

Wray Common Primary School Newsletter



Inspiring Lifelong Learning



THIS WEEK...

THE NATURE HUB

Year 4 went to The Nature Hub this week to carry out a maths lesson exploring, making and interpreting pictograms. The children loved using natural resources to represent different scales.



PANATHLON

'Once at East Surrey College, we were faced with multiple challenges with skill, chance and most of all teamwork. We completed many indoor sports activities such as: curling, football and basketball. Each activity lasted for 7 minutes for us -as a team- to gain as many points as possible. After lots of hard work, we had completed all 7 activities and it was time to sit down and celebrate everyone's achievements. Shocked, we found out that we had come 1st place and couldn't get our heads round it! We were awarded with gold medals each and a trophy for the school cabinet. We were very pleased. On the bus we reflected on what we did well and what we could have done better, but overall, we thought we did fantastically. Thank you to all the teachers who took us to the Panathlon and cheered us on. Without them this wouldn't have been possible. So, a big thank you to Miss Kober, Mrs Harper and Mrs Reynolds who all deserve a medal too! Written by Ollie 6C.



MOON PHASES

Year 5 have been exploring the phases of the moon this week and found out that the moon does not actually change shape. It is because the sun lights up different parts of the moon as it orbits the Earth. We investigated this by using a ball and torch.



THE THREE LITTLE PIGS

This week Reception's new fairy tale is 'The Three Little Pigs'. At the beginning of the week we discovered bricks, sticks and straw outside. We realised this must have something to do with the three little pigs! We got to explore mud and build our very own stick houses in groups.





FRIENDS - PARENT SOCIAL BINGO EVENING

It is with regret that we are postponing the parent social bingo evening that is scheduled for 7 February. We hope to bring this fantastic event to you later on in the year so look out for further details. As always, thank you to everyone for supporting the Friends events.

ARBOR

You will have received an email this week to advise that we are transitioning communications, dinners, clubs and trips to Arbor by the end of this academic year and we will be phasing out the use of Scopay/Tucasi. Communications will be live from Tuesday at 10am when you will receive an email. We have tested the system, however if you do not receive this email, please check your junk/spam folder before informing the school office. For full details, please refer to the letter sent on Thursday.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday - Y5 to watch Shrek at St Bedes



DONATIONS

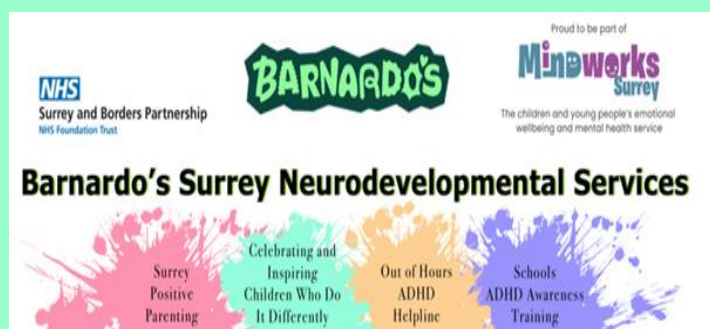
KS1 are seeking donations of old pots, pans, or kitchen utensils to enrich their mud kitchen area. Additionally, Miss Kober is in search of sensory toys suitable for younger children, as well as play tents. If you have any items in good, clean condition that you would like to donate, please bring them to the School Office. Thank you for your generosity.

VOLUNTEER SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

On Thursday 6th February, we will be holding our last opportunities to attend the Volunteer/Safeguarding training for the remainder of this academic year. To volunteer in school (with reading or swimming for example), adults must hold a valid DBS through Wray Common and have attended one of the training sessions. The sessions will be held in person at 9am at the school and online via Teams at 5.30pm. Due to the nature of the sessions, these are not suitable for children of any age to attend. Please complete [this form](#) if you would like to attend the training.

BARNARDOS POSITIVE PARENTING COURSE

Wray Common Primary School has the opportunity to host this important course for parents. Please follow [this link](#) to find out more and complete the form to share your interest in attending.



