



GOSDEN HOUSE SCHOOL GOSDEN NEWS

9th February 2024

We are officially halfway through the year! There are less than 5 months to go before Year 11 fly the nest and take on their new and exciting journeys.

Over the last two weeks, they have been exploring their own adventures in the form of work experience. It is during this time that we begin to see our eldest learners flourish, mature and grow with independence. It has been an eventful two weeks, with a minibus stuck in the mud, (very) loud singing in the car and an array of remarkable stories from the older generation at the care home.

Aside from the laughs we have shared, we are very proud of each and every one of our learners. They have been pushed out of their comfort zones, forced to explore new opportunities and shaken from their day-to-day routine, yet have shown resilience, strength and confidence throughout. As well as praising our wonderful learners, as KS4 Co-ordinator, I must take this moment to thank the team - without their endless efforts, we could not build these fabulous memories.

Sophia

Sophia Phillips, Year 11 Teacher, KS4 Leader,





Artventure Visual Art Sessions at Gosden House

Artventure Trust offers creative and fun visual art sessions for adults with learning disabilities and additional needs in their new studio at Gosden House School on Mondays from 9.30 am to 2.30 pm during school term time, starting on 15 April 2024.

In a small group of maximum 10, participants have the chance to explore the visual arts and enjoy social interactions with their peers, tutors and volunteers. We offer many art forms from drawing and painting to printmaking, textile, photography, pottery and much more.

Be among the lucky few, who can have a place secured for a trial session by contacting manager@art-venture.co.uk or calling 01483 304884.



We enjoyed a visit from Tim Wates, Surrey High Sheriff. Tim learned a lot about Gosden and loved his visit. We asked some good questions and learned that the High Sheriff is appointed by the King, and spends their year in post supporting charities and schools. Tim has been focusing on improving mental health during his year. We also learned that Tim has 3 dogs and likes cooking, and that he doesn't usually carry his sword around with him!



DATES FOR THE DIARY

HALF TERM – Monday 12th – Friday 16th February

w/c 4th March – Focus Week – English

7th March – World Book Day

15th March – Red Nose Day

27th March - Transition to Secondary meeting for
Year 5 parents

28th March @ 1.30pm – End of Term

We are very sad to be saying goodbye to our Occupational Therapist Sarah Pope at half-term, she has been a part of the Gosden family and we wish her the best of luck. We do not know who will be replacing Sarah yet. Should you have any concerns or questions please email [The OT@gosden-house.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:OT@gosden-house.surrey.sch.uk) or hbutcher@gosden-house.surrey.sch.uk .

Many thanks **Hayley Butcher (SENCO)**

RECENT PARENTMAILS

Artventure

Young Carers

Number Day Mufti Day – 9th February

Outstanding Swimming Payment

Shrek Performance

Change of date Year 5 Transition

Free School Meal vouchers Half Term

Ordering of School Lunches w/c 19.2.24

Holiday Requests and Exceptional Leave

Visit to Little Street

Infinity Half Term Workshop – Peter Pan

Mental Health Support Questionnaire

Social Enterprise Project

Haslemere Museum Trip

PSHE Information Evening Year 5 &6

PSHE Information Evening Years 7 -11

Amplify

presents...

Young People, Big Voices

Have your
voice
heard!

Surrey Wellbeing Festival

Join us for...

Treasure
Hunt

Stalls run by
Mindworks

Giveaways

Focus
Groups

Arts and
Crafts

wellbeing services

Performances

...And so much more!

Thursday 15th February 2024

10am – 4pm

(10am–11am quiet hour for those with sensory sensitivities)

Rosebery School, Epsom, KT18 7NQ

A FREE family friendly event!

Tell us what you'd like to see by filling in our survey.
Just scan our QR code:

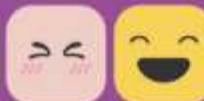


For more info: please email amplify.mindworks@sabp.nhs.uk

Find us on social media:

@amplifysurrey

@mindworkssurrey

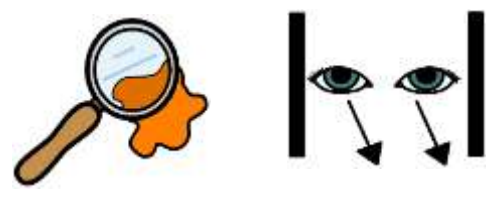




O W L S

This half term our topic has been 'Once Upon a Time: The Three Little Pigs'. We have learned the story, created our own story and performed it. We filmed a performance of the story using the green screen and shared it with our friends in another class – we were very proud to share our learning. We also learned about who the characters were, how they were feeling and how to make a prediction about a story.

