



NOTICES FOR ALL PARENTS Week Ending 6th October 2023



Staffing News

Next Wednesday, we bid farewell to Miss Yeates as she leaves us to have her baby. She will be missed, and we wish her a happy and healthy maternity leave. We look forward to meeting the new addition to the Yeates/Crosbie family.

Harvest

Next Thursday 12th October, we will be celebrating Harvest at school. This year we will be supporting [Loveworks](#) foodbank. If you would like to donate to this, please leave items in the red box located outside the PSA shop. They are in need of:

- Tinned meat meals
- Tinned sandwich meat (ham, spam, corned beef)
- Tinned casseroles
- Tinned soup
- Tinned vegetables
- Tinned fruit.

PSA Volunteers Needed

We are looking forward to a happy and successful Christmas Fair. Please let your class rep know if you can help with your class stall.

Please let your rep know if you are DBS checked and can attend any of upcoming open mornings. We would like to offer our visitors refreshments and the opportunity to chat with our parents about our great school.

Thank you.

Feeling Good Friday – 13th October

On Friday we will be celebrating the children's unique positive qualities, and nurturing and encouraging their strengths. This year's theme '*I can... We can...*' recognises the power of collaboration. The children can wear their own clothes to school – something comfortable that makes them 'feel good'! Please ensure that footwear is suitable for running around the playground and that hair is tied back safely. If your child has PE that day, please ensure that their clothes and shoe choice are comfortable and suitable for physical activity. We look forward to celebrating 'Feeling Good Friday' next week. Thank you for your support.

Parent Consultation Appointments

Please remember to sign up for a 10-minute appointment with your child's class teacher if you have not already done so (see Booking Information sent with the Weekly Notices on 22nd September. Bookings close at 3pm on Tuesday 17th October.

Primary School Admissions 2024-25

Primary, infant and junior school admissions for 2024 will open on 30th October. Parents and carers with a child who was born between 1st September 2019 and 31st August 2020 (or a child leaving Year 2 of an infant school in July 2024) will have until 15th January 2024 to apply for their child's 2024 school place.

Please see the [Primary Admissions leaflet](#) for more information.

R&Be Active – Half Term Activities

Please [click here](#) for half term activities run by Reigate & Banstead Brough Council. 50% discounts are offered to those in receipt of benefits. Please [check their website](#) for details.

Surrey County Council – Parent Governor

Surrey County Council's Children, Families, Lifelong Learning and Culture Select Committee, in accordance with regulation, is seeking a parent governor to join its membership.

The Committee is responsible for scrutinising Council services including education, children's social care, safeguarding, SEND support, adult learning and apprenticeships, arts, libraries and heritage.

The successfully elected applicant will join fifteen County Councillors and two other co-optees on the Committee for up to four years. The Council will reimburse travel expenses incurred by parent governor representatives.

If you would like any **further information** about the role or the work of the Committee, please contact Julie Armstrong at Surrey County Council (julie.armstrong@surreycc.gov.uk; 07816 091463).

If you would like to **apply**, please do so by sending a brief personal statement outlining your suitability for the role to Julie Armstrong at julie.armstrong@surreycc.gov.uk by Monday, 16 October 2023, after which an election will be held to determine who will be appointed to the position.

NOTICES FOR NURSERY PARENTS

Recycled materials

Please could you collect and bring in any of the following recycled materials - toilet rolls, tubes, small yoghurt pots, small boxes such as toothpaste boxes, tin cake cases, bottle tops, corks, any material or items that would be useful for making models.

Please remember not to include anything that has contained nuts or sesame as we have children in school who are severely allergic to these. Thank you.

NOTICES FOR RECEPTION PARENTS

Parent Helpers

After half term we would like to invite in any parents who would like to help in the classroom. This could be listening to readers, playing number, word or sound games or cutting/sticking resources for the class. If you are not DBS cleared with us, then please contact the school office who will be able to provide you with the relevant application information.

We would like all volunteers to attend a short volunteers meeting (enquire at the office for times) and then liaise with your class teacher to arrange suitable times for coming in.

Woodland Explorers in Reception

The woodland at Holmesdale School is part of our educational environment and we utilise this area, based upon the Forest School philosophy. Forest School is a holistic approach to learning which fosters the children's natural sense of enquiry as they explore in the outdoor environment. Although we are not a designated 'Forest School', we can teach the children some basic skills and knowledge they will need to promote their learning in all areas of the curriculum.

The skills and knowledge the children will gain are:

- The woodland rules of how to keep themselves and others safe during their outdoor experience.
- To dress independently and appropriately for different weather conditions.
- To develop their listening and attention skills through collaborative games and activities.
- To use tools and equipment appropriately and safely.
- To negotiate with their peers by listening to each other's ideas and working cooperatively together.
- To develop their own ideas and creativity using natural resources.
- To have the confidence and perseverance to learn through trial and error without a sense of failure.
- To develop independence and a sense of self-esteem in what they can do.
- To make choices while developing the skills and learning that have been demonstrated to them.
- To respect the woodland and come to understand how they can play a role in preservation and maintenance of their school woodland and the wider environment.

All Reception children will have the opportunity to go to the woodland, usually for an hour once a fortnight. We will provide waterproof trousers but would ask you to provide **named Wellington boots in a bag and a suitable warm, waterproof coat on their scheduled day**. Named hats and gloves will be needed in cold weather. Children can get muddy and a little wet as we do go out in the rain and during the winter.

We plan to start our 'Woodland Explorers' sessions next week:

Wednesday 11th 2023 October for Rabbits

Thursday 19th October for Ducks and Foxes

Thank you for your support in providing your child with the appropriate clothing and footwear on the relevant day.

Autumn

As we are observing the changes of a new season, please support your child by looking for signs of autumn and by collecting and sending into school any conkers, interesting leaves, acorns etc. (Please do not bring in any nuts as we have children in who are severely allergic to these.)

We invite children to bring in any autumnal stories or non-fiction books that they may have at home to share with their peers.

Reading Books

Your child will be bringing home their first reading book on Thursday 12th October. These books

are wordless books. Wordless books are designed to develop your child's vocabulary, storytelling skills and develop the idea that, in many books, the pictures and story are connected.

Please see the below article for more ideas/tips for enjoying wordless books

<https://www.readingrockets.org/article/sharing-wordless-picture-books>

Please return reader and library books on Mondays.

NOTICES FOR YEAR ONE PARENTS

Christmas Cards

Next week, beginning 9th October, we will be making Christmas cards to raise money for the PSA. If you have an up-to-date DBS check and would like to come into class to help with this activity, please let your child's class teacher know.

NumBots Log in details

Class teachers will resend every child their NumBots log-in cards so they are able to log in as we have had many requests for these.

It may be a good idea to stick them into your child's reading record book to keep them safe and accessible.

NOTICES FOR YEAR TWO PARENTS

Reading Books

Please remember to bring back your child's 2 reading books every Wednesday so we can send home new books on a Thursday.

Library Books

It is great to see how much the children enjoy books and reading.

Library books can be changed in our library session on a Friday. Please feel free to keep books for more than a week if they are proving to be a favourite. Your child can exchange their book for a new one when they are ready to do so.

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