



Newsletter

The start of a new year is a natural time for reflection. At school, we encourage pupils to think about their own goals – what they are proud of and what they would like to work towards. The children shared their goals with me, and I have loved reading them. From eating more vegetables to achieving a yellow belt in Taekwondo, they show just how aspirational and determined our pupils are. I look forward to supporting them and checking back in as we approach Easter.



The term has already been packed with memorable experiences. Year 6 had an unforgettable trip to Young Voices at the O2, Year 4 enjoyed a fascinating visit to the Mosque in Woking, and we were delighted to welcome SF Said, who inspired the next generation of writers. Alongside these highlights, there has been – as always – buckets of fantastic learning happening across the school. You can read more about these events later in this newsletter.

As we move through the winter months, a few reminders:

- Please ensure children have a spare pair of trainers in school for PE, especially while it remains wet and muddy.
- A warm, waterproof coat is essential, as children will continue to go outside during light rain at breaktimes.
- Thank you for your patience in the school car park. Parking safely and walking children to the gates helps keep everyone safe – please avoid dropping children in the middle of the car park, even in poor weather.

As you will be aware, from September I will also take on the role of Headteacher at Shalford Infant and Nursery School. Over the coming months, I will be working closely with the Trust and with Mrs Dutton to ensure a smooth transition and to carefully plan how my time will be shared between the two sites. This work is focused on maintaining strong leadership, continuity and stability for both schools, and I will keep families updated as plans are finalised.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. I remain incredibly proud of our school community and excited for all that 2026 has in store.

Ben Stevenson
Headteacher

Author visit S f Said

SF Said shared the story of his journey to becoming a successful author, highlighting the importance of our school values of resilience, aspiration, curiosity and confidence.

Resilience: he was rejected by publishers 90 times before they agreed to publish Varjak Paw and he had to do 56 drafts of Tyger before it was ready!



Aspirational: He pursued his dream of becoming a writer, even when others suggested it might not be a good idea.

Curious: he researched how to become a writer by looking at interviews with other writers.

Confidence: he knew he could do it!

Because of these qualities, he has published four amazing books. He also won the Smarties children prize, which made him very happy as it was voted for by readers up and down the country. However, he was disappointed not to get a lifetime supply of smarties. He was also very happy with his Blue Peter badge when his book won the Blue Peter Award.

Report by Emily in year 5 and Nina and Elodie in year 6



Year 3's Earthquake Adventure: Building Resilience with Marshmallows!

This week, Year 3 embarked on an exciting journey into the world of earthquakes as part of our geography unit! We discovered how tectonic plates move and unleash seismic energy, causing the ground to shake. But we didn't stop there! Channeling our inner engineers, we constructed buildings using marshmallows and cocktail sticks. The real fun began when we tested our creations on a wobbly floor of jelly. To our delight, most of our structures survived the tremors! Who knew learning about earthquakes could be so deliciously fun? Well done, Year 3!



Cookery



The cookery room has been busy with the children in year 3 learning about the minerals we need in our diet, such as salt and calcium, and making Cheese & Chive Rock Monsters. There has been great creativity in making a whole variety of monsters! Well done year 3. Year 4 have been finding out about the different ways that the Vikings would have preserved their food and how we preserve food today. They have seen how to make jam and then made jam tarts - a perfect way to enjoy summer fruits in the rainy wet winter of Britain! Victorian Afternoon Tea has been the focus of year 5's learning and they have made mini Victorian Sponges, invented by Anna, Duchess of Bedford for Queen Victoria. Meanwhile year 6 have been learning about yeast and how it helps bread rise, and have made bread twists and plaits as their practical sessions.

Safer Internet Day 2026

Next week, our school will join others nationwide to celebrate Safer Internet Day 2026, the largest global online safety campaign. This year's theme, 'Smart tech, safe choices – Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI,' focuses on teaching children and young people the skills to use AI technology safely and responsibly, and highlights available support.

From voice assistants, to chatbots, to algorithms, AI technology is playing an increasingly large role in all our lives. It is important that we find time to discuss these tools and the impact they can have on our own and our families' online experiences, including:

- the news and content we see,
- the way we work, including using AI for homework or studies,
- the risk of misuse of AI, for example to create realistic scams or non-consensual images.

We encourage you to join us in celebrating by continuing the conversation about AI technology at home. Here are some helpful resources:

- You can complete the [UK Safer Internet Centre's interactive quizzes](#) with your child.
- Read the UK Safer Internet Centre's top tips for parents and carers [here](#).
- You can share the UK Safer Internet Centre's [top tips for children and young people](#) with your child.

You may also like to use one of these prompts to start a conversation with your child:

- What's your favourite thing to do online?
- Have you ever used an AI tool? How did it make you feel?
- What do you like about AI technology?
- Do you have any worries about AI technology?

