

# School Newsletter

## Spring 1 2025

In harmony we  
Nurture, Inspire, Flourish



Value: Cooperation

What another inspirational Spring half term we have had with your children. Thank you for all your support in joining us for our Inspire Sessions, for the many volunteers that have helped out with swimming, Forest School, reading and trips. We can only continue to offer such a rich curriculum with the help of our volunteers, so let us know if you would like to join the team.

Our local history week has been a real success with our team of budding historians delving into Dorking in the past. Children explored the Deepdene Trail, Dorking Town (including the history of the Dorking chicken) and found out about the old school site.

We have some exciting trips planned for the coming months, following on from some great explorations at the Buddhist Temple, Painshill Park, Woking Mosque and the Imperial War Museum, not to mention our Safer Internet Day and Children's Mental Health Week. Our choir sang amongst 9,000 other voices at the O2 at Young Voices, We have also hosted Dorking Schools Hockey Tournament, where our Year 5 and 6 team came second!!

Finally, we are approaching the season of Lent and the Church of England's theme for 2025 is "Living Hope". As we reflect on our Collective Worship theme of Psalms, or songs, learning about how we can show kindness to others, we offer hope to our young people with the words 'The Lord shows mercy and is kind. He does not become angry quickly and he shows great love.' Psalms 103:8

I wish you all a very restful half-term break

Jacky Fyson



Hello, my name is Kathryn Saunderson and I am the new Deputy Head at St John's CofE Primary School. I joined the school in January, just in time for the snow and ice but thankfully the welcome I have received from the school community has been much warmer and friendlier!

Before I joined St John's, I had worked as Assistant Head across an infant and junior school in Horsham for just over seven years. I have been able to meet some of you in person on the gate at the beginning or end of the day but I know there are many more of you to still get to meet and know. I split my week between Surrey Hills All Saints and St John's in the same way as Mrs Fyson but am always available by via email if you have any questions or queries ([ksaunderson@stjohnsdorking.uk](mailto:ksaunderson@stjohnsdorking.uk)).



**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 s444 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.**

# Nursery Happiness Class

## Recycling

This half term Nursery are exploring the reasons around recycling and why we should do this to work together to support our environment.

We have been litter picking in the playground and around the school, along with sorting the recycling into plastics, paper/card and cans/tins.

Some of the books we have read around the topic are Michael Recycle and Litterbug Doug.



Throughout the Bible, from the Garden of Eden to the final judgment, we are called to protect and cherish the earth because it belongs to the Lord.

“The earth and all life on it are part of God's creation. We are called to respect this gift. We are responsible for taking care of the world we live in and for sharing all the wonders and resources the earth gives us.” (Caritas Australia).



## Reception Kindness Class

Kindness Class have loved Local History Week. We have been learning about 2 famous historic figures that came from Dorking. Thomas Cubitt and Ralph Vaughan Williams.



The children listened to the amazing music of Ralph Vaughan Williams and each made their very own instrument. We then created Kindness Class Orchestra and played along to various songs exploring pace, volume and ways of making various sounds with our instruments.



We have also become fantastic builders just like Thomas Cubitt. We've all worked together to draw plans and create our models using construction materials.

## Year 1 Love Class

This term we have been exploring how diverse we are as a class and how we all have a range of different talents, and relating this to the talents of the different acts in the circus.

In Geography, we have followed the travelling Circus around the world and looked at the different countries and continents.

In Science, we have been learning about Everyday Materials, looking at their properties and conducting our own experiments. In DT we have applied our new knowledge of materials to plan, cut and sew our very own hand puppets!



## Year 2 Trust Class

In Year 2 this term, our learning has been based on the topic of 'Sensational Safari'. We have learned about safari animals and written factfiles in English.

Part of our Art unit focused on texture and we learned how to create texture with paint in many different ways. We then made collages with all our textured paper and our final work is displayed on our topic board as part of one collaborative piece.



In Geography we have learned about Africa and found out about the Maasai. We made our own tribe bracelets out of brightly coloured beads.



## Year 2 Trust Class

During Local History Week, we have learned so much about our school and how it has developed through the years. We have studied old photo albums and created a timeline of important events in the schools history. The highlight of the week was visiting the old school site where the school first began.





## Year 3 Cooperation Class

Year 3 recently had a fantastic time learning all about Romans on a trip to Painshill Park. They played the trading game, were Roman soldiers and celts. They learnt about God and Goddesses running and freezing in various poses to represent the God they had just learnt about. Just before lunch they loved building ancient dwellings with moats, it's a good job there were taps as they got very dirty but loved every minute! The afternoon was filled with a walk, awe and wonder in the grotto and finding buried treasure.



In Science the children have been learning about light, light sources and made safety posters. The children did an experiment with a shoe box to see why we need light. They discovered when a rectangular hole was cut in the lid rather than just small holes, it let in enough light to see what the object was easily. We learnt the light goes from the light source to the object and is then reflected back to our eyes.



