



'The Herald Half'

A new newsletter brought to you every half term

Issue 1 - 19.10.23



Message from Mrs King and Mrs O'Connor - It has been a busy half term in school and it is always lovely to reflect on the learning and achievements of children across the school. We have also been focusing specifically on establishing expectations and routines within each class and supporting the children with building relationships across the school.

One of the highlights over the last six weeks has been the wonderful opportunities for our children to interact and learn from different immersive days, visitors and trips. These enriching experiences have further ignited the children's passion for learning, fostering a deep sense of curiosity and engagement.

Year 3 embarked on a walking trip to Virginia water library, where they dived into the history of the area. Learning about the heritage of Virginia Water not only broadened their knowledge but also instilled a sense of pride in their local community.

Year 4 children enjoyed a visit from the Thames Explorer Trust. This visit was perfectly aligned with their Blue Abyss unit of work, allowing them to delve into the mysteries of marine life. The workshop taught the children about food chains, adaptations, and the evolving nature of river environments.

Year 5 have enjoyed their topic on the Titanic. The children enjoyed their wow day where they were transported back in time into the grandeur and history of the legendary ship. As part of the Titanic-themed day, the children had the opportunity to step into the shoes of first-class passengers, learning about first class lounges, cabins and dining rooms.

Our year 6 children went on an unforgettable trip to the Rural Life museum in Farnham. This immersive experience provided them with a unique opportunity to step back in time and learn about the Home Guard. Through engaging workshops and hands-on experiences, our young year 6 historians got a taste of life in a 1940s classroom and gained insight into the heroic efforts of those who protected their homeland during World war II.

Our year 6 children, including our newly appointed Head Boy, Drew, and Head Girl, Anna, have all taken on leadership roles that demonstrate the values of our school. Drew and Anna have proudly taken on their new roles and have been inspiring to their fellow peers. Both children shared their new roles in a whole school assembly and met with our school governors at our first full governing body meeting.

We have also had additional assemblies led by our Sport's Leaders and Safeguarding Leaders who shared their roles in school. Our Sport's Leaders are now running additional activities each lunch time to provide opportunities for more children across the school to be active. Our Safeguarding Leads also spoke to the school about 'Feeling Good' week which focused on how to stay mentally healthy.

As we approach this half term, we want to take this moment to wish you all a well-earned break.

We look forward to seeing you all on Monday 30th October for the start of the second half of term.

Parents' Evening

Parents' Evenings will take place in school after half term from 4pm until 7pm on Monday, 30th October and Thursday, 2nd November. As you know, we are using the Sco-Pay system for booking appointment slots. Teachers based in the main building will be in their classrooms for appointments and teachers from the cabin (5A, 5D, 6A and 6PH) will be based in the school hall. Your child's books will be available for you to look at prior to or after your slot with the teacher. As slots are ten minutes long, please do arrive promptly for your appointment and we will aim for teachers to be running to time. **Please note that Year 5 & 6 children are encouraged to attend the appointments with their parents if possible.**

Governor Page

Introduction

As part of our series of Governor articles in the school Herald, this year our Governors have written about subjects close to them, that can hopefully resonate and inspire others. We hope you enjoy reading these articles.

Unlocking True Potential and Developing Children in a Nurturing and Fun Environment

By Stuart Wheatley, Parent Governor

Hello everyone, for the last three years, I have had the privilege of being a coach at Virginia Water Football club, starting at Under 7 level with my son Jack and going up to Under 10 with him. This journey has delivered many benefits to both Jack and me, but also presented some interesting challenges along the way. Learning how to teach a game I have loved my whole life has been a steep learning curve for me, but one I have relished!

At the very beginning, we welcomed seven six year olds to a newly formed team which I helped to coach along with three other dads from the local area. We had the responsibility of creating an environment that is nurturing and fun, but also one that encourages personal development. Personal development is something I 100% believe in, no matter where life takes us, we can still learn something new. Every day is a school day!

