

Pyrford CofE Primary

School Weekly Newsletter

10 July 2026

Headteacher's Letter

Dear parents and carers,

First of all, I just want to thank everyone for their kind comments, memories and offers of support this week in light of the awful news about Mrs Williams. It is a terrible tragedy and something that will take a long time to come to terms with as a community, but we have all felt so supported by you this week, and we thank you.

As we head into the penultimate week of the school year (I can't quite believe where the time has gone), it has been a busy one. The Year 6s headed off to Osmington Bay for their week long residential visit, and I was lucky enough to share some of the experience at the start of the week. The children tested their mettle on incredible zip wires and terrifying swings, got onto the sea in various boats, learned about survival in the wild, and took part in a whole host of other activities.

Back at school, our wonderful PTA organised a silent disco for everyone in the school hall, which was a real hit despite the hot weather. Today saw children arrive in mufti as they support the bottle tombola for tomorrow's village fair, and speaking of the fair, don't miss the children's performance just after 1pm on the field! They've been practising all week.

Next week we look forward to recognising those children who have shown their Pyrford values across the term in our Awards assemblies, and we will hold our service in the church on Thursday, where we will say goodbye to this year's Year 6. Don't forget that school will finish at 12 o'clock on Friday.

We will be saying a fond farewell to two much-valued members of our Pyrford family at the end of this term.

After 24 years of dedicated service, Alice Maina will be leaving us. During her time at Pyrford, Alice has worked as both a Teaching Assistant and a Higher Level Teaching Assistant, supporting and inspiring countless children. She is known and loved by both past and present pupils and has made a lasting impact on our school community. Alice has been involved in numerous school trips, workshops, sporting events and other activities, always approaching every opportunity with enthusiasm and a willingness to help. She has also regularly stepped in to cover classes at short notice, taking on every challenge with professionalism, flexibility and a smile. Alice's commitment and dedication have been exceptional, and she will be greatly missed by staff, children and families alike.

We will also be saying goodbye to Cath Anderson, who has been a valued member of our school office team for the past 18 years. I wouldn't have survived my first term without her! Her positivity, kindness and caring



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[pyrfordprimaryschool](https://www.instagram.com/pyrfordprimaryschool)

nature have touched everyone who has worked with her. Throughout her time at Pyrford, she has supported several Headteachers as Personal Assistant, taking on a wide range of responsibilities, including producing our weekly newsletters. Her calm, reliable presence and unwavering support have been greatly appreciated by colleagues, parents and the wider school community.

We are incredibly grateful to both Alice and Cath for their many years of dedication, commitment and service to Pyrford. They have each made an immeasurable contribution to our school, and while they will be greatly missed, we wish them both every happiness and success in the future.

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support of the whole school over the whole year. I am lucky to work with an incredibly dedicated team of people who go out of their way to ensure the children's experiences are the very best they can be. We might not always get it exactly right every time, but it certainly isn't for lack of trying.

Have a great summer, and we look forward to seeing (almost) all of you in September.

Mr D

Gavin Dutton
Headteacher

Term Dates 2026/27

Tuesday 1st & Wednesday 2nd September	INSET DAYS
Thursday 3rd September	Term starts for children
Monday 7th September	First day for Nursery
Friday 16th October	INSET DAY
Monday 19th - Friday 30th October	HALF TERM
Friday 18th December	Term ends
Monday 4th January	First day of term
Monday 15th - Friday 19th February	HALF TERM
Wednesday 24th March	Term ends
Thursday 25th March	INSET DAY
Monday 12th April	First day of term
Monday 3rd May	BANK HOLIDAY
Monday 31st May - Friday 4th June	HALF TERM
Monday 28th June	INSET DAY
Friday 23rd July	Term ends

SUMMER TERM DATES		
Tue 14 Jul	08:45 - 09:15	EYFS / KS1 Awards Assembly
Wed 15 Jul	08:45 - 09:15	KS2 Awards Assembly
Wed 15 Jul	14:40	Thank You Tea for Helpers
Thu 16 Jul	09:00	Leavers Service @ CoGS
Fri 17 Jul	12:00	Last Day of Summer Term

From the Office

We are so very grateful for all the lovely cards, messages and flowers we have received following Tina's death. As you can imagine, this has been a terrible shock and sadness to everyone and especially to us who worked so closely with her for 12 years. We thank you for your thoughtfulness.

Please also bear with us if emails and phone calls are not responded to quite as quickly. We appreciate your understanding at this very difficult time for us.

Sandra & Cath

Thank You to our helpers

Please join us for a cup of tea and a biscuit to say 'Thank you'.

Do come along if you have helped with readers, book changing, swimming, PTA events, sporting events, trips etc.

