

Horsell CofE junior

Fortnightly focus

Thursday 17th September 2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

'Just as iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another,' Proverbs 27:17

This verse reminds us that we are not meant to grow and learn alone. Just as iron becomes sharper through contact with another piece of iron, we become stronger, wiser and more confident through the relationships we build with others. At our school, we see this principle in action every day as children, staff and families work together to support one another and help everyone flourish. As a Church school, we believe that we belong to a collective community where both children and adults share values, learn from one another and sometimes make compromises for the good of all.

This has been particularly evident over the past few weeks. Our meet the teacher sessions provided a valuable opportunity for staff and families to come together, share expectations and establish strong partnerships that will support our children throughout the year. We know that when home and school work closely together, children benefit enormously.

We have also begun introducing circle time sessions across the school. These sessions provide children with opportunities to listen, share, reflect and learn from one another in a safe and supportive environment. They help children develop empathy, respect and understanding, strengthening the sense of community that is so important to our Christian vision.

Our new Year 3 children have been enjoying getting to know their Year 6 buddies. These relationships are a great example of older and younger pupils learning from and encouraging one another. For our Year 3 pupils, having a friendly face to turn to helps them feel settled and confident; for our Year 6 pupils, being a role model develops their leadership and sense of responsibility.

Year 5 have also begun preparing for our Harvest Festival. Through thinking about those who may be less fortunate than ourselves, they are exploring how we can make a positive difference in the lives of others. Harvest reminds us that we are part of something bigger than ourselves and that we all have a responsibility to care for our neighbours.

With very best wishes,
Celia Wand
Headteacher

Thank you to everyone who attended our "Meet the Teacher" this week.

If you were not able to attend, a copy of the slides are on our website. Please click on your year for the slides:
[Year 3 - Year 4](#)
[Year 5 - Year 6](#)

Key dates 18th - 15th September

Friday 18th September

- **Year 6 High School Experience Day**, Winston Churchill School

Monday 21st September:

- **Open Morning for prospective parents**, 9:15am. To book a place or find out about our other open events, click [here](#).

Wednesday 23rd September:

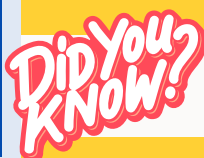
- Ash class: Feet First road safety training.

Thursday 24th September:

- Elm class: Feet First road safety training.

Friday 25th September:

- Oak class: Feet First road safety training.



You can synch our website calendar to your phone and other devices! Click [here](#) and press *subscribe*.

WHO DO I CONTACT?

Absences:

Please report absences due to illness or other unexpected reasons through the [Arbor parent app/portal](#). Absences should be reported by 8:40am on the day, and each day subsequently. Alternatively, please leave a message on our absence line, 01483 761531 option 1.

Sometimes it can be difficult to decide if a child is too ill for school. The NHS has some great advice [here](#).

To advise us of a leave of absence ahead of time, please complete a leave of [absence form](#), giving as much notice as possible. For details of our attendance policy, please see overleaf.

General queries:

If you have a question about the school, please check the school website or the most recent newsletters. Most information can be found there and the search button is a helpful tool. Information about specific year groups is in the Year group section of the website.

Should you need to contact the office, please e-mail office@horsell-junior.surrey.sch.uk. For urgent matters, please call 01483 761531.

Specific child-related queries:

If you have a specific question about your child, you should email the class teacher – remembering that they are teaching 8:30 - 3:10 and will not be checking emails! We aim to respond to emails with 2 working days. If you are still concerned, you should contact the Phase Leaders, followed by the Deputy Head (for academic concerns) or Mr Stevenson (for pastoral concerns). Contact details are listed on our website.

SEND SURGERIES

Mr Stevenson is our SENCO and Assistant Head. He is available to meet with parents on Tuesday mornings. This time is our regular slot for parents to arrange a meeting with Mr Stevenson to talk through any concerns that they might have about their child's progress at school or pastoral issues that may be impacting on their wellbeing.

Mrs Khan will be managing Mr Stevenson's diary and parents should contact her on s.khan@horsell-junior.surrey.sch.uk if you wish to make an appointment. Parents can also phone the school and leave a message on the inclusion voicemail, which is monitored daily. Mrs Khan is also Ms Wand's PA.

MEDICINES IN SCHOOL



Should your child require medicine in school, please complete our child medication form [here](#).

Medicine should be in its original packaging, with both the packaging and contents clearly labelled with the child's name.

Please drop this off to the office. Returned medication must be collected by an adult from the office also - we cannot send it home with children.

SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS

If your child has an allergy or food intolerance, please ensure you complete and return our Special Diet Request form which can be found on our website. Please notify us of any dietary requirements and changes, even if your child has packed lunches.

KEEP YOUR DATA UP TO DATE

Please ensure your personal details are kept up to date with the school and notify the office if there have been any changes to contact details, such as your email address, postal address, and phone number. This is to ensure we have all the necessary up-to-date details on our system.