To begin with, we started the players on basic skill development such as understanding which part of the foot to kick the ball with and how to tackle, among many other things. Over the years, we have helped them to understand the game and unlock their potential. Each year we witnessed each and every player begin to develop, in different ways and at different speeds; all the while reassuring them that its ok to make mistakes and to learn from them. By creating this positive environment, the players have grown physically and mentally, and seeing how they play now makes it worthwhile.

Each year we welcomed more and more players to our age group and integrated them into a collective unit which now, three years on, consists of three teams and almost 30 players. During this time, the club itself has grown and provides opportunities for everyone to play for football.

This August, I hit the reset button on my personal journey with Virginia Water Football Club and have started to coach the new batch of under 7's where my younger son Ben has just started playing. Along with three brand new coaches, we have taken on the challenge of helping these new young people on their footballing journey.

An interesting discovery I have made in the past couple of months is that as coaches, we have to continually create new ways of teaching and that just because a certain drill or coaching technique worked for one group, it doesn't necessarily work for another. This has made me look at myself and where I can develop as a coach in order to add value to these young people on the football field.

Like I said earlier, 'Every day is a school day'.

Now just 5 weeks into our new season, my fellow coaches and I have witnessed some amazing developments in the players. Some are naturally gifted and have aims of scoring 30 goals in a season. Others are learning how to run, how to pass, how to kick the ball and have aims of dribbling through the cones quicker each week. Whatever their aims are, we take the time to work with them and help them to improve.

That's the beauty of sport in that it really has a place for everyone of all levels and abilities and no matter how good we think we are; we can always learn something new - Thanks for reading!

Year 6 Leadership

This year we have given all our Year 6 children a leadership role as we believe that completing their primary school years as student leaders is an important step towards a successful beginning to secondary school and beyond. Throughout the year, we will be introducing our different leaders to you via our Half Term Herald, starting with our Head Boy and Head Girl.



Name: Hi my name is Drew.

Class: I'm in 6A.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time? I like going on my bike or going to the skate park.

What qualities do you need to be Head Boy? Be respectful, kind, honest, friendly, involved and a good listener.

What does the role of Head Boy involve? Giving tours, speaking in assemblies and being at Governor meetings.

What are you most looking forward to about being Head Boy?
Giving tours to prospective parents

What do you enjoy most about being at St Ann's Heath?

All the teachers being so kind



Name: Anna

Class: 6PH

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time? Sports and learning.

What qualities do you need to be Head Girl? You need to be kind, patient, be a good listener, have good ideas, brave, show all your values, reliable, responsible, helpful, honest and friendly.

What does the role of Head Girl involve? Giving speeches, meetings and sending messages between pupils, staff and Governors.

What are you most looking forward to about being Head Girl?
Everything.

What do you enjoy most about being at St Ann's Heath?
Everything/ learning new things.

Reading at SAH

Welcome to our Autumn 1 Reading Newsletter!

It's been a busy first half term for reading at St Ann's Heath starting with the appointment of our Year 6 Reading Leaders: Mya, Ayah, Daniel and Harrison. Their role will include demonstrating and promoting a love of reading across the school and thinking of new reading initiatives to introduce.

Our reading highlight of the term has been our **National Poetry Day Poetry Recital Competition**. We were so impressed with the standard of entrants who recited their poems confidently, with expression and many even added their own actions! We were also blown away with the poems that some children had written themselves.

Well done to our class winners: Isaac (3FP), Freddie (3FP), Isobel (3S), Olivia (3S), Issy (3M), Freya (3M), Aaroshe (4V), Rufus (4V), Elodie (4M), Tilly (4M), Jasmine (4PM), Julia (4PM), Alvaro (5G), Della Rose (5G), Evangeline (5D), Elizabeth (5D), Bella (5A), Arundhathy (5A), Eric (6PH), Anna (6PH), Leyla (6A) and Max D (6A).

Well done to our year group winners: Olivia (Year 3), Julia (Year 4), Alvaro (Year 5) and Eric (Year 6).

Well done to Oak House who won the inter-house element of the competition.

Little Wandle Update

Alongside the Rapid Catch Up programme that we introduced last year, we will also now be using the Little Wandle Fluency programme. The programme is designed for children who no longer need phonic intervention, but require support to become fluent readers. In order to teach this programme, we have invested in forty exciting new chapter books by leading authors and illustrators. If your child is due to be on the Rapid Catch Up programme or the Fluency programme, you will receive a letter this week inviting you to a Little Wandle information briefing on **Tuesday 31st October**.



