

11th October 2024 Newsletter

Moss Lane School

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Dear Parents /Carers

Well, we're into October already – the term is whizzing by! I am delighted to share some of the events and achievements that have occurred in recent weeks.

Despite the frequently miserable weather, our resilient children have continued to embrace woodland school outdoor activities with great enthusiasm, demonstrating their zest for learning. It's great to see the children settled in their new classes and how well our new Reception children have adapted to school life.

It has been lovely hearing our children practising their songs for Harvest festival. We are looking forward to sharing them all with you soon.

I am sure you will also join me in welcoming Miss Pateman and Mrs Hill who be joining our Bees Early Years team.

At Moss Lane we are proud to be constantly thinking about how we deliver the curriculum to our children. Last week was the start of Black History Month.

As part of our commitment to celebrate identities, embrace diversity and strive for equality, we are marking Black History Month at Moss Lane and this year's theme is 'Reclaiming Narratives'.

This theme encourages us to shine a spotlight on the untold stories, the unsung heroes, and the everyday individuals who have made an indelible impact on our communities. There is a great African proverb that says: Until the Lion learns to write, every story will glorify the hunter! It encourages reflection on how, collectively, we can work together for inclusivity, accuracy and equality within the stories we uphold.

It is an opportunity to show mutual respect between nations and races as well as starting point to a broader perspective on race relations.

If you want to support your child further please click on the link below
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/curations/black-history-month>

Below is a link for some of our favourite books about Black History for younger children (4-8)

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/booklists/b/books-to-introduce-black-history-month-to-younger-children/>



Our value for this term is

Friendship

What's coming up...

14th October

Foxes Woodland School

17th October

9.15am Harvest Festival
Bees and Otters Families

18th October

9.15am Harvest
Year 1 and Hedgehogs Families

24th October

Individual and sibling photos

25th October

INSET DAY School close

27th October-3rd Nov

HALF TERM

Nov 4th Children in school

INSET DAYS

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

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

What's going on in school...

Feeling Good Week

To celebrate World Mental Health Day this year, Moss Lane School took part in 'feeling good' week. This year's theme was 'Embracing Emotions'. Feeling Good Week is an event to help prioritise looking after our own and other people's health, physical, mental and emotional. The children do a range of learning and activities that encouraged them to reflect, work together, strengthen relationships, and develop greater empathy and understanding to positively share how they feel which can help encourage positive mental health.

Bees

Bees had a wonderful time harvesting apples on our school allotment. We then returned to school and made apple crumble, which everyone enjoyed eating with their families at home.

Year 1

Year 1 have been super busy exploring the story of Avocado Baby. They are writing their own versions and hope to read these to Bumble Bees and Honey Bees next week. There has been lots of hands-on experience in maths as children learn about the part whole model. Children showed their musical skill during an African drumming workshop. They were attentive, enthusiastic and so keen to impress the teacher. Well done year one.



Year 2

Year 2 had a visit from firefighter Sophie. She taught us all how to effectively respond to a fire and how to call the emergency services. We got to learn all about what it's like to work as a firefighter and how different it would have been to be a firefighter in the Tudor times!



Moss Lane Gold Assembly

We would love to hear about your child's achievements outside of school, this can be anything for getting an award at Beavers or Rainbows, sports achievements like player of the match awards, music or dance – Anything at all that is special. Let Mrs Abbott know and she will include it into our Friday Gold Assemblies.

Are you worrying about putting food on the table?

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If you ever need help with putting food on the table due to a family crisis, please pop in and speak to Mrs Abbott. Alternatively, you can contact Mrs Forbes-Wood (our Home School Link Worker) or pop into the Citizens Advice Bureau or local church and they will offer help. All these agencies can give you short-term access to the local food banks. Please do not worry about asking - we are all here to help.



Bikes and Scooters...



Please can I remind all families that children should not be riding scooters or bikes when on school premises.

Please walk them through the carpark and playground.

Can we also ask that bikes and scooters are parked responsibly? The gate by the scooter rack is in use during the day so where possible please do not park in front of it.

