



South Farnham School Spring 2023 Newsletter

March 2023

Dear Parents,

The Spring Term has been a busy one complete with sunshine and even snow! The children have continued to grow and develop and have made great progress which has been so wonderful to witness. This has only been possible due to the hard work of staff and the fantastic support of you all. As we approach the end of term, we would like to say a big thank you for all your support. Whether you're attending school events, volunteering your time, or simply keeping up with the latest news and updates, your support makes a tremendous difference to the children's success.

In this newsletter, you'll find a range of exciting updates, including details on our latest achievements, upcoming events, and important school news. We'll also be sharing some valuable resources and tips to help you support your child's learning and wellbeing.

Thank you for your continued partnership, and we look forward to another successful term together.

Best wishes,

Miss Whitbourn

Sport

Swimming Gala

On Thursday 9th February, a team of 25 swimmers participated in the local schools' annual swimming gala. Each pupil represented the school brilliantly, displaying fantastic sportsmanship throughout by encouraging each other and by sharing words of encouragement on poolside. It was a huge team effort and out of the 9 schools that competed, South Farnham were victorious! Well done to everyone involved.



Year 2 football tournament

On Saturday 25th March, a group of Year 2 children played in a wonderful football tournament at Amesbury School. Two teams participated in this event and South Farnham School were the overall winners of the event. The children played very well and thoroughly enjoyed the day.



Year 3 football festival

This term saw South Farnham host a Year 3 football festival, involving nine other schools from the Farnham and Ash district. All the children should be proud of how they represented the school and showed excellent teamwork, sportsmanship, and determination throughout a cold evening.



Football finals

On a cold evening in January, a group of Year 6 footballers represented the school in the football finals at Weydon School. This was after an impressive football season where they finished top of the pool. The boys showed great skill, teamwork and sportsmanship to win the event convincingly with a 5-1 final victory. Well done to all the children who have represented the school this year in football.



Chelsea football

This Spring term, a group of Year 5 and Year 6 girls and boys represented the school in the primary stars football tournament. Both teams successfully made it through the first round of qualifying after going unbeaten at an event in Walton on Thames. This meant they qualified for the next phase held at Chelsea training ground in Cobham. The boys narrowly missed out in the final with a 1-0 defeat, but the girls won the event to now compete as Chelsea at the next event in Leeds in June. Both teams should be extremely proud of their teamwork, sportsmanship, team spirit and should be extremely proud of all their efforts.





Girl's football

The girls football team thoroughly enjoyed their tournament at Ash Grange School. The girls displayed a superb attitude throughout the event and did extremely well on a chilly afternoon. Well done to all the girls involved.



Rugby tournament

On Wednesday 1st March, a selection of Year 6 children represented the school in a rugby tournament hosted by Farnham RFC. The two teams showed excellent teamwork and both qualified for the main final. After an exciting 10 minute game, the final result ended with a 3-3 draw and sharing the trophy. All children should be proud of their achievements and sportsmanship they showed on the day.



Badminton

South Farnham were well represented by Year 4 at a Badminton Festival held at Heath End School. With many of the children new to the sport, the activities revolved around building skills related to the game. They all performed brilliantly - narrowly missing the top-step of the podium - but all had a great afternoon enjoying some friendly competition.



Year 5 netball tournament

Year 5 participated in our first ever Netball tournament. We had 2 teams in Year 5 that entered, and everyone had lots of fun! The best bit of the afternoon was when we had all finished and everyone found out how well they had done! Both of our teams played against other schools. We all showed great sportsmanship and determination and were so happy that we won overall. I am really looking forward to the Netball season in Year 6 when we can play lots more matches. By Tilly Wild.



Year 6 netball tournament

This term, South Farnham enjoyed hosting a variety of netball tournaments at the school, which proved to be successful and exciting events for all involved. After a brilliant season and lots of hard work put into squad training, we had 3 teams that participated in the Year 6 Netball Tournaments. The children had a brilliant time representing the school and working as a team to enjoy one of the final netball events of the year. Thank you to everyone who has participated and contributed to a hugely successful season this year through squad training. Our place in the league is a phenomenal team effort from everyone involved. Well done!