Birthday Books

Following the success of the Birthday Book programme that we introduced last half term, we will be continuing with it this year. Please read the information on the next page to find out more and visit this link to find our St Ann's Heath Book List : <https://amzn.eu/8cW44t0>



Next half term

In class next half term, the children will be enjoying the following texts:

Year 3— A Mummy Ate My Homework! A Time-travel Adventure by Thiago de Moraes

Year 4— The Boy with the Bronze Axe by Kathleen Fidler

Year 5—Cosmic by Frank Cottrell-Boyce

Year 6—Will be voting on their next class text soon!

Health and Wellbeing

At the end of last year we achieved our 'Surrey Healthy Schools Award'. We are continually working to ensure the activities and events we run in school actively promote positive health and wellbeing. Here's what we've been up to this half term!



Feeling Good Week

During last week, the children took part in feeling good week. This included an assembly led by our Year 6 Safeguarding Leaders as well as activities in class. Year 3 and 4 focused on their achievements whilst Year 5 and 6 looked ahead towards future goals.



Black History Month

During October each year, we celebrate Black History Month, with this year's theme being 'Saluting our Sisters'. This week, the children have all been learning about influential black women in the fields of music, sport, entertainment, and politics. They have also had the opportunity to listen to a variety of music from black singers, musicians and composers. Look out for some of the work they have produced in the next newsletter!



Year 6
Safeguarding
Leaders

Celebrating Neurodiversity



As October is **ADHD Awareness Month**, during assembly, the whole school learnt about neurodiversity with a focus on ADHD. They explored what ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder) means and how it can affect people. They were particularly interested in the famous people with ADHD and the amazing things they have done!

How to buy a Birthday Book

If you would like to buy a birthday book for St Ann's Heath Junior School, please follow these step-by-step instructions:

Click on the link: <https://amzn.eu/8cW44t0>

Sign into your personal Amazon account

The St Ann's Heath books wish list will then become available

Select the book you would like to buy and add this to your basket

Go to basket and click 'this order contains a gift'

Proceed to checkout

Type the school's address for delivery:

St Ann's Heath Junior School

Sandhills Lane

Virginia Water

Surrey

GU25 4DS



Complete the gift message with the following information:

Your child's name

Your child's class

On their ____th birthday

Please don't buy a £3.99 gift box – it won't be needed

Complete payment and delivery

Once the book arrives in school, we will add a bookplate to the front and present to the child in assembly – the book will then be added to the school library.

Thanks for your support!

Mufti Day

We are holding a Mufti Day on **Friday 3rd November**.

Children may come to school in their own clothes in exchange for bringing in **TWO DONATIONS**. These donations will support FOSAH with their Christmas fair planned for Saturday, 25th November (11am-2pm).

Year 3 & 5 Donations – please can the children in these year groups bring in



- 1) A packet of wrapped **SWEETS** (in original packaging) **AND**
- 2) An **ITEM FOR OUR CHRISTMAS RAFFLE**, this could be a bottle of wine, a box of chocolate, crackers etc. something to go in a Christmas Hamper

Year 4 & 6 Donations – please can the children in these year groups bring in

- 1) Some wrapped **CHOCOLATE** (in original packaging) (no nuts please!) **AND**
- 2) An un-opened **BOTTLE OF DRINK** e.g. wine/prosecco for our bottle tombola. Please Ensure the item is new, sealed and in date.

Raffle Prize selection shown below



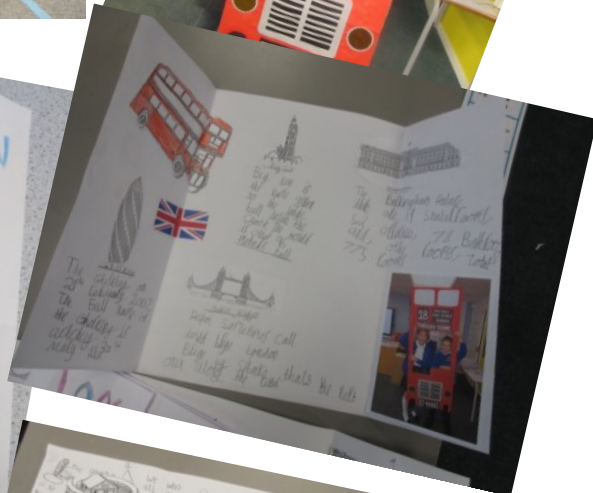
Pictures for idea purposes only!



