

Message from Shona Pitcher

Headteacher

We started the week with a wonderful performance of the Selfish Giant which Year 1 & 2 thoroughly enjoyed. We have shared some pictures below. Thank you to Mr Bowerstead, a Year 1 parent, who supported us in arranging this experience for the children.

Tomorrow, Saturday 10th October is World Mental Health Day. This year's theme is "Lived experiences heard: real voices, real change." It reminds us how powerful it is to truly listen to one another. Taking time to listen to someone's story can make them feel supported and understood.

At school, we encourage children to speak openly about their feelings and we want to encourage our parent community to take care of their own well-being too. We have shared some key contacts further in the Newsletter. I know that life can be busy but I would like to encourage you all to take a moment and find a quiet moment to recharge this weekend.



Sunday 11th October 2026 @ 7.30pm at Christ Church Surbiton

Join in an evening of songs and dance from award-winning choir Berrylands Belles and talented students from Lucie Benson School of Dance.

All proceeds go to supporting Summer Stokes and her family who are a part of our school community.

Please click on the below link to book a ticket:

[Songs for Summer at Christ Church event tickets](#)

Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL)

Our new Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) programme which was introduced last year to develop children's learning through imaginative play, is continuing to grow and we are introducing more and more equipment into the playground. We will be sharing the rules with you so that you can support your child in following our OPAL rules. This week we are sharing Tyre Rules with you.

As the weather is becoming more autumnal which brings the colder days and the rain, please can we ask you to send your child in with a rain coat everyday. As part of OPAL we will always be outside in the playgrounds, unless of course the weather does not permit this.



The Travelling Book Fair
raised a huge £2,529.90.

Thank you to you all for supporting reading in our school. The school have received £1,500 which will help us buy new books for our children.



A team of boys attended the prestigious Fulham Football tournament at their training ground on Monday. The standard of football was extremely impressive and the boys were competing in a strong field. The commitment the boys showed was commendable and we showed great determination in our pressing and tackling. The results, did not go our way but the boys came away with some goodies and a smile on their faces.

A huge thank you to the parent helpers who transported the children to and from the event.

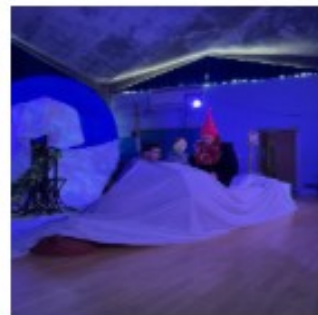
Mental Health Ambassadors Annual Conference



The Year 6 Mental Health Ambassadors attended a conference at Southborough High School this week along with other MH Ambassadors from other schools. They learnt more about mental health and how to support others as well as themselves. The MH Ambassadors do a fantastic job at school by running a weekly Calm Club and walking around the playgrounds at lunchtimes to see if anyone needs any support.

Tomorrow is World Mental Health Day so let's all talk, listen, and support better mental health together.

Year 1 and Year 2 had a great time watching The Selfish Giant. It demonstrated our GRAND rule of being Generous! Some children were able to be a part of the show!



School Council

Last week, we held the first meeting of this year's newly elected School Council. The Council is made up of six children from each Year Group from year 3 to 6, nearly all of whom were able to attend on Thursday. We will meet once every half term to discuss the agenda items, many of which will be actions that result from our weekly Class Debates. These are led by the children in each class and the whole school has an opportunity to take part and have their voice heard when voting. The Councillors are all looking forward to doing what they can to make improvements in the school.

Crown Court Civic Service at All Saints Church, Kingston

On Tuesday morning, I took a group of the House Captains and Vice Captains to the annual service of thanksgiving for Crown Court staff and judges. I was asked by one of the Captains the fair question of what the service had to do with them. The answer was simple: they are the leaders in our community and they were representing the school in a wider community. The service exemplified this: it is organised by the Mayor's office and is one very few such services held in London, dating back to the Middle Ages. The sermon was given by a prison chaplain (who spoke about the new Spiderman film, adding that, although he does not actually exist, it means we can be the hero of our own story by making good judgments). The Rector was surprised at being given a special award by the High Sheriff of London for interfaith service in Kingston. And on the bus on the way back, the children's behaviour was complimented by several passengers who asked which school they were from. We teach British Values in school and this was direct experience for the children of nearly all of them: Rule of Law, Individual Liberty, Mutual Respect and Tolerance of Different Faiths and Beliefs.

Mr Carter



Year 2 had a fantastic day stepping back in time at the Tower of London last week! The children explored the historic castle, discovering fascinating stories and learning what life was like within its walls. They were especially excited to see the magnificent Crown Jewels.



Richmond Park

Year 4 had a lovely day out in Richmond Park on Friday. The weather was fantastic and the children saw deer as they walked through the park. We had three 'stations': sketching Turner's view across Petersham Meadows from Richmond Hill, playing in the amazing playground by Petersham Gate (no one could quite make the balance beam balance - Science investigation at work!) and a nature trail in the gardens of Pembroke Lodge. This culminated in the unique view through the trees to St Paul's Cathedral from King Henry's Mound. Thanks to all the parents who were able to help with the trip.



