



GOSDEN HOUSE SCHOOL

GOSDEN NEWS

13th February 2026

As we reach the final day before the February half term, I would like to thank our students, staff, and families for their enthusiasm and hard work throughout this busy period. Year 9 have been away on their residential and we look forward to hearing all about their experiences when they return. This week has also seen the completion of our brand-new soft play area, which has already brought great excitement and enjoyment to the children.

When we return after the half-term break (Monday 23rd February), our Year 7 students will head off for their visit to Henley Fort. Looking ahead, the first week of March will be our annual Reading Week, during which we will celebrate World Book Day on Thursday 5th March. We are also delighted to be hosting our School Careers Fair on the afternoon of 9th March, giving students a valuable opportunity to see some of the different jobs available and ask questions. I wish everyone a restful and enjoyable half term.



Mrs Smale, Headteacher



DATES FOR THE DIARY

Monday 16th – Friday 20th February – Half term

Monday 23rd February – Year 7 Trip to Henley Fort

Wednesday 25th February – Year 8 & 9 Vaccinations

Thursday 5th March – World Book Day (children can dress as their favourite character if they wish)

Monday 9th March – Careers Fair from 1pm

Wednesday 11th March – Parent Consultations

Friday 27th March – Last day of Spring term, 1.30pm finish

Monday 13th April – Inset day

Tuesday 14th April – First day of Summer term

RECENT PARENTMAILS

Parents Evening Appointments – Weds 11th March

Year 9 Sayers Croft Residential – 11-13th February

County Care – Community Skills Project

Henley Fort, Guildford – Monday 23rd February

Year 8 & 9 Vaccinations Consent

REAPPLYING FOR TRAVEL ASSISTANCE

For all parents of current Year 2 and Year 6 students who are moving to Junior/Secondary places in September 2026: You need to reapply for your child's travel assistance for their September 2026 placements even if they are staying at Gosden House. Travel assistance does not automatically roll over.

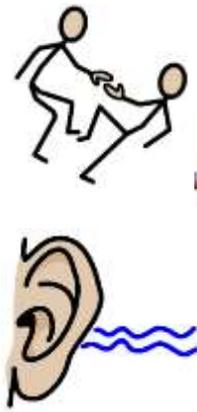
This is the link to reapply: [Apply for help with travel to school - Surrey County Council](#)

Please note that this service is not available from the 9th to 13th Feb as Surrey are updating this system. Do try to reapply as soon as possible so that this can be set up ready for September.

Watch this space... the circus is coming to town!

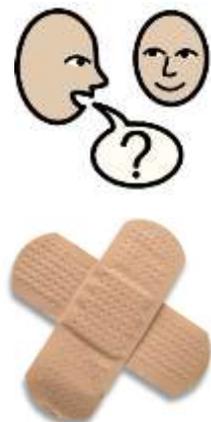


This half-term, the Robins have been learning about our topic 'People Who Help Us'. In class, we have role-played being the teacher, taking the register and teaching phonics lessons. We used our **learning together** and **listening** habits. We also learned about supermarket workers, and gathered the ingredients that Mr Wolf would need to make his pancakes.



R O B I N S

We got to meet Simon the Firefighter, and we had a brilliant time trying on his equipment and **asking him lots of questions** about his role. In our learning about hairdressers, we chose new styles for all of our adults and had a go at dyeing some hair. We learned about different types of health care workers and helped our friends by giving them plasters in the back of our ambulance, and this week, we met PC Madgwick, and she talked us through all of the parts of her uniform.





R O B I N S

In our maths lessons, we have been working hard on our subitising skills, and we are growing confident in recognising amounts up to 3 without having to count them. We have loved playing games like 'One Dot, Sit on the Spot' and 'One or Not One'. We have also been working on our early pattern understanding, **listening** to stories and songs with repeated refrain and beginning to predict what will happen next.



We have also been working on Phase 2 phonics in class, and are steadily building our recognition of sounds, and practice blending to read CVC words. After half-term, we will be able to access Bug Club eBooks, so that you can share some decodable texts at home with your child!

We are very, very excited to begin our new topic next half-term – Dinosaurs!





