

20 June 2025

Pyrford C of E Primary School Weekly Newsletter



Food Glorious Food

Year 3 enjoyed tasting herbs in preparation for making savoury muffins next week. There were mixed opinions about whether they were tasty or not, but most children enjoyed tasting chives the most.



The Church ask that you do not leave your car in their car park during Sports Days as they have groups using their halls that need the space. You are welcome to use it for drop off as normal, but then please park elsewhere whilst you are at school watching Sports Day. Thank You.



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<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100086005376237>



pyrforfschool



pyrfordprimaryschool

Headteacher's Letter

Dear Parents

As I'm sure you can imagine, it's been quite a week at Pyrford! The most important piece of information to share is that the pigeon did, in fact, leave the hall overnight. No pigeons were harmed in his evacuation – he left entirely of his own accord! I didn't think that would be the headline of the week, but it was a perfect reminder of why working in a primary school is the best job in the world – the variety in my day-to-day roles is unbeatable!

Speaking of variety, Wednesday brought the excitement of a visit from an ITV *This Morning* film crew! I was contacted late Tuesday afternoon to ask if the school would like to take part in promoting National Teacher Appreciation Day. We were invited to work with James Partridge, and some filming was planned – possibly for television. This quickly escalated into a clip of the assembly being considered for *This Morning*, before the team decided instead to interview some of our fabulous children!

All in all, it was a brilliant day. We were thrilled to include all of KS2 in the opening titles and incredibly proud of the children who only found out that morning that they'd be on TV. It was also a lovely way to raise awareness of Teacher Appreciation Day. <https://thankateacher.co.uk/nationalthankateacherday/> I'm extremely proud to be part of a profession full of people who go above and beyond for their jobs. Across all the schools I've worked in, I've met dedicated individuals who pour huge amounts of time and effort into making every moment count – from early starts, late finishes, residential visits and school trips, to planning, preparing and assessing lessons, parents' evenings, staff meetings and report writing. And that barely scratches the surface!

The fun didn't stop there. Our Year 3/4 team took part in their district sports competition this week and brought home a host of 1st and 2nd place finishes. We're eagerly awaiting the final results to see how we placed overall. Meanwhile, despite the searing heat, our netball team also had a fantastic tournament on Tuesday, finishing second overall. It's been a great few weeks for competitive sport, and it continues with Sports Days next week and the swimming gala taking place tomorrow. I wish all the children the best of luck as they represent the school!

Given the exceptionally hot weather this week, I'd like to reassure parents that we've been taking appropriate precautions. Each evening, we're reviewing the forecast and adjusting our lunchtime routines to minimise the time children spend outside during the hottest part of the day. Pupils are not required to wear blazers, and we allow them to remove ties when it's too warm. We'll continue this approach over the coming weeks. If it gets particularly hot, we'll email to let you know children may come in wearing their PE kits. Otherwise, we do still expect school uniform to be worn.

I had the good fortune of accompanying Year 6 to Guildford Cathedral this week for the Leavers' Service, alongside other local CofE schools. It's been 14 years since I last attended this event, and it was lovely to see how it has evolved. The children had the opportunity to visit stations, reflect on their time at primary school, and look ahead with excitement to secondary school. I was also so proud of how respectfully and thoughtfully our Year 6 pupils engaged with the ceremony.

Before I finish, I'd like to thank all our wonderful families who donated food for the Eid Sale after school yesterday. Sadly, I was stuck in a meeting and missed out on the delicious treats, but I'm told it was a roaring success and raised a substantial sum – generously donated to the PTA. Thank you so much!

The meeting in question was with representatives from the Local Authority, who were working alongside Mrs Gilbey and Mrs Bull as part of the Surrey Writing Moderation process. Each year, a selection of schools is visited to validate Year 6 teacher assessments. The team were delightful and incredibly supportive – and very impressed with the writing produced by our children this year. A huge thank you to Team Year 6!

