



Gosden House School

Mini Christmas News 2020



Cindy's Message.....

As the pre Christmas media hype ramps into overdrive, we have every reason to celebrate here at Gosden. We have a committed and sensible community, and we have managed to remain open ALL TERM! I cannot name another school who have managed this, thank you!!

This means that our children and young people have continued their education largely uninterrupted, but also that they have enjoyed the social contact which is so important to them. The downside of attending school outside your local community is that in many cases children are not fully integrated into their local friendship groups. This makes school so much more important.

I know that family are really important for our children and young people, and our efforts in keeping them safe means that they are more likely to be able to spend time over the holidays with extended family. We've learned this year that we don't ever know what's around the corner, and in fact a bubble might be closed by the time this piece goes to print, but it is important to recognise and be grateful for what we have achieved. Fingers and toes crossed that Father Christmas can make his full rounds. He is calling at Gosden on Thursday, which I am very pleased about, as our children definitely made it onto the Nice List this year.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of our parents and carers who made it to the PTA AGM last week. We have voted in the committee for the next year, and I urge you to support our PTA. Not only do they raise much needed funds, but they keep the parent community connected and supported. Particular thanks to the outgoing PTA members, and our lovely Chair, Penny. She is completely devoted to the care and wellbeing of the school and our children, and that is hugely important when supporting a school like ours. Welcome to our new Chair, Rowena.

I would also like to thank our Governing Body, who have been relentlessly supportive of the school this year. I have spent hours this term on the phone with our wonderful Chair of Governors, Pat, trying to balance risk and make decisions which will keep our community safe and give the children the best education, care and opportunities we can. Whether we've got it all right for everyone all the time you will know, but our decisions have always been made with our children and families at heart. It is this shared commitment which ensures that Gosden remains buoyant, no matter what.

Finally, I see that our staff have been inundated with cards and presents this week. It makes all the difference in the world to an exhausted teacher to know that their children and families recognise and appreciate what they do. You will agree that the quality of pastoral care and teaching and learning at Gosden is second to none. Every one of our staff have stoically continued coming in to work, overcoming their own worries, because they really do care about the children in their class. And they are right, our kids are 100% worth the effort!

You don't need me to give you another safety message, I will instead wish all our families and safe and happy Christmas, whether you are with your loved ones in a house or over Zoom.



*MESSAGE FROM PAT ADAMS,
CHAIR OF GOVERNORS*

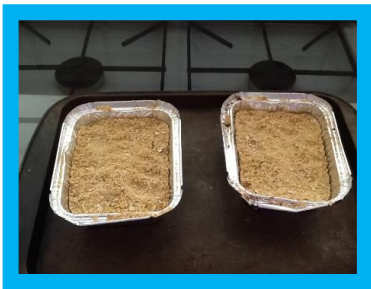
A huge THANK YOU goes to all the staff at Gosden for their wonderful work during these very challenging times: our school has remained open and our children have been learning and having fun, despite the world around them; Cindy and the school team have worked wonders and deserve a great Christmas break.

I send my warmest wishes to all of our Gosden family: children, staff, parents and carers for a healthy and Happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you in 2021.

Warmest wishes to you all,

Pat Adams

KS4 Food Studies



This year we have eight students studying for either Entry Level Food Preparation, Cooking and Serving of Food or the Level 1 Basic Food Preparation and Cooking. This term we have made:

- apple crumble;
- brownies;
- scrolls;
- pineapple upside cake;
- stuffed baked potatoes;
- pizza;
- bread rolls; minestrone soup;
- quorn spaghetti bolognaise and
- chin chin.

For our Christmas practicals we made gingerbread men and decorated a large chocolate yule cake which we prepared for our Christmas party.



ROBIN CLASS NATIVITY FUN

We have had a great half term in Robin Class!

We had a lot of fun filming our nativity for the school Christmas film. We also decorated our own Christmas tree.



SQUIRREL CLASS

This half term has included lots of creativity and outdoor learning, which everyone has enjoyed. There has been a Roman invasion, an archaeological dig, mosaic making, cooking and much besides as part of our Creative and Curious learning. All the fabulous Squirrels have demonstrated their new vocabulary, learnt from their experiences



We were also lucky to be able to go for a lovely roam on Black Heath running, jumping in puddles and playing with our Woodpecker friends. It reminded us how much we miss our regular trips out of school and we are excited for a time when we can get back to exploring beyond school.



Much of our exciting learning this term has been with our student teacher, Lucy Martlew and we wish her well for her mainstream placement in the New Year. Squirrel class would like to thank her and look forward to having her back with us at Easter.



