



Dear Parents and Carers

Trips to the gym, kitchen safety, learning about our bodies and making new friends are just some of the things you will find in this edition of Spotlight.

Please look out for the page on our link with Royal Palaces and the work on the history of Hampton Court that has been happening this half term.

Looking through the class pages and from walking around classes, I hope you will agree that it looks like all of our pupils have settled into the rhythm of school life and are enjoying their time here.

Thank you for supporting the Harvest collection for the local Foodbank. It was great to see such generosity on display and a wonderful opportunity to support people in our community.

Have a lovely half term everyone, and we look forward to seeing you in the run up to Christmas! School starts back on Monday 3 November at 9.15am.

Rosie and Sarah

Badgers Class News

Badgers have had a great first half term getting to know each other! We have been learning about 'Our Bodies'. In literacy we have been working hard exploring all the letters and sounds in their names, we have one new letter every day to learn and compare it to the one we have learnt the day before. We read books, explore the letters and make marks in sensory trays or with writing tools.



In maths, we have been exploring numbers 1–10 through songs, Numicon, body part hunts, and group counting activities. We also learned about the concept of big and small by building towers, singing a "big and small" song, playing guessing games, exploring different-sized objects, and sorting items into groups.



Hedgehogs Class News

Hedgehogs have settled well into the new school year and are enjoying meeting up with their friends and getting to know new classmates. We are working especially hard in our literacy lessons and exploring letter recognition, spelling, writing and mark making. We use a variety of resources to help us, and everyone is very enthusiastic!



Foxes Class News

This half term in Foxes we have been thinking about the positive relationships we have with family and friends. We have talked about what makes a good friend, how we can be kind and caring and why it is important to treat others with respect. Through discussions and activities, we have reflected on the people who are special to us and we have made some gifts for the people we care about, including cards for our friends and peppermint creams for our family.



In maths we have enjoyed learning about 2D and 3D shapes. We have been busy naming different shapes, counting their sides, corners and faces and spotting them in the world around us. We have been comparing shapes and looking for patterns. One of our favourite activities was using shapes to make towers, castles and other creative pictures.



Squirrels Class News

Squirrels have loved our focus this half term 'Who do you think you are?' We have completed fun and practical hands-on learning during a range of subjects.

During our "using and applying" maths lessons we have enjoyed making repeated patterns using lots of different materials. Our favourite materials to make patterns out of was vegetables!



In PSHE we have enjoyed learning about ourselves, how to care for our bodies and our families. We have had fun taking turns to brush the giant teeth, washing our hands and even enjoyed a foot spa!



Squirrels have been working hard on building friendships with their peers on the playground too!



Woodpeckers News

We have been very busy in Woodpeckers Class this half term. We have enjoyed exploring our focus areas "all about me and "Autumn. We have embarked on a fun and sensory Autumn adventure with pumpkins, leaves and making apple crumble amongst many other activities.



Rabbits Class News

Every morning, Rabbits have a phonics session following the Little Wandle phonics programme. We sing and sign the alphabet song before focussing on the letter of the day with a fun interactive activity. We have been visited by an ENORMOUS dinosaur for the letter 'd', played with bubbles for the letter 'b', cleaned big teeth for the letter 't' and explored oats for the letter 'o'.



Every week, Rabbits enjoy a letter search to find the 4 letters of the week that we have been learning about. Which letter can you find??



Rabbits love stories! We have access to a range of books for children with Visual Impairment, which are loved by all Rabbits as they can feel the characters represented in the story. Every day, we have our class story which is an exciting mix of props, fun and laughter! This builds our skills of recognition and anticipation. Rabbits have also visited the Lower School library and enjoyed choosing books to read and take back to our classroom library.

Communication is really important in Rabbits. We use a range of communication access methods including eye gaze, MAKATON, switches, ipads and PODD books. Favoured switch sounds include a siren, a burp and a squeaky door! Rabbits also enjoy working on communicating their 'yes' and 'no' by singing the Mr Yes and Mr No song (with our yellow and red spoons).



Owls Class News

In science, Owls have been exploring the human body, both inside and out! We were excited to be in the company of "Steve", the skeleton, who had an outing from the science cupboard, and enjoyed discovering how the different bones in our body are connected and allow us to move around. We then had a go at recreating a skeleton using cotton buds and some were very detailed!

