



Christmas is almost upon us and with that comes the opportunity to reflect on a busy, creative, productive and successful term.

We have enjoyed excellent performances in every year group across the school from Year R to Year 6. Thank you for such positive feedback regarding the children's performances; it is truly a wonderful way for every child in the school to work together, build confidence and make memories. We are extremely proud of them all and grateful for your support.

As you know, we do not charge for these occasions but collect for charities close to our hearts at South Farnham. This year we raised over £2000 which has been divided between Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice, Cancer Research and Diabetes UK amongst others.





Our Christmas fairs on both sites were again a huge success and grateful thanks are extended to all who supported these important fundraising events. All money raised will be used to continue to improve facilities and provide learning experiences for our children.



Children and staff very much enjoyed the traditional Christmas lunch and year group Christmas parties. Many thanks to all parents who volunteered their time to help with these and for your kind donations. Anything left over was given to Farnham Foodbank to help support our local community over the Christmas period.



Our wonderful choirs have been extremely busy performing over the festive period. Firstly they sang some Christmas songs to accompany the Phyllis Tuckwell *Light Up A Life* Evening on Monday 25th November. The service is a very emotional time for the people who attend and for them to be able to come along afterwards and see the children sing, does really help them. We received some wonderful messages of thanks including, 'We really do appreciate the support that is given to us from South Farnham School every year, it makes a massive difference to all of us'.



During December choirs have also performed in front of the Singing for the Mind group at Farnham Maltings for people living with dementia and at Waverley Grange and Grace House Care Homes.

Our Singing Around the Tree at the Infants and Nativity Assembly at the Juniors on Thursday 19th December completed this eventful Autumn term.



***May we take this opportunity to thank you for all your support this term and to wish you all a safe, happy and peaceful holiday !***



## Remembrance

Thank you to all the parents and friends who joined us for our Remembrance Service. 2019 marked 100 years since the first two-minute silence was observed on Armistice Day, 11<sup>th</sup> November 1919. For those of us born during peacetime, all wars seem far removed from our daily lives and for this reason it is even more important we remember together the men and women from so many different nations, cultures, religions, faiths and backgrounds who came together and stood shoulder to shoulder to defend our freedom and way of life. A Remembrance Service took place at both sites where the children reflected upon the importance of the Armistice while some year 6 pupils represented the school by reading poems they had written at the service at Gostrey Meadows.



At the junior site we were delighted to welcome Alan Earwaker, Deputy Mayor of Farnham and bugler, Graeme Verroken, who played the Last Post and Reveille. Keeping tradition, Mr. Carter's father's military uniform was displayed on the stage with the school's Chair of Trustees' grandfather's medals. The children's moving performance was filmed by ITV News as part of their coverage of Remembrance across our region. The school featured in two news pieces, as Farnham sits on the borderline of Thames Valley and the South West area.

If you would like to view them click on the link to find the reports by Juliette Fletcher and Richard Slee.

<https://www.itv.com/news/meridian/2019-11-11/young-and-old-pay-tribute-on-armistice-day/>

We are very fortunate to have so many wonderful libraries at the school and the children delight in the opportunities they have to read a wide variety of fiction and non fiction. We have begun a programme of 'libraries without walls' at the junior site with book shelves appearing along the walls of the corridors on the ground floor and upstairs. Currently we have lots of over due books showing. Please could you take a few moments over the holidays to check for any library books that your child may have brought home that need to be returned to school. We have some big plans for the libraries next term and need the shelves to be full!



The British Heart Foundation visited Year 6 pupils and provided training on how to call the emergency services, putting someone in the recovery position and carrying out CPR. The children were (as quoted by the BHF visitors) 'very enthusiastic, engaged and well behaved - a credit to South Farnham'.



# Road Safety Week

18-24 November 2019

It was Road Safety Week 18th-24th November and we held a special assembly to focus on this important issue. 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 zigzags, paths/pavements/grass verges and parking across driveways and entrances. This would enhance the children's safety and help to promote the positive relationships that exist with our neighbours. *We thank you for your co-operation.*

The children thrive in their games and sporting activities both in and out of school and we are always delighted to celebrate their achievements. In addition to their timetabled weekly PE and the Junior Jog we have over 200 children playing sport after school, competitively and for pure enjoyment. Next term we are looking forward to increasing the children's fitness through some new initiatives at both sites as well as participating in the swimming gala and the next Cross Country at Farnham Park. **See the separate Sports Newsletter for full details of all this term's activities.**

We have several children with severe nut allergies on both sites. 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.



#ANTIBULLYINGWEEK

This year we had special workshops for year 3 and 4 during Anti Bullying Week to remind ourselves of the core values which underpin everything we do and believe at South Farnham School. These values are modelled by the staff and children at school daily and include **honesty, integrity, respect, courtesy and diversity**. We focussed on the motto 'change starts with us' to talk about the importance of respecting ourselves, each other, our school and our environment.

