



# SPOTLIGHT

**Together, Everyone Achieves More**  
**February 2025**



Dear Parents and Carers

This half term the pupils have been involved in lots of different activities.

Some of our lower school pupils have been learning all about the vikings – they have enjoyed dressing up in viking costumes and during food tech lessons have been re-creating some viking food!

Pupils in the upper school have been enjoying food tech with Elmwood and Pinewood going into town to choose and buy their ingredients.

The SPENSOL ski trip is always a highlight of this half term. A big thank you to Ailsa for organising it again and the other staff that went along with her to support our pupils who all had a great time. There are some fantastic photos on page 9 for you to see.

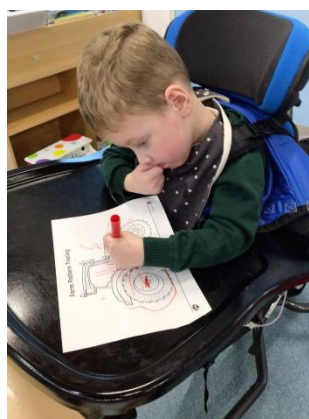
Nicola has organised a representative from Surrey Family Information Services to come along to the next Parent Coffee and Chat on Friday 28 March. See page 20 for more information.

We hope you all have a restful half term and look forward to welcoming you back on Wednesday 26 February, doors open at 9.15am.

Thank you  
Sarah

## Badgers Class News

We have been learning about the farm this half term. We have explored farm tuff trays, played with farm animals and learnt the sounds farm animals make.



Badgers have also been thinking about caring for animals in PSED and we had a visit from Woody in class. We liked seeing him in our classroom and had to be really gentle with our hands. Thank you for coming Woody!



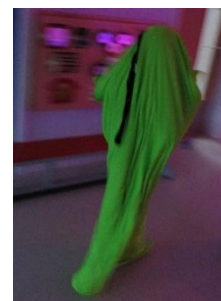
## Hedgehogs Class News

Hedgehogs have been using a range of sensory regulation strategies to help support regulation in class. There is **no 'one size fits all'** when it comes to sensory regulation strategies. **Every individual is different.** Everyone has access to different resources. We have regular movement breaks inside and outside and enjoy using the bikes, sensory circuits, therapy balls, soft play and body sock! However, there are so many other things that can help with regulation. It doesn't always have to be a sensory regulation strategy.

For some it might be that talking helps them to calm down. Sometimes crying or laughing really helps. It might be having a drink or eating some food. Breathing can be really helpful. Sometimes just walking away, or moving to a different space or being with a different adult can help.

In addition, there are many **cognitive strategies** that can be used. By 'cognitive strategy' we mean something that relies more on thinking rather than moving or the senses. Eg: reading, puzzles, colouring, iPad apps.

Hedgehogs use visuals, PODD and Zones of Regulation to help support communication of how they are feeling and what sensory strategy might help them regulate.



## Foxes Class News

This term in Foxes Class we have been learning all about 'Far, Far Away'. We have made our own maps, listened to stories about journeys and gone on a journey into the rainforest to see what we can see, hear and feel. It was a bit wet but we did hear lots of birds and monkeys calling!



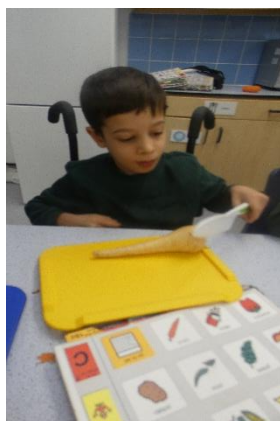
In Maths we have been learning all about colour, texture and shapes. We have enjoyed singing along to shape songs, going on a shape/colour hunt and finding shapes in our PODD books. We used the shapes, both 2D and 3D, to make pictures and construct towers with each other.

We have worked really hard on engaging in new tasks, taking turns with our friends, being more independent with daily tasks and had lots of fun!



## Squirrels Class News

Squirrels have had a great half term. We have been fully immersed in our Viking unit. We enjoyed our Viking day where we dressed up and made our roast chicken dinner. We enjoyed exploring our ingredients, practiced our cutting, chopping and peeling skills and used the oven.



Once the food was cooked, we shared it at our Viking banquet. We had so much fun!



## Woodpeckers News

This term Woodpeckers have enjoyed our topic 'Vikings'. In history we have explored what the Vikings use to eat, what jobs they had and what they used to wear. We then enjoyed making our own Viking cloaks using material, stamps and paint.



In science, we have been learning about rocks and soil. We have been on a rock hunt outside, made our own rocks using sand, glue and pebbles. The activity we loved most was making our own edible soil!



