

24th October 2024 Newsletter

Moss Lane School

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Dear Parents /Carers

A big thank you to all the families who generously donated items for our Harvest Festival, The Godalming food bank were absolutely blown away by the kindness of our community, thank you. This was a lovely event and the children sang and performed magnificently.

Christmas and End of Year Gifts

In the past, Moss Lane staff have been very touched by the generosity shown to them by parents at both Christmas and the end of the school year. However, given the times of austerity in which many in our local community currently find themselves and whilst not intending to do so we fear that this could place unnecessary pressure on some families. We would like to kindly request that Class Representatives no longer organise monetary collections where parents club together towards gifts. Instead, we ask that parents are left to make their own individual gestures of thanks should they choose to, and let you know that it is your kind words and written messages which mean the most to our staff in recognising all the hard work that they do

I hope you all have a lovely half term break.

Victoria Abbott
Headteacher

News from the PTA...

We were blown away with the designs for our pumpkin carving competition! A massive well done to everyone who entered.

Pictures

The Winners are -

Overall winner – Miro - Foxes
Yr R Bumblebees – Charlotte
Yr R Honeybees - Noah
Yr 1 Squirrels – Millie
Yr 1 Foxes – Walter
Yr 2 Hedgehogs – Elliot
Yr 2 Otters - Sienna

What's coming up...

27th October-3rd Nov
HALF TERM

Nov 4th Children in school
Squirrels at Woodland School

Nov 11th -15th
Anti-Bullying Week Theme Choose Kindness
Otters at Woodland School

12th November
Odd sock day

13th November
FGB Resources 6.15pm

15th November Children in need £1 come dressed in yellow, super heroes or spots

18th NOVEMBER
Bumblebees at Woodland School

25th November
Honeybees at Woodland School

30th November (SATURDAY)
Godalming Christmas Light Switch On – Year 1 and Year 2 singing at the Pepperpot. 10.30 am

2nd December
Foxes at Woodland School

6th December
Christmas Lunch and Jumper Day
PTA Christmas Decoration

9th December
Hedgehogs at Woodland School

13th December
Mini Market

17th December
Yr R & Yr 1 show 9.30am -Yr R Parents invited

18th December
Yr R & Yr 1 show 9.30am – Yr1 parents invited
Yr 2 show 2.15pm-Yr2 parents invited

19th December
Father Christmas visits and parties

20th December Term
School finishes at
13.30pm

INSET DAYS

- Friday 25 October 2024
- Wednesday 29 January 2025
- Monday 30 June 2025

Check out our online calendar of events [here](#)

Learn more about Sleep

We are sending information about a free wonderful resource that can help parents and children to learn more about their sleep and develop better bedtime routines. Sleep is essential to brain function, by helping children to sleep better, we can help them to succeed in school.

Please note opening hours have changed and now include two morning sessions. Please see poster attached for more information about this service.

At any given time up to 40% of adults and 50% of children (this rises to 80% with a SEND diagnosis) have difficulties with their sleep. Yet in a recent survey, almost 60% of adults felt there was a lack of support for sleep issues. Sleep problems can leave people feeling isolated and lonely.

The free helpline is run by trained sleep advisors, many of whom are specialists in working with SEND. We can talk to young people directly, or parents (we can also talk to adults, including older people, about their sleep issues).

The helpline is open 5 times a week, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday evenings 7-9pm, and Monday, Wednesday mornings 9-11am. The number is 03303 530 541. You can read more here: <https://thesleepcharity.org.uk/national-sleep-helpline>

What's going on in school...

Bees

Reception classes have begun their Morning Challenges this week and have made an excellent start. After half term, we would love to welcome parent helpers to come and volunteer with these. If you are able to help, you will come in to school at the beginning of the day with your child, join our phonics lesson and then support a small group of children to undertake a simple activity.

Finally, you get to stay for our Wake and Shake session. Timings for volunteering are approximately 8.45-9.45 and we are able to accommodate well behaved younger siblings. Each class has a sign-up calendar on a clipboard outside their classroom, so please do sign up to come in one day if you are able.

Many thanks,
The Bees Team

Year 1

A busy first half term for Foxes and Squirrels. The children have settled brilliantly into year one and taken part in so many activities.

Some highlights of the term have been Woodland school, the drumming work shop and painting like Kandinsky.

Teachers have been sharing plenty of photos on the class web pages.