Year 6 netball finals

The netball season this year has been so much fun and a great experience. Throughout the course of the year, our netball team has been unbeatable; through many tough games, we have managed to be victorious! During the difficult finals, it was a tough match, however we managed to win 7-1! I am so pleased that my team and I managed to win the trophy for our incredible school. I've enjoyed playing with my friends and teammates so much! I wholeheartedly recommend this opportunity to anyone who enjoys netball and being part of a team. I will remember this team forever! By Honor Witney 6L



Floorball

This term, our Year 6's enjoyed the final floorball tournament of the year, held at Farnham Leisure Centre. Floorball is a type of floor hockey that is played with 5 players and a goalkeeper. Throughout the tournament, both teams showed incredible perseverance, determination and teamwork, and, most importantly, they enjoyed trying out a new sport. Considering the teams had never played Floorball before, everyone contributed an amazing effort and developed their skills throughout the afternoon. If anyone is interested in trying out this exciting sport, Farnham Floorball runs on Saturday afternoons at the Leisure Centre.



Cross Country

On the 11th of March, Sam Foster (6P), Seb Bryce (5G), Oliver Page (5D), Hatty Robertson (6L), Alice Cook (6L), Becky Simons (6L) and Charlotte Nye (6L) represented the school in the Surrey Schools

Primary Cross-Country. All the children ran impressive times in their age categories, with Sam winning his race and Hatty, Oliver and Seb finishing in the top 3. Well done all of you!



World Book Day

The children and staff at South Farnham enjoyed a celebration of books as we all transformed into our favourite characters for World Book Day 2023. It was wonderful to see the magic of stories fill the corridors for a day of celebration! From Reception to Year 6, our children paired up across the school to share their favourite stories; teachers shared a love of reading as they invited children into our many libraries throughout the day to listen to favourite books from their childhood and we also shared the thought provoking text 'Malala's Magic Pencil' in every year group which reminded us all that 'One child, one teacher, one book and one pen can change the world'.





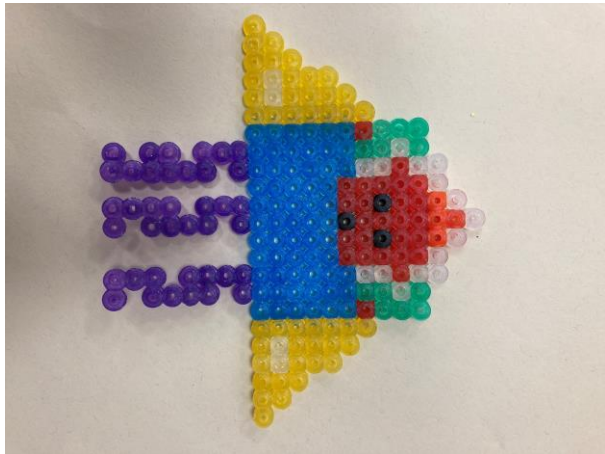
RE

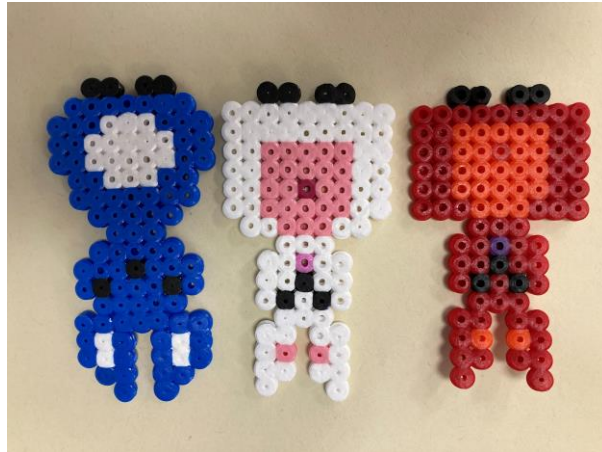
This Term, Year 2 have been learning about Islam. In February, they were lucky enough to be visited by two parents of South Farnham School who are also members of Tilford Mosque. They shared with the children what daily life was like in a Muslim family and how it might be the same or different to their lives. The children listened with interest and asked a fantastic range of thought provoking questions.

