



# The Horsell Village School NEWSLETTER

Vol .02



Welcome to the October edition of the newsletter. We have so much to celebrate with you already. The children have fully immersed themselves into their new learning and have settled well into the routines of everyday life. There is a purposeful buzz of excitement around the school which is a joy to see. All year groups are enjoying their learning topics and key texts on which our learning is based around. The children have been working hard on establishing their learning behaviours and modelling the behaviours associated with our characteristics of effective learners. I know myself and all the staff are feeling very proud of how well they have settled.

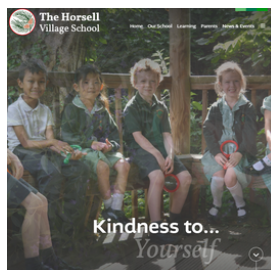
Reception's topic is called 'Anyone can be a Hero'. The children have been learning all about themselves as individuals and as learners and using this to explore their new learning environment and routines. In Year 1 the children are on an galactic discovery through their topic 'Destination Outer Space. They have been learning all about Neil Armstrong and Helen Sharman. In Year 2 'Master Makers' is the title of their learning topic. They have been exploring the properties of materials and a range of local artists and sculptures using the story 'Tin Forest' as a starting point.

You can find out more about each year group and what they are learning by visiting our new school website using the link below.

<https://www.horsell-village.surrey.sch.uk/>

Finally, a big thank you to Andy Johnson from 'Andy through the lens' who has been into school to take more photographs for our new school website- these will be uploaded shortly and will enhance our website even more. But in the meantime- don't forget to go and have a little look.

Best Wishes- Mrs Reeve and The Horsell Village Team



## Diary Dates



- 05.10.2023 Kindness to Others Day  
Harvest Festival – **child event**
- 09.10.2023 Snowy Owls Morning  
parent conferences
- 10.10.2023 Barn Owls Morning  
parent conferences
- 11.10.2023 Tawny Owls Morning  
parent conferences
- 12.10.2023 Badgers Morning  
parent conferences
- 13.10.2023 Hedgehogs Morning  
parent conferences
- 16.10.2023 Squirrels Morning  
parent conferences
- 17.10.2023 Foxcubs Morning  
parent conferences
- 17.10.2023 Evening Parent Conferences  
4pm-7pm
- 18.10.2023 Otters Morning  
parent conferences
- 19.10.2023 Rabbits Morning  
parent conferences
- 19.10.2023 Individual School Photographs
- 20.10.2023 Welly Walk & Autumn Day  
**Parent Event**  
Finish for Half Term  
3.00 pm
- 31.10.2023 School re-opens

Contact: 01483714804 or email [reception@horsell-village.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:reception@horsell-village.surrey.sch.uk)

# Whole school priorities for 2023 to 2024

Over the last three years we have been on a journey developing our teaching and learning approach. Our Learning cycle, characteristics of an effective learner and the school motto are now fully embedded into every part of school life. The achievements of the school were fully recognised in our recent Ofsted inspection in February 2023.

This year through responses from parent, staff and pupil surveys as well as end of year outcomes, development points identified by Ofsted and discussions with the Local Governors Committee, we have identified 3 key objectives. All objectives link to our 3 Year Strategic aims.

**Objective 1-** To use curriculum design and assessment procedures to further develop teaching and learning.

**Objective 2 -** To continue to improve reading and writing outcomes across the school.

**Objective 3 -** To develop coaching practice across the whole school to continue to develop teaching and learning.

We are excited for where we will be developing the school next and over the next few months we will explore each objective with you through our newsletters. In the meantime you can find a copy of our School Development plan on our school website.

Thank you



We have already been working hard to develop our range of phonetically plausible texts that link directly to the sounds the children are learning that week in their phonics sessions. A big thank you to the Horsell PTA for raising a substantial amount of money to enable us to do this. Please help us by helping to take care of these new books when they come home.



