

Moss Lane School

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Dear Families,

If your home is like mine I am sure the countdown to Christmas has begun! As we come to the end of another successful term at Moss Lane, I want to thank all of the pupils, parents and staff who have helped make this Autumn Term so special. The children's positivity continues to shine through every day at school. As ever, there have been many wonderful moments, and the school community has consistently demonstrated that it has some truly remarkable individuals.

A big thank you to all the PTA / parents who helped run / organise all the various Christmas activities during December. As a school, we really appreciate all the support and fundraising that you do.

It has also been a wonderful term of learning. Everyone has tried their best to fulfil their potential, and the children have really enjoyed this term's topics and have discovered all sorts of things they did not know before.

A big thank you to all the staff for their dedication to the progress of the children; observations this term have shown a high percentage of good / outstanding teaching, with children being well supported and moving on in their learning. Our data also shows that we are above National data for reading, writing, science and mathematics, a real success!

Many thanks also go to the Governors for all their support this term. I want to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas, a happy holiday period and a prosperous New Year. Enjoy your special time with your families.

We look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Wednesday 3rd January 2024 for the start of the spring term.

Warmest regards
Mrs Abbott

What's coming up...

18th December

No SCL breakfast club

Term finishes at 13.30pm

TERMS STARTS

January 3rd 2024

8th January

Hedgehogs Woodland School

10th January

Football club starts

17th January

FGB Resources

22nd January

Honey Bees Woodland School

29th January

Foxes Woodland School

5th February

Squirrels Woodland School

6th February

Bumble Bees Woodland School

9th February

Inset Day

12th- 16th February

Half term

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

What's going on in school...

Godalming Light Switch On

It was once again our privilege to open the Godalming Christmas Festival and Light Switch on with singing at the Pepperpot. The children were amazing! Well done! Thank you to Mrs Leggett and staff for all their hard work in teaching the children the songs and Miss Clare for conducting on the day.



Can Bears Ski? Pantomime

Last week, the children were all treated to a performance of 'Can Bears Ski?' by The Pied Piper Theatre Company. The children were a wonderful audience and revelled in the skill of all the actors involved. 'Can Bears Ski?' is a wonderful tale of Bear's journey into discovering their hearing loss and all the new skills they unlock.



Bees Lapland Day!

Bees had the most amazing day with their 'trip' to Lapland! The children enjoyed making snowman cakes, Christmas trees, reindeer and much, much more. They enjoyed hot chocolate and marshmallows at the end of the day. It was utterly magical!



Warm Spaces...

Various organisations in the area are opening 'Warm Spaces' for anybody young or older for the colder months. There you can expect a friendly and inclusive welcome this winter. They are open to all but are particularly beneficial if you live in a hard to heat home, if you are isolated or if you are worried about your energy bills.

Some of the warm spaces in Waverley will provide practical tips about how to keep warm for less and other financial support available to help with the rising cost of living. Some will also offer hot food/and or refreshments. Some are places where you can just drop to sit quietly and keep warm. Please find below a link to warm spaces available in our area:

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/health-and-welfare/support/welfare-support/everyday-living/warm-welcome-venues/list-of-warm-welcome-in-surrey#waverley>



Church visit

Bees visited St Peters and Pauls church and meet with Canon John who told them all about the history of the church. They also learnt names for certain areas within the church. Thank you to all the parent helpers who came with us.



Christmas Jumper Day and lunch

Last Friday the staff and children celebrated Christmas with a wonderful Christmas dinner. Roast Turkey with all the trimmings, Christmas music and of course crackers, silly hats and bad jokes. All our governors came and shared this special event with the children.



Christmas Mini Market!

Once again the hall was filled with Christmas music and our shopping elves helped the children buy gifts for their families. It is a wonderful event and a highlight of the Moss Lane School calendar so thank you to all the parents for donating presents, sweets, dressing children in mufti and sending in money and bags. It takes a huge amount of organising for the event to run smoothly so a massive thank you to our wonderful PTA!



Father Christmas

The children had the most fabulous time with Christmas Parties and a visit from a Father Christmas! Father Christmas gave each of the classes a present and the children had a wonderful time asking him questions about his Reindeer and the North Pole.