In light of Surrey's recent announcement regarding the October half term in 2026, I'm pleased to confirm that the Learning Partners Church Academy Trust has agreed to follow suit. This means we too will have a two-week October half term in 2026, and as a result, the summer holiday in 2027 will be slightly shorter. The updated dates are below.

Finally, I forgot to introduce Lucy Gould in last week's newsletter. Lucy has kindly agreed to join the teaching team in place of Mrs Woodhams, who will soon be heading off on maternity leave. Lucy is already well known to the school, having completed her SCITT training here a few years ago, and she has been teaching abroad over the last year. We're delighted to welcome her back and are excited for the contribution she'll make in the coming year.

Have a great weekend.

Mr D

Learning Partners Academy Trust - School term and holiday dates
2026 – 2027



Learning Partners term dates 2026 – 2027

AUTUMN	SEPTEMBER					OCTOBER					NOVEMBER					DECEMBER										
Monday		31	7	14	21	28			5	12	19	26		2	9	16	23	30		7	14	21	28			
Tuesday		1	8	15	22	29			6	13	20	27		3	10	17	24		1	8	15	22	29			
Wednesday		2	9	16	23	30			7	14	21	28		4	11	18	25		2	9	16	23	30			
Thursday		3	10	17	24			1	8	15	22	29		5	12	19	26		3	10	17	24	31			
Friday		4	11	18	25			2	9	16	23	30		6	13	20	27		4	11	18	25				
Saturday		5	12	19	26			3	10	17	24	31		7	14	21	28		5	12	19	26				
Sunday		6	13	20	27			4	11	18	25	1		8	15	22	29		6	13	20	27				
SPRING	JANUARY					FEBRUARY					MARCH					APRIL										
Monday			4	11	18	25		1	8	15	22		1	8	15	22	29		5	12	19	26				
Tuesday			5	12	19	26		2	9	16	23		2	9	16	23	30		6	13	20	27				
Wednesday			6	13	20	27		3	10	17	24		3	10	17	24	31		7	14	21	28				
Thursday			7	14	21	28		4	11	18	25		4	11	18	25		1	8	15	22	29				
Friday		1	8	15	22	29		5	12	19	26		5	12	19	26		2	9	16	23	30				
Saturday		2	9	16	23	30		6	13	20	27		6	13	20	27		3	10	17	24					
Sunday		3	10	17	24	31		7	14	21	28		7	14	21	28		4	11	18	25					
SUMMER	MAY					JUNE					JULY					AUGUST										
Monday		3	10	17	24	31		7	14	21	28		5	12	19	26			2	9	16	23	30			
Tuesday		4	11	18	25		1	8	15	22	29		6	13	20	27			3	10	17	24	31			
Wednesday		5	12	19	26		2	9	16	23	30		7	14	21	28			4	11	18	25				
Thursday		6	13	20	27		3	10	17	24			1	8	15	22	29		5	12	19	26				
Friday		7	14	21	28		4	11	18	25			2	9	16	23	30		6	13	20	27				
Saturday	1	8	15	22	29		5	12	19	26			3	10	17	24	31		7	14	21	28				
Sunday	2	9	16	23	30		6	13	20	27			4	11	18	25			1	8	15	22	29			
Christmas Day		-	25 December 2026							Easter Monday					-	29 March 2027										
Boxing Day		-	28 December 2026							May Day Bank Holiday					-	03 May 2027										
New Year's Day		-	01 January 2027							Spring Bank Holiday					-	24 May 2027										
Good Friday		-	26 March 2027							Summer Bank Holiday					-	30 August 2027										
	Learning Partners start of term						Learning Partners end of term						All schools INSET day													
	School Holidays						Public Holidays						Secondary only INSET day													
	Governance Conference						Headteacher Conference						Work/Life Balance days													
Term						Start						End						Days								
AUTUMN 2026						01 September 2026						16 October 2026						34								
Half term						19 October 2026						30 October 2026														
						02 November 2026						18 December 2026						35								
Christmas						21 December 2026						01 January 2027														
SPRING 2024						04 January 2027						12 February 2027						30								
Half term						15 February 2027						19 February 2027														
						22 February 2027						25 March 2027						24								
Easter						26 March 2027						09 April 2027														
SUMMER 2024						12 April 2027						22 May 2026						34								
Half term						28 May 2027						04 June 2027														
						07 June 2027						23 July 2027						35								
Total																								192		



