



Dear Families

Welcome back! We hope you all had a restful and joyful Christmas break. It's been lovely to see the children return this week full of enthusiasm and ready for a new term. Despite the cold, wet, and in some parts snowy weather, the children have settled back in wonderfully, showing great resilience and excitement for the term ahead.

This week also marked the successful first week with our new catering company, **Aspens**. We would like to extend a huge thank you for your patience, cooperation, and understanding as we navigate this transition. We're confident that these changes will continue to improve the quality and enjoyment of lunchtimes for all our children.

In our first assembly of the term, we spoke about the importance of our three school rules — **Excellence, Endeavour, and Equanimity** — and how these guide everything we do in school. We encourage you to continue talking about these words at home too.

We're delighted to be awarding children who have reached another 40 reads, starting today — they will soon earn a special visit to one of our two fully stocked book vending machines, where they can choose a book to take home and keep! Please continue supporting your child's learning by reading with them at least five times a week at home. It's such an important habit for developing reading fluency, confidence and a love of reading.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We're looking forward to a purposeful and exciting spring term together.

Warm regards,

Miss Elliott

Dates for your diary

2025 - 2026 Academic Year

- 12 Jan - Year 3 Money Ready Workshop
- 21 Jan - Parent Partnership Workshop - Year 1 Phonics
- 22 Jan - Year 5 Delight in Shakespeare
- 5 & 6 Feb - Dansically Workshops
- 9 Feb - Year 5 Money Ready Workshop
- 12 Feb - Valentine's Disco
- w/c 16 Feb - **Half-Term**
- 23 Feb - Pupils return to school
- 4 Mar - Parents' Evening
- 10 Mar - Year 4 trip to Whipsnade
- w/c 16 Mar - Scholastic Booky Fayre
- 20 Mar - Annual Beehive Cup
- 27 Mar - **END OF TERM (finish 1:30pm)**
- 13 Apr - **Pupils return to school**
- 13 Apr - Year 5 Joy of Movement workshop
- 14 Apr - Year 5 Bikeability Try-it-out Day
- 27 Apr - Year 2 Money Ready Workshop
- 28 & 29 Apr - Year 3 Feet First Training
- 4 May - BANK HOLIDAY
- w/c 11 May - Year 6 KS2 SATs
- w/c 25 May - **Half-term**
- 20 May - Sports Day
- 1 Jun - Year 4 Multiplication Checks
- 8 Jun - Year 1 Phonics Screening
- 10 Jun - Year 5 Maya Workshop
- w/c 14 Jun - Year 6 Bude Residential
- 25 Jun - School Readiness Meeting
- 30 Jun - Secondary Transition Day (please check with individual schools as the date may differ)
- 1 Jul - New Nursery stay & play
- 6 Jul - Moving up day
- 22 Jul - **END OF TERM (finish at 1:30pm)**

(Dates subject to change)

EYFS = Nur & Reception

KS1 = Years 1 & 2 / KS2 = Years 3, 4, 5 & 6



Instagram

Check out our instagram page:

townfarmschool

Important Notices

Aspens Caterers

Please remember to order school lunches by **9:30am** each day. On the SwiftKitchen app

If your child is off sick, please also remember to cancel.

(menu on page 6)

Scopay

Please clear any outstanding dinner payments on the ScoPay app.

All credit balances will be refunded shortly.
Thanks for your patience.

Parking

We ask that parents are mindful of where and how they park at both ends of the school day. It is important that we preserve the good relationship Town Farm has with our neighbours. We would also ask you to help keep everyone safe by not parking on the yellow zig-zag lines even if this means parking a little further away and walking.

Please also note that the car park is for staff and authorised visitors only.

Please make sure you have downloaded the **Arbor app** and logged on. Please check you contact details are up-to-date. You will need the app to book your parent consultation later this term.

