



GOSDEN HOUSE SCHOOL

GOSDEN NEWS

13th January 2023

This week I have been listening to the news and writing reports, as I often do, and reflecting on the changing purpose of education over the past few years. Always a battleground of course, but here's my view: To provide our young people with a toolkit to live healthy, rewarding adult lives; to be active members of society and to enjoy healthy relationships. Our Gosden Toolkits are designed to do that, with core/functional Literacy, Maths and communication skills alongside staying safe and healthy. And, of course, making sure we love the journey, because surely life is for living.

Schools are about to hit the headlines and everyone will have an opinion on whether or not schools "deserve" fair funding. Let me assure you, schools do! Investment in education is securing a better future for all of us. Gosden has been hard hit by the cuts, but we have a fierce Governing Body, who 110% believe in the right of every one of our pupils to a top quality education. So we will keep banging the drum for education, special education and Gosden.

In the meantime, we'll continue to have a great time at school. Look at all this fabulous learning...!

Cindy O'Sullivan, Head teacher

Cindy

Don't forget to keep an eye on our website for updates and useful information:

[Home Page](#) [Class Pages](#)



NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

RECENT PARENTMAIL COMMUNICATIONS

- 5th January – Letter to Year 5 parents re transition meeting
- 5th January – Save the Date Year 11 Prom
- 9th January – Surrey Choices and free training
- 9th January – Letter to KS4 Pizza Express visit
- 9th January – Guidance from UKHSA
- 9th January – Mental Health Research Project
- 9th January – Letter to Badgers and Foxes re Brooklands
- 9th January – Letter to Year 9 re vaccinations
- 10th January – Payment instructions for swimming
- 10th January – Allergies and Special Dietary changes
- 10th January – Banded Reading Books
- 10th January – KS4 Out and About
- 11th January – PGL 2nd instalment
- 11th January – WhatsApp
- 12th January – SwimSafe – free lessons
- 13th January – Letter to Year 8

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Monday 30th January – Friday 10th February	Year 11 Work Experience
Monday 6th February	Mental Health Week and Safer Internet Day
Monday 13th – Friday 17th February	Half Term
Wednesday 22nd February	Secondary Transition Meeting & Showround @ 1.15pm. for CURRENT Year 5 parents
Monday 27th February	Reading Focus Week
Thursday 2nd March	World Book Day
Friday 17th March	Red Nose Day
Friday 31st March	End of Term, 1.30pm finish

OWLS

Owls Class have been very excited to be back at school. They have really enjoyed seeing their friends and getting stuck back into their learning.

This half term we have started to learn about 'People Who Help Us' as our topic. This week we learned all about dentists, finding out what their job is and why it is important to look after our teeth. We used teeth in our Maths to sort quantities into 'groups of one' or 'lots/more than one'. We have also started to learn about money and how to recognise different coins and use 1p coins to support our counting out and counting on.



One thing that the whole class has been really enthusiastic about has been their different art projects. Each week they have been designing and creating a different art project to say thank you to different people in society and our local school community who help us.



This week we thanked our friends in different classes. We are excited to learn all about Firefighters next week!

FOXES

Fox Class have started the new term as they mean to go on, kicking off the first week of 2023 full of curiosity, enthusiasm and motivation.

We have begun work on our new topic of Transport. We were all fascinated with the invention of the hot air balloon and spontaneously decided to delve into researching the science behind the magical balloons. We would like to create some mini hot air balloons of our own and perhaps our own inventions.



In our Literacy lesson last week, we had a special delivery, a mystery parcel addressed to Fox Class. Inside the package was our new class book 'The Jolly Postman' and a letter from the postman. This week we wrote letters to Goldilocks from Baby Bear replying to her birthday party invitation. We are looking forward to joining the Jolly Postman on many more adventures during our literacy lessons.

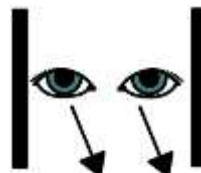
During the first weeks in Numeracy, we have been solving Maths problems such as 'finding the difference' using Numicon to show our working out. We've also started learning about the measurement of time.



Our Science topic this term is Forces. We started thinking about 'movement', particularly exploring the different ways our bodies move. We had fun on the playground investigating this and recorded what we saw using a tally chart. This week we thought about the difference between pushing and pulling. We used the learning habit 'noticing' as we sorted toys in a Venn diagram according to how they move.



Over the coming weeks we will be spending time outdoors, working on our number knowledge and developing our communication skills alongside plenty of opportunities for teamwork activities. As part of our topic work, we will be visiting the Brooklands Museum later in the term, which promises to be a fun filled, hands on day out! This half term we will also researching recipes and making a meal that we can all enjoy in our home economics kitchen.



Year 10 are getting back into the swing of things again after the Christmas Holidays and have made a great start to the term.



This week in Science we continued our work on gravity by taking part in the Egg Drop Challenge. We got very competitive as we split into teams, using our learning muscles of 'Learning Together' and 'Keep Improving' to try out different methods of protecting our eggs. One team even made a parachute for their egg! It was very close but the girls team won in the end, after we discovered a teeny tiny crack in the boys egg.



Lifeboats

On Wednesday we had an exciting visitor called Helen from the RNLI. She gave a talk to all of Key Stage 4 about the work of the Lifeboat Institute, and how to stay safe around water including our local waterways. Everyone did a brilliant job of listening carefully and asking some great questions.



We have been thinking lots this week about the future and completed a Future Pathways activity on Thursday. It was a really good opportunity to have a chat with the adults about what we are good at and what we might like to do in the future. It helped us think about our 'Work Ready' toolbox and the skills we might need to work on.



