

GOSDEN HOUSE SCHOOL

14 December 2023

It is a true joy to work in a school at Christmas time. Children (including the bigger variety) love it so much, and we love helping them to! Last week the whole school went to the Panto at the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre and absolutely loved it. The entire trip was sponsored by our local Bramley community, and we are incredibly grateful to them for their immense generosity.

Yesterday the Primary department staged their Primary Presentation. In true Gosden style, it was crafted by and with the pupils – a truly unique and beautiful production. Huge congratulations to Julie and the Primary team for this year's production.

In less joyous news, I am sorry that our wonderful PTA has folded. Gosden has had a PTA for many years, and they have been an absolute bedrock of support for the school, and also for families. The PTA plan events to bring our families and children together, as we are a scattered community, and their efforts have been truly outstanding. Thank you to the core group who have worked so hard for us – together they have pulled each other and our community through, and were absolute angels during Covid, when they sent in little gift packs and messages of support for the staff, children and families. They went out with a bang, staging yet another wonderful Christmas Fair this year and raising over £1300 for the school. We spend that money on the Books in Homes scheme and presents for the children at a certain time of year, amongst other things. I hope we can find a new sponsor to raise that money.

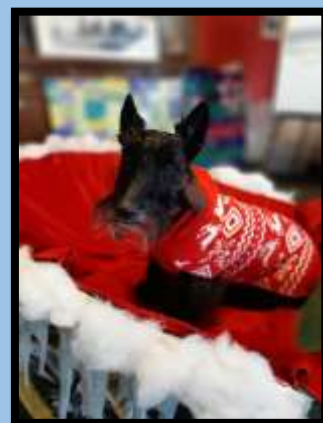
Thank you also to the kind parent who won first prize and donated it to the school. Last year's winner donated it to a staff party, we will be more responsible this year and spend it on board games for the students.

Finally, as we go into holidays, may I alert you to the support pages in the newsletter. And whatever you are doing over the next fortnight, please take a moment to appreciate your children and your family. Happy Christmas!

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

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

Cindy



Cindy O'Sullivan, Head Teacher



DATES FOR THE DIARY

Friday 15 December

1.30pm – End of Term

Wednesday 3rd January

First day of Spring Term

Friday 2nd February

Number Day

Thursday 8th February

Safer Internet Day

Monday 12th – Friday 16th February

Half Term

Thursday 28th March

Last day of Spring Term @ 1.30pm



Together is a FREE holiday club for any children aged 12-19 with special educational needs and disabilities. Run by professional facilitators, we rehearse scenes and play fun drama games.

[TOGETHER: S.E.N.D. HOLIDAY CLUB - Guildford Shakespeare Company \(guildford-shakespeare-company.co.uk\)](http://together.s.e.n.d.holidayclub-guildfordshakespeare-company.co.uk)



A big thank you to everyone who donated for Odd Sock Day on Monday 13th November. We raised a total of £33.45 for the Anti-Bullying Alliance.

“Thank you very much for your donation. Each pound we raise helps us to carry out vital work to end bullying for good.”

Adam, our Site Manager, and his two fabulous assistants, Brian and Clive have been busy around Gosden. We have had specialists from Wisley come and prune the trees in the orchard.



Huge thank you's to the Site team for all their Christmas decorating. The stage looked beautiful at the Primary Christmas Production

The pigs, have also had a new fence around their enclosure.

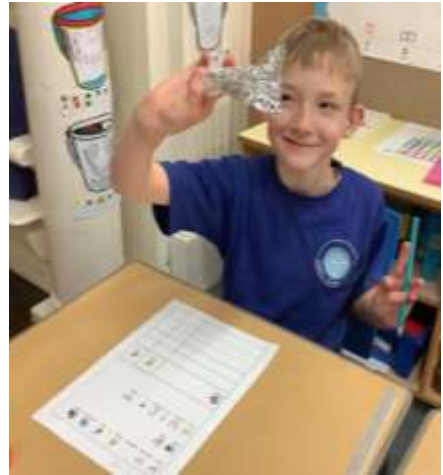




SQUIRRELS

Squirrels have had a great half term and it has been lovely to see how much effort they have put into their learning.

In Literacy we've been reading the story "The Man on the Moon," a book about an astronaut called Bob who works on the moon. One of our highlights was Squirrels class going on a "trip to the moon" to visit Bob. Afterwards we wrote postcards about our trip.



