



HEADTEACHER'S WEEKLY BULLETIN

"For I know the plans I have for you... plans to give you hope and a future"

Jeremiah 29:11

ISSUE NO. 21: 1 Mar 2024

DIARY DATES

Fri 8 Mar	2.30pm Mothers Day Assembly
Fri 15 Mar	Red Nose Day for Comic Relief
Mon 18 Mar	3.15pm Ladybirds Friendship Teatime in Tandridge Village Hall—All welcome
Tues 19 Mar	Parent Teacher Consultations by appointment—Details to follow
Wed 20 Mar	Pause Day: Easter
Thurs 21 Mar	Parent Teacher Consultations by appointment—Details to follow
w/c 25 Mar	NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS
Tues 26 Mar	2.45pm Easter Bonnet Parade—All welcome
Wed 27 Mar	9am Easter Service @ St Peter's Church, Tandridge—All welcome
Thurs 28 Mar	Last day of spring term
Mon 15 Apr	Start of summer term



THINGS TO CHECK THIS WEEK:

- ☐ Please check that all items of uniform, coats, etc are clearly named
- ☐ Parent Teacher Consultation appointment booked



"Spring is whispering and March is here to awaken the earth with its gentle touch" – Unknown

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to March! Does this mean that we will be seeing a lot more of the sunshine, drier days and warmer weather? Let's hope so! The month of March symbolises new growth and I am certain that we will see many of the children having a growing spurt, so they will be even taller than they are now before the end of the term. This is also the month when the clocks "spring forward" and the days get longer, so we have, as always, lots to look forward to.

This week the children have been engaged in many different topic areas ranging from the arctic, global warming, castles to studying the history of New York City. They have been delighting visitors with their knowledge and understanding of their topics and it is lovely to see how engaged and enthusiastic they are when talking about all the things they are learning. I must say that they have taught me a few things this week. Well done everyone.

Each class were also treated to a wonderful workshop from 'Perform' on Wednesday. The children had an enthusiastic time exploring the theme of 'The Wonderful Wild West' and using drama, dance and singing to help develop their confidence, concentration, and social skills. They were absolutely buzzing with the excitement of the sessions.

To complement the workshop, there is a free educational app for iPhones and iPads based around the theme of The Wonderful Wild West. It contains fun games, creative tasks and videos of the themed songs and dances. Click on the link below to download it free or to find out more about the 'The Wonderful Wild West' theme >> <https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/perform-wild-west/id763508891>

Perform also run regular weekly classes in the Oxted area and they are offering a special introductory discount to all parents of St Peter's CofE School if they come along for a free trial session before Wednesday 20 March. Flyers went home in book bags about this. To claim your discount, just call Perform on 020 7255 9120 quoting AIDE200324 or book a Free Trial Session online at perform.org.uk/try.



WHAT CAN THE MONTH OF MARCH HOLD FOR US?

BIRDS AND ANIMALS

Spring is just starting, and as the weather gets warmer (and drier hopefully), England's wildlife becomes varied throughout March.

If you're lucky you might spot a mad March hare or a few rabbits, hedgehogs and voles start to emerge from hibernation. You might also see ponds that are filled with frogs, as March is the height of their breeding season.

In the air, birds start to return from their holidays. You might spot the odd skylark and rooks are starting to make plenty of noise. You may see gannets along the coast and small birds like sparrows building their nests, so you will probably spot them carrying twigs in your garden.

March is also a great time for spotting the odd bee or ladybird, if the weather is mild enough, particularly if you have a well-placed insect hide or have planted early flowering seasonal flowers. We will definitely be looking at for these in Strawson's field.

PLANTS AND FLOWERS

The English countryside really begins to wake up in March, with small green shoots appearing left, right and centre.

Gardens are awash with explosions of daffodils and catkins dangling precariously from tree branches, blowing wildly in the wind.

Wood Anemone (or Lady's Nightcap as it's also known) and Red Campion are now just beginning to appear, and wild garlic flowers bring a distinctive scent to the air. We have some of this in the wooded area of Strawson's field so will be venturing down there to see how it is fairing.