Learning about the inner workings of our bodies enabled us to get a bit noisier and messier! We listened to our heartbeat and replicated the rhythm using drums, noticing the difference after some exercise, and inflated balloons with a bicycle pump and blew air through straws to move objects and bubble wands to see how our lungs work. The messiest experiment was when we took a journey through the digestive system, observing how food works its way through our intestines and where it ends up!



In Geography Owls have been touring the UK with a stopover in England for a royal themed tea party, in Wales for an encounter with a (friendly!) dragon and a sing song and in Scotland for some caber tossing and porridge making!



Royal Palaces project

This half term Woodlands has been fortunate enough to be selected to take part in a pilot history project run by Royal Palaces!

The Schools Content Producers have created a multi sensory, immersive story based around Hampton Court Palace to heighten awareness of local history amongst SEND learners and to bring history alive in the classroom.

Owls, Elmwood and Ashwood have participated in themed sessions illustrating entertainment, food and feasting and horticulture at the Palace. Our senses have been stimulated as we have listened to fanfares, taken part in a joust, practised our royal greetings and enjoyed some banqueting and carousing in a royal tent that would be used to house the King and his entourage! We also learned that oranges were once grown in the gardens of the Palace and have inhaled the zesty smell of citrus as well as some lavender which would be used to mask some more unpleasant odours!

The scheme has been a real success and a fun and enjoyable sensory experience. The pupils have benefited from having history brought to life and feeling like Kings and Queens! We look forward to working further with Royal Palaces, developing our relationship with them and having more opportunities to animate and keep history alive.





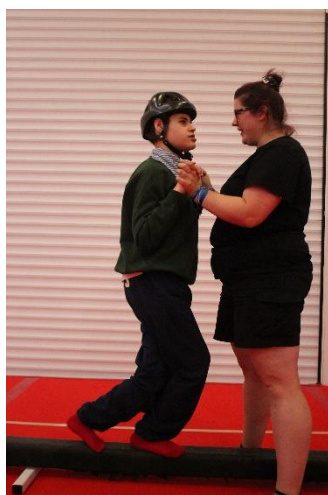
Elmwood Class News

The Elmwood pupils have been having great fun at their gymnastics sessions at Leatherhead Gym club this term. They have been learning about the importance of exercise and how this can improve their fitness and stamina levels. The pupils have listened to the instructions from the gym coaches and have developed their balance and confidence while safely using the different apparatus in the gym. The highlight of the sessions is using the trampoline!



Beechwood Class News

In Beechwood we are building relationships with our peers and enjoying our new friendships. We are focussing on working together in class and on weekly trips to the gym. Pupils have been able to share resources very well with each other, as well as asking peers to join in their activities and games. We are working hard on our communication through PODD and Proloquo2Go, as well as our verbal communication and working on our manners please and thank you.



Ashwood Class News

In Ashwood class we have been learning about keeping ourselves safe in the home. We have transferred our learning into using equipment safely in the food tech room, including using knives, microwaves, toasters and air fryers safely and cleaning up after ourselves to prevent trips and slips in the food tech room. We have laughed a few times about the potential of slipping on a banana skin, but more seriously have talked about the dangers of electrical items being near water.



During PSHE we have also discussed personal hygiene and the importance of cleaning our teeth thoroughly twice a day and keeping ourselves clean.



We have also thoroughly enjoyed our singing sessions at the Beeches Care Home.



Orchard Class News

Orchard are enjoying being back together and welcoming a couple of old friends from previous classes. We are also loving being back at the cycling sessions, trying out some new bikes and working hard on our pedalling and core strength.

We have enjoyed learning all about the United Kingdom in geography and we had a fun mini-Orchard Olympics to cheer on our country and explore the different flags of each nation. We worked hard to flip tyres, bounce as high as we could and to score as many goals as we could for our team.

We explored harvest this term and thought about where our food comes from and had a go at planting some pumpkin seeds. It will be very exciting to see if they grow as big as the pumpkin we had in maths to think about big and small! It's been great settling back into the routines of school and we are learning how to work alongside our friends and take turns, even when we really don't want to have to wait!!

