



WEEKLY FOCUS

Friday 24th September 2021



Dear Parents and Carers,

The children have been enjoying a variety of learning opportunities at school this week and it has been lovely to hear Harvest Festival songs being sung around the building. Lots of children have also joined the school choir, and they were sounding fantastic during their rehearsal yesterday.

We are starting the next phase of the Opal play project next week. We have a variety of new 'loose parts' for the children to play with and we will have a 'play assembly' on Tuesday to explain how lunchtimes will be a bit different. Your children may come home a little dirtier than before as they explore different ways of playing and have fun with the new equipment. Children will also be able to use the whole site during lunchtimes, which means the older and younger children can play together. This is especially nice for our year 3 children who will be able to meet up with their buddies more regularly! We have another meeting with our Opal play consultant in October and then we will host a Zoom meeting for parents to explain more about the project.

Mr Alex Tear, Director of Education at the Diocese, visited our school on Thursday afternoon. He visited several classrooms and was impressed by the learning environment and the conversations he had with some of our classroom greeters. It is a long time since we have had an 'official' visitor to the school and it was lovely to get positive feedback about Horsell Junior.

Best wishes,
Mrs Wand
Headteacher

Dates for 27th September—1st October 2021

Monday 27th September	Start of Harvest collection. Please see further details below.
Tuesday 28th September	5pm: Year 5 zoom meeting for parents and carers re. year 5 residential trip https://zoom.us/j/91096466235?pwd=Zm5JNGdyc3F3SFNmS1dtZzk5Q3VZQT09

Please check you have booked **lunches** for ALL of next week, if required, including Friday 1st October.

The deadline for booking lunches for the week commencing 4th October is Sunday 26th September.

SECONDARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS

Reminder: The closing date for children in year 6 to apply for a place is 31st October 2021. For further information about applying for a place, please click [here](#).

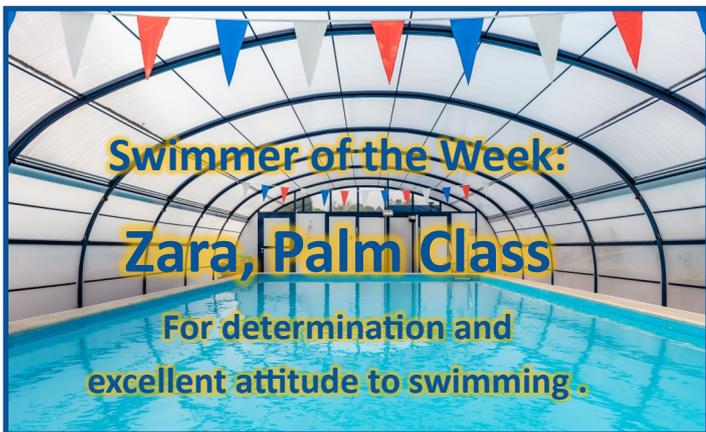


Harvest Collection:

27th September—4th October

As is our tradition, the items collected will be donated to the York Road Project in Woking, which supports people experiencing homelessness. The charity are currently asking for donations of the following, which children can hand to their class teacher:

- Variety of crisps & snacks
 - Sugar sachets
 - Jars of coffee & hot chocolate
 - Sweetener sachets
 - Bottled or cans of water
 - Cordials (orange/black currant)
 - Individually wrapped biscuits / sweet treats
 - We also welcome tins and other long-life items.
- Any items not used by the York Road project will be passed on to the Woking Food Bank.



Music Workshops

This week, our children enjoyed two musical workshops.

Mr Lawton from Woking High School came to assembly on Tuesday and played the children a variety of woodwind instruments. He played the recorder, clarinet and saxophone. He even played some musical requests from the children, including the Pink Panther and the Simpsons theme tunes.



On Thursday our new Orchestra lead, Mrs Lawrence demonstrated the violin to our year 3 children. She played a variety of styles and got the children to interact with her playing.



It is hoped that some of the children will be inspired to enquire about taking lessons. We already have over 50 children taking music lessons in school but we are always looking to expand this. Music lessons are run by external companies. If your child would like to learn an instrument in school, please visit our [website](#) for their details.



Drop off times

Drop off is from 8:30am and gates shut at 8:40am. We encourage parents to drop off their children at 8:30am so that the children can go straight in to class and start their early morning learning. The slightly earlier start time, which was agreed before the pandemic, has had a very positive impact to the children's start to the day and their learning. Young children work best in the morning and this additional time is really helping the teachers support your children effectively.

I am aware that some parents are concerned about the large numbers outside the gates but experience shows that even if we extended the drop off window by an extra 5 minutes, we would still have a large queue as children are dropped off early. We cannot open the gates any earlier than 8:30am because all teachers are now working to the same timetable – unlike the staggered timetable during the pandemic.

The gates are closed promptly at 8:40am because the register is taken at this time. Children who are late have to sign in electronically at the office to ensure we have an accurate record of who is in the building. This is important for the safeguarding of all children on site.

Reporting absences

We ask that all absences are reported to the office by 8:40am when our registers are due to be taken. Absences can be reported:

By telephone on 01483 761531, or

By email to office@horsell-junior.surrey.sch.uk

Please do not e-mail the teacher only, as they may not be able to check their e-mails before lessons start.

Absences should be reported to the school daily, unless a return date has already been agreed with the school.

Ensuring all children are accounted for is part of our safeguarding duty. Following up on unreported absences causes additional workload and delays in our morning procedures.

Thank you.