Godalming Mayor's Christmas Card & Mrs Abbott's Christmas Card

Jim in Otters Class won the Godalming Mayor's Christmas Card competition and Edward in Hedgehog's card was chosen as Mrs Abbott's official Moss Lane Christmas card this year. Well done Jim and Edward!



Christmas Plays

Our children were amazing in their shows with Yr R and Yr 1 performing the 'Twinkly Nativity' and Yr 2's 'Barmy Bethlehem'. They sang their hearts out and said their lines with confidence. A big thank you to all our families who were able to attend and to the parents for all the costumes. The children should all be proud of their hard work in producing such show stopping performances.



Playground Games...

We have noticed that there are a number of children playing games on the Playground that are inspired by video games and TV programmes which are not always age appropriate. We thought it would be useful to share the information. Games, apps and programmes use an age rating which has been considered by professionals to work out the right age/stage of development for children to be able to understand or cope with the content. PEGI ratings are based on safety and not game difficulty; many children want to be challenged by games and believe an older rated game will be harder. We know that it can be hard to say no to certain games particularly when children have older siblings but we urge you to consider what is and isn't appropriate for your child based on the information below.

Age Appropriate Content

Age	3+	7+	12 or 13+	16+	18+
Games and Apps	Jolly Phonics	Roblox	Super Smash Bros	WhatsApp	Grand Theft Auto
	FIFA	Minecraft	Overwatch	Vimeo	Battlefield
	Mario Kart	Lego Worlds	Fortnite	Call of Duty	Meet Me
	Just Dance	Jail Break	Instagram		Monkey
	Club Penguin	Angry Birds	Snapchat		Tinder
	Purple Mash	Bin Weevils	YouTube Account		
	Espresso	Among Us	Facebook		
	Animal Crossing		Pokemon Go		
			TikTok		

PEGI Age Ratings and what they mean



- 3+ Suitable for all age groups
- 7+ May contain some frightening pictures/sounds
- 12+ Slightly more graphic violence towards non-real life characters. Slightly more graphic nudity/mild bad language with no sexual expletives
- 16+ Nudity and violence have reached a stage comparable to real-life / extreme bad language / drugs / criminal activity
- 18+ Contains "gross violence" and themes of an entirely adult nature

The PEGI system is designed to inform the public of what's suitable and what's not for different ages. It can be a helpful tool in helping you to decide what games are appropriate for your child. This criteria has been established by experts in the field of child protection, psychology, the law and media. It helps analysts to decide what game content is appropriate in each of the five rating groups. PEGI ratings are based on safety and not game difficulty. Lots of children want to be challenged by games and believe an older rated game will be harder.



Includes in-game purchases



Online game-play available



Contains depictions of violence



May encourage or teach gambling



May be frightening to younger children



Contains bad / offensive language



Contains the use / glamorisation of alcohol / drugs



Contains depictions of nudity / references to sexual activity



18+ containing depictions of ethnic, religious, nationalistic or other stereotypes that could encourage hatred

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Smoking...

Please could we ask that parents, carers and other visitors refrain from smoking in the queue when waiting to come into school at drop off / pick up times, as there are often younger children and babies present. Thank you for your assistance.

Merry Christmas!

Finally, the staff and governors of Moss Lane School would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. We had so much fun this term and look forward to lots more next term when you back in school on January 3rd 2024.



Reading Corner

Miss Betterton's Book Recommendation:

This beautifully illustrated Ladybird book highlights the signs to spot in nature as Winter sets in. With an informative but accessible text, this book will engage fans of both fiction and non fiction. Discover what is happening during the 'morning mist' and 'below the surface' in this eye catching book.



Morning mist

As the sun rises, a layer of mist hangs over these hills, wrapping itself around the trees and houses.

Morning mists like this can often be seen in winter. They happen when warmer water in the air cools rapidly, causing it to change from invisible gas to fine water droplets. As the day progresses and the sun moves further overhead, the air heats up again. The droplets then evaporate and become gas, and the mist vanishes.

Since dawn, cold air sits lower than warmer air, valleys between hills like this one tend to trap the mist, so the clouds appear to 'sit' in the valley. The people who live here must take care, as it can be hard to see clearly when you are driving or walking about in the mist.