If the weather is mild enough (fingers crossed), fruit trees will now start to blossom, adding their delicate beauty to rural landscapes and urban gardens alike.

Random splashes of colour are provided by tiny violets, primroses, begonias and fresh pink hellebores.

Then there's the true indicator that spring is on its way; the bluey-purple grape hyacinth, pinging up everywhere you look.

Let's hope we see all of these things!



Save the Date!

MOTHER'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

We will be celebrating Mother's Day with a special Mother's assembly at 2.30pm in the hall on **Friday 8 March 2024**. This is for mums only I am afraid as we simply cannot accommodate all parents. Please don't worry if you are unable to attend as your child I am sure will have something very special for you anyway. This is one of St Peter's many traditions and we would love for you to come – but please be warned, tissues are always handy to have!



REMINDER: ATTENDANCE

Please be aware that The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013, states that Headteachers may NOT grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are very exceptional circumstances. The Headteacher should determine the number of school days a child can be away from school if leave is granted.

In accordance with the above Regulations, requests for leave of absence are treated sympathetically, but only in **exceptional** circumstances can they be approved. Parents who take their child out of school for 10 sessions (five days) or more during term time, without the authority of the Headteacher, may each be liable to receive a penalty notice. Penalty Notices will be issued by the Local Authority. The penalty is £60 if paid within 21 days of receipt of the notice, rising to £120 if paid after 21 days but within 28 days of receipt of the notice. If the penalty is not paid in full by the end of the 28-day period the Local Authority may prosecute the recipient for failing to ensure regular school attendance under section 444 Education Act 1996.

Please be aware that **each parent** is liable to receive a Penalty Notice for **each child** who incurs unauthorised absences, for example, if there are two parents and one child, each parent will receive one Penalty Notice. **Leave of absence request forms can be downloaded from the school website from the News/Letters and Forms section or re available from the school office. A leave of absence request MUST be completed in advance for all planned absences.**

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Hello March!
May the early spring
Awaken your soul and
Remind you to
Celebrate a new beginning with the
Hope and liveness it brings

UNKNOWN

artofpoets.com

CLASS NEWS

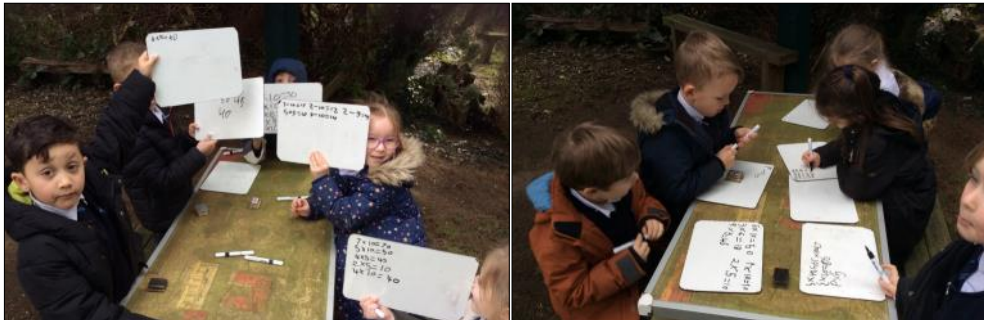
BUSY BEES

This week Busy Bees have been to the 'North Pole'. They have explored the physical features of that part of the world and learned all about the animals that live there through the lovely story of the polar bear, "Leaf" by Sandra Diekmann. In Maths Busy Bees were introduced to the concept of weight and used their new acquired knowledge and vocabulary to compare two items, learning how to balance scales and show which item is lighter or heavier. They also made Polar bears using their fantastic artistic skills and wrote about Polar bears. Next week we will be exploring the Rainforest. If the children would like to bring a small rucksack with some explorer items in and keep them in school for a week or so they are more than welcome. The items could be binoculars, a note pad and pencil, a sun hat—I'll leave it to their imagination!!



