



WEEKLY FOCUS

Thursday 28th November 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

*Advent increases our hope,
a hope which does not disappoint.* Pope Francis.

It is starting to look a lot like Christmas here at Horsell Junior! Our advent wreath is on display and we are lighting the first candle—symbolising hope—this week, as we wait for Christmas to arrive. Our Christmas letter box is now in reception, and office monitors are enjoying delivering festive greetings around the school. On Wednesday, I enjoyed decorating the Christmas tree with the school council, who have gone all out with a joyous arrangement of colourful tinsel and baubles!



Thank you for your generous donations towards our Reverse Advent Calendar. The foodbank recently wrote to tell us some of the funds we have donated earlier in the year is going towards food for a Christmas event for their clients with the greatest need. Your donations will continue to help those families in the New Year.

We are looking forward to the PTA Christmas fair and St Mary's Christmas Tree Festival this weekend. Please do come along if you can—they both promise to be wonderful community events with lots of fun for all the family!

Best wishes, Mrs Wand

KEY DATES FOR THURSDAY 5TH —FRIDAY 13TH DECEMBER

**** YEAR 6 MOCK SATS 9TH - 13TH DECEMBER ****

Thursday 5th PTA Christmas Fair Deadline for pre-booking food, shows and tokens!

Friday 6th Palm Class Assembly, 8:55 prompt. Please note hot drinks cannot be brought into the hall and photography is not permitted.

Christmas Tree Festival, St Mary's Church 15:00—19:00

- Choir performance 15:30
- Handbell performance 16:30

Saturday 7th Choir members sing at Seymours Christmas Carol Concert, 11am—12:30, Christ Church, Woking
[Tickets £10pp.](#) (Choir members by invitation; please arrive at 10:30)

PTA Christmas Fair, 12noon—15:00, The Horsell Village School.

Food, game tokens, show and raffle tickets now on sale [here!](#)

Horsell Junior School choir sing at 12:45. Choir members can just turn up and sing!

St Mary's Church Christmas Tree Festival 12:00—17:00

Monday 9th Orchestra performance to parents, 15:45—16:15 (for parents of orchestra members)

Tuesday 10th Judo demonstration to parents, ca. 16:00 (Core Judo to confirm to parents of judo club members)

Friday 13th Pine Class Assembly, 8:55am prompt.

Please note hot drinks cannot be brought into the hall and photography is not permitted.

HORSELL JUNIOR PARENT SURVEY!

Thank you to everyone who has already responded to our [Parent / Carer questionnaire](#). If you have not done so already, please a few minutes to give us your views.

Your opinions are important to us, and the management team will be going through your responses which will help inform our strategy and planning for the future.

Please note that we will finish at the earlier time of 13:30 on the last day of term, Friday 20th December.

SURVEY ON SURREY MOVING TO A 2-WEEK AUTUMN HALF TERM BREAK

In response to the national conversation that has emerged over the last few months, about school holidays and term times, the council is currently seeking the views of our community, including schools, families, and partner agencies.

Surrey County Council are seeking to understand the views of all stakeholders in determining our future approach to term dates and if there is any appetite for change. They would like the input of local parents and carers. To give your views, please click [here](#) to complete a short survey.



CHRISTMAS CARDS

Children wishing to send friends cards can do so via the school Christmas Post Box, which is in reception.

Please ensure the envelopes are clearly labelled with the **NAME and CLASS** of the recipient. They will be delivered to each class by our office monitors.

The last posting date will be **Tuesday 17th December**.



Reverse ADVENT CALENDAR



Thank you for all your donations to date . We continue to collect for the Woking Foodbank. Please bring along any suggested donation on any day before Friday 20th December. Our reverse advent calendar is in the reception area.

1 Long Life Sponge Pudding	2 Tinned Peas	3 Savoury Snack	4 Toilet Paper	5 Tinned Chicken Casserole	6 Washing Detergent
7 Tinned Fruit	8 Peanut Butter	9 Instant Mashed Potato	10 Tinned Beef Casserole	11 Chocolate	12 Marmite
13 Tinned Chicken Breast	14 Long Life Lunchbox Snack	15 Tinned Ham	16 Biscuits	17 Crisps	18 Tinned Carrots
19 Tomato Ketchup	20 Instant Coffee Granules	21 Long Life Fruit Juice	22 Full Fat UHT Milk	23 Shower Gel	24 Washing up Liquid

woking.foodbank.org.uk



DAME SYLVIA HEAL ATTENDS SCHOOL AS PLATINUM PARTY WIN ELECTION!