We'd love to see you

Wednesday July 15th

2:40 in the Practical Room

Please come in via the office

Golden Book Awards



N SQUIRRELS -Inara, Joseph & Joshy who love coming to nursery. They arrive happily and quickly engage in an activity. They have grown in confidence so much this year and we are thrilled that they will be returning to us in September!

R BEECH - Jess & Rhea who play together beautifully. They share, take turns and work together, complementing each other's learning through working together. Well done girls. They are shining examples to us of great team work!

R HAZEL - Ayaana who makes good use of all the activities on offer in the Reception classes. It's wonderful to see her face light up with delight whenever she learns something new. Well done Ayaana, keep enjoying every new adventure in learning!



1 OAK - Phoenix for joining in with such enthusiasm during our Forest School morning. He played beautifully, had so much fun and really made the most of all the opportunities on offer - well done Phoenix, we are proud of him



1 PINE - Everyone for their fantastic behaviour, respect and curiosity during their time in Forest School. Miss Dennis is so proud of them all!

2 CEDAR - Angus & Teddy who always display our school values of wisdom and resilience, especially in Maths. Keep up the great work boys!

2 HAWTHORN - Everyone for fantastic behaviour on our trip to the Lookout Centre. They were adventurous, inquisitive and kind to each other. Well done. Mrs Porter is a very proud teacher!



3 ELM - Owain & Yousef for their fantastic work in Maths in Year 3. They have made brilliant progress, accurately finding answers to calculations and solving problems. Great work boys!

3 MAPLE - Noah & Isa In Year 3 we have been learning about herbivores, carnivores and omnivores. Noah sorted the animal pictures to show what kind of diet each animal has. Fantastic science learning Noah! In RE, we chose a belief that is important to us. Isa chose wisdom. He used his creativity to show this value and what it means to him. He thought really carefully in this lesson and was proud of his work. Well done Isa!

4 ALDER - Finley In PE lessons, Finley has demonstrated excellent tennis skills. He has also shown a sensible and mature attitude, helping to organise games and support other children.

4 LARCH - James & Leo for their impressive skills and enthusiasm in tennis lessons.



5 ROWAN - Austin & Jack Huge congratulations to them both for their outstanding effort in Art. We created paper plate bird sculptures and it was incredibly difficult to choose because so many of the birds were absolutely fabulous. Austin and Jack stood out for the fantastic effort they put in to designing, creating and finishing their sculptures. They worked with great care,



creativity and perseverance, resulting in beautifully crafted final pieces. Well done on their amazing achievement - they should be very proud of their hard work!



5 WILLOW - Elias for his fantastic effort in creating a paper plate bird in Art. He took great care in planning his sketch, as well as using his skills when painting it. It was wonderful to see Elias' effort and attention to detail throughout. Well done - keep it up!

We love when our children are kind friends and share things, but please remind them NOT to share their snacks as some children have intolerances and allergies which cause them health issues. Thank you.

OPAL Play Project Update



What a fantastic few weeks we've had with our OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) project!

On our recent INSET day, staff worked incredibly hard to sort and organise all of the wonderful donations that have been coming into school. We are so grateful for everyone's generosity – your support is helping us create exciting new play opportunities for the children.

One of our new additions is the '**Dry Shed**', where children can borrow bean bags, cushions and picnic rugs to create their own cosy spaces to relax, chat with friends or simply enjoy some quiet time. It has been lovely to see children making the most of these calm areas during lunchtime.

We have also introduced a **fancy dress rail**, and it has been an absolute favourite! One of the highlights has been seeing our older children enthusiastically embracing dressing up. Watching them let their imaginations run wild and seeing the joy on their faces has been a real delight. If anyone happens to come across costumes or props suitable for children aged **9+**, we would be very grateful for any donations, as larger-sized outfits are always in demand.

Our **Messy Café** has also been a huge success. Children of all ages have loved mixing, creating, pretending and exploring together. Seeing the socialisation, communication, teamwork and sheer happiness this type of play brings reminds us exactly why we embarked on our OPAL journey. (And yes... we promise the extra washing is worth it!)

It's been wonderful to see the children becoming much more active during lunchtime play. They are exploring, creating, collaborating and making the most of the wide range of opportunities available to them. Tidying away all of the resources is still very much a work in progress, but we know this is a skill that will develop over time, and we are so pleased to have begun this journey.

Once again, the British weather has tried to keep us on our toes! However, being able to open the whole school site has allowed children to spread out and make the most of the shady areas, which has been a real blessing during the warmer days.

Looking ahead to next week, we're excited to introduce our music players and some new sand play opportunities. We can't wait to see where the children's imaginations take them next!

Thank you once again for your continued support, encouragement and generous donations. Together, we are creating a play environment where children can develop confidence, creativity, resilience and friendships through the power of play.

