



GOSDEN HOUSE SCHOOL

GOSDEN NEWS

20 October 2023

This week is Focus Week and the entire school are looking at Problem Solving. This is one of our Learning Habits and is linked to the idea of learning resilience. It can be tough for any of us to encounter things which are difficult in our lives, and developing the skills to accept difficulty then find ways to deal with problems is super important in the learning process. As you will see in today's newsletter, we have been embracing challenge, and coming up with creative ways to address problems. We have been enjoying making mistakes and learning a lot about what does and doesn't work. We have also seen that sometimes things don't work, but it's not the end of the world! We're OK!

As you know, one of the most important aspects of our offer at Gosden is our Pastoral approach. We are lucky to have staff, Governors and Parents/Carers who really care about all our children and young people. We have recently welcomed Beth as our Child and Family Support Worker, and she and Jane have been working closely with staff and families to ensure our children have the best care and services we can find. Thank you especially to the parents and carers who give our school community so much support – life isn't always easy, and we are lucky to have Gosden Family.

Remember that if you need help or advice over half term that we have signposting in the newsletter and on the website. Have a lovely week, see you after half term for Hallowe'en!

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

Monday 23 – Friday 27 October – Half Term
Wednesday 8 November – Parents Consultation
Evening 3.15pm – 6pm
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

LOST PROPERTY

We have a number of unnamed items of lost property – water bottles and hats. Please let the office know if any of these belong to your child, and do remember to name things so that they can be reunited with their owners. Thank you



RECENT PARENTMAILS

Open Evenings Brooklands College
Cauliflower Cards
School Lunches
Pantomime – Cinderella
FACE Family Advice Newsletter
Rags2Riches Fundraiser
Christmas Lunch ordering
Parent Consultation Evening
Photo Consent – Yvonne Arnaud Theatre
Secondary Parent Consultations
FSM Vouchers for Half Term
Swimming Cancellation
Social Enterprise Project
Club 4 Holiday Activity Vouchers
Year 8 Butser Ancient Farm Trip

We are so proud of how well the Rabbits have settled into their new classroom environment. This half-term has been filled with so much fun!



R A B B I T S

Topic: 'Healthy Me'

Rabbits have been busy using their '**Exploring**' and '**Learning Together**' Habits to learn all about how to be healthy through exercise, eating healthily, sleep, playing with our friends, self-care routines and more! They have enjoyed learning about the importance of balance, resting after exercise, and eating a balanced diet. Children have participated in various role-play opportunities and enjoyed moving their bodies outside! Rabbits have particularly enjoyed collecting and growing their own fruits and practicing their careful counting to make 'healthy stew' in Numeracy.



Focus Week: Problem Solving

Rabbit Class have demonstrated excellent use of their '**Problem Solving**' Habit this week for our Focus Week! They have role-played as builders at the tuff-tray and engaged in small-world play to problem solve! Rabbit Class also thoroughly enjoyed using their '**Creative**' and '**Learning Together**' Habits to build 'Tim the Teddy' a den to sleep in!



Happy & Healthy

Rabbits have engaged beautifully in the Happy and Healthy Curriculum this half-term! They have enjoyed Apple Morning, Bucket Therapy sessions, and 1:1 Reading with Penny and Ash, the therapy dog





SQUIRRELS

At the start of the term, Squirrels became archaeologists and had to go on a dig to find out what our topic was. We discovered lots of strange objects and using our Learning Muscles - of **Problem Solving**, **Learning Together** and **Asking Questions** we realised it was **Ancient Egypt**. We learned about mummification and all the different steps involved and we then put these into practice mummifying our own tomatoes and sealing them in containers. We are looking forward to opening them up after half term and seeing if it worked.

In Literacy we have been reading "The Dragon Machine". We had fun going on a dragon hunt; we had to notice where the dragons were and use positional language to describe where they were hidden. In the book George builds his own dragon machine. We used our **Creative Learning** habit to draw designs for our own dragon machines, described them using lots of adjectives and then explaining how they work.

This week as part of our Problem-Solving Focus Week we found a cryptic message from an Egyptian Pharaoh asking how to build a pyramid. Using our **Problem Solving** and **Learning Together** Learning Habits, we discovered the message was written in hieroglyphics and managed to decode it. We then researched pyramids and explored different ways of building them.



In Maths we have been exploring different ways to represent numbers, using Numicon, tens frames, bead strings, and straws. We have also been working on counting in tens. In our shape topic, we have been exploring properties of 3D shapes and had a go building some of our own shapes using marshmallows and cocktail sticks.

