



WEEKLY FOCUS

Thursday 7th March 2024



Dear Parent and Carers

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." Ephesians 4:32

Our school value this term is service and the children are continuing to think of acts of kindness around school. I am really proud of the consideration and care that our children are showing towards one another as they work and play together.

We have really enjoyed seeing the different outfits the children have worn coming into school today, and we have a lovely display in the library of the Book Dioramas that the children have produced at home. A big well done to all of our children for participating in the different events for World Book Day.

Best wishes,

Mrs Wand

KEY DATES FOR 8TH—15TH MARCH

Friday 8th March	Year 4 Informal Music Performance to parents , 14:30, school hall.
Monday 11th March	OPAL Donation Day, please see page 3
Wednesday 13th March	Year 3 visit to Wisley Gardens (all day) Year 4 Rugby Tournament , Chobham Rugby Club, 15:00—17:00, Chobham Rugby Club (by invitation)
Thursday 14th March	PTA Bingo and Biryani Evening , from 19:30, Horsell Junior School Hall, see page 4
Friday 15th March	Palm Class Assembly , 8:55am prompt. Please note hot drinks cannot be brought into the hall. Photography is not permitted.

UPDATE FROM OUR SCHOOL GOVERNORS

This term Governors have been working with Mrs Wand and other staff as part of their oversight duty. As Chair of Governors, I regularly meet with Mrs Wand, am a member of all Governor Committees and have responsibility for Safeguarding and PSHE. I met with Mrs Cumberbeach earlier this term to discuss the PSHE curriculum and next term will be sitting in on a PSHE lesson. I monitor safeguarding each term by meeting with our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), Mrs Wand, and the School Business Manager, Mrs Steele.



Last week I joined a meeting of the School Council who were discussing the OPAL Play project and drawing up a Play Charter. I was pleased to see that 'Have Fun' was at the top of the list! The Play Charter was presented to parents on Wednesday at the OPAL Play afternoon which I attended and enjoyed. Thank you to everyone who donated a play item on the day.

Our termly meeting of the Full Governing Board (FGB) is at the end of March.

Anne Smith, Chair of Governors



OPAL PLAY AFTERNOON, 6TH MARCH 24

The recent OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) afternoon proved to be a resounding success! We want to give a big thanks to all the parents who attended the afternoon and supported the school with donations. Your participation made it a

fantastic event and it was great to see families diving into open-ended play together. Your enthusiasm truly made the afternoon memorable. Thank you for being a part of it and for making it such a success!

We hope you now have a clearer idea of our vision for OPAL. If you are able to help with DIY or any aspects of this play please let us know.

We will be holding another opportunity for donations on **Monday 11th March**. We would welcome donations of the following items:

- **Tarpaulin or old material for building dens**
- **Small world toys (small cars, dinosaurs, mini people etc)**
- Old pots and pans, jugs, large spoons and spatulas and different containers (for our mud kitchen)
- Pine cones, conkers, shells, large pebbles and rocks, log slices, bamboo, bricks
- Old clothes for dressing up (don't have to be special dressing up clothes)
- Old planks, logs, plastic/milk crates, plastic guttering (great for large-scale construction play)
- 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
- Large barrels, old water butts or water containers
- Wooden pallets and large cable reels
- Corks and wooden curtain rings

We are no longer taking donations for scooters and NO books, please.





FFT National
Attendance Award
2023/24

Horsell Junior School have recently received the National School Attendance Award for being in the top 10% of FFT (Fischer Family Trust) Primary Schools in England.

You may have seen in the news recently that the Department for Education has updated its guidance on school attendance which follows on from the government led campaign, "Moments Matter, Attendance Counts". These initiatives are based on widespread research that show being in school is important to your child's achievement, wellbeing, and wider development and that students with the highest attendance throughout their time in school gain the best GCSE and A Level results.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all that you do to ensure your child attends school regularly. Of course, we are aware that some children face greater barriers to attendance, such as long term medical conditions, special educational needs and disabilities. We encourage you to keep working with us to try to remove these barriers as best we can so that we can give your child the best possible experience at school. To access support, please contact your child's teacher in the first instance. The [Education Hub](#) provides useful information school attendance including on child, mental health support and more. [The Surrey Mindworks website](#) also has pertinent, local support for mental health.

YEAR 4 BIKEABILITY—

Ready, Look, Go!



Last week, some of our year 4 pupils took part in Bikeability Level 1 training. They learnt to check their bikes are safe to ride and make simple repairs. Practicing on the playground, they practiced setting off, cruising, breaking and stopping confidently, avoiding traffic cones. One of the children said "it was amazing!"

