



# GOSDEN HOUSE SCHOOL GOSDEN NEWS

22 September 2023

It was a pleasure to meet so many of our parents and carers yesterday during the PTA coffee morning. It is a challenge to stay connected as a community when we are so far flung, but the PTA do a fantastic job at keeping families together online and at events.

I spoke about the importance of supporting each other as parents and carers facing certain challenges, not least of all managing children at different schools, being a long way away, and trying to navigate scarce and remote services. But it is so important to remember that we have a shared source of joy on our community. Our children are special in so many ways, and they bring a unique perspective to our lives. Even the approach to difficulty which our children adopt is inspiring – I think of children who have been suffering long term and chronic illness and pain, who nevertheless manage to turn every situation into an opportunity for fun or joy.

Poor old Gosden staff spend their lives doing risk assessments and planning creative and engaging lessons, so that we can have adventures and enjoy new experiences. We are luckier than most – our community has been hit hard by the financial crisis on top of public service austerity, but we are resilient and adventurous nonetheless, and we have a deep reservoir of optimism. Stay wild.

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](#)



**DATES FOR THE DIARY**

Tuesday 10 October - Hello Yellow Day  
 w/c 16 October – Focus Week – Problem Solving  
 Monday 23 – Friday 27 October – Half Term  
 Monday 13 November – Odd Sock Day  
 w/c 13 November – Anti-Bullying Week  
 Thursday 7 December – Pantomime  
 Friday 15 December, 1.30pm – End of Term

**RECENT PARENTMAILS**

PGL Residential Year 11 trip  
 Reminder re Data Collection Sheets  
 Food Fund Donations  
 Food Fund Offer  
 Head lice  
 Car Free Day in Guildford  
 School Lunches Reminder  
 PTA Welcome Breakfast  
 Covid  
 Snoxhall Fields Trip  
 Activate Learning College Open Days  
 Nescot College Open Days

**A message from Annie**

Thank you to the students, families and colleagues who extended their kindness and good wishes at the end of last term when I “officially” moved on from 25 + years working at Gosden House. The fact that I stayed so long is testament to the exceptional children and young people who enrich every working day and the amazing support from the “team” in school and at home. I have so many happy memories. Just to confuse everyone, especially the children, I will be popping in to lend the team a hand on a fairly regular basis. A perfect transition to retirement!

Annie 😊



# O W L S

Time is certainly flying by in Owl Class – how are we nearly at the end of September already!?

We are so proud of the children. They have shown great determination and kindness as well as a sense of inquisitiveness so far this term. They have become great explorers, finding out about their new classroom, exploring different areas of the school and getting to know new adults.



The children have really enjoyed growing and tasting their own cress, playing Maths games, finding their favourite stories in the Library and helping to care for the animals at Gosden.

We have been using our '**Learning Together**' Learning Habit and have strong bonds of friendship. The children can often be seen helping each other on the playground, giving their friend's their water bottle or making one another laugh. Because we are such experts we decided to make our own 'Recipe for a Good Friend'! The children chose which ingredients needed to go in the bin and which needed to go into our recipe. We then mixed them together and created a magic spell. Wait and see what magic we conjure up next in Owl class....







# F O X E S

It has been a busy start to the school year in Foxes. We have been playing lots of games helping us get to know each other and our new classroom. We used our Learning Habit '**Noticing**' as we researched the fox animal. We explored Gosden's grounds looking for signs of fox life and were very excited when we found some fox holes. We also had fun creating different types of fox crafts to decorate our classroom.



In Maths, we have been focusing on number ordering. We enjoyed being outside and making number lines with natural materials. A very cheeky puppet called Geoffrey visited our class. He kept mixing up our numbers and stealing some of them. Fox class used their '**Learning Together**' habit and were amazing at sorting the numbers out and finding the missing numbers.



Our topic is 'Fire and Volcanoes'. We have been learning about fire safety and used our Learning Habit '**Explore,**' to try and find different fire related equipment around the school building. We used what we had learnt to make fire safety posters. We have also been busy writing volcano poems, baking volcano cupcakes and making a model showing the layers of the earth.

We are looking forward to finding out why volcanoes happen and where they can be found, as well as using our '**Creative**' Learning Habit to make volcano-inspired pieces of art.



The new Year 10's have made a brilliant start to their transition to Key Stage 4.

In our first week back we chose our class jobs, thinking carefully about the things we are already good at and what we want to get better at. Our class jobs are a great opportunity for us to work on our Life Skills and Employability skills for our toolkit.



One of our favourite things about Key Stage 4 is our vocational options on Thursday and Friday mornings. We have been taking care of the animals, picking vegetables from the Gosden garden, getting creative in Arts award, working on our IT skills and cooking up a storm in the kitchen. The Out and About group had a great trip in Bramley, practising our road safety and seeing what places there are to visit. They represented the school really well! We will be sharing what we have done with the whole school soon in our first class assembly of the year.



We are also really enjoying Keeping Healthy in our PE sessions with Lee from Planet Soccer, this week we did some orienteering which meant we had to do lots of Learning Together.