The Arbor App is available on: Google Play & the Apple app store

Highlights from the week

EYFS

The children in Early Years were delighted to be back in school. In the Nursery the children have started Drawing Club. The stand-up vocabulary words they have learnt are cloak, stranger, sneaky, disguise, frightened and woodcutter. The children have drawn pictures of what they might look like in a cloak, what they would pack in their picnic basket, what makes them jump and their map through the forest. In Reception the children found a note under the teacher's desk asking them to follow the green arrows which took them on an adventure into the woods! The children also received a mysterious parcel containing a red hooded cloak. There was also an empty basket - clues that the children believe lead to Red Riding Hood!



Year 1

In Writing Club, the children explored the provocation of a letter from 'Bob-Man on the Moon' and a mysterious box filled with top secret moon findings. The children used the important clues from the box of evidence to decide where Bob was and what he had found on the Moon. They came up with brilliant ideas and made great connections to who might live on the Moon.



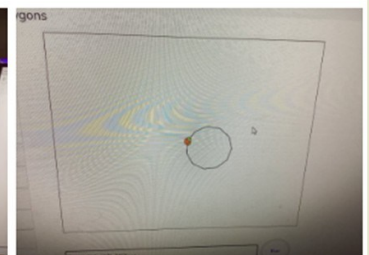
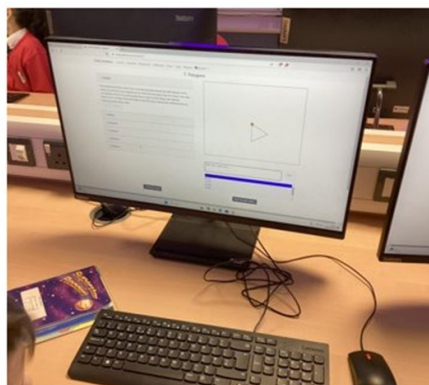
Year 2

This week the pupils have started to learn about the country of Kenya. They explored where Kenya is located by finding it on a world map and using an atlas to help them identify the continent of Africa. The children developed their map skills by looking at symbols and directions, and they enjoyed going on an imaginary flight to Kenya, where they talked about the journey and what they might see along the way. This helped them understand how far Kenya is from the UK and made learning about the world fun and exciting.

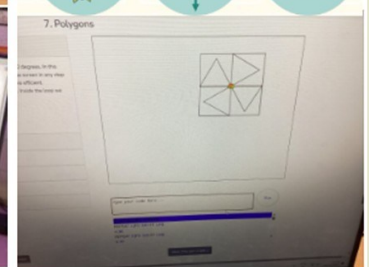
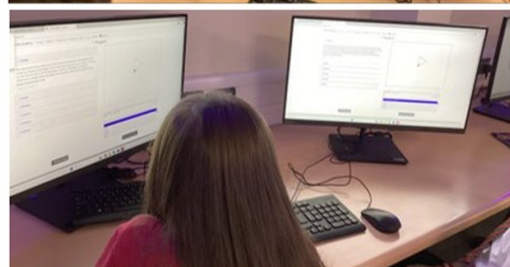


Year 3

In year 3 this week, we have been learning how to code using the programme Turtle Academy. The pupils have used coding to write instructions for drawing polygons and some were able to include the command to repeat the shape.



Turtle Logo Commands



Year 4

Year 4 have made an exciting start to our new book this term, *The Iron Man*. The children discovered the Iron Man's body parts mysteriously scattered outside the classroom! The class have begun writing their predictions about what they think will happen in the story, using clues from the objects they found and the title of the book. They are sharing ideas, asking thoughtful questions, and justifying their predictions with clear reasons. This activity has helped develop their inference skills, creativity, and confidence in expressing ideas, setting a great foundation for our work on the text this term.



Year 5

Eton College Macbeth Workshop Pupils recently took part in an exciting Eton College Shakespeare workshop that brought language, movement and performance together. They explored *iambic pentameter*, discovering how Shakespeare wrote his plays and how rhythm shapes meaning and character. With the emphasis firmly on creativity, there were no spelling rules to worry about – just ideas, voices and imagination.

