



GOSDEN HOUSE SCHOOL

GOSDEN NEWS

12th December 2025

As we come to the end of the autumn term, we want to celebrate the wonderful progress and achievements of all of our pupils. It has been a busy and rewarding term, and we are so proud of the effort and enthusiasm shown by every child.

There have been so many highlights this term, these are my standouts:

- Pupil effort - in every class I have popped in, pupils have been learning and are always so keen to show me what they have done.
- We have a new student council - they have been running charity events, hosting lunches and showing visitors around - all with great confidence and enthusiasm
- We had the launch of the Bakehouse - a real celebration of years of determination and now an incredible learning space that is used every day
- Remembrance Day - pupils showed such dignity and respect as we marked the 11th hour on the 11th day of November - this was yet another moment of real pride for all staff
- Christmas Fair - such a buzz around the school and great to see so many of you enjoying the event - my thanks to staff, PTA and pupils for making this such a success.
- The Primary Presentation - Wow, what an event! It was pure magic and again, showed the determination of our pupils.

Next term will no doubt be as busy and full of all things Gosden.

My heartfelt thanks to you all for your continued support and to our amazing team here, a special mention to Miss Butcher who will sadly be leaving us this Christmas, after 9 years of dedicated service. We are sad to see her go but wish her well in her new venture.

Wishing you all a restful holiday and a happy new year!

Mrs Smale, Headteacher



DATES FOR THE DIARY

Wednesday 17th December – Christmas School Lunch
Thursday 18th December – Last day of term 1.30pm finish
Friday 19th December – Inset Day
Monday 5th January – Inset Day
Tuesday 6th January – Spring term starts

RECENT PARENTMAILS

Gosden House School Lunches and Packed Lunch Policy
Year 8 – New Class Teacher
Swimming Lessons – Spring Term
Christmas Lunch – Wednesday 17th December
Cold weather and coats

STAFF NEWS

"After a fabulous 9 years at Gosden it is time for me to explore new adventures and I will be leaving at the end of term. It has been a pleasure working alongside you all and I wish every student and family the absolute best.
Miss Hayley Butcher"

New for 2026... we are delighted to present our new soft play design which is being built in January. The room has been emptied, redecorated and is now ready for construction. We can't wait for it to be finished and let the children explore and enjoy their new space 😊

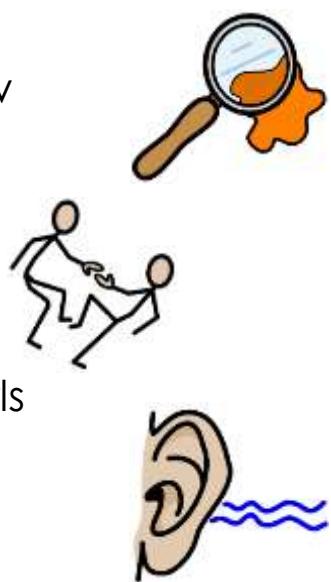


REQUEST FOR BLAZERS

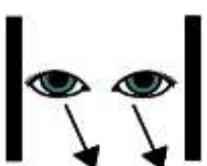
If any parents or carers have secondary age blazers that no longer fit, we would welcome any donations for the 2nd hand uniform. Thank you!

OWLS

This half-term, Owl Class have been busy 'Learning Together' and 'Exploring' their new topic; 'Let's Celebrate!', where we have been learning about different religious festivals. After discovering lots more about the celebration of Halloween and Bonfire Night, Owl Class delved into their learning about Diwali, the Hindu Festival of Lights. Owls used their 'Listening' Learning Habit to read the story of Rama and Sita, and to correctly sequence the key events.



During 'Plan, Learn, Review' time, Owls explored colourful rice Rangoli patterns and demonstrated their excellent 'Noticing' skills to make their very own Mehndi patterns using pre-writing shapes to help them. Over at the Art table, Owl Class had lots of fun using their 'Creative' Habit to make their own Diyas, using playdough, decorative buttons, and tealights!



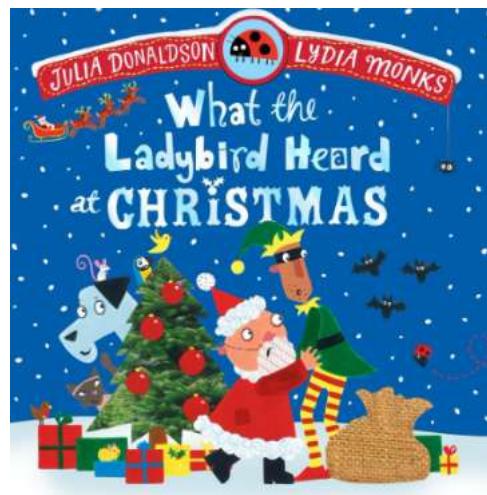


OWLS

The following week, Owls dived into their learning about Hanukkah, the Jewish Festival of Lights. Owls enjoyed reading a book called, *Eight Nights, Eight Lights* by Natalie Barnes. This is a story told across eight nights, each representing a different family and their unique way of celebrating. Owls were fascinated to find out about a tradition of eating donuts during Hanukkah, and they were super enthusiastic to taste some for themselves! Owls used their 'Explaining' Habit to express their likes and dislikes, and to even choose a star rating!