The children had the opportunity to participate in 'Feet first' training. This taught them how to cross the road safely, how to be safe on the streets and what to wear to be seen.

## Year 4 Resilience Class

We kicked off this half term with a visit to the Shah Jahan Mosque, the first purpose built mosque in the UK back in 1889. During our visit the children were shown around the original and newer mosques. We were very privileged to be allowed to observe the midday prayer, which allowed us to understand a bit more about the Islam Faith, which has linked in with our RE unit this half term. We were very proud of the class for their awe and wonder whilst on our trip and completing our learning. We have been presented with some amazing questions to deepen their understanding.



Resilience class have been learning about our neighbours in Europe, looking at the differences and similarities across the continent. We have been discussing why Europe is a diverse continent and what we can learn from our neighbours across the channel. Resilience have linked this learning with their DT work where they researched, designed, created and evaluated their own healthy, European sandwiches. There were some very interesting combinations and some very delicious creations.

## Year 4 Resilience Class

As part of our learning about keeping ourselves healthy, Resilience Class have been looking at how animals', including humans, bodies work, focusing on the digestive system. We carried out a demonstration to explain and show how our food is digested using bread, orange juice, a pair of tights and water. And had a closer look at how nutrients are transferred from our intestines to our bodies.



## Year 5 Courage Class

Year 5 visited the Buddhapadipa temple in Wimbledon - the first Thai Buddhist temple to be built in the UK. We did a meditation session with a Thai monk and had the opportunity to ask him questions. Lots of our questions were focussed on what life is like as a Buddhist monk, how enlightenment is reached and what Buddhists believe about the creation of the world. Year 5 listened respectfully - it was definitely a trip to remember!



Back in class, we have been experimenting with different ways to join cardboard and create bridges and bends in DT. We used these skills to make marble runs using excellent team-working and problem-solving skills! We enjoyed the opportunity to share our marble runs with children from year 1.



## Year 6 Respect Class

This term, Year 6 have stepped back in history and begun to explore the causes of World War I (which will lead on to our learning next term about WWII).

A trip to the Imperial War Museum in London, saw us explore the reality of being an Air Raid Warden and experience being in both an Anderson and Morrison shelter.

We all enjoyed reading the letter from 9 year old Alfie - who wanted to join the army and fight for his country; then checked to see who in our class would have been tall enough to enlist.



In our English lessons, we are busy writing adventure narratives. These will take our readers to places such as Ancient China, Ancient Rome and modern day Mexico as our main characters chase their dream despite the opposition of their friends, family or culture.

In music, we have enjoyed exploring how soundtracks and sound effects impact how we experience films. We were really amazed by the different atmosphere created to the same extract of The Lion King!



# Choir and a visit to Young Voices



On Monday 20th January we had the absolute pleasure of taking 28 children to the O2 to participate in Young Voices 2025 and what an amazing time we had. Our children were part of a choir totalling 8,256 school children from all over the South of England. They represented our community incredibly well and I was incredibly proud of them. The children put a lot of work in and for the last choir rehearsal, we watched the video of the concert we participated in. We re-lived the singing and dancing but the icing on the cake was the children spotting themselves on the video! Until next year...



# Diary Dates 2024/25

<b>17th-21st Feb</b>	<b>Half Term</b>
<b>24th February</b>	<b>GST Inset Day</b>
<b>26th February</b>	<b>Year 4 Inspire Session</b>
<b>26th February</b>	<b>Year 6 Junior Citizen Event</b>
<b>March</b>	
<b>3rd March</b>	<b>Incredible Eggs-Ducklings</b>
<b>7th March</b>	<b>World Book Day - Mufti</b>
<b>12th March</b>	<b>Year 4 Outdoor Learning Day</b>
<b>12th March</b>	<b>Year 5 Inspire Session</b>
<b>13th March</b>	<b>Eco Day Cathedral</b>
<b>18th March</b>	<b>Year 1 Hever Castle Trip</b>
<b>19th March</b>	<b>Year 2 Outdoor Learning Day</b>
<b>19th March</b>	<b>Year 6 Inspire Session</b>
<b>19th-21st March</b>	<b>Year 4 PGL - Overnight Trip</b>
<b>24th March</b>	<b>Year 6 Chartwell Junior Trip</b>
<b>24th-26th March</b>	<b>Year 4 Bikeability</b>
<b>26th March</b>	<b>Reception Outdoor Learning Day</b>
<b>26th March</b>	<b>Inspire Session Nursery and Reception</b>
<b>27th March</b>	<b>Oliver Twist M &amp; M Production whole school</b>
<b>27th March</b>	<b>Parents Consultation 15.30-18.00</b>

# Diary Dates 2024/25

## April

1st April

Year 3 Wisley Gardens

2nd April

Nursery Outdoor Learning Day

3rd April

Easter Service Led by Year 3

3rd April

Nursery Last Day of Term

4th April

End of Term Finish 1.15pm/ Mufti Day

5th - 21st April

Easter Holidays

23rd April

Year 1 Wisley Trip

24th April

Reception Bocketts Farm Trip

29th April

Year 4 SES Reservoir Trip

30th April

Nursery Manor Farm

## May

8th May

Whole School Class Photo

12th-15th May

Year 6 SATs Week

13th May

Year 2 Rural Life Museum

16th May

Year 6 Outdoor Learning Day-(End of SATs Celebration)

