

Pyrford CofE Primary School Weekly Newsletter

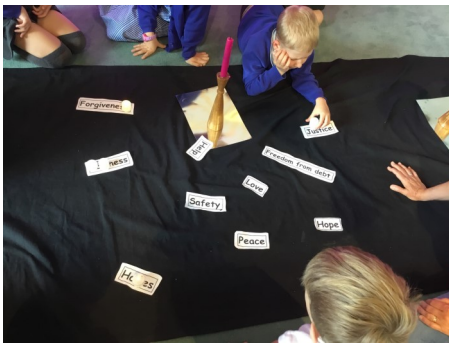
5 June 2026

Prayer Spaces



*The wonderful prayer stations
at church this week.*

*Such a calm, thoughtful space
for the children.*



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

Headteacher's Letter

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome back after what I hope was a restful and sunny half term! It is hard to believe that, after this week, we have just six weeks of term remaining before the end of the school year - where does the time go?

As I am sure your children will have told you, it was a significant week in school as we officially launched our OPAL play initiative. As regular newsletter readers will know, we have been looking carefully at many aspects of school life and exploring how we can increase pupils' enjoyment, not only in the classroom through the way we teach and what we teach, but across the school as a whole. Having spent time considering various options, speaking to staff and children, and trialling a number of different approaches throughout the year, we settled on working with OPAL to help develop our whole-school approach to play across the school site. This is a long-term project that will build and evolve over time. It began this week with the opening of the whole site to all children across all key stages, and next week we will start to zone certain areas for specific types of play. Over time, this will develop into a school site offering many different and rich play experiences for every child. I am incredibly grateful to the PTA for funding some of our initial resources and to the church for funding our partnership with OPAL. These contributions will make a real and lasting difference to our children for years to come. Do keep an eye out for communications about items you may have at home that we would love to bring into school. - see the following page. One of the great aspects of OPAL is the eco-friendly ethos at the heart of the project, meaning we can re-use and recycle unwanted items — within reason, of course!

Looking ahead, next week promises to be a busy and exciting one. On Monday, our children head off to compete at District Sports, and on Wednesday our girls' cricket team take to the field for their competition. Thursday sees us celebrate the International Day of Play, very much in the spirit of our whole-school commitment to play for all, and on Friday it is Mufti Day as we build towards the all-important Summer Fair on Saturday. It is safe to say that as we move through the final stretch of term, each week is going to get busier and busier!

Enjoy the weekend.

Gavin Dutton
Headteacher



A key part of emotional safety is the difference between responsibility and shame. Responsibility says: "I made a mistake - what can I do differently next time?" Shame says: "I am bad. I don't belong." Shame increases stress and makes it harder for children to regulate, think clearly, and make positive choices.

Behaviour Bite 1: Big feelings and the thinking brain

Children don't always choose calm behaviour. Sometimes their thinking brain just isn't online yet. The prefrontal cortex is the part of the brain that helps with self-control, problem-solving, and flexible thinking. When children feel overwhelmed, tired, hungry, or stressed, this part of the brain goes "offline", and behaviour becomes more reactive.

What helps: Calm, regulated adults. When we stay steady, use a low voice, and keep expectations clear, children can "borrow" our calm. Over time, this builds their ability to regulate themselves.

Opal Update

This week, we held our first play assembly to introduce the children to the OPAL project and explain some of the exciting changes that will be taking place.

The first major change is the introduction of **Open Range Play**, which allows children to access all play areas across the school site and mix with children from different year groups. This has already created new opportunities for friendships, collaboration and imaginative play and has been a joy to watch.



We have also opened the field, as we usually do during the summer term. However, as part of the OPAL approach, we aim to provide access to all outdoor spaces throughout the year and are exploring ways to make this possible as we move towards the winter months.

Despite the unpredictable weather, we have successfully maintained predominantly outdoor playtimes, and it has been wonderful to see the children embracing the opportunities for active, creative and social play. **With this in mind, it is essential that children come to school with clothing suitable for all weather conditions. As outdoor play is a key part of the OPAL approach, children will be outside in a range of weather throughout the year. Please also ensure that all clothing, coats and other belongings are clearly named to help us return any misplaced items quickly and easily.**

We are still in desperate need of donations to help us establish new play zones. The success of OPAL play depends on there being an abundance of resources so that as many children as possible can access and enjoy the different play opportunities available. Our current focus is on collecting **toy cars, car mats and small-world toys** to support imaginative play, as well as **pots, pans and baking trays** to help develop our messy kitchen area. If you have any of these items at home that you no longer need and would be willing to donate, we would be very grateful. Donations can be brought directly to me or left at the school office.

