

Dear Parents, Carers and Children

A belated welcome to you all, to the second half of this half term and what a difference a few weeks make. At the beginning of last half term we were basking in the late summer sunshine - this half term we have been dodging the most epic showers...though we were gifted with the most amazing rainbow yesterday. Let's hope the rain eases off in time for our Christmas events later this month. On that note, Reception parents - please be advised that the start of the performance for Owls and Robins has been moved to a 2.15pm start, rather than 2.30pm. This is to give a little more time to get out of costumes before going home. Apologies for any inconvenience this may cause.



Anti-Bullying Week

Next week, beginning the 13th November, is National Anti-Bullying Week, for which the theme this year is 'Let's Make a Noise about Bullying'. We will be celebrating in school with assemblies and activities in class. The week is being launched with an invitation to everyone to wear odd socks for the day on Monday 13th November, as it's a great way to celebrate what makes us all unique.

Monday is also World Kindness Day which links with our Whole School Values for this half term: *Kindness, Care, and Consideration*.

Swimming Pool Changing Rooms Update...

Plans are very much underway for the FONDS Winter Wonderland Christmas Fair on Friday 15th December. All monies raised will go towards our new swimming pool changing rooms. Thanks to the immense generosity of FONDS we now have £80,000 in our funding pot...enough to be able to purchase a cabin style replacement for the existing pool changing rooms. However, we still need to raise approximately £35,000 to meet the costs of preparing the site for delivery, installation and service connection etc. but the project has once again gained momentum with this welcome injection of funds. We can't thank you all enough!



We raised a grand total of £469.95

School Council Cake Sale...

Thank you for your amazing support!



Diary Dates

Autumn Term

Monday 13th November - Anti-Bullying Week
Tuesday 14th November - 3.00pm FONDS Uniform Sale
Tuesday 14th November - 3.15pm Year 4 High Ashurst Meeting
Tuesday 28th November - Year 2 Nativity
Wednesday 29th November - Junior Christmas Carol Evening
Thursday 30th November - Year 1 Nativity
Friday 1st December - Year R Nativity
Wednesday 13th December - School Christmas Lunch
Friday 15th December - Break up for Christmas Infants at 1.00pm & Juniors 1.15pm

Spring Term

Tuesday 2nd January - Children return to school
Friday 9th February - Break up for Half Term
Monday 19th February - Children return to school
Thursday 28th March - Children break up for Easter Infants at 1.00pm & Juniors 1.15pm
Monday 15th April - Children return to school

Summer Term

Thursday 23rd May - Children break up for Half Term
Friday 24th May - INSET Day
Monday 3rd June - Children return to school
Friday 19th July - Children break up - Infants at 1.00pm & Juniors 1.15pm
Monday 22nd & Tuesday 23rd July - INSET Days

Polite Reminders and Requests

- **Garden of Remembrance** - We have received a letter from the Parochial Church Council, Christ Church Brockham, asking us to remind children to respect the church garden and in particular the Memorial Garden and War Memorial. There have been reports of children (in North Downs School uniform) playing disrespectfully in the garden, jumping on and over the wall and riding bikes. We will speak with the children in assembly but would appreciate support from parents in ensuring that behaviour in and around the church gardens is appropriate and respectful.
- **Birthday sweets** - we understand that parents like to celebrate birthdays by bringing sweets into school to share with their friends/class. However, we are mindful that we are a 'Healthy School' so we ask parents to give these out at the end of the day, as the children leave the classroom. This may be at the gates or in the playground - depending upon sites.
- **Supervision at the end of the day** - a polite reminder to ask that parents/carers supervise children when waiting for older siblings - we have had one or two incidents/accidents on site at the end of the day recently.

Thank you for your understanding in these matters.

FONDS Uniform Sale... Tuesday 21st November at 3.00pm at the Brockham site

Message from Surrey Wildlife Action for Nature - 'What *can you do for nature?*'

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 Nature - Make a Splash! [Ponds can be home to an interesting range of wildlife](#), and even a small one made from a suitable container can attract animals including damsel and dragonflies, frogs and newts. Any pond can become a feeding ground for birds, hedgehogs and bats - the best natural garden pest controllers - and your pond needn't be big.

A washing-up bowl, a large plant pot, or a disused sink could all be repurposed as ponds, providing you make sure creatures can get in and out. If you don't have your own outdoor space at home, why not [help the environment by watching what you wash away](#)? Some of our favourite washing-up liquids and cleaning products can be harmful to wildlife with long-lasting effects. Brands like Ecover, Method, Bio-D and some supermarket own-brands have good products made from natural and environmentally friendly ingredients. Using eco-friendly detergents in your clothes wash is also a great way to watch what you're putting into rivers and seas, keeping water clean for wildlife."

Wishing you all an enjoyable weekend.

JH Douglas