Problem



Solving

Week

Squirrels and Woodpeckers have enjoyed **Learning Together** this week as they considered how they could stop Humpty Dumpty from cracking when he fell off the wall. After **Exploring** a variety of materials and investigating different designs we created our own egg protections models and then dropped them to see if we could prevent our eggs from cracking.



Squirrels and Woodpeckers **Worked Together** to uncover a secret message left in the classroom. We investigated what the images on the message might mean. After researching using books and the internet they discovered they were written in Hieroglyphics. The challenge was set to decode the message and solve the problem posed – **How do you build a pyramid?**



S
Q
U
I
R
R
E
L
S

W
O
O
D
P
E
C
K
E
R
S

During Problem Solving Week Year 9 have loved using all their Learning Muscles to get stuck in! First we used our '**Learning Together**' muscles to look at the results of our mouldy bread Science investigation. We left bread in different places around the classroom to see which would go the mouldiest. We worked out that the bread in the warmest places went the mouldiest and the bread in the coldest places stayed the freshest! If you want your bread to last longer Year 9 suggest putting it in the freezer.



We also investigated our 'drop it' challenge. We looked at a couple of different ways that aid is dropped from aeroplanes to areas that need it. We were then challenged to design our own system to safely drop an egg from height to make sure that it landed in one piece. Just like the aid drops from the aeroplane. We used our 'Keep improving' muscle to adjust our designs as we began to build and our 'being brave' muscles to have a go! We worked so hard on our delivery systems and had great fun testing them.

This term we voted for our new School Council. The students gave a speech to their class and then the class went to the voting station to choose who should be the Councillors. Year 8 interviewed the new councillors and asked them lots of questions.

What charities would you support?

'Research cancer, homeless shelters, animal shelters, Children in Need, Red Nose Day and raising money for our school.'



What would you do to make the school better?

'I want to have mufi days on Fridays.'
 'I want to make sure that everyone is treated fairly, with no discriminating.'
 'I want to make sure we have more play equipment outside.'



What are you most looking forward to?

'My first school council meeting.'
 'Making a difference to the whole school.'



How would you raise money?

'Pyjama day.'
 'Christmas jumper day.'
 'Guess how many sweets in the jar.'
 'Mufi days.'



How did you feel before during and after the school elections?

'I felt a bit nervous and then quite happy.'
 'It has been my biggest dream since Reception.'



We are so excited to see what they do in our school and how they make it even better than it already is.
 Ruby, Ellie, Josh, CASPER

Enrichment Clubs will be starting after half term. We are excited to introduce lots of new Clubs such as: Coding, Calm Club, Hairdressing, Art Club and Choir.

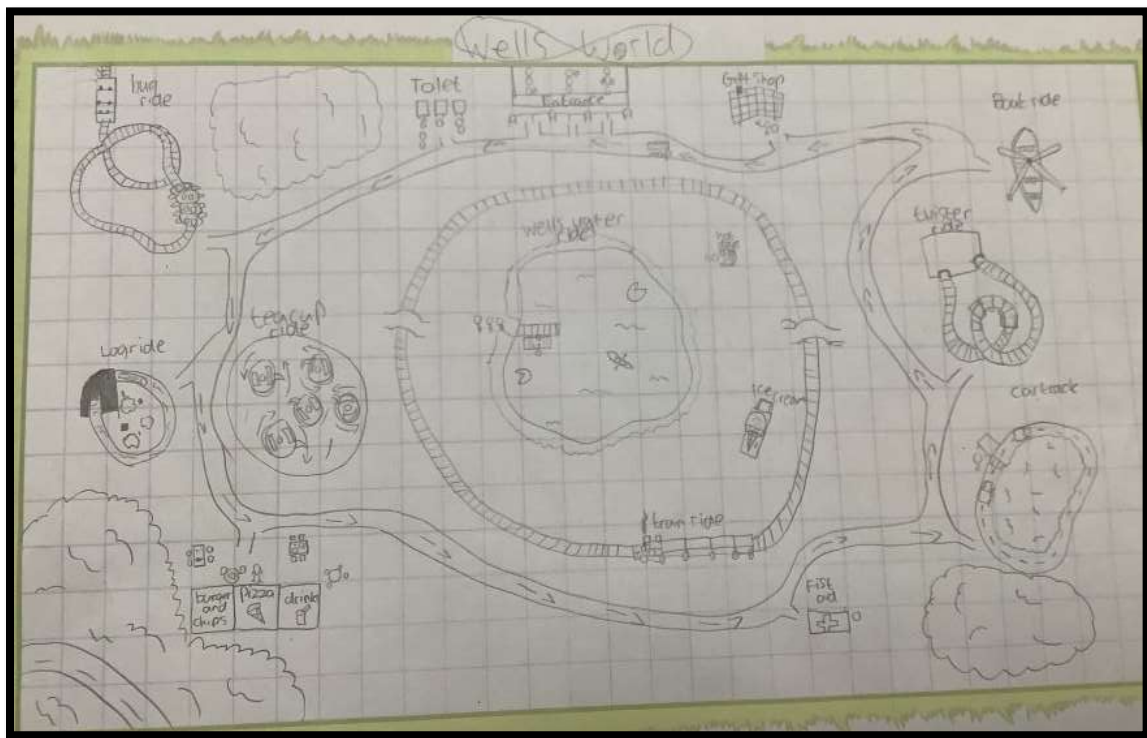
In order to prepare for our Hairdressing Club, we have been able to source some doll heads to provide our learners with an enriched experience.

