



# South Farnham School Christmas Newsletter

## December 2021

Christmas is almost upon us and now more than ever I would like to take this opportunity to reflect upon the wonderful events that the children have experienced this term. We have been amazed by the resilience and hard work of both children and staff. I would like to thank you all for your enduring support whether supporting your children at home whilst remote learning or learning lines for the Christmas production. I would also like to thank you for your feedback and support with some difficult decisions that we have had to make over this period. Together we have made the right choices for the wellbeing and safety of our staff, children and our community. As we approach the end of term we are faced with much that is unclear but I would like to reassure you that we are prepared to face those eventualities and deliver a broad curriculum for your children in the New Year whilst continuing to maintain our focus on the safety of all.

## 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'.

Schools are ranked by the aggregated average scaled scores achieved by children in reading, grammar and maths at the end of Key Stage 2. This year it was calculated using a three year average of data (2017, 2018 and 2019).

South Farnham also ranked 11th in the country which is a fantastic achievement.

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 all the children achieving well

academically, they are also receiving a fantastically rich curriculum including performing arts, sport, arts and music whilst maintaining our continual pursuit of excellence in all areas of school life.

## Sport

### Cross Country

After a two-year absence, the cross-country event was held again on a cold morning in Farnham Park. Over 140 children represented the school from years 3-6, with all children showing great determination in tricky conditions. All children can 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 (5L): 1st

Lewis B (6L): 2nd

Tristan C (6R): 3rd

#### Girls competition:

Ciara M (6R): 2nd

Rebecca S (5S): 6th

Hattie R (5S): 8th

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



### Football Tournament

On the 15th of September, a group of Year 5 and Year 6 footballers represented the school in a football tournament at Salesian School. Both teams went unbeaten in the group stages and progressed into the knockout rounds. Unfortunately, the Year 6 boys lost 2-1 in the quarter-finals and the Year 5 boys lost narrowly in the semi-finals. All of the boys can be extremely proud of the way that they played and they were a credit to the school.

The Year 4 boys showed great determination and skill while competing in a football tournament at Weydon this term. In cold conditions, the boys battled hard and showed a great attitude as they went on to finish 3rd. Lots of fantastic footwork was on show throughout the evening and the boys demonstrated what great potential they all have for the future.



### **Football League**

This Autumn Term has seen the return of competitive football matches at the school. Out of the four matches this term, our teams have won two and lost two, showing a great attitude in every match. With lots more friendlies and competitions planned for the Spring Term, children can show interest by attending squad training on a Monday lunchtime after Christmas.





### **Netball League**

This term, the Year 6 Netball team have had a very successful start to the season. The squad are currently unbeaten and therefore will be playing in the league final which will take place in the Spring Term. 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 against other schools. Squad training takes place on Monday lunchtimes so please come along if you are interested in playing next term!



### **Surrey Schools Ski Race**

On the 14th of November, Minnie Duncan (6L), Alice Thacker (6L), Hal Walsh (5F) and Onni Martikainen (5F) represented South Farnham Junior School at the Surrey Schools Ski Race. All four of them completed two runs in the team event and finished third in the mixed primary category. Well done to all four of you!





**Taekwondo Competition**

Sophie Butler (4B) recently took part in a Taekwondo competition at St Peter's school where she qualified in promotion from a white belt to yellow stripe belt. As well as this, she was also awarded a trophy of special recognition for her efforts, of which she was chosen from 50 other people. Well done, Sophie! We are all very proud of your achievement. We would love to hear about everyone's successes. Please make sure you send them into school!



### **Football Festival**

The children thoroughly enjoyed their trip to Alton School, where they took part in a mixed boys and girls football festival. All of the players displayed a superb attitude throughout the afternoon and the standard of football was impressively high. The afternoon was capped off with a hot chocolate and a hot dog – a well-deserved reward for braving the cold conditions and representing the school wonderfully.



### **Hockey Tournament**

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 and they should all be truly proud of their efforts.



## Girls Football

Over the past term, girls from Years 5 and 6 have represented the school in football matches at Weydon School. The girls went undefeated in the group stage and went through to the main final thanks to a tense penalty shootout win. They went on to win the final with a thrilling 4-0 victory, showing great sportsmanship and team spirit all the way through. Congratulations on all your hard work and effort!





### **Sports Crew leaders**

A group of Year 6 children have dedicated their time and effort to become the school's Sports Crew leaders. As part of this, they are able to lead their peers at school in playing a wide range of games and activities. 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 back at school. These young leaders have been specially trained in the art of leadership and know how to create and run a session that is safe and fair but most importantly fun. The children have loved setting up their games on the playground for Year 3 and 4 children to enjoy. Well done for all of your hard work and effort, Sports Crew! We look forward to lots more of your sessions around school in the New Year.



## Performance

### **Matilda and Infant Nativities**

I would like to thank all of you who supported our Christmas performance of Matilda. The children thoroughly enjoyed having a live audience and we were delighted to include all of the children isolating at home too via the wonders of technology. As you can imagine a great deal of preparation went into the class dances, the learning of lines by the cast and the stage set, lights and music. All of the cast and understudies were able to perform and it truly was a magnificent effort by all.

