



GUILDFORD  
HIGH SCHOOL

JUNIOR SCHOOL

# Autumn Newsletter 2021



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Mr Williamson reflects on the importance of kindness and community as the girls return for another school year.

### 5 GHS HIGHLIGHTS

Energised and excited for the year ahead, girls both returning and new forge friendships.

### 6 MUSIC

Joyful Harvest celebrations and a playful piano concert.

### 7 ART

From painting, to pottery and pastel colours, the art this term has been nothing but colourful and vibrant.

### 8 AROUND SCHOOL

Autumn walks, author visits and a car free initiative takes place this term.

### 11 SPORT

A round-up of the sporting fun had so far this term.

## WELCOME FROM THE HEAD OF JUNIOR SCHOOL



It has been a special return to school this term. After 18 months of abnormality, the buzz is well and truly back in the classrooms, along the corridors, on the sports fields and in the playground. We welcomed new faces, both of girls and staff, who have brought new life into our school as we returned to a life that is rich in new beginnings.

We have been excited by the resumption of a full extracurricular timetable, enabling girls to try new things, pick up and carry on with old pursuits, and consider the experiences which bring their learning to life. It has been a true delight to hear the girls lifting the roof singing together in clubs and assemblies, and the corridors are once again adorned with colourful art and design that is taking place daily.

We have enjoyed getting back out on the sports fields and representing the school, achieving enviable results all whilst working collaboratively to achieve a common goal. It has been wonderful to see parents on the sidelines and in the audiences for special events such as the Year 3 and Pre-Prep Harvest celebrations.

The theme for this half term has been centred around kindness, friendships and community. No matter if you have been a long-standing member or are new with us this year, I hope you have seen and felt how special it is to be a part of our community. Please take time to sit with your daughter and enjoy looking through the pages of this magazine to discover all that our pupils have achieved and experienced this half term.

Wishing you a restful half term.

**Mr Allistair Williamson**



## TOGETHER AGAIN

A new school year brings new opportunities for both staff and pupils. For some, this was their first term at GHS, while others were returning re-energised and ready to stride forward along the path that awaited them.

This half term has been wonderful for many reasons but above all, what has been most special to witness is the girls as one community again: their happiness, energy, and excitement reverberating through the corridors. As the year continues to unfold, we aspire to see the same happiness and energy only grow as the girls develop deeper connections with the school and their peers.



## HARVEST FESTIVAL & CONCERT

We were very proud of ourselves for working so hard to be ready for Harvest. We enjoyed having the whole Junior School together in Christ Church for our Harvest Festival Service for the first time in a very long time. We were a bit nervous at first but we started to feel better when we heard other girls singing their songs. The Harvest Prayers made us feel very respectful of other people and helped us to think about those who are not as lucky as we are and do not have enough to eat.

It was wonderful to see all our parents in the Senior School Hall watching us in the Harvest Concert and clapping loudly all the way through, which made us feel like they were really listening carefully to everything we were saying and singing. We were all very excited when it was our turn to say our lines and to hold the microphone. It was interesting finding out about other Harvest traditions around the world. We enjoyed the interview about the Trussell Trust and The Parable of the Sower and the Seed was brilliant. We loved listening to Reception singing their song about being Farmers and remembering all their actions. Year 1 tried to Hurry up the Harvest, Year 2 told us all about Conkers and Year 3 sang the Potato Song and the Harvest Tango.

Year 3



## PIANO CONCERT

The joy of live music was felt by everyone at our Piano concert. A highly talented group of 49 girls shared their love of the Piano with the massed audience of their peers, their parents and grandparents and each girl should be proud of her playing. It was obvious that these girls know how to master tricky repertoire and played with flair and style, showing the dedication to their practice routines and their love of the pieces they were performing.