We talk regularly to the children about 'every action has a reaction' whether positive or negative. This applies to what we say, the things we do and how we treat each other and our environment. Ask your child to talk to you about the values of **honesty, integrity, respect, courtesy and diversity** and what they mean to us at school. Your support with this essential message is much appreciated.





**Applications for Year R and Year 3 for next September close 15<sup>th</sup> January 2020.**

If you have siblings (not already at our Infant or Junior site) requiring a school place for next September, this is a gentle reminder to fill in your application forms.

*As we are one school, children at the Infants automatically move up to year 3; you do not have to complete an application form.*

The staff who work with your children are wonderful people. If you would be interested in joining our talented team of teaching assistants please contact the school office for more details.

**TEACHING**  
*assistant*  
  
**BECAUSE EVEN TEACHERS  
NEED HEROES**



Thank you to local author, Alex Eeles, who came to speak to the children in assembly about the joy of reading and the process of writing. He announced his plan to help create South Farnham Juniors' very own Christmas story. At the Christmas Fair, Alex hosted an interactive storytelling stall where budding writers and illustrators of any age helped him create a brand new festive tale. We gave children the title *The Year the Christmas Trees Disappeared* and then let their imaginations, writing and drawing run wild! Alex is currently typing up the words and has offered to print and bind it so we can have copies in the school libraries.

It is always a pleasure to welcome Reverend David Uffindell, Rector of Farnham, to the school. In December he brought Curate, John Marrow, with him and together they spoke to the children about how Christians celebrate Christmas and helped us to light our first advent candle. This forms part of our aim to expose the children to a broad and balanced range of cultures and religions as they begin to value and understand different beliefs and develop a respect for diversity and the views of others.



As always, the children enjoyed participating in a wide variety of activities for Children in Need. These included, decorating Pudsey with coins, a 'beat the teacher' quiz, guessing the amount of jelly beans in the jar, a penalty shoot out and an art sale. The traditional bake sales were also a huge success. Across both sites we raised over £1500 for Children in Need; this is just one of the ways we talk



to the children about charity and supporting children and families in difficult circumstances.



We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter which celebrates the extraordinarily rich curriculum which underpins our ethos and philosophy and applauds the children's extensive participation and success in music, drama, sports and the arts. In the last two weeks alone, the children have flourished in 14 Christmas play performances and seven year group parties, the choirs have sung at a number of local care homes and for Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice and we have been amazed at your generosity in providing donations for Farnham Foodbank and the local 'Extra Christmas Present' Appeal.

I hope you will have read with delight the letter sent earlier this week celebrating the children's academic achievements in the recently published End of Key Stage 2 results for 2018-19. The attainment figures show that 99% of pupils reached the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths compared to the Surrey average of 70% and the National average of 65%, placing South Farnham in the top 0.5% of school nationally. In addition to this wonderful achievement, 35% of our children achieved at a higher standard in Reading, Writing and Maths compared to the Surrey average of 14% and the National average of 11%.

The Progress Scores are equally impressive placing South Farnham in the top 10% of schools in England. A score of 0 denotes that, on average, children scored the same end of Key Stage 2 scaled score as the national average for all children who had the same starting point at the end of Year 2. A score higher than 0 demonstrates that, on average, children achieved higher end of Key Stage 2 scaled scores than the national average of the children with the same starting point at the end of Year 2. Our published data shows progress of 4.1 in Reading, 2.91 in Writing and 5.14 in Maths. 9% of schools in England are classed as well below average, 6% below average, 8% above average and 10% well above average.

You can examine the data yourself at <https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/school/136888/south-farnham-school/primary>. This fantastic achievement in attainment and progress is highly significant when you consider that South Farnham School has one of the largest cohorts of children in the country; many schools have a single class of less than thirty.

This term we were also delighted to have received a letter from Nick Gibb, Minister of State for School Standards, highlighting the school's outstanding achievement in the 2019 phonics screening check. 99% of our children reached or exceeded the pass mark placing us in the top 3 per cent of all primary schools in the country. Similarly, children achieved well at the end of Key Stage 1 with 100% of children meeting the expected standard in Reading, Maths and Science and 96% in Writing.