A big thank you to Alan at The Avec Corporation in Glasgow for very kindly donating two doll heads plus a stand. Also, a big thank you to our very own Charity (Year 11) who kindly donated a doll head that she had at home. Thanks to this generosity of our donors, we are able to provide a practical, realistic experience of the industry.

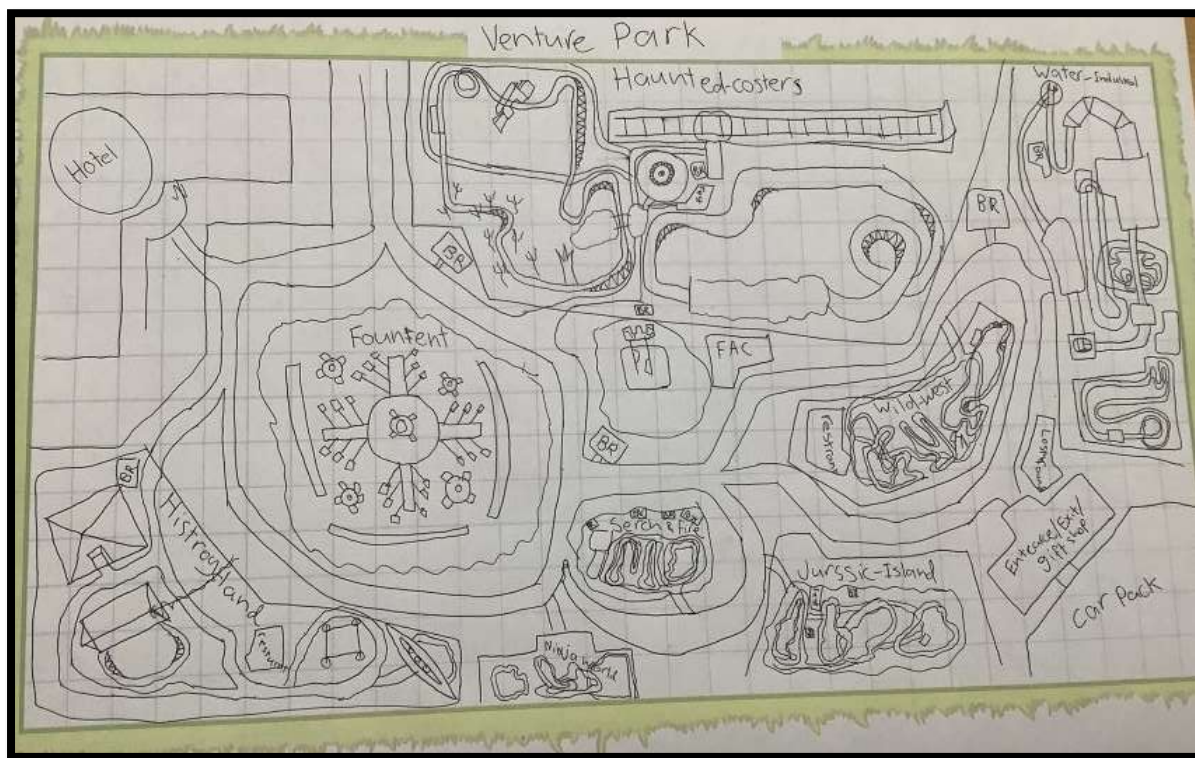


In DT, learners have been working towards building their very own clock. They have designed and built their product from scratch and were proud to show off their final results this week.