Music has also been one of Woodpeckers favourite subjects this term. We have been exploring dynamics. We have been taking turns by playing the instruments loudly and quietly.



## Owls Class News

Owls have been very busy this term learning about the Viking Invasion. We have been thinking about what food the Vikings liked to eat and what clothes they used to wear and making our own Viking jewellery. We have been looking at maps to see where the Vikings came from and comparing the letters in our alphabet to the letters and symbols the Vikings used to write with called Runes.

In PSHE we have been looking at different people who help us in the community, how we can keep safe whilst we are out in the community and at home and the potential dangers we might face and what we should do if we need help. Owls have enjoyed dressing up as firefighters, police officers, a vet and even the captain of a ship!



## Rabbits Class News

In Science this half term, Rabbits have been exploring rocks and soil. They have conducted scientific experiments to investigate textures and rock types, using equipment to sift and sort different sized particles. They had a brilliant (albeit messy!) time making some edible soil and then explored what happened when this was mixed with water. They have been digging through different textures such as paper shreadings to find hidden objects – just like a real excavation! Rabbits loved adopting their very own pet rock, which they named and decorated beautifully. Rabbits have been brilliant geologists and have enjoyed using their hands and senses to find out more about the world around them. Well done Rabbits!



## Ski Trip to Prato Nevoso – January 2025

Four of our students recently set off on a very long, overnight coach journey and woke up to amazing views of the snowy Italian mountains. This was just the start of a fantastic, fun-filled week that they had on the SPENSOL Surrey special schools' ski trip. All the students and staff loved every minute of ski school, even when it was snowing quite heavily at times as this just added to the fun! It was lovely to see how much progress they made and how independent they became as the week went on.

In the evenings, the fun continued with discos, games of pool, card games and plenty of opportunities to socialise and chat with the new friends they had made from the other participating schools.



## Elmwood Class News

This half term Elmwood have been very busy working on the shops and shopping topics! We have been looking at logos and advertisements in art and recognising different shops we like to go to, some of our favourites have been different coffee shops including Costa, Starbucks and Greggs! We have been writing shopping lists for our Monday Food tech lesson and going to the local supermarkets to buy our own ingredients. We have been able to notice all the different logos of the products we are buying and finding the different priced products.

Monday's food tech lessons are enjoyed even more because we have bought our own ingredients and it's always a challenge on Monday morning to write our own recipes remembering what we have bought!

We are looking forward to continuing our shopping topic next half term with more shopping trips and work with different logos for snacks, shops, drinks and lots more.



## Beechwood Class News

The pupils in Beechwood class have been working very hard in their food technology sessions this term and have been developing their independence while using different utensils and equipment in the kitchen. They have been learning to use knives safely to chop up fruit and vegetables and to use scales to weigh out ingredients. The pupils have also been learning to use electrical equipment safely and had great fun using the blender to make a fruit smoothie as well as using the toaster. At the end of every session, they have become more willing to help with washing and drying up the equipment and making sure the kitchen is clean and tidy for the next class to use it.



## Ashwood Class News

Ashwood class have been studying Abstract Art this term. They have expressed their preferences for different artists and have enjoyed painting in the style of Jackson Pollock and Kandinsky.



They also enjoyed celebrating the Lunar New Year by cooking some noodles in food tech and making Dragon Masks using a range of different media.



## Orchard Class News

It's been another busy few weeks in Orchard class and we have had lots of fun working alongside our peers, making choices and developing our independence.

We loved learning about the Year of the Snake as part of our Chinese New Year celebrations, spending time making our own snake crafts and trying some tasty noodles, spicy vegetables and delicious sauce.

We have been experimenting with materials in our science lessons and had lots of fun creating our own lava lamps and watching as the oil and water interacted with each other after we added the bicarbonate of soda. We have also been recycling materials and reusing them, working hard to make some bowls out of torn up newspaper and glue



## Pinewood Class News

Pinewood Class have had such a busy half term and have really enjoyed our new shopping unit – exploring packaging and logos, planning the journey, stranger danger in public places. We have been on visits to town with our family shopping lists, eager to find everything and exchange them for money. We even tried the wheelchair trolleys and accessible tills to take a more independent role.



We have enjoyed visiting St John's School to take part in activities with their sports coaches. We have relay races across their large hall and work on our ball skills - tracking and moving them towards a target. There are always big smiles and lots of energy!



We have continued to nurture our love of reading, both with physical books and also on our communication devices. We can engage in these activities in lots of different positions too.



