



# SPOTLIGHT

Together, Everyone Achieves More

April 2025



Dear Parents and Carers

The pupils have been very busy and have enjoyed lots of extra-curricula activities, both in and out of school.

They have benefited from attending workshops for both STEM and Science Week, as well as trips to RHS Wisley, The Outlook Discovery Centre and the Mothers Day Market in Leatherhead town centre. Some of the pupils in Ashwood have been involved with work placements at Tesco and Polesden Lacey.

You will be please to hear that our swimming pool is now fixed and today some of the staff were able to update their pool training. We still have number of staff yet to complete their training but we are looking forward to being able to offer swimming again in the summer term as soon as it is safe to do so.

We hope you have a lovely Easter and enjoy the sunshine. We look forward to seeing the pupils for the summer term which starts at 9.15am on Tuesday 22 April.

## Badgers Class News

Badgers have had a busy half term. Our focus has been exploring different types of transport this half term. We have looked at cars, buses, cranes and diggers, boats, trains, aeroplanes and bikes. We liked playing with cars on the car mat, building train tracks and playing with small world tuff trays.



We also enjoyed getting physical this half term and exploring different ways of moving. We have used our Bugzies, firefly scoot, bikes and trikes and scooters to move ourselves around and work on our independence.



Badgers also experienced some lovely theme days and other activities such as; science week, world book day, pancake day, St Patrick's day and Easter. We had lots of fun in the sunshine playing with pancakes, flour and containers and having pancake races.



## Hedgehogs Class News

Hedgehogs have been working very hard on their everyday independence and self-help skills such as dressing, toileting, using an open cup and using a knife and fork. Having clear instructions and a step by step visual approach really helps. Lots of children find it hard to process verbal instructions, demonstrate the skill slowly, breaking it down into small steps, they will need lots of practice! We also use backward chaining - a technique used to help teach tasks. It involves breaking a task down into step by step chunks and then teaching the last step first.

For example zips: Engage the bottom of the zip on your child's coat but let them finish off by pulling the zip up to the top. Once they are confident in zipping up, they can have a go at the step that comes before this.

By letting the child do a little more of the task, one step at a time, and only when they have mastered the previous step, the child will be more likely to experience success. This will increase their confidence and willingness to have another go.

Parents and carers can help by developing a daily routine. Make sure you give your child regular opportunities and time to practise new skills. We find that practising little and often works best. It can be hard for busy parents to make time for practice. Sometimes it's just quicker to do it ourselves! Try to think long term and remember that if you put the work in now, your child will develop their independence sooner.



## Foxes Class News

Foxes Class have been very busy this term exploring the 'Secret Garden'. In art and design we have enjoyed making 'natural art' and in science we have looked at plants and their structures and functions.



We have learnt a lot about the United Kingdom in geography, we looked at all 4 nations, enjoyed listening, singing and playing along to the National Anthems, and decided our favourite anthem was England's. We have explored and made the flowers of the 4 nations, tasted and smelt some of the foods and listened to traditional tales. It has been great fun!



In maths we have been learning all about adding and subtracting, prepositions and patterns. We have enjoyed writing sums on our AAC devices and singing number songs where we add and subtract, a favourite has been 5 Little Monkeys. We have made patterns with a variety of objects and used our bodies to make different musical patterns.



## Squirrels Class News

Squirrels Class have had a fun and very busy half term. We have enjoyed our unit “Let’s explore”!

We have engaged in our music unit; loud and quiet and have thoroughly enjoyed using the instruments to explore the different sounds that different instruments make.

We have enjoyed our pancake day cooking activities, choosing what topping to have on them was the highlight!

We enjoyed our World book day and the Science week activities too.



## Woodpeckers News

This term Woodpeckers have enjoyed our topic Let's Explore. We have read lots of different books during our shared reading including 'How to lose a lemur' and 'We're going to find a Monster!'

In science, we have been learning about all the different planets in our solar system. We have had fun making paper mache planets using flour, water, glue and paper.



This term woodpeckers enjoyed going over to the food tech room in upper school. We made egg and cress sandwiches which linked to one of our activities in science week.



## Rabbits Class News

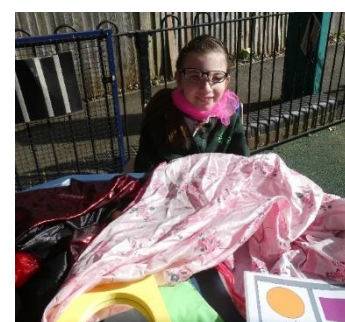
Rabbits have loved learning about shapes through our Viking Maths! We use a drum to beat out a rhythm and rhyme before one Rabbit chooses an activity for the class.



Choose a shape – one of 6 – and feel the wind from a square sail on a Viking boat, match colourful circular Viking shields, press oatly mash onto a heart shape or watch a Viking ship tossed on semi-circle waves in a light show. We have had much fun and laughter! Rabbits have loved the different games and have shown anticipation as they become more familiar with the maths activities.



We have also enjoyed finding a variety of maths shapes in our outside area and were lucky enough for some sunshine. Well done Rabbits, great exploring!