The workshop moved quickly from words to performance, as pupils acted out scenes in a *circular theatre* setting. They were selected to take on multiple roles, allowing them to explore a wide range of characters and emotions. A particular focus was placed on how characters move and interact on stage, helping pupils understand how physicality supports storytelling.

Excitement is now building as pupils look ahead to school auditions on Friday, with casting for their own production set to begin soon. This comes at the perfect time, ahead of Guildford Shakespeare Company's upcoming performance of *Macbeth* in school – an experience everyone is eagerly anticipating.



FOOD FESTIVAL at Aspens						LUNCHTIME					PRIMARY WORLD
WEEK 1 Autumn Winter 2025/26 01/09/25, 22/09/25, 13/10/25, 05/11/25, 24/11/25, 15/12/25, 05/01/26, 26/01/26, 16/02/26, 09/03/26, 30/03/26						MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	
MAIN EVENT 						Cheese and Tomato Pizza Slice with Wedges	Sweet Chilli Chicken Noodles	Roast Chicken, Stuffing, Skin on Roasties and Gravy	Moroccan Meatball Tagine and Rice	Golden Fish Fingers or Salmon Fingers and Chips	
MEAT-FREE MAGIC 						Baked Sweetcorn Fritters with Wedges	Hoisin Sticky Vegetable Noodles	Roasted Vegetable Strudel, Skin on Roasties and Gravy	Sweet Potato Tagine and Rice	Cheesy Bean Wrap with Chips	
RAINBOW ALLEY 						Vegetable Sticks	Green Beans	Carrots and Cabbage	Mixed Greens	Peas	
BIG TOPPING 						Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo	Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo	Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo	Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo	Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo	
DESSERT TROLLEY 						Butterfly Pastry Biscuits	Strawberry and Pineapple Jelly	Banana Bread and Custard	Apple Cinnamon Buns	Lemon Drizzle Cake	
What impact has your meal had on planet Earth today? 						AVAILABLE DAILY DAILY SALAD BOWL, FRESHLY BAKED BREAD, YOGHURTS AND CUT FRUIT					PASTA TWIRLER HOT PASTA TOPPED WITH HOMEMADE TOMATO SAUCE & CHEESE

FOOD FESTIVAL at Aspens						LUNCHTIME					PRIMARY WORLD
WEEK 2 Autumn Winter 2025/26 08/09/25, 29/09/25, 20/10/25, 10/11/25, 01/12/25, 22/12/25, 12/01/26, 02/02/26, 23/02/26, 16/03/26						MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	
MAIN EVENT 						Vegetable Lasagne	Chicken Jambalaya	Roast Gammon, Skin on Roasties and Gravy	Spanish Chicken Stew, Potatoes & Tomato Sauce	Golden Fish Fingers and Chips	
MEAT-FREE MAGIC 						Green Veg & Butter Bean Pie with Wedges	Veggie Enchiladas with Rice	Cheddar and Broccoli Crustless Quiche	Spanish Spinach & Chickpeas with Potatoes & Tomato Sauce	BBQ Veggie Wrap with Chips	
RAINBOW ALLEY 						Sweetcorn	Broccoli	Carrots and Peas	Mixed Greens	Baked Beans	
BIG TOPPING 						Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo	Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo	Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo	Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo	Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo	
DESSERT TROLLEY 						Chocolate Popcorn Bars	Orange and Peach Jelly	Apple Tea Cake and Custard	Iced Vanilla Sponge Cake	Carrot Cake	
What impact has your meal had on planet Earth today? 						AVAILABLE DAILY DAILY SALAD BOWL, FRESHLY BAKED BREAD, YOGHURTS AND CUT FRUIT					PASTA TWIRLER HOT PASTA TOPPED WITH HOMEMADE TOMATO SAUCE & CHEESE

