



# GOSDEN HOUSE SCHOOL GOSDEN NEWS

1<sup>st</sup> March 2024

One of the reasons many of us teachers love working at Gosden is that we are allowed to offer an interesting and engaging curriculum, which is relevant to our children. You will see in this week's newsletter that much has been happening! Here are some highlights for me...

Year 9 have enjoyed their residential, spending 2 nights at High Ashurst. What a brilliant and busy time they have had, returning exhausted but that bit more grown-up! Huge thanks to Holly and the staff who went above and beyond to ensure the experience was safe and enjoyable for the young people. Now it's time to head home for a warm shower and some dry clothes!

Yesterday Fox Class competed at the Panathlon sports event. They were excellent in every way – it is such fun to participate in inter-school competitions. Thank you to Planet Soccer for arranging that.

We are super excited to be welcoming ArtVenture to Gosden. They will be a permanent fixture from April, which will be so beneficial for both organisations. If you know any adults with additional needs, please contact Mariann to find out more.

We are very proud to be displaying Gosden art at Farncombe Station – go along and have a look, we have our very own Art at The Station exhibition. And you are probably aware that we have loads of trips, visits and adventures coming up for everyone. These experiences are fundamental to our learning, and much more memorable than learning in the classroom. And it's not even Spring yet!

*Cindy*

Cindy O'Sullivan, Head teacher,



# Art @ the Station – Farncombe



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](mailto:manager@art-venture.co.uk) or calling 01483 304884.



## **DATES FOR THE DIARY**

**w/c 4<sup>th</sup> March** – Focus Week – English

**7<sup>th</sup> March** – World Book Day

**14<sup>th</sup> March** – Red Nose Day

**20<sup>th</sup> March** – Parent Consultations

**27<sup>th</sup> March** - Transition to Secondary meeting for  
Year 5 parents

**28<sup>th</sup> March @ 1.30pm** – End of Term

## **TRAVEL ASSISTANCE APPLICATIONS**

**All** parents of current Year 6 and Year 2 pupils need to reapply for transport for September. This includes all students, even those who are staying at Gosden House for their next key stage. If you have not already applied please follow this link:

[Apply for under 16 travel assistance to school - Surrey County Council \(surreycc.gov.uk\)](https://www.surreycc.gov.uk)

If you have any queries about this please do let me know. Lucy Ellis EHCP Coordinator [lellis@gosden-house.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:lellis@gosden-house.surrey.sch.uk) 01483 892008

## **RECENT PARENTMAILS**

Residential Updates

Payment outstanding – Little Street

Reading and Careers Week

Appointment of new Headteacher

Pyjamas needed for 8<sup>th</sup> March

Year 8 Guildford House Care Home

Headlice

Panathlon

Squirrels to Pizza Express

Red nose Day – 15<sup>th</sup> March

Club 4 Holiday Vouchers

Evisense Migration

7S Sayers Croft

Parent Consultations

Year 9,10,11 Train trip to Guidlford

Term Dates 2024-2025

Surrey Youth PAN Disability Football

Gosden PTA Introductory Meeing

Foxes to Pizza Express

In Our Own Words – Youth Researchers





# ROBINS

This half-term, the Robins have begun their topic of 'Planes, Trains and Automobiles'. This topic seems to have already hooked our attention, as the Robins have loved getting hands on in all areas of their learning so far!



In our Maths learning, the Robins have done some brilliant '**Explaining**', as we have been working on the concept that the amount stays the same, even when it is rearranged!



In our Literacy, we have been '**Noticing**' whether information is factual or not, to help us as we begin to explore non-fiction texts further.



On top of that, we have already been '**Challenging**' our bodies this half-term! We have been 'exploring' different ways of moving, including pedalling, crawling and climbing. We've had a lot of fun developing our gross motor skills in some parachute games and rugby activities too!



Foxes had a fabulous time at the Panathlon which was organised by Active Surrey.

All the children joined in really well, supporting and encouraging each other. James excelled at the sporting activities and Kiki and Leo P had a really good eye when it came to targetting.

The event was really well organised and the all the children came back to school with a medal.



# F O X E S







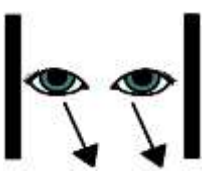
# WOODPECKERS



Woodpeckers have been '**Exploring**' the workings of our body organs as part of 'Our Amazing Bodies' topic. We took part in a class science experiment to investigate how food travels through the body. Everyone had a part to play from grinding food in the mouth (smashing up and mixing food) to squeezing food through the intestines (tights) to reach the bowels.



In Maths, we have been using money to **explore** addition and subtraction. The Woodpeckers have been budgeting and spending their money wisely at the class shop. Everyone has got involved from eager shopkeepers who help keep the class shop stocked and customers happy, to big spenders adding up their weekly shop to feed friends, pets and family.



Our '**Noticing**' and '**Listening**' learning habits have been challenged this term as we have explored our topics practically. In Literacy we have been looking at instructions and noticed the steps so we can follow a sequence. Completing the challenges by following the instructions has led to some amazing creations and structures.

This term we have been learning about dinosaurs in 'Our World' lessons. We all picked a different dinosaur and then we used our "Learning Together" Learning Muscle to make a PowerPoint presentation to teach our friends what we had learnt. We then learnt about the history of the earth. Using creative thinking, we made plasticine models of the earth and then we used an orange and some jam to make models showing the tectonic plates of earth.