## Mencap News

We have booked a slot at **Teas on the Green in Brockham church hall on Bank Holiday Monday, 5 May 2025**. We shall need a plentiful supply of cakes please. All details will be in next month's newsletter, but in the meanwhile Catherine will try to answer your queries (07932235491).



We have again booked a pitch at **Ashtead Village Day on Saturday 14 June 2025**. We run a plant stall, so if you are a gardener and are sowing seeds, save a few of the plants for us! We should also welcome bottles of ALL kinds for the Link bottle stall.

We are thinking of trying the experiment of having the occasional open afternoon on a Saturday, and showing a film (with soft drinks and popcorn!) The first will be on **Saturday 12 April, 1.45 for 2pm** and all would be welcome. All details from Catherine (07932 235491).

**Action for Carers (Surrey)** publish a regular letter on E-mail giving details of all the support they can offer to carers. It is well worth getting on their E-mail list (ring 0303 040 1234) or visit [info@actionforcarers.org.uk](mailto:info@actionforcarers.org.uk). They run fifteen "hubs" in Surrey and arrange meetings (face to face or by zoom) on many useful topics.

We thank all the members who have sent in their annual sub. We ask £5 per family, to be sent to Barbara May, Membership Secretary, at Fortyfoot Hall, Fortyfoot Road, LEATHERHEAD, KT22 8RY. Cheques to "Mid-Surrey Mencap"). We are grateful to those of you who pay by standing order each year. If you have any queries on your sub please call Barbara on 01372 277653 or mobile 07484 833995.

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES:**

Wednesday club dates: 12/03, 26/03, 9/04, 23/04, 14/05

Saturday 5 April (10-1), Table Top at St. Mark's Great Tattenhams Free entry

Saturday 12 April 1.45 for 2pm, Film afternoon at Fortyfoot Hall

Saturday 3 May (10-1), Table Top at St. Mark's Great Tattenhams.

Monday 5 May TEAS ON THE GREEN at BROCKHAM 2pm onwards

Looking ahead Saturday 14 June Ashtead Village Day

# SEN PARENT PEER SUPPORT

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)**

**Starting 17 March**

**at 9.30am to 10.30am**

**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](mailto:info@maryfrancestrust.org.uk)  
or visit [www.maryfrancestrust.org.uk](http://www.maryfrancestrust.org.uk)



**MFT** MARY FRANCES TRUST  
Inspiring Mental Wellbeing

# 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)

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)

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## 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)



## Elmwood Class News

What a busy half term we have had in Elmwood! We have enjoyed the second half of our shops and shopping unit and have continued learning about different logos and types of shops and products. In art we have been making our own logos! Our literacy books have been based around our shopping unit and we have enjoyed listening to them and writing about all the different types of shops and thinking about what we could buy!

We have also been working really hard in PE this term following our physio plans by completing lots of different types of stretches and balances, and some of our pupils have been showing off how good their balancing really is! We have been practicing our athletics running, jumping and balancing this term in PE and learning why stretching is so important!

We have had a very busy term in Elmwood and I'm sure everyone is looking forward to having a lovely Easter break!



## Beechwood Class News

The Beechwood pupils have enjoyed learning about different types of shop, shopping brands, logos and the importance of signs in shops this term. In their art lessons, they have explored different logos and described what makes them eye-catching and memorable before designing some of their own. In Geography, they have been learning what different shop signs mean and how some of them are there to keep us safe while we are out shopping.



## Ashwood Class News

On Friday 14 March Ashwood enjoyed a trip to Wisley Gardens, with a view to gathering ideas for the sensory garden that we have been working on improving at school. At Wisley we were amazed by the beautiful plants in the glasshouse, especially the enormous banana plants and the richly coloured tropical plants. We also enjoyed spending time walking with our friends and enjoying our packed lunches together, even if we were a little bothered by the ducks demanding our food! We loved playing in the 'Back To Nature Garden'.

It was a chilly but sunny day and everyone had a lovely time.



## Orchard Class News

Orchard class have been enjoying exploring our Shopping topic and we had great fun venturing out into Leatherhead Town centre to identify some logos and follow a shopping list.

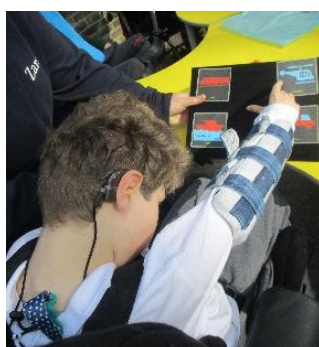
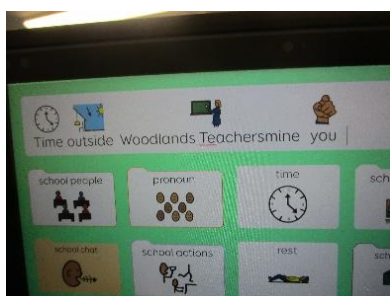
We looked in the shops for the key items and had lots of fun using the self-service checkout. We loved the noises it made and were very good at using a card to pay for our shopping. We even stopped at Costa and had a special snack, which was the highlight of our trip!