LADYBIRDS

Ladybirds have had a brilliant week. We have been working really hard learning to count in 2s, 5s and 10s and have done really well. We have been really engaged in our new castles topic and can already remember lots of facts about them. In history we have labelled the different parts of a castle. In English, we have been pretending to be knights. We learned all about the armour knights would wear, what their job was and how they protected a castle. We acted out a day in the life of a knight and wrote diary entries explaining what we did in our day. In PE we have started to learn how to play rounders.



DRAGONFLIES

Dragonflies have started a new Explorers topic. We read the book 'A Walk in New York' by Salvatore Rubbino which introduced us to the city and the key landmarks within, such as Grand Central Station. We then chose one of these landmarks and conducted research about it finding out as many facts as we could. Grand Central Station has 125,000 visitors a day! We then extended our research to identify key locations that were not in the book, e.g. Central Park. In Maths we have looked at finding half by dividing by two. We applied this skill to word problems related to division. In History we have started looking at US history beginning with the arrival of Christopher Columbus. We looked at information sources from 1492 and decided what we thought Columbus was really like. We then looked at what happened with the European settlement of North America after Columbus, focusing on the original 13 British Colonies.

May you all have a really fabulous weekend with your awesome children.

God Bless, Lenia Greenaway

HOMEWORK



Busy Bees: Phase 2 /3 Phonics Captions Writing

Ladybirds: Multiplication

Dragonflies: Washington DC

A PRAYER FOR LENT

Holy God,
our lives are laid open before you:
rescue us from the chaos of sin
and through the death of your Son
bring us healing and make us whole
in Jesus Christ our Lord
Amen



ST PETER'S CHURCH, TANDRIDGE



Phone: 01883 714263
Email: stmaryoxted.stpeterandridge@gmail.com
https://stpeterandridge.uk/Groups/343723/St_Peters_Church.aspx

SUNDAY 3 MARCH

11am All Age Worship
4.30pm Café Service @ St Mary's, Oxted
6.30pm Evening Prayer

FRIDAY 29 MARCH - GOOD FRIDAY CRAFT MORNING IN OCH

Things to pray for and about:

- For Israel and Gaza – for all those suffering due to the violence of war
- Pray for peace in Ukraine



HOUSE TEAM POINTS

 17	 46	 17
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CHILD PROTECTION CONTACT CENTRE

At St Peter's we take the safety and well-being of every child very seriously. If you are ever concerned about a child please speak in confidence to our Designated Safeguarding Lead, Miss Greenaway or our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads, Mr Atterton and Mrs Vaquinhass. If you feel you have not had a satisfactory response from us to any child protection issue, please phone the contact centre on:



Tel: 0300 200 1006

"Safeguarding is Everyone's Business"

Emergency information regarding the school
will be announced on HEART RADIO 102.7FM

01883 712439 hello@stpetersinfant.org www.stpetersinfant.org



Southwark Diocesan Board of Education
Supporting Christian Education



ONCE A WEEK, TAKE A PEEK



Unfortunately head lice are a fact of life in schools. They are annoying, but by following advice and being vigilant about checking your child's hair **every week**, they can be successfully treated. However, it requires **all** parents to be **regularly** checking their child[ren]'s hair to ensure that outbreaks are quickly dealt with. Please may I ask **everybody** to check hair this weekend and take any necessary action. Thank you for your co-operation.



SNACKS FOR AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Please may we ask that if children bring an after school club snack these are of a healthy nature and do not include nuts or pears in them. We have children and staff who have severe allergies, even though they may not be obvious, so these considerations need to apply at all times in the school day.

If your child needs a snack please only send **one** small item; the children are missing out on valuable club time to finish their extensive selection of goodies. The clubs are only for an hour and you are very welcome to collect with an extra snack in hand at 4.15pm if they are particularly susceptible to the dreaded "h'anger"!



WHAT'S ON...

TANDRIDGE HEIGHTS
MEMORIAL CARE HOME

Join us at Tandridge Heights Memorial Care Home for our...