Squirrels' Christmas Lunch!

We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday and a very

Merry Christmas

SAPPHIRE BUBBLE DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY



Sapphire Bubble have been busy in DT classes this term. They have made:

Wind Chimes

Hawking Class have designed and made some fabulous wind chimes this term.

They decided upon an image, researched it and used their research to help them develop a great idea. They experimented with the lengths of the chimes and measured and cut them out of aluminium tube. They smoothed and drilled the ends. Next they cut out the shape for the top of the chimes using tin snips and abrasaws. They filed and smoothed the edges and used centre punches and bossing mallets to shape and add detail to the metal. They used metal markers to decorate the top and joined it all together with fishing wire. They then tested and evaluated their finished chimes.



Clocks

Parks class designed and made a novelty clock to suit a particular person and go in a chosen place. They researched suitable themes for their target audience, produced several ideas and developed the best one. Then they investigated the properties of a wide variety of materials before choosing the best one. They used a wide variety of tools and machines to make and finish their clocks. They drilled holes and added a clock mechanism, hands and numerals. Lastly they evaluated their clocks to see how much they suited their target audience.

Christmas Tree Festival

Sapphire bubble designed, made and decorated a 6ft high Christmas tree to be part of Shalford Church's Christmas tree Festival.

As a group they decided to make it out of found or recycled materials. They collected branches, leaves and fir cones, painted and added glitter to them. They were then strung together in a Christmas tree shape. Each student made and painted a heart shaped picture frame and carefully drew and decorated the picture inserts. They also made tiny wreaths made from willow and decorated them with bows and baubles.

The tree was then installed in Shalford church along with 40 other trees from various local organisations. It will be on display from 10 am – 4pm from now until Christmas day. Do please pop in and look if you are passing.



SAPPHIRE BUBBLE FESTIVITIES



Amongst a gazillion other exciting Christmas activities, Hawking had a Citizenship Special Festive 'Countdown' Quiz, complete with ticking clock; over excited children and slightly hysterical adults.



There was a 'Battle Royal' between the Pokemon Group and The Purple Hand Gang, with The Purple Hand Gang winning by ONE bonus point! It was a thrilling competition and, as luck would have it, there were enough prizes for all 😊

Parks played Christmas Detectives for the morning. They learned about the history of Santa Claus and the origins of the Christmas Tree and the Christmas Pudding.

The class then had to divide into three groups and write either a song, a poem or a rap about Santa and his story. They then had to perform it in front of the class.

Sofia and Smithy worked with Annette to write a lovely poem called 'Santa Claus is very Jolly'.

Jay, Olly, Tai and Sofia worked with Wilson to produce an awesome rap . . . ('BOOM!') Zack, Imaan and Harry worked with Anna to write a song to the tune of Jingle Bells, accompanied by Zack's hat and Harry's 'Beat Boxing' skills.

What a talented bubble they are!



Happy 😊 Christmas!

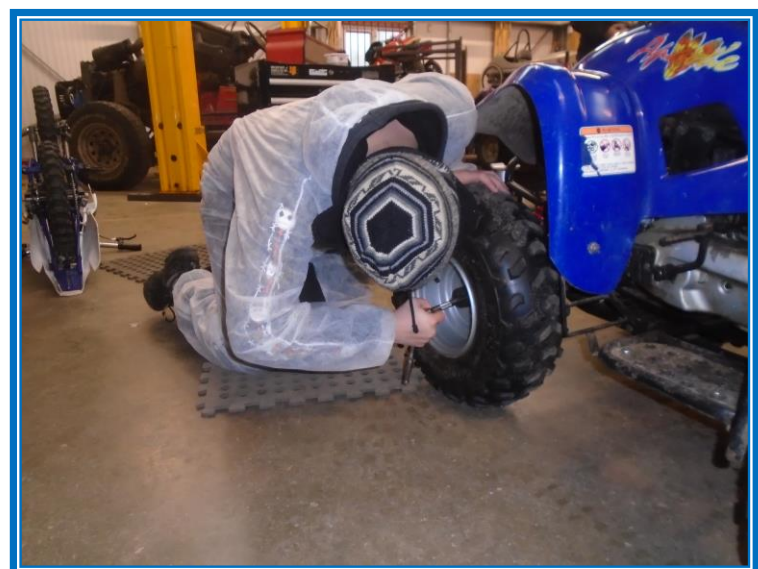


GASP Motor Project

During last half term, 6 students from Year 10 have donned their face masks and “space suits” or special disposable overalls to work in a cold old workshop to work on engines!

