



South Farnham School Newsletter



March 2021

As we approach the end of term and we see the daffodils blooming and the evenings getting warmer and lighter, we look back on another exciting term at South Farnham School. Whilst the term didn't begin quite as we anticipated, we adapted to remote learning quickly and settled into a new routine. This was only possible due to the incredibly hard work by all staff and the fantastic support of our families; it truly was a great time to be a part of the South Farnham Family. Despite being online, we continued to celebrate our love of learning with a vast range of exciting lessons and projects. This newsletter highlights just a small number of the 'best bits'.

It has been a joy to have all of the children back at school; to see smiling faces in the corridors and hear laughter and fun filtering in from the playground and classrooms. The children have settled back into school life incredibly well. We couldn't be more proud of them!

We hope you have a relaxing, safe and happy Easter break and very much look forward to welcoming the children back for an exciting summer term.



Teaching School Hub

At the end of last half term, we had some exciting news. South Farnham School has been selected to become a Teaching School Hub. This newly designated status will build upon the school's experience as a National Support School and Teaching School. South Farnham School is one of only 87 schools in England selected to be a new Teaching School Hub. Each hub will work with a designated area ensuring coverage across the country, serving on average around 250 schools each. They will provide high-quality, professional development to teachers and leaders at all stages of their career and play a key role in helping to build up trainee teachers as they enter the workforce. This will further level up the quality of teaching, allowing every child to receive a world-class start in life, no matter where they are born.

South Farnham School will lead the SESL 11 region (Guildford, Waverley, Rushmoor, Hart, East Hampshire, Basingstoke and Deane) whilst continuing to work with their current partner schools across Surrey, Sussex, Hampshire and the London Boroughs. Relationships with neighbouring Teaching School Hubs, curriculum hubs and national providers will be developed to draw upon the best of regional and national expertise, as South Farnham School introduce some of the most exciting changes to teacher development in a generation.

South Farnham School's designation as a Teaching School Hub has recognised the substantial contribution that it makes to teacher development in the area. We are looking forward to the opportunities that this will provide.



Being physical!

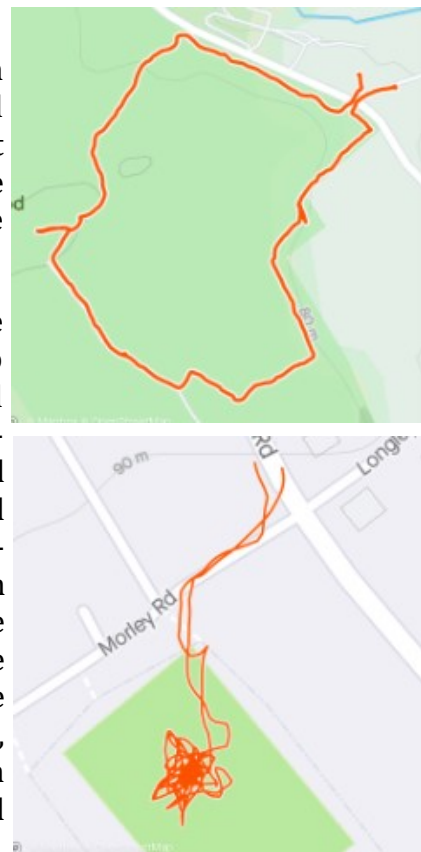
The children have enjoyed being physical now that they are back at school. They have enjoyed using the school facilities including the studios, playground, astros, outdoor play equipment and the outdoor gym.



EYFS

Throughout lockdown, the importance of physical activity has been highlighted and encouraged, and to help facilitate this, EYFS started a STRAVA group. Not only did it log the children's activity levels, but it also provided the opportunity to look at distances and maps. Some of the maps became very interesting to look at - I think you can see why!

