



South Farnham School Christmas Newsletter

December 2022

With Christmas fast approaching and the crisp winter's mornings in full swing, I wanted to take this opportunity to reflect on some of the fantastic events that have taken place over the past term.

Most recently, we were delighted to once again host our two Christmas Fairs at the Junior and Infant Sites, which were both extremely well attended, and it was wonderful to see some older students return to say 'hello' to some of their previous teachers. We managed to raise a great deal, all of which will be used to fund new and exciting projects for the children. A huge thank you to the PFA and PTA for your continued efforts in organising and running these events and ensuring they are a success.

Last week saw the conclusion of our incredible school productions, an array of Christmas cheer and talent was showcased across the whole school with every single child involved. From Agrabah to Bethlehem, the children delighted audiences all week with the Infant nativities and the Junior production of Aladdin.

Following the plays, the children were able to celebrate the end of term during their class Christmas parties – the variety of Christmas jumpers on show was fabulous and the noise of festive fun drifted its way down the tree lined corridors.

Lastly, we rounded off the Christmas celebrations with our Christmas lunch, full of all the traditional Christmas treats from crackers to turkey but with a sprinkling of South Farnham tradition and the Christmas conga.

Thank you all for your continued support for our school and our school community; we wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year. We are already planning and looking forward to the children's return in January.

Sunday Times Guide

Every year The Sunday Times publishes a schools guide called 'Parent Power'. I am delighted to announce that South Farnham School has retained its place as 1st in 'Top State Primary Schools in Surrey'.

South Farnham also ranked 11th in the country. This is a brilliant achievement considering there are 16,791 primary schools in the country! It places South Farnham in the top 0.07% of schools nationally.

This is not the first time South Farnham School has achieved these positions and it is testament to the ongoing hard work and excellence of our pupils and staff. Not only are the children achieving well academically, they are also benefitting from an extraordinarily rich curriculum and leave our school as well-rounded pupils.

Thank you for all of your support.

Sport

Cross Country

On Saturday 15th October, over 130 children represented the school from years 3-6 in cross-country event at Farnham Park. They can all be very proud of their efforts; they all contributed towards a very successful morning of running for the school. Although it is ultimately a team event, special mention should go to the following children for their incredible individual achievements:

Boys competition:

Samuel F (6P): 1st

Seb B (5G): 3rd

Reuben T (6B): 4th

Girls competition:

Hatty R (6L): 1st

Rebecca S (6L): 2nd

Charlotte N (6L): 5th

South Farnham were eventual winners of the boys', girls', and overall winners. We are so proud and grateful to every runner who gave up their Saturday morning to contribute to a thoroughly enjoyable and successful event!



Year 6 Football

This term, the Year 6 Football team have had a very successful start to the season. Playing 7 games, winning 4, drawing 1 and losing 2. The team have shown excellent sportsmanship, teamwork and determination throughout all games and should be proud of all their achievements. Squad training will start up again on Tuesday lunchtime after the Spring half-term, so please come along if you are interested in playing.



Year 4 football

On the 17th of November, a group of Year 4 footballers represented the school in a football tournament at Weydon School. The team went unbeaten in the group stage and progressed into the main final. Unfortunately, they lost the final 1-0 but showed great sportsmanship, teamwork and resilience throughout. All the children can be extremely proud of the way that they played, and they were a credit to the school.



Floorball

This term saw the return of the first annual Floorball tournament since before Covid. A team of Year 6 children thoroughly enjoyed playing in this tournament as it was a new sport for many of them, meaning they were trying something new! Many have said they would like to join a team outside of school. The children demonstrated excellent teamwork skills and resilience and had a brilliant time. Well done to everyone involved!



Sports Crew

A group of Year 6 children have dedicated their time and effort to become the school's Sports Crew leaders. The children attended a training morning at Weydon School with Active Surrey where they learnt lots of valuable skills on how to create and lead engaging and challenging games which they have been able to implement at school. These children have managed running their own sessions throughout lunchtimes for Year 3 and 4 children which they look forward to continuing next term. As well as this, they will be starting to lead and run their own club on Friday lunchtimes where they will be organising lots of fun and engaging games to help keep us active! Additionally, the children have also enjoyed assisting to lead a multi skills event for the children from our infant site which was a huge success. Well done to everyone involved! Year 6 look forward to welcoming you to more of their sessions next term and developing their skill set.