After such a busy half term we are looking forward to a bit of a rest.

## 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 the OT team on [csh.woodlandsot@nhs.net](mailto:csh.woodlandsot@nhs.net).

- For queries about a child's position in their standing frame, walker or sleep system please contact the physiotherapy team on [csh.woodlandsphysio@nhs.net](mailto:csh.woodlandsphysio@nhs.net).



- 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.



## Important Dates for Spring Term 2025

### Monday 17 to Friday 21 February 2025 – HALF TERM

Monday 24 February	SPAN INSET Day
Tuesday 25 February	INSET Day
Wednesday 26 February	School re-opens at 9.15am
Thursday 6 March	World Book Day
Friday 7 March	Yr11+ Surrey SEND Transition Fair
Monday 10 March	STEM Week starts
Friday 28 March	Parent Coffee & Chat with speaker
Friday 4 April	Break-up for Easter Holiday at 1pm

### Monday 7 April to Monday 21 April – EASTER HOLIDAY

Dear Parents/ Carers

Our next **Parents Coffee and Chat** will be on Friday 28 March at 9.30 – 10.30am in the lower school staff room. We have organised a speaker from Surrey Family Information Service to come along. Their role is to signpost parents to services in the community that may be helpful. Please see full page flyer on page 20. I very much look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible as I think it would be a good opportunity for parents to find out what support is out there.




Coffee  
And Chat

My email address is [nicola.sutehall@woodlands.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:nicola.sutehall@woodlands.surrey.sch.uk).

With very best wishes

Nicola, Parent Support Advisor

## Friends of Woodlands



**Together Everyone Achieves More**  
Charity Number: 279504  
[friends@woodlands.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:friends@woodlands.surrey.sch.uk)

### FoW Dates for your Diary

- NEXT FOW MEETING**  
Friday 21 March
- EASTER TRAIL**  
Saturday 29 March
- GOLF DAY**  
Friday 2 May
- BAGS2SCHOOL**  
Friday 6 June

**Watch out for updates**

## The Woodlands Fridge

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

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

We never know what we are going to be given until our Woodlands volunteers arrive to collect. 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.

Any donations of strong re-useable carrier bags would also be extremely useful. Please drop any bags to the school office.



**£5**  
per user  
(carers go free)

Inclusive  
cycling with

# Wheels for ALL

## Surrey



**Thursdays (10.30-2pm)**  
**Saturdays (2-4pm)**

**Harriers Centre Athletic Park,  
King George Fields, Epsom,  
Surrey KT19 9RY**

**Tuesdays (10pm-3pm)**  
**Sundays (1-3pm)**

**Woking Sportsbox,  
Egley Road, Woking,  
Surrey GU22 0AF**

**We offer all-ability cycling from trikes, quads and recumbents to tandems and hand-cycles, for you to try in a safe and pleasant setting on an enclosed circuit with support.**

contact Nigel Fisher for further info  
[nigel.fisher@wheelsforall.org.uk](mailto:nigel.fisher@wheelsforall.org.uk)  
tel: 07957413611  
[www.wheelsforall.org.uk](http://www.wheelsforall.org.uk)



**Wheels  
for All**

We support all families with children and young people up to 25 years old and the professionals who work with them.



**Search**  
for quality childcare.



**Support**  
your child's education and development.



**Find**  
information and services for children and young people with a special educational need or disability (SEND).



**Discover**  
something to do at the weekend or activities for the holidays.



**Stay up to date**  
with local information for families in Surrey.

**Surrey Family  
Information  
Service**



### **Childcare finder**

Find registered childcare and early education providers. [www.surreycc.gov.uk/childcarefinder](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/childcarefinder)

### **Website**

Read about learning development, financial support, how to stay healthy and safe and lots more. [www.surreycc.gov.uk/fis](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/fis)

### **Family Information Directory**

Our online directory is the most comprehensive collection of services for families in Surrey. You can also search for events. [www.surreycc.gov.uk/directory](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/directory)



Like or follow us to stay up to date with local information for families in Surrey.

Search for SurreyFIS

### **Get in touch**

Give us a call on 0300 200 1004 or drop us an email at [surrey.fis@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:surrey.fis@surreycc.gov.uk)

Surrey and Borders NHS Trust are holding a day “Growing old with learning disabilities” which is free and open to all on Monday 24 February (9.15am - 4.15pm) at their HQ, 18 Mole business park, Leatherhead, KT22 7AD.



All details from [freya.morris@sabp.nhs.uk](mailto:freya.morris@sabp.nhs.uk).

