



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. 7 : 18 Oct 2024

DIARY DATES



Tues 22 Oct
Thurs 24 Oct
w/c 28 Oct
Mon 4 Nov
5—8 Nov
w/c 11 Nov

Parent Teacher Consultations — remember to check your allocated slot time
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Half term
INSET Day—school closed for staff training
No After School Clubs this week
St Peter's Book Week

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week we have had the opportunity to show many prospective parents around our wonderful school. I always say that I am biased when we present our school to others, not least in the classrooms or through the work the children do, but when showing them around the beautiful grounds and countryside surrounding us. Equally at these times (as well as so many others) we see the pride that the children have as they speak about what they are doing, what they enjoy and what makes their school so special. This is absolutely heart-warming to hear.

This lends itself beautifully to the concept of 'Spirituality' - the idea for children of 'Awe, Wonder and Curiosity'. We encourage the children to explore the world around them with a sense of wonder and curiosity and they do this in abundance. But what is Spirituality? Spirituality is the feeling we get when we are amazed by the beauty of nature or the kindness of people. We are seeing this at every step of the way in school.

Spirituality is all about 'Connection' and 'Inner Feelings'. Helping the children to understand it as a way of feeling connected to something bigger than themselves, whether it be through nature, art, or acts of kindness. It is also about the feelings we have inside that make us think about who we are and what we believe is important.

For Parents, Spirituality could be about Personal Growth; encompassing values, beliefs, and a sense of purpose. It could be about Community and Belonging; connecting with others and finding a sense of belonging in the community. I truly believe that these are all true of St Peter's School.

It could also be about Reflection and Mindfulness: Encouraging us to see spirituality as an opportunity for reflection and being mindful of our actions and thoughts.

So how can we communicate Spirituality?

What about taking a "Nature Exploration Walk"? Take a walk around the school grounds or a nearby wood etc near you. Ask the children to observe the different plants, animals, and sounds. Encourage them to share what makes them feel happy, peaceful, or curious.

After the walk, discuss how being in nature made them feel. This can be used as an opportunity to talk about spirituality as appreciating and feeling connected to the world around us. Because, we do have a beautiful world, and we don't always appreciate it in our busy lives!



A MESSAGE FROM THE ECO TEAM

Our Eco Team have also been thinking about our beautiful world and exploring ideas to help protect it in our own setting. They are excited about starting their first project, thought of by them, to design and create bug hotels to help support the creatures found in our environment. We will share these with you as they progress. If you do go on your nature walk this weekend, and you find lots of pine cones etc, the children have asked that you please collect them, as they would love to have them for this project.



THE GREAT FIRE OF TANDRIDGE

As part of their history learning this half term the Dragonflies children set about burning their 1666 model houses on Thursday to demonstrate how the fire took hold between the closeknit houses. This definitely was a time for awe and wonder, not only for them but for the whole school as they watched the event. It was a wonderful way to visually show what happened as the children tried to pass buckets of water down their line as quickly as possible and without spilling it. The children were fantastic when answering questions and acknowledging the differences between 'then and now' in how houses are built, the fire protections we have now such as fire alarms as well as the actual differences in the fire brigade and systems they used then. These kinds of activities really embed themselves and will be remembered for a long time to come.



Coincidentally we also held a Fire Drill practise (as is statutory requirement) yesterday in order to ensure that all staff and pupils are fully aware of what to do in the event of a fire/evacuation, to ensure our procedures are familiar and robust, and to help reduce panic should a real fire occur. This was the first such drill of the academic year and fire drills will be repeated regularly throughout the year. The children were amazing—sensible, calm and impeccably behaved – well done everyone! (and in particular, our Busy Bees as this was their first practise. They were excellent—Well done Busy Bees). Lockdown drills are also practised during the year to prepare us for situations where it might be safer to remain inside the school, such as if there is a threat outside. These drills help us ensure that everyone knows the procedure to stay safe and calm in the unlikely event of such a situation.

FIRE PROCEDURES

A fire drill is held at least every half term. When the alarm sounds children and adults go out of the nearest exit and assemble on the field/playground. Teachers stay with their classes and all other adults should report to the office staff who will make sure all are accounted for. If you are in or in the vicinity of the building when the alarm is raised please go to the assembly point located at the top end of the playground (by the flagpole) immediately and follow instructions given by staff members. Do not take your child[ren] - staff are responsible for them and will ensure they are accounted for as per our normal fire drill routines.

I hope you all have a really brilliant weekend. We know the children are getting very tired but just one more week until half-term!