Year 2

This week, Year 2 have been writing poems imagining what they would do if they had wings. Their poems have even included some similes!

Hedgehogs sung We Wish You a Fruitful Harvest superbly, and Otters read Harvest Moon Beautifully at the Harvest performances. Well done everyone in Year 2 for a great half term!

Have a lovely break.

Safeguarding

There has been a raised profile and guidance for schools about how to protect children from **peer-on-peer abuse, sexual harassment and sexual violence.**

Sexual harassment can happen between two children of **any age** from infant right through to secondary school and college. Learning about healthy relationships is important from a young age. To safeguard children against sexual harassment, we have robust safeguarding education within our curriculum. Relationships and Health education provides opportunities for learning that equips all children with knowledge, understanding and skills related to personal privacy, respect and consent.

As a school through our PHSE curriculum we regularly discuss relationships, friendships, the **NSPCC 'PANTS' Rule.** Further details on how we respond to concerns can be found in our Safeguarding Policy on our school website. Should you have any concerns please see Mrs Abbott (DSL), Miss Betterton, Miss Forbes Wood or Mrs King (DDSL).

A gentle reminder: please do not use mobile phones while on the school site. Thank you

Health & Safety

In order to keep everybody safe within the school grounds, please could I politely remind you of the following: -

- Children should not play on any of the outdoor equipment before or after school. This includes the 'pit' area outside the Year R classrooms.
- If children ride their bikes or scooters to school, they need to walk these through the school grounds rather than riding on them.
- Children should not walk or run through the staff car park unattended at the beginning or end of the school day. Children must be accompanied by an adult in the staff car park as staff and delivery vehicles use it throughout the day.

Toys...

We are seeing an increase in toys coming in from home which inevitably is causing problems in the classrooms. There is the risk of precious belongings getting lost or broken when they are brought into school, but also belongings from home are very distracting and cause a huge snowball effect with other children then wanting to bring their toys in too. Can we please request that toys are left at home, or goodbyes take place at the gates and toys go home with parents? Even toys that are safely zipped away in bags often find their way free so we want to remove the temptation entirely.

Thank you for your support.



Reading Corner

Miss Betterton's Book Recommendation: -

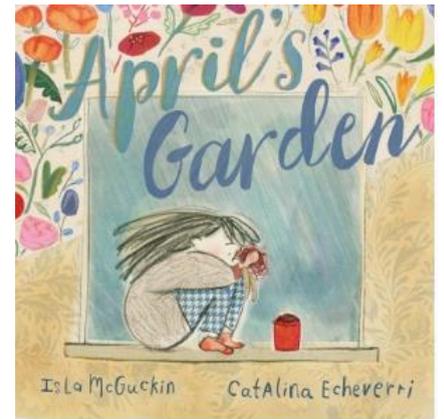
This beautifully illustrated book explores looking for something positive when times are hard. April's Garden shares the story of a young girl who is feeling lost without her home and belongings..... But all this begins to change when she plants some seeds. A recommended read to enlighten children of the world outside of Godalming.

Children at Moss Lane School say: -

'I think I will be able to read any book that I like because I can read so many words now.'

'When I read at bedtime, I feel happy.'

'Sometimes stories are funny, so I like to read those again.'



Fans of non-fiction?

There are a number of high-quality magazines aimed at children that have a high non-fiction content. First News, Aquila Children's Magazine and National Geographic Little Kids are popular ones. Magazines are often an effective way to engage reluctant readers.



Parents' Evening

The first parents' evenings of the year for the Infant School are on Tuesday 5th (3.40pm-5.30pm) and Thursday 7th November (3.40pm - 7.00pm). Parents can book their appointments online via Eschools from Friday 8th October at 8pm. Booking will close Friday 1st November at 12pm. These meetings are an important part of understanding the targets set for your child and identifying whether there are gaps in their learning. Please make sure you book your appointment when the system opens. We look forward to seeing you at the meetings. Each appointment will be for 10 minutes only, so if you feel that you will need longer, please see the class teacher concerned to make alternative arrangements. Due to the limited number of time slots available, there will be one appointment allocated per child; we are unable to offer multiple appointments. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the school office.



Odd Sock Day

On Monday 11th November we mark anti-bullying week. This year's theme is Choose kindness and respect. We will start the week off with 'Odd Sock Day' on Tuesday 12th November. Showing that it is okay to be different. It's an opportunity to encourage children to express themselves and celebrate their individuality and what makes us all unique. Please can your child come to school on that day wearing Odd Socks. No money required.