Alix Lewer’s “Include choir” are holding a concert at St. Mary’s church, Chart Lane, Reigate, RH2 7RN on Saturday 15 March at 7.30pm. Tickets at £12 (to include one drink) can be bought at the door or from [info@redhillredstonerotary.org](mailto:info@redhillredstonerotary.org).

### **MID-SURREY MENCAP (charity no. 1160493) LIST OF USEFUL NUMBERS**

#### TRUSTEES and COMMITTEE MEMBERS

CHAIR, Sharon Lukey, [info@midsurreymencap.org.uk](mailto:info@midsurreymencap.org.uk), 01306 876464/ 07899993758

TREASURER, Richard Black, [treasurer@midsurreymencap.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@midsurreymencap.org.uk), 01306 881177

SECRETARY, Gill Keens, [fredrick.keens@btinternet.com](mailto:fredrick.keens@btinternet.com), 01737 353953

MINUTES SEC, Jan Maybury, [janmaybury50@gmail.com](mailto:janmaybury50@gmail.com), 07970666962

MEMBERSHIP SEC, Barbara May, [membership@midsurreymencap.org.uk](mailto:membership@midsurreymencap.org.uk), 07484833995  
Caroline Black, 01306 881177

Gaynor Gibbins, 01372 273149/ 07427333645

Philip Harris, [ph23741@aol.com](mailto:ph23741@aol.com), 020 8393 4745/ 07905 504804

Daniel Maybury, 07976 297353

Carol Maybury, 01306 730738

Catherine Shrimpton, [info@leatherheadlink.org.uk](mailto:info@leatherheadlink.org.uk), 07932 235491

WEDNESDAY CLUB LEADER, Steve Dyke [stephendyke4@gmail.com](mailto:stephendyke4@gmail.com) 01372 740027

LEATHERHEAD LINK, Catherine Shrimpton, see above

SENDING BIRTHDAY CARDS, Sue Harrison 01372 728166

BOOKINGS FOR FORTYFOOT HALL, Sharon Lukey or [office@midsurreymencap.org.uk](mailto:office@midsurreymencap.org.uk)

FORTYFOOT HALL, Fortyfoot Road, Leatherhead KT22 8RY 01372 374555

NATIONAL MENCAP, 123 Golden Lane EC1 YORT 020 7454 0454

LEARNING DISABILITY HELPLINE, (freephone) 0808 808 1111

NAS AUTISM HELPLINE, 0808 800 4104

COMMUNITY NURSING TEAM, Ramsay House 01372 202100

ACTION FOR CARERS (Surrey), 0303 040 1234

BENEFITS GENERAL ENQUIRY LINE, 0800 88 2200 (not for individual problems)

AGE UK, 0800 678 1602 (free advice line)

SURREY SOCIAL SERVICES, Adult social care 0300 200 1005, Emergency duty team 01483 517898,  
Childrens’ social care 0300 470 9100

WOODLANDS SCHOOL, Fortyfoot Road, Leatherhead KT22 8RY 01372 377922

NHS NON EMERGENCY HELPLINE, 111

# READY

sport without boundaries



## Who we are

READY (Recreation and Easy Access for Disabled Youth) raises money to help young people with disabilities play sport and take part in healthy activities for fun and fitness. As a charity, we are run completely by volunteers.

Over the years, we have provided hundreds of children with grants which enable them to access sporting activities and related equipment that has been tailored to their individual needs. This has included: bespoke wheelchairs, ramps, prosthetics, seated skis, riding lessons, team kit, swimming lessons and gym equipment.

We consider applications from all grass roots sports. Many of our recipients have gone on to compete at an elite level, including two Paralympians – Toby Gold and Kare Adenegan.

The grants we award can be truly life changing for the child and their family.

*“READY put me on the path to where I am now. The grant was put towards my first power wheelchair for football...I have had the chance to play with the England team...thanks to READY”*

*“The support was invaluable. READY funded blocks of swimming lessons with a swim school that could accommodate my son’s disabilities”.*

Since our beginnings in Richmond upon Thames in 1991 as a Mayor’s Charity Initiative, we have raised over £700,000 with support from Friends of READY and many corporate, individual and other partnerships. All funds raised go towards our beneficiaries in order to improve their health, wellbeing and confidence.

**For further information**

[www.Readycharity.org](http://www.Readycharity.org)    [info@readycharity.org](mailto:info@readycharity.org)

**Instagram:** [ready\\_charity.org](https://www.instagram.com/ready_charity.org)    **Twitter:** [@readycharity.org](https://twitter.com/readycharity.org)    **Facebook:** [readycharity.org](https://www.facebook.com/readycharity.org)