

School Newsletter

Autumn 1 2024



Thank you for all your support this half term in welcoming our new families in Bees, Hedgehogs and elsewhere and in sharing such inspiring learning experiences both when invited into classes, coming into our information sessions and attending our Celebration worships. We are delighted that your children have been able to showcase their talents and were very thrilled to hear all the positive feedback, particularly those who got to join in with our learning. Our teachers work extremely hard to ensure that every day children at Surrey Hills are engaged in exciting learning experiences and they have enjoyed sharing them with you.

We are delighted to announce that we have achieved our Eco Schools Award, and want to congratulate our Eco Heroes who worked so hard in this endeavour. All our children have come in ready to learn and to be active in their outdoor learning. As the weather gets wetter and colder, all children should have boots and waterproofs in school so that they can enjoy our lunchtime zones every day. We are delighted that we have so many clubs and activities to offer our children, so do make the most of these opportunities. Thank you to everyone who is working with us to increase attendance this year in line with new government guidance, we all know how important every lesson is to improve your children's learning outcomes. Thank you too for keeping your children safe by using designated crossing points and being considerate to all our wonderful neighbours living nearby.

Please look on the following pages to find lots of photos of our October learning such as Harvest Festival, our Take One Picture Art Exhibition inspired by the National Gallery and lots of other fantastic visits and trips. Please do not hesitate to contact us if ever you have any questions or ideas to support us, would like to volunteer or join our wonderful F@SH, PTA. We are especially grateful to them for all they do to raise vital funds, including our movie nights this term.

Mrs Fyson, Headteacher



Note re: the new attendance policy and DfE expectations on schools:

Doors open at 8.30 and close at 8.45. This is marked as on time in the register. Between 8.45 and 9.00, children need to enter via the school office. Please make sure the office staff have seen you. This is marked as a late on the register but doesn't impact absence attendance. Anything after 9.00 is marked as a missed session - even if in through the doors at 9.05, so punctuality is equally important. If 10 sessions (1 session is a half day, so 2 sessions in a day) are missed due to unauthorised absence, this triggers a meeting and a potential fixed penalty notice if the attendance doesn't dramatically improve within 3 weeks.

These new stricter policies have been set for schools by the DfE and the Good Shepherd Trust. As a school, we empathise and want to work with you in supporting attendance and ensuring all children are

getting the best out of their education, starting with being in school and on time. To support, if 4 sessions are missed, we will give you a call to let you know and see if we can support. After 6 missed sessions, we will invite you in for an attendance meeting to put an action plan

together to support not missing any more sessions. After 9 missed sessions, a more formal letter from the Trust is issued and a formal meeting in school to create an action plan how attendance can be dramatically improved in the next 3 weeks.

There is a direct link to attainment and attendance and actively promote children not having any unauthorised days off.

To note, all unauthorised holidays which exceed 5 or more days, will result in a fixed penalty notice, in line with the Trust policy. As a school, we don't have a say in this action. As a school, we don't directly receive any of the money from any fixed penalty notice.

Action for all settings:

Review water beads product safety alert

The Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) has issued a [Product Safety Alert](#) to warn of the risks that water beads pose to children and vulnerable adults.

The alert advises that water beads should be kept away from children under five, and only used with older children or vulnerable adults under close supervision. They are marketed for various purposes, including for use as toys and in crafting. Water beads can expand up to 400 times when exposed to liquid.

When swallowed, they expand and can block the gastrointestinal passage, potentially requiring surgery. They can also cause choking and have harmed children in the UK, with reports linking them to deaths overseas.

If it is suspected that a water bead has been swallowed, medical help should be sought immediately.

Reception Bees Class

Bees have had a wonderful first half-term and settled beautifully into school life. Here is a small selection of activities.

Sampling our delicious lunches



Investigating



Reception Bees Class

Art – Creating our treasure boxes and making patterns using different mediums.



Reception Bees Class

PE and perfecting our gross motor skills



Teamwork



Enjoying the reading area



Reception Bees Class

Bees Class have been busy in the Nature Garden, harvesting the potatoes big and small! We also admired the sunflowers that have grown so tall over the summer! As the sunflowers start to die back, we talked about the wonder of nature. Just one seed produces so many sunflower seeds, ready for the birds to eat and some to be saved for our sunflower growing next year.



Year 1 & 2 Butterflies Class

Butterflies have been working hard on our Design Technology project to make a chair for Baby Bear. We learnt what shape was the strongest to support a pile of books and had great fun rolling numerous cylinders to create a structure that was strong enough to support a child (and Mrs Dutton!). We then designed and made our chairs out of paper cylinders and masking tape. Although time-consuming and often a little frustrating, we all managed to create a chair.