Home School Link Worker

We are very fortunate that at Moss Lane School, we have a HSLW (Home-School Link Worker) called Miss Gilly Forbes Wood. She is also our school's SENCo (special need coordinator). Home school link workers work within schools to support families and encourage all children to enjoy school and feel happy and secure by bridging the gap between home and school.

Home School Link Workers can help: -

- children who are experiencing difficult times or are withdrawn or anxious
- parents/carers whose children are reluctant to attend school
- support parents/carers going through changes impacting their family life, such as
- illness, separation, domestic violence, bereavement, financial difficulties, disability
- parents and carers experiencing difficulties managing their child's behaviour

Their main aims are to: -

- work closely with the SENCo to support families
- help families where there are children with special educational needs
- liaise with outside agencies (school nurse, social care, CAMHS, health visitors, GPs)
- and signpost parents
- improve attendance levels
- help to reduce the number of times pupils are late for school
- support families in times of crisis by visiting at home or meeting in school
- share information from school with parents and other agencies

The Home School Link Worker can also: -

- support you at school meetings
- help you find your way through the education system
- help you with form filling
- guide you towards other sources of help, advice and support, including benefits,
- grants, parenting courses and local charities

Practising skills at home

Please could I politely request that you continue to practise and reinforce toileting and handwashing skills at home with your children, where necessary? We are finding that an increasing amount of teaching time is being lost to supporting children with these skills.

Should you require any additional support in this area we are here to help! Please contact our SENCo/HSLW, Miss Forbes Wood, via our school office, and she can signpost you to information / services that may be of use. Please may I also ask that you help your child to be as independent as possible when eating by modelling to them how to use their cutlery effectively. Thank you.

Children in Need

This year's theme is 'The heaviest backpack- Help us make life lighter for children'. This year is hoping to give children someone to turn to when they are carrying a load that's just too heavy to manage alone. These specialists help children to overcome the challenges they are facing and be the best they can be. The charity intends to particularly help children who are struggling with challenges caused by: Poverty and deprivation, mental health, family challenges (such as abuse) and social inequality.

This year you decide on a dressing up theme. Either take inspiration from Pudsey and go for yellow and spotty outfits, or choose to side with the Gladiators and go for superhero style! You can get as creative as you like! Whatever you choose, wear something that will make your whole class smile! **Friday 15th November!** Recommended £1 donation. a normal day at school which will include playing outside at break times. If your child usually has PE on a Friday, please also ensure that their clothing is suitable for physical activity and includes trainers.



Dear Parents and Carers

The Godalming Learning Partnership (GLP) has arranged a workshop to which all parents and carers across the GLP are invited. This interactive talk will look at the important questions around smartphones and digital technology in the lives of our youngsters and on how we can help children achieve a healthy balance with their use:

[Let's talk about our kids and their tech](#)

PAPAYA Parent Evening, Tuesday 12 November, 7.30pm

@ Busbridge Junior School

Jennifer Powers from the [Papaya Parents](#) charity will unpack some of the complex issues around mental health and wellbeing, associated with smartphones and being online too much, and help us all find solutions that work for our own families.

If you would like to attend, please sign up via the following link so we know how many parents to expect:

[12 Nov Papaya workshop SIGN UP](#)

The talk is in two parts:

1. Looking at the evidence base around the impact of smartphones and social media on children.
2. Looking for solutions - both for children who do not yet have smartphones and those who do.

This talk is a non-judgmental, information-sharing exercise and there will be plenty of time for questions. Jennifer Powers is a trained PAPAYA speaker as well as being the volunteer lead for Smartphone Free Childhood for our area.

PAPAYA is a registered charity and so a suggested donation of £5 would be appreciated by the charity to cover the cost of the talk. If you are able to contribute, bring cash on the night.

Note: the presentation is aimed at adults so please do not bring children along. PAPAYA do also run workshops for children which your school may be interested in hosting.

[We look forward to seeing you at Busbridge Junior School, on Tues 12 of November, 7.30pm.](#) Remember to sign up on:

[12 Nov Papaya workshop SIGN UP](#)

Kind regards

Richard Catchpole

Head of Busbridge Junior School

Chair of the GLP Headteachers Committee