Next week, Owls will be 'Exploring' the story of, *What the Ladybird Heard at Christmas* by Julia Donaldson and Lydia Monks. After their fantastic performance as 'Snowmen' for the Primary Christmas Performance, the countdown for Christmas has officially begun!

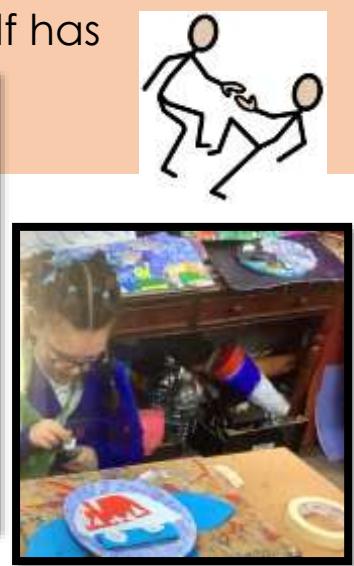




FOXES

This half term has been a fantastic one, with the children fully engaged in our topic: **The Great Fire of London**. We began with a historical wander through London using 3D technology and interactive programmes, helping the children visualise how the city looked in 1666. They explored life during the fire by studying real diary entries and even wrote their own diary impressions, using timelines to understand the sequence of events.

A highlight was a special visit from a London Fire Brigade firefighter, who leads his own team. The children were fascinated as they tried on parts of his uniform, asked thoughtful questions, and learnt all about modern fire safety. We then compared how the fire service has changed since 1666 and how London itself has transformed.



In Forest School, the children built their own small fires and used paper to reenact how quickly the flames spread during the Great Fire. They even baked bread outdoors with Mrs Hall, linking to the fire's origins in the bakery on Pudding Lane — a memorable hands-on experience!



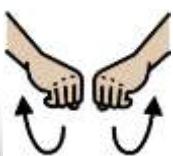


FOXES

In music, we learnt to sing in rounds inspired by the events of 1666, and in DT the children explored moving pictures using sliders and levers. Families will soon see evidence of this lovely learning when the children bring home their handmade Christmas cards.



In maths, we've enjoyed working on halves, doubles, and subtraction, and the children have shown great progress and enthusiasm.



We've had a wonderful half term full of curiosity, creativity, and hands-on learning. Well done to all the children!



Thank you, on behalf of The Royal British Legion and the Armed Forces family, for your magnificent support for the Poppy Appeal 2025.

**Gosden House School raised
£65**

In the Fleet, Crookham, Crondall and Dogmersfield area we collected more than £96,000. This is 17% up on last year's total at the end of November. Thank you for your important contribution to this result.

Bill Tyack, Poppy Appeal Organiser, Fleet, Crookham, Crondall & Dogmersfield 07866 081388, billyack@btconnect.com For more information on how this money will be used by the Royal British Legion scan the QR code or search www.royalbritishlegion.org.uk



The Royal British Legion is Registered Charity number 219279

Thank you to all those who contributed to the Poppy Appeal 2025.



We saw some lovely colourful outfits on Friday 14th November for Children in Need.



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Year 9H and 9W have been working extremely hard to raise money for their upcoming residential trip to Sayers Croft. They used their '**keep improving**' and '**working together**' muscles to perfect a range of different crafts to sell at the Christmas fair. The learners made pom pom keyrings in various colours and sizes, giant, regular and mini gonks and hot chocolate cones. Some of the learners even came to help us sell the items at the fair and after the Primary presentation.



A huge thank you to everyone who bought something from us. We have raised an incredible £380! This will help ensure all of our learners can attend the trip and that they can take some delicious treats with them!

AtkinsRéalis Trip – “Sustainability” Art Competition Winners



SANDRA'S BLOG

Our Sustainability Art Competition winners enjoyed a fantastic visit to the very impressive AtkinsRéalis offices last week!

We began the day with a tour of the very posh offices, where students got to see what it's like inside a real design and engineering company. After the tour, we met some of the talented designers and architects who work on huge projects all over the country.