## 3 Year Strategic Aims

### Aim 1

Create high achievement and success culture

### Aim 2

Create an effective whole school community partnership culture

### Aim 3

Create effective working conditions and developmental opportunities for all



Each KS1 class has just appointed their school council representatives for the year. The School Council here at The Horsell Village Schools plays a crucial role in shaping elements of our whole school learning environment as well as aspects within the community. Last year the team worked closely together with the planners and developers for our new play equipment as well the council for ways in which to help look after our beautiful common.

Hedgehogs Class	Ethan and Carey
Squirrels Class	Anna and Noah
Badgers Class	Joel and Bella
Tawny Owls Class	Owen and Maya
Snowy Owls Class	Evie and Eddie
Barn Owls Class	Annie and Jack

Well done to the children named who have been selected by their class to be their class representative.

The School Council will be getting together for their first meeting in the next few weeks. We will be exploring how we can be more environmentally friendly with the hope to obtain the Eco Schools award in the future,

# Parent Conferences

Parent conferences are coming up soon. Thank you to everyone who has already booked an appointment to see their child's class teacher. Please do not worry if you haven't done this yet- you can still log on and book an appointment.

Attending your child's parent conference provides you with that 1:1 time with the class teacher to find out about how your child is doing in the development of their academic and personal and social development.

We know life can be busy, so please if you need to book an alternative appointment with the class teacher let us know.

These meetings are important to us too and are crucial in working together to ensure the best for all our children. For those unable to attend we will be following up- please don't be offended if we call or email you- we only want to support everyone.



## Welly Walk

On Friday 20th October we have our annual Welly Walk.

Thank you to everyone who has already signed up to say they are happy to join us.

Just a little reminder...

**Reception** will be walking at 10.00 am, taking a route around Horsell Village and Pares Woodland Garden.

**Year 1** will be walking at 9.00 am following a route along a short part of the Basingstoke Canal and looking out for old and new buildings.

**Year 2** will be walking at 11.00 am, looking at old and new features of the village as well as a small part of Horsell Common.

If you have children in multiple year groups you are more than welcome to join each year group on their walk.

Our Welly Walk is a sponsored event and this year we will be raising funds to further develop our outside learning environments.

Thank you to everyone who has already made a donation- your support is greatly appreciated. If you would like to contribute please use the following link to our Just Giving page

<http://www.justgiving.com/campaign/thehorsellvillageeschoolwellywalk2023>



### Staff carpark.

Just a little reminder please only use the staff carpark for picking up children from after school club after **5.00 pm**. This is still a busy carpark with cars moving in and out- please keep children with you and be considerate of the close proximity of cars to each other when opening car doors to put children in and out.



This week we celebrated 'Harvest Festival'. The children came together in St Mary's church to explore the meaning of Harvest as well as how we can show kindness to others.

Thank you so much for your generous donations already received for Woking food bank. We will be taking donations to the food bank on **Wednesday 11th October**- so should you wish to, you still have time to make donations. Your support at this time is greatly appreciated.



# 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. In addition to this we have a named team of Designated Safeguarding Leads and Deputies who are the main point of contact.

If you have any concerns about the safety or welfare of a child please contact a member of the schools 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](mailto: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>

Keeping  
Children  
Safe



Mrs Sharkey DSL

Mrs Reeve  
Deputy DSL



Miss Cadley  
Deputy DSL

## Keeping Children Safe Online



Please can we ask for your support at the beginning of the school year to keep your children safe when using mobile phones, smart devices, tablets etc. Giving a child a device without parental controls can put them at risk.

As a school, we recognise the role that we have to teach the children about how to keep themselves safe online within the curriculum. The impact of this teaching is far more effective if we are all working in partnership together.

We would strongly recommend:

- Keeping screens and devices where you can see them and children do not have access to devices in their bedroom at night.
- Having regular open discussions with your child about their online activity.
- Checking PEGI age ratings and descriptors on games before buying them for your child and carefully consider whether the content is appropriate for your child.
- Being 'share aware' to protect your privacy.
- Having parental controls in place to filter inappropriate content.