In Maths we have been learning about repeating patterns. Owl Class have been amazing using their **Exploring** and **Noticing** skills to find out more about patterns. They have completed patterns and even made their own repeating patterns! We are so proud of all of our learning this half term. After our break we are excited to start learning about our new topic – 'Trains, Planes & Automobiles'



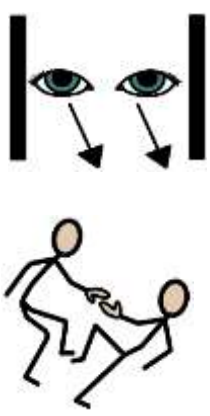
This week we learned about a different kind of wolf – the main character of the story 'Mr Wolf's Pancakes'. He had to make them all by himself. We decided to create our own recipe and instructions for how to make pancakes to help him. We then made our own pancakes and cooked them ourselves.





FOXES

What a busy half term we have had in Fox Class! We have enjoyed our topics 'Flight' and 'Seasons' and had lots of fun carrying out different science experiments. Recently, we set up a weather station in our school grounds. Using our **Noticing** Learning Habit, we checked it daily and recorded the amount of rain, the temperature and the wind speed. We also became experts at presenting the weather forecast based on what we had found.



Related to our topic, we read the book 'The Bee Who Spoke' by Al MacCuish. This inspired us to use our **Creative** Learning Habit to write 'Bee Poetry' using lots of doing words. We also used our artistic skills to create some amazing oil pastel, countryside masterpieces. We then described the different features in these pictures using exciting 'wow' words. The children acted out parts of the story and used their **Learning Together** Learning Habit to make a whole class story map.



In Maths this half term, our focus has been on addition and the measurement of weight. We had lots of fun learning how to add in a variety of ways, using different equipment to help us. We especially enjoyed playing addition games with our friends.



Last week Year 7 visited Winchester Science Centre as part of their literacy and science learning. The day was action packed with time to explore the many interactive exhibits, a rocket workshop and a stargazing session in the planetarium.



Looking up at the night sky. *Sophie, Max*

The lever pulling down. *Levi-Max, Lily, Kai*

Looking at the sky and the planets. *Finley*

Exploring the science centre - pulling the lever to see how far the little ball flew off. *Donna*

Looking up at the night sky. *Alex*

The pupils told us their highlights of the trip.

This week in Key Stage 4 Year 11 have been out on their work experience, a very exciting time for them. It has felt very quiet not having our Year 11 friends around, however we have enjoyed being the oldest in the school for 2 weeks!



We have taken this opportunity to think about how we can be role models to younger year groups and have been practising setting a good example by using kind words, being responsible and looking out for each other.

As part of our studies in PSHE we have been learning how to be safe around the home. We identified that the kitchen is one place where there may be some potential dangers to our health and safety. To practise being safe in the kitchen we decided to make some cakes. We had to be hygienic by washing our hands and wearing an apron, and to be safe around the hot oven by using oven gloves.



Also in PSHE we have also been exploring how to make use of our leisure time. This week we challenged ourselves by having a go at jewellery making. It was quite tricky but everyone used their 'Learning Together' and 'Keep Improving' Learning Muscles.



We have also been having lots of fun in our vocational subjects. In DT we had to use our problem solving skills as we were put into teams and set a series of challenges including making the tallest tower possible out of spaghetti and marshmallows! We also had to create a boat out of tin foil that would hold the most coins – the winners held £30 of pound coins before sinking!



Well, what can I say but a **HUGE WELL DONE** to all the Year 11's for finishing their work experience on such a high!

This year I found the preparation a bit more "thought provoking" as I felt several of our students had a VERY set idea about what they wanted to do. for example FARMING! Risk Assessment alarm bells flew round in my head especially when Harry said he would drive the tractors!

Charity has had fun in a local Care Home chatting and puzzling with the residents, especially Doreen. She even set up and created her own art painting session where the residents painted a beach scene that was guided by her. (She is looking forward to Pizza Friday!)

Shannon was in her element in the mud with all the dogs, large and small, helping to train them and even said "yes" to being filmed whilst training! She has such a calming effect on the dogs and the team have said it is "instinctive".

Jordan and **Sofia** have enjoyed selling (and eating) cakes, making hot drinks and serving and waiting on the general public. They have definitely used their Learning Together muscles as they learnt new and developed existing skills

Summer and **Rebecca** have been rushed off their feet working, and playing, with Robins and Owls. The consensus is "noisy" and "exhausting"!!