One of the highlights was trying out the VR headsets. We were able to explore a virtual football stadium designed by AtkinsRéalis — walking around the stands and getting a close-up look at the architecture. Everyone enjoyed seeing how digital technology helps bring design ideas to life!

We also met Suzanne, the designer behind the brand-new Green Bridge being built as part of the M25 upgrade. She talked about how nature, engineering, and sustainability come together to create structures that help both people and wildlife.



It was a brilliant day filled with inspiration, creativity, and new experiences. Every student left smiling — and proudly carrying their certificates for winning the competition

Well done to all our winners!

SEND open events

Date	College	Time
Tuesday January 13th	Merrist Wood	3.00pm
Thursday January 22nd	Guildford College	3.00pm
Tuesday February 10th	Merrist Wood	3.00pm
Thursday February 26th	Guildford College	3.00pm
Friday February 27th	Guildford College	10.00am
Tuesday March 10th	Merrist Wood	3.00pm
Thursday March 19th	Guildford College	3.00pm
Tuesday May 12th	Merrist Wood	3.00pm
Thursday May 21st	Guildford College	3.00pm



**BROOKLANDS
TECHNICAL
COLLEGE**

Brooklands Technical College

13/01/26 – 1.30 – 3.30pm

04/02/26 - 4.30 - 7.00pm

29/04/26 - 4.30 - 7.00pm

SEND & Transition Tours
: Tuesdays starting from
14/10/25 at 10.30 - 9/12/25

Please contact
isupport@brooklands.ac.uk if
you have any questions
about the tours.

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E-SAFETY



“Why can’t I have my phone in my bedroom ?!!”

At home, my own 14-year-old daughter keeps asking to have her phone in her room at night. I know many of you hear the same! It's very tempting to say yes, but phones in bedrooms cause so many problems.

Phones, sleep and social media fallouts

When a phone is in the bedroom:

- The bright light tells the brain to stay awake
- "One more video" or "one more message" means late nights
- Pings and buzzes can wake them up
- Social media chats and rows can go on all night



This leads to:

- Tired, grumpy mornings
- Big feelings and more meltdowns
- Worries and arguments from social media coming into school
- Children thinking about last night's messages instead of their learning

Our children already work extra hard to access their learning . Tiredness and online drama make learning much harder.



What can help at home?

You don't have to change everything at once. Try one small step:

- Make a charging place for all phones outside bedrooms at night
- Choose a phone bedtime (for example, 9pm on school nights)
- Swap the phone for something calming: book, soft toy, puzzle, fidget toy, quiet music or story on a speaker or radio, not a phone
- Use simple words: "Your brain needs sleep to feel better tomorrow." "Your phone sleeps downstairs. You sleep upstairs."



E-SAFETY



We are here to help

You are not alone. Many of our families (and myself) are struggling with night-time phones and social media.

School can help with:

- Simple bedtime charts
- Social stories about “phones sleeping downstairs”
- Ideas for calming, screen-free activities

If you would like help making a phone and sleep plan for your child, please speak to your class teacher or Beth Sutton our Home Support Worker.



Keeping phones out of bedrooms:

- Protects sleep
- Reduces social media fallouts
- Helps behaviour and learning
- Keeps children safer online.

The Facts

Studies have found that children and teenagers who use screens late at night are more likely to sleep less and feel more tired the next day.

Sleep experts say most school-age children need around 9-11 hours of sleep a night, but many get much less when they stay up on phones.

Research shows that blue light from phone screens in the evening can delay the release of melatonin, the hormone that helps us fall asleep.

Problems on social media (unkind messages, arguments, bullying) are strongly linked with higher anxiety, low mood and stress in young people.

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.





Here is the December edition of our newsletter!!

We now have various dates for Parenting Puzzle, with a mixture of online workshops and face to face here at the family centre as well as other locations – please do share this far and wide.

We have also teamed up with Families Thriving Together who will be running Welcome to the World, an 8 week antenatal programme for parents expecting a baby.

Please do take a look through, and feel free to share this link with anyone who might benefit from any of the information.

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas, see you in 2026.

YOU ARE NOT ALONE

You are the expert of your child

You Are Not Alone - Every 1st Tuesday of the month - 7.00pm - 8.30pm

A free monthly online drop-in for parents & carers

The **You Are Not Alone** community is a friendly and safe space run by Erik & Sally Wagter where you can come and learn about autism & PDA, ask questions, connect with like-minded people or simply listen and learn from other people's conversations.