In the afternoons we are starting our ASDAN coursework focusing on topics like Safety in the Home and Community and Working Towards Goals. This week we helped each other think about the skills we have and the things we are good at which was great for our Emotional Wellbeing. It was great to see the kind words we all used about each other.

# 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.

Year 7  
Kelsie  
Lamarie

Year 9  
Melissa  
Lucia  
Daisy  
Harry  
Eloise  
Rayan  
Ma







I am Beth Sutton, Gosden's new Child & Family Support Worker.

It is my role to safeguard and provide pastoral care to the children and young people across the school. I work closely with professionals in and outside the school, signposting and supporting families to access other key agencies and support where needed, including; Early Help, CAMHS and voluntary and charity organisations.

I first worked at Gosden House as a Teaching Assistant, and have returned following further training and experience, developing my skills and knowledge in working alongside children and their families.

If you need support or have any concerns, please do contact me at [bsutton@gosden-house.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:bsutton@gosden-house.surrey.sch.uk). I work Monday to Thursday.

Jane Cowles, is our Pastoral Assistant, and she is in school Monday to Wednesday.

You can call either of us on 01483 892008 or by email:

[jcowles@gosden-house.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:jcowles@gosden-house.surrey.sch.uk)

[pastoral@gosden-house.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:pastoral@gosden-house.surrey.sch.uk)

[bsutton@gosden-house.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:bsutton@gosden-house.surrey.sch.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.

### **Cost of Living Crisis**

Are you struggling financially? If so, you are not alone! Many families are finding it hard to cope with day to day living costs.

The Pastoral Team are here to help. Please get in touch.

[pastoral@gosden-house.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:pastoral@gosden-house.surrey.sch.uk)

# Upcoming Dates



## Work Experience for Year 11

*Dates: 29/01/24-09/02/24 inclusive*

I have just started chatting with our new Year 11's about Work Experience and they are all really excitedly nervous - I am really enjoying networking and exploring some new placements. We have a couple of new ones who will hopefully support us this year so I am looking forward to working with them.

## Year 11 Annual Reviews:

I am hoping I will see most of you either in person or on Teams at the upcoming Year 11 Reviews. It is always so exciting hearing about the students' Aspirations and how and where they may see themselves in the future.



## Careers Evening:

*November 8<sup>th</sup>* – A great opportunity to talk to Lucy, our EHCP Co-ordinator, and myself with the support of HALOW, Future Choices, Guildford College, County Care and more. The focus will be around transition and next steps in Preparation for Adulthood.

## Functional Skills Exam Weeks:

The year 11 learners are currently settling in to work on their Functional Skills Maths and English.

They will be sitting their Maths and English exams in a two week period next year in a couple of slots. Ideally, we will have the Year 11's first, in March and the Year 10's will have their turn in May

*Dates: TBC*

We will then have a two week "mop up" period where the learners can sit a different Maths or English paper if they didn't quite pass the first time

There will be lots of support around these exam weeks and much preparation around exam tips and techniques so the young people have the best possible chance to achieve their level as reward for all their hard work throughout the year



# Open Events

If you have a young person who is thinking about college for a future pathway there are some open events coming up... *for some of these you may need to have a look at the college website and register/book online*

## **Guildford College**

11<sup>th</sup> October 4.30 – 7.30pm

11<sup>th</sup> November 9.30am-12.30pm

## **Merrist Wood**

4<sup>th</sup> October 4.30-7.30pm

18<sup>th</sup> November 9.30am-12.30pm

**Farnborough College of Technology** – Farnborough,  
11<sup>th</sup> October 4.00- 7.30pm - *Fleet and Aldershot areas*  
12<sup>th</sup> October 4.00-7.30pm - *Surrey, Berkshire and Basingstoke areas*

## **Nescot**

27<sup>th</sup> September 4.40-7.30pm

14<sup>th</sup> October 10.00am – 1.00pm

22<sup>nd</sup> November 4.30-7.30pm

If you have any worries or questions please don't hesitate to contact me by phone on 01483 89200 or by email [s.tidbury@gosden-house.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:s.tidbury@gosden-house.surrey.sch.uk)

**Sandra Tidbury – Aspirations Adviser**



Hello,

I hope you all had a wonderful time in the summer and are enjoying settling back in to school life!

Technology is such a great thing and we want our students to enjoy learning and playing games online safely. One way that you can help to ensure this is setting up parental controls on any devices your children have access to.

Parental controls allow you to block ad filter upsetting or inappropriate content. They work across your WiFi, phone network or on individual apps and devices.

They can also help you to plan what time of the day your child can go online and how long for.

The NSPCC website has a range of guides detailing step – by – step how to set up parental controls on different devices <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/parental-controls/> We also have hard copies of the guides – please get in touch if you would like these.

Your internet provider is also able to set up parental controls on your Wi-Fi for you – give them a ring and ask them for support.

If you would like to discuss anything to do with e-safety further, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher or myself via email or the school phone number.

Email [calmond@gosden-house.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:calmond@gosden-house.surrey.sch.uk)

Thank you,

Charlotte



Speech & Language Therapy  
Team

★ Makaton Champions ★



Signs of the week w/c 25<sup>th</sup> September 2023  
(Theme: school cont.)