In Maths we have been comparing and ordering numbers. We have been using the signs $<$, $>$ and $=$ and had a go at applying our knowledge to some more challenging questions. This term we also explored position and direction. We loved dancing to the cha-cha slide, which helped us become more confident with positional language and our left and right. We worked in groups and took it in turns to be blindfolded, our partners had to give instructions to guide us through a maze. We kept trying and as we became more confident we had a go at doing some coding on the computer.



In PSHE we have been working on our teamwork skills, particularly listening and explaining. We worked in pairs, one leader and one follower, both had to try and draw the same picture with a barrier in between so they could not see what the others were doing. We had a lot of laughs doing this, but were actually very impressed with how similar some of the pictures were!

Year 7 Visit the Cinema to see Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile!

On Tuesday, 21 November, Year 7 travelled by minibus to go on their first school trip to the cinema to see, 'Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile.'

Donna interviewed some of her fellow Year 7's to find out their favourite part of the film.



'I liked the cat best.' Alex

'I liked the singing.' Finley

'I liked the bin diving song.'
Sophie

This was our first school trip and the children's behaviour was excellent. They were enthusiastic and all agreed it was a great opportunity to take part in the Into Film Festival. We can't wait for another trip!

Year 8 have been learning about bullying in their citizenship lessons. They have written their own newsletter contribution, and designed some anti-bullying posters.

What happens if you get Bullied?

If you don't know the difference between rude, mean and bully – here they are explained:

RUDE

- Saying or doing something is not polite and not apologising.
- It might be a one off thing.
- People may not realise they are being rude.

MEAN

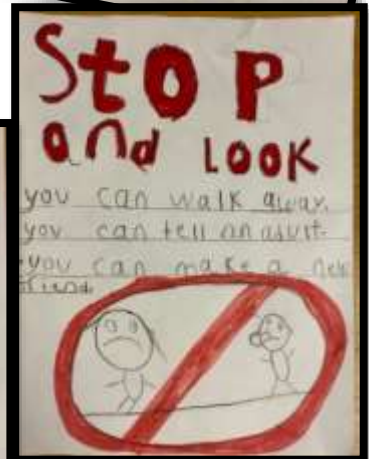
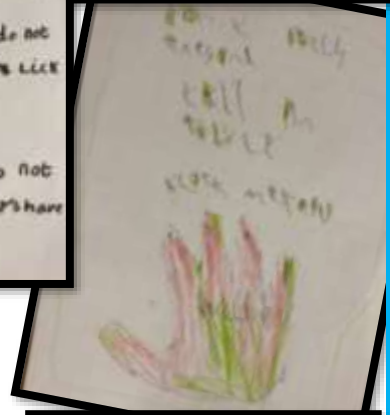
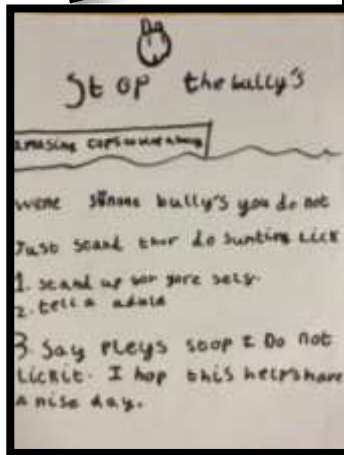
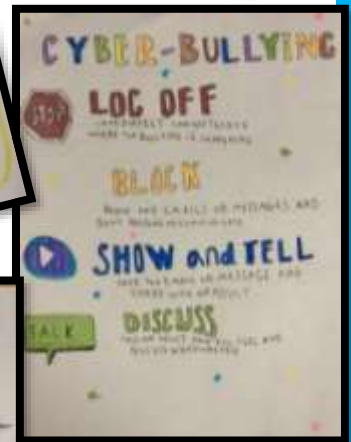
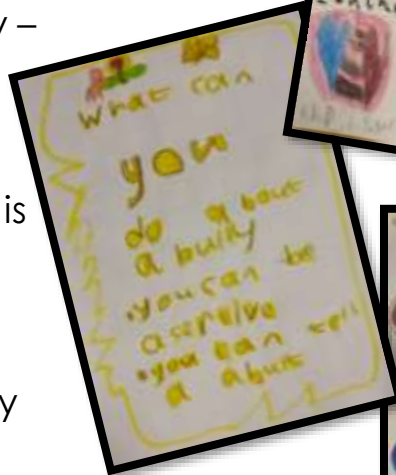
- Knowingly saying or doing unkind things, like not letting them join in games
- Deliberately hurting their feelings or doing something they asked you not to do.