CAN YOU DONATE ANY OF THESE

- Kitchen pots, pans, baking trays, wooden spoons and chopping boards
- Kitchen utensils, mashers and metal spoons
- A potting bench or work tables to build a messy café
- Happyland and small world toys
- Toy cars, animals and dinosaurs
- Cable drums of all sizes
- Small tools such as spades, shovels, trowels and brooms
- Buckets and watering cans
- Large sheets or brightly coloured fabric for den building and fancy dress
- Foam sheets, bodyboards, camping mats or yoga mats for den bases
- Pegs and bungee cords
- Cushions and picnic rugs
- Guttering and tubes of varied sizes
- Fancy dress items including hats, scarves, waistcoats, costumes and accessories
- Old keyboards, torches, laptops, calculators, phones, webcams and cameras that no longer work
- Umbrellas of all sizes
- Dolls, baby dolls and soft toys
- Lego and Barbies
- Sunhats
- Shells and natural loose parts such as cones and sticks
- Chalks Clipboards
- Bubbles
- Ride-on toys
- Tyres Steering wheels
- Cash donations – to be used to purchase items from car boot sales/second hand



WEDNESDAY 17th JUNE

We are excited to launch our sponsored Move-a-thon to raise funds for the school's Joy Project! 🎉

The project aims to transform playtimes using the OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) approach — creating more active, imaginative and meaningful play experiences for all children. 🌈

Children will take part in fun activities including:

- 🏃 Running
- 💃 Dancing
- 🏊 Obstacle challenges

.....and lots of movement

Funds raised will help provide new outdoor play equipment, creative play resources and improved play spaces that encourage confidence, teamwork, creativity and fun. 🤝

Please sponsor your child if you can and we'd love you to pass on this link to family and friends. Together we can help create a more joyful play environment for everyone. Every donation makes a difference — thank you for your support! ❤️

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/pyrfordmoveathon>

Pyrford Primary School's

SUMMER FAIR
Mufti Day

Friday 12 June

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

- Sweets for the tombola – no nuts please
- Bottle of any sort (alcoholic & non-alcoholic welcome) for the tombola
- fidget toys/new or lightly used stationery items

TOKENS (£1) & INFLATABLES WRISTBANDS (£5) for the Fair will be available to buy in advance at our Ice Cream sales (Fridays) and at the Fair

THURSDAY 4TH JUNE 2026

AI AWARENESS DAY
2026

KNOW IT, QUESTION IT, USE IT WISELY


Artificial Intelligence (AI) is transforming how children learn, create, and play. This Thursday was the UK's inaugural **National AI Awareness Day** and we have been talking to KS2 children about various aspects of AI in school. BBC Bitesize have collated some resources for primary school children which you could review with your child.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/articles/zdtmdnb#zdsh7v4>

The campaign has also prepared five practical tips for UK parents to keep older children's screen time safe, ethical and rewarding, and to make the most of AI. Click on the link to find out more.

<https://aiawarenessday.co.uk/timeline/parent-tips/>

From the Church of the Good Shepherd



A huge thank you to the children for taking part in prayer spaces this week, exploring lots of different ways of engaging with God, their thoughts and praying for others in the world.

We have been given an exciting opportunity to pray for Woking Football Club on Saturday 27th June morning (10-12 tbc). We are looking to take a group of children (adults also welcome) to creatively pray in different areas of Kingfield stadium. We would love to take some prayers with us for players and for all areas of the clubs work.

If you would be interested in taking part on the day or providing a prayer, written or a drawing, we can take along with us, please email suzanne@wisleywithpyrford.org

Pyrford Primary School's

SUMMER FAIR
Sat 13 June, 12-2pm

SCHOOL FIELD
Entrance via Peatmore Ave.

Join us for some family fun...

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

Free Entry

Cash & card accepted



SUMMER TERM DATES		
Wed 10 Jun		Y1 Animal Club Workshop
Wed 10 Jun	10:30-15:00	Y5&Y6 Girls Cricket Competition
Thu 11 Jun		International Day of Play
Fri 12 Jun		Mufti Day for the Summer Fair
Fri 12 Jun		Y5 Fullbrook Away Day
Sat 13 Jun		School Summer Fair
Tue 16 Jun		Y6 Leavers' Service @ Cathedral
Wed 17 Jun		Sponsored Move-A-Thon for the Joy Project
Wed 17 Jun		EYFS Minibeast Bugfest
Thu 18 Jun		Y6 Lego Stem Workshop
Fri 19 Jun		Y5 to Wildwood
Sat 20 Jun	evening	Y4 Brass Concert @ CoGS
Sat 20 Jun	18:00 - 21:00	Swimming Gala @ Guildford Spectrum
Wed 24 Jun		Y2 to The Lookout Discovery Centre
Wed 24 Jun		Nursery Class Photo
Thu 25 Jun		Y6 Healthy Use of Technology Workshops
Fri 26 Jun		Y3 Outdoor Learning Activity Day
Fri 26 June	13:15	Year 6 Play @ CoGS
Mon 29 Jun		INSET DAY
Tue 30 Jun & Wed 1 Jul		Forest School - 1 class per day
Mon 6 - Fri 10 Jul		Y6 Osmington Bay Residential
Thu 9 Jul		Revd Nick leading assembly
Thu 16 Jul	09:00	Leavers Service @ CoGS
Fri 17 Jul	12:00	Last Day of Summer Term

PARKING

Parking in the village can be challenging, particularly during the morning and afternoon school run.