This week's champions are:

★ Mahla & Micaela – Year 9 ★





## DATES FOR THE DIARY

19<sup>th</sup> October

### Rags to Riches Clothing Collection

Please start collecting any unwanted clean clothes, paired shoes, belts, handbags and jewellery. Bags will be sent home nearer the day; you can use black bags as well.



2<sup>nd</sup> December

### Gosden House PTA Christmas Fair.

## SAVE THE DATE

2<sup>nd</sup> December

### Gosden House PTA Christmas Fair.

## THANK YOU!

Thank you to all of you who were able to come to our PTA Breakfast on Thursday. It was wonderful to meet you all.

### 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.

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.



### You spend, brands donate to Gosden House School PTA.

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

[www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)



**GOSDEN HOUSE  
PTA**

*Christmas Fair*



**2nd December  
2pm - 4pm**



**SAVE THE DATE  
FOR LOTS OF FUN!**



# Here is some useful information about free on-line courses provided by Surrey.



## Who's in Charge? First Steps to Understanding Child to Parent Violence Course



This is a FREE four week, (2 hour per week) course. It is delivered online and is for parents and carers whose children (8-18) are being violent and/or aggressive at home.

### What will I learn?

- Understand the causes behind a child's aggression at home
- Gain knowledge of the family's rights and responsibilities
- Explore parent roles and parenting styles.
- Review ways to encourage a calmer home environment

For course dates, more information and to book your place please click on [this link](#) or scan the QR code



Web : [www.surreycc.gov.uk/familylearning](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/familylearning)  
Email : [family.learning@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:family.learning@surreycc.gov.uk)  
Tel : 0300 200 1044



## Child and Teenager behaviour, anxiety and mental health. Free courses and workshops for parents and carers



Do you want to better understand and support your children and teenagers' behaviour, anxiety and mental health? These wide range of interactive, free courses and workshops are delivered online in two hour sessions.

### What will I learn?

- Support children and teenager's resilience and self-esteem
- Learn about children and teenager's development and strategies to support positive behaviour
- First steps to understanding your neurodivergent child
- Learn strategies to support your anxious child and teenager

For course dates, more information and to book your place please click on [this link](#) or scan the QR code



Web : [www.surreycc.gov.uk/familylearning](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/familylearning)  
Email : [family.learning@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:family.learning@surreycc.gov.uk)  
Tel : 0300 200 1044



## First Steps to Understanding Emotionally Based School Non-Attendance Course



This FREE online three week course for parents will be delivered in two hour sessions. You will gain an understanding of your child's school avoidance and ideas on how to make changes for a positive impact for all the family.

### What will I learn?

- Understand reasons why your child will not attend school or lessons
- Understand reasonable adjustments from school to support your child
- Be confident in advocating for your child

For course dates, more information and to book your place please click on [this link](#) or scan the QR code



Web : [www.surreycc.gov.uk/familylearning](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/familylearning)  
Email : [family.learning@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:family.learning@surreycc.gov.uk)  
Tel : 0300 200 1044



Kinship Care Week (2-8 October) is an opportunity to celebrate the incredible role that kinship carers play in children's lives and society, and recognise the profound commitment and love they have for the children they care for.

As a school, we want to take this opportunity to **#DoOneThing** and to celebrate and thank our kinship carers for all they do to support students who for various reasons are not able to live with their parents.



# CAR FREE DAY

GUILDFORD TOWN CENTRE  
SUNDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 10AM-4.30PM



BE PART OF A  
GREENER GUILDFORD

[www.visitsurrey.com/guildfordcarfreeday23](http://www.visitsurrey.com/guildfordcarfreeday23)

Guildford's third annual Car Free Day will be held on **Sunday 24 September** 2023 from 10.00am to 4.30pm inviting residents to "Be part of a Greener Guildford".

Guildford Borough Council is coordinating the free, fun and interactive event, bringing in hundreds of local providers, traders and community organisations, all working together. The event will involve a range of environmental education and awareness activities, family entertainment, and many different stalls. Car Free Day encourages motorists to choose alternative travel such as walking, cycling or public transport, instead of using their car for the day. Visit our different Zones:

- Learn how you can do more to tackle climate change.
- Food and drink stalls for every taste.
- Live music and dance performances.
- Have a go on e-bikes and learn about active travel.
- Activities include circus skills, a huge 9m climbing tower and street play fun.
- Vegan, Antiques, Farmers, Rural Craft and Arts market stalls.

We are providing 600 additional bike parking spaces in the town centre and at Allen House Grounds so please cycle if you can. Tunsgate, High Street and Upper High Street will be shut (7.00am-7.30pm) but all car parks will be open as normal.

For more information,  
visit: [www.visitsurrey.com/guildfordcarfreeday23](http://www.visitsurrey.com/guildfordcarfreeday23)

If you would like to make a donation to the school you can do so via the Gosden Children First charity page by clicking on this link

<https://wonderful.org/charities/1049925>

You are able to donate directly or to a particular fundraising page that you would like to support.

