



TOWN FARM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

<https://www.town-farm.surrey.sch.uk>



Issue 4 - 25 Sept 2026

Dear Families,

At Town Farm, we believe it is incredibly important that our children have a voice and are actively involved in decision-making within the classroom and wider school. Opportunities such as becoming an Eco Warrior, Sports Captain, Prefect or a school MP help to develop confidence, responsibility and leadership skills, empowering our children to become thoughtful, informed citizens and the future leaders of tomorrow.

We are delighted to share that our new team of Eco Warriors has now been elected. They were proudly presented with their special green ties in assembly this morning by Mrs Hancock, who will be leading the group this year. We are very much looking forward to seeing the positive impact they will have across the school as they take on their important roles.

During the same assembly, we were pleased to welcome a special visitor from the Walk, Wheel, Cycle Trust, who spoke to the children about pollution and ways we can reduce it, particularly by encouraging more active methods of travel to and from school. Following this, he met with our newly appointed Eco Warrior team, where they began discussing ideas and actions they can take moving forward. These conversations are particularly important for our children, especially given our close proximity to Heathrow Airport, helping them to better understand environmental challenges and how they can make a difference.

Our newly appointed MPs also held their first meeting today, where they began to explore their roles and responsibilities and discussed how they can represent the views of their peers and contribute to school life.

I have also been extremely impressed with how dedicated and conscientious our Year 6 prefects have been. They are already providing fantastic support in assemblies and at lunchtime, demonstrating great responsibility and setting an excellent example for younger children.

In addition, we continue to prioritise the wellbeing of all our children through our daily Zones of Regulation check-ins. Each morning, children are given the opportunity to share how they are feeling as they arrive at school. This simple but effective approach helps support a smooth transition into the school day and allows any small worries to be addressed early, enabling children to feel settled, supported, and ready for a positive and successful day of learning. Please see more information about this below.

Wishing all of our families a wonderful weekend.
Miss Elliott
Deputy Head

Dates for your Diary

2026 - 2027 Academic Year

- 30 Sept - Individual School Photos
- 1 Oct - PTA pop in meeting @ 3:30pm
- 5 Oct - Life Skills Week
- 7 Oct - Year 6 Imperial war Museum
- 9 Oct - Hello Yellow Day
- 12 Oct - Yr 3 Be Your Best Assembly
Parents invited @ 2:30pm
- 15 Oct - Autumn Stomp
- 19 Oct - Half term
- 2 Nov - Pupils return to school
- 6 Nov - Year 6 Pollution Workshop
- 9 Nov - Healthy Ambassador training
- 12 Nov - Parents' Evening
- 16 Nov - Anti-bullying Week
- 16 Nov - Odd Sock Day
- 18 Nov - Parent Workshop Maths @ 2:45pm
- 20 Nov - Mufti day (details to follow)
- 25 Nov - Parent Workshop - KS2 Reading
- 27 Nov - Mufti day (details to follow)
- 26 Nov - Open Evening for Prospective
Parents at 4:30pm
- 4 Dec - Christmas Fayre
- 8 Dec - KS2 Carol Concert
- 9 Dec - EYFS & Yr 1 Christmas Production

(Dates subject to change)

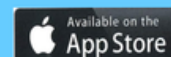
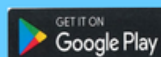
EYFS = Nur & Reception

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

The Arbor App

Please make sure you have downloaded the Arbor app and logged on. Please ensure all contact details are up-to-date. You will need the app to book your parent consultation.

The Arbor App is available on:



Highlights from the Week

Early Years

This week in EYFS, the children have been learning to use a range of materials to create the features of a bear. Based on our drawing club story 'We're going on a bear hunt', the children used collage materials to create what a bear looks like. We discussed where the bear might live, what the fur might feel like and how mixing materials together can create different textures.



Year 1

EXPLORING OUR SENSORY GARDEN



Discovering the World Through Our Five Senses



As part of our Science learning this week, we explored the five senses: sight, hearing, smell, taste and touch. To investigate further, we visited the Sensory Garden and used our senses to discover more about the world around us.



We found plants with fragrant leaves, flowers that felt soft and velvety, and even some prickly and stinging plants.



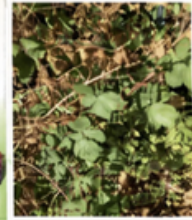
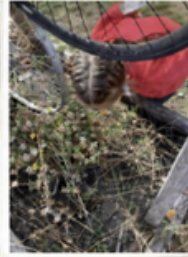
We listened carefully to the different sounds made by the drums and chimes and observed a variety of colours, leaf shapes and berries.