## Volunteering at School

Thank you to the large number of parents and community members who attended our volunteer meetings in September. If you were not able to join one, but would like to volunteer at a later point in the year, there will be further catch up sessions running throughout the year:

18 October 2023 at 9am  
24 November 2023 at 9am  
3 January 2024 at 9am  
7 February 2024 at 9am  
6 March 2024 at 9am  
24 April 2024 at 9am  
22 May 2024 at 9am  
26 Jun 2024 at 9am

If you attended the meeting and would like to help out in the school, please contact the school office to let us know what you would like to do and your availability. We are still in need of more volunteer readers in school.



# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# AMONG US

A multiplayer 'social deduction' game set in outer space, Among Us enjoyed a surge in popularity in 2020, and has since maintained a dedicated fan-base (globally, around 60 million regular players each month) thanks to its unique nature, simple premise and ease of access across numerous platforms. The game's on-screen action revolves around danger, disguise and deception – and there are certain parallels to be drawn with some of the real-life risks that parents and carers of young Among Us players need to be aware of.



## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### SENSITIVE PREMISE

In Among Us, up to three players are secretly assigned to be alien imposters, tasked with murdering their colleagues while the survivors try to unmask them. While the concept's not far removed from traditional games like Wink Murder or TV shows such as The Traitors, some parents may feel uncomfortable about their child playing a video game in which deception and killing are prioritised.

### VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

The on-screen death of characters may be fundamental to the gameplay of Among Us, but the majority of the animations depicting this are deliberately cartoonish and only appear very briefly. However, it is worth bearing in mind that the game has a PEGI age rating of 7 – meaning that certain elements (however heavily stylised they may be) could still upset some younger players.

### CHAT BETWEEN PLAYERS

With up to 15 people participating in each game online, a large part of Among Us' appeal is speculating with fellow players who the imposters might be and making accusations. This dialogue through the in-game text chat can occasionally become heated – and could, of course, involve your child being put into contact with people (including adults) who they don't know in real life.

### GOING OFF PLATFORM

While Among Us provides basic ways to communicate, many gamers prefer to use external services such as Discord: a popular app which offers voice and video chat functions. These undeniably make cooperation easier, but also create a potential route for children to hear inappropriate language – or for strangers to message them privately in an environment which isn't regulated by the game itself.

### IN-GAME PURCHASES

Among Us is free to download on mobile devices, and costs less than £5 to obtain on console and PC. A related longer-term pitfall, though, is that the game also includes options to pay for upgrades such as removing ads on the mobile version or adding cosmetic touches to characters (such as different costumes). It's certainly possible that a child could spend a significant sum without realising it.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### CONSIDER SOFTER ALTERNATIVES

Although Among Us is hugely popular with young gamers, it's possible that some children might find the murder themes unsettling. If so, plenty of similar social deduction games are available (in both digital and traditional board game formats) which downplay the potentially grislier elements: some centre around undercover spies, for instance, and there's even a Marvel superhero-themed variant.

### CHAT ABOUT CHATTING

You might feel it's prudent to talk to your child about the risks associated with voice chat while gaming, explaining in particular that strangers online aren't always who they claim to be. Keeping the conversation relaxed will reinforce your child's confidence that they can always come to you with any online concerns – not just about Among Us, but any potential future issues as well.

### DISCUSS DISCORD

In general, Discord is an excellent app for keeping online communities together because of its use of dedicated individual servers, which allow comprehensive control over who can join – and who can't. Once you're familiar with the platform, you could set up a secure server for your child and their friends to communicate during games of Among Us, with no access for people they don't know.