Screen Time and Online Gaming

The internet is a brilliant resource for children and comes with many benefits. As parents it is always a difficult area to navigate and know what is right for our children. The most important thing you can do is keep an open line of communication with your child about what they are doing on screens if they have independent access to them. Be interested in what they are doing and ask them about what games they are playing if they are allowed to do so. As a rule of thumb, I believe that infant children should not be accessing any more than half an hour a day of screen time on a personal device. If you know your child is accessing a particular game online then there are excellent parent guides on the [internet matters website](#). This will help you decide if something is age appropriate and what settings you can set up to keep your child safe.

Labelling School Items

A quick reminder to please ensure that your child's book bag, clothes and other items are all labelled. This makes it much easier to reunite children with their correct belongings. Thank you.

Safeguarding

At Moss Lane School we ensure that our children are **safe and happy and aiming high**. Included in that is our strong ethos of Safeguarding, making sure our children are safe physically and mentally. We are reaching out to our wider Moss Lane Family in the hopes that you will be able to help us with a few areas where we can help keep our children physically safe.

- 1) If the back door is shut under NO circumstances should it be opened.
- 2) Please ensure that the small red pedestrian gate is shut and bolted when entering or exiting the site outside of normal drop off and collection times.
- 3) Do not let anyone follow you through the gate outside of drop off and collection times. We know that it can be awkward to ask someone to press the buzzer but it is important.
- 4) Do not be offended if someone asks you to shut and bolt the side gate and / or someone asks you to press the buzzer.
- 5) Please do not park in front of the red gates, even if you are running late or dropping off / collecting outside of the normal times. Access through the gates is needed at all times.
- 6) Please pass these important messages onto anyone who is dropping off or collecting your child.
- 7) Please can I remind that no dogs are allowed on to school grounds even if carried in arms.

Thank you for your cooperation and helping us to maintain the safety of the children.

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.



Harvest Festival

You are invited to join us in the hall for our annual Harvest Festival celebration on:-

17th October at 9.15am = For Bees and Otters families

18th October at 9.15am = For Year 1 and Hedgehog families

Please note only 2 parent/carers per child and preferably no siblings.

This year we are raising awareness and requesting donations for The Godalming and Villages Community Store. <https://godalming-tc.gov.uk/community-store/>. It is supporting any local person in need of food and basics to live. The Store works closely with the Godalming Town Council and Citizens Advice Bureau to identify those in need and is entirely reliant on donations. Those in need come from all walks of life and age groups. Last year, we were able to take a car full of Moss Lanes donated items. Thank you.



If you are able to make a HARVEST contribution this year, please select from the following list:

Tinned meat meals (e.g. Fray Bentos pies),
Curry cooking sauces,
Toilet roll & Kitchen roll,
Instant noodles (packets not pots please),
Sugar Biscuits & Multi-pack crisps,
UHT Long life semi-skimmed milk,
Washing up Liquid,
Tinned custard & Rice pudding,
Tinned tuna & Dried pasta.

Any other non-perishable food stuffs are also welcome.

Children can bring their donations into school from Monday 14th October onwards and leave them on the table outside the office. Any donations are greatly appreciated.

Artist of the term

Autumn 2024

Stephen Wiltshire pencil sketching art challenge.

In assembly this week, the children have learned all about the work of British artist Stephen Wiltshire. They learned how he used drawing to express himself when he was very young, and how he is able to look at a scene for a very short time and then draw it in pencil in very accurate detail.

I have asked the children if they would like to choose an object in their home – it could be a toy, some food, or any object they choose – look at it very carefully for one minute, then cover it up and have a go at drawing it in as much detail as they can in pencil. Once they have finished, they can have another look. How did they do?

We will have a gallery of our Moss Lane artists' work in the hall for everyone to admire! Please name your child's art work on the back, label what it is and then either hand it to myself or the office.

For more information on Stephen Wiltshire, here is a short video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xpqilvSNYao> Please only use You Tube with adult supervision.

We can't wait to see their sketches!

Thanks very much

Mrs Smith

Art and Design and DT Lead.

