



Christmas is almost upon us and with that comes the opportunity to reflect on a busy, creative, productive and successful term. This year, despite the unprecedented times we find ourselves facing, we are delighted to have found ways for the children to participate in a full, broad and balanced curriculum with plenty of fun along the way. The children have amazed us with their resilience and adaptability; they are a joy to be with!



It was essential to provide the children with opportunities to celebrate Christmas – now more than ever – and to make memories that last a lifetime. We would like to thank you all for helping us support all these wonderful initiatives and making this special time of year magical for the children.

Every year The Sunday Times publishes an edition of their schools guide 'Parent Power'. We are delighted to announce that South Farnham School has retained its place as the top state primary school in Surrey.

Schools are ranked by the aggregated average scaled scores achieved by children in reading, grammar and maths end of Key Stage 2 SATs. South Farnham ranked 11th in the country which is a fantastic achievement, especially when you look at the number of children sitting the tests - 136 at our school. 11<sup>th</sup> out of the 15,000 primary schools in the country places South Farnham in the top 0.07% of school nationally. We were also delighted to achieve the same ranking as the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest performing independent school!

This is not the first time South Farnham School has achieved these positions and it is testament to the hard work and excellence of our pupils, staff and Governors. Not only are all the children achieving well academically, they are also having a fantastically rich curriculum including performing arts, sport, visual arts and music whilst maintaining our continual pursuit of excellence in all areas of school life.





### Class Assemblies

Assemblies have been a little bit different this year but we have been delighted to continue to perform and create our much loved class assemblies. We have shared these 'live' within our immediate bubble and with the rest of the school and our families via the wonderful magic of 'video links'. Year 2 enjoyed performing their class assemblies and teaching us about Johnny Appleseed (as part of National Apple Day), Halloween and Fire-work Safety. There has been a strong emphasis on being proud of who we are and celebrate our differences.

Meanwhile, at the Junior site we have enjoyed performances on Tudors, technology, space, women who changed the world and Romans amongst others.

### Christmas Around the World



It's not just our assemblies which have had to change this term. Determined to 'Save the Christmas Play', we put our thinking caps on and decided to create our first ever whole school Christmas performance. The teachers got together and decided on the concept of 'Christmas Around the World'.

They wrote scripts, selected music and songs and choreographed dances to create the ultimate show. We are proud of all of the children for their hard work, enthusiasm and dedication to putting on such lovely performances. We are particularly proud of our Year R and Year 4 children who had a very short amount of time to learn their parts. We hope you enjoy the finished version and our 'trailer' on Twitter.





### Christmas Lunch

Children and staff enjoyed a Christmas festive lunch on Friday 11th December. The children ate their lunch in their classroom whilst listening to Christmas music and taking part in some games. There was a wonderful array of festive head accessories on display and the children especially enjoyed pulling their crackers and reading their jokes.



**Christmas Parties** - As always, Christmas parties were a huge success. The children really enjoyed wearing their Christmas jumpers and playing a variety of party games.



### Christmas Pantomime (Oh yes we did!)

This year, the children were treated with a special pantomime to watch after their Christmas lunch. Performed by Sleeping Trees, The Legend of Moby Dick Whittington provided an hour of hilarious joy! Mrs Donnachie may not have thought this through as, what was designed as a quiet afternoon activity was, of course, a wonderfully interactive panto, in which the children were encouraged to use items found around the classroom to create a ship and to boo, shout and generally join in the fun. The story mixes well-known panto Dick Whittington with the tale of Moby Dick and also throws in Pinocchio and King Rat. The children had a *whale* of a time! Sorry teachers.





## Community Festive Cheer

We've made it our mission this term, even more than normal, to spread festive cheer within our school and local community. The children have especially enjoyed making Christmas cards for residents in local care homes and to be delivered with Christmas dinners to vulnerable members of our community. We were also proud to share our 'Christmas Around the World' performance, with your permission, with care homes and Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice. Thinking of others has never been more important than in the current climate and on Friday the whole school shared a thought-provoking wishing service led by our infant children. Through discussion, each class had determined their wish for the world which they shared while 'lighting' a candle.