This term, Year 3 had the pleasure of experiencing an unforgettable Bhangra Dance Workshop that provided a unique blend of cultural immersion and physical activity for our students. The Year 3 children were captivated by this vibrant and energetic dance style and thoroughly enjoyed participating in the session. The workshop provided the children with an opportunity to explore the rich cultural heritage of the Hindu religion alongside learning the basics of Bhangra dance and were able to develop their coordination, rhythm, and teamwork skills while having immense fun. The children have enjoyed applying the skills learnt in the workshop to the rest of their PE lessons this term, appreciating and recognising their role as citizens within our diverse world.

DT

Here are some pictures from DT. There are some photographs of our extra- curricular club 'Hamma Beads' and also a photograph of a Shaduf created in Year 3. Year 3 created a Shaduf as an irrigation system, they designed them, created and tested them, and evaluated their final product.





Rocks and Soils Workshop

This term, our Year 3 children had the opportunity to become geologists and palaeontologists as part of an exciting, inspiring, and engaging workshop about rocks and fossils. The session brought their learning about rocks, soils, and fossils to life and enabled them to apply their knowledge to a range of scientific activities. As always, we are incredibly proud of how well they participated in all aspects of the workshop, representing our school with excellence.





Spring Prom

We are delighted to report on the success of South Farnham School's recent Spring Prom, which was held on Monday 6th March 2023. The event took place on our Junior stage and was attended by children, teachers, and parents alike. The evening was filled with music, dance, and laughter and everyone had a fantastic time. We were impressed by the creativity and talent displayed by our children, and we are proud of them for their hard work and dedication. The Prom was a wonderful opportunity for our school community to come together and celebrate the start of Spring. This wonderful performance was also followed by a series of Spring Variety Matinees at both sites, showcasing a wider range of talent than ever before, which the children and teachers thoroughly enjoyed. Thank you to all the children who took part. Thank you to everyone who helped make this event such a success.

Pancake Day

Lots of fun was had on Shrove Tuesday at South Farnham School when the children took part in pancake races. Every child had a chance to flip their pancake in a relay race against other classes in their year group. After the children had their fun, a highly anticipated teachers' race involved staff from all year groups competing for the crown.



Year 6 Writing

On 25th January, 8 talented writers from Year 6 attended an AIM High Writing workshop at William Cobbett School. The day was run by author, Kathryn Evans, who introduced the children to the process of how books are written. They all had the opportunity to share their ideas and were enthused by the objects that were presented to them and by each other's writing. A lovely and inspiring day was had by all!



Red Nose Day

Red Nose Day

Red Nose Day celebrations at both sites were a great success! The week was filled with excitement and creativity. From designing their own Red Nose, to showcasing many marvellous talents, there were so many fun activities to be involved in. The children particularly enjoyed playing against the teachers in a 'Beat the keeper' and 'Netball Shoot Out' competition. Overall, the whole school raised over £1000 for Comic Relief, which is an incredible achievement.

Attendance

Outstanding school attendance is a top priority at South Farnham School, as attendance has been shown to be a key component in positive academic, social and well-being outcomes for children. At our school, 100% attendance is the expected target and dedicated staff are in place to support you with any issues that might impact your child's attendance. The Government remains very clear that no child should miss school apart from in exceptional circumstances and it is our duty as a school to take steps to reduce absence to support children's attainment. The Department for Education states that missing school for even a day can have a negative impact on a child's progress, which can have a damaging effect on their attainment levels.

Whilst we acknowledge the thinking behind affordable holidays during term time, no holidays in term time are authorised. Although this will not affect your decision to go, it may lead to the issue of a penalty notice. We now have a named Local Authority Inclusion Officer who regularly meets with us as a school to check for any persistent absences.

You said, we did

As a school we are always looking for new ways to improve. Whether the reasons are academic, sporting, performance or how we can make areas of the school life more convenient for our parents, we want to listen to our community to improve our school.

In the Autumn Term and again last week we sent out a parent questionnaire and we were and are so happy with the positive feedback that we received; it was wonderful to read. Whilst that is always pleasant to see, we also saw some really useful suggestions and recommendations and we are pleased to add to our 'You said, we did...' section of the newsletter.

Please see below just some of the actions we have taken after the suggestions you have made:

You Said - We Did

1) Larger number of people participating in the Spring Prom - The Spring Prom was followed by a series of Spring Variety Matinees at both sites, showcasing a wider range of talent than ever before, which the children and teachers thoroughly enjoyed.

