



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. 18 : 24 Jan 2025

DIARY DATES

Sat 25 Jan	Deadline for responses to the Consultation on Proposed Changes to St Mary's Admission Policy
Tues 28 Jan	Dragonflies Class Trip to NorthWest Surrey Synagogue
Tues 4 Feb	Ladybirds Class Trip to NorthWest Surrey Synagogue
Tues 11 Feb	9am-10am ICT and E-Safety Open Morning with Parent Information Session and open classroom
Fri 14 Feb	INSET Day—School closed for staff training
Mon 24 Feb	Back to school

Dear Parents and Carers,

It may have been 'Blue Monday' this week, but there was definitely no sign of this at school. As always the children have had a busy week. We were treated to a great assembly on Tuesday by Phil Hosp, Group Lead Volunteer & Hurst Green Cubs Team Leader - 1st Oxted Scouts, to talk to them about a new Beavers group that they would like to establish in Hurst Green. He showed the children lots of interesting equipment that they use for all sorts of exciting activities and trips. There will be an open evening of activities on Tuesday 4 February. If you would like further details please see the poster in the "Noticeboard" section of this newsletter or contact Phil directly at: phil.hosp@1stoxtedscouts.com.

Reverend Ashton led Collective Worship on Wednesday, talking to the children about 'Peace' and how this can come out of friendship and talking to one another. He surprised us all with a very interesting piece of information that none of us knew! 'Jelly Babies', when created by Bassetts, were originally known as "Peace Babies". They were launched as 'Peace Babies' in 1918 to celebrate the ending of World War 1. However, they stopped production during World War 2 due to not being able to get the ingredients. When they were re-launched in 1953 they were then called "Jelly Babies". The sweets were invented in 1864 by an Austrian immigrant working at Fryers of Lancashire and were originally marketed in 1885 as "Unclaimed Babies" - what a sad name!



Jelly Babies come with their own personas – even their own names! The Jelly Baby gang consists of Bubbles (the yellow one), Baby Bonny (that's the red one – to you and me), Boofuls (the green jelly baby), Bigheart (the dark purple, blackcurrant flavoured baby) and Bumper (by process of elimination, Bumper is, of course, the orange one)! Boofuls appears to be crying, but don't worry, nothing terrible has happened – Boofuls is just a little sensitive. In a 1993 Jelly Babies advert, it was revealed the Boofuls cries at everything – whether she's happy or sad – "she's a real cry baby".

On Thursday, members of Dragonflies Class presented their docu-drama about the Titanic to the rest of the school. They had added some addition songs to their performance and Joseph played the piano. This just gives us a wonderful example of how the children become thoroughly engaged in their topics and the joy it brings

ATTENDANCE

Please be aware that St Peter's C of E Infant School does not approve term-time holiday absence.

We do all we can to encourage full attendance and identify and act promptly on any factors which affect this as outlined in our Attendance Policy. The Education Inclusion Office can, and does, issue fines to parents for unauthorised absence from school.

May I remind you that under no circumstances will family holidays and other events that involve children being taken out of school in term time be authorised unless they are to attend another educational establishment, or are for medical reasons. The absence will be recorded as unauthorised, as per the new attendance guidance that came into effect from August 2024.

The changes to guidance include unauthorised absence, holidays and persistent absentees. The issuing of a Penalty Notice has changed, and the fine has increased. The circumstances where a fine may be given has also been updated. For example, please see below:

The Inclusion Service, acting on behalf of Surrey County Council may issue a Penalty Notice as an alternative to the prosecution of a parent/carer for their child's unauthorised absence from school and requires the recipient to pay a fixed amount.

If a parent/carer has not incurred a penalty notice relating to this child/children in a rolling 3 year period since 19 August 2024, then the penalty notice will be charged at the rate of £160.00 per parent/carer per child, if paid within 28 days. This will be reduced to £80.00 if paid within 21 days of receipt of the notice. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice will result in Surrey County Council considering legal proceedings against the parent/carer in the Magistrates Court.

If a parent/carer has incurred a penalty notice relating to this child/children since 19 August 2024, the rolling 3 year period will be activated from the date of the first penalty notice and the second penalty notice will be charged at the flat rate of £160.00 per parent/carer per child, if paid within 28 days. There will be no reduction for payment within 21 days. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice will result in Surrey County Council considering legal proceedings in the Magistrates Court.

