

## Dear Parents, Carers and Children

A Happy New Year to you all. I hope you managed to enjoy a restful and enjoyable Christmas break. It has been lovely to see everybody back this week, to what is actually quite a short half term...however, as usual, there is much to fit in!

Last term we embarked upon the **'Wilder Schools Project'** which runs for 3 years in total with high support from Surrey Wildlife Trust. The aim of the project is to empower children to take action for nature at school, at home and in their future lives. As part of the Wilder Schools programme, Surrey Wildlife Trust Education Officer, Emma Rothwell, has been working with the Year 4 children looking at ways to improve the school grounds for nature and ways to take their learning outdoors more regularly. Surrey's wildlife is in decline, but by taking some simple actions at home, we can all help create a Nature Recovery Network across the county!

**Action for January!** [How to Feed Birds in Your Garden](#) - Attracting birds to your garden is easy: supplement naturally available food with bird food and watch them flock in! Remember to keep feeders and tables clean, so the birds stay healthy and disease-free, and position your feeders in a relatively open area away from predators - the birds will feel safer and visit more! Make sure food is available at all times, as birds have different needs throughout the year, such as feeding their young. More information here; [www.surreywildlifetrust.org/actions/how-feed-birds-your-garden](http://www.surreywildlifetrust.org/actions/how-feed-birds-your-garden).



## How to make your own bird feeder



**What you need:**

- dry ingredients
  - bird seed
  - dried fruit
  - cooked rice
  - breadcrumbs
  - grated cheese
  - chopped nuts
- hard cooking fat (lard or suet)
- a pine cone, coconut shell or yoghurt pot
  - Use an old yoghurt pot for this, and always recycle after it's been used
- String

- Mix all the dry ingredients together in a bowl
- Add the fat and give it a good mix around
- Choose your feeder
  - plaster all over a pine cone
  - put it round the inside of a coconut shell
  - press into a yoghurt pot
  - You can hang this upside down like a bell or turn it out like a cake
- Hang your feeders with string (you may need to make holes and tie the string in before adding the mix)

Hang your feeder where you can watch birds without disturbing them

If you need to melt the fat, ask an adult to help



[www.wildlifewatch.org.uk](http://www.wildlifewatch.org.uk)

Taking place between 27<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> January, the [Royal Society for the Protection of Birds' Big Garden Birdwatch](#) is the world's largest wildlife survey. Spending just one hour counting the wild visitors to your garden or local park helps give the charity a snapshot of how our wildlife is faring.

[Sign up today](#) for your free Big Garden Birdwatch guide.

Work is continuing, thanks to the amazing work of Paul and the team at Sorbus Learning, with the development of our **Community Garden** at our Brockham site. Despite challenging weather conditions the wildlife garden area is now complete having planted out 850 wildflowers and 350 bulbs. The barriers and screens at the front fence of the garden were taken down so that children, parents and passers-by can engage with the team whilst they complete hard landscaping work. The garden has an insect-friendly lawn, nectar-rich raised beds, a bug hotel and spring flowering bulbs in abundance ready for those early emerging queen bumblebees. In a nod to our rural heritage we have an ancient farming implement courtesy of the Budd family. The target date for completion of the community garden is March 2023 when we hope to have an official opening - watch out for further news and updates!

## Sports Report from Mrs Stowell

### Year 5 and 6 Girls football Competition



The Years 5 and 6 girl's football team took part in the Dorking Schools Tournament at Dorking Meadowbank Football Stadium. In an enjoyable afternoon, the girls played well against some very strong and experienced opposition. The team showed strong defending particularly from Sophie and Millie and some excellent goalkeeping from Bethan and Shelby. We drew two matches and lost four to finish in 5<sup>th</sup> position.



### Key Steps Year3/4 and Year5/6 Gymnastics Competition

The Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 Dorking Gymnastics Competition took place on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December at Ashcombe School. The children had been practicing the three routines at the school club, which they performed individually at the competition. Our Year 3 and 4 team of 17 children finished 2<sup>nd</sup> overall in the team event. Erin receiving a bronze medal for the finishing in 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the individual competition. The Year 5 and 6 team finished in joint first place overall with Powell. Daisy receiving a bronze medal for 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the individual competition. Well done to everyone for working hard to learn and perfect and perform their routines.



### Charity Reindeer Run



On Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December the whole school took part in our Charity Reindeer run, raising money for St Catherine's Hospice and the school.

Despite the cold weather the children had fun running laps of the playground in their Christmas jumpers. Our year 6 sports crew enjoyed leading warmups giving out antlers and running and encouraging everyone!

## Additional Dates/Reminders for the Diary

*(new dates added in italics)*

*Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February - Parent Teacher Consultations*

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February - Break up for Half Term

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February - Children return to school

*Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February - Whole School Online Safety week*

*Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March -Computing Information Evening for Parents*

*Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March - Year 4 Residential to High Ashurst*

Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March - Children break up for Easter

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April - Children return to school

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May - Children break up for Half Term

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May - INSET Day

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June - Children return to school

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July - Children break up