I liked when I was sticking it because it was easy - Amelia

Putting the legs on was hard because I had to make them all the same length - Esmae



Year 3 Hedgehogs Class

Hedgehogs have been busy learning all about seasonal fruit and vegetables. We have been looking at what is currently growing in the UK and the benefits of eating seasonal food. We practised our peeling and cutting skills first and then made our own fruit crumbles! The best bit was trying all of the different fruit crumbles once they were cooked!



Year 4 Rabbits Class

This half term Rabbits have gone on a walk to The Nower to look at how the local woodland is managed and how that is different to the Amazon Rainforest. We spotted lots of different signs in the woods that helped us navigate our way. It's amazing to think that indigenous people don't need signs to help them find their way around the rainforest!



Year 5 & 6 Owls and Otters Class

Year 5 and 6 are investigating the impact of World War II on the people of Britain. They were treated to a World War II workshop paid for by our Parents' Committee - FASH. The children came dressed appropriately and took part in all sorts of activities! Morse code, rationing, bomb disposal, looking at artefacts and stretcher races to name but a few! We had a great day and learnt a lot!

Bomb Disposal Champions Final



Tricking the enemy with land mines made out of tin plates



Trying on uniforms



Rationing, toys of the time and evacuation



Year 5 & 6 Otters and Owls Class

Otters and Owls had an amazing day at High Ashurst Outdoor Centre. Our focus was challenge, perseverance, resilience and teamwork, which we all experienced throughout the day on the High Ropes and the Climbing Wall. The children were surprised how far they could push themselves to climb that little bit higher! The teaching staff will be encouraging this growth mindset in lessons too!

'I didn't like heights and didn't think I'd make it off the ground - but I absolutely loved it! The best bit



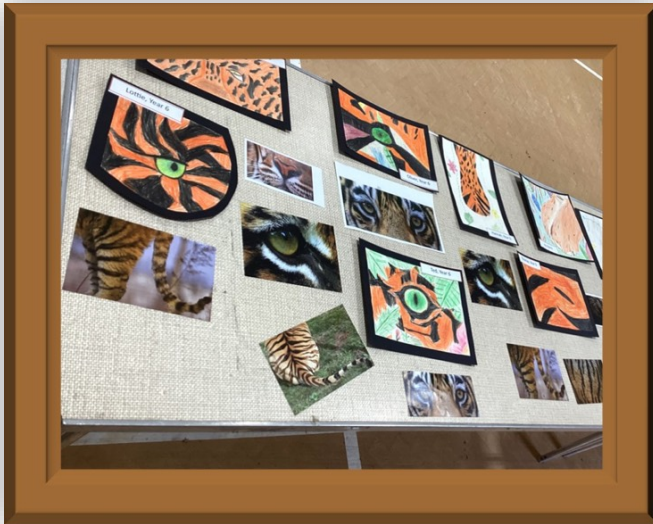
Art Club

This half term, art club have been enjoying developing their drawing and painting skills. We created sunflowers paintings inspired by Van Gogh, pictures of fruit bowls and made our own paper plate animals. We even made a tiger for the art gallery made out of junk modelling!



Whole School Art Gallery

Surrey Hills have been looking at the painting 'Surprised!' also known as 'Tiger in a Tropical Storm' by Henri Rousseau. Each year group focused on a small part of the painting and produced some brilliant art work based on this part of the painting. All of the fantastic artwork was then displayed in our whole school art gallery where both children and parents got to come and observe all of the magnificent masterpieces! All of the children were amazing and should be very proud of their hard work.



"I really liked the oil pastels on the tiger because the colours came out so brightly!" - **Scarlett, Year 2**

"I like tigers because they are so camouflaged and stealthy. We made mosaics by sticking paper over our pencil lines. We needed to cut the paper to the correct size so that it fitted." - **Sophie, Year 4**

"I chose to do the fur because I thought it had a nice pattern and I am good at creating patterns. I liked the way the stripes were orientated" - **Isaac, Year 6**

Yellow Day for Children's Mental Health

To raise money for children's mental health day, Surrey Hills all wore yellow on the 10th October. We wore yellow to show we stand with those who suffer with their mental health and show our support. We looked at different ways we can help look after our own mental health alongside thinking about how we can help support our friends too. Thank you for donating to such an important cause.



"I can draw because it calms me down and relaxes me. If you see your friend not feeling happy you can go over and cheer them up by making them laugh!"

"I know I can look after my mental health by making sure I have someone I know to play with. I know I can do things that I love like playing football because it makes me happy!"



"I can read a book because it helps you relax. I know if I was worried about something I could talk to someone about it so they know what your worry is and can help you!"