### AMONG US, AMONG FRIENDS

When your child and their friends get together, they can enjoy a private game of Among Us by choosing a 'local' lobby – that is, only people connected to the same WiFi (your home network, for example) can enter. This prevents any random online users – who may be total strangers – from joining and removes the need for voice chat, as the players are all physically in the same location.

### STOP SURPRISE SPENDING

If you're concerned about the possibility of your child racking up an unexpected bill on Among Us' microtransactions, you could consider using a prepaid card with a set limit. Likewise, you could specify in the game's options that adult authorisation is required for every purchase – or you could make sure that no payment methods are enabled on the device that your child plays the game on.

### Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is editor in chief of gaming and esports site Dailycosplay and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent who understands the value of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.



#WakeUpWednesday

# Maths

## Maths

Here at The Horsell Village School we use White Rose Maths to support our learning. If you would like to help your child at home, you can download a White Rose Maths One-Minute Maths App to help your child's number sense and use this alongside Numbots (see below). Together, these will build number fluency and confidence. At the beginning of each year, Year 1 and 2 focus on place value - the value of each digit based on its position.

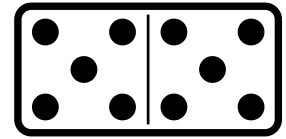
Year 1 have been counting on from any number and working out one more and one less.

Year 2 have been recognising tens and ones in two digit numbers as well as looking at the intervals between numbers.

Reception have started their Maths routine by counting, matching and sorting objects.

Talking about Maths is really important for your child's mathematical development.

As simple as asking your child to count the number of fish fingers on their dinner plate. What if you have one more/one less? What if you have double or half of the number? What if we add your fish fingers to mine?



Some place value games can be found here:  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z8sfr82>

White Rose  
**EDUCATION**



Reception children will get their log in details very soon!



We use a program called Numbots to help children develop a secure sense of number. You will find the log in details in your child's reading diary. We encourage them to use it little and often (eg. 3 minutes, 4/5 times a week).

At the end of each half term, certificates will be presented to those that have been accurate in their Numbots learning and those that have spent time engaging in this activity.

# What's happening in Reception...

We continue to be proud of how the children have settled into school. Thank you for your continued support ensuring the children arrive on time.

We have been to our first virtual and in person Reflections (assembly) and the children were amazing!

We continue focusing on good listening skills and displaying our motto Kindness to ourselves, Kindness to others and Kindness to the world. This week we are introducing to of our effective learner animals:

Go for it Gorilla  
Persevering Parrot



Talk to your children at home about ways they can try new activities and keep on trying when things get tricky.

We are starting PE this week. Initially we will be getting changed and visiting the hall, playing some games. Please make sure all items in the PE Kit (and the bag itself) is named.

On Thursday 5th we are visiting the Church for our Harvest Festival. We have been practising our poem "Chop Chop". See if your child can say it for you (with actions!) at home.

## Reminders

Please may we ask that you stay with your child in the morning before the classroom doors open and encourage them not to play with the equipment that is set up for the day's learning.

Open classroom is on a Thursday from 3.15pm - 3.45pm. This is an opportunity for you to see your child's learning. We ask that you leave all resources where you find them. Thank you.

Please help your children be independent in opening and closing their fruit pot.



## Phonics



Here at The Horsell Village School we use the approach from 'Bug Club' to teach our phonics program. Each lesson is split into 4 sections, - identifying sounds, blending, reading and writing.