As the children are making the most of their playtimes and enthusiastically embracing more active, physical play, we have made a small adjustment to our footwear expectations from September.

We want children to be able to run, climb, balance and explore safely and comfortably throughout the school day. With this in mind, we are updating our uniform guidance to ensure all children wear practical footwear that supports active play.

Please see the information overleaf for full details of our updated footwear expectations from September.

Sophie Murray
Assistant Headteacher & EYFS Lead

Amendment to the School Uniform Policy: Plain Black Footwear

To support families with the cost of school uniform and to encourage active, healthy play, the school will now permit a specific type of plain black trainer as an alternative to traditional plain black school shoes.

This is **not** a general allowance for any trainers: footwear must still meet the standards below. We maintain our high standard of uniform, and shoes will be expected to meet these standards.

Trainers must be:

Completely plain black, including the upper, laces, logos and soles.

Free from coloured, patterned or white/pale soles.

Suitable for everyday school wear.

Smart and in line with our uniform.

A plain, school-appropriate trainer rather than a fashion or sports trainer with obvious branding, decoration or contrasting features.

This change has been introduced for two key reasons:

Supporting family budgets: Allowing a specific plain black trainer means that many children can wear the same pair of shoes for both the school day and PE lessons, reducing the need for families to purchase separate footwear.

Encouraging active play: As part of our commitment to the OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) programme, we are promoting more active, imaginative and physical play during break and lunchtime. A plain black school trainer provides greater comfort, stability and practicality for children taking part in these activities while maintaining a smart appearance consistent with our school uniform.

We expect all footwear to be clean, safe and in good condition. Families who prefer traditional plain black school shoes are, of course, welcome to continue wearing them. On PE days, children may wear any practical trainers suitable for physical activity.

We reserve the right to return to the original policy if this change compromises the uniform standard, but any such change would be at the school's discretion and parents would always be given at least one term's notice.

OUR SCHOOL UNIFORM – PLAIN BLACK FOOTWEAR

To keep our uniform smart, fair and affordable, we now allow a specific type of plain black trainer. Footwear must meet the standards below.

✓ **ACCEPTABLE**

Plain black school shoes or plain black trainers that **meet the standards**.



Plain black school shoes



Plain black trainer (all black including sole and logo)



Plain black trainer (all black)

TRAINERS MUST BE:

- ✓ Completely plain black, including the upper, laces, logos and soles.
- ✓ Free from coloured, patterned or white/pale soles.
- ✓ Suitable for everyday school wear.
- ✓ Smart and in line with our uniform.
- ✓ A plain, school-appropriate trainer rather than a fashion or sports trainer with obvious branding, decoration or contrasting features.

✗ **NOT ACCEPTABLE**

The following are **not allowed** as they do not meet our uniform standards.



Converse (or similar)



Plimsolls



Nike trainers (white sole)



Nike trainers (coloured tick)



Trainers with coloured logos or details



Trainers with coloured or patterned soles

✗ Footwear must be completely plain black. No coloured, patterned or white/pale soles, logos or decorations.



This change supports family budgets and encourages active play. We expect all footwear to be clean, safe and in good condition.

We reserve the right to return to the original policy if this change compromises the uniform standard. Parents would be given at least one term's notice.



Mineworks
Surrey



National
Autistic
Society

Teen Life
Licensed

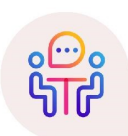
Teen Life Program

Join the National Autistic Society's Teen Life program for parents and carers of young autistic people aged 10 to 18.

Starting on 4th November 9.30 – 12pm
Woking Family Centre
Sythwood
GU21 3AX

The six-session program covers:

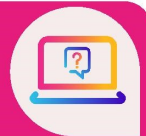
- understanding autism
- understanding autistic identity
- stress and anxiety/understanding behaviour
- health and wellbeing
- puberty
- education/planning for the future.



"This has made a real difference to me. In general, life-changing."
Parent

The Teen Life program aims to empower parents and supporting professionals to understand more about autism and discuss useful strategies on how to support autistic teenagers.

For more information contact:
Name: Surrey Family Support Services
Contact: SurreyFamilySupport@nas.org.uk
or wokingfamilycentre@barnardos.org.uk



SAL

**FAMILY
LEARNING**



First Steps to Understanding Emotionally Based School Non-Attendance

This FREE three-week course (2-hour sessions) will help you explore the early signs of school-related difficulties and understand the common reasons behind non-attendance.