We also discussed how some berries may look tempting but are not safe to taste.



The children thoroughly enjoyed sharing their observations, discussing their discoveries and using their senses to learn about the natural environment. It was a fantastic opportunity to explore and investigate together.



Year 2

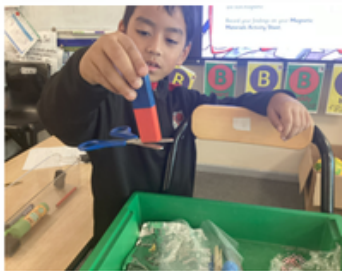
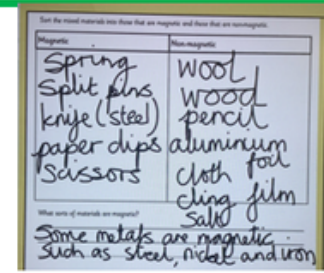
Year 2 have been exploring the wonderful world of colour in Art this week. Inspired by artist Paul Klee, the children learned how he used colour, tones and soft tints to create calm, dreamy paintings. The class experimented by mixing different amounts of white to make a range of tints. They carefully explored colour mixing, confidently described their creations, and produced some beautiful artwork to be proud of.



Year 3

In science this week, Year 3 have been learning that magnetic forces can act at a distance and attract some materials and not others. Using a magnet, we sorted the materials into two groups, those that were magnetic and those that were non-magnetic.

We learnt that nickel, steel and iron are magnetic but that aluminium is not.



Year 4

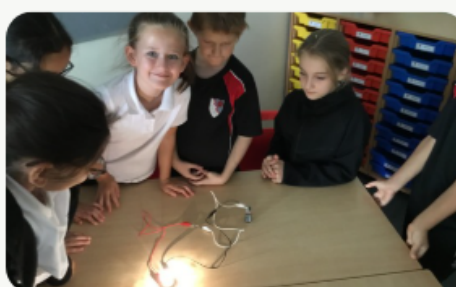
Science



In Science we've been learning about some very interesting people who have helped change the world we live in. This week it was Garrett Morgan, an inventor who made his mark in a number of ways.

His most recognised inventions were the Morgan Safety Hood, which was the first type of gas mask, and the traffic lights.

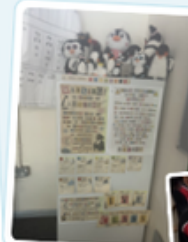
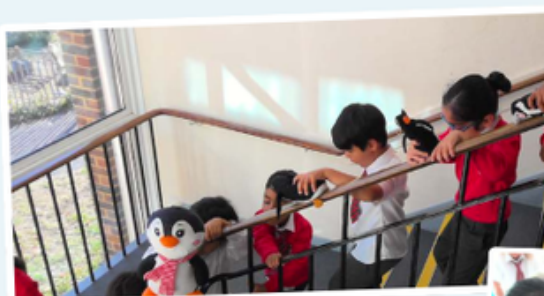
We spent some time building a circuit to demonstrate how this works, adding in a switch so we could control when the lights turned on and off.



Year 5

The great penguin plot began!

- Last week, you may have seen on Instagram our crew of Y5 explorers. They spotted a colony of penguins that they could repatriate to Antarctica as part of Sir Ernest Shackleton's crew.
- Y1 were shocked to find their penguins missing (apart from Alan who escaped). The chief penguin catcher Hubert Hudson left a note explaining their fate.
- Over the next week, mysterious clues kept arriving and our Y1 scientists had to prove they could care for their penguins in order to have them returned.
- Eventually, they worked out the 8 clues spelt 'I've Class'. So they waddled up to Y5 but to their surprise there was no penguin in sight... until they spotted some rather lumpy looking jumpers, a collection of penguin books and penguin snacks. All 20 penguins were returned to Ahlberg with a certificate and they loved causing pandemonium sliding down the banisters again...



Year 6

This week in English, Year 6 have been bringing our class book to life by acting out key scenes and conversations. Through drama activities, the children explored the characters' thoughts, feelings, and interactions in greater depth.



This has helped them prepare for writing effective and engaging dialogue in their own work.



information

INDIVIDUAL
SCHOOL
PHOTOS

Wednesday 30th September



All pupils
must wear
full school
uniform –
not PE kit.