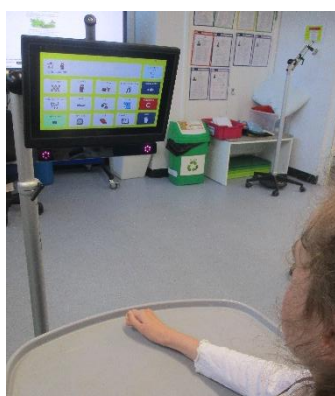


Pinewood Class News

Pinewood Class are happy to be together again with the addition of two old friends from lower school. There is a constant bustle of AAC devices, vocalisations, words and body movements as we respond to each other's communication. We have found the incorporation of our movement targets into the curriculum to be lots of fun as we access learning in different positions, work on gripping and letting go and stretching. We have made a lot of noise and mess in the process.



In PSHE this half term we have been looking at the difference between friends and family. We have been using our AAC to greet different people – asking a family member for a cuddle for example or giving gentle hellos with high fives to friends. In phonics we have been exploring different sounds we might hear around the house and linking them to other sounds we can recognise.





Important Dates for Autumn Term 2025

Monday 27 to Friday 31 October

Half Term Holiday

Monday 3 November

School re-opens

Friday 5 December

LS Christmas Show

Friday 12 December

US Christmas Soiree

Friday 19 December

Break up for Christmas, 1pm

Monday 22 December to Friday 2 January

Christmas Holiday

Lunch Time Clubs on offer this term



Big Bubble Club



Writing & Drawing Club

Lower School



Ribbon/ Parachute Games



Dance Club



Music Club

Upper School



Exercise Club



Physio Club



Lego & Games Club



Dance Club



Ball Games

A message from the Therapists

EQUIPMENT - WHO TO CONTACT:

It is your responsibility to maintain equipment by cleaning regularly, checking all fixings are secure and that any straps including those with buckles or Velcro continue to fasten. Pelvic straps should be used when the child is seated.



- For queries about a child's position or posture in their classroom seating please contact OT. Their email address is emily.yelland@hrcaregroup.com.

- For queries about a child's position in their standing frame, walker or sleep system please contact physio by emailing rebecca.fisk@hrcaregroup.com.



- For broken equipment or issues with maintenance (standers, chairs, walkers and sleep systems) please call Millbrook on 0330 124 1247.



- For Issues with wheelchairs (including positioning and maintenance concerns) please contact wheelchair services on 0330 124 8210 or by email surreywcs@rosscare.co.uk.

- For issues regarding orthotics (including boots, splints, gaiters, helmets etc) please contact Epsom General Hospital Orthotics on 01372 735 568 or email esth.orthoticsserviceegh@nhs.net.



- For queries regarding home equipment (including seating, bathing, hoisting) please contact The Children with Disabilities OT Team on 0300 470 9100.

The Woodlands Fridge

The Woodlands Fridge has been running on Saturday evenings for over a year now.

Each week we take perfectly good food that would otherwise be thrown away and make it available to anyone that can use it. In that time, we have rescued and shared the equivalent of over 25,000 meals.



We never know what we are going to be given until our Woodlands volunteers arrive to collect and each week the content and amount varies, however it is well worth a visit on a Saturday evening, so please do come along with your shopping bags.

Watch out for our text message on a Saturday evening, including the school holidays. This is offered to all of our families and staff.



Dates for your Diary

To view the full Mencap newsletter follow this link

<https://mailchi.mp/a2b027bed264/september-2025-newsletter-14012106?e=d88e982eeb>

🎉 Family Fun Quiz Night 🎉
📅 When: Saturday, 22nd November
📍 Where: Fortyfoot Hall
🕒 Time: Doors 5:30 pm | Supper 6:00 pm
🍽️ Supper Options:
 • Fish & Chips
 • Sausage & Chips
 Contact: secretary@midsummencap.org.uk

🎄 Christmas Tickets Draw at Fortyfoot Hall.
📅 Date: Tuesday 2nd December
🕒 Time: 2:00 pm
 Don't miss your chance to win in our festive draw!

🎵 Concert at Riddle Hall
📅 Date: 12th December
🎤 Musician Miriam, will meet with the **Linkers** on 6th December to discuss and choose the songs for the concert.

