



WEEKLY FOCUS

Friday 4th February 2022



Dear Parents and Carers

'But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.' Amos 5:24

It was lovely to join the Year 5 children at Ufton Court on Tuesday and share some of their fantastic learning with them. This is the first time that many of our Year 5 children have experienced an overnight stay away from their families and they were a credit to the school. Our children have missed out on a lot of curriculum enrichment activities over the past two years and it was wonderful to see them throwing themselves into all the activities with enthusiasm and resilience.

We are currently operating at a high level of staff and pupil absence as many members of our school community have COVID. Whilst a mild illness for most, I am aware of the disruption and worry that this illness can cause to families. In school, pupils are continuing to eat in classrooms and we have made the reluctant decision to cancel all inside clubs next week that have pupils from different year groups mixing. Homework clubs and outdoor clubs are still going ahead. I would urge parents to ensure that their child is taking regular LFT tests to minimise the spread of infection as much as we can. Children with symptoms should be kept off school and sent for a PCR test.

I would also like to reiterate that your child may not have their usual class teacher, and be learning in a different classroom and with different children to normal, so there may be a delay in responding to emails, as teachers juggle a number of last-minute changes to their planning. Teachers continue to set work for pupils absent with COVID via Seesaw. Again, they are working to get this uploaded as quickly as they can but please be aware that there may be a slight delay if things in school are particularly challenging.

Thank you for your patience, support and understanding. I hope that you have a restful weekend and I look forward to seeing you next week. For those children learning at home, keeping smiling, keep up the good work, and we can't wait to see you again soon!

Kind regards,
Mrs Wand

DATES FOR 7TH—11TH FEBRUARY 2022

— Children's Mental Health Week —

Tuesday 8th February	Safer Internet Day Year 4 Parent Speaker visiting to speak about Sikhism
Wednesday 9th February	Year 3 Recycling Day. Please see information overleaf.
Friday 11th February	Oak Class Assembly One parent/carer per child only. Please wear a mask; we recommend taking a lateral flow test in advance and ask that anyone displaying COVID symptoms do not attend. Please note that photography and videography is not permitted due for safeguarding reasons. Hot drinks cannot be brought into the school. School breaks up for half term at 15:10. There are two inset days after half term. Children return to school on Wednesday 23rd February .



LANGUAGES AT HOME

If your child was exposed to a language other than English when they were little (i.e. you spoke to a partner in another language primarily at home when they were a baby/toddler), then they count as having English as an Additional Language (EAL). Once your child started talking, you might have then spoken to them in English but if the other language(s) were/are still used at home then they are EAL and we need to make sure we have them recorded accurately on our school systems. You might not think of them as EAL if they are fluent in English but the exposure they had, makes them very special.

Research shows that these children have lots of advantages, especially if they are bilingual themselves; they can be keen listeners, good problem solvers and flexible thinkers. If you think your child would be classified as EAL, please let Mrs Brincombe know by emailing deputy@horsell-junior.surrey.sch.uk. Please use the subject title 'EAL' and include the languages spoken within your email. Thank you!

YEAR GROUP PETS QUESTIONNAIRE

The deadline for responding to our questionnaire is today, 4th February. If you have not already done so, please complete the [google form here](#).

We are about to get Year Group pets for the children, funded by the PTA. On the form you can indicate if your child has any allergies, and whether or not you are comfortable with them handling the animals.

YEAR 3 RECYCLING DAY

We will be sorting household waste into recycling groups, learning which materials can be recycled easily and which ones can't. We will then be using this waste to create some junk model robots inspired by our current writing unit on the Iron Giant. If possible, could your child, on Wednesday 9th February, bring in a carrier bag of clean materials. Some of which should be recyclable and some of which can't be recycled easily.

Here is a list of suggested items:

- Cardboard (rolls and tubes especially)
- Food trays (clean)
- Plastic bottles (clean)
- Bottle tops
- Old electricals
- Various clean food packaging (foam trays, tetrapacks, crisp packets)
- Boxes made of any material
- Anything else that is clean that would otherwise be thrown away. **No glass or metal with sharp edges.**



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 23rd February, 8pm

The Horsell Kitchen

The PTA would like to invite all parents and members of staff to join us and listen, make suggestions, comments or volunteer to help. Please do stay for a drink and informal chat afterwards.



This has been one of the most challenging weeks we have ever experienced, and next week promises to continue to require all our team to continue adapting and taking on new responsibilities. Has a teacher, TA or another member of staff made a difference to you or your child this week? Why not let them know by giving them a shout out [here](#).



YEAR 5 SPACE WORKSHOP

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Last week Year 5 were launched into Space to experience our solar system first hand through virtual reality headsets. This learning supported this term's science topic on Space.

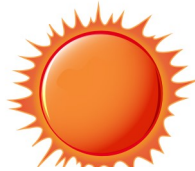


'We learnt such a lot in a short amount of time. The workshop teacher was super nice and made us laugh. This was a very special moment and one we will remember.' Esme

'We got to investigate planets and learn on the way!' Nabiha

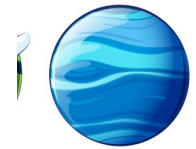


'We were able to look around and see a 360 degree view of space, as well as listening to fascinating facts about the planets and moons!' Seweryn



'I loved going into a new world in my space shuttle whilst learning space-tastic words and information about the solar system.' Keeley

'The virtual reality experience was mind-blowing! We had a tour of space while we were sitting in the school hall. We will never forget this moment.' George



SKILLS AFTER HALF TERM

The children will change their skills sessions after half term as follows:

PE skills: Pine, Rowan, Willow, Oak

Swimming: Palm, Beech, Spruce, Elm

Cookery / Forest School: Acer, Cedar, Cherry, Ash*

Details of what your child will need to bring can be found on our [website](#).

*An email will be sent to confirm which group your child is in next week.

If they had forest school in the Autumn term, they will have cookery after half term and vice versa.

SKILLS VOLUNTEERS

To run our skills sessions, we need parent volunteers for forest school and cookery.

If you are able to help after half term, please e-mail office@horsell-junior.surrey.sch.uk and specify when you can help.

No experience or DBS is needed, however if you wish to apply for a DBS details can be found [here](#).



13th February
4 - 5.30pm

Booking essential by 11th February
via children@stmarys-horsell.org.uk
Please include a contact telephone number and the size of your family group

Please bring your own tea

Saint Mary the Virgin
Horsell



This month our children are learning about Brazilian composer Heitor Villa-Lobos and listening to his piece inspired by the train taking berry pickers to the fields. You can find out more and listen at home here:

[Heitor Villa-Lobos – Bachianas brasileiras No. 2, The Little Train of the Caipira \(finale\) - BBC Teach](#)