In PSHE lessons we have been learning how to have a balanced diet. We found out about different types of food, including proteins, carbohydrates and fats. We made an "Eatwell Plate" which showed how the different types of food need to be in balance. After PSHE lessons we love having some "Circle Time" as a class, where we play group games and share some of our thoughts and feelings in a safe space.



This week we used our "Being Brave" Learning Muscles on a trip to Haslemere museum to find out more about dinosaurs and fossils. We took part in a fossil workshop where we got to handle lots of different types of fossils, and we made a fossil out of plaster. We then had time to look round the rest of the museum, where we found an Egyptian mummy, lots of stuffed animals and a gas mask from World War Two!





We are having Red Nose Day at Gosden House on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March.

On that day we are allowed to come to school wearing something funny or something red in exchange for a suggested £1 donation.

The Year 10 and 11 coffee shop will be making special cakes that will be sold in the classrooms for a donation too.

If you know any great jokes, come and share them with your class.

From Year 8 on behalf of the  
School Council





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 18<sup>th</sup> May 2024 10.00am - 12.30pm

**Guildford College**

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April 4.30pm – 7.30pm

**Merrist Wood College**

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](mailto: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](mailto:s.tidbury@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".

## Linkable groups for individuals who don't require 1:1 support

### **Monday: Link Up Youth Group (12 - 18)**

Make friends and have fun at this friendly, supported social group. Enjoy a planned programme of activities like movie nights, cooking, crafts, meals out and bowling.

- **Where and when:** Our centre in Woking/locations across Surrey. Mondays, term time, 6:30 - 8:30pm
- **Cost:** £8 per session (plus activity cost)

### **Tuesday: ASD Game Night (12 - 18)**

This relaxed group is for individuals with autism and/or ADHD who want to take part in group games, sports, board games, crafts, baking and other fun activities.

- **Where and when:** Our centre in Woking. Tuesdays, term time, 6:30 - 8:30pm
- **Cost:** £8 per session

### **Friday: Synergy Dance (12 - 18)**

Come and learn simple dance moves with this friendly group, which performs twice a year! Synergy Dance Outreach is an inclusive dance company that works with Linkable to run these fun sessions.

- **Where and when:** Our centre in Woking. Friday, term time, 5:30 - 7:00pm
- **Cost:** £10 per session

### **Saturday: Link Up Saturday (12 - 18)**

Build and develop life skills by completing activities and challenges - you'll be awarded badges! Activities include craft projects, life skills development, travel training, hobbies development, community activities/volunteering, supported social activities, cooking practice and exercise.

- **Where and when:** Our centre in Woking. Alternate Saturdays, term time, 10:30am - 4:30pm
- **Cost:** £30

### **Sunday: ActAbles Academy (12 - 17)**

Learn performance skills in a supported and inclusive environment. The group's ultimate aim is to perform together in front of an audience. Along the way, participants will grow their social skills and make friends.

- **Where:** Our centre in Woking. Sunday, term time, 10am - 11am
- **Cost:** £10 per session

## Linkable groups for individuals that require 1:1 or 2:1 support

### **Saturday Club (12 - 18)**

Come and enjoy a wide range of fun activities that are appropriate for all. Each session is carefully planned to meet the needs of the individuals attending. With an ever-changing mix of onsite activities and offsite trips around Surrey, these sessions are sure to engage everyone.

- **Where:** Our centre in Woking/locations across Surrey. Alternate Saturdays, 10:30am - 4:30pm
- **Cost:** £28 per session

### **Holiday Schemes (12 - 18)**

These sessions are inclusive and for everyone, no matter their needs or disability. Next Steps holiday schemes provide opportunities for teens to grow their independence, build friendships and have fun.

- **Where:** Our centre in Woking/locations across Surrey
- **When:** half-terms, Easter, summer holidays and Christmas, 9:30am - 4:00pm
- **Cost:** £30 per session

# 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 10  
Lily-Rose  
Ryan

Year 7S  
Finley C

Year 11  
Harry  
Rebecca





Family Voice Surrey provide independent guidance to parent and carers of children and young people with additional needs aged 0-25 in Surrey, shining a light on the challenges that SEND families regularly face. Family Voice Surrey offer signposting to other organisations, and run regular Surrey wide free events both via zoom and in person. Their slogan; Together we're stronger; together, we can make a difference.

For questions, concerns or support, please call 01372 705 708, email [contact@familyvoicesurrey.org](mailto:contact@familyvoicesurrey.org) or visit <https://familyvoicesurrey.org/>

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

[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)

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,

Thought I would share a signpost to a few good resources that may be useful.

### **'Internet Matters'**

Who are they – “Launched in May 2014 by our founding partners, BT, Sky, TalkTalk and Virgin Media, Internet Matters understands the challenges parents and carers face in navigating the ever-changing digital landscape. Collaborating with industry leaders like Google, Samsung and Meta, along with experts, government and schools, we provide families with tools, tips and resources.”

Resources – They have a range of resources on their website but they also have their own YouTube channel which shares how to guides, advice and resources you can use to keep safe online. It gives specific advice for different age ranges or devices children might be using.

Have a closer look here –

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sz4EyUMUTro>

<https://www.youtube.com/@InternetMatters>

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 26<sup>th</sup> February 2024  
(Theme: Kindness)

This week's champions are:

★ Jessica, Leo L and Zack - Foxes ★



friend



share



help



be kind





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.