Netball League

Our Year 6 Netball team have had a very successful start to the season. Our large squad, who train together every week, have enjoyed taking part in a range of friendly and league matches. We are currently unbeaten and are looking forward to playing in the league final which will take place next term. Collectively, the team have shown excellent sportsmanship, resilience and determination throughout each match and have loved having the opportunity to represent South Farnham in competitive games. We would love to see anyone else who would like to play in some friendly matches next term at training on Tuesday lunchtimes!



Year 5 netball

Year 5 enjoyed playing in their first ever netball match for South Farnham this term against Rowledge school. It was brilliant to see each member of the team demonstrating excellent sportsmanship throughout the match which led us to winning the game! Well done to everyone who played – we look forward to continuing developing this team in the Spring term and many more matches to come. Please be sure to show your interest if you would like to represent the school in netball!



Skiing

On the 13th of November, Hal Walsh (6G), Onni Marikainen (6G) and Seb Walsh (3R) represented South Farnham School at the Surrey Schools Ski Race. The boys completed two slalom races and finished in good positions for their age groups, with Hal finishing 3rd in the primary senior males. Well done to the three of you for your outstanding achievements!



Hockey

At the beginning of the Autumn Term, South Farnham hosted a competitive hockey tournament, involving several schools from the Farnham and Ash district. It was a brilliant display of teamwork, determination and skill from all of the children involved.



Salesian Football

South Farnham kicked off their sporting season in emphatic fashion. Boys from Year 5 and 6 took part in Salesian College's under 10 and under 11 football tournament on Wednesday afternoon. The boys in both year groups played incredibly well and demonstrated great sportsmanship. Both teams won their respective competitions winning all their games. A wonderful achievement!



Rugby

On Thursday 1st December, a selection of Year 6 children represented the school in a fun tag rugby festival hosted by Farnham RFC. The two teams showed excellent teamwork and played well in each of their matches. Despite the cold and frosty weather, the children played with smiles on their faces and had an enjoyable time.



Girl's football

Since the October half-term, the girls' football squad has been going from strength to strength, regularly having 30 Year 5 and 6 students turn up to the weekly Tuesday training and develop their skills. The girls were able to showcase these talents on a foggy evening where they came through triumphant against St Polycarp's with 3 victories and a draw. After these outstanding results, another group of girls were able to defeat Waverley Abbey in the cup final, 7-0 to win the trophy for the second year in a row. Girls' training will continue after Christmas for Years 5 & 6 and all newcomers are welcome.





Performance

This term we have welcomed our new Reception children to the South Farnham School family and Year 3 have settled in so well at the Junior Site. The children have settled into school life so quickly and it is wonderful to see how much they are thriving with their new found friendships! We have enjoyed learning all about our new children and their families and are looking forward to continuing to work together in the year ahead. Across the school, all of the children have been very busy in the run up to Christmas, with a grand total of 18 Christmas performances complete!

Reception started off the performances with their rendition of 'Baarmy Bethlehem' featuring some party animals. Year 1 then went on to tell the traditional Christmas story through their performance of 'The Big Little Nativity'. Finally, the angels from heaven gave us a glimpse into their life in Year 2's performance of 'It's a Miracle!'.

The junior performances of Aladdin were the embodiment of wish fulfilment and captured the imagination of the whole Junior Site. In the run up to play week, music filled the corridors and the excitement was palpable as every single child prepared to shine in front of a live audience.

We were very proud of all of the children's singing, dancing and acting and it was wonderful to see so many adults in the audience celebrating their performances too. Amongst all of these festivities, the children have also enjoyed a Christmas fair, Christmas lunch, Christmas parties, decorating the tree and special Christmas assemblies. We hope they have enjoyed their first term of this academic year and are looking forward to welcoming them all back in January.





RE

Rabbi Zvi visit to Year 5

On an engaging and exciting Friday in September, the four classes of Year 5 each attended a special workshop with the ever-engaging Rabbi Zvi who visited from a synagogue in a local Jewish community. The children were taught about Jewish customs in everyday life such as clothing, prayer, the Sabbath and belief in God which brought their learning in the classroom to life. Each class also had the opportunity to discover what their names would have derived from and they also learnt how Jews sit in a synagogue. The children ended their session by experiencing some Jewish foods which are shared during Shabbat; what a treat! As always, it was a pleasure to listen to the wonderful Rabbi Zvi and his spectacular story telling; we thank him for his visit and look forward to welcoming him back next year.