They have been going to GASP Motor Project to learn how to take off wheels on quad bikes and mini moto's, how to use a ratchet and spanner, how to fix a lawn mower, how to be safe around engines and generally have an amazing time using lots of different tools.

The course has enabled independence, confidence building, problem solving and the development of new skills in a working environment. It is a nurturing environment where each student can excel and Gosden House School is very lucky to have this link with GASP. One of the young people in Year 10 is going to attend 1-1 sessions in February next year to begin to develop further, his already expanding knowledge - as he is very keen to become a mechanic in the future. How lucky is he????



SIMMONDS CHRISTMAS FUN!



We had great fun filming “Rockin Around the Christmas Tree” for our school performance.

Coming soon.... Our Transitional Video for New Students! On our website.

We have had a great term, everybody has remained well and attendance has been good.

The students have worked hard and have been great fun to teach.

On behalf of all the Simmonds Team

We wish you all a happy, safe, fun Christmas and look forward to your return in January 2021.

CHRISTMAS CD's – THANK YOU

A BIG Thank You goes to.....

The Primary staff and Teachers, Nina and Martin the Gosden
Elves, and Paul and Liz Sutherland and Clare S, for creating and
preparing the Primary Christmas CD's

Thank You



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Family offers, Useful Links and Charity Updates

Children can eat free in Asda Café's throughout December.

[Kids can eat free in Asda cafes throughout December](#)

FURNITURE LINK SURREY

Based in Merrow/Burpham, This charity can deliver/pick up up to some distance by arrangement.



[Furniturelink, Guildford, Surrey](#)

Furniturelink is a small community-based charity located in Guildford, selling new and pre-loved furniture, white goods and small electrical appliances.

furniturelinksurrey.com

CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY – FUNDRAISING

A brilliant £131 was raised in aid of this fantastic charity

Thank You!



Angus sporting his Festive Jumper!

**School is always willing to
provide advice or support and extra help**

You can call and speak to

Annie Welch, our Home School Link Worker.

Tel: 07864 721931

Web Page Information: [Home School Link Web Page](#)

Keeping Children Safe Online

<https://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers>

For any child or family worries for which you may need additional support or advice you can request it by contacting the Surrey Children's Single Point of Access Team on 0300 470 9100 and press 1 and then option required.

For support and advice around domestic abuse, mental health or safety in the home:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-and-domestic-abuse/coronavirus-covid-19-support-forvictims-of-domestic-abuse>

<https://www.healthysurrey.org.uk/domestic-abuse>



Surrey and Borders Partnership
NHS Foundation Trust

Adult Services Mental Health Crisis Line

The helpline is for people living in Surrey experiencing a mental health crisis. **Telephone:** 0800 915 4644 (24 hours, 7 days a week)

If you have speech or hearing difficulties, you can contact the helpline through:

- **SMS:** 07717 989024
- **Next Generation text service**
Dial 18001 0800 915 4644 from your text phone or smart app

The **Crisis Helpline** is staffed by professionals who are experienced in working with people with mental health issues and is managed according to the NHS Code of Confidentiality which respects individuals' personal information. However, the service has a duty to respond when someone's thoughts, intentions and actions indicate a specific and significant risk of harm to self or others particularly children). Such cases will be followed up and the relevant service or authorities will be contacted.

In an emergency please call 999 or go to Accident and Emergency (A&E) – many of which have psychiatric liaison services. You can find local A&E services at **NHS Choices**.

Out of hours crisis support for children with a mental health need.

Out of hours crisis support for children, young people and their families has been increased in response to Coronavirus.

Children, aged 11 and over, and their families can continue to call our Extended Hope Service for crisis support between 5pm-11pm, 7 days a week. Calls to this service are handled by the Emergency Duty Team and we have now put in place a triage worker to provide an immediate response to anyone calling this number: **01483 517898**.

In addition, our Mental Health Crisis Helpline is now providing telephone support to children, young people and their families between 11pm and 9am, seven days a week, to ensure they always have access to out of hours crisis support. During normal working hours people can talk to their GP or go to A&E for support and children, aged 10-18, can contact one of the CYP Havens.



A Safe Place to get support when I am feeling distressed and worried about how I am feeling'

Due to public health advice the CYP Havens are currently closed. Instead we are running a virtual service for young people to access support by phone. This service is available every day of the week including bank holidays

Call: 01483 519436
Monday to Friday, 4pm-8.30pm. Saturday and Sunday, 12pm-6pm



**Wishing all Gosden Families and Friends
a very.....**