19th May

Year 5 Royal Observatory

23rd May

Reception Outdoor Learning Day

26th-30th May

Half Term



# Diary Dates 2024/25

## June

2nd -6th June

Year 6 Isle of Wight Residential Trip

18th June

Year 6 Wintershall The Life of Christ Trip

24th June

Year 5 Wisley Gardens Trip

25th June

Year 6 Outdoor Learning Day

27th June

Mufti Day- Come dressed as something you want to be when you are older

27th June

Sports Day TBC

## July

1st July

Year 1 Reigate Beekeepers Trip

2nd July

Year 4 Outdoor Learning Day

3rd July

Nursery Health Workshop

4th July

Summer Fayre 14.00-16.00

9th July

Nursery Outdoor Learning Day

11th July

Crazy Mufti Day-Break the Rules

14th July

Year 6 Leavers Service at St John's Church

16th July

Year 2 Outdoor Learning Day

16th July

Nursery Last Day of Term

17th July

End of Term - 13.15 Finish/ Mufti Day

18th-22nd July

Inset Days

23rd July-31st August

Summer Holidays

## Online Safety



Safer Internet Day 2025 took place on the **11th of February 2025**, with celebrations and learning based around the theme 'Too good to be true?'

Each year an online issue or theme that speaks about the things young people are seeing and experiencing online is covered. Created in consultation with young people across the UK, this years Safer Internet Day focussed on the issue of scams online and for young people, how to protect themselves and others, as well as what support is available to them. It also looked at the future of scams in this fast changing online world and answered these questions -

- How is changing technology like generative AI going to impact the approach of scammers?
- What role can the government and internet industry take to tackle this threat?
- And what changes would young people like to see to help protect themselves moving forward?

**Please talk to your children about their learning -**

**What do they know now? What are they going to do keep themselves safe?**

# APPEER

Connecting autistic girls and women



## Appeer Monthly Girls Group for Autistic Girls aged 7-12 years.

(Monthly Sundays)



A morning or afternoon monthly group session where autistic girls can connect whilst enjoying a range of activities in a low-pressure setting, underpinned with a wellbeing promoting foundation. The Programme is designed to support autistic girls who may be at mainstream school, specialist school, home schooled, accessing EOTAS support and/or are struggling to attend school and are looking to make some social connections.



### Key benefits include:

- Building positive social experiences with peers in a supportive setting.
- Gaining life/work skills, including cooking.
- Learning about being autistic and understanding support needs.
- Accessing activities which promote wellbeing and good SEMH.
- Accessing hobby-based activities, e.g., arts/crafts, forest school, indoor and outdoor games, and cooking/baking.
- Helping young people understand and support their own sensory needs.
- Concurrent facilitated parent/carer peer support.

**Structure** – 2 choice-based activity sessions e.g. cooking and crafts, or forest school and games, split by a choice-led break.

**Time and Place** – 10:30am-12.30pm (10-12 years) and 1.30-3.30pm (7-10 years), HSA School, Woking.

Young people are supported by at least 2 staff members per activity, including autistic and neurodivergent adults, with specialist education, psychology, and youth work backgrounds. Young people are in small groups of between 8 and 10. Parents/carers also have their own facilitator and can access informal peer support, signposting and advice.

**Eligibility** – We are able to consider applications from autistic girls in Surrey and surrounding areas who can attend independently without 1:1 support and who meet our admissions criteria (see policy at [appeer.org.uk](http://appeer.org.uk)).

**Cost** – £36 per Group (including VAT and a place for a parent/carer). Subsidised places are available.

**This programme is highly rated by parents and girls on measures including social comfort, self-confidence, life skills, meeting peers and reduced isolation. Most girls attended every month, despite many having been previously unable to access school or the community.**

*We are so grateful to have found Appeer. It's the one place [my daughter] can truly be herself and I feel truly understood, warts and all. Your work is so valuable. Thank you. Parent/Carer*

*I wanted her to meet other autistic girls, to begin to understand herself, to enjoy special interests together and most importantly be able to be herself. Appeer has offered all of this. Parent/Carer*



# DRAMA \*KIDS\*

DEVELOPING CONFIDENCE,  
COMMUNICATION AND CREATIVITY

AFTER SCHOOL

# DRAMA CLUB

LET'S HAVE FUN!

## DRAMA KIDS DORKING!

MONDAYS at

St John's Primary School, Dorking RH4 2LR

4pm till 5pm (4 to 8yrs)

5pm till 6pm (9 + yrs)

© 07521 431697

✉ [dorking@dramakids.co.uk](mailto:dorking@dramakids.co.uk)

BOOK YOUR  
TWO-WEEK  
TRIAL TODAY  
**£20**