You can check your details on Arbor, including who is listed as an emergency contact. You can also request changes through the Arbor parent app or portal. Alternatively, please e-mail office@horsell-junior.surrey.sch.uk.

You will not be able to check contact details for other people linked to your account. If you believe these may have changed, please contact the office.



Please remember to order lunches for next week by Sunday evening! Lunches must be booked in advance or a packed lunch brought to school.

We are a nut free school - no products containing nuts can be brought into school.



SCHOOL APPLICATIONS

Applications for secondary school places, for children starting September 2026, are now open. The closing date for children in year 6 to apply for a place is 31st October 2026. For further information about applying for a place, please click [here](#). Applications for primary school places (reception or year 3, starting September 2027, open 2nd November.



Woking High School
Inspire, Challenge, Achieve



- ✓ For prospective Year 7 students and their parents/carers
- ✓ Facilities open with interactive activities
- ✓ Student-led tours
- ✓ Headteacher Talks at 5:35pm and 6:45pm



RESILIENCE



EXCELLENCE



PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY



ENGAGEMENT



INCLUSION



KINDNESS

Headteacher: Mrs Maiken Walter BA, MSc, NPQH

Woking High School, Morton Road, Horsell, Woking, Surrey GU21 4TJ

01483 888447 admissions@wokinghigh.surrey.sch.uk

For further information about the Open Evening or to book one of their Open Mornings, please click [here](#).

If your child is booked into an Open Morning at Woking High School, please register their absence by completing our online form [here](#).

For any other school visits, please complete a [leave of absence form](#).

Is your child in year 6?



If so, you need to apply online for a secondary school place by **31 October 2026**. Applying on time gives you a better chance of getting one of your preferred schools.

If you live in Surrey, you can find out all you need to know about school admissions and apply online at surreycc.gov.uk/admissions or you can call us on **0300 200 1004**.



Apply online
Apply on time by
31 October 2026



Is your child starting school in September 2027?



If your child was born between 1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023 you will need to apply for a school place. You can apply between **2 November 2026** and **15 January 2027**.

If you live in Surrey, you can find out all you need to know about school admissions and apply online at surreycc.gov.uk/admissions or you can call us on **0300 200 1004**.



Applying on time will give your child the best chance of getting one of your preferred schools.

Apply online
between
2 November 2026
and **15 January 2027**



The Bishop David Brown School

OPEN EVENING

Thursday 17th September

5:00pm–8:00pm

The Principal will be speaking at 5:30pm and 6:30pm

We also have **OPEN MORNINGS** on 22nd, 23rd, 25th and 29th September

Tours begin at 9:30am and must be booked in advance on the school's website.

www.bdb-unity.co.uk

Albert Drive, Woking, Surrey, GU21 5RF
01932 349696



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 attendance policy can be found by clicking [here](#).

WALKING HOME PASSES



Year 5 completed a road safety session at school last week, and we are now able to issue walking home passes to them if parents give permission. To apply for a pass, please complete the permission form which can be downloaded [here](#).

We would encourage parents to consider carefully whether their child is ready and their commute suitable before applying for a pass. Passes can be issued at any time during the school year.

Please note:

- Children are expected to remember their clubs and after school arrangements. If they present their pass at the school gate, they will be permitted to leave school at the end of the school day and cease to be the responsibility of the school.
- Should you need to get a message to your child during the day regarding walking home arrangements, please contact the school office as early as possible to allow time for the message to be passed on to your child; in an emergency, please telephone the office to get a message the child. Please do not email teachers about this as they will not check these during lessons.

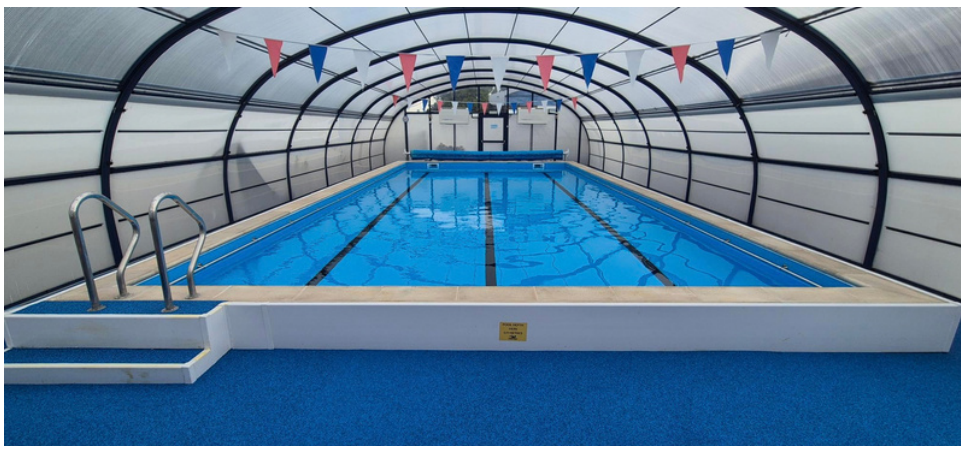
PARKING AT DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP

Please remember to park considerately and safely during drop off and pick up.