I recognise that some children will not be of compulsory school age yet, however, when parents place their child in full time education, they are accepting responsibility and committing to the regulations of the school for full time education (unless discussed with the school first) for their child from the moment they are placed on roll.

I am sure you will appreciate that holidays during term time are very disruptive for the children involved, their classmates and their teachers alike. However much you may ask for additional learning materials to be sent home, they are missing out on all aspects of school life including the importance of socializing with their peers and missing specific topics or events, which they can then find rather tricky to adjust back into and catch up on upon their return.

AFTER SCHOOL FOOTBALL

There are spaces remaining in After School Football on Tuesday afternoons. Football is open to all year groups and to both boys and girls—and we would really love to encourage more of our girls to join in with this great game. The club promotes teamwork and friendship as well as developing basic skills such as concentration, discipline and tenacity. If your child would like to try a session of football you can sign them up for a trial with BBSoccer using the following link >> www.bbsoccer.co.uk

Please remember to also notify the school office if your child is attending a trial session. Thank you.



Some facts about school attendance...

- The Government set 96% as the minimum satisfactory attendance for all pupils.
- Keeping children away from school for no good reason is a criminal offence.
- Young children find it very hard to get back into their friendship groups after a period of absence.
- 80% attendance is the same as having a day off every week.
- Shopping for new clothes or taking time off school for a Birthday are not good enough reasons to keep your child off school.
- Birkby Infant and Nursery School will not authorise absences without a good reason.
- Children with over 90% school attendance are more likely to gain 5 or more A to C GCSEs.
- A 2 week absence each year in Infant and Junior school adds up to missing 14 weeks of teaching time—this will have a negative impact on your child's literacy and numeracy skills. Think again before you consider taking a 'Leave of Absence' during school time.
- There are 175 non-school days:
 - To spend time together.
 - To go on family visits.
 - To go shopping.
 - To attend routine appointments.
- There is a strong link between good school attendance and achieving good results. Children who frequently miss school may fall behind in their work which can affect their future prospects.
- Absence in a school year:
 - 10 days = 95%
 - 19 days = 90%
 - 29 days = 85%
 - 38 days = 80%
 - 47 days = 75%
- MISSING SCHOOL = MISSING OUT. MAKE SURE YOUR CHILD IS IN SCHOOL EVERY DAY!
- Children who have poor attendance may find it difficult to catch up on work they have missed.

Attendance Matters

...every school day counts!

CLASS NEWS

BUSY BEES

This week Busy Bees have been learning all about stars, constellations and the Solar System planets. We created and named our own constellations and learnt about the life cycle of the different stars. We also learned about the life of Vincent Van Gogh and created our own versions of his famous painting "Starry Night". We explored the story "Bob the Man on the Moon" by Simon Bartram and wrote about our favourite part of the story. In Maths we have been exploring odd and even numbers and counting in 2's.

Homework: Around 5pm tomorrow evening (25 Jan) a planetary alignment, one of the greatest planetary displays in years, will take place. Also known as a planet parade, six planets will line up in a row across the night sky. Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn will be visible to the naked eye and Neptune and Uranus can be seen through a telescope. If possible I would like the Busy Bees to witness this event and record their findings using photographs or drawing and writing a few words or sentences about this amazing event. There are many stargazing apps available which you may find useful. You may also want to consider visiting the observatory at Kenley. There is no need to book and it is free. Details on their Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/CroydonAstronomicalSociety/> or see www.croydonastro.org.uk/observatory



LADYBIRDS

Ladybirds have had a practical week this week. In Maths we have been learning about 3D shapes, learning their names and investigating whether they can roll or stack. We have also tried making some shapes using nets. As part of our outdoor learning, we used sticks and other natural materials to make 3D shapes. In RE we have been learning about the Jewish faith. We have looked carefully at Jewish artefacts and can now confidently name them and talk about what they are used for. Today we are going to be making Havdalah candles out of clay and pipe cleaners, which we are very excited about.

Homework: 3D Shapes

DRAGONFLIES

We have been very busy investigating history sources in Dragonflies this week. We used a mix of primary and secondary sources and decided if we felt these sources were reliable by asking – do they have a reason to lie?; do they support what we know?; and who provided the sources of information? In Maths we have continued to work with fractions. We are now finding fractions that aren't just one part and we are exploring the concept of remainders, applying this to word problems. In Science we have conducted another material hunt, looking for fabric around the school. We then compared and contrasted this to other materials. In English we have started to write our versions of the 'Up' film, using clips from the film as a guide. In DT we have studied models of the Titanic and then created our own using clay which we will paint on Monday and put on display.

