



The Horsell Village School NEWSLETTER



Welcome to January's edition of the school newsletter. In this month's edition you will find:

- Diary dates up to February half term
- Details explaining future events
- Safeguarding and attendance updates
- Year Group Pages

Welcome to 2026.

We hope you all had a lovely break over the school holidays. Here at school the children have returned excited to find out their new learning topics.



Reception will be exploring different types of transport and locations through their topic 'Are we there yet?'



Year 1 will be exploring what life was like at the seaside during the Victorian times through their topic 'Beside the Seaside'



Year 2 will be learning all about tropical rainforests, exploring where they are located and the animals and plant life that can be found in them through their topic 'The Living Rainforest'

You can find out more about what the half term has in store for you and your children by visiting the year group page on the school website.

Here you will find a curriculum map detailing what the key skills and knowledge are for each subject.

We have lots of exciting things planned for the Spring term from Children's Mental Health Week through to exploring the Lunar New Year. Do keep a little extra eye out for additional correspondence as we would like you to come and join in the fun.

Best Wishes Mrs Reeve and the HVS team



Diary Dates January & February 2026

15.01.2026 Tawny Owls Class Assembly
9.00 am - Hall

16.01.2026 Parent Volunteer Meeting
9.00 am (Hive)
2.45 pm (School Hall)

19.01.2026 Winter Day (pupil event)

20.01.2026 Parent Volunteer Meeting
9.00 am (Hive)
2.45 pm (School Hall)

22.01.2026 Barn Owls Class Assembly
9.00 am - Hall

23.01.2026 EYFS Parent Reading Workshop
9.00 am - School Hall

29.01.2026 Snowy Owls Class Assembly
9.00 am - Hall

02.02.2026 Children's Mental Health Week

02.02.2026 Year R- 'Drawing side by side' parent event

03.02.2026 Year 2- 'Drawing side by side' parent event

04.02.2026 Year 1- 'Drawing side by side' parent event

Please continue reading for information about this event

05.02.2026 Badgers Class Assembly
9.00 am - Hall

06.02.2026 Creativity & Well-being Parent Workshop
9.00 am Hive

06.02.2026 African drumming workshop
Year 2

06.02.2026 African drumming workshop
Year R & Year 1

06.02.2026 NSPCC Number Day

10.02.2026 Internet Safety Day

12.02.2026 Hedgehogs Class Assembly
9.00 am - Hall

Just a little reminder...

School Admissions



If you have a child who is due to start Reception or Year 3 in September 2026 you will need to complete an application form.

The closing date for applications is 15th January 2026.

You can access information and guidance on how to complete the application using the link below.

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/admissions/primary-junior-and-infant>

Children's Mental Health Week

From Monday 2nd February through to Friday 6th February 2026 we will be taking part in Children's Mental Health week. We have an exciting week of events planned to support the children in continuing to develop a secure understanding of themselves, emotions and the development of their own self regulation tool kits.

As part of the week we will be exploring how the arts and creativity can support our mental Health.

We would like to invite you to come and join us. Each year group will be working on an art project throughout the week linked to drawing. We have assigned a day to each year group and have split the morning into three sessions. We hope you will be able to come and join us for a session.

The three session slots are:

- 9.00 am to 9.45 am
- 9.50 am to 10.35 am
- 10.40 am to 11.25 am

Reception day is Monday 2nd February

Year 1 day is Wednesday 4th February

Year 2 day is Tuesday 3rd February

Please ring or email the school office to sign up to a session if you can. Each session has 10 available places.



On Friday 6th February we will be taking part in the NSPCC Number Day.

We will be having a fun day of maths activities and we will be taking part in 'Dress up for Digits'.

Children are invited to a wear a top / jumper with a number on it. You are welcome to decorate a plain t-shirt with numbers or draw and pin numbers to a plain t-shirt. Please do not feel you need to buy a new item of clothing.

This t-shirt / jumper should be worn with normal school uniform.