If you need any support, please do not hesitate to contact us. We can help you source information about support through the right agencies, and make referrals ourselves to local support groups. Here are some of the things we have supported families with recently:

- School uniform, school bags, P.E. trainers and school shoes
- Pre-loved clothes for children
- Foodbank referrals
- Housing applications and letters of support
- Seasonal gifts for children

If you have any questions or would like to talk about how we can help, please contact Miss Kober on 01737 761254 or email familysupport@wray-common.surrey.sch.uk

HONOUR BOOK

1EL	Stanley	For being a fantastic learning partner.
1B	Elodie and Daphne	For great collaboration and use of resources to show their understanding of numbers 11-20.
2T	Teddy	For her perseverance and positive attitude towards her Morning Maths.
2P	Elsa	For her courage in catching up with her maths even though she had missed a lesson.
3S	Jess	For showing fairness and kindness when sharing the maths resources.
3F	Xaymaca	For settling into Wray Common well and showing all the signs of being an excellent Wray Common citizen.
4BR	Shaun	For demonstrating perseverance with his handwriting this week.
4BE	Joseph	For excellent collaboration with his partner in PE this week.
5E	Athena	For her positive attitude and considered approach, methodically using the steps to solve fraction calculations with different denominators.
5J	Ela	For improving and uplevelling her writing by using the resources in the classroom.
6C	Toby	For a fantastic attitude to all learning this week, always aspiring to do his best.
6F	Ollie	For good perseverance this week especially when working on joins in DT.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

TIKTOK

AGE RESTRICTION

13+

(Certain features are restricted to over-18s only)

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Adults tend to associate online videos with YouTube – but among teens, TikTok is king. The app provides a stream of short clips tailored to users' interests, based on what they've already watched. Around half of British children use TikTok, and while much of the content is benign, Ofcom considers it the app where youngsters "were most likely to encounter a potential harm".

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

While TikTok's Following feed only displays videos from familiar creators, For You is a collection based on a user's previously watched clips. Most of these videos will probably be inoffensive, but the app could potentially show something unsuitable. If children then engage with this content, more like it will follow. TikTok's guidelines prohibit the sharing of illegal or inappropriate content, but the huge number of uploads means that a small amount inevitably slips through.

BODY IMAGE AND DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

According to Ofcom, most online harms for teens are body image related for girls (promoting unhealthy eating, body shaming and so on) and dangerous stunts for boys. Both are prevalent on TikTok. One extreme example of the latter was the 'blackout' trend, which encouraged users to hold their breath until they passed out from a lack of oxygen. This led to two families filing lawsuits against TikTok over the tragic deaths of their children.

IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but users have the option to buy TikTok coins, which can be used to purchase gifts for content creators. Coin bundles range from £9.99 to an eye-watering £99; while that may not sound appealing, the app still generated £7.9 billion in user spending in 2023. TikTok's policy is that under-18s can't make in-app purchases, but it's possible to bypass this with a fake birth date.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

With more than 1.5 billion users globally, the potential for contact from strangers on TikTok is high – especially as accounts created by over-16s (or young people using a fake date of birth) are set to public by default. This means that not only is someone's profile visible to everyone else on the app, it also suggests their videos to others and enables anyone to download or comment on them.

MISINFORMATION AND RADICALISATION

Although the short videos on TikTok tend to be more frivolous than the longer ones on YouTube, clips can still influence impressionable minds in a negative way. Not only is there plenty of dangerous misinformation on TikTok, but Ofcom reports that nearly a third of 12 to 15-year-olds use TikTok as a news source – so you should be wary of misogynistic, racist or conspiracy-themed material shaping how they see the world.

ADDICTIVE DESIGN

With its constant stream of eye-catching videos, TikTok can be addictive to young brains. In 2024, UK children spent an average of 127 minutes per day on the app: that's twice as much as in 2020. Excessive use can interfere with young people's sleep patterns – often leading to irritability – and distract them from other, healthier activities. The instantly skippable nature of bite-size videos may also impact children's ability to maintain focus.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account to their child's, and control settings remotely. Parents can then turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content), set screen-time limits, make accounts private and manage whether their child can send messages – and if they can, to whom. Children can't alter these settings without parental approval.