**THE TOP 250 STATE PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN ENGLAND**  
Schools are ranked by the aggregated average scaled scores achieved by children in from Sats taken in 2018. Where scores are tied, the number of pupils achieving these

Rank	School	Town	Reading	Grammar	Maths	Agg Score	Sitting Tests
1	Mayflower Primary School	London, E14	114	119	117	350	50
2	St Antony's RC Primary School, Forest Gate	London, E7	113	119	115	347	50
3	19 Evelyn Street Community Primary School	Warrington	114	117	115	346	25
4	St Stephen's School, East Ham	London, E6	111	118	114	343	50
5	The Cathedral School of St Saviour and St Mary Overy	London, SE1	113	117	113	343	26
6	Applegarth Academy	Croydon	113	115	113	341	58
7	143a Sports Primary School	Hornchurch	113	115	113	341	30
8	17a St Anne's RC Primary School, Streethy	Sutton Coldfield	113	116	112	341	28
9	59 South Farnham School	Farnham	112	115	113	340	53
10	27 Copthorne Primary School	Bradford	112	116	112	340	63

Such consistently outstanding results mean that we feature in The Sunday Times Parent Power list of the top 250 state primary schools in England. Schools are ranked by the aggregated average scaled scores achieved by children in reading, grammar and maths end of Key Stage 2 SATs. South Farnham ranked 9th in the country which is a fantastic achievement, especially when you look at the number of children sitting the tests.

*We would like to thank you for your support of the children in every aspect of their school life.*





Each year there are only **190** statutory school days in school, **380** registration sessions.

This means there are **175** days (weekends / School Holidays) for shopping, birthday treats, non-urgent medical and dental appointments, holidays etc.

If a child misses **16** days of school in a year – then they are out of school more than they are in school

If a child misses a day a week for their entire school life – it is equivalent to missing 2 years of school.

% Attendance	= % Absence	= Days missed	= Weeks missed	= Years missed (Over 5 years of education)
100	0	0	0	0
90	10	19	4	0.5
80	20	38	8	1
70	30	57	12	1.5
60	40	76	15	2
50	50	95	19	2.5

Minutes Late	Days Lost
5 minutes late is	3 days lost each year
10 minutes late	6.5 days lost each year
15 minutes late	10 days lost each year
20 minutes late	13 days lost each year
30 minutes late	19 days lost each year

The school's target is for every child to have 100% attendance. Whilst we appreciate there are times when a child is genuinely too unwell to come to school we encourage you to send your child in when it is possible. Congratulations to all the children who have 100% attendance this term.

Please be aware that The Education (Pupil Registration)(England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013 state that Headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. The Headteacher should determine the number of school days a child can be away from school if leave is granted.

In accordance with the above Regulations, requests for leave of absence are treated sympathetically, but only in exceptional circumstances can they be approved. The policy of the Government to which this school has agreed, states that parents who take their child out of school for five days or more during term time, without the authority of the Headteacher, will each be liable to receive a penalty notice. Penalty Notices will be issued by the Local Authority. The penalty is £60 if paid within 21 days of receipt of the notice, rising to £120 if paid after 21 days but within 28 days of receipt of the notice. If the penalty is not paid in full by the end of the 28-day period the Local Authority must prosecute the recipient for failing to ensure regular school attendance under section 444 Education Act 1996. Please be aware that **each** parent is liable to receive a Penalty Notice for **each** child who incurs unauthorised absences, for example, if there are two parents and one child, each parent will receive one Penalty Notice. If there are two parents and two children incurring unauthorised absences, each parent will receive two Penalty Notices, which in this case would amount to £120 each if paid within 21 days.



## South Farnham School Child Care: Infant and Junior sites.

We are delighted to be able to offer parents and guardians high quality wrap around child care for the children attending South Farnham School: **at both the Infant and Junior sites.** The children will be looked after by Child Care Teaching Assistants who are committed to generating an atmosphere of care and respect within a safe and secure environment.

**Breakfast Buddies:** This Before School Care Facility looks after children who attend South Farnham Infant or Junior Sites each school day (see times below). The children will be provided with breakfast (typically cereal, a drink and fruit). At 8.15 children at the Junior site will be taken to the playground for supervised play. Infant children will be supervised indoors.

**After School Care:** The After School Care Facility looks after children who attend South Farnham Infant or Junior Sites each school day (see times below). The children will be provided with a drink, fruit and biscuits. The children are given a broad range of activities which will include board games, arts and crafts and outdoor activities when the weather permits. There is the opportunity for children to work on their homework or to read.

### **Charges from September 2019 will be at the following rates:-**

Breakfast Buddies for the Infants: 8.00-8.50am £8.00 (including breakfast)

After School Care Short Session for the Infants: 3.05-4.00pm £7.00

After School Care Long Session for the Infants: 3.05-5.30pm £14.00

Breakfast Buddies for the Juniors: 7.45-8.45am £8.00 (including breakfast)

After School Care Short Session for the Juniors: 3.30-4.30pm £7.00

After School Care Long Session for the Juniors: 3.30-6.00pm £14.00.

All bookings and payments are made through the Parent Pay booking system. Parents can make, amend bookings and pay for them up until 12 noon on the day for the after school care and 12 noon on the previous day for Breakfast Buddies. After that the school needs to be contacted. Please note that the child is not booked in until the booking is paid for.