Mrs Weston explained, "After Oak Class' initial 30km challenge (which we completed in a weekend), we quickly progressed to 100km. As our half term challenge, we set our sights on Paris and the Eiffel Tower – a distance of 507km. On the first Saturday of half-term we were soon crossing the Channel. On arrival at the Eiffel Tower on Monday the 22nd of February, we voted to carry on and head straight to the beach. Luxembourg and the temptation of chocolate was a very close second, but Bordeaux and a further 531km was decided. As soon as the remaining two weeks of lockdown were confirmed, we soon realised that reaching Bordeaux was going to be a challenge. However, with good weather and some exciting Bourne Wood action in the mix, during the first week of this next challenge, we covered our biggest distance of 341km. With an additional 25km completed just at the end, we made it to Bordeaux. We are so proud of the children!"



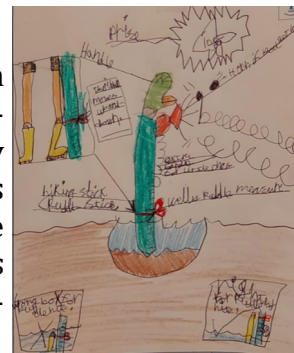
Return to school

Once the re-opening of schools was confirmed, the Infant Site PTA set up their 'Lockdown Legend – Run Back To School' initiative. This encouraged children to mark the transition from Remote Learning back to the classroom by running, scooting, walking or cycling 5km. This was a highly successful initiative and was very much enjoyed by the children and parents. We hope the children liked their medals and will keep them safe as a reminder of the tremendous resilience they have shown.



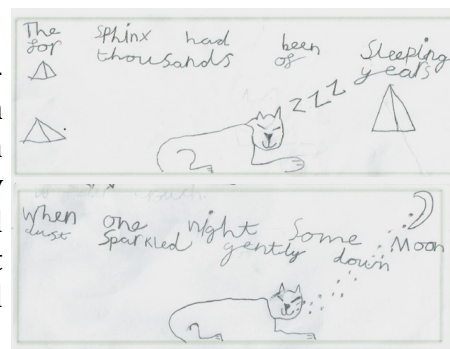
STEM Competition

Earlier this term, the children were given the challenge to create an invention with an environmentally friendly theme. For older children, this included explanations of why they had chosen their specific design, accompanied by any influences. We were highly impressed by the entries returned, especially as some children had created their own inventions. The following children are the winners within each category: Freya Miles (Reception), Molly Lyons (KS1), Ahmad Tahir (Lower KS2) and Will Ahlheid (Upper KS2). We look forward to designing more competitions in the future!



English Competition

We were delighted with the quality and inventiveness of the contributions we received for the comic strip competition – from space travel to ancient Egypt, King Henry VIII to human evolution – they were each special in their own way. We were impressed by the good humour and excellent illustrations which were created by the children. Winners will be announced after Easter. For next term, we will be launching a new competition. Children are asked to continue the following story.



'The glow was what caught my eye first, it was unexpected to see so deep in the crowded forest. As I approached, I saw it was an egg, however not any egg I had seen before, it was the size of an Easter Egg and glowed eerily. Yet the strange egg was not what made me gasp, it was the thing hatching from the egg which did that..'

There are no rules, however entries need to be one page long and show fantastic imagination. Entries are due on Friday 26th May 2021 and can be sent to info.southfarnham@sfet.org.uk.

World Maths Day

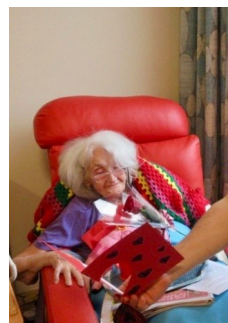
World Maths Day, which took place on 3rd March, is an event that originated in 2007, celebrated all around the world and is an opportunity for everyone to get involved in mathematical challenges and celebrate the subject!

This year, whilst the children were being taught at home for the day, it was a huge success. Every class took part in a 'magic number' early morning activity and each year group had an activity that they participated in during the afternoon. Much fun was had by all!