Our infant children also relished the opportunity to perform in The Angel Who Nearly Missed it all (Year 2), Baubles (Year 1) and A Bundle of Joy (Year R). They each put on a fabulous performance with their singing, dancing and acting skills. For many of our infant children this was the first time they had ever performed for an audience; we are so very proud of them for their tremendous effort.

Links for the performances will be sent out in due course.







## Arts Council

This term we are delighted to have launched the brand-new South Farnham School Arts Council across both sites! Alongside the School Council and the Eco-Council, the Arts Council serves as a further opportunity for the children to shape their school experience by becoming ambassadors for the Arts. Two children from each class across Years R-6 have been democratically elected to represent the views of their peers, contribute to the organisation of arts events in school and become champions of the creative and performing arts. The children of each site have already met to establish their goals for the year and learn about their role. We are really looking forward to working with them across the year and are already impressed by their commitment, dedication and enthusiasm for their new leadership roles.

## Class Assemblies



Class assemblies with a live audience (including parents) have resumed. Recordings of the assemblies are available for those parents unable to attend or if individuals are not comfortable coming into school. We will continue to manage the numbers watching in the hall by rotating those classes who watch live and those who watch from their classroom to maximise everyone's safety.

## Maths



The Primary Mathematics Challenge is a fun and exciting mathematical event aimed at pupils aged 9 - 11 years old. It encourages enthusiasm, boosts confidence in mathematics and shows the different way questions can be asked. As a school, we believe in the importance of problem solving as a means of helping pupils develop their reasoning skills. Ten children in Year 6 enjoyed completing the challenge and did amazingly well!

In addition, four Year 6 children attended a live, practical maths challenge at Alton School. Throughout the event, the children were tasked with completing a range of problems, whilst working as a team. We are incredibly proud of their efforts and their resilience whilst tackling some very difficult activities. The children were delighted to receive first place and they were excellent ambassadors for the school.

The children at the Junior Site have loved taking part in the Weekly Maths Challenges that have been displayed on our wonderful video wall. It has been incredibly impressive to see the quality and quantity of responses from all year groups. Keep up the great work!

## History

Earlier this term, in honour of Black History Month, children across both sites were asked to create pieces of art, literature and music inspired by black artists. Children immersed themselves in learning about some of the most influential black figures in history from Louis Armstrong and his iconic song 'What A Wonderful World', Sam Gilliam's colour field art and the incredible life story of Henry 'Box' Brown. The finished articles were incredible, demonstrating how much attention and care the children had put in to their learning. Additionally, we have been inundated with some fantastic historical trips this term. Year 2 visited Aldershot Military Museum to learn about Remembrance and Samuel Cody, Year 3 spent the day living in the Stone Age during their trip to Butser Farm, Year 4 perused the mosaics at Fishbourne Roman Palace, Year 5 enjoyed a fascinating day at the Mary Rose Museum in Portsmouth and Year 6 were immersed in all things History during their trip to the Natural History Museum.

## Library

We are extremely excited and proud to unveil our new libraries at the Junior Site. Upstairs, we have our large, open plan Ross Library and downstairs is the Courtyard Library opening onto the courtyard. Both have state of the art video screens which present famous story tellers, learning opportunities for the children and often videos of the children themselves enjoying their learning. These new libraries provide us with an enriching and diverse space for our children to continue to develop their love of reading, fact-finding and storytelling; traits we wish to instil in them for life.





## Christmas Fun

### Competitions

Well done to those children who took part in the Junior Site classroom Christmas competitions. The winners were as follows:

Poster - Ella 6L

Where's Santa - Ellis 6F

What's Rudolph thinking? - Lottie 5S and Amelie 5D

Jumper Design - Simran 4S and Struan 3F

Pet photo - Joseph 3H and Eleanor 4G

Arctic Fox - Robin 5S

Paperchain- Thomas 3H

### Christmas Lunch

Children and staff enjoyed a Christmas festive lunch on Friday 10th December. The children ate their lunch in their classroom 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.

### Decorate a Christmas Tree

The infant children at South Farnham School had a wonderful time taking part in the Squires 'Decorate a Christmas Tree' competition this year. Children from our Arts Council and Eco Council took on the

project to create a collection of beautiful decorations and garlands made from items which could be reused, recycled and repurposed. They enjoyed creating these decorations together and the magic and excitement of being invited in to Squires Badshot Lea Garden Centre, along with their teachers and parents, to decorate the tree together. The children loved the experience and were thrilled to have won the public vote!













## Well done

Well done to Alistair Webb for gaining a merit in his grade 3 violin exam. We loved hearing you perform in today's assembly.

Well done to Marie Sellers who took part in a mini Drumathon challenge for BBC Children in Need. Marie raised a staggering £1397 and came in the top 10% of fundraisers for Children in Need.



### **You're a top 10% fundraiser, Jacqui**

Your Marie's Mini Drumathon page was one of the most successful JustGiving pages last month. Out of thousands of fundraisers, you were in the top 10%. Congrats on raising so much for BBC Children in Need - you're an absolute

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## Useful resources

### Calm Zone

This website gives your activities and tools to help children with their mental wellbeing. There are activities or tools to help children feel better when they are feeling anxious, scared or sad. This is the link: <https://www.childline.org.uk/toolbox/calm-zone/>

## This Christmas

### Drive in cinema at the Duke of Cambridge in Tilford



## 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 4th January.