

Horsell CofE Junior School

Fortnightly focus

Thursday 11th December 2025



Dear Parents and Carers,

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

School is currently filled with lots of lovely Christmas activities. Here is a flavour of what we have been getting up to this week!

The children have been thoroughly enjoying exploring the Diocese's interactive Advent calendar in school. They have loved opening each "window" and discovering the daily reflections and activities.

Families can join in and open the next two windows from home by visiting the online calendar. It's a lovely way to share the anticipation and meaning of Advent together.

Our nativity performances are well underway, and the children have been working incredibly hard to learn their lines, songs, and actions. Their enthusiasm has been wonderful to see! Thank you for supporting them with costumes and practice at home, and it was lovely to welcome so many parents and carers into school to share in this special event.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas Fair—whether by donating, helping on the day, or coming along to join the fun. Your generosity and enthusiasm made the event a great success. It was lovely to see the school community come together, and we are grateful for all the hard work that went into making it such an enjoyable occasion for families.

We have raised a large amount of money which will benefit all of our children moving forward. Our school Christmas tree is now proudly standing in the hall, beautifully decorated with the help of our School Council. They had a wonderful time setting it up, and it looks fantastic.

Children from the choir are practising for our combined carol concert on Monday, and we are also looking forward to Christmas jumper day, Christmas Lunch, our RE pause day and the panto next week.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support during this busy and exciting time of year.

Best wishes, Ms Wand

Key dates 12th - 19th December:

Friday 12th December:

- **Pine class assembly**, 8:55 prompt. Hot drinks and photography are not permitted.
- **Mr Coles' club sign up goes live, 5pm.** Please do not sign up before this time as all old entries will be deleted immediately before going live.

Monday 15th December

- **Combined Carol Concert**, St Mary's Church Horsell, 18:30 - 19:00. Children performing should arrive at 18:15 in full winter uniform please. All welcome, no tickets needed!

Wednesday 17th December

- **Christmas Pause Day.** A day of activities and reflection on the meaning of Christmas.

Thursday 18th December

- **Christmas Lunch.** If you have not pre-booked a lunch, please ensure your child has a packed lunch with them. To add some additional festive cheer to the event, children may wear a festive jumper with their school uniform. This does not need to be Christmas jumper, but can be a jumper in festive colours or perhaps decorated with a bit of tinsel.
- **Panto Performance.** After lunch break, we will have a professional Panto performance for the whole school to enjoy.
- Thank you to the PTA, who have paid for the performance, Christmas crackers and table decorations.

Friday 19th December

- **Last day of term. Please note we finish at the earlier time of 13:30.**

Reverse ADVENT CALENDAR

Thank you for all your generous donations, we have already got a wonderful collection of goods to donate.

Children can bring in one or more of the suggested donation on any day between now and Friday 19th December, after which they will be collected by the York Road Project.



Pot Noodles



Porridge pots



Breakfast Bars



Multi pack crisps



Small juice cartons



Sugar



Biscuits



Coffee & hot chocolate



Chocolate bars



Canned hot dogs



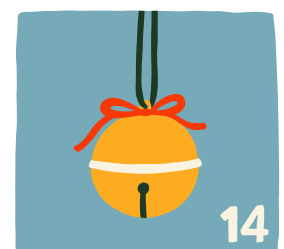
Men's socks



Men's boxers (S,M,L)



Trainers in good condition, size 7 - 12



Toothpaste



Shampoo



Conditioner



Toothbrushes



Razors



**Sleeping bags
(new & waterproof)**



Canned ready meals, pies, meatballs, soups and spaghetti



**Combs,
hair brushes
or detanglers**

Please do not include:

- Anything out of date or nearing expiry date
- Anything perishable/fresh
- Homemade items such as pickles or jams.
- Mixed pulses, e.g. lentils, chickpeas or lentils.
- Canned fruit, pastas, tea bags, shaving gel





HORSELL JUNIOR CHRISTMAS POST

Children who would like to send friends cards can do so via the school Christmas Post. A letterbox will be available in reception from Monday 1st December.

Please ensure the envelopes are clearly labelled with the NAME and CLASS of the recipient to make sure they are delivered to the right person! They will be delivered regularly to each class by our office monitors.

The last posting date will be **Tuesday 16th December.**

HORSELL HEROES NEWSLETTER

On the last Thursday of each half term, we celebrate achievements in our Horsell Heroes Newsletter. If your child has won an award, completed a challenge, moved up a grade on the musical instrument / other hobby or ended up in the local paper, then please e-mail their teacher with a brief description and a photo if you are happy for this to be shared in the Horsell Heroes newsletter.

LUNCH BOOKINGS FOR NEXT HALF TERM



You can now book lunches for next half term. School lunches must be booked 8 days in advance, after which the kitchen place their food orders.

After this date, a packed lunch must be brought into school. Please remember, we are a nut-free school. Items containing any type of nut must not be brought into school.