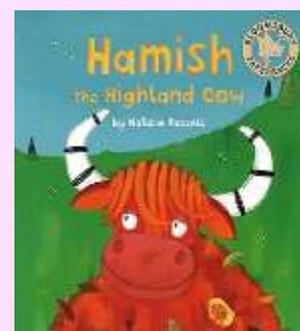
O W L S

This half-term, Owl Class have been 'Exploring' the topic of 'People Who Help Us!', learning about who they can turn to for help in different real-life situations. Over the course of the past few weeks, we have delved into learning to find out more about the role of Teachers, Shop Keepers, Firefighters, Hairdressers, Health Workers and even the Police!



Owl Class have demonstrated fantastic 'Learning Together' and have enjoyed bringing their learning to life through role-play within and outside of the classroom. A few highlights include their imagination and enthusiasm at our 'Owl Class Salon', engaging to explore different hair colours, textures and styles. Owls even used their 'Creative' Learning Habit to dye their very own 'hair' over at the Art table!

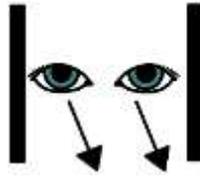
Owls particularly enjoyed our Literacy learning to read our story, *Hamish the Highland Cow*, about a cow who hated baths and never cut his hair!



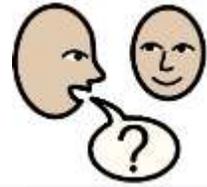


O W L S

Our focus on health workers; Paramedics, Nurses, Doctors and Dentists, also sparked curiosity amongst the Owls! They used their 'Noticing' and 'Explaining' Learning Habits to label doctor's equipment and to help the poorly teddy, using a stethoscope, plasters, bandages and a thermometer! Owl Class had lots of fun learning new vocabulary by joining in to clap the syllables in the words!



The children were also super excited to welcome a Police Officer in class this week! They put their 'Asking Questions' Learning Habit into brilliant use to ask more about how Police help to keep us safe! Role-play to 'arrest' their teachers and send them to 'jail' is more popular than ever!



Owls have also made huge progress this half-term to sit and attend for our Attention Autism Bucket Therapy Sessions. Owls have used their 'Listening' Learning Habit to sit and attend for Stages 1, 2 and 3!

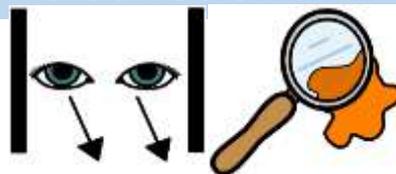
☀️ Classroom News



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We have had a wonderfully full and creative few weeks in class, with lots of exciting learning across the curriculum!

🥗 Food & Nutrition



We've been **learning together** all about nutrition, staying healthy, and the importance of eating a varied diet. Alongside this, the children have been developing their food preparation skills and **exploring** different cooking techniques, including chopping, grating, juicing and mixing.



We also learned about the role of vitamins, fibre, and minerals in keeping our bodies healthy.

Our young chefs have made: Greek salad, fruit salad, Greek yoghurt, lemon possets, jam tarts and bircher muesli.

The children showed great care and enthusiasm while preparing and tasting their creations!



🖍️ English & Creative Work

We have done lots of **creative** and story writing, inspired by the book *The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch*. The children produced some fantastic imaginative work and really enjoyed bringing their ideas to life on paper.

Gardening & Science

In gardening, we planted beans and have been learning about the optimal conditions for plant growth, including sunlight, water, and soil. The children are excitedly measuring their plants as they grow!



F O X E S

Topic: Flight

As part of our topic on flight, the children designed and made their own kites. We explored:

- * The history of flight
- * The lives of the Wright brothers and Amelia Earhart
- * The history of kites and the science behind how they fly

It's been wonderful to see their curiosity and questions during this topic.