Homework: Research: Transport through History



"You could actually walk miles along the decks and passages covering different ground all the time. I was thoroughly familiar with pretty well every type of ship afloat but it took me 14 days before I could, with confidence, find my way from one part of that ship to another."

-Charles Lightoller, Second Officer aboard Titanic

CHURCH NEWS

Our services this Sunday:

11am Family Service
6.30pm Evening Prayer

A digital version of the Parish Magazine has been created by voluntary members of Tandridge Village. Although it took a little while to work out logistics you are able to access the December copy here. It is a very good read, if I say so myself!

>> [St Peter's Church & Tandridge Village Magazine](#)

Loving God,
help us to work for peace,
and to pray for peace,
believing that all people are your children.
Amen.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

Rosie (age 5)

Keep smiling, there is light at the end of the tunnel! By mid-January, daylight will increase by about 2 minutes a day. By the 20 February, it's up to 3 minutes per day so we will be up to 10 hours, 53 minutes of daylight. Now that is something to look forward to!

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend.

God Bless, *Lenia Greenaway*

HOUSE TEAM POINTS



24



41



35

Friday 14 February

INSET DAY

School closed to students

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 Vaquinhas, or telephone Surrey Child Services contact centre on:



Tel: 0300 200 1006

"Safeguarding is Everyone's Business"

PLEASE NAME ALL GLOVES, HATS, SCARVES, COATS coming in to school!

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

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



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Beating asthma together
13th February 7.30-8pm





<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/abb4bb3b-ab3d-4b23-a331-e9447e561aa4@37c354b2-85b0-47f5-b222-07b48d774ee3>

Are you a parent or carer whose child has asthma or suspected asthma?

Join us on at this event to look at the challenges facing children and young people with asthma and how we can help overcome them.

Surrey heartlands children and young people's asthma team

Beating asthma together: Asthma triggers, the effects of smoking, vaping, housing and air pollution on asthma
10th March 7.30-8pm

<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/4d69dc58-004c-4124-879f-53f117c194c2@37c354b2-85b0-47f5-b222-07b48d774ee3>

Does your child or young person have asthma or suspected asthma?

Join us on this webinar which focusses on what action we can take to reduce their exposure to triggers that can make their asthma worse.

Surrey heartlands children and young people's asthma team

Hurst Green Beavers Open Evening

Want to have fun, learn new skills and make new friends? Come along and try lots of great activities at our Beavers taster session

Who
All local young people aged 5 to 7 years old (plus a parent / carer)

When
Tuesday 4th February, 5.30pm to 7:00pm

What
Open evening of activities for girls and boys

Where
Hurst Green Scout Hall, Mill Lane, Hurst Green, RH8 9DF (located just inside entrance to car park for Holland Sports / Trim Trail)

Contact
Phil Hoop at oxtedscoutsenquiry@gmail.com or call / WhatsApp 07799 062103 to find out more

www.1stoxtedscouts.com
#SkillsForLife



Scouts
Oxted & Hurst Green

About your child

Please fill in the form below and bring it to the event.
Alternatively email us at oxtedscoutsenquiry@gmail.com or call 07799 062103

The information in this form will be used to contact you following our open evening to keep you informed about joining the Scouts.

Please complete in block capitals

Name of young person

Postcode

Parent/carer contact email

Gender

Mobile telephone number

Young person's date of birth

Parent/carer name

School young person attends

Please tick the relevant section

BEAVERS 6 - 8 years old

cubs 8 - 10½ years old

SCOUTS 10½ - 14 years old

Please tick I would be interested in finding out more about how I can help.

This form is used to collect information about you and/or your young person for the purpose of registering your interest in Scouting. It is for use by our Scout Group. It will only be used for the purpose of contacting you about your young person. It is not to be used for any other purpose. We will not share your personal data with any other Scout Group or with any other organisation. We will keep your personal data for six months. This data will be deleted if we do not hear from you by then. For more details, see our privacy policy on our website. We will keep this data for a further six months for legal and compliance purposes. For more details, see our privacy policy on our website.