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If a child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's good practice to discuss the potential risks. Ensure that they don't share any identifying personal information, and that they know to talk to a trusted adult if they're worried by interactions on the app. With more teens using TikTok for news, it's also worth talking about misinformation and propaganda, and how to identify it.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard and The New Statesman.



BLOCK IN-APP SPENDING

If a child is using an iPhone or Android device to access TikTok, you can alter their settings to prevent them from making in-app purchases. We'd recommend enabling this feature, as it can be quite easy for a young person to spend a significant amount of real money buying TikTok coins to unlock more features of the app – sometimes without even realising.

READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that a child is spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as is failing to complete homework or skipping meals. Remember, the parental controls are there for a reason, and it's never too late to introduce limits.

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Gift Amnesty

Parents, staff and friends!

Can you help us raise funds for
the school this year?

If you received any gifts at Christmas or on a birthday that aren't quite to your taste (or got two the same) we'd love any donations that can be used as prizes or at future events.

Where to drop them off

Please bring your donations to the school office
throughout January

Thank you!

From Friends of Wray Common



Parentkind
Member Association

CALLING ALL MITCHES AND WIZARDS



Wray Common

School of

Witchcraft & Wizardry



DON'T MISS OUT!

Friday
28th Feb



Time
5:00pm

JOIN US FOR A FUN-FILLED EVENING OF:

POTION MAKING SORTING HAT LIVE OWL SHOW
GROW-YOUR-BONES BACK QUIDDITCH PRACTICE
SCAVANGER HUNT HEDWIG BALLOON MAKING

TICKETS INCLUDE: ACTIVITIES, CHOCOLATE FROG, DRINK,
AND YOUR OWN WAND!

Tickets £10

Scan the QR Code for tickets:

OR VISIT: BIT.LY/WRAYCOMMONWIZARDS



We are hiring!

Breakfast Club Playworker

Perm, Mon-Thurs 7am-8:45am

Closes: 28 January 2025



*Free club place for staff member's children)

View vacancies at:
greensandacademytrust.co.uk

Internal candidate application form can be found on EduPay (via Doc store).



A helping hand for a healthier family

Do you need help to achieve a healthy weight for your child or teenager?

Be Your Best is a **funded** healthy lifestyle programme for Surrey families with children & teenagers aged 5-17 years, who are above the healthy weight range. We can help you make a positive difference to your child or teenager's health and wellbeing.

The programme is made up of one-to-one and group sessions:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Sessions include | One-to-one sessions |
| Live cooking workshop | With a health & wellbeing advisor at a mutually agreed time & location |
| Meal planning for the whole family | Group sessions |
| Easy food swaps | Week days after school via Zoom |
| Managing screen time | Family Fit sessions |
| How to become an active family | Wednesdays 4.30 - 5pm via Zoom |
| Importance of sleep | |

"Me and my boys are really enjoying this programme and we are so grateful to be taking part." Mum

For more information, visit bybsurrey.org or email us at BeYourBest@surreycc.gov.uk



Snowdrop Open Days

Every
Sunday
afternoon in
February
12-5pm

Enjoy 260 acres of stunning parkland and gardens in Reigate / Walk among snowdrops and other early flowers / Guided tours / Plant sale / Gattton Hall tea room open
Adults £6 online, £8 on the day / Children free

Tickets at gatttonpark.co.uk



Celebrate National Storytelling Week at your local Surrey library! Join Merstham Library and Redhill Library for a fun filled 'Heads & Tails' storytelling session with Andy Capps and John Kirk, with myths and fables from southern Africa, on Saturday 8 February!
There will be music, visuals and a chance to join in too! The sessions last 1 hour (performance is 45 mins) and are suitable from ages 5+. Minimum £2 per family - further donations very welcome.

Book online:

10.30am at Merstham Library:

<https://tinyurl.com/HATatMerstham>

11.30am at Redhill Library:

<https://tinyurl.com/HATatRedhill1st>

2pm at Redhill Library:

<https://tinyurl.com/HATatRedhill2nd>