



The Horsell Village School NEWSLETTER

Vol .05



What a busy and exciting end to the Autumn Term!
From the last few weeks, we have so much to celebrate with you.



A huge thank you to the PTA for organising and putting on such a super Christmas Fair. There is always something quite magical about how the community comes together for the schools and village Christmas Fair and, although a little on the cold side, so much fun was had by all.

Thank you to all the parents and staff that gave up some time to help run a stall or helped set up and put away. The final amount is still being counted and we will share this with you in the New Year. - but events like these go a long way in supporting the school in providing experiences and resources to enhance the children's education - we cannot thank you enough.

We were also treated to six fantastic performances of 'Honky Tonky Donkey'. Each triplet of classes performed superbly. I am sure you agree with me when I say the children did such an amazing job and should feel very proud of themselves. A big thank you to all the staff who go above and beyond to bring the performances together. Another big thank you goes to all who generously donated to our charity collection. An impressive amount raised for Woking and Sam Beare Hospices.



I am sure this will be gratefully received.

Finally, from myself and the team here at The Horsell Village School, have a fantastic break and we shall see you all on Wednesday 3rd January 2024.

Diary Dates



- 03.01.2024 School re opens for the Spring Term
- 03.01.2024 Parent Volunteering Meeting 9.00 am
[Children's Centre](#)
- 10.01.2024 Snowy Owls & Barn Owls visit to the LightBox- Story telling workshop
- 11.01.2024 Tawny Owls visit to the LightBox- Story telling workshop
- 15.01.2024 Winter Day
- 18.01.2024 Tawny Owls Class Assembly 9.00 am - Hall
- 22.01.2024 Badgers Class Visit to Horsell Common
- 23.01.2024 Hedgehogs Class Visit to Horsell Common
- 24.01.2024 Squirrels Class Visit to Horsell Common
- 25.01.2024 Squirrels Class Assembly 9.00 am - Hall
- 29.01.2024 Luna New Year Day
- 01.02.2024 Barn Owls Class Assembly 9.00 am - Hall
- 02.02.2024 NSPCC Number day
- 05.02.2024 Children's Mental Health Week
- 02.02.2024 Internet Safety Day
- 08.02.2024 Hedgehogs Class Assembly 9.00 am - Hall
- 09.02.2024 Stem Maths Workshops
[Children's event](#)

Attendance Update

This week we shared with you our new absence procedure. This will go live from 3rd January 2024.

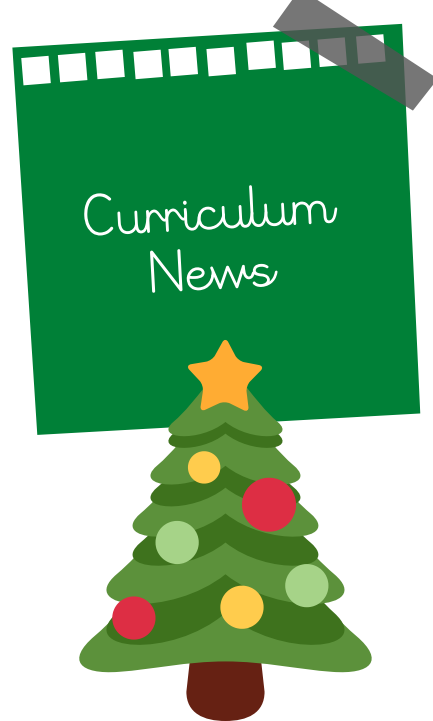
To make reporting your child's absence easier, we are introducing an online form for parents to record their child's absence from school due to illness or medical reasons .

Forms should be completed by 9.00 am at the very latest.

The link to the absence form can be found on the email previously shared and on the attendance page of the school website.

Please complete this form in the first instance rather than ringing the school.

Thank you for your support with implementing this change.



Proposed changes to the length of the school day

This week we shared with you a letter informing you of possible changes to the school day here at The Horsell Village School. This proposed change is in line with the recent Government and DfE directive that all schools in England offer a minimum of 32.5 hours as part of a package of reforms aimed at raising standards nationally by September 2024 .

We have two options that we welcome your feedback on:

- Option 1 8.45 am to 3.15 pm
[Gates open at 8.30 am, Doors open at 8.35 am and close at 8.45 am](#)
- Option 2 8.50 am to 3.20 pm
[Gates open at 8.35 am, Doors open at 8.40 am and close at 8.50 am](#)

We expect to let you know our decision towards the end of January and any changes would be implemented from the beginning of September 2024.

From the feedback we have already received I would like to provide some additional information.

Q: Is The Horsell Junior School changing their start and finish time?

A: The Horsell Junior School changed their start and finish times a few years ago. From discussions with Mrs Wand, they currently have no plans to change their start and finish times which is why we are proposing times that work around the Junior School.

Q: Can you shorten the lunch hour- will this make any difference?

A: Calculated time for the length of the school day is taken from the moment the doors close to the moment they are opened. The length of a lunchtime has no impact.

Thank you for the feedback so far. Can I remind you, should you wish to provide feedback, please do so by Monday 8th January.

Thank you for your support.