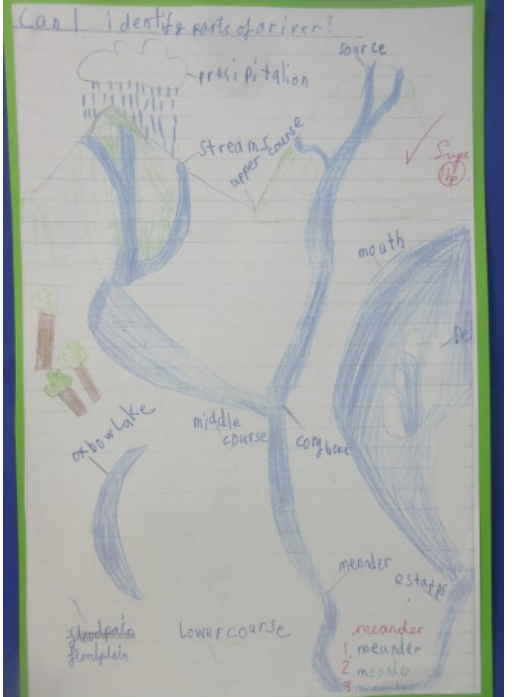
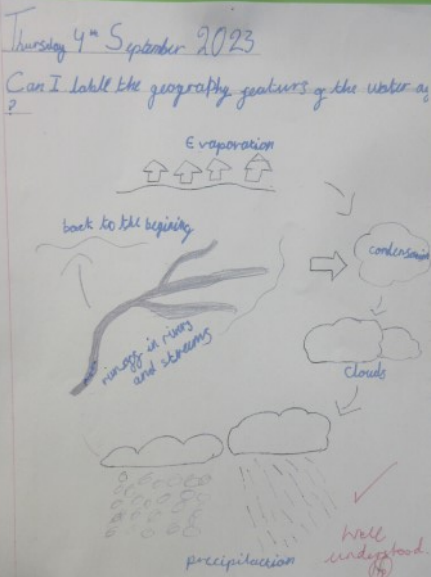
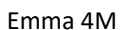
Year 3



In Year 3, we have been enjoying learning all about our local area. At the heart of our learning is our class text, "A House That Once Was". Not only have we been focusing on writing descriptively, but also on building our geographical skills and knowledge. For our local study, we took a walk into Virginia Water to learn about its human and physical geographical features, as well as the changes that have taken place over the years. Our trip included a visit to the local library where we enjoyed a story and browsed the books. We all loved our recent WOW Day to London where we learned all about London's famous landmarks and created some wonderful travel diaries.



marine habitats. We looked in detail at the River Thames, honing our map skills. The children's knowledge of the importance of rivers and oceans was further embedded thanks to Mr Apak sharing his life experience as a mariner and a lady from The Thames River Trust sharing about the history of the Thames. Many thanks to all parents who have supported their children in their various homework tasks.





Our awesome Year
4 WOW day!





Year 6



In Year 6, we have been learning about the World Wars. We started by learning about the causes of World War 1, life for the soldiers in trenches and we wrote a narrative based on the Christmas Truce. Next, we learnt about the causes of World War 2 and life on the Home Front. As part of our learning, we visited the Rural Life Museum where we found out more about life as an evacuee and experienced what it would have been like to be part of the Home Guard. In maths, we have been learning about the place value of numbers up to 10,000,000 and the four operations. In science, we have been learning about electricity and were lucky enough to have a visit from Dr Metcalfe who showed us how to use ammeters within a circuit.

Can I write a narrative?

