



WEEKLY FOCUS

Friday 18th December 2020



Dear Parents and Carers

I'm finding it hard to believe that we are breaking up for Christmas already! Although school has been 'different', we have still managed to pack lots of fun learning experiences into the term. Some particular highlights have been:

1. The Year 3 Nativity – different, but still fantastic! I hope Year 3 parents enjoyed the show!
2. Remote Collective Worship. Although we haven't been in the hall, staff and children have continued to worship together. New Assembly Ambassadors are ensuring that children have more of a role in this aspect of school life. Volunteers from 'Open the Book' have continued to bring bible stories to life and it has been wonderful to keep our link with St Mary's going, even though we can't meet in person.
3. Our resourceful PTA. Even covid can't stop our fantastic volunteers from thinking of innovative ways to raise money! PTA funds are currently being spent on some new playground markings, playground games, and school books and dictionaries.
4. New ways of music making. Many of our visiting instrumental tutors have staged virtual concerts and the school is frequently filled with the sounds of violins, trumpets, drums and much more!
5. Our new maths curriculum. Years 3 – 5 are using a new maths scheme called 'Maths No Problem'. Teachers have had to work hard to implement the new approach, and children are now more and more confident to discuss maths and think of different ways to solve mathematical problems.
6. Support for children's learning after the national lockdown. It has been lovely to walk through the school after 3:20pm and see teachers working with small groups of children to give them even more support with their learning. Our online tutoring programme, 'Third Space Learning', is also proving very successful, and selected children from Year 4 will be starting to learn with another tutoring programme, 'Lightning Squad', in January.
7. Our new nurture room! Although we cannot use it as much as we would like because of COVID restrictions, the room is providing a safe space for our ELSA support and school counsellor.
8. Welcoming Ms Ash to Horsell Junior. Ms Ash is responsible for Inclusion, Safeguarding and SEND and the impact that she is having on the emotional wellbeing of our children is already being felt throughout the school.
9. Our wonderful Christmas angel – made by children in the lower school and now on display at Guildford Cathedral.
10. Our early morning sports clubs. Although some parents might not appreciate the earlier starts (!), children have really enjoyed their morning sports with Mr Coles and they return to class happy, eager, and ready to learn.

The term has also not been without its challenges, and we were all extremely disappointed to have to close the Year 5 bubble before the end of term. As a working parent myself, I am more than aware of the impact of bubble closures. As you know, closures are implemented on the advice of Public Health England and we follow their advice when there is a confirmed case in school. We will continue to do all we can to keep school safe and I would urge all parents to exercise caution over the holiday period so we can all return to school in January.

I hope that you all have a wonderful Christmas with your families. For those of you who may be feeling some sadness about changing plans during this time of national uncertainty, I leave you with a quote from one of the Psalms:

'I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come?
My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth' Psalm 121:1-2

With very best wishes,

Mrs Wand



COVID – IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Please be aware that although the school closes for Christmas on 18th December, we still carry responsibility for contact tracing of pupils who test positive.

If a pupil or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school we have to assist in identifying close contacts and advising upon self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school. As such, we require you to notify the school as soon as possible of your positive result so that we can take the appropriate action. Please e-mail: corona@horsell-junior.surrey.sch.uk

Where a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus having developed symptoms more than 48 hours after being in school, they must follow contact tracing instructions if they are required to do so.

Travel advice

If you are travelling abroad or visiting different places in the UK please make sure that you are fully up to date with the latest travel advice. Please visit <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-countries-and-territoriesexempt-from-advice-against-all-but-essential-international-travel>

Should you need to quarantine on your arrival back home please contact the school and let us know the start and end dates.

School Uniform

Please make sure that your child comes to school in the correct school uniform. Children should wear black school shoes, not trainers, and girls' skirts should be knee length. In order to keep classrooms safe, windows are kept open throughout the day so please make sure your child has a warm coat. They should also have a waterproof cagoule for PE lessons, which can be kept in their PE bags. We would also recommend that girls wear tights during the colder months.

Crisp Packets to Thermal Blankets

Acer (year 4) have been collecting crisp packets to send to a charity in Somerset who make them into thermal waterproof blankets for the homeless. We needed 150 to make one blanket, with the help of some Elm class children, we made 170!

They have been posted along with some inspirational messages from the children to stay safe and warm this winter.