On Tuesday afternoon, a squad of players from Years 5 and 6 went to Hoebridge School to participate in a netball tournament. Despite the very challenging weather conditions, all the girls played extremely well and finished in 2nd position overall, which was a fantastic achievement. Congratulations to all the girls who took part. *Mrs Harburn*



Yesterday we took a team of Year 4 athletes to the district sports in the scorching heat! I couldn't be prouder of every single one of them. Pyrford really shone at all 4 events of a 400m distance race, a sprint, vortex throwing and long jump. They performed so well! We had many of our children placing in first and second across the events and so are very excited to hear the overall results when they come through. I was particularly impressed by the sportsmanship they showed not only to each other as they encouraged their team mates but to the other competitors too. It was a pleasure to accompany them.

Finally, good luck to our swimmers taking part in the Gala tomorrow!

Mrs Steen



Dear parents/carers,

Smartphone Free Childhood is a grass roots movement of parents who believe childhood is too short to be spent on a smartphone. We will be represented at Pyrford School Summer Fair on 28th June so please come and find our stall for more information/how you can get involved!

Meanwhile you can -

- Sign the Parent Pact <https://surreyparentpact.smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/>
- Join Pyrford CofE WhatsApp community - Click link, select Surrey-Woking plus your details and you will be emailed, then sign up to 'Pyrford CofE Primary' group. Let's get this membership increased! <https://whatsapp.smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/>
- Read Dr Chatterjee's tips on parenting in the smartphone era. (See pdf below and click on the link below for more) <https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org/resource/dr-rangan-chatterjee-tips>



5 tips for parents deciding when to get their child a smartphone

If you're worried about giving your child a smartphone but don't want them to feel left out, you're not alone. Many parents are facing the same dilemma. Here are five practical tips to help you decide when—or if—it's the right time.

01. Educate yourself about the issue

Before making any decisions, take some time to understand how smartphones can impact young people's mental health, sleep, and focus. Watching the Channel4 documentary [Swiped](#), on which Dr Chatterjee is the expert voice, is a great start.

02. Have open conversations

Talk openly with your child. Share your concerns, but also listen to how they feel. Explain that this decision is about supporting their health and future, not just enforcing rules. Honest conversations build trust and understanding.

03. Discuss the benefits of being smartphone-free

Help your child see the positives. Without a smartphone, they have more time for hobbies, spending quality time with friends, and building independence. Focus on what they'll gain, not what they're missing.

04. Offer alternatives

If they feel left out or are concerned about not having a particular app, consider letting them use it on a shared family device so you can keep an eye on what they're up to. Or get them a simple phone – there are loads of good options which enable them to keep in touch, without the potential risks of the internet or social media. Check out our guide to the best [simple](#) phones.

05. Sign a Parent Pact with others

The [Parent Pact](#) lets you join a community of like-minded parents waiting until at least Year 9 to get their child a smartphone. See how many others have signed in your child's school and year group, and connect with them via your regional Smartphone Free Childhood WhatsApp group, to reduce the peer pressure.

Delaying doesn't mean forever – it can simply involve waiting a few more years until your child's better able to deal with the digital world, and giving a simple phone in the meantime.



5 ways to help your kids build healthier smartphone habits

Smartphones have been around for barely 15 years, and as parents, we're still figuring out how best to navigate bringing up kids in the digital age. If your child already has a smartphone, it's never too late to help them build healthier habits. Here are five simple steps to support them.

01. Set up parental controls

Use parental controls to limit screen time, block inappropriate content and ensure their device is as safe as it can be. Most phones have built-in options, or you can explore third-party tools for more control.