We had lots of fun on World Book day, spending time learning about the author Morag Hood and sharing some of the fun stories. We chose "Brenda is a Sheep" and we had fun making our own mint sauce, decorating sheep and thinking about the foods we would like to have at a feast and who we could share it with. We then had a lovely feast together, sharing pasties, yoghurt, cheese, samosas and other favourite treats.

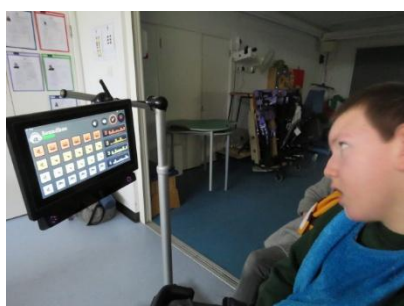


## Pinewood Class News

Pinewood Class received a request from one of its pupils to begin working outside ... so that is exactly what we started doing this half term. We very much look forward to our afternoon phonics, building phonetic awareness and focusing on the sounds around us.



In art and music this half term we have been focusing on making adverts for our newly designed products. We discovered a piece of software on our devices that allow us to independently select the instrument and the beat, mashing them together to create some unique compositions. Altogether we made fantastic jingles that would entice anyone to come and buy our cups and drinks.



## World Book Day



On 6 March we celebrated World Book Day. LS classes chose to focus on the highly acclaimed British author Kes Gray. We particularly focused our day on his 'Oi' series of books. During the day classes went on a frog hunt and each class decorated their doors! US chose to focus on British author Morag Hood. During the day classes brought their stories to life by exploring and being creative with cooking and Art! Both children and staff came to school in costume, dressed as either their favourite story character or a character from their class focus story. There were lots of animals about! It was a lovely day developing a love of reading across the school. Thank you to parents for all the wonderful costumes!

## 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 [emily.yelland@nhs.net](mailto:emily.yelland@nhs.net).

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

**Please note temporary new contact details for physio and OT**

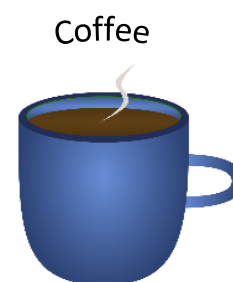
## Important Dates for Summer Term 2025



<b>Monday 7 April to Monday 21 April</b>	<b>EASTER HOLIDAY</b>
Tuesday 22 April	School re-opens, 9.15am
Friday 25 April	Post 16 Choices and Decisions Day
Friday 2 May	FOW Golf Day at Tyrrells Wood
Monday 5 May	School closed for Spring Bank Holiday
<b>Monday 26 May to Friday 30 May</b>	<b>HALF TERM HOLIDAY</b>
Monday 2 June	School re-opens, 9.15am
Wednesday 11 June	Rotary Children's Fun Day (formerly Kid's Out)
Tuesday 17 June	US Sports Day
Thursday 19 June	LS Sports Day
Tuesday 24 June	Parents Evening
Monday 14 July	Feeling Good Week
Tuesday 22 July	Break-up for Summer Holiday, 1pm

## Parent Coffee and Chat

It was lovely to welcome Sue from Surrey Family Information Service at our last coffee and chat. I will be inviting her back in the autumn term, date to be confirmed. Our next coffee and chat will be on Friday 16 May at 9.30 – 10.30am in the lower school staff room. 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.



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

## Message from the Chair of Governors

Dear Pupils, Parents and Staff

Difficult to believe that another holiday is upon us so soon. This last term has been a very busy one for Woodlands. Just to mention a couple of highlights; I have seen some great photos of the school ski trip and STEM week was a big success with all sorts of exciting and challenging activities laid on.

A special mention this time goes to Angela and the Woodlands School “fridge” team. They give freely of their time on a Saturday evening to provide this service which I’m sure is much appreciated by many of our families at a time when the cost of living just seems to go up and up. I must admit I’ve enjoyed the odd pastry courtesy of the fridge at a Monday meeting.

I hope you all have a good break and, if chocolate is your thing you get lots of it. Happy Easter.

Karen Thomas  
Chair of Governors

# FRIENDS OF WOODLANDS SCHOOL

## Together Everyone Achieves More

friends@woodlands.surrey.sch.uk

Charity No: 275904

### EASTER TRAIL FUN



We had a beautiful day for the Easter Trail on Saturday with a packed house of children, families and friends enjoying the afternoon. Thanks to all who came along and made it such a huge success. We also raised almost £600 to go to support our next project!



Friends of Woodlands have just donated £3,500 to the school so each class can have an event, trip or purchase of their choice. This donation will also allow the Upper School to have a theatre visit which they all enjoy.

With the Golf Day looming we are confident the FOW will be in a position to make a large contribution to a big project - more news to come after Easter



Golf Day - Friday 2 May  
We need your help!

The 8<sup>th</sup> FOW Golf Day is on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May and we need your help!!

We are after some alcohol (whisky, wine, fizz) to use as raffle and auction items please!

If you can help please send items in to Emma Samuels-Lee c/o Livvy in US

This is going to be a major event for us we are only £11.6K away from having fundraised £100,000.

All monies go to the school - THANK YOU

## 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.