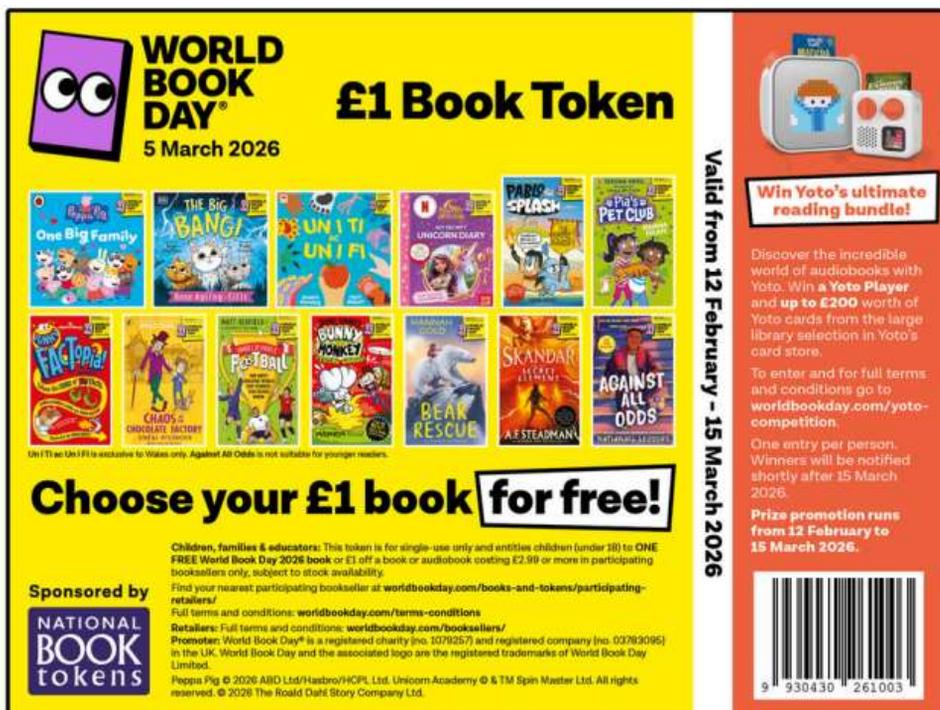


A highlight was **Number Day**, where we used essential maths skills to measure ingredients and capacity while making delicious hot chocolate — a big hit! We have also been learning about:

- * Repeated addition and its link to multiplication
- * Measure and capacity
- * Seasons, change, and weather (which, recently, has certainly been very wet!)



We are so proud of all the children for their enthusiasm, creativity, and hard work this term — they have been absolute stars 



WORLD BOOK DAY
5 March 2026

£1 Book Token

Valid from 12 February - 15 March 2026

Choose your £1 book for free!

Sponsored by
NATIONAL BOOK tokens

Win Yoto's ultimate reading bundle!

Discover the incredible world of audiobooks with Yoto. Win a Yoto Player and up to £200 worth of Yoto cards from the large library selection in Yoto's card store.

To enter and for full terms and conditions go to worldbookday.com/yoto-competition.

One entry per person. Winners will be notified shortly after 15 March 2026.

Prize promotion runs from 12 February to 15 March 2026.

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The World Book Day £1 books are a gift from booksellers, who fully fund the cost of the €1.50/£1 book token redemptions. Check with your local bookseller what plans they have in place for World Book Day. Find your nearest participating bookseller at worldbookday.com/participating-retailers. Please note:

- This token is for single-use only and entitles children (under 18) to ONE FREE WORLD BOOK DAY 2026 BOOK or £1 off a book or audiobook costing £2.99 or more in participating booksellers only, subject to stock availability.
- Token is for children's individual use.
- Offer valid 12 February - 15 March 2026 inclusive.
- The book token barcode can either be scanned from your phone/tablet screen or printed out and shown in-store. Please check with your local bookseller before visiting if they can accept the barcode on mobile devices.
- Tokens are generally not redeemable with online retailers.

Visit our FAQ page to answer all your questions: worldbookday.com/about-us/faq/
To contact the World Book Day team, please email: wbd@education.co.uk
For full terms visit: worldbookday.com/terms-conditions

As we prepare for another exciting reading week (Monday 2nd March - Friday 6th March), I wanted to share some dates for your diary. On Thursday 5th March it is World Book Day. Children are welcome to come dressed as their favourite character if they wish.

This year, I would like to ask if any families have costumes or fancy dress their children no longer need that they would like to donate. This could be a great opportunity to clear out some belongings and they could be repurposed for someone else.

There is a digital token for each child which can be used on your phone! Please see the attached flier and scan on to your device if you would like to use it.

On Friday 6th March it will be Bedtime Stories Day. Children will be allowed to dress in suitable pyjamas/onesies. There will be opportunities to share stories, so they may want to bring in their favourite book from home to share. Slippers may be worn in the classroom but they will need appropriate footwear for playing outside.

Mrs Boyce, Literacy Lead

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Over the past two weeks, our amazing Year 11 learners have taken a huge step forward by completing their work experience placements – and I could not be prouder of them.