God Bless, Lenia Greenaway



Going on a Bear Hunt—we have to go through it



BUSY BEES

In Busy Bees we have been learning about the five senses. The children have conducted Science experiments based around taste and smell and recorded their findings in their books. In Maths we have learned about routines, time and positional language. To reinforce positional language knowledge we went on a "Bear Hunt" during our outdoor learning session, applying the language in a concrete context. In Art we created Autumn observational drawing and leaf rubbing patterns.

Homework: Sounds of the week handwriting practice

LADYBIRDS

We have had a lovely week with lots of learning taking place in Ladybirds. We have been learning to use a number line to help us subtract in Maths. We are becoming very confident with using number lines to help us with our maths problems. In English, we shared the story 'Laura's Star' by Klaus Baumgart and we designed our own star, using adjectives to describe it to our class friends. In Art we have created some pieces based on the works of Piet Mondrian—these are looking really great.

Homework: Subtraction

DRAGONFLIES

Dragonflies have had an exciting week which saw the culmination of their Great Fire of London model project. The children were fascinated to see how their model Tudor houses responded to the fire, helping them to understand how the Great Fire had spread so quickly throughout London in 1666. In the words of Benjamin Franklin "Tell Me and I Forget; Teach Me and I May Remember; Involve Me and I Learn" and this was truly an example to prove his theory. We continued our Fire of London theme through Maths this week, solving a number of Fire of London based word problems which tested our addition and subtraction skills. In English this week we have focused on conjunctions and punctuation when writing diary entries for Paddington about his experiences in London. We also explored homophones to understand how words might sound the same but may have different meanings.

Homework: Read the story of Noah

CHURCH NEWS



Our services this Sunday:

11am All Age Worship
6.30pm Evening Prayer

Dear God,

Please fill our children with ALL spiritual wisdom and understanding and enable them to live to Your praise and glory.

Lord, I ask You to cause Your wisdom to bear fruit in our children's lives so that their knowledge of You would grow and grow.

Amen.



PARENT TEACHER CONSULTATIONS: TUES 22 & THURS 24 OCT

A reminder that we have our Parent Teacher Consultations next week. The meetings will take place in the classrooms. Please check carefully for your allocated appointment slot and ensure that you arrive in plenty of time as we may not be able to accommodate you if you are late for your appointment. You are able to have a quick look at your child's books before/after the appointment if you wish. Please remember that the slots are 10 minutes—we do need to be quite strict about this. Any overruns, however small, can have a significant knock on effect for later appointments so your consideration is greatly appreciated. If you wish to discuss any individual matters further please make an appointment with the class teacher for a mutually convenient time.



HOUSE TEAM POINTS



40



46



54



NOTICEBOARD

FIREWORKS SAFETY TIPS

HERE ARE OUR TOP TEN TIPS TO KEEPING YOUR CHILDREN SAFE THIS BONFIRE NIGHT.

- DON'T BUILD A BONFIRE TOO HIGH**
ALWAYS ENSURE YOUR FIRE IS BUILT IN AN OPEN SPACE AND NOT TOO CLOSE TO HOUSES, HEDGES, FENCES OR TREES. WHERE POSSIBLE, TRY TO ATTEND AN ORGANISED DISPLAY AND KEEP A SAFE DISTANCE TO ENSURE YOUR SAFETY.
- NEVER LIGHT A BONFIRE WITH PETROL**
ON ANY FLAMMABLE LIQUID. INSTEAD USE PROMPTLY FIRE LIGHTERS AND NEVER THROW METEORIC CANDS OR TYRES ONTO A FIRE.
- KEEP A BUCKET OF WATER NEARBY**
ENSURE YOU HAVE A HOSEPIPE OR BUCKET OF WATER ON HAND IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY. USUALLY FIREWORKS AND SPARKLES SHOULD ALWAYS BE PLACED INTO THE BUCKET AFTER USE FOR SAFETY.
- ONLY BUY FIREWORKS MARKED WITH THE BS7114 KITEMARK**
YOU SHOULD ALSO NEVER PLACE FIREWORKS IN YOUR POCKET. BE SURE TO STORE THEM IN A COOL, DRY PLACE.
- ALWAYS FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS**
AND REMEMBER TO USE A TONG AND NOT THE LIGHT OF A FLAME TO READ THE INSTRUCTIONS ON EACH FIREWORK. BE SURE TO USE A TONG TO LIGHT THE FIREWORK AT A SAFE DISTANCE AND STAND WELL BACK FROM THEM. ALWAYS SUPERVISE YOUNG CHILDREN AROUND FIREWORKS.