AUTHOR VISIT

£7.99



Hello
Yellow
FRIDAY 9 OCT



SCAN TO PRE-
ORDER BOOKS
OR
JOIN THE BOOK
SALE IN THE
LIBRARY AFTER
SCHOOL ON
TUESDAY 6TH
OCTOBER



PRE-ORDER OFFERS

3 SIGNED PICTURE BOOKS FOR £21
BOTH KS2 SWOP BOOKS FOR £15 WITH
FREE BOOKMARK
ALL 6 SIGNED BOOKS FOR £40

WEAR A HINT OF
YELLOW
WITH YOUR UNIFORM
ON FRIDAY

YOUNGMINDS

New for 2026/27

We have been working hard behind the scenes over the last few weeks. We have lots of exciting information to share and some amazing events coming up during this year and we look forward to your support!

Town Farm Primary School PTA
Bringing children, parents, families and staff together.

OCTOBER

PTA Pop-In: Come,
Create & Have Your Say!

**Thursday
1st
October**
from 3:15pm

Come. Chat. Create. Have Your Say.

- Children: 30-minute free activity
- Parents & Staff: Tell us your ideas
- Meet: The new PTA team
- Find out: What we're planning
- Share: What you'd like to see at Town Farm

Please note parents must accompany their child.

OCTOBER

**Autumn
Stomp
Disco**

Thursday 15th October

Pay online by
Wednesday
14th October.

YrR-2 3:15-4:15pm

Yr3-6 3:30-4:30pm

£3.50 per child*

*Town Farm pupils only

Join us for our annual 'Autumn Stomp Disco', where your ticket not only covers the music, drinks and snacks, but also supports our school's PTA! This fun-filled event is a great way to enjoy an afternoon of music and dancing while contributing to our community initiatives.

Come on, Let's dance!

With huge thanks to our
sponsors



NEW!

zeffy



Subscribe and get event
information, reminders and pay for
the events, all in one place!

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-GB/organizations/town-farm-primary-school-and-nursery-pta>

JOIN US FOR AN EPIC QUEST

RISE AND READ

START THE DAY WITH
A STORY IN THE LIBRARY
EARLY OPENING AT 8.15 AM

TUESDAY 6TH^D OCTOBER
WEDNESDAY 7TH OCTOBER
THURSDAY 8TH OCTOBER

EVERYONE WELCOME

ALL PUPILS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT

ADULTS ONLY

BOOK SWAP

LEAVE A BOOK
TAKE A BOOK
ENJOY

EARLY OPENING AT 8.15 AM

TUESDAY 6TH^D OCTOBER
WEDNESDAY 7TH OCTOBER
THURSDAY 8TH OCTOBER

WARNING: ADULTS READING MAY CAUSE CHILDREN TO READ TOO.



Attendance Matters

Year Group	%
Reception	93.2%
Year 1	95.2%
Year 2	97.6%
Year 3	96.9%
Year 4	95.6%
Year 5	97.0%
Year 6	94.6%
Overall attendance	96.0%

Best Attendance this Week

1st Place - Milne, Monet & Picasso 100%

2nd Place - Blyton 99.2%

3rd Place - Beethoven 98.6%

Most Improved - Blyton by 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:

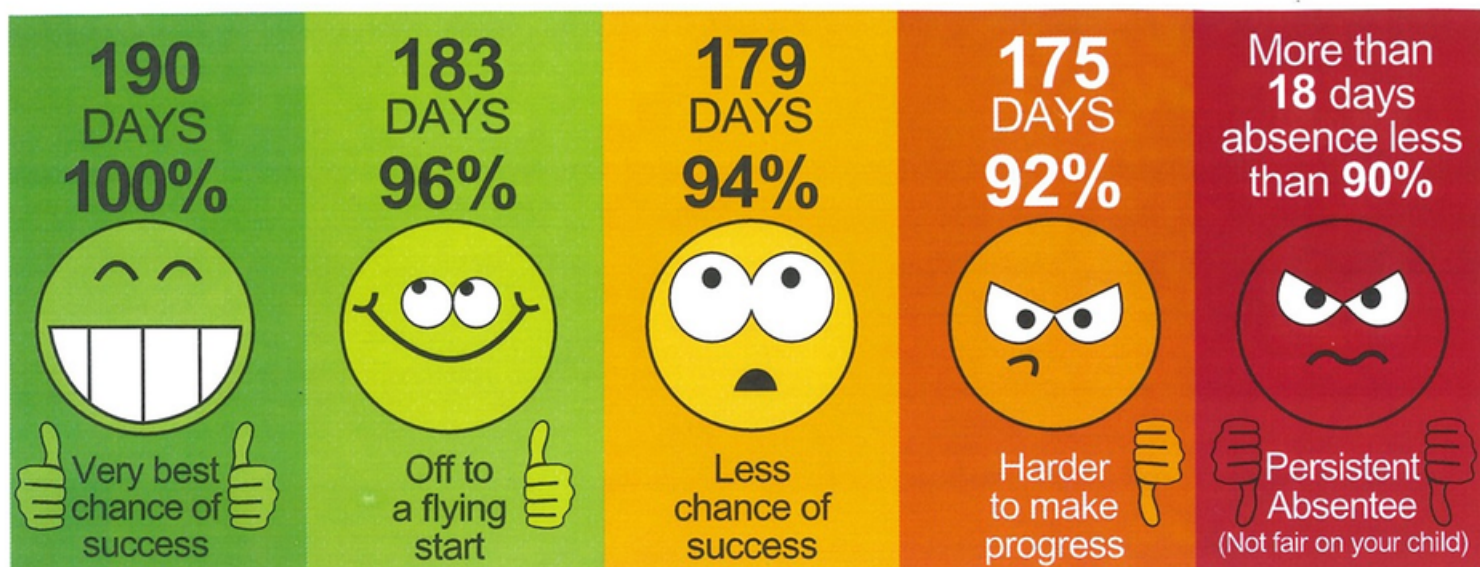
1. If you have not incurred a penalty notice relating to this child/children in a rolling 3 year period since 19 August 2024, then the penalty notice will be charged at the rate of £160.00, per parent/carer per child, if paid within 28 days. This will be reduced to £80.00 if paid within 21 days of receipt 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.