### South Farnham School - Wishing Service 2020

- ◇ Ash Class: We wish that people didn't have any worries so that they could always have nice dreams.
- ◇ Elm Class: Our Class wish is that all the germs from the virus were gone so everyone can be together and happy again.
- ◇ Oak Class: We wish that everyone in the world had access to fresh and healthy food and water.
- ◇ Apple Class: We wish that everybody has a home to live in to keep them safe and warm.
- ◇ Cherry Class: We wish that everybody in the world will have access to the Corona virus vaccine.
- ◇ Pear Class: Our Class wish is for everybody in the world to be safe, happy and healthy.
- ◇ Beech Class: We wish for everyone in the world to have the same opportunities in life, regardless of their looks, background, ethnicity or culture.
- ◇ Maple Class: We wish that everyone would stop hurting and hunting animals so that no more disappear.
- ◇ Willow Class: Our class wish that medicine was free for all and that everyone had fair access to it.
- ◇ 3M: Our class wish is that everyone in the world could have a loving family that they could spend time with and share their love.
- ◇ 3F: We wish that everyone in the world would treat each other with dignity and respect and embrace their differences.
- ◇ 3R: We wish that every animal without a home could be cared for and looked after.
- ◇ 3P: We wish that all children across the world could have a great and free education.
- ◇ 4D: We wish for all children to be given and receive the same opportunities, no matter what background they come from.
- ◇ 4B: Our class wish that everyone would protect and cherish the animals in the world so that no more become endangered or extinct.
- ◇ 4H: Our class wish if for people to make choices which will have a positive impact on the environment we live in.
- ◇ 4W: We wish for everyone to have enough money, food and shelter for 2021.
- ◇ 5F: We wish for there to be no more war or hatred in the world.
- ◇ 5L: We wish for there to be new medical advancements so we can find a cure for all illnesses.
- ◇ 5A: Our class wish for all people to appreciate everybody's role in our world and to treat them fairly.
- ◇ 5S: We wish that every adult and child will receive love and happiness this Christmas.
- ◇ 5P: We wish that this Christmas everyone will have a warm home.
- ◇ 6P: Our class wish is that one day there will be a cure for all diseases.
- ◇ 6L: We wish for a world free from the damaging impact of deforestation, climate change and pollution.
- ◇ 6S: We wish every person in the world had a family to spend time with at Christmas.
- ◇ 6D: We wish that everyone would be proud of who they are and that all others would respect that.



### Reading

As we are unable to have parent readers in school at the moment, we have instead been reading with members of the community, virtually. The children have loved reading to their reading buddy on the computer. We have even had Year 6 children reading to the Infant classes. Reading with a child is a joyous activity and it has been wonderful to share this experience with other members of our community.



### Surprise Storyteller

Children at the Infant Site have continued to enjoy their surprise storytellers in a virtual manner. Parents, friends and family have volunteered to read to a class via ZOOM. The children have loved their 'visitors'. We even had a storyteller all the way from Australia!



### New video screens

The children are delighted with the four new video screens at the Infant Site. Whilst walking past these areas the children can enjoy songs, rhymes and videos related to phonics, maths, history, French and all sorts! Here are some images of the children using their phonics actions for the sounds they have learnt.



The children have been keeping themselves busy outside school as well.

Congratulations to Orla who won the Blackwater Valley Nature Reserve Walk photography competition as well as the Rotary Club Junior Photographer of the year earlier this term.



Levi made a rare and exciting discovery! While fossil hunting on Isle of Sheppey, Levi picked up a bone that he first thought was that of a whale. However, the National History Museum has confirmed that the bone is in fact the top end of a rib of a Woolly Mammoth from the last ice age (11,600 - 2.8 million years old). In the history of Isle of Sheppey there has only been two previous Mammoth fossils discovered.

Hattie's fundraising for the Little Princess Trust has been phenomenal! She has raised over £800 by cutting and donating her hair and was able to donate a 'foot' (12") of hair!



To mark 30 Years of Farnham in Bloom, Farnham In Bloom would like to end the year with a fun and creative competition for local schools and children to get involved in. Children can create a design for a new carpet bed which will be planted in Gostrey Meadow. Once the winning design is picked from a team of judges, this design will be created in plants by a specialist company and planted up in Farnham in late spring of 2021. The theme for the carpet bed is **'Community'**. Entries can either be posted to Farnham Town Council offices or emailed to [bloom@farnham.gov.uk](mailto:bloom@farnham.gov.uk). The deadline for designs is Wednesday 15th January 2021. Be sure to include name, school year and the name of the school. Alternatively entries can be emailed or given to Mrs Wagner at the Juniors or Mrs Gravestock at the Infants by 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021. Remember to include your name, school year and the name of the school. We are really looking forward to seeing your entries!



**Farnham**  
In Bloom

## Remembrance

As a school, we feel it is our duty to make Remembrance meaningful and appropriate for children from Year R – 6. Under normal circumstances we would mark Remembrance with a whole school assembly, led by the children, including a bugler and a two minutes' silence, with the hall filled with parents. However, this year was, of course, different. Proudly, two of our Year 6 children read poetry and laid our wreath at the War Memorial in Farnham. One of the highlights of the day was our whole school Remembrance Assembly which was watched by all children and staff across Year R – 6 including the two minutes' silence.



Come rain or shine, the outdoor gym at the Junior Site has been well-used this term to support the children's mental and physical wellbeing, as part of the curriculum, at lunchtime and for after school clubs.



## Writing Competition

### Where does the picture take you?

A magical winter fairground? An unfound country? A different time? An arctic zoo? Using this picture as inspiration we would like you to write a story, no longer than a page, which fills us with wonder and excitement!

The children have been introduced to this at school; there are no rules, just make it fantastic!

Return your story to Mrs Hatter by Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021



## Super Seven Farnham Fitness Challenge

Year 5 and 6 completed in this fantastic event, allowing the children to complete against children from other schools, virtually.