Here are a few ideas:



NSPCC

Snow Day Plans

Just in case...



It's the time of year when the weather can be a little unpredictable so it's a good time to review and share our weather plan (as well as keeping our fingers crossed)

Option 1



Our primary intention is that we will do everything in our power to remain open and to offer as **normal service** as possible when conditions are bad. This will however be dependent on the **majority** of staff being able to make it into school. This will be our preferred option.

Option 2



If conditions on the roads or public transport are difficult, we aim to remain open but may need to offer a **reduced service**. At this point school will only be open to **children who can walk safely to school**. Given that the majority of our staff live some distance from school, on these days the curriculum will change but still be taught and we will offer snow based activities. Your children may be with different members of staff from their normal class teachers / teaching assistants.

Option 3



If conditions on the roads and public transport are extremely severe, we aim to try and remain open but to offer a **significantly reduced service**. School will only be open to **children and staff that can walk to school safely**. This will be dependent on the number of staff that can make it to school. At this point we will offer no formal curriculum at school and the children will be given activities to consolidate learning and practice skills. We aim to offer a child-minding style service for those working parents who are able to get into work themselves.

Option 4

Finally, if conditions are so severe (as has been the case on rare occasions in past years) we will reluctantly have to close completely.

The safety of the children, the staff and yourselves remains paramount.

If staff cannot get safely to school we will not have the ratios to open. As you can imagine everything is dependent on staff being able to get to school and not being stuck in their cars somewhere.

We will endeavour to make a decision regarding which of these four options is relevant as early as possible. This decision will be placed on the school website as close as possible to 7.30am. We will also send an email out to all parents so please keep an eye out for this.

We may also need to offer a staggered start at times and will inform you of this accordingly.

On-line learning will be provided through the Purple Mash platform on day 2 of closure. Please now take the time to double check that your child's password is in their reading diary.

Thank you in advance for your support in this matter.



Class Assemblies

During the Spring Term, each class leads a class assembly. This provides an opportunity for the children to share the learning they are proud of in a number of different ways.

Each class assembly takes place in the school hall at 9.00am.

On the morning of your child's class assembly, please wait by the entrance door to the school hall.

Each assembly will last about 15 minutes with a 5 minute period afterwards to spend congratulating your child/children.

Thursday 15th January 2026 - Tawny Owls

Thursday 22nd January 2026 - Barn Owls

Thursday 29th January 2026 - Snowy Owls

Thursday 5th February 2026 - Badgers

Thursday 12th February 2026 - Hedgehogs

Thursday 5th March 2026 - Squirrels

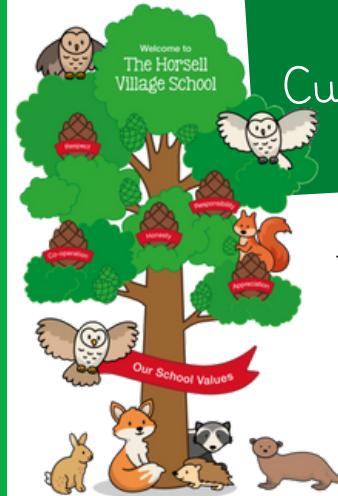
Thursday 12th March 2026 - Rabbits

Thursday 19th March 2026 - Foxcubs

Thursday 26th March 2026 - Otters

PUT THIS
ON YOUR
CALENDAR!

Upcoming Events & Curriculum news



The value for this half term is :

— **Honesty** —

In Reflections this half term we will be exploring the meaning of honesty and the feelings and emotions associated with being truthful and what could happen when we are not truthful.

We will be using a variety of different stories and tales as starting points for discussion.

At home, discuss with your child the importance of this value and perhaps share your own experiences of living this value out.