02. No phones at mealtimes

Set a rule: no phones at the table. This encourages real conversations and helps everyone stay present and connected in real life for regular times each day.

03. No phones an hour before bed

Phones before bed can disrupt sleep. Set a rule that phones go away at least an hour before bedtime. This helps reduce blue light exposure, allowing your child to get a better, longer night's sleep.

04. Take a break

Introduce regular phone-free times, like 'Smartphone Free Sundays' or family outings with no screens. These breaks give everyone a chance to disconnect, recharge, and connect with each other face-to-face.

05. Create tech-free zones

Establish tech-free zones in your home, particularly in bedrooms. Alone at night in their bedroom is where kids are most likely to come to harm via their smartphone, so a no phones in the bedroom rule keeps them safe and promotes better, deeper sleep.

These boundaries help your child build a healthier relationship with tech so that they can thrive at school, with friends and at home.

Here's how you can get involved:



Sign the [Parent Pact](#) - make an online pledge to wait to give your child a smartphone until at least Year 9, and see how many others in your school and year group have signed too.



Join your regional [SFC WhatsApp](#) community (there's one in every county in Britain!), to meet other parents in your school or neighbourhood for solidarity, support and inspiration.



Subscribe to our [newsletter](#) for all the latest resources, ideas and updates from the campaign.

smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk

SUMMER TERM DATES		
Fri 20 Jun	15:20-15:50	Friendly Friday - Ys 5 & 6
Sat 21 Jun	18:30-21:00	Swim Gala @ Guildford Spectrum
Mon 23 Jun	08:45	EYFS/KS1 Sports Day - Years 1 & 2
Mon 23 Jun	10:30	EYFS Sports Day - Nursery & Reception
Tue 24 Jun		YR Fire Service Visit
Tue 24 Jun		Y6 Lego Stem Workshop
Wed 25 Jun	08:45	KS2 Sports Day - Years 3 & 4
Wed 25 Jun	10:30	KS2 Sports Day - Years 5 & 6
Thu 26 Jun		Cherry & Willow Classes to Wildwood
Fri 27 Jun		Rowan Class to Wildwood
Fri 27 Jun	15:20-15:50	EYFS/KS1 Friendly Friday
Sat 28 Jun	13:00-15:00	PTA Summer Fair
Sat 28 Jun	18:00	Brass Concert @ CoGS
Mon 30 Jun		INSET DAY
Tue 1 & Wed 2 Jul		Forest School - 1 class per day
Fri 4 Jul		Y3 Outdoor Learning Activity Day
Fri 4 Jul	13:00-15:00	Y4 (selected pupils) Tennis Festival @ Pirbright
Mon 7 - Fri 11 Jul		Y6 Marchants Hill Residential
Thu 10 Jul	16:00-17:30	Y3/4 (selected pupils) Tri-Golf @ St Dunstan's
Tue 15 Jul	08:45	EYFS/KS1 Awards Assembly
Wed 16 Jul	08:45	KS2 Awards Assembly
Wed 17 Jul		Reception Mini Beast Ball
Thu 17 Jul	09:00	Leavers' Service @ CoGS
Fri 18 Jul	12:00	Last Day of Summer Term



Would you like to earn some extra income whilst contributing to our community?

Join our team for a 14-week mission as Children's Community Immunisation and Screening Assistants.



HCRG Care Services Ltd,
company number 7557877 registered in England and Wales at WA7 4QX.
Send any correspondence to the address at the top of this letter.
To find out how we use and protect your information, see our privacy notice at
surrevchildandfamily.co.uk

We are looking for enthusiastic individuals to work within our team, visiting schools across Surrey to support with the delivery of the school based 2025 flu vaccination programme and the Year R and Year 6 Weights and Measures.