2) More sporting events for Key Stage 1 children - We have hosted and participated in a number of Key Stage 1 sporting events this year which huge success! The children have loved playing in these events and representing the school.

2) Focus on school values - In our whole school assemblies we focus on our school values and look at one in particular focus. Our school values are: Honesty, integrity, courtesy, respect and diversity.

These are just some of the changes that we are making to ensure that South Farnham is a school that supports everyone. Thank you to everyone with their useful suggestions.

Safeguarding

Online Safety

On Tuesday 7th February, we celebrated Safer Internet Day. Safer Internet Day is a global campaign to promote the safe and responsible use of technology. Using the internet safely and positively is a key message that we promote at South Farnham and celebrating Safer Internet Day was a great opportunity for us to re-emphasise the online safety messages we deliver throughout the year. The children had assemblies to discuss how to look after each other and stay safe in an online space. The children also took part in activities within the classroom.

There are some useful links to websites and resources for parents on our website. See

<https://www.southfarnhamschool.org/page/?title=Online+Safety&pid=152>

We would like to take this opportunity to signpost you to a link about TikTok:

<https://parentzone.org.uk/article/tiktok>

Designated Safeguarding Leads

The designated safeguarding lead (DSL) is a crucial role in schools. They are responsible for promoting the welfare of children and ensuring that appropriate safeguarding measures are in place. The DSL acts as the main point of contact for staff, parents, and other agencies regarding any safeguarding concerns. In the absence of the DSL, the deputy DSLs are responsible for safeguarding and child protection matters. These staff members receive additional training to support the DSL in their duties. The picture below shows the DSL and deputy DSLs for our school. If you have any concerns regarding your child's safety or well-being, please do not hesitate to contact the DSL or one of the deputy DSLs.

Designated Safeguarding Leads



Wellbeing

We have updated our website with some information on wellbeing, see below for links.

General information about wellbeing:

<https://www.southfarnhamschool.org/page/?title=Wellbeing&pid=93>

Information for parents about children's wellbeing:

<https://www.southfarnhamschool.org/page/?title=Children%27s+Wellbeing&pid=151>

Information for children about their wellbeing:

<https://www.southfarnhamschool.org/page/?title=Children%27s+Area%3A+Wellbeing&pid=383>

Science

A few week's ago we celebrated British Science Week, where the theme was 'Connections'. Every year group has engaged in various activities to inspire the children's curiosity of natural phenomena. Year 5 and 6 were also visited by the Head of Chemistry at Weydon Secondary School, where he showed some incredibly impressive demonstrations of how atoms are connected!



Computing

Children from Year 4 and 5 took part in an exciting 'Tackle Coding' workshop as an extension of the Computer Science aspect of the Computing Curriculum. With the support from the Digital Charity, they explored fitness trackers in action before creating and testing their own examples using Micro:Bit computers.





Maths

Eight Year 6 children attended the A.I.M High workshop which was held at William Cobbett School. The children were set different mathematical challenges throughout the day and showed excellent communication as well as strategic approaches to tackle the problems. The morning mostly focused on 'Code Cracking' style problems where children had to find the missing numbers and then progressed to Tangrams in the afternoon. The Tangrams consisted of 7 different sized polygons which had to fit together to make the required final shape. The children who solved it were applauded and then asked to go and show the rest of the group how they solved it to ensure everyone let knowing how to solve the puzzles. The children represented the school superbly and it was fantastic to see them so engaged with the mathematical problem solving.



World Maths Day

On Wednesday 8th March, we awoke to the beautiful view of snowy landscapes. Our excitement levels grew even further, as we began our whole school celebration of World Maths Day. Throughout the day, each class enjoyed a carousel of maths activities, which included: codebreakers, puzzles and practical problems to solve with our friends. We also logged in to Mathletics to compete in the world's largest online mathematics competition, answering questions to earn points. The children at the Junior Site were inspired by a talk on AI and Robotics from Professor Farshid Amirabdollahian and were thrilled to meet a robotic pet. It was a wonderful way to celebrate our love of Maths!



Infant Library

We are so pleased to announce that our Infant Library is now completed and children have started to use it. It is wonderful to have the space enhanced so children can immerse themselves in literature. The new mezzanine level allows a class to have more room so that children can read within a quiet and peaceful environment. At the moment we are deciding a name for our new library and will announce it to you for the grand opening.