Mrs Rachel Wardell



## HALF TERM ART ROUND UP

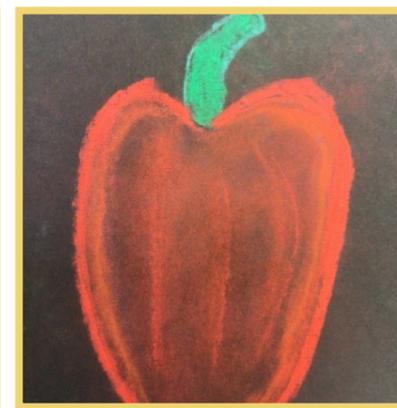
To reinvigorate our drawing skills after the Summer break Years 1 to 6 created some beautiful observational drawings of vegetables bought from the Friday market in Guildford. Year 5 then developed their pencil work into vibrant pastel drawings for the Harvest service artwork.

The festive season comes very early to the Art room ,and each year group produced their wintery designs for Cauliflower cards. We had stunning snow people, robins, penguins and winter scenes and I look forward to seeing them printed professionally. We end the half term with ‘The Big Draw’ a collaborative annual art project which encourages creativity. This year’s theme, #MakeTheChange is a timely development on last year’s exploration into the relationship between people and our living environments.

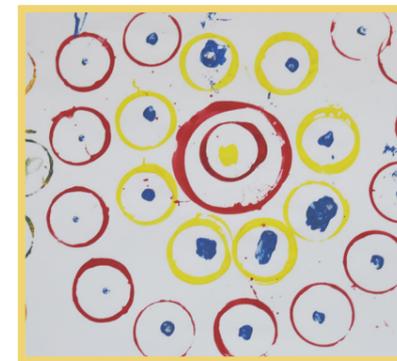
Miss Amy Langfield



Hafsa, Year 5



Jiyaa, Year 5



The Dot - Evelyn, Reception



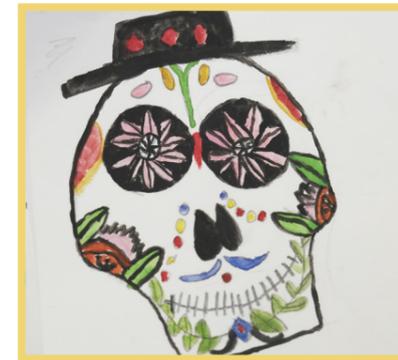
Miro - Piper, Elsa & Ariella, Year 1



Sketching - Myla Ohana, Year 2



Pottery - Emily, Ella & Cecily, Year 3



Day of the Dead - Ava, Year 5



Wire sketches - Jessica, Year 6



The Big Draw 2021 - #MakeTheChange



## OPENBOX VISIT GHS

At several points throughout this term, pupils have had the opportunity to explore topics through practical learning, to gain greater understanding and to think for themselves. We were thrilled to welcome Openbox back for more engaging and certainly energetic workshops that reinforce classroom learning through activity. Our girls thrive in these workshops and it is a delight to see their enthusiasm and curiosity grow in each workshop they do.

*We made up our own story about Geppetto's toyshop toys. We became magical toys who came alive at night as ballerinas, trains, soldiers and teddy bears who loved being transformed into another world. RP*

*We flew back in time this term to learn about Florence Nightingale. We learnt all about her family (including her sister, Pop), her personality and her pet owl called Athena. Most importantly we learnt that she was a nurse who helped soldiers in Scutari whilst the Crimean war was happening. 1L*

*Year 2 spent a whole day on an adventure through time. We looked at The Gunpowder Plot, The Great Fire of London and The Sinking of the Titanic. I found it very interesting when we found out that they used three million rivets in the Titanic and that they were also building another ship called The Olympic! MICHELLE, 2W*

*We pretended we were Nomads. A Nomad is a person who has to move around the country when you have run out of the things you need to survive. My favourite part was when we had to come up with a plan to catch the Mammoth. ISABEL, 3OB*

*Year 4 absolutely loved learning about Vikings. We imagined we were building a longship. We gathered wood and stones as they were placed at the bottom of the ship as ballast. Kenn and Iain thought our Viking costumes were brilliant and we all used our weapons in a monastery battle! 4M*