The sounds we are looking at now are:  
o c ck k e u r

We will look at the tricky words:  
a l no to

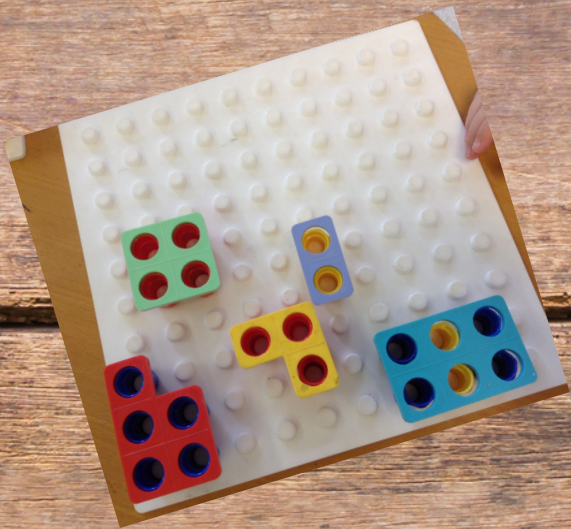
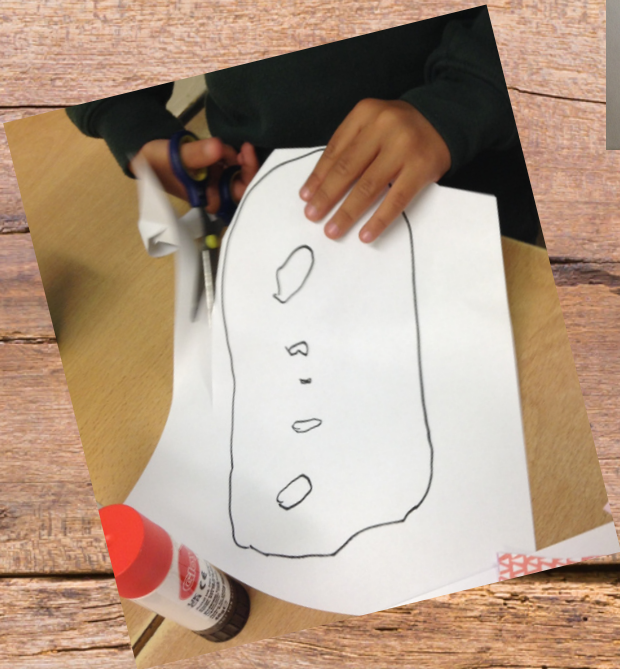
Books will be change on a Tuesday and a Friday once parents have commented in the diary. We appreciate your support in guiding your child's reading development.

## Dates for your diary

Parent Conferences:

- Foxcubs: Tuesday 17th October (am)
  - Otters: Wednesday 18th October (am)
  - Rabbits: Thursday 19th October (am)
- All – Tuesday 17th October Evening Session (4-7pm)

Learning from Reception

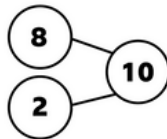




# What's happening in Year 1...

The children have thoroughly enjoyed the texts we have been reading for our 'Destination Outer Space' topic and have produced some wonderful writing. We have been continuing to embed our key writing skills this half term and the children have made good progress, particularly with their use of adjectives and remembering to leave a finger space between each word. Next week, we will begin looking at our final text, 'The Way Back Home' and will explore the senses, thinking about what the boy in the story might see, hear and feel. We will also be writing creatively about how we think the boy will get back home.

In Maths, the children will be moving onto exploring number fact families and we will be using the part-part-whole model to help us to write addition number sentences.



In history, we will be revisiting the three significant people we have been learning about: Neil Armstrong, Helen Sharman and Tim Peake and will plot key events on a timeline. In Science, we will be carrying out investigations looking at different materials and whether or not they are absorbent. A reminder that our VR Space workshop will be happening in school on Tuesday 17th October.

## Phonics



This half term, we have been revisiting all of the Phase 3 Phonics sounds. After half term, we will be spending time consolidating our blending will practise reading **adjacent consonants** e.g.

**nd** to read the word **hand**

**st** to read the word **stop**

## Spelling

There is a list of High Frequency Words and Common Exception Words in the centre of the Reading Record for your child to practise at home. Your child needs to be able to spell these words by the end of the year.



compare

hopeful

astronaut

absorbent

orbit

flexible

Monday 2nd October 2023  
 LQ: How can I compare numbers?