Community News -

Community news is provided by outside organisations and Town Farm is not responsible for the content.



What is anxiety?

We all experience feelings of anxiety. It is a 'normal' response. Everybody gets anxious at times and some anxiety helps us to function well in many situations, for example, before an exam, interview or first date.

However, anxiety can become a problem when we experience it too often, if it goes on for a long time, or when it stops us from doing things that we want to do. Anxiety can become intense or worsen if we avoid situations. This is when anxiety becomes unhelpful or causes problems.

Separation anxiety

Separation anxiety can make it difficult to leave your child at school or in someone else's care. You may feel distressed by their tears and worry about the effect on your child every time you need to leave them.

Remember, it's only natural for your child to feel anxious without you, so there's no reason to feel guilty when you need to get on with other parts of your life. In fact, separation anxiety is usually a sign of how well you have bonded with them.

Instead, you can focus on helping your child understand and deal with their feelings so they feel more secure. They'll learn that if you leave them, they will be OK and you will come back. If your child's old enough, you can talk to them about what's happening, where you're going and when you'll be with them again.

By leaving your child with another caregiver, you won't damage them. You're actually helping them learn to cope without you, and that's an important step towards their growing independence. Don't be too hard on yourself – separation anxiety is common and it's normal.

Separation anxiety strategies for children

Talk through these strategies with your child and their school and choose some to put in place.

1. **Face your fear.** Although avoiding a feared situation (such as going to school) brings short term relief from anxiety, in the long term it will only increase the anxiety as we never learn whether our fears will come true or that we can cope if they do. It can be helpful to gradually build up to facing fears, one small step at a time. For example, in the lead up to school you could practice walking to the school gates or go to a busy park to get used to being around people. If anxiety is extreme, it might be that you grade the return to school so that on day 1 the child only goes to the playground in the morning to see people and then goes home and on day 2 they stay for one lesson, and day 3 they stay for a half day etc. Remember to praise every attempt at facing fears.

2. **Create a visual timetable.** Children and young people could benefit from making a timetable so they know what to expect from the new school structure. Children with anxiety may be apprehensive about changing from one activity to the next, especially if they are unprepared for the change. The timetable can have pictures for each activity in the day e.g. a picture of a parent/carer collecting them from school at 3pm, as this will remind children they will go home at a certain time and manage their expectations.



3. **Make a goodbye ritual.** You could plan a goodbye ritual in advance such as a silly handshake or a hug and a positive mantra. When it comes to the moment, perform the goodbye ritual and then go.



4. **Grounding techniques.** It is important to keep calm during separation even though it is very stressful, and model being calm for your child to contain their own emotions. You can use grounding techniques to help you stay calm and practice them with your child when they are anxious. Try the 54321 techniques; list 5 things that you can see, 4 things you can touch, 3 things you can hear, 2 things you can smell, and 1 thing you can taste. Another technique is to pick a colour, and list 5 things around you that are that colour.

5. **Familiar faces.** Children can benefit from having trusted, familiar school staff present when they arrive at school. If possible, help your child to identify two familiar school friends who will be there in the morning, at least until the anxiety is reduced. Can they travel to school together? Can they arrange a meeting place at the gates to enter together? Could you speak to a teacher to ask if they can sit near each other for the first few days?