SESDA
SOUTH EAST SURREY DYSLLEXIA ASSOCIATION
Affiliated to the British Dyslexia Association SESDA Reg. Charity no.281978

Teachers, Parents and Carers

New venue for SESDA meetings
Canada Hall, All Saints Church, Battlebridge Lane, Merstham RH1 3HA
Parking outside Church or in adjoining roads

Tuesday 12th November 2024
8pm to 10pm

SEND Advice Surrey
SEND Advice Surrey provides impartial, confidential and free advice to parents and carers. Two members of the team will tell us how they can advise and support parents who are concerned about the progress their children are making at school.
See website: www.sendadvice.surrey.org.uk
and
A chance for parents and carers to meet Committee members to talk about any concerns they have about dyslexia at home or in school.
It would be helpful to know numbers beforehand.
Contact sesdadyslexia@hotmail.com
Canada Hall, All Saints Church,
Battlebridge Lane, Merstham RH1 3HA
SESDA Helpline: 01737 556173 E-mail: sesdadyslexia@hotmail.com

Proud to be part of
NHS Surrey and Borders Partnership
MIND Partnership
Mineworks Surrey
Believe in children
Barnardo's

The children and young people's emotional wellbeing and mental health service

Barnardo's Surrey Neurodevelopmental Services

Are you a parent or carer in Surrey of a young person who presents with ADHD behaviours?
Free or post diagnosed

Our helpline is here to support you, no referral needed.

0300 222 5755
Free to call, press option 4
5pm-11pm 365 days

Our trained helpline practitioners are able to support with a variety of concerns.

- Sleep Concerns
- Diet Concerns
- Dopamine Seeking Behaviours
- Routines
- School Anxiety
- Screen Time Limits
- Connections with Family or Siblings
- Risky Behaviours

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

CHIDDINGSTONE CASTLE

HALF TERM HALLOWEEN TALES

OPEN EVERY DAY
27 OCT - 3 NOV

OPENING HOURS
11-5

SPOOKY STORYTELLING INSIDE THE CASTLE
GHOSTLY GUIDE | MYSTERY TO SOLVE
CRAFTS | THEMED TEA ROOM TREATS
STORYTELLING INCLUDED WITH YOUR ADMISSION TICKETS

SUNDAY 27 OCT - SUNDAY 3 NOV
OPEN EVERY DAY THIS WEEK
11 AM - 5 PM (LAST ENTRY 4:15)

CHIDDINGSTONE CASTLE, HILL HOATH ROAD, TN8 7AD

www.chiddingstonecastle.org.uk



godstonefarm.co.uk

Godstone Farm
Discover • Explore • Play

26TH OCTOBER - 3RD NOVEMBER

HALLOWEEN AT GODSTONE FARM!

Do you dare brave the wall and place your hand into the unknown?

Prepare for tricks, and plenty of treats with activities including meet & greets, Halloween mini golf, pumpkin carving, and marshmallow toasting!

Additional cost.

Tandridge Village Pre School presents a

Spooktacular Halloween Crafternoon

Join us for a fun family afternoon at
Tandridge Village Hall, RH8 9NN (Tandridge, Oxted)

Saturday 19th October 1pm-3pm

Fancy dress encouraged!

- Meet a park ranger with his dinosaur!
- Halloween crafts, hair styling & tattoos
- Games and sweetie tombola
- Bouncy castle
- Scavenger hunts
- Cakes and refreshments for sale
- Second-hand fancy-dress costume sale

£4 entry per child

SATURDAY 2ND NOVEMBER 6:00-10:00PM

HOLLAND SPORTS FIREWORKS DISPLAY

BAR AND BBQ

NO PARKING ON SITE
PLEASE USE PUBLIC TRANSPORT

FREE ENTRY
DONATIONS WELCOME
BRING CASH FOR BUCKETS

CHIDDINGSTONE CASTLE

FATHER CHRISTMAS AFTERNOON TEA

DECEMBER 1ST, 7TH, 8TH, 15TH, 22ND & 23RD

3 SITTINGS PER DAY

FAMILY CHRISTMAS EXPERIENCE INSIDE THE CASTLE
STORYTIME | PERSONAL VISIT | TRAIL GOODY BAG | FESTIVE TEA | CRAFTS

ADVANCE TICKETS ONLINE £40 CHILD - ADULT £35
NO ENTRY WITHOUT A PRE-BOOKED AFTERNOON TEA TICKET

3 SITTINGS PER DAY
ARRIVAL TIMES: BRUNCH 9:30AM
AFTERNOON TEA 12PM & 2:30PM

CHIDDINGSTONE CASTLE, HILL HOATH ROAD, TN8 7AD

www.chiddingstonecastle.org.uk



HALF TERM TENNIS CAMP

Monday 28th - Wednesday 30th October

matchpoint TENNIS

Ages 4-11 9.00-12.00 Ages 11-18 13.30-16.30

Bookings now OPEN!