*Year 5 were treated to a workshop all about WWII evacuees. We learnt the drill for when the air raid siren went off; you had to go to the nearest underground train station and stayed there until the air raids were over. We then got into pairs, made a human train and found out what it would be like for all the children being evacuated on to the trains. HOLLY, CARISSA & AMELIA, 5S*

*It all started when Kenn and Iain were talking about Roald Dahl's life, how he was an RAF pilot and where he wrote his books. We started reading Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and Roald Dahl's description of the characters was brilliant. LAUREN, 6W*



## RECEPTION AUTUMN WALK

The Reception classes went for a walk to Stoke Park. We were looking for signs of Autumn. We saw chestnuts and acorns on the ground. We saw many oak trees and decided to adopt one as our class tree. We are hoping to visit the Oak tree again in the Spring to see how different it looks. We collected leaves of all different colours and found some conkers. We also saw lots of worms in the soil. We sang songs in the sunshine all the way back to school. We had a fun morning!

Class RB



## PRE-PREP VISIT OUTER SPACE

To support classroom learning this term, Reception, Years 1 and 2 had a wonderful morning when they went on a journey into Outer Space. The workshop combined the academic curriculum with a morning of creative fluidity as we used a mixture of drama and dance to travel on a rocket to visit each of the planets in turn. The girls particularly enjoyed bouncing along the solar system like Jupiter as they learnt the planet was made up completely of gas! All in a morning's work, we returned safely to GHS in time for lunch.

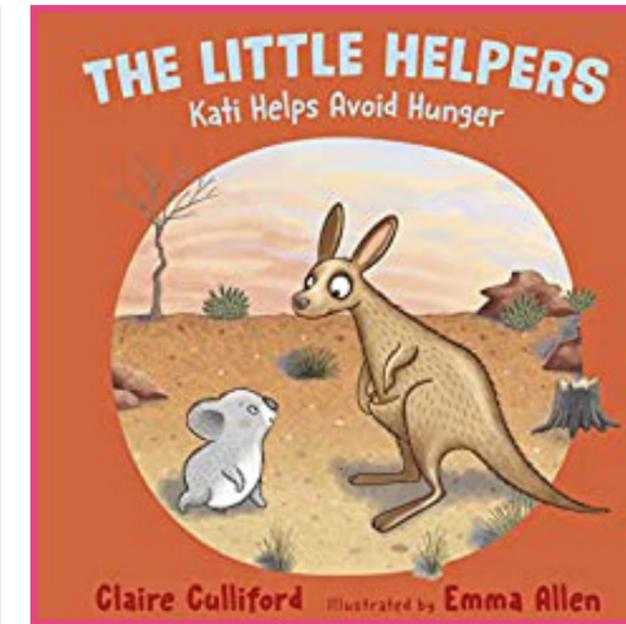
Mrs Heather Stamp



## YEAR 5 AUTHOR VISIT

Year 5 had an online session with the author Claire Culliford. She read us one of the books from her collection called "The Little Helpers: Kati Helps Avoid Hunger". Claire asked us some questions about her book, and we discussed environmental issues including global warming. She discussed the fact that many humans and animals are hungry and we can help them by supporting charities.

Jiyaa & Eshanee, 5S



## YEAR 3 TEAM BUILDING

Juniper Hall was a fun trip for everyone. We went on a long walk up Box Hill. It was very tiring. It was nice when we made outdoor dens out of wood. We had to ensure it was waterproof, windproof and would not fall over. They were not very waterproof! We found a ruin in the woods and our guide told us a scary story there. We had a fantastic team building day.