Jude and **Lucie** have been active in the plant department at Squires Garden Centre, top soiling, checking the pots were leaf and weed free and "dunking" them, in preparation for customers to buy.

Harry S has been working at the Wey and Arun Canal doing some clearance, working on boats and possibly a spot of bricklaying too! Earlier starts and later finishes! What an amazing work ethic!

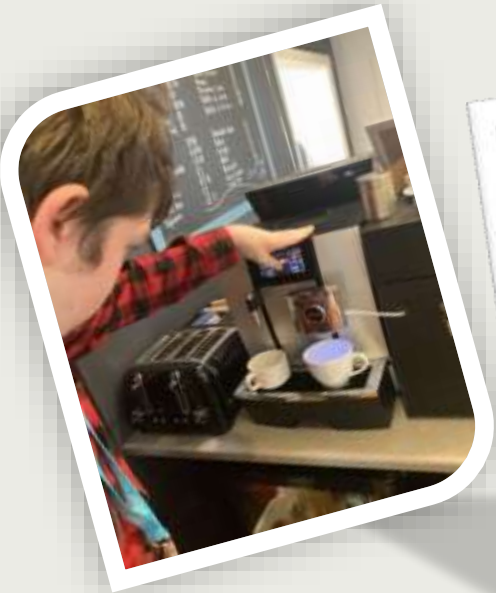
Back to **Farmer Harry**, he has been herding cows, rescuing escaped sheep, pressure washing, playing with piglets (and when there is a spare few minutes gazing with love at the new John Deere tractor in the yard).

Everyone has tried so hard. They were all enthusiastic, "brave", and ready to go every morning and used ALL of their learning muscles. They are a credit to us all and all of their families.

Thank you,

Sandra

YEAR 11 WORK EXPERIENCE





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

Guildford College

Wednesday 7th February 2024 4.30pm – 7.30pm

Wednesday 24th April 4.30pm – 7.30pm

Merrist Wood College

Wednesday 28th February 4.30pm – 7.30pm

Wednesday 1 May 4.30pm – 7.30pm

If you have any worries or questions please don't hesitate to contact me by phone on 01483 892008 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

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
Phoenix

Year 8
Josh A
Madiha





The staff recently spent a twilight training with The Flying Child, a local organisation which works with schools to spot signs of Child Sexual Abuse. It was very intense and emotional. While Gosden are very good with our safeguarding practice, it was valuable to spend time really thinking about to support our children. We know that many in our school community are victims, and urge any adults to seek support. <https://theflyingchild.com/links/>

It's **Children's Mental Health Week** and this year's theme is '**My Voice Matters**'. My Voice Matters is about empowering children and young people by providing them with the tools they need to express themselves. This year, Children's Mental Health Weeks aims to empower children of all ages, backgrounds and abilities to work together to create a positive change for their mental health and wellbeing. We want all children and young people to be able to say – and believe - “My Voice Matters.”

As parents and carers, you can play an important role in your child's mental health. The Parenting Smart Website offers lots of helpful parenting advice from Child Mental Health experts, on topics including anxiety, anger, resilience, shyness and much more: <https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk/>. Please reach out to the pastoral team if we can offer any help or support.

Here are some **Top Tips for Families** in talking to your child about mental health:

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/media/vxgdpw3x/cmhw-24-top-tips-for-families.pdf>

Surrey Connect is a digital on demand bus service available across West Guildford, Farnham and Cranleigh. For more information, please check out the following link:

https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/buses-and-other-transport/community-transport/surrey-connect?utm_source=Facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=Orlo#who

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.

Hello,

This week we celebrated Safer Internet Day on Thursday. The theme this year was; 'Inspiring change? Making a difference, managing influence and navigating change online.' <https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2024>

We have been learning about how to stay safe online, how to ask for help if you need it and also the positive things we can do online.

Here is a snippet from Foxes Class learning this week;

'We listened to a story about how some characters got into trouble during an online game. Foxes learnt together and decided that if there was something online that weren't not sure about we should check with our adult at home. We practised the chant Stop Close Tell!



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 5th February 2024

(Theme: Chinese New Year – 10th Feb 24)

This week's champions are:

★ Aalia, Emily & James – Woodpeckers Class ★



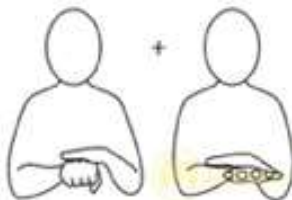
Speech & Language Therapy Team

★ Makaton Champions ★

Signs of the week w/c 19th February 2024
(Theme: Safer Internet Day)

This week's champions are:

★ **Finley, Ollie & Lucy - Squirrels** ★



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.

