



## WEEKLY FOCUS

Thursday 5th April 2024

Dear Parent and Carers

It has been lovely to pop into classrooms this week to see some of the fantastic learning taking place. At Horsell, we encourage our children to be 'Articulate, Brave and Collaborative' (the Horsell ABC) and these learning skills were very much in evidence as I walked around the school this week!

We have been thinking very hard about the key vocabulary that we want our children to know, remember and understand, and teachers spend time in lessons reinforcing the meaning of these words in every subject. This key vocabulary can be found in our school's Knowledge Organisers, which are in the Year group areas of our website. It is always helpful when parents and carers reinforce our learning at home, so please do have a look at these documents.

Thank you very much to all parents who attended parents' evening last week. We hope that you found the evening helpful and the snapshot reports facilitated your discussions.

Best wishes

Mrs Wand



## KEY DATES FOR 25TH—28ND MARCH

Tuesday 30th April

**Year 6 School nurse visit.** Height and weight checks.

**Scholastic Book Fair**, 15:00—15:30, Apple class. Card and cash payments accepted.

Wednesday 1st May

**Whole School Photo.** Children should wear full school uniform please.

**Scholastic Book Fair**, 15:00—15:30, Apple class. Card and cash payments accepted.

Thursday 2nd April

**Scholastic Book Fair**, 15:00—15:30, Apple class. Card and cash payments accepted.

Friday 3rd May

**Elm class assembly.** 8:55am prompt. Please note hot drinks cannot be brought into the hall. Photography is not permitted.

**Scholastic Book Fair**, 15:00—15:30, Apple class. Access via external door to Apple.

### CARDBOARD BOXES WANTED!



Please could children in year 5 bring in cardboard boxes for their Tudor House project by Friday 3rd May.

This can be any small-medium size boxes such as cereal boxes, shoe boxes, Easter egg boxes and so on.

*Thank you!*

### MAGAZINES WANTED!

Year 6 are looking for donations of magazines for an art unit on photography after Easter.

If you are getting rid of any magazines, such as gardening or residents magazines with lots of photos for making collages, please drop these off at the school office. *Thank you!*





## OPAL PLAY UPDATE

The children have been enjoying playing the with new trikes on the playground, and have been showing great sharing and cooperation as they speed around! Wednesday saw the introduction of a sound system in the staging area and children of all ages have been enjoying dressing up and dancing along to some great Disney tracks! Mrs Rowley opens up Redwood classroom three lunchtimes a week for craft activities, which is great for children who like to sit and create during lunch. If you are able to donate any pens, pencils or other crafting items, please do drop off in the office.

We have now ordered some wigwams for the grassy area at the front of the school to give children more places to sit, chat and play, and we are looking to develop the area next to Redwood with more small world toys and creative play opportunities. If you have any ideas about other things we could add to the playground, please contact Mrs Webb ([g.webb@horsell-junior.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:g.webb@horsell-junior.surrey.sch.uk)). We will be having another OPAL donation day shortly, so keep your eye on the newsletter for when you can drop off larger items.



*Year 6 children enjoying our new trikes during OPAL play.*

## OPEN THE BOOK

The children may have mentioned us. We appear in assembly several times a term, reading a story.

We're an Open the Book team, and the book we open is a volume crammed with stories taken from the Bible. One of us narrates; some of us read as characters in the story; and some of us are non-speaking extras – and these often include schoolchildren who join the team for that one day only. We wear basic 'historical' costumes and use homemade props. The audiences are invariably kind – perhaps it helps that they are usually asked to join in with appropriate noises, and with crowd reactions.

We've been getting favourable receptions from our Horsell audiences to these ten-minute productions since 2013. Open the Book presentations, backed by the Bible Society, happen throughout Britain and beyond, all using the same set scripts. Long-term team members have DBS certificates, clearing us to work with children; there are regular training courses to update us too.

If you would like to experience an Open the Book session, do join us one Wednesday. No clearance nor training is required for that, but please first talk to one of us to book a date. Do this by emailing 'Open the Book enquiry' to [stmaryshorsell@btinternet.com](mailto:stmaryshorsell@btinternet.com), and we'll get back to you.

And if you have the time and inclination to do more, we're always looking for more active members, from readers to costume and prop makers. We'd love to meet you.





## ECO COMMITTEE UPDATE

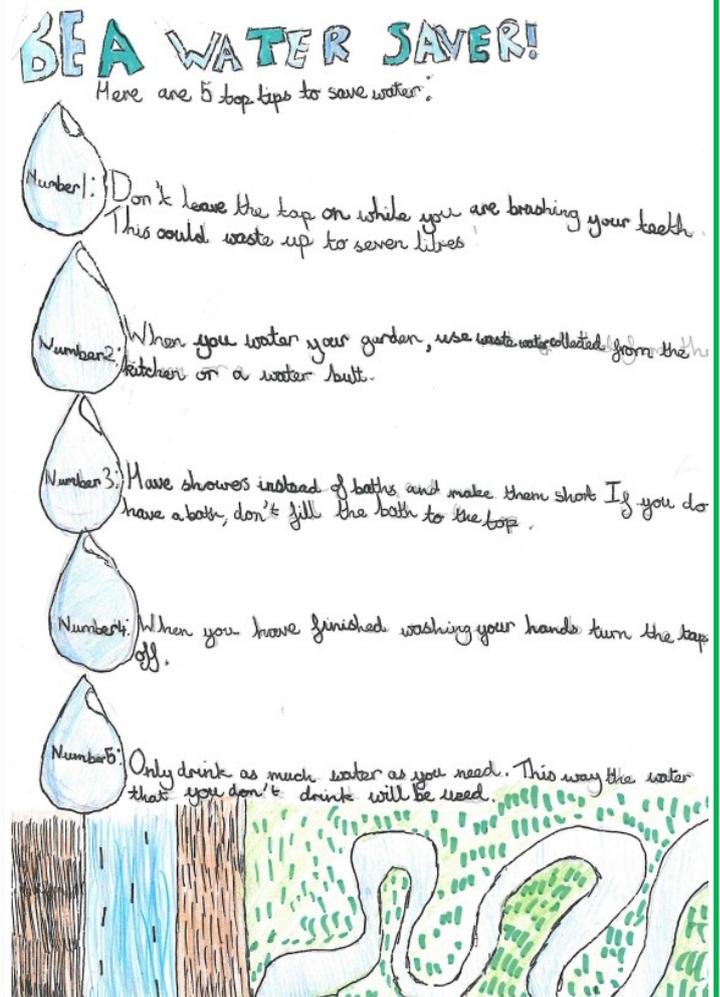
### Winning design!

Last term our Eco-Committee held a competition to develop an area of our outside space to enhance learning linked to our curriculum. We are pleased to announce that the winning design was produced by Lily in Beech Class who focused on utilising our raised beds to attract insects and also grow vegetables that could be used by our school kitchen.

Mrs Jones applied to the Surrey Garden Trust who award grants for school projects and we are pleased to have been awarded £130 to spend on developing gardening with children in school. So 'watch this space' and you may get to eat something grown in our very own raised beds!

### Saving Water

In our World Water Day Assembly in March children reflected on how precious our water is, particularly to our chalk stream habitat. They saw how leaving the tap running whilst brushing their teeth wasted around 8 litres of water! Children have been asked to create some water saving tips which we will be presenting in our newsletters over this term. The tips to the left are from Sophia, Year 4.



## 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](#).