A key part of protecting children and young people from online harms is through preventative education. By talking about this in school and at home, we can all work towards keeping children safe when they are online. Celebrating Safer Internet Day is a great opportunity for you to re-emphasise the online safety messages we deliver throughout the year.

If you have any concerns or questions about keeping your child safe online, please do get in touch.

Young Voices @ O2

Our Year 6 pupils enjoyed an absolutely unforgettable evening taking part in Young Voices at the O2 – the world’s largest school choir event. Singing and dancing in front of a sold-out O2 Arena, alongside thousands of other children, was a truly awe-inspiring experience.

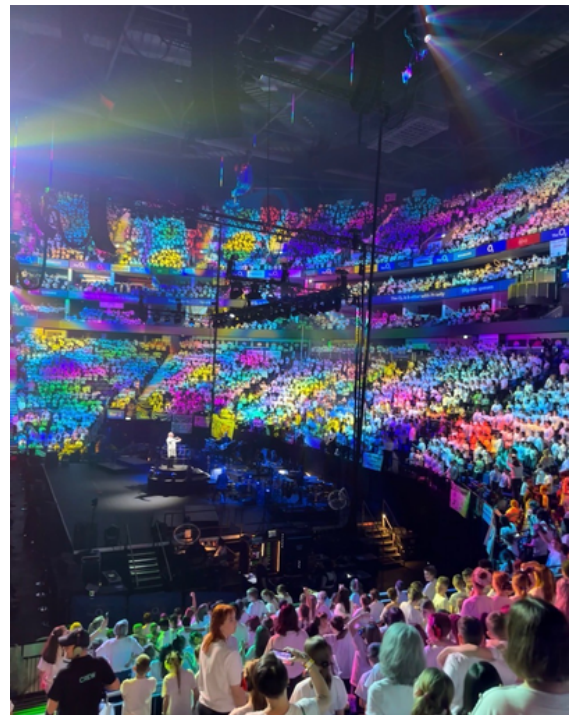


The atmosphere was electric as they sang and danced with confidence, energy and joy, fully embracing the scale and excitement of the event.

The evening was made even more special by a range of impressive guest acts and performances. A particular highlight was the Wicked medley, featuring a West End star performing in the role of Elphaba, which was a real thrill for pupils and staff alike.



We are incredibly proud of our Year 6 children for the enthusiasm, commitment and maturity they showed throughout the evening. It was a fantastic celebration of music, teamwork and shared experience – and a memory that will last long beyond their time in Year 6.



Year 4 Mosque visit

Year 4 were treated to a fantastic opportunity in visiting the Shah Jahan Mosque, Woking. As the oldest mosque in the country, it has a rich history of collaboration and community and we were welcomed by the Imam and his colleagues to learn about the day to day of Islam before being invited to watch lunchtime prayers in the Men's Prayer Hall. This experience enables them to really understand the 5 Pillars of Islam and ask questions freely to explore their own interpretations. As ever, the children were a credit to the school on another very rainy day, and shared their knowledge with clarity and curiosity.



Tillingbourne Bake off!

The Bake Off is under way with years 3 & 4 having made their nature themed cup cakes which have been judged and the finalists going through to the Technical Challenge at the end of February. The standard and creativity in the designs was AMAZING – all the children who entered should be super proud of their efforts! The judges, who were blind judging and had no idea who the cakes had been made by, had a really tricky job choosing! A particular well done goes to our finalists..

3B – Jean, Alfie, Hallie-Mae, Lucie, Rafferty

3NL – James, Theo

3PW – Jake

4B – Sam, Daisy, Lyla

4D – Amelie, Amba

4SR – Gemma, Chloe, Seth, Ralphy, Isabelle



Upcoming Events

Spring term 2026

- 9th February - Safer Internet Week
- 12th February - 3B class assembly - 9am
- 16th February - 20th February - Half term
- 26th February - 4D class assembly - 9am
- 4th March - Classrooms open to look at children's learning - 3:20 - 4:00
- 5th March - 5Q class assembly - 9am
- 12th March - 3PW class assembly - 9am
- 5st March - World Book Day - dressing up as favorite book characters
- 13th March - Show Racism The Red Card workshops - Year 6
- 13th March - MUFTI day - collecting for Easter Hampers - PTA
- 16th March - Year 4 parent consultations
- 17th March - Year 6 parent consultations
- 19th March - 5J class assembly - 9am
- 23rd March - Year 3 parent consultations
- 24th March - Year 5 parent consultations
- 26th March - 4SR class assembly - 9am
- 30th March - 10th April - Easter Holidays - School closed



FOR MORE VISIT: www.tillingbourne.surrey.sch.uk