In this community we talk about all sorts of things such as:

- helping your child regulate their emotions & feelings
- understanding autism and PDA
- navigating school and EHCPs
- Supporting your child with friendships
- understanding and managing challenging behaviour
- managing sensory needs
- developing a positive relationship with your child (family dynamics)
- exploring EOTAS or home education
- looking after your wellbeing
- and so much more



[December 2025](#)

Welcome to Families First
Guildford's monthly
newsletter

[Go to this Sway](#)

Here's what parents have said:

"My husband Jamie was saying that in the last few sessions, he has learned so much more about autism and PDA than he has over the last year."

Jo (parent)

"Thank you so much for the group this evening. I can't tell you how grateful I feel and I really do feel less alone and more validated. My hope is back."

Louise (parent)

"Thank you so much for your support. I nearly chickened out in speaking but I'm glad I did. These sessions have been really helpful and I don't feel so alone!"

Emma (parent)

If you would like to join the next drop-in on Tuesday 6th January, please send an email to sallywagter@gmail.com and we will send you the Zoom link.

Hi, we're Mrs Cowles and Miss Sutton, your pastoral team. If you have any questions, are looking for a little guidance or advice, please contact us on:

 pastoral@gosden-house.surrey.sch.uk

 07864 721931

Helpful sites and resources

Below we have highlighted a few of our favourite helpful websites and resources for information, guidance and advice.

L-SPA- help and support for concerns regarding development and/or learning needs of your child <https://www.surreylocaloffer.org.uk/lspa>

SEND Advice Surrey- information and guidance for families

<https://www.sendadvicesurrey.org.uk/>

National Autistic Society (NAS)- provide a free family support service to Surrey families, with courses, resources and a free Autism advice line <https://www.autism.org.uk/>

Family Voice Surrey-independent guidance to parents and carers of young people with additional needs <https://familyvoicesurrey.org/>

Surrey Family Information Service- provides free information and signposting for families in Surrey

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/children/support-and-advice/families/contact/about>

Mindworks Surrey- emotional wellbeing, neurodivergent and mental health services for children and young people

<https://www.mindworks-surrey.org/>

Stripey Stork- services for families experiencing poverty including clothes, food, school uniform <https://stripeystork.org.uk/>

Barnardos positive parenting service- run 8 week courses for parents/carers of children with, or waiting for, an ADHD diagnosis <https://www.barnardos.org.uk/get-support/services/surrey-positive-parenting-service>

Surrey Family Centres- see here for a list of family centres in your local area and the support they can provide

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/children/support-and-advice/families/support-and-advice/family-centres>

Festive Fun

at **The Hive**



Monday 22nd December
10:00 - 14:00

Park Barn Drive



Guildford

GU2 8EN



Join us for this **FREE**, family-friendly event with activities including:

Santa's Grotto

Raffle

Playrangers

Karaoke

Fairground Rides

Children's Lucky Dip

Panto Dames

Arts & Crafts

Live Music

Grilled Food

Face Painting

Balloon Animals

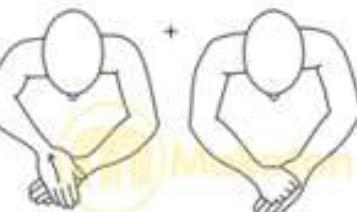


Speech & Language Therapy Team**★ Makaton Champions ★**Signs of the week w/c 8th December 2025

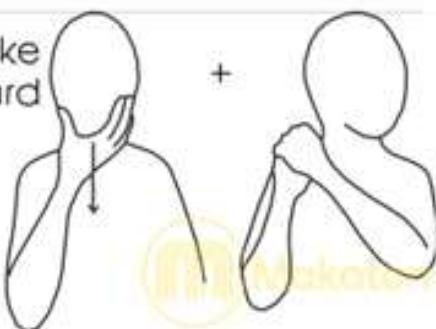
This week's champions are:

★ Azlan & Susan – Owls Class ★**Christmas**

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

**Christmas Tree****Father Christmas/ Santa**

Stroke long beard





The Shed

After 4 weekend mornings the new Gosden House School woodland shed is complete. With willing helpers 2 Architects and a Structural Engineer what could possibly go wrong!

Weekend 1 ground clearing and the base goes down awaiting gravel fill.

Weekend 2 gravel fill goes down. We turned the instruction sheets this way and that way trying to match the myriad components to that which was actually supplied ! This was equivalent to an 'Ikea Prototype' before they had perfected their simple construction process.



On the final weekend of the 30th November the roof covering and doors went on aided by Andy's bacon buns which may have to become standard fare on future Gosden House Gardening weekends. (Every 4th Saturday of the month 10-12 am)



Hundreds of screws later we only had a few left over and a couple of pieces of wood !!

AMAZON WISH LIST



Gosden House School

Gosden House Wish List

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/registries/gl/guest-view/HLH16NVYVLGU>

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.