Scouts

OXTED PRE-SCHOOL

WE ARE HIRING

EARLY YEARS PRACTITIONER
PART TIME (hours to be confirmed)

The position is permanent subject to a DBS check and a probationary period. We are seeking an enthusiastic individual who works well as part of a team and who is happy to continue their personal development and skills throughout their posting.

A Level 3 or Level 2 qualification (Diploma for the Children and Young People's Workforce) is preferred and Safeguarding children and Paediatric First Aid training is desirable.

If you think this role is for you or you would like some more information, then please contact the Committee at committeeoxtedpreschool@gmail.com

www.oxtedpreschool.co.uk



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Fun Introduction to Cricket

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and use the 'JOIN' button to apply.
(Any problems contact janbarney@hotmail.co.uk)
(* if money is a barrier to participation we will reduce this)



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about HEALTH & FITNESS APPS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Physical wellbeing apps are useful tools for monitoring and improving our health. They allow us to balance nutrition, set goals, track our activities and sleep patterns, and motivate us to exercise. Nonetheless, there have been some reported drawbacks; this guide outlines some of these concerns and explains how to use fitness apps safely.

LACK OF PERSONALISATION

Many apps take a one-size-fits-all approach, failing to account for the varying ages and abilities of children: a 16-year-old, for example, will have different physical needs to a child of 10. This can create unrealistic expectations and set exercises which may be too advanced for younger children or too simple for older ones.

NOT DEVELOPED BY EXPERTS

Some fitness and wellbeing apps are developed by experts in the field – but a concerning number of them aren't. As such, these platforms may contain inaccurate information. They may present safety concerns by giving incorrect advice regarding physical activities or might include age-inappropriate content which would clearly cause more harm than good.

REDUCED INTERACTION WITH OTHERS

Physical wellbeing apps can remove the social and interactive elements which physical exercise can offer – for instance, meeting people at fitness classes, at the gym or during any other such activities. Research has found that young people generally dislike this aspect of fitness apps, suggesting that they would rather exercise in the company of friends or other like-minded individuals.

DATA AND PRIVACY CONCERNS

Fitness and wellbeing apps tend to collect a lot of personal information from their users, including name, location, date of birth, details of their physical health and more. It's worth keeping in mind that some of these apps may sell this data to third parties. We'd advise that any apps young people download should have the correct legislation in place to protect their safety and privacy while using the service.

ADDITIONAL COSTS

While many fitness apps are free to download, the initial content is quite basic. Users will only receive more helpful content (such as new workouts, nutrition advice or a personalised plan) by signing up to a subscription or paying for extra features. This can incentivise users to spend money on the service – a cost which can quickly mount up.

DEPENDENCY ON THE APP

While physical wellbeing apps can help motivate young users to manage their fitness, there's a possibility that – without being sent frequent rewards and reminders – children could start to lose their natural drive to be active. Young people may also become obsessed with tracking their exercise, health and eating habits: this can have negative effects on their mental and emotional wellbeing.

Advice for Parents & Educators

EXERCISE AND SOCIALISE

Highlight the importance of children enjoying fitness activities with family and friends, rather than always exercising alone. Emphasise the fun they can have by interacting with others rather than solely relying on an app to maintain their regime. Remind them of the importance of staying active, as well as the benefits of doing so with company.

PROMOTE POSITIVE BODY IMAGE

While we want children to be active and healthy, we must also ensure they don't become fixated on how they look and begin take things too far. During childhood and adolescence, the body is still growing and changing. It's vitally important for young people's wellbeing that we promote a positive body image and a healthy relationship with food, empowering them to make informed decisions about their diet and lifestyle.

REVIEW THE APP FIRST

Before allowing someone under 18 to install a fitness and wellbeing app, check its age rating, read its reviews and scroll through its data policy, to ensure its suitability for younger users. You could also try it yourself, to see if it's appropriate for the child's particular needs and decide if you're comfortable with them using it. Ensure that any privacy-compromising features – such as location tracking – are disabled.

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

As with all apps, it's important for parents to familiarise themselves with any controls on the app and to use these on a child's account. The specific settings vary between platforms but – most commonly – these will relate to screen-time limits, disabling or capping in-app purchases, and managing social aspects or features which aren't age appropriate. By utilising these controls, you can help to ensure a child is getting a safe experience.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/wellbeing-fitness-apps>

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