WATER SAFETY SESSIONS



The last swimming lessons of the term will include a special Water Safety Lesson. These will take place on the following dates:

Beech class - Friday 12th December
Willow class - Monday 15th December
Spruce class - Tuesday 16th December

Please look out for details of which classes will be swimming after the holidays in next week's Year Group newsletters.

MR BURNS CELEBRATES 30 YEARS AT HORSELL JUNIOR SCHOOL



Last week, we had a special celebration in assembly to mark the 30th anniversary of Mr Burns joining the Horsell Junior School team. The longest serving current member of staff, he started working here in December 1995 - the year of the "battle of the bands" between Oasis and Blur, when Toy Story and Braveheart were amongst the biggest box office hits, the Macarena first became a dance craze and a Mars bar cost 25p.

Did you know?

- Our school opened in 1969, so Mr Burns has worked here more than half the time the school has been open!
- Mr Burns has worked under 5 head teachers
- The oldest children in Year 6 when Mr Burns started will be 41 years old now!
- Mr Burns will have stood on the gate welcoming children in on more than 5,400 mornings!
- Our school pool used to be an outdoor pool. Mr Burns did a lot of the fundraising for the pool building, including hosting a number of quiz nights.

Over the years, Mr Burns has - in addition to his role as care taker - helped run a cross country running club, umpired cricket matches and refereed football matches, he regularly drives a mini bus to off-site events, has gone to assist with many Voice in a Million and year 6 residential trips, and drove around hand delivering learning packs at the start of COVID.

Mr Burns was presented by cards from each class, as well as a few gifts, including a "golden plunger".

Thank you Mr Burns for all of your hard work and commitment to the school over the years!



FESTIVE FUN AT PTA CHRISTMAS FAIR

The PTA have pulled off yet another fantastic Christmas Fair! With fan favourites such as the Jolly Jars, tombolas, and the much-loved teacher-run “secret shop” for children—plus a host of new games and stalls—there was something for everyone. Families enjoyed magical moments with Mr Tim, festive stories with Mrs Claus, lively elf games, and an array of delicious treats from the pizza truck, Red Lion turkey rolls, and an impressive selection of home bakes. All of this, of course, was perfectly accompanied by mulled wine and hot chocolate to keep everyone warm.

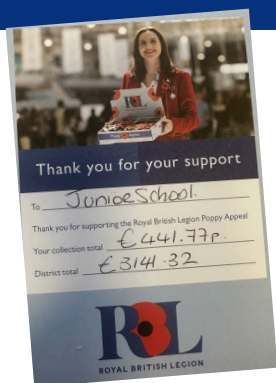
As one parent commented, it truly was “a lovely community event.” We are still awaiting the final fundraising figures, but we already know the fair has raised an incredible amount for the two schools. These contributions make a real difference to our children. The newly installed playground (see below) was funded in part by PTA, and the PTA have also paid for next week’s Panto (*oh no they didn’t, oh yes they did!*) and Christmas lunch crackers!.

A huge thank you to everyone who planned, organised, baked, volunteered, or supported the Fair in any way. Special thanks go to our lead organisers—Mrs Sidwell, Mrs Gomm, Mrs Bale and Mrs Dankova—whose hard work made the event such a success.



NEW PLAYGROUND

We were delighted to open our new playground for the children to play on recently. As this is an exciting new feature, children have a rota for when they can use the equipment so that everyone can have an opportunity to try it out. The feedback from the children has been very positive, with the line for a turn speaking for itself!



We have received a lovely thank you from the Royal British Legion, who have counted all the donations for the Poppy Appeal items. This year, Horsell Junior School staff and pupils raised a fantastic £441.77. The total amount raised by the district was £3,141.32. Thank you for your generosity.

The Engage team delivered a lively and engaging assembly focused on the Christmas story. Using rhymes, memorable storytelling, and creative props, they brought the story of baby Jesus to life in a way that captured everyone's attention. We are very grateful to the team for generously giving their time to share this meaningful and enjoyable presentation with us.



HANDBELL PERFORMANCE TO HORSELL LODGE RESIDENTS

On Friday afternoon, twelve of our students walked up to Horsell Lodge to perform a handbell concert for the residents. These dedicated pupils had given up most of their lunchtime to rehearse the new carols, and impressively, two of our newest members have only been playing for a few weeks.

At Horsell Lodge, the group performed a selection of Christmas carols along with some favourites from our recent assembly—including, of course, the seasonal classic Jingle Bells. Many of the residents hummed along and clearly enjoyed the performance. We were delighted to be invited back and are already looking forward to our next visit.

