



WEEKLY FOCUS

Thursday 16th March 2023



Dear Parents and Carers

“For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” Mark 10:45

It has been a slightly unusual week in school as we juggled strike action, trips and mock SATS for Year 6. The children have shown great resilience with the changes to their routines, and our Year 6 children should be particularly proud of the hard work and effort that have put into their ongoing assessments.

Snap shot reports will shortly be coming home to parents in advance of parents’ evening. We have decided to keep our parents’ evening remote, as we felt it was easier for working parents, but this is something that we will keep under review as I am aware that some of you would welcome a return to face-to-face meetings. We will be asking for your feedback about this in the summer term when we send out our questionnaire to parents, so we are able to see what the majority of our parents would prefer.

It was lovely to attend Pine Class assembly last week to find out all about their fantastic learning and I’m looking forward to welcoming Palm parents into school tomorrow.

KEY DATES FOR 17TH—24TH MARCH

Friday 17th March	Palm class assembly. Assemblies start at 8:55am prompt. Please note that hot drinks cannot be brought into the school. Photography is not permitted during the assembly.
Monday 20th March	Hunky Dory Dance club: parents invited to watch (last session), starts 15:15
Tuesday 21st March	Hooke Court Parent Briefing Meeting, 18:00—19:00
Friday 24th March	Snapshot reports sent home ahead of parent consultations.

NEW LUNCH MENU!

We have a new lunch menu, starting 17th April. This is now available to book on Scopay until May half term.

Please do take a look at the options with your children and book any meals required at least 8 days in advance.

Please note that if you had booked meals before the menu was published, these have been cancelled and refunded, and will need to be re-booked due to the price increase.



ENHANCED CURRICULUM—VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION

Children will be changing their sessions again after Easter.

Ash, Acer, Beech and Cherry will start swimming lessons.

Elm, Palm, Cedar and Spruce will have art and DT.

Oak, Pine, Rowan and Willow will do half a term of art/DT and half a term of forest school. We will e-mail parents full details shortly.

In order to provide these sessions, which go beyond the national curriculum, we rely on voluntary contributions from parents. We ask for £45 per child, per year to cover external staff to teach forest school and swimming, as well as materials and ingredients for cookery, art, DT and forest school.

Thank you to everyone who has already made a contribution. If you have not already made a contribution, and are able to do so, please do so via Scopay (Trips and Events section).

Thank you.

YOUNG CARERS' ACTION DAY

As mentioned in last week's newsletter, Wednesday 15th March was Young Carers Action Day and our school held a special assembly about Young Carers.

One of the ways in which we support our Young Carers in school is at our weekly support group. This is run by Mrs Haynes and supported by a number of volunteers many from St Mary's Church. Our expenses are paid for by St Mary's Church Friday Coffee Morning group.

We asked the Young Carers for some of their feedback about their roles and about the group and here are some of their comments:

"I'm proud that I'm a Young Carer."

"I have to be happy and patient."

*"I am a Young Carer
and I am a carer for my little brother."*

*"At Young Carers, we do cooking, art, apple bobbing,
eating croissants with your hands behind your back and we
have a 'cheers!' to the young carers group."*

"Young Carers is a kind and helpful group."

"I love the Young Carers Group!"

"Young Carers is the best!"

*"My favourite things that we do in the group are: drawing,
baking, arts and crafts and going to the park."*

*"Young Carers is lovely. I love it. I get to say stuff if I like
but no-one forces you to speak."*

"Thank you to all the helpers who come in and help."

On behalf of all of the children, we would like to thank all of the volunteers who come to help us and also the St Mary's Friday Coffee Morning Group for all their generous donations.

If you think your child is a Young Carer, please speak to your child's teacher, Miss Chamberlin or Mrs Roz Haynes (r.haynes@horsell-junior.surrey.sch.uk).

ABSENCE POLICY: PENALTIES

We would like to draw your attention in to the section regarding penalty notices, which is detailed below.

Unauthorised absence of 5 days or more, which do not have to be consecutive, may result in the issue of a Penalty Notice.

Penalty Notices are issued by the Local Authority in accordance with Surrey County Council's Code of Conduct. The Penalty Notice is £60, per child per parent/carer, if paid within 21 days or £120 if paid after 21 days but within 28 days. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice will result in the parent/carer being served a summons to appear at the Magistrates Court. No written warning will be given where it can be shown that the parent/carer had previously been warned of their liability to receive a Penalty Notice.

The issuing of a Penalty Notice for poor attendance may also be considered appropriate in the following circumstances:

Unauthorised absences or late arrival after the close of registration, on 7 occasions in any six-week period (not including school closures). The liable parent/carer will receive a written warning from the Inclusion Service of the possibility of a Penalty Notice being issued and given a maximum of 15 school days to affect an improvement. During this period the pupil is not expected to incur any further unauthorised absence. Where a formal warning letter has been issued to parents, the Local Authority will monitor the attendance for a maximum of 15 school days and issue a Penalty Notice by first class post if the Local Authority determine that an acceptable level of attendance has not been achieved.

A copy of our full policy can be found by clicking [here](#).

Please book your lunches for the week commencing 27th March by Sunday 19th March.

If lunches are not booked by this date, children must bring a packed lunch to school.