FOOD FESTIVAL at Aspens						LUNCHTIME					PRIMARY WORLD
WEEK 3 Autumn Winter 2025/26 15/09/25, 06/10/25, 27/10/25, 17/11/25, 08/12/25, 29/12/25, 19/01/26, 09/02/26, 02/03/26, 23/03/26						MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	
MAIN EVENT 						Cheese and Tomato Pizza Slice with Wedges	Mild Chicken Tikka Masala and Rice	Roast Pork, Skin on Roasties and Gravy	Chicken Rasta Pasta	Golden Fish Fingers & Chips	
MEAT-FREE MAGIC 						Macaroni Cheese	Tarka Dhal	Carrot & Stuffing Puff Pastry Plait, Skin on Roasties with Gravy	Sweet Potato Coconut Bean Stew with Rice	Vegetable Fingers with Chips	
RAINBOW ALLEY 						Vegetable Sticks	Carrots and Green Beans	Roasted Roots	Sweetcorn	Baked Beans	
BIG TOPPING 						Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo	Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo	Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo	Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo	Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo	
DESSERT TROLLEY 						Sweet Potato Chocolate Brownie	Jelly	Eve's Apple Pudding & Custard	Muesli Bars	Vanilla Cookies	
What impact has your meal had on planet Earth today? 						AVAILABLE DAILY DAILY SALAD BOWL, FRESHLY BAKED BREAD, YOGHURTS AND CUT FRUIT					PASTA TWIRLER HOT PASTA TOPPED WITH HOMEMADE TOMATO SAUCE & CHEESE

Attendance Matters

Year Group	%
Reception	91.7%
Year 1	94.4%
Year 2	95.6%
Year 3	94.9%
Year 4	95.9%
Year 5	96.2%
Year 6	94.4%
Overall attendance to date	94.7%

Best Attendance this week

1st Place - Hawking 96.0%

2nd Place - Mozart 95.8%

3rd Place - Blyton 95.1%

Most Improved - Milne up 8%

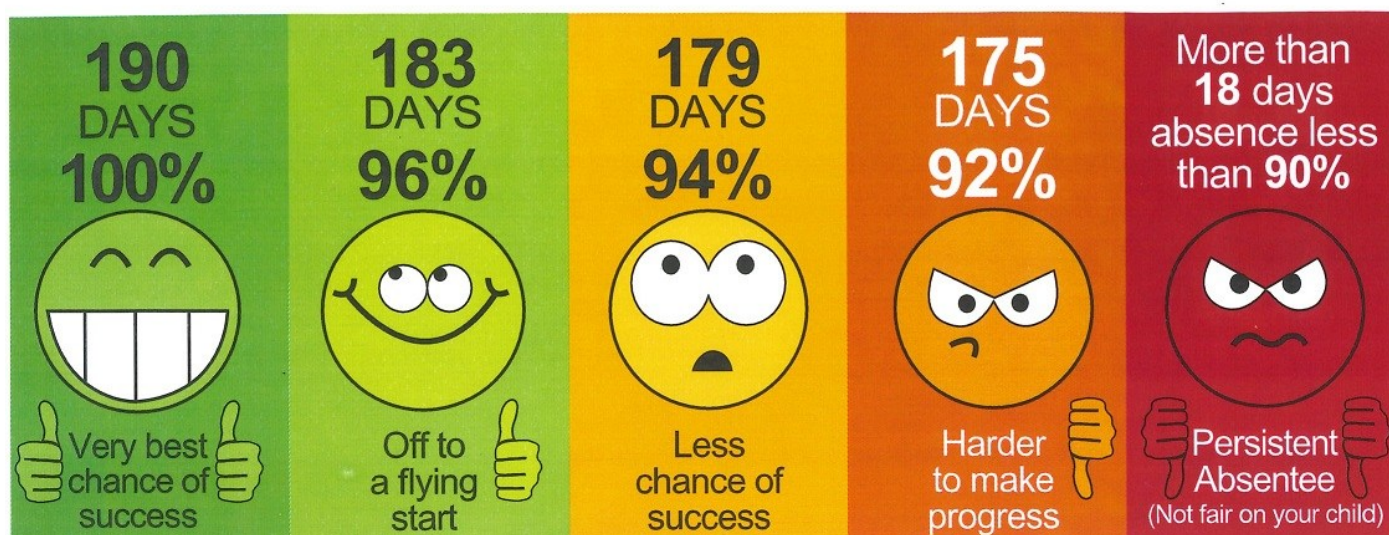
Statutory Notice

Just to remind parents/carers that if they take their children out of school without authority for 5 or more days (which do not have to be consecutive), then the following will apply:

