



## WEEKLY FOCUS

Thursday 29th February 2024



Dear Parent and Carers,

*'The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.'* Psalm 19:1

Our Year 5 children enjoyed time at the Winston Churchill planetarium yesterday and they came back having learnt lots of new things about God's wonderful creation. We are very lucky at Horsell Junior to have such positive links with our local schools and we are very grateful for all of these enrichment opportunities.

Nest week is looking very busy! We are looking forward to celebrating World Book Day on 7<sup>th</sup> March, when we are asking children to come to school dressed as a word. We will also be having an OPAL afternoon on 6<sup>th</sup> March from 2pm, which all parents are warmly invited to attend. To attend this event, we do ask that parents bring a donation to help us resource our playtimes (please see information below). We are also welcoming Jo Lawrence back into school to run a two-day music workshop for our Year 4 children on Thursday and Friday. This is a fantastic opportunity for our children to work with professional musicians to develop their composition and performance skills.

Best wishes,  
Mrs Wand

### KEY DATES FOR 1ST - 8TH MARCH

Friday 1st March	<p><b>National Offer Day for secondary schools</b></p> <p><b>Pine Class Assembly</b>, 8:55am prompt. Please note that hot drinks cannot be brought into school. Photography is not permitted.</p> <p>Deadline to complete <a href="#">OPAL Play survey</a>.</p>
Monday 4th March	Deadline to enter 100 Word Story competition.
Tuesday 5th March	Year 5 & 6 Cross Country, Hoe Bridge School, 15:30—17:00 (by invitation)
Wednesday 6th March	<p>Deadline to submit Book Diorama or Potato Character competition entries.</p> <p><b>OPAL Play Open Afternoon for parents</b>, 14:00—15:00. Please see details overleaf.</p>
Thursday 7th March	<p><b>World Book Day</b>—please see details on page 3.</p> <p><b>Year 4 Music Workshop</b>, in school.</p>
Friday 8th March	<b>Year 4 Informal Music Performance to parents</b> , 14:30, school hall.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO BOOK SCHOOL LUNCHES A WEEK IN ADVANCE.  
AFTER THIS, A PACKED LUNCH SHOULD BE PROVIDED.



## OPAL PLAY SURVEY

Please complete our [play survey](#) by tomorrow, Friday 1st March.

### OPAL PLAY OPEN AFTERNOON, 6TH MARCH, 14:00—15:00

Horsell Junior School will be open to parents and carers on **6<sup>th</sup> March from 2pm** for you to find out more about OPAL, speak to our play ambassadors and share an OPAL playtime with your child. At the end of the afternoon, classrooms will be open for you to look at your child's work.

We ask that all parents attending bring a donation to support our playtimes. Please see the list below:

- Old pots and pans, large spoons and spatulas and different containers (for our mud kitchen)
- Pine cones, conkers, shells, large pebbles and rocks, log slices
- Old clothes for dressing up (don't have to be special dressing up clothes)
- Tarpaulin or old material for building dens
- Old planks, logs, plastic/milk crates, plastic guttering (great for large-scale construction play)
- Small world toys (small cars, dinosaurs, mini people etc)
- Arts and crafts supplies (pens, paper, paint, chalk, glue, etc)
- Old suitcases, brief cases (for pretend play)
- Old phones, computer keyboards, etc. (for pretend play)
- Skipping ropes
- Children's gardening gloves, gardening pots, trowels and small gardening forks
- Bamboo
- Bricks
- Large barrels, old water butts or water containers
- Wooden pallets



At Horsell Junior School we are very lucky to have a lovely team of catering staff who work hard to produce nutritious lunches for our children every day.

We have noticed that many of our children are struggling to use a knife and fork effectively, resulting in food waste and mess in the dining hall. As a Junior School, there is an expectation that children will be able to use cutlery before they join us, as we do not have the staffing capacity to teach these skills during a busy lunch time. We ask that parents and carers spend time over the coming weeks supporting their child/ren to learn this important life skill.

Thank you very much for your support.

## YEAR 6 BUDDHISM WORKSHOP

Before half term, Year 6 enjoyed a workshop on Buddhism, which was led by two Buddhist monks and two other members of the local Buddhist temple in Knaphill. The children explored some artefacts, asked some great questions and were guided in a five-minute meditation which they found very relaxing.



## INTER-HOUSE MATHS COMPETITION

There were several, thrilling rounds in the lower school inter-house maths competition this week, showcasing the mathematical prowess and teamwork of the competing houses.

In the initial round, participants faced individual questions to test their mathematical skills. At the end of the round, Hatchlands and Polesdon found themselves tied for second place, each accumulating 33 points. However, it was Clandon who claimed the lead with a commendable 40 points.