Camp led by Head Coach Graeme Livingstone

Click the link below to find out more:

Sign up

CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION—A HALF TERM ACTIVITY WHICH MAY BE OF INTEREST

As we approach the festive season, I am delighted to invite your school to take part in my eagerly anticipated annual Christmas Card competition for primary school children in East Surrey. The winning design will be sent to many MPs, local residents, local businesses, and even His Majesty the King!

Design Guideline: Entries should be on A4. I encourage the designers to use any medium they would like, the more the merrier I say!

Submission Deadline: 10/11/24.

Prize: Every year, I welcome the winning artist to Parliament for tea and biscuits.

I would be grateful if you could encourage your students to participate in what promises to be a fun and festive competition. Please send all entries by post to Claire Coutinho, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA, or as an email attachment to claire.coutinho.mp@parliament.uk

I can't wait to see this year's cards. Please do not hesitate to contact my office at claire.coutinho.mp@parliament.uk with any questions.

Best wishes,

Claire

Claire Coutinho | Member of Parliament for East Surrey

House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA | 0207 219 5972

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about HORROR FILMS & AGE RATINGS

The 'on-demand' availability of streaming platforms in many homes creates extra possibilities for young viewers to be exposed to age-inappropriate content. Material which features horror or violence can cause anxiety and nightmares for children, especially since it can be hard for young ones to grasp that what they're watching isn't real.

CLASSIFICATION BREAKDOWN

The British Board of Film Classification has the following age ratings:

- U:** Suitable for all ages
- PG:** For children aged 8 and above; this content shouldn't unsettle them
- 12A:** Children under the age of 12 should not watch without an adult; this content potentially features bad language, nudity or sexual references
- 15:** Suitable only for 15-year-olds and above
- 18:** Exclusively for an adult audience, with potentially explicit themes of violence, nudity or sex

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

STREAMING IS EVERYWHERE

Modern mobile devices make it very easy for children to watch streamed films without the need for a TV. The availability of inappropriate content has risen significantly on streaming platforms, almost all of which host 18-rated content. If not restricted by parental controls, this could be viewed by children who aren't quite ready for such adult themes, concepts and imagery.

FACT VS. FICTION

Many children have no trouble separating fact from fiction. However, with modern day technology making pretend violence and horror look ever more realistic, it's becoming harder for youngsters to tell the difference. For instance, consider remakes of older films, where dated special effects (making it easy to discern that something wasn't real) have been replaced by far more convincing monsters and gore.

PEER PRESSURE

Friends encouraging each other to watch the latest film featuring violence or horror can lead to children consuming content that they're not ready for. As 18+ content is available on many streaming platforms, youngsters can watch these together – potentially without their parents' or carers' knowledge.

CHILDREN SCARE DIFFERENTLY

It can be difficult to decide what content is appropriate for children. What's fine for one child could be extremely frightening for another. As many children admit to not sharing or discussing the content they watch with their parents, encouraging an open dialogue around the kind of media that young people consume can help avoid exposing them to any inappropriate content.

PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACTS

Horror prides itself on its ability to startle or induce genuine fear in the viewer – so it's no surprise that this genre isn't usually intended for children. A natural side-effect of this is that 'jump scares' or a creepy, suspenseful atmosphere can have lasting effects on younger minds. The resulting anxiety can impact a child's sleeping patterns or eating habits.

Advice for Parents & Educators

WATCH THE FILM FIRST

If you're concerned that a film might be unsuitable for children (whether it's their first dive into the horror genre or a step up in age classification), then take a look for yourself. There's no better way to judge whether this content is something you'd deem appropriate for a child – and if a parent, for example, has actually seen the film (or at least a portion of it), they can construct a far more credible case if they decide it's inappropriate.

REMEMBER – IT'S NOT REAL

Emphasise to children that the content they're viewing is entirely fictional and has no chance of affecting them in real life. If a child is upset after watching a film, try to understand what exactly has unsettled them: this can help you approach the topic in a healthy and informative manner, to dispel any fears or anxieties they may have.

DISCUSS THE CONTENT OF FILMS

If a child has seen a film that you think may have exposed them to potentially uncomfortable themes and ideas, don't shy away from talking about it, and answer any questions they may have. This is especially important if they watched the film without an adult present. Ask them to summarise the story for you, as this will give you an understanding of what they've learned from watching it.

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Most streaming platforms have the option to put age ranges on children's accounts. This means that films and shows that are inappropriate for children won't be advertised while they're browsing and won't even appear if a child specifically searches for them. This can be changed any time at parents' discretion, but it's wise to protect these settings with a password, so a child can't alter anything on their own.

Meet Our Expert

John Insley is an assistant principal at a secondary school. He has been involved with e-safety in schools for over 10 years, writing policies and supporting various schools in developing their e-safety provision. John has introduced a range of strategies at multiple schools aimed at helping parents to better support their child in the ever-changing digital world.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/horror-films-and-age-ratings>



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