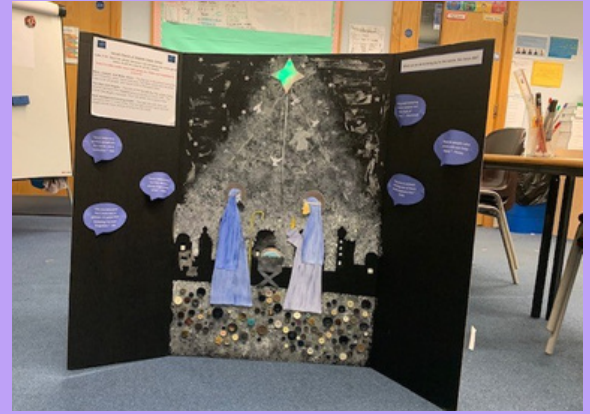
The children were impeccably behaved throughout—during the concert and on the walk to and from school—treating us to a cheerful soundtrack of carols and Christmas songs all the way back.

It was a real pleasure to be with them. One child was overheard saying, "That was the best day ever!" One of our adult volunteers commented on how much they enjoyed the afternoon, while another remarked on how lovely the performance sounded and how quickly the time flew by.



JOY TO THE WORLD! Diocese of Guildford Schools' Art Exhibition

The Christmas art exhibition at Guildford Cathedral is a highlight each year, featuring artwork from pupils of all ages, from nursery to sixth form. This year, schools explored the theme 'Joy to the World' inspired by *Luke 2:10: 'Don't be afraid, because I am bringing you some good news. It will be a joy to all the people.'* The exhibition reflects on how Jesus brings joy and hope, even in difficult times.



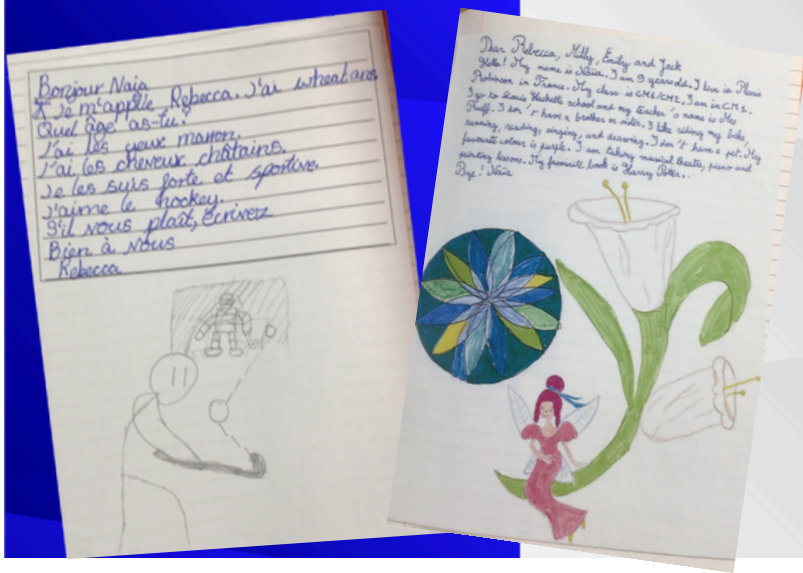
Our artwork shows Mary, Joseph and a newborn baby Jesus. The Star and Angels represent the heavenly announcement of his birth, with the Angel's message "Don't be afraid, this is good news". The dark background represents hard or scary times, with the light around Jesus and the angels representing hope and joy shining into the world.

You can visit the exhibition at Guildford Cathedral until 2nd February 2026, or see more exhibits in a video [here](#).



Year 4 have been busy developing their very own biscuit recipes as part of their Design and Technology learning. The children carefully calculated the cost of ingredients, designed and prepared packaging by upcycling cereal boxes, and thought creatively about how to adapt their biscuits to make them even more successful. One of the highlights was experimenting with icing and decorations, which they thoroughly enjoyed adding to their creations. Thank you to all the parent helpers who helped us with baking the biscuits.

Click [here](#) for more photos!



FRENCH PEN PALS

Year 4 have been exchanging letters with their French pen pals in Paris. The children were delighted to receive their replies and we look forward to writing back soon with a special Christmas card. Joyeux Noël!

ACER CLASS ASSEMBLY

Acer Class really enjoyed showcasing their learning this term through the creative use of TV programmes. It was followed by 'Standing on a Hill' which they learnt to sing in Music, linked to our Roman topic! Lots of good learning has been embedded and they delivered their lines admirably.



PALM CLASS ASSEMBLY

Last week, Palm class had the wonderful opportunity to lead their assembly, and it was a joyful showcase of everything they've been learning across the curriculum including writing, science, and music.



The children worked hard to prepare, and their enthusiasm shone through at every moment. It was a celebration of their hard work and growth. It was lovely to see them support one another, take pride in their learning, and share their achievements with their families.



Turn your online Christmas shopping into FREE donations for our school!

Click [here](#) to find out more.



Christmas

Games

Food

Bible Story

Fun

Sunday 14th December

4.00pm-6.00pm

Christmas

Crafts

St Mary's Church, Horsell

Carols