BULLY

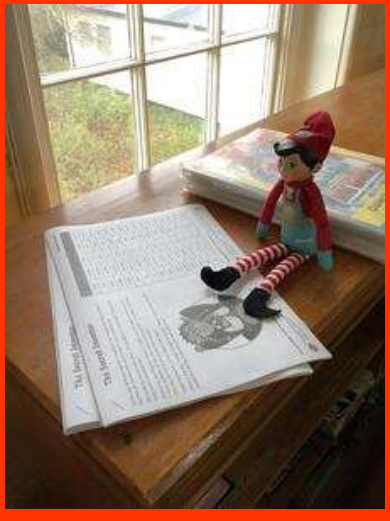
- Intentionally doing something unkind multiple times, often to someone weaker than them.

This is what do you do if you get bullied:

- You can make friends with someone else
- Tell an adult
- You can walk away
- Be kind and keep calm
- You can be assertive



We could not find Cookie the Elf this morning during Maths! We looked everywhere and finally found her in the library with all our worksheets and a Christmas challenge! The class had to use their "Numeracy skills" to solve 4 clues and find the SECRET INVENTOR. These clues included; bar charts, measurements, number bonds to 20 and code cracking. The students used their "**Learning Together**" muscles by sharing their answers and helping to solve the mystery. The secret inventor was WINTER - what a cheeky elf!



In PSHE this term we have been working on life skills. We first thought about personal hygiene, with the help of 'Stinky Bob' who was very dirty, and learnt how to keep ourselves clean and how often we needed to wash. Then we used our 'Being Brave' muscles and 'life skills' to practice making a hot drink and a piece of toast. We ordered the steps we would need to take, were careful with the hot kettle and toaster and even did the washing up once we had tested our drinks and toast!

As Year 9 have been working incredibly hard during their Our World lessons and learning lots of facts about yeast, Holly thought it would be a great idea to bake some bread. We used our "**Getting Ready**" Learning Muscles and our numeracy skills to collect the equipment and measure the ingredients. We then used our "**Learning Together**" muscles by working in a team to mix and make the dough. Holly taught the learners how to knead the dough to activate the yeast, creating bubbles to make the bread rise in the oven. The bread looked and smelt YUMMY! Yay for good microbes!



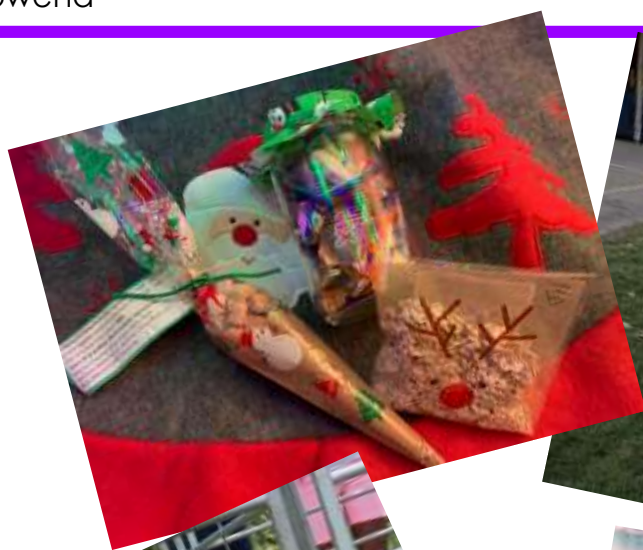
A school's PTA means so much more. Personally for me it is a real sense of community bringing everyone at Gosden together, whether this be through a small fundraiser or one of the larger scale events.

I joined the PTA back in 2014 when Lily-Rose was in reception, jump forward to 2023 having had a break, roles as Secretary, Chair and Chair again I have thoroughly enjoyed my time leading a fantastic hard working team, the current team really being the best icing on the cake.

Highlights for me have been building relationships with school and supporting them with much needed funding for various projects to benefit every child within the school. Organising and attending events, looking back at photos there always seems to be a smile on a child's face at PTA events and sweet treats involved. I've also enjoyed securing grants for special Donkey visits for Christmas Fairs.

I hope in time that there will be new ideas and Gosden will find a new PTA team.

I'd just like to thank parents, carers, staff and everyone at Gosden for their support.
Rowena



I have been privileged to be a member of the PTA for the past 7-years; for the last 4-years as Vice Chair.

It has been a pleasure to work with the rest of the PTA committee (Janine, Emma, Rowena). A big thank you to the PTA, I really appreciate all the support we have given each other.