Safeguarding

Here at The Horsell Village School, we are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. Safeguarding and keeping children safe is everybody's responsibility. We have a named team of Designated Safeguarding Leads and Deputies who are the main point of contact for the school.

If you have any concerns about the safety or welfare of a child please contact a member of the school's Designated Safeguarding team in the first instance through the school office.

In addition to this, if you have concerns outside of school you can contact the Children's Single Point of Access on:

Phone: 03004709100- Monday to Friday, 9.00 am to 5.00 pm

Email: cspa@surreycc.gov.uk

Out of Hours Emergency Team: 01483 517898

You can find additional information regarding our safeguarding culture and processes on our school website as well as

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/children>

Volunteering at school

All volunteers need to undertake safeguarding training before they can come into school or support on school trips. In addition to this a refresher course is required annually. This is to provide up to date information how we keep children safe at school and how you play an important role in this.

Please see below a list of future training dates. Each training will last about 30 minutes.

- 3rd January 9.00 am
- 7 February 9.00 am
- 6th March 9.00 am
- 24th April 9.00 am
- 22nd May 9.00 am
- 26th June 9.00 am

In order to keep your DBS active, you will need to volunteer in school at least once a term.

Upcoming Events & Curriculum news



Mrs Sharkey DSL



Mrs Reeve
Deputy DSL



Miss Cadey
Deputy DSL

Class Assemblies



During the Spring Term, each class leads a class assembly. This provides an opportunity for the children to share the learning they are proud of in a number of different ways.

Each class assembly takes place in the school hall at 9.00am.

On the morning of your child's class assembly, please wait by the entrance door to the school hall.

Each assembly will last about 15 minutes with a 5 minute period afterwards to spend congratulating your child/children.

Thursday 18th January - Tawny Owls

Thursday 25th January - Squirrels

Thursday 1st February - Barn Owls

Thursday 8th February - Hedgehogs

Thursday 29th February - Snowy Owls

Thursday 7th March - Badgers

Thursday 14th March - Otters

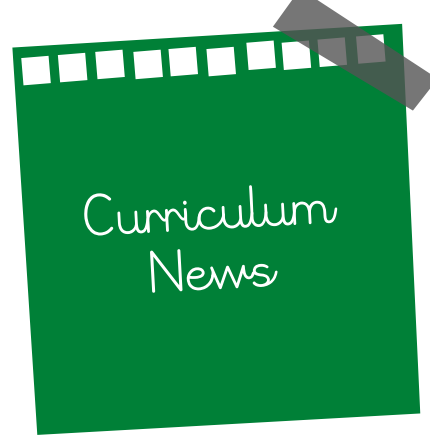
Thursday 21st March - Foxcubs

Thursday 28th March - Rabbits



School Council

The school Council have been working on a little project this term. As part of our school motto refers to 'Kindness to the World', the children have decided to work towards achieving the Eco-Schools Award. Along with support from Mrs Aughterson, the children have been thinking of ways in which as a school we can help our environment, pledging to 'Waste less' and 'Recycle more'. Please see below what the children have been doing so far and how you can support us on our journey.



SCHOOL COUNCIL



This year the children got busy straight away and as a team we decided to work towards achieving the **Eco-School Award**. So far.... We are being the

Waste Squad taking action. Pledging to **Waste less** and **Recycle better**. We've made posters to encourage

classes to **save electricity, and to use fewer paper towels**. Another goal is to leave **less food waste** after our lunchtimes.



Parents can now bring **old batteries** to the school office to put in our **special recycling box**. Full boxes are collected and batteries recycled instead of going in the bin. We are going to find out the total weight of batteries we recycle this year!



We're gardening to prepare an area to plant seeds in the spring. This will encourage wildlife to visit our school grounds, we will be supporting **Bio-diversity** and helping our classmates learn about this too.



Playground equipment

Please can we remind you that no children, including younger siblings, should be using the play equipment or resources in the playground before or after school.

This is for health and safety reasons.

Please support the school by asking your children not to use the equipment.

Thank you



Number Day 2024

We will be taking part in the NSPCC Number day on Friday 2nd February 2024. On this day, the children will take part in a number of different maths-based activities. We also invite you to come to school dressed as a digit / digits. We will provide more information closer to the time but thought we would give you a heads-up.

Can Bears Ski?



On Monday we had a visit from the Pied Piper Theatre group. They performed the play 'Can Bears Ski?'. The children had an amazing time watching the show. Thank you to the PTA who funded this experience for our children.

Curriculum News

The company have very kindly sent us a video link for us to share with you should you wish to watch the show at home as a family. Double click on the picture below, sit back, relax and enjoy.



Water Bottles

Please can we remind you to send your child to school with a water bottle in the New Year.

It is important the children remain hydrated throughout the day.

Reading Challenge

The Winter Mini Challenge is an online, bitesize version of The Reading Agency's annual Summer Reading Challenge.

It is easy to take part in the Winter Mini Challenge. Children simply read three books or more of their choice between 1 December 2023 and 19 February 2024 and add them to their online profile on wintermini.org.uk. Reaching their reading goal will unlock a limited-edition virtual badge and a special Winter Mini Challenge certificate to print off and keep.