Sharing Stories at Home

We have attached a flyer from the Wandle English Hub which has some helpful ideas and links to book recommendations to support parents in enjoying stories and reading together at home.

Whilst this is aimed primarily at children in younger years there are some usual hints and tips which could be useful for families with children in other year groups.



Black History Month

During Black History Month, we explore and honour the lives of remarkable individuals who have made a profound and lasting impact on society.

Each year group will be learning and celebrating these artists.



Featured Individuals & Pioneers

Brigadier General Charles McGee (1919–2022): A decorated U.S. military aviator and member of the historic Tuskegee Airmen who flew 409 combat missions across World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War, breaking racial barriers in the armed forces.

HONOURING OUR COMMUNITIES

Bisa Butler (b. 1973): A celebrated American textile artist renowned for her large-scale, vibrant quilted fabric portraits that reimagine historical photographs and celebrate Black identity.

Jean-Michel Basquiat (1960–1988): A pioneering Neo-Expressionist painter who emerged from New York City's street art scene to become a global icon, blending graffiti motifs, anatomy drawings, and critiques of power and race.

Romare Bearden (1911–1988): A master of collage and mixed media whose artwork captured the vibrancy of African American life, jazz culture, and the rural American South during the 20th century.

Hurvin Anderson (b. 1965): A contemporary British painter of Jamaican heritage whose layered landscapes and barber shop series explore memory, identity, and the Caribbean diaspora.

Books and informative displays can be found in the library.



Community Notices

Fabulous Fridays yoga classes at the parent champions café in Old Malden Family Hub, New Malden

Fridays 9:30am to 10:30am held at Old Malden Family Hub (Former Old Malden Children's Centre, Lawrence Avenue, New Malden KT3 5NB).

A fully funded wellbeing activity for parents of children aged 0 to 18, up to age 25 if a child has SEND and individual London Living Wage threshold earnings of up to £28,860. No need to book, all classes are a drop in, on a first come first serve basis. Complimentary coffee, cake and chat social for parents available after each class

This is a parents only session, regretfully we are unable to accommodate children. Registration is required on the first visit only. Please bring your own yoga mat and wear comfortable clothing.

[More information here.](#)

Mental Health Support and Resources

- YoungMinds Parent Helpline: Free, confidential advice if you are worried about your child (0808 802 5544 / youngminds.org.uk).
- NHS Mental Health Services: Free support available 24/7 by calling 111 or visiting nhs.uk.

School Support: If your child is struggling, please reach out to their teacher or our pastoral team. We are always here to help.

Weekly House Points

Here are this weeks house points.
Well done to Painshill.

Painshill	44
Richmond	36
Norbury	30
Kew	24
Wisley	19
Claremont	18



Spotlight on attendance

Congratulations to **Butterflies** who have had the highest attendance this week (99.6%).

Dates for your Diary

Tues, 13th Oct	R-YR 6	Flu vaccination (<i>please complete the form by Sunday, 11th Oct</i>)
Mon, 19th Oct	YR 6	Poetry & Poppies drama workshop (<i>payment deadline Fri, 9th Oct</i>)
W.c 19th Oct	ALL	Harvest Celebration (<i>collections on Mon—Weds</i>)
Weds, 21st Oct	REC	Phonics & Reading workshop @ 9.30am (online delivery)
Weds, 21st Oct	YR 6	Showcase Afternoon from 2.45pm—Year 6 classrooms
Fri, 23rd Oct	YR 5	Science Museum trip (<i>payment deadline Mon, 19th Oct</i>)
Fri, 23rd Oct	REC	All About Me dress up day
Fri, 23rd Oct	YR 1	Out of the World dress up day
Fri, 23rd Oct	ALL	Last day of Autumn 1 term
Mon 26th— Fri 30th Oct	ALL	HALF TERM
Mon, 2nd Nov	ALL	First day of Autumn 2 term
Weds, 4th Nov	ALL	School photographer—individual photos
Thurs, 5th Nov	ALL	Parent/carer teacher consultations (details will be shared soon)
Thurs, 5th Nov	ALL	Parent/carer teacher consultations NURSERY CLOSED ALL DAY RECEPTION TO YEAR 6 SCHOOL—EARLY CLOSE
Sat, 5th Dec	ALL	GASPA Christmas Fair
Fri, 18th Dec	ALL	Last day of Autumn Term

Autumn Term: Early Closing

Friday, 6th Nov : Parent/teacher meetings

Please see the times below for year group collection times.

Nursery : closed all day

Years R, 1 & 2 1.15pm

Year 3: 1.25pm

Year 4: 1.30pm

Year 5 & 6: 1.25pm

After school club closes at **4pm** on this day.

Friday, 18th Dec : Last day of Autumn term

Please see the times below for year group collection times.

Nursery : 1pm

Years R, 1 & 2 1.15pm

Year 3: 1.25pm

Year 4: 1.30pm

Year 5 & 6: 1.25pm

After school club closes at **4pm** on this day.