This half term our PSHE Jigsaw lessons and Good To Be Me afternoons will focus on:

Dreams & Goals

We will be exploring and learning about:

- Our aspirations and how to achieve them.
- How to set small goals and how to manage our expectations of them.
- How to challenge ourselves and the emotions that can come when we find things tricky.
- How to work together effectively and understand that everyone has different viewpoints, ideas and opinions and how we can share these to develop our own ideas.
- Our own resilience and developing an emotional toolkit to support.
- Simple budgeting.

Just a little reminder...



Coats, Hats and Gloves

We continue with our outside learning all year round. Please make sure your child comes to school equipped to be outside. This includes coming to school every day with a coat and, at this time of year, hats and gloves. Please make sure everything is clearly labelled.



Snack time

Please make sure your child comes to school each day with a fruit snack from home. This is for morning snack. We provide the children with an afternoon snack. Thank you

Safeguarding

Upcoming Events



Mrs Reeve
DSL &
Attendance
Champion



Mrs Sharkey
DDSL



Miss Cadey
DDSL & ELSA



Miss
Richardson
DDSL



Mrs Shaw
DDSL



Mrs Wright
DDSL & SenCo

Here at The Horsell Village School we are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. Safeguarding and keeping children safe is everybody's responsibility. In addition to this we have a named team of Designated Safeguarding Leads and Deputies who are the main point of contact.

If you have any concerns about the safety or welfare of a child please contact a member of the school's Designated Safeguarding team in the first instance through the school office.

In addition to this, if you have concerns outside of school you can contact the Children's Single Point of Access on:

Phone: 03004709100 - Monday to Friday, 9.00 am to 5.00 pm

Email: cspa@surreycc.gov.uk

Out of Hours Emergency Team: 01483 517898

You can find additional information regarding our safeguarding culture and processes on our school website as well as

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/children>

Attendance



We all know that regular attendance at school is key to achieving the best outcomes for our children. Research clearly identifies the link between regular attendance and educational progress and attainment. We aim for all children within our settling to achieve maximum attendance and school will work closely with families identify any barriers that may prevent this.

We also know that children get ill- especially at this time of year. Please refer to the link below for guidance from the NHS for additional guidance.

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>



Attendance Matters

100%	0 days missed
99%	1 day missed is 5 lessons
98%	3 days missed is 15 lessons
97%	1 week missed is 25 lessons
94%	2 weeks missed is 50 lessons
92%	3 weeks missed is 75 lessons
90%	3.5 weeks missed is 90 lessons

If your child is too unwell to attend school please remember to complete the online form by 9.00 am. This can be found on the school website or by using the following link

<https://www.horsell-village.surrey.sch.uk/parents/attendance/>

If we have not heard from you by 9.00 am we will begin our first day calling procedures. Please help us by making sure you have reported your child's absence before this time, valuable time can be lost daily chasing up reasons for absence which could delay safeguarding measures being implemented for some children should it be needed.

Thank you for your understanding and support

What's happening in Reception...

Welcome back! We hope you enjoyed a restful break with your family. The children have returned to school with lots of stories and are remembering their learning behaviours. Well done!

We have started our new topic, "Are we there yet?", with great enthusiasm! We began by exploring aeroplanes and imagining exciting journeys.

Together, we looked at the cover of Emma Jane's Aeroplane and discussed where Emma Jane might be going. Next, we will read the story and use a map to discover all the places she has visited.

The Reception team is very proud of how motivated the children are to record their ideas in words and phrases. We can already see them applying their phonics learning and using some of those tricky words too. Please keep practising these at home—we really appreciate your support!

In Maths, we are continuing our learning on subitising, counting, and the composition of numbers. We will be representing quantities and matching them with numerals.

We'll also be singing lots of different songs and learning some new poems—some of which you may see featured in our class assembly!

In Understanding the World, we will discuss places of worship and why they are important to people. In addition, we will learn about Amelia Earhart and Garret Morgan and explore how transport has changed over time.

In PSHE, we have started our new topic, "Dreams and Goals", where we'll think about how to stay motivated when faced with challenges and how to set a goal and work towards it.

