



GOSDEN HOUSE SCHOOL GOSDEN NEWS

12 January 2024

As part of the search for my successor, I have been speaking to Head Teachers from other settings, many in the independent sector. It has made me very appreciative of working in the maintained sector, where we have the luxury of being able to concentrate on children's education, with the sole aim of educating children and improving futures. This should not be a luxury – it is our job and our pleasure. Perhaps that is why we do it so well!

The Spring term is all about learning – it is my favourite term. You'll see we have been learning about all sorts of things at school, and don't forget that there is plenty of learning to outside school too. I urge you to get your wellies on and go exploring, and read lots of books while we have plenty of lovely rain and darkness.

This morning we were investigating whether or not planets are made of cheese. We learned an awful lot about what planets are made of, and we are pretty sure they are not made of cheese. We are not 100% sure about what the moon is made of though, so if you find anything out, please let me know.



Cindy

Cindy O'Sullivan, Head Teacher



DATES FOR THE DIARY

29th January – 9th February – Yr. 11 Work Experience

2nd February – Number Day

8th February – Safer Internet Day

HALF TERM – Monday 12th – Friday 16th February

w/c 4th March – Focus Week – English

7th March – World Book Day

15th March – Red Nose Day

28th March @ 1.30pm – End of Term

RECENT PARENTMAILS

Unwanted Christmas presents, jumpers and decorations to Year 8

Year 5 Transition to Secondary

Swimming payments

Year 7 trip to Winchester Science Museum

Year 11 Frimhurst Enterprises

Support our school by buying tickets to the very popular event - **Friday Night Fever** at Bramley Golf Club. Tickets are £27.50 for a Chicken or Vegetable Madras plus a disco, with all profits going to Gosden House School.

Links Road presents

Friday Night Fever 2

Curry and Disco in aid of Gosden House School at Bramley Golf Club

Friday 2 February, 7.30pm to midnight

Tickets £27.50

Contact lizsutherland73@gmail.com
or call 01483 892496 for tickets





In Robins this half-term, we are starting our topic of The Three Little Pigs. Over the last week, we have **listened** to our new story, and practiced retelling it in our own words. To support us with this, we have created our very own story map. Now, when we retell our story, we will be using the actions that we have created and our story map for some visual clues!



Last week, we also had our very first swimming lesson of the year. The Robins were so excited, and sat beautifully on the minibus all the way to Cranleigh. After finding our changing rooms and getting into our swimming costumes, we went to meet our swimming teachers. They were very kind, and they asked us to move in lots of different ways in the water. We walked forwards and backwards, sideways like a crab and even kicked our legs! Our swimming teachers were so impressed, that we were given some time for 'FunSplash'!

ROBINS

In our Maths learning, we have been **exploring** numerals. We have been learning to recognise numerals in different shapes and fonts, and learning to match them to each other. Throughout the week, we will be moving towards matching the numerals to their quantities.





WOODPECKERS

The Woodpecker Class have had a flying start to the new term. The children haven't let the cold, wet weather dampen their spirits.

Our topic this term is 'Our Amazing Bodies.' We kicked off our learning with a practical, interactive lesson on the importance of bones in our bodies. We used our Learning Muscles – **Exploring** and **Asking Questions** to work out which life like bodies were hidden in boxes.

As part of the lesson we had to collect the bones we had found and put them together to create a skeleton. We used the Learning Muscles, **Listening** and **Working Together** to accomplish this. We have also been learning about how to take care of their teeth and the importance of dental hygiene.



In Literacy, we have using the Learning Habits of **Listening** and **Asking Questions** to find out about wonderful women who have done extraordinary things, including Marie Curie and Amelia Earheart. We are learning to write biographies and fact files with the research we have carried out.



We learnt about the "Day of the Dead" celebrated primarily in Mexico. The Day of the Dead is two day holiday in November, the holiday is about honoring those who have passed rather than focusing upon death and sorrow Woodpeckers then designed their own 'Calaveras' with a focus on proportion, pattern and color



Last Tuesday we all had the opportunity to play the ukulele in music with Karen, our music teacher. We enjoyed performing and listening to each other.



S O C I A L E N T E R P R I S E



We had a brilliant five weeks at The Forge Café in Shamley Green, participating in our Social Enterprise project. All the students have grown in confidence and worked hard on improving our social skills. For our final session, we invited our parents, carers and some members of staff so that we could show off all of the amazing skills we have been learning. Over the five weeks, 'The Gosden Gals' raised a total of £235 towards our positive impact project. The group have decided to put the money towards re-opening our Gosden Bakehouse, so that we can continue to use our new skills.



As part of our Community Action coursework we have to dedicate a minimum of 10 hours to a chosen community project of our choice. As a class we came up with the idea to raise funds for our local church here in Bramley. We chose to make handmade Christmas decorations, and sell them at our school Christmas fair. We raised an amazing **£110** in total and walked down to the church, where we met with Andy, the vicar, to give him our funds. He was really pleased with our donation. He explained that the money will go towards buying food for their 'honesty trolley' which is part of the Bramley Helping Hands charity that helps people in need. Year 11 have stretched their 'working together' learning muscle in order to give back to our local community.



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
Bethany

Year 9
Mahla
Rayan



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 \(childrenshealthisurrey.nhs.uk\)](#).

<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.

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

Year 11 Work Experience



This is the time of year in the school calendar I especially love as it means our Year 11 students are in the final preparations of getting ready for their work experience.

In the first term of Year 11 the students think about what type of work placement they would like to explore. As a team we have 1:1 discussions with each student about their skills, strengths and interests. My role is to try and find each student a "good fit" - that will enable them to develop and learn new skills, and to build confidence and self-esteem so that every one of them can see that they absolutely do fit into the world of work. They really can offer so much to employers and it is up to us a team here at Gosden to showcase our learners.

By the beginning of January everyone has visited their placement and there has been lots of discussion around their preparation with Sophia and the team in class. This year we have managed to secure a couple of new placements which is exciting. We have linked up with the Wey and Arun Canal Trust, Squires Garden Centre in Milford and also a local care home .

Students begin their work experience journey in a couple of weeks, on the 29th January. I will post updates and photos as we go. We wish them all the very best of luck on the next step in Preparation for Adulthood .

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.tidibury@gosden-house.surrey.sch.uk

"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>

Hello,

I wanted to signpost a few things to be aware of this week. There are some shows on YouTube which are animated and marketed to seem as though they are for children. In reality, they are actually adult animations, not suitable for children.

One that we have been made aware of recently is called 'Digital Circus'. It is animated and has cuddly toys alongside it. On the surface it looks like it would be for children. It is about characters trapped in a game who want to leave. There are adult themes throughout.



We are also aware that sometimes these videos can still find their way on to YouTube kids, so it is worth being vigilant about what your children are watching even when using kids YouTube.

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 15th January 2024
(Theme: winter weather)

This week's champions are:

★ Daisy & Tia – Year 9 ★



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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.



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