Tree Poster Competition

Over the Summer, 4 pupils from Surrey Hills All Saints entered wonderful Posters into our Circular Dorking Tree Poster Competition - highlighting the important role Trees have for Nature and our overall Wellbeing. They were on display at the Dorking Library over the summer with those from other schools in the area and integrated into The Dorking Library's 'Remarkable World of Trees' exhibition. More details are here:

<https://circulardorking.org.uk/projects/tree-competition/>

On Friday 18th October the Prizes and Certificates were presented to the Surrey Hills Entrants and return of their brilliant posters:-

The pupils are as follows

Evelyn - Winner of Creative, Trees & Nature

Freya - Highly Commended - Creative, Trees and Nature

Sophie - Highly Commended - Creative

Flo - Highly Commended - Creative





It has been a great start to the school year. We welcomed new parents to our first F@SH meeting in September and we had some great ideas for new fundraising events. We held movie nights over a two-week period and raised over £300. The children had a wonderful time, chilling out with their friends and eating sweets.

Huge thank you to those that volunteered to help at the event.





We have run our Christmas card design competition, and we had some amazing drawings. Please make sure that you order the Christmas cards, baubles, tote bags and other items with your child's design by **midday on the 1st November** to ensure items are delivered in time for Christmas. 25% of each purchase goes to F@SH.

F@SH will be running a couple of stalls at WESTfestivity on Saturday 16th November and we are looking for volunteers to help run the stalls. We will be selling preloved Christmas jumpers, running a children's tombola, some games and Christmas crafts.

Please sign up here - <https://signup.com/go/EBXqGAn>

We will be holding a non-uniform day after half term for donations for the children's tombola, hampers and other raffle prizes. We would like donations of:

Preloved Christmas jumpers

Bottles e.g., wine, beer, spirits

New gifts/toiletries for the pamper hamper

Packets of sweets, Chocolate bars, Soft drinks, crisps

New and nearly new toys for kids tombola / children's hamper

F@SH would like to thank the Abinger Medieval Fair committee for donating £1750 after their fantastic village event in the summer. We have used some of these funds to support a workshop for children in Owls and Otters class and will be supporting workshops for the other classes as the year progresses.

Important dates for the next term:

Friday 8th November - Non-uniform day for donations for WESTfestivity & Preloved uniform sale

Saturday 16th November - Westfestivity - 10am - 3pm

Friday 29th November – Christmas Disco

Friday 13th December – Otters/Owls Cake sale

Thank you for your continued support, F@SH



CHRISTMAS CARD DESIGN WINNERS



Jesse - Bees Class



Ridvika - Butterflies



Esmae - Butterflies



Orla - Otters & Overall winner



Griff - Hedgehogs



Evelyn - Rabbits



Hannah - Owls

Diary Dates 2024/25

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| October 2024 | |
| 24th & 25th October | Inset Days |
| 28th –1st November | Half Term |
| November 2024 | |
| 4th November | All Saints Day |
| 5th November | Otters Yr 5 Class Inspire Session |
| 8th November | Mufti Day –Donations for the WESTfestivity |
| 8th November | Preloved Uniform Sale at 15.20 |
| 11th November | Open Day 9.30am-11.30am |
| 12th November | Odd Socks Day– Anti Bullying |
| 12th November | Owls Yr 6 Class Inspire Session |
| 13th November | Diwali Workshop |
| 15th November | Children in Need Mufti Day |
| 19th November | Bees Yr R Inspire Sessions |
| 28th & 29th November | Year 4 Bikeability |
| 28th November | School Disco R& KS1 4.00-5.00PM/KS2 5.15-6.30PM |
| December 2024 | |
| 4th December | Choir To Sing Westcott Village Meeting Reading Room |
| 6th December | Christmas Panto |
| 10th December | KS1 Christmas Nativity 2pm-2.45pm |
| 11th December | KS1 Christmas Nativity 9.15am-10am |
| 18th December | Christmas Church Service at 13.45 |
| 19th December | Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day |
| 20th December | End of Term—1.30pm Pick Up |
| 23rd –5th January | Christmas Holidays |
| January 2025 | |
| 6th January | GST Inset Day |

Diary Dates 2024/25

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|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 7th January | Children Return to School |
| 10th January | Preloved Uniform Sale at 15.20 |
| February 2025 | |
| 17th—21st February | Half Term |
| 24th February | GST Inset Day |
| 28th February | Preloved Uniform Sale at 15.20 |
| March 2025 | |
| 6th March | World Book Day |
| April 2025 | |
| 4th April | End of Term—1.30pm Pick Up |
| 7th-21st April | Easter Holidays |
| 25th April | Preloved Uniform Sale at 15.20 |
| May 2025 | |
| 5th May | Bank Holiday |
| 12th-15th May | Year 6 SATs |
| 26th -30th May | Half Term |
| June 2025 | |
| 6th June | Preloved Uniform Sale at 15.20 |
| July 2025 | |
| 11th July | Preloved Uniform Sale at 15.20 |
| 18th, 21st & 22nd July | Inset Days |
| 23rd –31st August | Summer Holidays |