Providing NHS services

NE Surrey – Elmbridge, Spelthorne

<https://careershub.hcrgcaregroup.com/members/modules/job/detail.php?record=15883>

Please apply via HCRG Care Group on the links below:

Closing Date: 13/07/2025

NW Surrey – Woking, Surrey Heath & Runnymede

<https://careershub.hcrgcaregroup.com/members/modules/job/detail.php?record=15885>

SE Surrey – Leatherhead, Epsom & Ewell, Mole Valley, Tandridge, Reigate & Banstead

<https://careershub.hcrgcaregroup.com/members/modules/job/detail.php?record=15886>

SW Surrey – Guildford & Waverley

<https://careershub.hcrgcaregroup.com/members/modules/job/detail.php?record=15887>

PYRFORD C OF E PRIMARY

Keystage 1 and EYFS Sports Day

When: Monday 23rd June

Years 1 and 2- 8.45am

Nursery and Reception- 10.30am

WHERE: THE SCHOOL FIELD

Please exit the school premises after dropping your child to school and come to the cricket field gate at the side of the school field at the start of your child's event. This will be the only entrance open.

Order of events

Year 1	Year 2
obstacle	jump/throw
sprint	obstacle
jump/throw	sprint
year group relays	
Nursery	Reception
running races	fun field events
fun field events	running races

Remember:
PE kit
sun cream, water bottles and caps

PYRFORD C OF E PRIMARY

Keystage 2 Sports Day

When: WEDNESDAY 25th JUNE

Years 3 and 4- 8.45am

Years 5 and 6-10.30am

WHERE: THE SCHOOL FIELD

Please exit the school premises after dropping your child to school and come to cricket field gate at the side of the school field. This will be the only entrance open.

Year 3/5	Year 4/6
throw/jump	wacky races
jump/throw	sprint
wacky races	throw/jump
sprint	jump/throw
House team shuttle run Long Distance	

Remember:
PE kit with their house colour t-shirt,
sun cream, water bottles and caps

Runnymede SEN Summit

When: Thursday 17th July - 10am - 12noon

Where: Council Chamber, Runnymede Civic Centre (in-person, please register in advance)

Purpose: Aimed at parents and key stakeholders in the Runnymede area. Come and share your experiences and suggestions for improving the SEN system.

Chair: Cllr Sam Jenkins, Runnymede Councillor for Egham

Featuring: Cllr Jonathan Hulley, Surrey County Council Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Lifelong Learning



Get in the game and unlock your potential!
Join our Multisports camps and have a blast!

We are thrilled to be able to offer fun, exciting sports activities to all children ages from 4-13 years old.

Unbeatable Prices for an Unbeatable Service

Some of the sporting activities we offer include:

Dodgeball	It's a knockout	Athletics	Pickleball
Cricket	American football	Handball	Basketball
Tennis	Golf	Team building	Baseball
Gladiators	Multi Game	Capture the flag	Tchoukball

Trophies, Medals and Prizes will be awarded!

SUMMER HOLIDAY 2025

Date • Tuesday 26th to Friday 29th August • **Venue** Send Primary School

Full Days • Time 9.30am to 3.00pm

For more information and to book your child's place, please visit our website
multisportsdevelopmentcentres.co.uk

Tel: 01932 873131

Email: info@multisportsdevelopmentcentres.co.uk



SCHOOL UNIFORM

PRE-LOVED UNIFORM SHOP

Good quality pre-loved uniform items available in a range of sizes

The PTA are now running the uniform shop

- Email: pyrforduniform@gmail.com with your request
- Collections/donations: meet at the portacabin (back playground) on Fridays at 3pm
- Cash or card accepted - proceeds go to the school!

EMAIL: PYRFORDUNIFORM@GMAIL.COM



Pyrford Primary School's



SUMMER FAIR

Sat 28 June, 1-3pm

ON THE SCHOOL FIELD

Entrance via Peatmore Ave.

Join us for some family fun....