In PE, our focus will be on fundamental skills – balancing, running, changing direction, jumping, hopping and travelling as well as ball skills. We will also continue to develop our gross motor skills during outdoor learning and refine our fine motor skills, paying special attention to pencil grip.



Phonics



Mrs Knight's group:

j, v, w, x, y, z/zz, qu

Tricky words:

me, be, he, my, by, she

Mrs Shaw / Mrs Emslie's group:

j, v, w, x, y, z/zz, qu, ch, sh, th, ng

Tricky words:

he, my, by, she, they

Miss Burtenshaw's group:

ch, sh, th, ng, ai, ee, igh, oa, oo, oo,

Tricky words:

they, we, are

Books are changed on a Tuesday and a Friday once parents/carers have commented in the diary. We appreciate your support in guiding your child's reading development.

Reminders

Please continue to practise the tricky words inside the cover of your child's reading book. As well as decoding the words in the book, please ask your children questions about what they have read to show their understanding.

If you have a school DBS, have completed the Safeguarding training, and wish to come and read with some children, please let your class teacher know. Thank you



long, short
tall, small
large
hard, soft
quick
through
near
between

What's happening in Year 1...

We are excited to start the year with our new topic, 'Beside the Seaside', which has a strong history focus. The children will explore what seaside holidays were like 100 years ago, why people visited the seaside, and how holidays have changed over time.

Our English learning will be inspired by the sea:

- The Storm Whale – We will begin with this beautiful story, focusing on character and setting descriptions, making predictions, and understanding the main events.
- Somebody Swallowed Stanley – This text will help us explore the issue of pollution and inspire our non-fiction writing.
- Tiddler by Julia Donaldson – We will finish the topic with this fun story, perfect for sequencing and storytelling activities.

This half term, our PE focus is gymnastics, developing balance and coordination.

With the start of a new year, our PSHE theme is Goals and Dreams. We will discuss how to set goals, work towards them, and celebrate success.

Our Art will be inspired by the work of Sue Coccia. Children will use their observational skills to zoom in on sea creatures and explore line, tone, and texture in their artwork.

In Computing, we will learn about algorithms and the importance of following a set of instructions and in Geography, we will learn about the five oceans and practice locating them on a world map.



pond	vast
ocean	endangered
amphibian	environment
fish	problem
climate	safe
pollution	current

Phonics



The children will be working through the Phases in their Phonics groups:

Phase 3
Phase 4
Phase 5

Spelling

There is a list of High Frequency Words and Common Exception Words in the centre of the Reading Record for your child to practise at home. Your child needs to be able to spell these words by the end of the year.

What's happening in Year 2...

Welcome back everyone!

This term is all about, 'The Living Rain forest' We have an exciting month of learning all about tropical rain forests, where they can be located and the animal and plant life that can be found in them.

In Maths, we will be learning about multiplication and division and looking at how we can use grouping and arrays to help us solve related problems. We will also be learning about lines of symmetry, 2D and 3D shapes and money.

In English, we will be reading the texts: The Rainforest Grew All Around, The Great Green Forest and The Great Kapok Tree to inspire our own poetry, letter and story writing. We will be learning about different types of sentences including: statements, commands and question sentences.

In Science, we will be investigating facts about the rain forest, how animals and plants adapt to their surroundings and will be creating our own investigation, answering the question; 'What rots?

In Art we will be looking at the artwork of Megan Coyle, Sue Coccia and Henri Matisse. We will be learning how to collage using cutting, tearing, layering and arranging.



Phonics

The children will be working through the Phases in their Phonics groups:

Phase 3/4
Phase 5 alternatives

Tricky Words

cloth, clothes, pretty,
pass, grass, class,
old, gold, cold,
could, should would,
couldn't, shouldn't, wouldn't,
beautiful, wonderful, colourful



forest

habitat

deforestation

resolution

decompose

tranquil

restoration

placid climate

echo

equator

cover