A short-eared owl swoops in and out of the mist on its morning hunt, looking for voles or mice in the fields. This species of owl is unusual because, unlike most of the United Kingdom's owls, it prefers to hunt in the daytime. Once this owl has found its food for the day, it will return to its nest, which is a scraped-out hole in the ground, lined with warm grass and feathers.

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Struggling to access home reading ?

We have a small number of devices that we are able to loan families to enable children to complete reading at home. If you feel you would benefit from this service, please speak to your child's class teacher or email abetterton@moss-lane.surrey.sch.uk

Calling all 'Mystery Readers'!

Would you like to surprise your child by reading to them and their class mates? A while ago we sent an email about 'Mystery Readers', we have had a few people come forward to read in school..... we would love a whole load more! Please email class teachers to arrange a suitable time to read to your child's class.



Join our Children's Choir!
Come to our CHRISTMAS workshop!
Led by Ben de Souza
and Karen Beamer

**Sign up
Now!**

**£10 per child
(£5 for siblings)**

Ages 7-11

Tuesday 19th December

2—4pm

Oglethorpe Hall, Wilfred Noyce Centre

*"Emilia had a fantastic
morning. Thoroughly
enjoyed it. Thank you"*

*"I liked the warm up
counting group game"*

*"I especially liked
Bumblebee Tuna!"*

Book your place now!
Email: gcc@godalmingchoral.org.uk

12 Top Tips for Children and Young People to Enjoy a TECH-FREE CHRISTMAS

The Christmas holidays are tailor made for families to enjoy relaxed quality time in each other's company – but with distractions like pinging phone notifications, the lure of games consoles and online Boxing Day sales, that can be more difficult than it sounds. Staying off our phones, laptops and tablets, however, can really help us to appreciate the things that genuinely matter at this special time of year. Follow our 12 top tips for a tech-free festive season ... Yule be glad you did! Merry Christmas!

CHRISTMAS CRAFTING

Get out the paper, glue and scissors and have a go at hand-making cards or gift tags. You could also create your own decorations to add a uniquely personal touch to the Christmas tree.

NATURE QUEST

Try a scavenger hunt in the garden or your local park. Challenge yourself and your family to find natural treasures that are symbolic of this time of year – like holly or pinecones, say.

CAROL KARAOKE

Sing your hearts out with a Christmas carol karaoke night. Pick out your favourite tunes and enjoy a musical celebration with family and friends.

WANDER DOWN MEMORY LANE

How about making a scrapbook filled with your favourite memories from Christmases gone by? Unleash your creativity while you enjoy reliving those magical holiday moments.

TRY REFLECTIVE JOURNALLING

Jot down your thoughts, feelings and reflections on the holiday in a notebook or diary – you could also list some of your main goals for the new year.

WRAP IT UP

Take time to get inventive with some luxurious gift wrapping. Break out the wrapping paper, ribbons and bows to make parcelling up those presents into a creative adventure.

WALK IN A WINTER WONDERLAND

Delight in the great outdoors with some gentle walks over the holiday. The family can all wrap up warm as you add to your step count and savour the crisp winter air together.

BE A SEASONAL CHEF

Get the whole family working together in the kitchen for some Christmas cooking. Choose a recipe and whip up a festive feast that all of you can enjoy.

ENJOY A CHRISTMAS STORY

Christmas is a perfect time for sparkling stories. Get cosy and lose yourself in a brilliant book, from Dickens to Dr Seuss or a more modern favourite by Chris van Allsburg or Tom Fletcher.

SNOWY SCULPTURES

If we're fortunate enough to get a white Christmas this year, make the most of the opportunity by having a family snowman-building competition!

GAMES NIGHT GALA

Dive into some old-school fun with a tech-free games night. Classic board games and card games have stood the test of time for a reason!

GOODWILL TO ALL

You and your family could spend a day volunteering – perhaps at a food bank or helping a local charity. After all, kindness and thinking of others are part of what Christmas is all about.

Meet Our Expert

Minds Ahead design and deliver the UK's only specialist postgraduate mental health qualifications. They also provide training and support to education organisations and local authorities – empowering school leaders and staff with the knowledge and tools to shape their settings into inclusive communities where the mental health of pupils and personnel is prioritised.



The National College



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

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