EASTER CELEBRATIONS

Friday 29th March 1.00pm - 3.00pm

Join us as we celebrate Easter at Tandridge Heights

There will be a range of family games, competitions and a fun Easter bunny hunt with lots of prizes

There will be delicious refreshments available throughout the afternoon

Tandridge Heights Memorial Care Home
Memorial Close, Off Barnett's Shaw, Oxted, RH8 0NH
Tel: 01883 715595 • www.barchester.com

Residential Care • Nursing Care • Dementia Care • Respite Breaks

TANDRIDGE HEIGHTS
MEMORIAL CARE HOME

Easter Picture & COLOURING COMPETITION

Tandridge Heights Care Home invites you to take part in their Easter Colouring Competition to celebrate Easter.

We're asking you to send in your drawings or paintings of an Easter design which our residents will judge. The competition is open to everyone and is split into age groups

4-5yrs 6-8yrs and 9-11yrs

There will be one winner per group and each winner will receive an Easter egg prize.

To enter, please email or post your submissions to:
Email: tandridge.activities@barchester.com Post: Tandridge Heights Care Home
The closing date for entries is: Monday 25th March 2024

Tandridge Heights Memorial Care Home
Memorial Close, Off Barnett's Shaw, Oxted, RH8 0NH
Tel: 01883 715595 • www.barchester.com

Residential Care • Nursing Care • Dementia Care • Respite Breaks

GIRLS ATTACK!

EASTER NETBALL CAMPS 2024 - 8TH, 9TH, 10TH APRIL

£28.00 - £84.00

Calling all players 5-16! Come and have fun on court over the Easter holidays. Based on the netball courts at Hazelwood School, Oxted, you can book one day or all three. 10am-3pm. *Early bird discount available until mid-March!*

Godstone Farm
Discover • Explore • Play

godstonefarm.co.uk

30TH MAR - 14TH APR

SPRING HAS SPRUNG AT GODSTONE FARM!

Join us for an egg-cellent time full of family fun on the farm!

Get ready to meet the cutest baby animals on the farm, plus enjoy spring crafts, character meet & greets, egg slime making, plus all the usual Godstone Farm fun!

**Additional cost*

JOIN US THIS EASTER HOLIDAYS

BE IN YOUR ELEMENT AT GODSTONE ACADEMY

8 APRIL - 10 APRIL 2024

DANCE ACT MUSIC SING CRAFT

MONDAY 8th APRIL
9am-12pm - Age 4+ Reception: £25
12pm-3pm - Year 1+ £20

TUESDAY 9th APRIL
9am-12pm - Age 4+ Reception: £25
12pm-3pm - Year 1+ £20

WEDNESDAY 10th APRIL
9am-12pm - Age 4+ Reception: £25
12pm-3pm - Year 1+ £20

DISCOUNT AVAILABLE FOR
3 HALF DAY BOOKINGS - £60.00
3 FULL DAY BOOKINGS - £120.00

At Godstone School Hall

To book contact us at
godstonedanceacademy@gmail.com

CONTEMPORARY & CREATIVE DANCE WORKSHOP
an opportunity to explore contemporary dance and get creative with movement and music

11 APRIL 2024
At Godstone School Hall
9am - 12pm: Reception - Yr 2 - £25
12.30pm - 3.30pm: Yr 3 and up - £25

To book contact us at
godstonedanceacademy@gmail.com

godstonedanceacademy@gmail.com

DAZZLING DAFFODILS
MARCH 18 - 24

Dazzling Daffodils 2024

It's the 2024 edition of the annual Daffodil Festival, a celebration of the arrival of spring and the start of the school year. The festival is a day of fun, games, and activities for children and adults alike. It's a chance to enjoy the beautiful daffodils in bloom and to celebrate the start of a new year.

The festival is held at the Godstone School Hall and is open to all children and adults. It's a chance to enjoy the beautiful daffodils in bloom and to celebrate the start of a new year.