Late at night, Jim lay there in the cold, rat-infested trench waiting for the daily letter from his family. Within a short time, they had become his only form of entertainment in this cold wasteland that was the battlefield. Never in a Million Years would he have expected to be this far from home. It was so cold in the trench that he felt as if he would freeze to death!

Without warning, all sounds of gunfire came to a halt and was replaced with what sounded like the faint sound of singing. Eventually, so many Germans joined in that the British (including Jim) could recognise it, it was Silent Night but in German. Soon after, the British joined in and it was this amazing harmony of both German and English versions of Silent Night in unison.

Soon after, Jim woke up. He felt weary as ever but deep down there was a sense of happiness, a feeling he had not felt in a long time. It was Christmas Day. Nervously Jim crept out of the trench as his comrades told him to stop. He persisted and continued to climb out. Caution in every step until he heard the cries of the Germans and the guns looking but no gunfire.

Just then his comrades followed, and the German side got up and and, along with one person in front, he was clearly the one who saved Jim's life. They made an unspoken agreement to meet halfway and shake hands. They introduced each other and ~~exchanged~~ exchanged names, his name was Ode.

Written
by Ezra

Can I use relevant dates and terms?

The Face of Europe in 1939

This is a map of Europe in 1939. The Axis is made of Germany, Italy and Japan. These 3 countries were against the Allies. The Allies were made up of Britain, France and the United States of America joined later.

(1918) 1918

World War 1 ended at 11am on the 11th day of the 11th month. This is called Armistice Day. The first World War ended because Germany surrendered - both sides were exhausted.

1919

In 1919, Germany signed the Treaty of Versailles which meant they had to give up some of its land, they couldn't have a large army, navy or air force. Germany had harsh penalties and they had to pay other countries for the damage they suffered that Germany caused. Because of this Germany's economy was ruined and people started to starve.

1929

During 1929, the Great Depression started. There were large shortages of money and food. People lost their jobs and everyone was suffering, even Germany. This was a time of great economic suffering.

Written
by Mya



Children's Achievements **IN** school

Congratulations to the following children who have received **SPECIAL MENTIONS** certificates since the start of term.

Year 3 - Bethany E, Ethan S, Olivia C, Nathaniel O, Edward B, Cleo H, Zayn A, Freya C, Isabel D, Henley B, Max M and Aurelia K

Year 4 - Anika B, Ashka B, Primrose J, Jackson W, Freya B, Emily S, Sirius W, Elisa M, Mollie K, Amar D, Maisie A

Year 5 - Nevaeh L, Aanya S, Arundhathy S, Aaron A,, Annaliese M, Brooke T, Henry W, Kara Y, Noah C, Jemimah S, Jack W and Libby B

Year 6 - Jannat A, Florence H, Vinnie V, George B, Mya N, Amber P, Emily M and Sam H

If child has had an achievement **OUTSIDE** of school that you would like to share with us, please send a photo and some text to admin@stannsheath.org and we'll share it in our next newsletter.

Dates For Your Diary!

Upcoming dates for your diaries

Friday, 20th October **Deadline** for School Photo Orders

**NEW DATES
ADDED**

Monday, 23rd October to Friday, 27th October—Half term

Monday, 30th October Parents' Evening (**bookings can now be made on via Sco-Pay**)

Tuesday, 31st October Y6 CUT OFF DATE for Y7 Applications through Surrey Admissions
3.30pm - Little Wandle Information Meeting (emails sent 18/10)

Thursday, 2nd November Parents' Evening (**bookings can now be made on via Sco-Pay**)

Friday, 3rd November Mufti Day (see this newsletter for all the information)

Wednesday, 8th November Year 6 Junior Citizen Event (email sent 19/10)

Tuesday, 14th November Flu Vaccinations for whole school

Friday, 17th November Children In Need Mufti Day & Cake Sale (more information to follow)

Wednesday, 22nd November Y6—National Height and Weight Programme taking place today

Wednesday, 29th November 2pm - Rocksteady Concert to Parents

Friday, 15th December 1.30pm Break up for Christmas!

Tuesday, 2nd January INSET DAY - School Closed

Wednesday, 3rd January Spring Term 2024 starts today—Children return to school