Stationery in School

The holidays are a good time to check you have all the right equipment. Please ensure children have the correct stationery with them in school each day, this includes:

- Glue stick
- 2 HB pencils
- Pencil sharpener
- Rubber
- Ruler
- 2 Blue pens
- Purple pen for editing and polishing work
- 2 whiteboard pens
- A highlighter
- Colour pencils



If under the current restrictions you are finding it difficult to supply your child/ren with the stationery please notify us and we can support you with this where we can.



School Lunch bookings are now open for next half term!

Please book your lunches via Scopay. Lunches for the first week of term must be booked 8 days in advance as usual.

Thank you.

Applications for children starting Reception and Year 3 in September 2021 close 15th January 2021.

For full information, visit:

www.surreycc.gov.uk/primaryadmissions

Year 3 Movie Premiere

On Friday 11th December, Year 3 went to the premiere of their Nativity, Straw and Order. The hall was transformed into a cinema auditorium for the afternoon, complete with red carpet, fairy lights and concession stand. Ms Ash and Mrs Wand were guests of honour. All the children loved seeing themselves on the big screen.

On Tuesday evening this week, the film was released to family members of Year 3. By Wednesday afternoon it had been viewed over 250 times.



Christmas Craft Activity for the Holidays

Surrey History Centre would usually welcome families in to make crafts but this year they have gone virtual with a simple Christmas craft activity video. The video also introduces the concept of the archive and includes pictures of old Christmas Tree photos from their collection.



Make Scrap Paper Christmas Trees with Surrey Heritage - [here](#).

Make simple Christmas Trees with paper from the recycling box and see some old Christmas Tree photos from the archive.

Year 4 catapulted back in time

This half term Year 4 have been learning about the Romans. They have finished off their topic by each making their own Catapult in D.T with Miss Freed, Mrs. Chamberlin and Mrs. Cole. The children have written an evaluation for their project and they also got to practice using them, firing pieces of paper from their catapult; some testing whose went the furthest. They learnt how to measure accurately, use a saw and a drill. All the children really enjoyed making these; it was great to see them being excited about their learning and this project. Well Done Year 4, it was a great end to the term!



Reverse Advent Calendar

Thank you for all your generous donations to the Reverse Advent Calendar. A carload of food and essential items were delivered to the Woking Food Bank earlier this week, and a further boot load to the York Road Homeless Project. Both charities were very grateful.



Year 6 Viking Longboat Display

Inter House Reading Challenge

Thank you to all the children who took part in the Reading Challenge. The photos have created a lovely display. Congratulations to the winners in each year group, who were able to take home a Christmas book to cuddle up with and enjoy over the Christmas break.

Here are the results for the houses:

Polesden: 31 points

Hatchlands : 24 points

Loseley: 24 points

Clandon: 19 points

The winner from each year group is:

3: Lilly-May S (Elm Class)

4: Kylie P (Acer Class)

5: Tom D (Rowan Class)

6: Joe M (Cherry Class)



Christmas Pause Day

For Christmas Pause Day this year, all the children reflected on the hope of Advent. Throughout Advent, the children have enjoyed Advent calendars galore! They have listened daily to Bible stories, Christmas stories and donated gifts to others. On Monday, all the children also considered 'comfort and joy' in their lives and looked forward with happy anticipation. They wrote prayers about their current worries and their hopes for the future. The children also gave comfort and joy to others by writing thank you letters and cards to adults expressing their thanks.



Cherry Class' Tree of Hope

Christmas Lunch and Festivities

On Tuesday and Thursday, we were impressed with the colourful array of festive jumpers worn by our children for their Christmas lunch days. After saying grace, the children took part in a mass cracker pull before tucking into their lunch. We would like to thank Lizzie and Lynn from Twelve15 for the hard work they put in making this special meal.

This week children were also treated to Jack-and-the-Beanstalk, an online Pantomime funded with thanks to the PTA.



12 Days of Christmas raises almost £5,500!

The PTA are thrilled to announce that we raised just under **£5,500** which is amazing!

We sold 60 balloons, 48 Christmas Puddings and over 2000 raffle tickets.

We walked to the North Pole with a special well done to Lizzy from Spruce who walked 15miles!

Congratulations to

- * Toby and Ava at the Horsell Village School who won the bake off
- * A year 5 mum and Hugo at the Village School who named our Reindeer Floopy and Sparkles
- * The Badgers mum who was only 2 away from the number of sweets (147) and won our jar!
- * And the Torbett family who won our quiz

It was wonderful to have so many people take part in the 12 Days of Christmas!

Thank you!



Merry Christmas from everyone at Horsell Junior School
We look forward to welcoming you back on 4th January 2021