Year 6 have been learning about democracy this term. To bring this topic to life, pupils in year 6 formed “political parties” who campaigned to be voted as head teacher for the day! Each party presented their manifesto to the rest of their year group, and year 6 voted to shortlist their favourite 4 parties.

The Festive Party, the Creative Party, the Fantastic Freestyle Party and Platinum parties went on to campaign hard to win votes from pupils across the school, presenting their manifestos, putting up posters, creating campaign videos, giving speeches and taking part in a live Question Time type Q&A with Mrs Wand in the role of Fiona Bruce.

On Friday, the whole school went to the polls! Each child went into our polling station, with voting booths where they were able to put a cross against the party of their choice before entering their vote into our ballot boxes.

In the afternoon, we had the honour of welcoming Dame Sylvia Heal to our school, a former Labour MP and Deputy Speaker



of the House of Commons (2000—2010). She gave the year 6 an engaging talk on democracy in the UK and life in the Houses of Commons. She reflected on the similarities of our elections to those of the UK parliament, and her own experiences. We learnt about everything from the passing of laws and bills to the cleaning of Big Ben’s clock face. We heard the youngest member of parliament is just 22 years old, and the oldest 80! She spoke passionately about the importance of voting, and—as the 41st female MP—about the role of women in politics.



Before the results were announced, Dame Heal met and spoke with the leaders of the four parties about winning and losing elections.

Having counted and verified all the votes, the rest of the school joined us to hear Mrs Wand pronounce the Platinum Party had won the election.

Alannah, the leader, gave a brief speech before joining the rest of her party to give Dame Heal a tour of the school.



Our first Headteacher elections has really engaged our children, and we have been so impressed with all our candidates who have bravely presented their party in front of the whole school and gracefully accepted the results of the elections.

We are now very much looking forward to Alannah being Headteacher for the day, and finding out what changes her party they will make to our school day.



Dame Heal with Mrs Wand and the winning Platinum Party, seen here with a copy of one of the Hansard volumes—books which report everything ever said in parliament—which Dame Heal generously donated to our school. From left: Dame Heal, Victoria (treasurer), Juliette (deputy), Alannah (leader), Rosie (secretary), Eleanor (campaign manager) and Mrs Wand.

Please book your meals for the last week of term by Sunday 8th December!

Please note we have extended the Christmas lunch bookings until 8th December also.

HORSELL SCHOOLS' PTA CHRISTMAS FAIR

SATURDAY 7TH DECEMBER, 12 NOON—3PM

THE HORSELL VILLAGE SCHOOL

THE SHOW MUST GO ON!

With wet and windy weather forecast, the Christmas Fair team are preparing to move our fair INDOORS!



HORSELL SCHOOLS PTA
CHRISTMAS FAIR
EVERYONE WELCOME!
SAT 7TH DEC 12PM-3PM
THE HORSELL VILLAGE SCHOOL, GU21 4QQ

Pre Book Shows, Games & Raffle

SCAN THE QR CODE TO BOOK:
(few spaces remaining)

MR TIM'S MAGIC SHOW
STORIES & LEGO GIFTS WITH MRS CLAUS
ELF WINTER OLYMPICS WITH SPORXYKIDZ
GAME TOKENS
ONLINE RAFFLE TICKETS

Book your
Food by Thurs 5th & Shows & Tokens by Fri 6th

Visit the link below to book shows & enter raffle draw
<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/horsell/>

Or scan the QR code:

Children's Choir times
The Horsell Village School: 12:30
The Horsell Junior School: 12:45

Sponsored by

Seymours

 

St Mary's Christmas Tree Festival

Friday
6th December
3pm - 7pm

Saturday
7th December
12noon-5pm

Refreshments

Entertainment

Tree Entry
Forms from
the Parish
Office

Run in
Conjunction with
the Village
Christmas Fair

Saint Mary the Virgin
Horsell



HORSELL SCHOOLS PTA
CHRISTMAS FAIR
ONLINE RAFFLE PRIZE LIST

Sponsored by

Seymours

4 tickets for Sleeping Beauty at New Victoria Theatre. Sponsored by Seymours
£100 Judo Experience Birthday Party Voucher
1 month free VIP Judo Pass
2 x £50 worth of vouchers at Barons Pub Company
£100 Gordon Ramsay Academy voucher towards any cooking class
1 ticket to Shynefest Festival for 2 adults & 2 children

And many more prizes from local businesses.

Visit [Christmas Prize Draw 2024](#) or scan the QR code to buy tickets

Draw will take place at The Horsell Village School at 2.30pm on the 7th Dec 2024