6. **Safe place.** Speak with school to identify a safe place where children can go to reduce anxiety during stressful periods. Some children benefit from taking some time to adjust by talking, which is another benefit of having a safe space before going to the classroom.



7. **Trusted adult.** Help your child to think of a teacher or staff member that they can go to during times of stress. They will speak to your child with empathy and will be understanding of their feelings. However, the adult should encourage the child to return to class once they are calm and review self-calming strategies that they can use when anxiety arises. Self-calming strategies may include deep breathing, counting, muscle relaxation, holding an object that provides comfort (e.g., picture of a parent or favourite item from home), drawing a picture, writing down feelings, or thinking of a funny time. Connect with school and the trusted adult about this plan.

8. **Transitional objects.** Your child could take a handkerchief with a parent's perfume or soothing smell such as lavender or take an object from home (e.g. a pen, photo, toy, keyring) as a token to remind them that they are still connected to you even though you're apart.



9. **Positive affirmations.** Coping statements such as 'I love you', or 'Soon it'll be home time', or 'You're doing really well' can be helpful. Encourage your child to come up with some of their own and write them down on cards they can keep with them at school. You could even slip some positive affirmations into their lunchbox or bookbag as well for extra reassurance.

10. **Contact.** At times of stress at school, a brief phone call—a minute or two—with a parent or carer may reduce separation anxiety.



11. **Practice positive reframing.** It is essential to help children and young people think positively about situations. For instance, remind them that they will get to see friends in school or work on a project that they enjoy. Encourage your child to make a pros and cons list about the return to school and help them notice the good points.

12. **Give positive feedback** when your child makes an effort to get through anxiety-provoking situations, like going to school, or uses strategies in order to cope with anxiety. You could create a visual reward system where your child gets recognised on a daily basis for making an effort and, at the end of the week, receives a bigger reward. You could also plan something nice as a reward to look forward to at the end of the first day back, such as a favourite meal or movie night.

13. **Problem solving.** Make a plan for new situations. This can alleviate the fear of uncertainty that may arise when children are separated from a caregiver. Firstly, identify the problem, e.g. 'I might not be able to find my friend at break time'. Come up with as many solutions as you can think of together, no matter how weird or wonderful. Then go through the pros and cons of each solution and give them a mark out of 10. At the end you'll be left with a couple or one solution that your child can take forward should that situation arise.

14. **Stories.** Provide examples of coping role models by reading stories about children who are afraid and conquer their fears. Story books are a good medium to support children with a range of emotional difficulties. The following website has recommendations for books on anxiety www.littleparachutes.com/category/feelings/anxiety. The 'Invisible String' book by Patrice Karst is a good book to support with separation anxiety.



FREE talk for parents

22 October 7-8pm

If you don't have time to listen

Just book online and receive a link to the recording available for 48 hours



ADHD & Homework

info@facefamilyadvice.co.uk



FREE EBSNA Wellbeing & Engagement Event

for Children, Young People and Families

Saturday 26 September 2026 | **Elysian, Shamley Green**

Family Voice Surrey and Elysian are delighted to offer a free, relaxed and welcoming event for children and young people who experience school-based anxiety and Emotionally Based School Non-Attendance (EBSNA), and their families.

Meet and interact with farm animals

Enjoy the outdoors in a calm environment

Games, colouring and activities at your own pace

Meet other families who understand similar experiences

Complimentary light refreshments

A calm and low-pressure event

The event is small and relaxed. Children can take a break in the Log Cabin or gazebo (also available) if they need it. There is no pressure to participate – you and your child can join in as much or as little as feels comfortable.

Scan to book
Choose ONE session

10.00am - 11.00am

11.00am - 1.00pm

1.00pm - 3.00pm

You need to book ONE ticket for each child or young person attending. Each child can attend with one adult.

Booking & attendance

- Each child/young person needs a ticket and can attend with one adult.
- If your child needs two adults, please email contact@familyvoicesurrey.co.uk and we will do our best to help.
- Spaces are limited to keep the event relaxed and manageable.

What is included

- Guided farm tour
- Meet, feed and interact with animals
- Log Cabin and gazebo areas
- Small animals, colouring
- Time to sit, chat and enjoy
- Light refreshments

Need extra support?
We don't want additional needs or family circumstances to make the event inaccessible, and we will do what we can to support you.

Refreshments

- Tea and coffee for adults and snacks for adults and young people.

After you book
We'll provide you with information about what to expect, directions, parking, what to bring, FAQs and how to help your child feel prepared.

We'd love to welcome you and your family to Elysian for a morning or afternoon of animals, fresh air, connection and understanding.