**Lottie & Olivia, 3IB & Kesi, 3OB**



## KINDNESS, CARE & COOKIES

A focus this half term has been on kindness: kindness to each other, to our environment and to ourselves. Girls enjoyed receiving their pastoral booklets and kindness cookies; in the same week they had messages left on the mirrors around school to remind them of how valued they are and thanking them for their contribution to the school community. Going into half term, girls had an assembly on self-care and specifically the importance and benefits of sleep. Girls received a bath bomb and were encouraged to have a bath, read a book and go to bed early! Half term provides a welcome break and an opportunity for girls to rest and recharge their mind, body and soul ready for another action packed six weeks!

**Mrs Amanda Whybro**



## GHS GO CAR FREE

As proud holders of the Bronze Modeshift STARS award, GHS continue to work towards decreasing car travel and raising awareness of the benefits of active and sustainable travel this year. We actively encourage members of our community to reflect on their own environmental travel habits, considering how we can make more good journeys that connect with local areas and are healthy for ourselves and the wider community.

In their attempt to reduce travel pollution around the school site, the girls swapped wheels for feet for their school walking buses! For Pre-Prep this meant a beautiful, autumn walk from Burchatts Farm, while KS2 ventured from further afield, enjoying views of Guildford Cathedral and Stoke Park. We were incredibly impressed by staff and pupils' commitment to sustainable travel.



## OLYMPIAN ASHLEY MCKENZIE & PARALYMPIAN IAN ROSE VISIT THE JUNIOR SCHOOL

We were thrilled to welcome both Ashley McKenzie and Ian Rose into school. Both have competed for Great Britain in Judo. Ashley competed at the Tokyo Olympics and led our assembly demonstrating Judo skills with his usual exuberance. Ian is one of Great Britain's most successful Paralympic Judoka. He was a Torchbearer and an Opening Ceremony performer for the London 2012 Paralympic Games, as well as winner of two Paralympic, five World Championship and nine European Championship medals. He delivered an inspiring talk to Years 1 to 6, explaining his journey as an athlete and the lessons he learnt. He discussed the importance of having a growth mindset and the power of 'what if'. He explained that life will be full of 'what ifs' but if we change these from a negative to a positive, we can set goals for ourselves and have the chance to be the best we can be.

**Mrs Amanda Whybro**



## HALF-TERM SPORT ROUND UP

This half term, we have been delighted to return to fixtures in a range of sports. Our U8 & U9 Netball teams have been working hard to master the invasion game basics and are reaching a good playing standard. We look forward to them taking part in their first fixtures after half term. The U10 & U11 Netball teams enjoyed whole year group matches against Amesbury, Greenfield, Notre Dame & Tormead. The U10 & U11 Netball Squads have made a good start to the season in their training with the U11 teams playing in the GHS Invitational Tournament and St Hilary's triangular with St Catherine's. Well done to the winners of Most Valuable Players; Amelie 6W & Tara 6J.

Our Swimming Squad hosted their first gala against Halstead & Notre Dame. GHS scored enough points to win with some particularly impressive performances in the U11 age group. We hosted the GHS Aquathlon with 210 competitors across seven age groups. GHS won three events with six 2nd and 3rd place medals. We have had an incredibly successful start to the Cross-Country season remaining undefeated this term. We won the overall trophy at St Catherine's Autumn meet and claimed our own trophy at a rather wet GHS Invitational meet. There were individual medal successes for Lottie (3IB), Isabel (4S), Alice (5C), Isla (5C) and Jess (6J.)

In other sporting news, our U11 girls were treated to a Tag Rugby Festival where they had the opportunity to transfer their invasion game skills and loved sprinting down the wing to score a try! The Equestrian team competed at Parwood with medal positions in the 60cm and 70cm categories for Amelie 6W. The girls also attended the Sunshine Tour Championships at Hickstead where Amelie was crowned 60cm champion and reserve champion in the Supreme Championships. There was a great team effort by the U10 ski team in the ESSKia dry races and NSSA snow races. Sixteen girls have qualified for the Biathlon finals at the University of Bath later in October.

**Miss Georgie Dustin**





# Inspiring Girls

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