PINE CLASS ASSEMBLY

During Pine Class' assembly, they took us on a 'coach journey' to the ancient site of Sutton Hoo. Along the way, they showcased all of their learning in class. Some students read out extracts from their latest big write and left it on a cliff-hanger, some demonstrated their understanding of sound in Science using a string telephone and some even played a quiz about the 5 K's in Sikhism. Sounds like a fun coach journey and a great way to remember learning! Pine Class ended the assembly with their new song which was then performed for a second time in the whole school assembly later in the day. **Well done Pine Class!**

Woking PLANETARIUM

On Wednesday 28th February, year 5 walked to the Winston Churchill School to visit the Woking Planetarium. The visit helped consolidate their learning on space. Despite a long walk, the children thoroughly enjoyed the visit and had great fun learning new things in an interactive way.

"It was really cool and fascinating," Ayaan

"It was really cool to see all of the constellations," Austin

"It was very beautiful," Nelson

"In the planetarium we learnt lots of things and watched a movie about the Sun, Moon and Stars," Gilbert

To find out more and book tickets for public shows, visit www.wokingplanetarium.co.uk.



The two top spellers from each year 5 class were selected to participate in a Latin Day run at the Winston Churchill School. The children started the day with an input from Winston's Latin teacher. They went on to break down a text and translate it into English.

After an enjoyable school roast dinner for lunch, the children practiced a performance and welcomed parents to the final showcase. Mrs Brincombe was very proud of all the children, who appeared to have enjoyed the day very much.

The children who attended the Latin day shared their learning by performing the play to the whole school the next day. Well done—or should we say "*Tibi Gratulator*"!

INTER-HOUSE MATHS COMPETITION

The Upper School Inter-House Maths Competition was a thrilling event comprising three rounds that tested students' mathematical mastery and teamwork skills.

In the initial round, students tackled individual maths questions, demonstrating their problem-solving abilities on whiteboards. The initial standings saw Hatchlands in fourth place with 63 points, Clandon in third with 76 points, Loseley in second with 80 points, and Polesdon leading with 84.

The competition intensified in the second round as students engaged in head-to-head times tables challenges within their classes. Polesdon House maintained their lead with 94 points, while Loseley and Clandon closely followed with 83 and 80 points respectively. Hatchlands showed improvement with 66 points.

The final round tested the students' collaborative problem-solving skills with a focus on a perimeter-related challenge. The competition reached its climax as the students worked together, demonstrating resilience and strategic thinking. Ultimately, Clandon emerged victorious with a total score of 129 points, followed by Polesdon with 120 points. Hatchlands secured third place with 112 points, while Loseley finished fourth with 95 points.

The competition not only highlighted the students' mathematical abilities but also emphasised the importance of teamwork and perseverance in overcoming challenges.

Congratulations Clandon!



We would like to thank your PTA for the wonderful job they do raising money for our school and the Horsell Village School, and providing our children and families wonderful opportunities to come together as a community.

You will recently have received an email from the PTA with details of upcoming events and some roles they are looking to fill. Whether you can spare just an hour of your time, or would like to take on a larger project, please do get in touch with them.

The funds have enabled us to buy an electronic keyboard for our music room, extra Chromebooks for more hands-on ICT experience, paid for the Christmas Pantomime and much more.

Please like the Horsell PTA Facebook page via <https://www.facebook.com/HorsellPTA>

To join the PTA volunteers' WhatsApp group click: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/Iw3UYCmTRGILe0xjbIHUks>



Goal £25,000

Doughnut sale Feb £120
Uniform Sale Jan £440
Christmas cards £490
Christmas Fair £7,000
Costume Sale £150
School Disco £1000
Bags2School Nov £450
Pumpkin Trail £280
Fireworks £2,500
Uniform Sale Sep £710

DOUGHNUT SALE
Thurs 28th March

The Horsell Village School 1:00pm - 1:30pm	The Horsell Junior School 1:15pm - 1:45pm
---	--

£1/ doughnut
nut free
(eggs, soya & milk free options available)
Cash & card accepted



parenting for faith®

An eight session course to equip parents and carers to raise God-connected children and teens

Monday Evenings 7.30-8.45pm

📍 St Andrews Room
St Mary's Church, Horsell
GU21 4QQ

Course Dates

15th, 22nd and 29th April

3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th June

1st July

To sign up to this course email Rebecca Connolly
childrenandfamiliesstmarys@gmail.com

The Parenting for Faith® name and logo are registered trade marks of Bible Reading Fellowship, a charity (233280) and company limited by guarantee (301324), registered in England and Wales.
brf.org.uk

Saint Mary the Virgin
— Horsell —