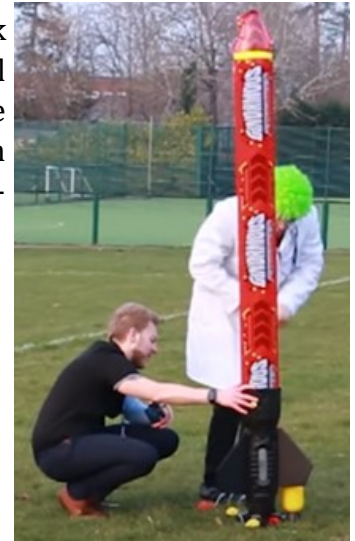
Valentine's Day Cards

Residents at Farnham Mill Nursing home and Tongham Ambulance station were delighted with the Valentines Day cards they received, which had been created by the key worker children. We are delighted that we could bring a smile to the faces of our local community.



British Science Week

On Friday 5th March we marked the beginning of British Science Week with some breath taking experiments carried out on our very own school field. The children were thrilled to see a rocket propelled higher than the buildings at our Menin Way site. Following the experiments, all children took part in a variety of Science activities such as designing their own ro-bo-bug inspired by nature.



World Book Day

On Thursday 4th March, all of the children across the school celebrated World Book Day. Many embraced technology to share their favourite book as their background on Teams. All were inspired by the short clip entitled 'The Wishgranter' and entered our competition by writing a selection of instructions, descriptions and imaginative stories from different perspectives! Well done to all of the children who entered, it was lovely to see all the time and effort taken with these pieces! The standard of writing was incredibly high and huge congratulations to you all; we look forward to announcing our winners! The children have had opportunities throughout the year to enter competitions about winter wonderlands, history and all sorts of inspiring things. It is always a pleasure to read their unique and inspiring ideas.



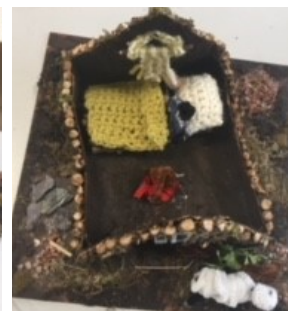
David Shepherd Competition

Children from every year group, from Reception to Year 6, have worked extremely hard on the school's entry in the David Shepherd Global Canvas competition. This year's theme is 'Endangered' and the children were inspired through exploring the thousands of species of animals, plants and insects at risk of extinction across the world. Their incredible final piece combined a range of media, styles and techniques and was Highly Commended by the judges.



Art and Design

Across the school, the children continued to express their creative talents by embarking upon a variety of art and design projects. Year 2 children, both at home and in school, enjoyed designing and creating their own Tudor houses to consolidate their learning about The Great Fire of London. Year 4 have built their own Anglo-Saxon houses; collectively they all look spectacular!



Red Nose Day

Friday 19th March saw South Farnham School support Red Nose Day in style. Across both our sites, the children spent the week busily designing Red Nose Day characters, running 1k, guessing the number of red sweets in the jar and, on Friday lunchtime, enjoying taking part in a variety of fun activities to help raise money. This saw children at our Infant Site, vying to score points in a 'nose toss' for their class, in order to win the highly coveted prize of being the first class to use the adventure playground which has just been freshly cleaned ready for the children to enjoy. In the meantime, at our Junior Site, the children had the opportunity to try and beat their teachers in a football and netball shoot out competition. Mr Durrant came very close to losing his unbeaten title from last year! Well done to everyone who took part and managed to beat their teachers. Not to be outdone, the staff across both sites took part in a highly competitive South Farnham Bake Off. Congratulations to all bakers – the entries were of a very high standard.

As well as all of the fun that took part in school, many of the children were inspired to continue their fundraising outside of school to help raise money too. Well done to Charlie O'Dell (5S) who managed to run 10 miles in order to support this great cause. Congratulations to everyone for all of your incredible efforts to support this amazing cause. Together we have managed to raise lots of money which will be used to support many amazing charities and people across the UK.