We would like to thank you all for being patient with us whilst we had this building work completed to enhance the education of our children. Finally, huge thanks to the PTA who have helped us raise money to fund this project.









Well done

Here are some pictures from a pantomime that Alex P participated in. She performed in all matinee performances in various roles including a ladybird, a swan and a dancer. Alex is working towards her Gold level in ice skating and enjoyed this fantastic opportunity to showcase her skills.





Isabelle W and Teddy D have been raising money for The Children's trust by completing a sponsored Lego walk! Between them, both girls managed to raise just over £300 and were (very bravely) not complaining of sore feet the next day.



A huge well done to Ellie H who has participated in a number of music and arts festivals recently. Ellie has enjoyed taking part in these events and even came away with a number of 1st place positions in musical theatre, creative writing poetry, singing and acting categories.



A big well done to Caspian R who has run at least 1mile every day for a year. Caspian initially raised over £1000 for Ukraine and now £1000 for Crisis. We are so proud of what he has achieved!



Please do keep us updated on the children's achievements outside of school. We would to celebrate in an assembly or on displays around school.

Notices for parents

St Mary's

We are delighted to share that Miss Allan has been appointed Headteacher of St Mary's in Frensham. This is wonderful news for Miss Allan and also continues a great relationship that we already have with St Mary's. Many of you will remember that Mrs Downing, the current Headteacher at St Mary's, used to teach at South Farnham School. Mrs Downing is also now returning as Headteacher within the Trust. We wish Miss Allan the very best for September.

A message from Weydon regarding volunteers needed for Year 11 GCSE Exams in May/June.

'We are looking for volunteer invigilators to help with this year's Year 11 GCSE exams in May and June. If you are interested in getting involved with the school and gaining more of an insight into how the school works, we would welcome volunteer invigilators for upcoming exam season. This is the perfect opportunity for you to see what Weydon School is all about. Your time commitment need not be great and could perhaps only be one or two sessions. If you would like to help and are able to contribute some of your time, then please contact the Exams Office at: ExamsOffice@weydonschool.surrey.sch.uk. For those interested, a DBS check will be required and there will be some online training. We look forward to hearing from you!'

History Competition

April 21st, 2023 would mark the 97th birthday of Elizabeth II and, to commemorate this important day in our nation's – nay, our world's history, we'd like to invite children from every year group to create something – anything – in honour of our late monarch. A competition will be running until this date where the only limit is imagination. All entries will be prominently displayed in honour of Elizabeth II and her service to the country and the world.

Farnham Library

See below for Farnham Library children's activities coming up. These include crafts, STEM related activities and author events throughout the year.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT FARNHAM LIBRARY

25th
March

Pecking Chickens Craft - Make a pecking
spring chicken - 10:30am - Book at Library



6th
April

Easter Card Craft - Create a hatching chick
card! - 10:30am - Book at Library



8th
April

Chatter Books - Reading group for 7-12 year
olds every month. 11am



8th
April

Easter Bunny Hats- Get ready for Easter!-
10:30am - Book at Library

12th
April

Bouncing Bunnies- Make a jumping bunny -
2:30pm - Book at Library



**Remember - you don't have to be a member
of a library to take part!**

Find us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for more details.

Lost property

The Junior Site lost property is on display in Studio 1. The children have had an opportunity to visit and parents are welcome to come and have a look too. In the office we currently have a scooter which was left at school after an event. Please contact us if this is yours.

Surrey Arts

Please see flyer below from Surrey Arts about their Ensembles Open Rehearsals.

SURREY

ARTS



SOUTH WEST SURREY ENSEMBLES OPEN REHEARSALS

Wednesday

26 April 2023

Tillingbourne School

Chilworth, Guildford

5.15 - 6.30pm

Prima Strings (Beginner - Grade 2)

Opus String Orchestra (Grade 2 - 4)

South West Winds (Beginner - Grade 4)

6.45 - 8.45pm

South West Surrey Youth Orchestra (Grade 4+)

To register for the free open rehearsals

email lydia.camp@surreycc.gov.uk

For more information contact Surrey Arts:

T: 01483 519303

E: surreyartsmusic@surreycc.gov.uk

surreycc.gov.uk/music








W: bit.ly/sa-ensembles-west






Happy Easter holiday

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.