The Pyrford Neighbourhood Plan gives residents a voice in local planning decisions. Pyrford Neighbourhood Forum is currently identifying the issues residents believe should be included in the updated Plan to ensure it continues to protect and improve the area. These issues include parking availability, Active Travel and Safer Routes to School.

The Forum would like to hear from anyone with evidence of how current arrangements are working. In particular, it would welcome photographs to support the updated Plan. Please send photographs of parking issues to info@pyrfordforum.org making sure that individuals cannot be identified.

There is no quick solution to parking problems on Coldharbour Road, but by working together the Forum hopes to improve the situation over time.

OFFICE REMINDERS

- YN/YR Scopay consents for Bugfest
- Y1 Scopay consents for animal workshop
- Y6 Scopay consents for leavers' service

Term Dates 2025/26

Monday 29th June	INSET DAY
Friday 17th July	Term ends at 12:00

Term Dates 2026/27

Tuesday 1st & Wednesday 2nd September	INSET DAYS
Thursday 3rd September	Term starts for children
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



Congratulations to Adee, Amelie and Ginny.

After a long football season, the girls have successfully represented Woking District Primary Schools and won the Surrey Girls League against other district representative teams Reigate and Banstead, Merton and Sutton. They have also been runners up in the London Girls League, placed 3rd in the Surrey Girls Trophy, 3rd in the Southern Counties Trophy and 3rd in the Southern Counties Champions Trophy. Well done girls for all your hard work and commitment!

INFORMATION EVENT

Considering a career in teaching?

Would you like to train in a school in your local community? Come and chat with a member of our friendly South Farnham SCITT team and find out if teacher training is the career for you.

- South Farnham SCITT office, GU9 8DY
- Saturday, 6th June 2026
- 10am to 12pm
- Booking required



FOR MORE INFO

scitt@sft.org.uk

www.sfsfscitt.org.uk





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MEMBER



TINY TERRAPINS
SUMMER SWIM SCHOOL
 (formerly Swimrays swim School)

SUMMER FAST TRACK
 5 DAY INTENSIVE COURSES
VERY LIMITED SPACES!

- Monday 27th July - Friday 31st July
- Monday 3rd August - Friday 7th August
- Monday 10th August - Friday 14th August

✓ 30 minute lessons

£80.00 (small group)

£225.00 (121 private lessons)

£275.00 (221 private lessons)

Byfleet Primary School
 Kings Head Lane
 Byfleet

✉ Info@tinyterrapinsswimschool.com
 ☎ **07786 106768**

Tiny Terrapins SWIM SCHOOL



COMMUNITY BABY SHOWER

Wednesday 17th June | 1:00pm - 3:30pm
 Guildford Family Centre, Hazel Avenue GU1 1NR

Are you expecting or have a little one under 6 months?

Join us for a special afternoon celebrating you and your growing family!

What to expect:

- Meet local support services including midwives, health visitors, libraries, Homestart, Dads Matters and more
- FREE refreshments
- Enter our FREE raffle (just for attending!)
- Decorate a baby vest to take home
- Connect with other parents in West Surrey



Whether you're a first-time parent or adding to your family, come along to discover the support available to you in our community.

Everyone welcome | No booking required | Completely FREE



West Hall
 WEST BYFLEET | SURREY

Summer Festival

Saturday 27 June, 12.30pm - 4pm

We're delighted to invite you to our Summer Festival within the beautiful grounds of West Hall.

Our theme is High School Musical. We are inviting local community groups from schools, Scouts, Brownies and dance organisations to perform on our stage to showcase their talents. We will also be welcoming a children's magician, ice cream van and a selection of stalls holders. BBQ food will be available, where we request cash payments.

The event is free to attend. If you wish to make a donation, this will be for our chosen charity Woking Rotary Club, who generously raise funds for multiple charities.

To register your interest as a performance group/individual, or as a stall holder, or for more information, please call us on **01932 338000**.

We look forward to welcoming you.

West Hall care home
 Off Parvis Road, West Byfleet, Surrey, KT14 6EY

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West Hall
 WEST BYFLEET | SURREY

Where luxury living meets exclusive day care

We'd like to invite you to our Open Day

Saturday 27 June | 12.30pm - 4pm

We will be launching our exclusive day care service, and our team will be happy to discuss all aspects of our care and how we can tailor support you or your loved one. Enjoy guided tours, refreshments, and a chance to meet our residents and team.

To find out more about West Hall care home's exclusive day care or to confirm your attendance, please contact our friendly team on **01932 338000**, visit www.WestHall.org.uk or call in.

We're looking forward to meeting you and giving you a warm welcome.

West Hall luxury care home, Off Parvis Road, West Byfleet, Surrey KT14 6EY

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