For our Problem Solving Focus Week, Year 11 were presented with a problem. We were asked to design a new theme park for Surrey County Council (wishful thinking). We had a fun filled, creative afternoon where we had to discover what we wanted in our theme park. Although selecting the rides was the easy part, we had to decipher what features were essential, such as toilets and first aid. We also wanted our theme parks to appeal to our chosen target audience, so we had to decide how we would do that.





Our visit to Clandon Garden Centre



**O
U
T
&
A
B
O
U
T**

GOSDEN GRADUATES



Last week, our lovely Gosden Graduates returned to school for an evening of catching up, receiving their certificates and indulging in some delicious cakes made by our current KS4 cohort.

We had a fantastic turnout and it was such a pleasure seeing the graduates of 22-23. They filled us in on how well they are doing in their post 16 adventures and enjoyed being reunited with each other.



Our brilliant cooking class had spent a busy morning in the kitchen providing sweet treats for the event.

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
Alex
Bethany

Year 8
Ruby
Josh

Year 9
Lucia
Daisy
Tia
Rayan
Harry
Mahla

Year 10
Lily-Rose



For any concerns or support, please do contact Beth Sutton, Child and Family Support Worker (Mon-Fri) or Jane Cowles, Pastoral Assistant (Mon-Weds) at

bsutton@gosden-house.surrey.sch.uk

jcowles@gosden-house.surrey.sch.uk

pastoral@gosden-house.surrey.sch.uk

You can reach us at 07864 721931 or by phoning the school on 01483 892008.

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

Services in Surrey

For a general overview of services in Surrey that can support over the half term, including financial support, families can visit [Community Connector newsletter – helping families find support - Surrey County Council \(surreycc.gov.uk\)](#) on the Surrey Family Information Service Website.

For advice about staying safe and well as it gets colder, visit [Home :: Children and Family Health Surrey \(childrenshealthissurrey.nhs.uk\)](#).

<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. Visit [Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health support in Surrey | Surrey Education Services \(surreycc.gov.uk\)](#) for more information on Mental Health support in Surrey.

Performing Arts Workshop at Gosden House.

@'The Little Mermaid', Tuesday 24th, 9am-3pm at £40.
Gosden House School. Run by Charlotte W.



Book by using this link: <https://www.infinityperformers.com/>

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

Keeping Active in the Half Term

Active Surrey have some great ideas to keep the whole family active over half term. See here for [ideas to keep active](#) at home.

<https://www.visitsurrey.com/whats-on/half-term> VisitSurrey have a helpful page for family friendly events taking place during half term in Surrey.

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 8th – 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*

Brooklands College

Saturday 18th November 10.00am -12.30pm
Wednesday 28th February 2024 4.30pm -7.00pm
Saturday 18th May 2024 10.00am - 12.30pm

Guildford College

11th November 9.30am-12.30pm

Merrist Wood

18th November 9.30am-12.30pm

Nescot

22nd 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

Sandra Tidbury – Aspirations Adviser



Hello,

Talking to your teenager about their online use can be stressful and at times – awkward! However it is clear that having open discussions is the most effective way to safeguard children online.

CEOP have made a series of videos and resources called #AsktheAwkward which explores how parents can support young people covering themes such as 'making connections', 'building trust' and 'facing challenges'.

Find out more and have an explore here

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/ask-the-awkward/>



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

Thank you,

Charlotte



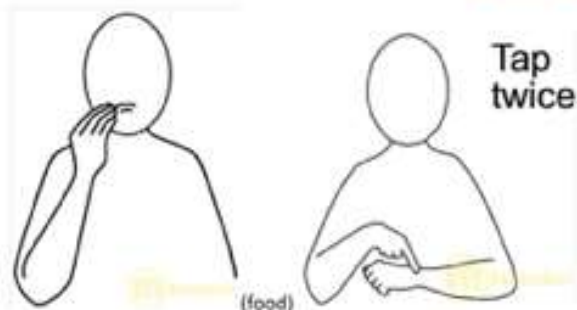
Speech & Language Therapy
Team

★ Makaton Champions ★

Signs of the week w/c 30th October 2023
(Theme: eating at school)

This week's champions are:

★ Charlie & Ruby - Woodpeckers ★



DATES FOR THE DIARY



2nd December
Gosden House PTA Christmas Fair.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who donated clothes to the Rag2Riches for Schools.

Special thanks to the PTA members who helped and Amr and Ryan from Year 10.

We raised our highest total yet £91.05

Thank you also for all the mufti day donations today.

Have a lovely spooky half term everyone

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



**GOSDEN HOUSE
PTA**

Christmas Fair



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



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

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.