Thank you to all the families of the children at Gosden House, without your support none of the events would have raised any money for the so needed extras for our children in school, especially during the Covid years and the lockdowns. This leads me to a fond memory, one of the online quiz family event over Zoom where my role was to try and track all the teams scores (there were no team names making the job harder than you would think!).

Thank you again, and good luck and all the best to everyone in future.

Merry Christmas!

Kim x

I joined the PTA when Lucie first started at Gosden 9 years ago and started off helping with things like putting up Santa's Grotto for the Christmas Fair.

In 2020 when Rowena took over I took on the role of Secretary and the PTA really took off and started organising so many great events. I loved organising the Smarties Challenge each year especially. One of our funniest fundraisers is the Krispy Kreme Doughnut Sale which I have been running with Emma Sterry and is very popular. We certainly won't miss a day of getting covered in sugar each year!

Thank you to everyone who attended our Christmas Fair last week, it's a really fun event which the children love, I won't miss my house being filled with bottles, sweet jars, hampers and toys for a month though!

I am very sad to be stepping down from the PTA as Lucie will be leaving Gosden next June. We have a brilliant team and we have loved working together. I hope in future some of you get together and start a new PTA as our amazing school really needs funds for all the lovely things they give to the children each year.

Have a lovely Christmas everyone.
Janine



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 7W
Bethan

Year 10
Joanna
Charles

Year 11
Charity
Summer
Shannon

Year 7S
Max (2)
Donna
Chance
Levi
Alex

Year 9
Alisha
William
Eloise
Lulu
Melissa
Tia
Skye

Year 8
Ellie-Mae
Josh



CHRISTMAS

Christmas can be a crazy, busy and sometimes stressful season that impacts adults and children alike - especially if there are anxieties associated with the festivities. Please have a look at the Beacon house PDF attached and keep this in mind as we approach the Christmas holidays.

Many thanks, Beth

[https://www.freeoutreach.org.uk/docs/Christmas 2023/Top Tips for Christmas at home - November 2021.pdf](https://www.freeoutreach.org.uk/docs/Christmas%202023/Top%20Tips%20for%20Christmas%20at%20home%20-%20November%202021.pdf)
for Christmas with young people with Autism

<https://beaconhouse.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/The-Christmas-Storm.pdf>
from Beacon House, for children that have experienced trauma

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/>

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

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.



"Linkable is a charity whose mission is to provide life-long support to people of all ages with learning disabilities, enabling healthy, happy and more independent lives. The charity supports children and adults with learning disabilities in Woking and Surrey. They offer people activities and experiences they may otherwise struggle to access, supporting them to learn new skills, form lasting friendships and lead more fulfilling lives".

<https://www.linkable.org.uk/pages/next-steps>

<https://www.linkable.org.uk/pages/no-limits>

Work Experience for Year 11

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

Work Experience plans are coming together for the Year 11's. 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.

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

Wednesday 28th February 2024 4.30pm -7.00pm

Saturday 18th May 2024 10.00am - 12.30pm

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 Advisor

CAN YOU HELP?

Would you be willing to come into school to talk to our young people about your job and career? We have a fabulous careers programme at Gosden and having you come in and talk to our students would add another layer of understanding for them. If you can support us please contact me, s.tidbury@gosden-house.surrey.sch.uk

Hello,

As we approach a school holiday, we know that many of our young people will want to keep in contact with one another. At school, we have spoken a lot about being a good friend, and how this is the same whether we are in person or communicating online.

The Christmas holidays may be a good time to touch base with your young person, and have an open conversation around their online interactions, with how others interact with them, and how they interact with others. As it is such a busy time for households, it is important to keep up your usual monitoring of your child's device usage.

If any new devices are brought into your household over the holiday period, it is important to remember to install parental controls and filtering on them too. Information on how to do this can be found through your internet provider, or via the NSPCC website:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/parental-controls/>.

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



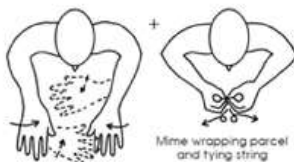
Speech & Language Therapy
Team

☆Makaton Champions☆

Signs of the week w/c 4th December 2023
(Theme: Christmas)

This week's champions are:

☆Georgia & Skylar – Owls Class☆



Speech & Language Therapy
Team

☆Makaton Champions☆

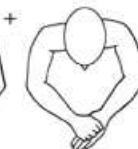
Signs of the week w/c 11th December 2023

This week's champions are:

☆Bonnie & Freddie – Robins class☆



Slide right hand over back of left hand towards body, then close right hand and place on back of left hand



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone at Gosden House,
from the Speech and Language Therapy Team

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.

