vikings. We had to think of different motifs and link them together in sequences. We also explored different ways of travelling within the dance. We have also been learning about orienteering and training for athletics in preparation for future sporting events!



YEAR 5

This half-term Year 5 have been exploring the play Macbeth. They have spent most of their English lessons exploring the features of a play script and acting out scenes from the play. Within the final two weeks of term the children have written their own version of Macbeth and created persuasive adverts for their play.



Within maths we have been exploring shape, by measuring and classifying angles and identifying the properties of different polygons.

Within art the children have been exploring mixed media to create self-portraits. The children used tracing paper to trace the outline of their face from a photo and then added words that related to them around their face. Some children then combined parts of this drawing with sections of their photograph and combined them on a colourful background.

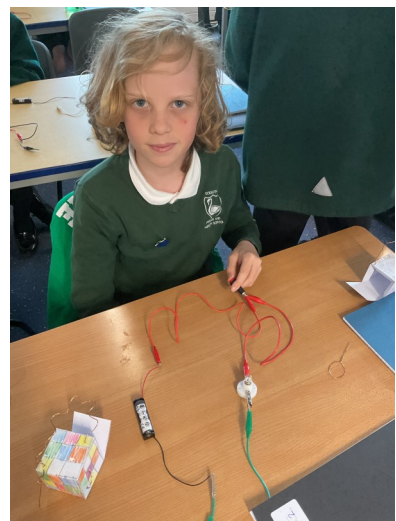
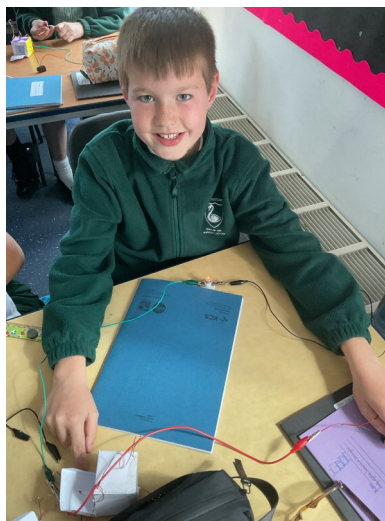
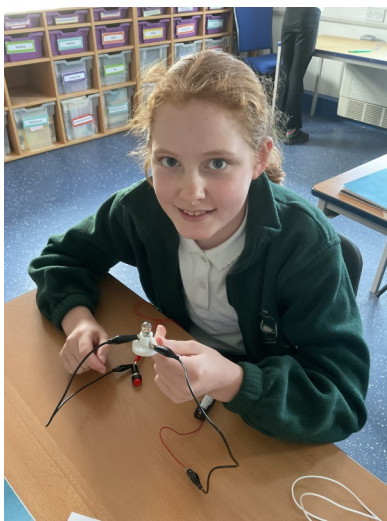


The children have been absolutely amazing on their weekly trip to Woldingham School for swimming lessons. They have shown all the school values from ambition and responsibility within the lessons and respect to both Mrs Keogh and the staff driving the minibuses. Well done Year 5!

YEAR 6

Year Six have now completed their SATs and we are incredibly proud of them!

Whilst the children have spent lots of time revising, they have also continued to engage with the wider curriculum with great interest. In science, they have looked at electricity and the different components that make up electrical circuits. The children have identified the symbols for each component and used this knowledge to then draw and make their own circuits. When making their own circuits, they investigated the voltage that was going through the circuit and measured this using a voltmeter.



This half-term, the children have been playing rounders and cricket in their PE lessons. They have developed their throwing and catching skills, as well as focusing on developing their tactical knowledge. We have also been impressed with the improvements we have seen with their batting with children now placing their hits between fielders. These lessons have also provided the children with an excellent opportunity to demonstrate their communication skills, teamwork and sportsmanship.



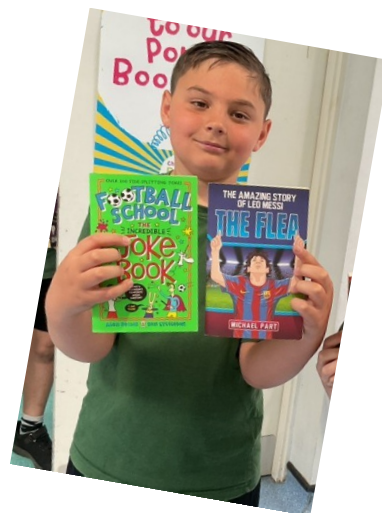
We are looking forward to spending the final half-term with the children preparing for their production and going on our residential to Hindleap Warren!