Finally, the exciting news to start off the term is that the Gosden Bakehouse is open! This is our coffee shop being run by Key Stage 4 students on a Thursday morning for the adults. More to come, but we have made a brilliant start and have received great feedback on our hot drinks and treats!



WELL DONE!

Congratulations to the following students for completing their 'Gosden Toolbox' and successfully collecting 10 'Life Tools'.

Developing these 'Life Tools' will help them now and also prepare them for their exciting future pathways.

Gordy
Charity

Year 11
Jay
Janet
Jack
Jessica
Elle

Year 10
Harry
Summer

Year 9
Alexie
Ryan

Year 8
Harry
Daisy
Alisha
Melissa

Year 7
Melissa
Kevin
Noah



Year 11 had an interesting afternoon when Jason, the Social Activities Co-ordinator from halow, came to visit.

Jack was very excited to greet Jason in Reception and was keen to be his 'wingman' because he had several taster sessions with halow last term!

Jason introduced himself and got all the students on board as they talked about their hobbies and what they would like to try in the future. Many of them they will be 16 in the next couple of months so will potentially be able to join halow before they leave Gosden. There was a mixed bag of interests but it was mainly sport versus disco/theme parks

The more we chatted about the purpose of halow and the social aspect the more relaxed the class became. They were especially excited to find out that an ex-teacher at Gosden, Katy Gidley, is now very much part of the social scene at halow, and works alongside Jason to organise and lead some of the activities.

The afternoon was a great success, and hopefully helped the current Year 11 students understand that there is a lot of fun to be had outside of Gosden House!

Sandra

Sandra Tidbury
Aspirations Adviser



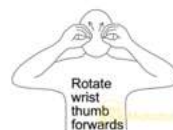
Speech & Language Therapy
Team

★ Makaton Champions ★



Signs of the week w/c 9th January 2023
(Theme: Gosden House Class Animal Names)

This week's champions are:
Aalia and Ruby – Squirrels Class



Speech & Language Therapy
Team

★ Makaton Champions ★



Signs of the week w/c 16th January 2023
(Theme: Class Animal Names #2)

This week's champions are:
Lexie and Lily-Rose – Year 9



The PTA would love you to re-gift any unwanted Christmas gifts.
Please send in gifts to school on Friday 27th January, please give any bottles or breakables to your child's escort.
Toiletries, wine, candles, or gift sets. Please no food items or toys.

Thank you for your support.

Valentines Gift Bags



We are selling small gift bags for Valentines, Mums, Dads, Carers, or simply just because. Each bag contains valentines themed items and small heart chocolates which may have been made in a factory containing nuts.

Gift bags will be delivered to school on the 10th February to be sent home with your child and they cost £2.00 per bag.

Please place your order using the form <https://forms.office.com/r/wHyRK0h2Bh>



Easyfundraising

Please remember to use easyfundraising when shopping online.

Over 7000 brands, including eBay, John Lewis & Partners, Argos and M&S will donate to Gosden House School PTA for FREE when you use easyfundraising to shop with them.

This means you can raise donations for us when you buy anything; from decorations and festive food, to gifts – like toys, jewellery, tech, experiences and more!

These donations really help us and all you have to do is use easyfundraising when you are ordering the things you'll be buying anyway.

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/gosdenhousepta/?utm_campaign=christmas_22&utm_medium=email&utm_content=raisemore-christmas22-e1

You spend, brands donate to Gosden House School PTA.

Help us when you shop with 7,000+ brands. Join now.

www.easyfundraising.org.uk

SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES

For any concerns or support please phone the school to speak to Annie Welch, Home School Link Worker.

Annie is in Tuesday to Friday.

Tel: 07864 721931

anniewelch@gosdenh-house.surrey.sch.uk

You can also call Jane Cowles, Pastoral Assistant, at school on 0183 892008.

Jane is in Monday to Wednesday.

jcowles@gosden-house.surrey.sch.uk

pastoral@gosden-house.surrey.sch.uk

<https://www.gosden-house.surrey.sch.uk/our-pastoral-support/>

Some parenting advice from child mental health experts

<https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk/>



<https://www.mindworks-surrey.org/>

Providing children, young people, families and carers with information about services, advice and resources. Includes how to ask for help in a crisis via the 24/7 crisis line.

Keeping Children Safe Online:

<https://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/>

<https://www.common sense media.org/>



Volunteers needed for research study on children with learning disabilities and their parents understanding of Mental Health Literacy.

Are you the parent of a child with a learning disability? You and your child may be eligible to share your perspective, we are keen to hear your voice!



What does it involve?

An interview with you and the researcher lasting an hour

AND

A separate interview for your child with a learning disability and the researcher lasting an hour

Who is eligible to participate?

- Parents/Guardians living with a child with a learning disability
- Children with a learning disability age 11-16, must be attending an SEN school
- Child must be able to communicate verbally or with verbally assisted technology

How do I express interest?

I would be incredibly grateful to hear from you if you are interested in participating in this research.

Contact the researcher, Lucy Abrahams, for more information.

l.abrahams@surrey.ac.uk

Version Number 1.0 31/10/2022

Study Title: Mental health literacy in children with a learning disability

This project has been reviewed by the University of Surrey Ethics Committee – ref: FHMS 22-23 022 EGA



Running here at Gosden House over the February half term, a brand new performing arts school brings “Encanto” Theatre workshop. Open to all SEN and Mainstream children. Please get in contact for more information.