What you'll learn:

- Understand the range of reasons why your child may struggle to attend school or take part in certain lessons
- Learn about reasonable adjustments that can be agreed with the school to support your child
- Feel more confident advocating for your child

Where: Woking Family Centre
The Bungalow, Sythwood
Gu21 3AX

When: Wed 16th Sept – 30th Sept 2026

Time: 09:30 – 11:30

To book your place please click on this link or scan the QR code



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**SURREY
ADULT
LEARNING**

Web : www.surreycc.gov.uk/familylearning
Email : family.learning@surreycc.gov.uk
Tel : 0300 200 1044

**SURREY
COUNTY COUNCIL**




TRAINING COURSE

Tigerlily

Parent & Guardian First Aid Virtual

Thursday 17 Sep 2026 – 12:30 to 14:30

USEFUL INFO

Timings: Please ensure you are logged in at least 5 minutes before the start time.

Camera: Cameras must be on for the duration of the course.

Identification: Learners will need to provide photo ID to the trainer for certification purposes.

Breaks: Please ensure you have refreshments. There will be a short comfort break.




TRAINING COURSE

Tigerlily

Parent & Guardian First Aid Practical

Thursday 01 Oct 2026 – 09:30 to 12:30

Barnardo's Woking Family Centre, The Bungalow

Sythwood

Woking, Surrey

GU21 3AX

Travel and parking:

No onsite parking, park along Sythwood Road

USEFUL INFO

Dress code: Please wear casual, comfortable clothes.

Timings: Please check your journey times and the venue location. You must arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the course start time. The trainer has the right to refuse entry once training has started.

Lunch: Please ensure you take your lunch and all necessary refreshments with you.

Dress code: Please wear casual, comfortable clothes.

Practical activity: The duties of a first aider can be physically demanding. For certification you must be able to meet our assessment criteria by demonstrating your skills during practical course assessment. You must be able to kneel on the floor to administer CPR and put a casualty into the recovery position.

For more information contact: **Nasreen Farooq** – nasreen.farooq@barnardos.org.uk – 01483 310419




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PLAY & LEARN SUMMER SESSIONS 2026

Play, explore and learn. Make new friends, try exciting activities, and healthy snacks. Feel free to talk with our staff for advice and support. No booking required. Suitable for children 0-11 years (older siblings are welcome)

Tuesday 28th July 2026 11am – 12:30pm

Wednesday 5th August 2026 12:30pm – 2pm

Thursday 20th August 2026 10am – 11:30am

Thursday 27th August 2026 10:30am – 12pm

Location: Woking Family Centre, Sythwood, Woking GU21 3AX

FOR MORE INFORMATION: wokingfamilycentre@barnardos.org.uk




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BUMPS & BABIES GROUP





Join our free, friendly group for expectant parents and infants up to one year.

Meet other parents in the community on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month.

No need to book, Just come along!

New group starting 3rd September 2026

Where: Woking Family Centre, Sythwood, Woking GU21 3AX
When: 1st & 3rd Thursday every month (Term-time only)
Time: 9:30- 11:00am

For further information please contact our Team

01483 310419 wokingfamilycentre@barnardos.org.uk



Woking Family Centre

Welcome to the World

Are you an expectant parent?

This is an 8 week programme for parents expecting a baby. You can attend the group from approx. 24 weeks of pregnancy.

Topics include empathy & loving attentiveness, infant brain development, healthy eating choices, breastfeeding, infant care, managing stress & difficult feelings, promoting self esteem & confidence & the couple relationship.

For more information scan the QR code or call 01483 310419



Woking Family Centre, The Bungalow
Sythwood, Woking GU21 3AX



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WOKING FAMILY CENTRE

The Nurturing Programme (formerly The Parenting Puzzle)

This tried and tested programme can help you deal with challenges supporting a calmer family life.

The course covers:

- Recognising feelings behind behaviours
- Different approaches to positive discipline
- Co-operation and self discipline
- The importance of looking after ourselves

For more information scan the QR code or call: 01483 310419



Woking Family Centre, The Bungalow, Sythwood, Woking
Surrey, GU21 3AX



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Woking Family Centre

Keeping Your Child In Mind

Adults working together.

A FREE programme for parents and carers focusing on relationships within the family and the influence of parental relationships on children.

The course covers:

- Self-awareness
- Appropriate expectations
- Boundaries and positive discipline
- Understanding empathy

For more information scan the QR code or call 01483 310419



Woking Family Centre, The Bungalow
Sythwood, Woking GU21 3AX



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WOKING FAMILY CENTRE

Talking Teens

A free course for parents or carers of teenagers and pre-teens (8 years plus), looking for advice.

Sessions will focus on relationships within the family, communication, negotiation, decision making and strategies to reduce conflict.

The group aims to develop:

- relationships between teenagers and parents/carers
- a calmer home life
- confidence when talking about difficult issues
- an understanding of teenage needs and development

For more information scan the QR code or call 01483 310419



Woking Family Centre, The Bungalow
Sythwood, Woking, GU21 3AX



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