🎄 Christmas Raffle Tickets 🎄
 Please remember to **purchase your raffle tickets!**
 If you are able to **sell tickets on our behalf**, or if you **require extra tickets** to sell to family and friends.
 Please contact **Jan Maybury**, secretary@midsummencap.org.uk who can provide them for you.
 🙏 Thank you for supporting our Christmas raffle and helping make it a success!

PEER SUPPORT FOR PARENTS OF NEURODIVERGENT CHILDREN

This weekly peer support group for parents of children with special educational needs is a safe understanding space to connect with others and share experiences to support each other.



Weekly on Mondays (term-time only) at 10.00am to 11.00am

At The Jam Place, Hamilton House, 299 Kingston Rd, Leatherhead KT22 2FP

MFT supports adults in Surrey to improve and maintain their mental wellbeing through one-to-one support, courses, groups and activities.

To book your place, you need to register with MFT first and then contact: 01372 375400, text 07929 024722, email info@maryfrancestrust.org.uk or visit www.maryfrancestrust.org.uk



OCTOBER HALF TERM
MONDAY 27TH OCTOBER
LEATHERHEAD COMMUNITY HUB

9.30 & 11am

Join us for.....

ANIMALS IN THE CITY

with

MITCHAM ZOO

A thrilling experience with a variety of animals to see, learn about, and maybe even pet or hold*

Tortoise | Lizards | Baby Pythons |
Armadillo | Blood Python |

*Min age handling is 5 years or touching animals is 3-5yo.
Playing in the City is walking - 6 years old

bookwhen.com/littlecitynorthsurrey



the Grange

Thursday 30 October
1.30 - 3.30pm

- Refreshments
- Grange made gifts
- Tombola
- Christmas preorders
- Seasonal produce
- Crafts

Venue
The Grange Centre
Rectory Lane,
Great Bookham,
Surrey, KT23 4DZ

FREE ENTRY



You Are Not Alone - Free Parent Online Drop-In

Parenting an autistic child can feel amazing, confusing, and overwhelming, sometimes all in the same day. That's why we host our **no-cost monthly online drop-in sessions for parents and carers.**

First Tuesday of every month
7pm - 8.30pm
Platform: Zoom



Erik Wagter - host of the drop-in

What these sessions are all about

We've created a safe, non-judgemental space where parents can bring their questions, share worries and connect with others who 'get it'.

Topics often included:

- Understanding and responding to challenging behaviour
- Making sense of autism on a deeper level
- The ups and downs of family relationships and dynamics
- Working with schools and professionals
- Meeting like-minded parents and realising you are not alone

What parents can expect to take away:

- Feeling heard, appreciated, and understood
- Knowing they are seen as the experts on their own child and family
- Feeling hopeful and having gained practical ideas

Who runs the sessions?

I'm Erik Wagter, co-founder of Autism Family Support Service. Alongside being a social worker, trainer and Solution Focused family coach, I also bring over two decades of personal lived family experience of autism.



Additional Needs Service showcase

Preparing for Adulthood

Tuesday 11 November

9.30am to 2.30pm

The Light
3 to 41 Gallery Walk
Redhill RH1 1RU

✦ Come and find out about local and national services!

✦ For families with children secondary age and above

✦ For Families and Practitioners

If you would like further details please scan the QR code or email localoffer@surreycc.gov.uk



No need to book, just drop in!

The location is accessible by road, has good public transport links and ample nearby parking, and gives an opportunity to highlight inclusive leisure opportunities at The Light

We expect to have more than 20 organisations and services from Education, Health, Social, Community, and Employment Services:

According to the needs of your pupils some that are especially relevant include: -

- Surrey Choices – Short breaks, employment support, independent living, and travel training
- YMCA East Surrey – Short Breaks and Lifeworks
- Brooklands FE College
- WayThrough – Employment Support, Talking Therapies and Community Connections
- Autism by Experience including Autism Friendly Communities – leisure, community, adult and family support.
- The Include Choir and Include Support Group
- Appeer – support for autistic girls, teenagers, young women, and parents
- Transition to Adulthood Team and Learning Disability and Autism Team
- Surrey Care Trust, employment mentoring and the Gateway Community Garden.
- Health – school nursing and therapies