- bouncy castle •
- giant slide •
- fun games •
- assault course •
- children's stalls •
- BBQ food •
- ice creams & drinks •

Cash & card
accepted



Free
Entry





Pyrford Primary
School's



SUMMER FAIR

MUFTI DAY

FRIDAY 27 JUNE



In exchange for wearing your mufti clothes, please bring in donations of the following to the Music Hut at drop off....

- Sweets for the tombola
- Bottle/s of any sort (alcoholic & non-alcoholic welcome) for the tombola
- Games and toys no longer used (good condition please)

Stall tokens (£1 each) and wristbands for the inflatables (£5 each for use throughout the duration of the Fair) will be available to buy in advance after school on 27th as well as on the day of the Fair!

Parent and carer support

Supporting children who face additional challenges can be difficult at times. With that in mind, the Hope Service has created a space for groups of parents and carers to come together on a regular basis to discuss the challenges they face in a confidential and supportive environment.

These groups are specifically for parents and carers of children who would like additional support. You will have an opportunity to exchange experiences and receive support towards managing the often complex situations you find yourselves in. This is not a parenting class, rather a non-judgemental support group and we encourage you to talk about whatever seems most important.

Support is offered via Microsoft Teams by Hope staff members, which could include a Therapist, Nurse, Teacher, Social Worker and Hope day programme staff or outside facilitators.

The following link details the sessions on offer:

<https://clicktime.symantec.com/15wPURrH3sgdNRyUBSm6S?h=HoBLVLuvipOmfo-JzvP7c1OsGj2TUbNQ9T6LXwJWQ=&u=https://www.hopeservice.org.uk/parent-and-carer-support>

Tuesday 24 June 5 - 6 pm	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQ) - Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation: How to support a young person exploring their identity.
Tuesday 8 July	Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) process: A question and answer session around the EHCP process and the criteria for an EHCP.

Your beauty journey starts at Bliss Beauty Boutique

Pamper Yourself at Our Salon

MUMS AND LOCALS OF PYRFORD - NEED A MOMENT OF CALM?

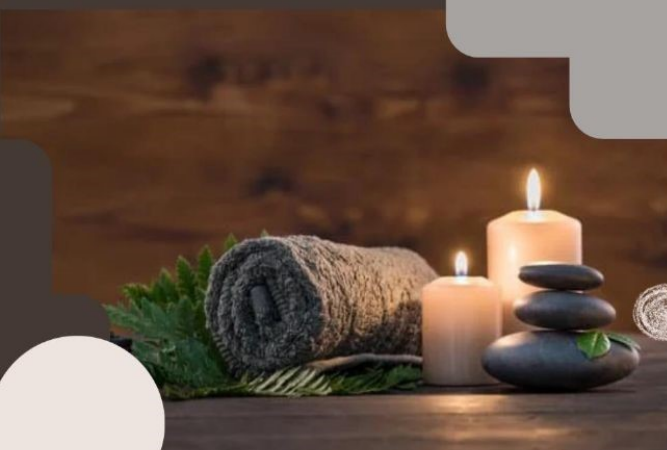
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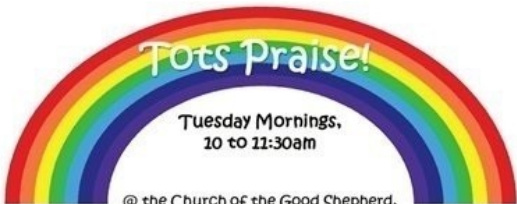
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Tots Praise!

**Tuesday Mornings,
10 to 11:30am**

@ the Church of the Good Shepherd,
Coldharbour Road, Pyrford GU22 8SP

Songs, puppets, story, cake, coffee, juice,

We'd love to see you.

Any enquiries Suzanne at the Parish Office 01932 356166
Suzanne@wistleywithpyrford.org





We'd love to see you at the
Coffee Shop
Friday Mornings (term time)
At the Church of the Good Shepherd, Pyrford

- 9:00am to 11:00am. Hall and play area in Church are open.
- 9:00am-10:30am. Cooked Breakfasts served.