History

This term, the children have been indulging in many historically related events. Other than their fantastic lessons on historical cultures, such as the Romans, The Tudors and Islamic Civilisation, the children have been able to experience a lot of history first-hand. Year 3 went on a trip to Butser Ancient Farm to experience the ways in which people used to live and take part in some archaeological excavating. Year 4 went on a trip to Fishbourne Roman Palace to see the remains of the famous mosaics and artefacts uncovered there. Year 5 journeyed down to Portsmouth to visit the Mary Rose – having the opportunity to investigate some of the objects discovered at the marine archaeological site and come to their own analytical conclusions. And finally, Year 6 visited the Natural History Museum in London and explored the wonders of that famous building.

Furthermore, all year groups took part in a week-long reflection for Black History Month, during which the children came together in activities designed to help them learn, understand, and celebrate more about black culture, whilst considering the hardships endured by the black

community over the years. From creating African-inspired art to putting their feet into the shoes of Henry 'Box' Brown, every child was able to appreciate and celebrate this community.

And finally, all children and staff took part in the Remembrance Service on Friday 11th November. The entire school fell silent at 11am, following the Last Post, and reflected upon the lives of those affected by and lost due to World War I. Their stories were presented to the school in a theatrical display on the stage in South Farnham School's hall.



This term in History, Year One have been learning all about the history of the school. To further enhance the children's understanding of this topic, Miss Gravestock, a former member of staff, came to talk to the children about what life was like at school for children in the past. During her talk, she amazed the children with wonderful facts such as: why there is a bell in the school office. The bell was originally bought to go in the bell tower, but unfortunately, it was too small. She also talked to the children about all the old fireplaces, which used to keep the children warm before central heating was installed. To prepare for her visit, the children wrote down questions they wanted to ask and were given the opportunity to pose these during the question and answer session. The children

thoroughly enjoyed Miss Gravestock' s visit and learnt an inordinate amount about the history of the school!



On a number of rainy days in early November each of the Year 2 classes visited Aldershot Military Museum. To begin their morning they shared a story about remembrance before completing a variety of activities. These included handling some historical artefacts, investigating war memorials to see who we remember, dressing up to examine the different jobs people had at the time and making their own beautiful poppies. After a quick break, the children then spent some time investigating the life and achievements of Samuel Cody. Following a delicious lunch break, the children then spent time investigating the museum and looking at the numerous vehicles and tanks around the site. Some children even had the opportunity to sit inside some of the vehicles. Beech Class had the very special pleasure of visiting the museum on Remembrance Day. They observed the National silence with the museum staff showing great respect. We were very proud of them all.

Children in Need

On Friday 18th November, South Farnham children took part in a range of Children in Need activities to raise money for an excellent cause. At the Infant Site, this included Pinning the patch on Pudsey, guessing the sweeties in a jar, and giving Pudsey a makeover competition – we had some fantastic entries! In the afternoon, the classes took part in a special 'guess the spotacular staff' quiz which included our wonderful members of staff hidden behind a Pudsey head. Up at the Junior Site we took part in Pudsey design competitions – with many incredible entries, guessing how many skittles in a jar, identifying the Pudsey teacher and a wonderful Strictly Come Dancing competition, showcasing the children's dancing talents. Throughout the week, we held bake sales which included lots of delicious Pudsey themed treats. We would like to thank everyone for your generous donations and extend our congratulations to our competition winners.







You said, we did...

As a school we are always looking of 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.

Over the last month 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 announce a new feature 'You said, we did...'

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

***You Said* - We Did**

1) For more cookery clubs to be made available across both sites - We now have 4 cookery clubs available (3 at the Junior Site and 1 at the infant Site)

2) Clubs running for the whole term - We have just launched Spring Term clubs which will run from week 1 and only pause for the week of parents evening.

2) Support for children who want to audition for productions - For our production of Aladdin we had workshops prior to the auditions so children could practice and gain support so they were prepared for the audition stage.

3) To raise awareness of parking regulations in the area - We have purchased more 'Respect our Neighbours' signs at the Infant Site and always have staff out on the roads to support with traffic congestion.

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.

Christmas Fun!

Competitions

Over the festive period we have had a number of competitions for the children to enter. From creating Gingerbread houses to taking photos of festive furry friends, the children have been so creative as they have entered the different competitions. Thank you so much so all the children who took part. Deciding on winners was incredibly tough but congratulations to those winners across both sites and we hope you are still enjoying your prizes. These photos are just a selection of those winners.