Some of the residents on nearby roads have reported experiencing difficulty getting in and out of their driveways, as well as cars stopping on double yellow lines, reducing visibility for residents and students crossing the road.

Your help in keeping our roads safe and maintaining good relations with our neighbours is appreciated.





SCHOOL POOL UPDATE

Over the summer, the lining of our pool, the pool flooring and our changing room benches were changed.

We hope you will agree, it looks great!

Did you know you can hire the pool for parties on Saturdays? Click [here](#) for further details!



YOUNG CARERS

At Horsell C of E Junior School, we are incredibly proud of every child and their achievements. Our school value of dignity is something we cherish and look for in actions, words and thoughts. We know that some children take on extra responsibilities outside of school; caring for a family member at home with dignity. This might be practically, such as preparing meals or helping with errands, or emotionally, through supporting with difficult feelings.

If you feel your child takes on a Carer role in your home, and the school is not already aware, please do notify us, as they can be offered additional support, and the opportunity to join our fabulous Young Carers group, who regularly meet in a relaxed environment in school. Mrs Haynes is our Young Carers group leader, and she is supported in running the sessions by very kind donations from St Mary's Church, and wonderful volunteers from our local community. We were awarded the Angel Award by Action for Carers Surrey last year, for the fabulous work done in school to support young carers.

We also encourage families to be part of Action for Carers Surrey, including with referrals to them for further support.

If you wish to register your child as a young carer, have any questions or want more information, please e-mail Mr Stevenson on inclusion@horsell-junior.surrey.sch.uk.

PLEA FOR DONATIONS

WET PLAY GAMES AND TOYS:

With winter just around the corner, we would like to update our classroom supplies for wet play, when the weather is not suitable for outdoor play. If you have any of the following items you would like to donate, please send them to your class teacher or drop off to the office:

- Board games (complete with all pieces)
- UNO, Top Trumps or similar card games
- Lego, Geomags and other construction toys



We are also looking for the following items, which can be donated to the office:

- Large, empty, clean plastic tubs such as empty Celebrations/Quality Street/Heroes tubs or 2L ice cream tubs with lids.
- Glue sticks for our OPAL play craft room





GREEN FLAG AWARD

Over the summer holidays we were delighted to hear that our school has been accredited with 'Green Flag Award – with Distinction!' We are awaiting our plaque which will be displayed in our entrance.

With our 'Cut your carbon' family challenge in November, our Earth Day in April, our curriculum work on climate change plus our Global Neighbours work we were successful in achieving our action goals! Well done to everyone involved and the Eco-Committee for their time and dedication to the role.

We would also like to remind you that at the end of last year, supported by the PTA, we adopted a zebra at Marwell Zoo, in place of the tiger who passed away. I am sure we will hear updates throughout the year but please look out for it if you visit the zoo at any time.

CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

Our local MP, Will Forster, has invited our school to take part in a Christmas card competition. The winning design will be featured on his official House of Commons Christmas card, which is delivered to more than 40,000 homes across Woking.

If your children would like to take part:



- Designs should be created on A4 paper
- Entries should be colourful, imaginative and festive.
- Avoid glitter, glue, cotton wool or any other stick on materials as they do not reproduce well in print.
- Pupils to write full name, age and school year on the back of their design (the winner's first name, age, year group and school will appear on the final Christmas card).

Deadline for entries: Wednesday 30th September. Please hand all entries in to the office.

HARVEST FAMILY SERVICE

Sunday 4th October, 10am
St Mary's Church, Horsell

St. Mary's Church and Horsell Junior School are delighted to invite all of our families to a special Harvest Service.

Our choir and several children from our school will be participating in the service, and it would be lovely to celebrate Harvest with our wider school community.



Friday 9th October 2026

16:00 - 20:00

Woking & Horsell Cricket Club

Join the PTA on Friday 9th October at Horsell and Woking Cricket Club for our first multimedia laser and firework display.

Early Bird tickets are available until this Friday 18th due to popular demand; Book today to avoid disappointment!



Explore a Bible theme through craft, food, games and drama.

There will be a short celebration with a story, songs and prayers.

Picnic tea provided



PARENT HELPERS - WE NEED YOU!

If you are able to spare any time in supporting our learning in Year 3 or Year 4, please contact your child's class teacher by email. It could be:

1:1 reading in the library

Group comprehension

Times Tables 12 x 12

Pre-teach

Projects/ trips/ events

TO APPLY FOR A DBS WITH US, PLEASE [CLICK HERE](#)

**NOT ALL VOLUNTEERING ROLES DO NOT REQUIRE A DBS, SO DO GET IN TOUCH EVEN IF YOU DO NOT CURRENTLY HAVE ONE WITH US.
WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU!**