The competition intensified in the second round, where students engaged in head-to-head battles, testing their knowledge of times tables against their peers in the same class. Following this round, the leaderboard saw some reshuffling. Hatchlands surged ahead to claim second place with 42 points, while Clandon maintained their lead with 43 points. Loseley climbed to third place with 40 points, and Polesdon slipped to fourth with 38 points.

The climax of the competition arrived with the third and final round, focusing on group problem-solving and resilience, particularly centred around perimeter calculations. This round proved pivotal as Hatchlands showcased remarkable teamwork and mathematical acumen, propelling them to victory with an impressive total score of 49 points. **Well done Hatchlands!**

We look forward to the upper school competition!



On Friday before half term, Year 5 walked to the Rhoda McGaw theatre to watch The Winston Churchill perform their production of The School of Rock.

Everyone had great fun and enjoyed watching the performance. The excellent production was put together by many members of their school from the lighting, sound, musicians, actors and actresses, backstage team, choreographers and directors.

It was a great way to finish off last half term and enabled all children to achieve another target on their Dove Award.

Many thanks to parents who helped with walking to and from the theatre, we hope you enjoyed the show as much as we did!

## HAVE YOUR SAY ON SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL'S NEW ROAD SAFETY STRATEGY

Surrey County Council are consulting with all residents in Surrey regarding a new road safety strategy which aims to cut road collisions resulting in death or serious injury, to zero by 2050.

[What is Surrey County Council's Vision Zero Strategy?](#)

The strategy includes a new policy for introducing 20 mph speed limits, focusing on schools, residential areas and town centres. They would like the views of local people before developing any new scheme. There is no intention that this will be a blanket approach to 20mph limits.

Please give us Surrey County Council your say by completing the consultation via the link below:

<http://visionzerosurrey.commonplace.is>

## ACER CLASS ASSEMBLY

On Tuesday 22nd January, Acer started their class assembly by claiming that they had learned SO much in Year 4 already, that they could take over the BBC and present all your favourite programmes...and they did!

The audience were treated to short episodes of 'Blue Peter', 'Newsround', 'Countdown', 'Gino, Fred and Gordon's Travels', 'Louis Theroux interviews Steven Fry', 'Do you Know?' and 'Planet Earth'. In each episode, the children showcased their impressive knowledge of the curriculum, proving their claim that Horsell Junior School is the hardest working school in the country!

Well done to every child in Acer who spoke clearly, sang enthusiastically, danced daringly (Leo!), and portrayed their character convincingly.

A colorful poster for 'BINGO & BIRYANI' at Horsell Schools PTA. The background is dark blue with various colorful icons like a bingo card, a bowl of biryani, and numbers. The text 'BINGO & BIRYANI' is in large, bold, orange letters. Below it, '14th March at 19:00' and 'Click here to book' are written in white. The Horsell Schools PTA logo is at the top.

**BINGO & BIRYANI**

**14th March at 19:00**

[Click here to book](#)



# WORLD BOOK DAY

## VOCABULARY DRESS UP, THURSDAY 7TH MARCH

We are trying to develop our vocabulary through reading quality books.

Instead of dressing up as a book character, your mission this year is to dress up as an adventurous word. Each class will nominate the most ambitious vocabulary choice for the whole school parade on the Thursday morning. We ask that children do not wear football kits.



## ADDITIONAL BOOK WEEK CHALLENGES!

### Book Diorama

Create a book diorama at home and bring it in by Wednesday 6th March.



### Potato Book Character

Create a book character from a potato and bring it to school by Wednesday 6th March.



### Read every day for 7 days

Fill in your HSO with your daily reading. The challenge starts on Wednesday 28th February.

### Create a 100 Word Story

Pick any genre. You need to entertain your reader in only 100 words. Enter by Monday 4th March.

Please ensure all entries are clearly labelled with your first name, surname and class.

In partnership with

**WORLD BOOK DAY**  
7 MARCH 2024

**Celebrate... World Book Day!**

World Book Day® is the perfect day to celebrate reading for fun!

Can you find the five hidden words?

**Wordsearch**

R	W	A	J	S	L	R	N	A	C
C	T	D	L	R	V	R	T	D	R
A	L	G	S	T	O	R	Y	P	A
M	P	N	R	E	R	O	T	B	O
C	O	V	E	R	H	E	O	O	D
G	C	H	A	P	T	E	R	O	L
B	P	L	D	N	L	A	Y	K	E
O	S	M	I	B	G	S	D	P	R
K	B	H	N	H	U	C	A	D	P
P	R	P	G	S	R	M	H	S	L

Book | Reading | Chapter | Story | Cover

**Favourite books**

Laugh

Hungry

Excited

Surprised

Happy

**Spot the difference**

Can you find five differences with the stack of books?

ILLUSTRATED BY VIVIAN TRUONG

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**Don't forget to use your £1 book token to get a £1 World Book Day book for FREE!**