Christmas Lunch

Children and staff enjoyed a Christmas festive lunch on Friday 9th December. The children ate their lunch in the hall whilst listening to Christmas music and taking part in some party 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 and dancing to music. However, I am not sure who enjoyed it more the staff or the children (Look at the photos to see what I mean)





Squire's Decorate a Tree competition

At the start of this half term, our infant children were invited to make decorations for the Squire's Decorate a Tree competition at Badshot Lea Garden Centre. The theme was 'Best of British' and the children made some wonderful creations celebrating our country. Ideas covered included, Paddington Bear, 'red, white and blue', London Buses, our new King, our late Queen, post boxes and robins, among many other beautiful decorations. All tree ornaments also celebrated 'reuse, recycle and repurpose' as we were keen for the decorations to be as eco-friendly as possible. A small group of children were selected to visit the garden centre at the end of November to decorate the 'South Farnham School Tree' ahead of the eagerly awaited public vote; we came a close second to the winners, Badshot Lea Infant School. The tree looked fabulous and the children had a wonderful time creating the special decorations and taking part in the decorating session; well done to all involved.



Christmas Fair

And of course how can we not mention the wonderful Christmas Fairs that we had across the two sites. Not only was this a fabulous event with a lot of festive fun but as a school we were able to raise a lot of money - so thank you to all who came and joined in.

However, events like this do not just happen and I would like to express my gratitude to the PTA and PFA for organising such wonderful events for our children and parent community. From BBQs, to Secret Santa, to the bottle tombola there was so much organisation. So from all of us at South Farnham, thank you to everyone who supported to make those events so memorable.





Well done

A well done to Sofia from year 3L who entered the Junior Young Writers' Competition in Wimbledon BookFest and was awarded Highly Commended KS1 Story recognition for her short story, "The Enchanted Snow Tree". Sofia's story has been published in a book "The Tree" by University of Roehampton, London.



Congratulations to Chloe in 6G who was very successful at Kingston Dance Festival and placed second with her new ballet solo and fourth with her new Czech National Solo.



School Applications

If you are looking for a Reception place for your child in September 2023 this is a reminder that applications need to be made by **15th January**. You can make an application through this link:

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/admissions/primary-junior-and-infant/apply>

Parents can also request a paper application form or seek help in completing an application via the Surrey Schools & Childcare Service (0300 200 1004, Mon-Fri 9am-5pm). Full information is available on Surrey's website at www.surreycc.gov.uk/primaryadmissions.

Applications received after the closing date without good reason will be treated as late and will not be considered until all on time applications have been processed. This may jeopardise the chance of a parent being offered one of their preferred schools for their child.

Support

ELSA

If you have any concerns about your child's learning or wellbeing then initially contact their class teacher. We operate an open-door policy, but you can also contact staff via the school office. Your class teacher will be happy to arrange a meeting with you and invite other members of staff that they feel would support the conversation. We support children in school in a variety of ways including focus group, personalised learning and interventions aimed to support their academic progress. We also run a variety of small groups to support children's social and emotional needs from social skills and friendship groups to ELSA sessions (emotional literacy support assistant). Following a meeting we will put appropriate support in place in school and signpost children and families to appropriate external services or professionals to provide support.

Young Carers

Earlier in the term we sent a parent mail to raise awareness of young carers and the vital role they play in many families. A young carer is a young person aged 5 – 16 who looks after someone who couldn't manage without their help. This could mean looking after a parent, brother or sister, grandparent or family friend who is ill, frail, disabled or has mental health or drug and alcohol related issues. Young carers often take on practical and/or emotional caring responsibilities that would normally be expected of an adult.

We know that young carers may need a little extra support to enjoy and do well at school. At South Farnham School we are committed to ensuring that all pupils who are young carers are identified and supported effectively. We want to ensure all young carers can enjoy school and make good progress. If you think your child might be a young carer or could be affected by any of the issues we've highlighted, please get in touch with Miss Pearce who would be happy to discuss ways in which we can support your child and family. All contact will be treated in confidence.

Toilets

A few weeks ago, the girls in year 5 and 6 were informed about the sanitary products that are available to them at school. The distinctive white wicker box is always kept in the same place and provides the girls with the sanitary products they may find themselves in need of, from clean underwear to sanitary towels. We explained to the children that they can, of course, bring in their own products but that the box was there if needed.



Merry Christmas

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy new year. I look forward to welcoming you all back on Tuesday 3rd January.