5 > 0  
 10 > 9 > 1  
 4 > 3 > 2  
 0 < 6 < 10  
 1 < 7 < 10  
 3 < 4 < 10  
 1 < 2 < 10  
 8 > 5 < 15

Learning from Year 1

22.9.23  
 What makes me feel proud?

I am proud because  
 I ~~am~~ like Prince

Wednesday 27th September  
 LQ: Who is Helen Sharman?

I know Helen Sharman was the first British astronaut.

Thursday 28th September LQ: How can I describe a character?

yellowskin

three eye  
 short ~~or~~ snow  
 loved  
 long ear short ears  
 x3 short < short < short

Wednesday 27th September  
 LQ: How can I make a character prediction?

I think they were a yellow master with long ears. That's up to the looking because they miss their home.

24 24th September 2023  
 How can I describe Beegu?

Beegu is has three eyes and has going yellow fur and long ears. She is feeling disappointed because she miss her mummy.

# What's happening in Year 2...

Well done to all our Year Two children for how well they have settled back into school life and routines. We are very proud of how well they are developing their skills as role models for the younger learners in school.

October is the month of 'Master Makers' and we will be finding out about sculptures in our local environment; mapping where they are and comparing and contrasting what we can see in our locality with other areas.

In Science and D.T, We will be investigating different materials, including paper and developing our paper skills so that we can create paper sculptures of our own inspired by the story, 'The Tin Forest'.

In English we will be writing poems inspired by the story before moving on to our final story, Hephaestus. We will use the new story to help embed our knowledge and understanding of nouns, adjectives and verbs and will plan and write our own version of the story.

In Maths our learning will focus on addition and subtraction. We will practise and embed our number bond knowledge and investigate what happens when we add or subtract across a ten.

In Computing we will continue creating simple codes using command blocks and will be learning how to keep safe online in school and at home.



## Phonics



The children will be working through the Phases in their Phonics groups:

Phase 3/4

Phase 5

## Tricky Words

These are in the centre of the Reading Record for your child to practise at home.

absorbent

transparent

inspirational

opaque

delicate

flexible


forge

anvil


inferno

# Learning from Year 2

Snowy plover live in a tundra.  
 Snowy plovers nest on the ground.  
 Snowy plovers have feathers on ~~the~~ their downy  
 down.  
 Snowy plovers are silent.  
 Snowy plovers stay still.

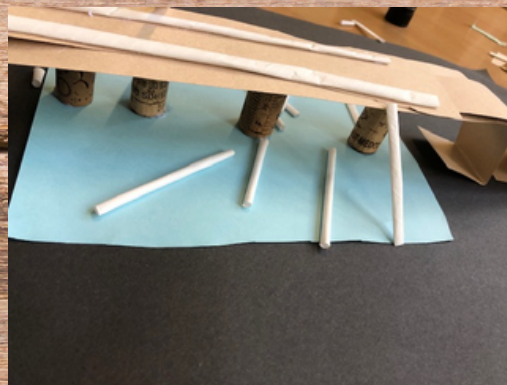


Owls are nocturnal.




25.9.23 LQ: Which adjectives can we use to describe a person?

The <sup>old</sup> ~~latter~~ <sup>man</sup> ~~hard~~ <sup>positive</sup> to ~~man~~ <sup>man</sup> was so desperate to <sup>finish</sup> ~~quested~~ the clearing up the rubbish up from other people. The ~~old~~ <sup>old</sup> ~~lonely~~ <sup>lonely</sup> man was saving ~~because~~ <sup>because</sup> the people that had him putting the ~~other~~ <sup>other</sup> shiny rubbish. There they went looking after the world <sup>bright</sup> but the man was looking after the



90 LQ: How can we review and reflect on our artwork?

I liked my art <sup>work</sup> because I ~~my~~ <sup>my</sup> colors were very dull like Roy Henry Vickers. I liked my art ~~work~~ <sup>work</sup> because I ~~used~~ <sup>used</sup> a different pattern.