The logo for the Children's Book Project is centered on a yellow square. It features the words "Children's" in purple, "Book" in green with a blue cartoon monster face as the letter 'o', and "Project" in pink.

Children's Book Project

Our school was entered into a competition run by the 'Children's Book Project' and was lucky enough to win a large amount of new or lightly used books to share with the children. The 'Children's Book Project' is a charity that repurpose donated books and distribute them to children and their families. They have a drop off point at Oxted School if you had any appropriate books you would like to donate. You just have to let them know you are coming on the 'Children's Book Project' website.

We set up our book fair on Friday 9th May 2025 and there was a buzz of excitement in the air. The children visited the fair and had the opportunity to choose up to two books each. It was fantastic to see the children talking to their friends about the books they liked, making recommendations and even choosing one of their free books for their siblings. The children loved looking at all the books while they were making their choices. We even have some left over that we can use to update our library and classroom books too.



FOREST SCHOOL

Year 2 have had a great half term at Forest School. They were fascinated with what they were finding when pond dipping. The children studied the dragonfly nymphs, newts and tadpoles that they caught. It was great to see that the pond is thriving with an increasing number of living things. It is now home to both palmate and smooth newts!

The children explored the Japanese art of 'Hapa zome' where natural pigments from leaves and flowers are pounded into fabrics to create prints. The children arranged their petals, flowers and leaves between two layers of fabric and used hammers to transfer the colours.

They had a brilliant morning out on The Green, completing a treasure hunt to find a range of natural items; playing games, such as 'beetle' and 'mosquito tag'; and finished by using water colours to paint the pond.

Reception have enriched their topic of 'Marvellous Minibeasts' by exploring a range of habitats within the Forest School site. They have found millipedes, centipedes, leopard slugs, beetles, ants, worms and many more! In one session, they toasted crumpets on the fire to eat with honey.

They have enjoyed planting peas, mangetout and wild flowers. They discussed what seeds and plants need in order for them to grow and looked closely at the roots, stems and leaves they could see growing.



School Council



Following the success of Christmas Jumper Day when the children raised £230 for Save The Children, the School Council wanted to raise money for Marie Curie to support those suffering from cancer and other illnesses.

The children decided that they wanted to raise money by baking cakes and selling them to their friends after school. So **Godstone Bakes** was born.

The children loved baking with their class during the day and the School Council representatives enjoyed selling what was made at the end of the day.

The total profit for Marie Curie was **£226.51**.

“It was good fun!” Year One child.

“It was nice because of how much money your raised.” Year One child.

“It was kind because we were raising money for Marie Curie.” Year Two child.

“It was good fun to sell the cakes to people.” Year Three child.

“It was overcrowded in a good way!” Year Four child.

“I liked selling the cakes.” Year Four child.

“It was really fun giving people sweet treats after school.” Year Five child.

“I loved raising money for Marie Curie so people can beat cancer; we’re helping people’s lives.”
Year Five child.





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 8:50 am 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 Attendance Advice 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 Officer attached to the school. Where school interventions have failed to secure regular attendance, an official referral may be made to the Attendance Advice Officer.

Kind regards,

Mr Nick Usher
Headteacher



PENALTY NOTICES

Just to remind parents/carers that if they take their children out of school without authority for 5 or more days (which do not have to be consecutive), then the following will apply:

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.

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.



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 Officers (formerly Education Welfare 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 Education (Pupil Registration)(England)(Amendment) Regulations 2013, which became law on 01 September 2013 state that Headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances.**
- **The Headteacher is also required to determine the number of school days a child can be away from school if leave is granted.**
- In such cases the Headteacher/Governing Body must decide whether 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 the school or the Attendance Advice 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

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Transition to Secondary School

Summer Holiday Support Sessions

Is your Year 6 child feeling anxious about starting secondary school?

Learning Space & YMCA East Surrey are offering 1:1 young person & parent/carers support sessions during the summer holidays to help ease the transition.

These sessions focus on addressing anxiety, worries, building resilience and celebrating each child's strengths.

Sessions are available either in Tadworth, Redhill or online. Your child can attend one or two sessions. Spaces are limited and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Parents and careers can sign up using the QR code/link
<https://forms.office.com/e/GHtAgndK3z>



Mindworks
Surrey