1. If you have not incurred a penalty notice relating to this child/children in a rolling 3 year period since 19 August 2024, then the penalty notice will be charged at the rate of £160.00, per parent/carer per child, if paid within 28 days. This will be reduced to £80.00 if paid within 21 days of receipt of the notice. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice will result in Surrey County Council considering legal proceedings against you in the Magistrates Court.
2. If you have incurred a penalty notice relating to this child/children since 19 August 2024, the rolling 3 year period will be activated from the date of the first penalty notice and the second penalty notice will be charged at the flat rate of £160.00, per parent/carer per child, if paid within 28 days. There will be no reduction for payment within 21 days. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice will result in Surrey County Council considering legal proceedings against you in the Magistrates Court.
3. If you have incurred 2 penalty notices relating to this child/children in the rolling 3 year period since the first penalty notice was issued, then you will NOT receive a third penalty notice – Surrey County Council will have no option but to consider a prosecution, per parent/carer per child, in the Magistrates Court under s 444 Education Act 1996.

Surrey County Council is not responsible for authorising pupil absence and therefore cannot withdraw any Penalty Notice requests without the written permission of the Headteacher.

There are **190** days in a school year which leaves **175** days to spend on family time, shopping, appointments and other things.



YOU ARE NOT ALONE

You are the expert of your child

You Are Not Alone - Every 1st Tuesday of the month - 7.00pm - 8.30pm

Next one: 3rd February

A free monthly online drop-in for parents & carers



The **You Are Not Alone** community is a friendly and safe space run by Erik & Sally Wagter where you can come and learn about autism & PDA, ask questions, connect with like-minded people or simply listen and learn from other people's conversations.

In this community we talk about all sorts of things such as:

- helping your child regulate their emotions & feelings (meltdowns etc)
- understanding autism and PDA
- navigating school and EHCPs
- Supporting your child with friendships
- understanding and managing challenging behaviour
- managing sensory needs
- developing a positive relationship with your child (family dynamics)
- exploring EOTAS or home education
- looking after your wellbeing
- and so much more



Here's what parents have said:

'My husband Jamie was saying that in the last few sessions, he has learned so much more about autism and PDA than he has over the past year - Jo (parent)

'Thank you so much for the group this evening. I can't tell you how grateful I feel and I really do feel less alone and more validated. My hope is back' - Louise (parent)

'Thank you so much for your support. I nearly chicken out in speaking but I'm glad I did. These sessions have been really helpful and I don't feel so alone'

Emma (parent)

If you would like to join the **next drop-in on Tuesday 3rd February**, please send an email to sallywagter@gmail.com and we will send you the **Zoom** link.



Parent Empowerment Group

A FREE Five Week Online Course for Effectively Supporting Children Who Are Experiencing Anxiety.



Understand How Children's Emotions Work

Learn the brain science behind your child's emotional outbursts and how you can support them effectively when they do happen. Receive support for the sometimes difficult work of parenting as well as celebrating the wins!

Learn five simple but effective anxiety busting tools

Build bite size connection moments. (A game changer for family life). Understand how to set loving limits that build co-operation and help your child thrive.

Understand the role of play and laughter in reducing anxiety

Bring the joy back into family life, build confidence in your parenting and receive reflection time and appreciation for you!



Book using QR Code or email below.
Monday 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th Sept & 6th October 2025
10.30am till 12noon
on Zoom

07383 517838 lou@learningspace.org.uk

Surrey Autistic Parents Network

Autism in Surrey



As part of the Autism Friendly Communities project we are developing a support network for parents in Surrey who are autistic.

Join our Facebook group



We have set up a facebook group called **Autistic Parents Surrey - Peer Support Network**

The facebook group is for autistic parents of any gender to connect, share information and provide mutual support.