Stepping into unfamiliar environments, meeting new people, learning new routines and expectations, and pushing beyond comfort zones is no small achievement. Throughout their placements, our students have shown remarkable resilience, determination and maturity. They have grown in confidence and self-esteem, proving to themselves just how capable they truly are. I asked Lulu if she was proud and she gave me the hugest grin and said “YES”.



Our students have worked across a wide range of placements, gaining valuable real-world experience and developing many transferable skills. Some of these included a student at **Waitrose**, (and The British Red Cross charity shop), where teamwork and responsibility were key, and **K9DC**, where working with dogs (and plenty of mud!) required energy, commitment and a great sense of humour. We also had a student working at **Cats Protection**, showing care and love PLUS a huge responsibility for hygiene and cleanliness.



SANDRA'S BLOG

Some of our learners thrived in those customer-facing roles, including an **assistant barista at The Forge as well as The Hive**, developing communication skills and confidence with the public. We had a student placed in a **library**, demonstrating organisation and independence (and support at Rhyme Time) and one lucky student at **Lush**, who has come back to school to each day smelling “lush”! Across all placements, whether in school or in the community, the students have shown excellent work ethic, problem-solving, communication, teamwork and independence. Most importantly, they showed belief in themselves — often surprising themselves with what they could achieve.



I would like to say a huge thank you to all the staff who supported the learners every day. These experiences have been invaluable, and I couldn't do it without you! Well done Year 11 — you have worked so incredibly hard, represented yourselves and the school brilliantly, and shown just how much you can achieve. 🌟

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 7
Tyler F

Year 8
James R
Ruby S
Bethany P
Bailey B

Year 9W
Chance D
Alex S



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.sendadvice.surrey.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>

Led by Guildford Nursery School



Families First Guildford

Supporting families in our community

[February 2026](#)

[Go to this Sway](#)

[Click here to read Families First February Newsletter](#)



It's Mental Health Week! The theme is "This Is My Place" and the following link from Eikon has some lovely ideas for building a sense of belonging within your family.

<https://eikon.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/Childrens-Mental-Health-Week-2026-Family-Resource-Primary.pdf>

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farnham **maltings**

half term activities

Spark your child's imagination and creativity and dive into our programme of fun events and activities

Mon 16 February - Screen Print a Pop Art Picture

Mon 16 February - Screen Print a Tote Bag

Tue 17 February - Shell Jewellery Workshop

Tue 17 February - Pirates & Mermaids Drama Party (4-7 yrs)

Tue 17 February - Smugglers & Ghost Ships Drama Fun (7-11 yrs)

Tue 17 February - Cinema: Wicked For Good *free child ticket

Wed 18 February - Artbox: Watercolour, Collage, & Print (6-16yrs)

Wed 18 February - Silent Disco: Under the Sea

Wed 18 & Thu 19 February - Crafty Kids (Museum of Farnham)

Thu 19 February - Soap Making: "Going to the Beach"

Fri 20 February - Theatre show: Tales from the Lighthouse

Sat 21 February - Cupcake Decorating: Bees & Sunflowers



scan or click here for more information 

farnhammaltings.com/whats-on/half-term

Bridge Square, Surrey, GU9 7QR



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Speech & Language Therapy Team

★ Makaton Champions ★

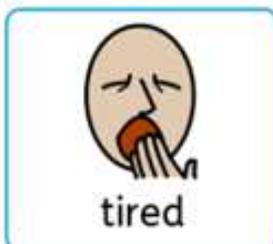
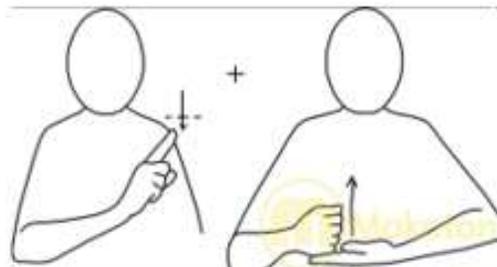
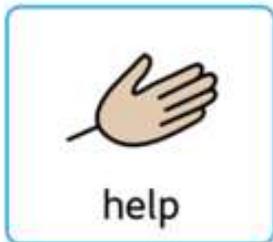
Signs of the week w/c 23rd February 2026



First Aid #1

This week's champions are:

★ **Chloe, Jessica and Tiff - Woodpeckers** ★



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.