Summer Production

At South Farnham School, we believe that it is important to continue to give the children opportunities to take part in performing arts. We are therefore delighted to announce that this summer we will be performing Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. In order to adhere to government guidelines individual year groups will be given the opportunity to rehearse and film a section of the play. This will be edited together to create a whole school production.



Easter Service

We would like to thank the Year 5 children, for the wonderful Easter service that took place this week. The children rehearsed a spoken word and drama presentation of the Easter story. This was filmed and, using our wonderful video wall, displayed along with images chosen by the children to echo the messages of their performance. The celebration was shared with all children from Reception to Year 6 and each class took a moment to reflect on the messages of hope and peace.





Spring Prom

The Spring Prom has been a key event in the South Farnham Performing Arts Calendar for many years. Although we could not be together this Spring, the children had an opportunity to showcase their talents and share their craft with peers and other members of our community. The Performing Arts team were overwhelmed with the wonderful array of talent which was represented in the many video performances we received. The Spring Prom Remote video was a real highlight for the term and the children really enjoyed sharing their performances when they returned to school.



The Surrey South Farnham SCITT

Our School Centred Initial Teacher Training goes from strength to strength and is graded as an 'Outstanding' Provider of Initial Teacher Training by Ofsted. We are now training over 140 graduate teachers working throughout Surrey, Hampshire, West Sussex, Wokingham and the boroughs of Sutton, Croydon and Kingston. If you would like to inspire local children to fulfil their potential and realise their ambitions then we want to hear from you! We are looking for applications from talented individuals who have the capacity to train to become outstanding teachers through the Surrey South Farnham SCITT programme. If you are already a Qualified Teacher wanting to return to the classroom, please contact us about our Returning To Primary Teaching Programme. Please call the school office and see the school website for further information.



Nuts



Please could you ensure that products containing nuts are avoided for school packed lunches and snacks. Although we strive to be 'nut-free' in school, it is impossible to provide an absolute guarantee that no nuts will be brought onto the premises, so extra care in this respect would be greatly appreciated. Could you also remind your child that they should not share packed lunches or snacks with other children. Thank you.

The PFA (Juniors) and PTA (Infants)

Don't forget, we are always delighted to welcome new members to join our PFA and PTA! At the Junior Site, we are in desperate need of additional support. These valuable teams do so much good for the children but some of our events are in danger of being cancelled if we can not galvanise additional support from our wonderful parents. Please volunteer; even just a small amount of your time could make a huge difference.

Road Safety

We regularly talk to the children about keeping themselves safe, especially when crossing roads and walking to and from school. We would ask that you reinforce this message at home. In addition, South Farnham is a thriving community and Menin Way / School Lane can be an extremely busy areas with our own schools, The Abbey School, Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice and local residents. We do appreciate the difficulties in parking but request that you refrain from parking on the yellow zig-zags, paths / pavements / grass verges and parking across drive-ways and entrances. This would enhance the children's safety and help to promote the positive relationships that exist with our neighbours.



Clarks

Clarks in Farnham have been in contact with the school to let parents know that they have opened up their fitting appointment slots from the 12th April when they reopen. To book your in-store fitting appointment you can visit www.clarks.co.uk or contact Farnham Clarks.

Bikeability

The Cycle Training Team at Surrey County Council are recruiting for Bikeability Cycling Instructors. Details can be found [here](#).





South Farnham School **Alumni** *Association*

If you are a former student of South Farnham School, we would like to welcome you to join our alumni.

Your experiences since leaving could help to motivate and inspire the current children to feel more confident in making decisions about their future.

In order to join our alumni, please visit the school website. Alternatively, please contact the School Office on 01252 716155.



CONNECT | INSPIRE | CELEBRATE