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Top Tips for Supporting Children Who Are EXPERIENCING BULLYING

In a DfE survey, 36% of parents said that their child had been bullied in the past year, while 29% of secondary school headteachers reported bullying among students. Public Health England states that young people who maintain positive communication with their family were less likely to experience bullying – so it's important that parents, carers and educators know how to talk to children about bullying.

1. WATCH FOR BEHAVIOURAL CHANGES

Children who are experiencing bullying may become quiet, withdrawn, or anxious; however, they may also act on the pain and anger that they're feeling. A shift in attitude towards their existing friends (or not mentioning them any more at all) or alluding to new friendships which seem notably different could also be warning signs. It's important to be alert to such changes and talk to your child about them if they occur.

2. THINK THINGS THROUGH

Before acting, ask yourself if this is the right time and place to address concerns about bullying. Might your worries trigger strong feelings – perhaps from your own experiences – that could discourage your child from opening up to you? You could try discussing what you've noticed with another trusted adult who knows your child well.

3. BE OPEN AND UNDERSTANDING

Try to outline to your child the changes that you've noticed in their body language, appearance, behaviour, or tone of voice – and do so without sounding judgemental. Help them to describe what they're feeling – be it anger, sadness, fear or something else – as accurately as possible. If they say they're "angry", do they mean "enraged" or "frustrated"? This will help them to understand how they're feeling and why.

4. LET THEM SPEAK FREELY

Use open questions and a welcoming tone to encourage your child to talk. Listen closely and summarise what they've said at appropriate points (ideally without interrupting) to demonstrate that you're understanding clearly. Bullying may have undermined your child's sense of control, and they may fear that you'll judge them, overreact or impose consequences – so this conversation can reassure them being honest with you was the right decision.

5. CALL A TIME OUT

A conversation about bullying could leave both you and your child feeling distressed. It's important to recognise this and pause at suitable moments to calm down. Take deep breaths, enjoy a hot drink or even have a cathartic cry. This can reinforce trust, while also helping you both feel that you have control over the situation and the emotions that you're feeling.

6. STAY INFORMED

Make sure you know your child's school's definition of, response to and relevant contacts for bullying. This information should be in their anti-bullying policy, which ought to be available on the school's website. Class teachers or form tutors are usually the first point of contact, though there may be dedicated support teams or key workers to help your child, depending on the specific situation.

7. PREP YOUR CHILD FOR THE RESPONSE

Schools' responses to bullying vary depending on whether they're resolving disagreements and arguments, or addressing unintended verbal or physical harm and so on. It's important to work out with your child whether any harm was intentional, how much control they had over the situation and how often such incidents have occurred. Reporting concerns accurately will get the best outcome for your child more quickly.

8. SUMMARISE YOUR CHILD'S EXPERIENCE

When you contact the school, make sure you've precisely described what your child experienced: what happened; when; where; and who was involved. This will help the school to investigate further, identifying any witnesses, as well as those who were directly involved. It can also help the school to know how your child is feeling and how they'd like the matter to be resolved.

9. LIAISE WITH THE SCHOOL

Any school has a duty to ensure that the members of its community feel safe and included. It's important for children to learn their role in this. The school must determine how best to restore these feelings of safety and respect. It's often best for schools to keep parents and carers informed of any action taken – and for families to avoid taking matters into their own hands.

10. CHECK IN FREQUENTLY

Once the issue has been resolved and the bullying behaviour has stopped, your child may still feel anxious and might find it difficult to rebuild relationships or develop new ones. Parents, carers and the school should all keep an eye on how the child is feeling and acting over the following months. Any relevant information should be shared, so that further support can be planned if necessary.

Meet Our Expert

Bob Basley is the Director of Anti-Bullying Quality Mark-UK, which challenges and supports schools to develop sustainable whole-school approaches to prevent bullying, including working with parents and carers. More than 80 schools in England and Wales currently hold the quality mark.



The National College

Source: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/768040/survey_of_pupils_and_their_parents_or_carers_march_2021.pdf
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