You can join if you are an autistic parent (you do not need to have a formal autism diagnosis).

Use the QR code above, or click [here](#) to find the group.

Surrey Autistic Mum's Group



We will be hosting monthly online meetings for autistic mums to share advice and experiences.

Gill and Sophie (both autistic mums) will host the meetings. The group will initially meet on the first Tuesday of each month from 7.30pm to 9pm (unless group members vote to meet on a different evening).

Our first meeting will on Tuesday 2nd September 2025 and we will be discussing sensory differences.

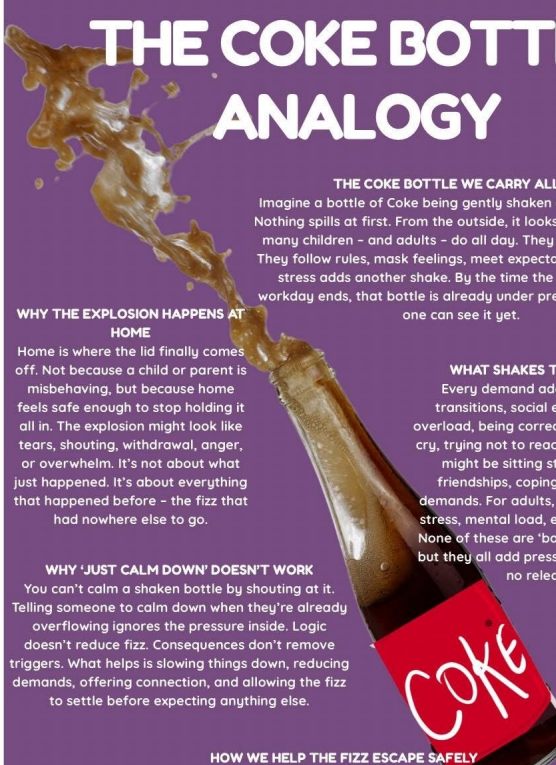
To join the mailing list and receive meeting invites use the QR code above or [click here](#).

If there is interest we will explore setting up an online group for autistic dads

These groups are supported by autistic members of the Autism by Experience team. For more information email us at AFC@autismbyexperience.co.uk



THE COKE BOTTLE ANALOGY



THE COKE BOTTLE WE CARRY ALL DAY

Imagine a bottle of Coke being gently shaken again and again. Nothing spills at first. From the outside, it looks fine. This is what many children - and adults - do all day. They hold it together. They follow rules, mask feelings, meet expectations. Each small stress adds another shake. By the time the school day or workday ends, that bottle is already under pressure, even if no one can see it yet.

WHY THE EXPLOSION HAPPENS AT HOME

Home is where the lid finally comes off. Not because a child or parent is misbehaving, but because home feels safe enough to stop holding it all in. The explosion might look like tears, shouting, withdrawal, anger, or overwhelm. It's not about what just happened. It's about everything that happened before - the fizz that had nowhere else to go.

WHY 'JUST CALM DOWN' DOESN'T WORK

You can't calm a shaken bottle by shouting at it. Telling someone to calm down when they're already overflowing ignores the pressure inside. Logic doesn't reduce fizz. Consequences don't remove triggers. What helps is slowing things down, reducing demands, offering connection, and allowing the fizz to settle before expecting anything else.

WHAT SHAKES THE BOTTLE

Every demand adds fizz. Noise, transitions, social effort, sensory overload, being corrected, trying not to cry, trying not to react. For a child, this might be sitting still, managing friendships, coping with learning demands. For adults, it might be work stress, mental load, emotional labour. None of these are 'bad' on their own - but they all add pressure when there's no release.

HOW WE HELP THE FIZZ ESCAPE SAFELY

Children need regular chances to release pressure before the explosion. So do adults. Movement, quiet time, food, play, co-regulation, laughter, rest, sensory breaks, being listened to without fixing. When we help the fizz escape little by little, the bottle doesn't explode. Regulation isn't about control - it's about giving emotions somewhere safe to go.

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