

Monthly Newsletter

February 2018

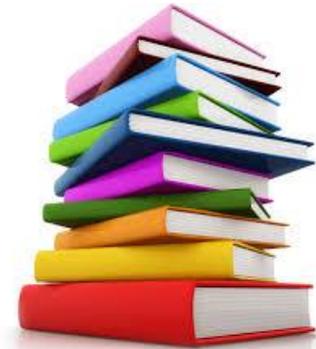
Spring Term

Your round-up of what's been happening in our school this month...

Teaching and Learning at Grafham Grange

***WORLD BOOK DAY – 1st March 2018 ***

Pupils and staff are invited to dress up as a character from their favourite book. There will be a range of activities offered...and prizes for the best contributions!



Alternative Provision Opportunities

As part of our developing curriculum here at Grafham Grange we are looking to provide the pupils with alternative curriculum opportunities to enable them to gain additional experiences and accredited qualifications in addition to their traditional timetable.

One of our Year 10 pupils is currently accessing regular work experience opportunities at a local farm as a Farm Assistant, as well as gaining experience working for a local Motor Vehicle Mechanics in Guildford. He is also being provided with the opportunity to access a Sports & Fitness short course and an Engineering short course at Brooklands College as part of a vocational skills program.

Year 10 pupils have already completed an accredited short course at the GASP project. This has provided them with the opportunity to learn practical motor vehicle mechanics skills along with the chance to drive a Go-Kart around the track at Dunsfold Aerodrome. Our Year 9 group has also just started this course this half term, as well as being given the opportunity to access an animal husbandry qualification at our local farm. Our Year 7 & 8 groups are going to be accessing team building and communication sessions at the farm as part of the animal assisted therapeutic learning program. This is a program that we are looking to expand with the goal of trying to provide our pupils with as many meaningful opportunities as possible, to help develop and grow their skill set in preparation for life after school. If anyone has any questions regarding this provision please feel free to contact us here at school.



Elysian Therapy Farm

Following on from the above, there was a fantastic article featured in 'Get Surrey' this week about the brilliant work that Charlotte and Dene, from the Animal Therapy Farm, do for young people. Below are some extracts and pictures, but if you would like to view the full article please visit:

www.getsurrey.co.uk/news/surrey-news/farm-guildford-changing-childrens-lives-14179441

The lives of a Surrey couple became more challenging when one of their daughters was diagnosed with autism. She struggled to express her emotions, making it difficult for her parents, Charlotte and Dene Williams, to understand how she felt.

"It was hard to explain to her what autism was. She didn't want to hear it," Charlotte told Get Surrey. But, suddenly, the way she interacted with her loved ones changed for the better - and it all happened thanks to a pony.

"One day we were tucking up her pony, she was doing her thing, and I started talking about autism," Charlotte said. "It was the first meaningful conversation I had with her about the condition."



As someone who used to work in children's social care, Charlotte has always been aware of the positive impact animals could have on young people with special needs. But it was her daughter's life-changing experience that led the 37-year-old and her husband to open a farm dedicated to what is known as "animal therapy".



Every week the farm helps around 50 children with different needs, including emotional behavioural problems and mental health issues. During the sessions, which are often practical and task-focused, children get to spend time with animals while being encouraged to talk with Charlotte, Dene or other members of staff about their troubles.

Charlotte said: "It's meant to be fun but it's also meant to have a valuable purpose so children have to invest."

According to Charlotte, children often feel a "sense of purpose and acknowledgement" after the sessions, which have different aims depending on children's specific needs. One of the young people who attends sessions on a weekly basis is Alfie, a teenage boy living with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and Asperger's. The 14-year-old has been going to the farm for a year and the experience is helping him overcome some of the challenges associated with his conditions, including anger issues.

His mum, Madeleine, said: "He loves it here, absolutely loves it. After the sessions he just seems really calm."

In the future, Alfie wants to get a job working with animals. "Maybe I can become a vet," he said. Schools in Surrey often refer children like Alfie to the farm, hoping therapy will help students overcome difficulties.

"Teachers say the farm changes children's behaviour and allows them to stay in school", Charlotte said.



Parent Governors



Grafham Grange School are seeking to recruit a new Parent Governor to join the school's Governing Body.
If this is of interest to you, please contact the school office.

Dates for your diary

Easter Holiday: Boys break for Easter on Thursday 29th March and return to school Monday 16th April.

*All term dates can be found on the school website: http://grafham-grange.co.uk/news_and_events_diary

Notice Board

We received a wonderfully generous donation this month of £260 from Roser & Elms Ltd. We will ensure this money is put to very good use in supporting the learning of our pupils. A big thank you to all at Roser & Elms Ltd!

*Thank
you* 

STAFF UPDATES

We say goodbye to Marta Povoas and wish her all the very best for the future.

We welcome our new Pastoral and Learning Support Assistant, Gareth Unwin.



What's on the menu for this half term?

Winter LUNCH Menu

DID YOU KNOW? We use Free Range Eggs & MSC Fish!

w/c 5th March

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Everyday
Main	Peperoni Pizza	Roast Beef	Bacon Carbonara	Chicken Kiev	Breaded Fish Fingers or Sausages	Salad Bar Jacket Potatoes Jelly Yoghurt Cut Fruit
Meatfree	Margherita Pizza		Tomato and Basil Pasta	Vegetable Pasty	Veg Burger	
And to go with	Jacket Wedges Coleslaw Carrot Sticks	Roast Potatoes, Swede, Honey Carrots	Garlic Bread, Sweetcorn, Courgette	New Potatoes, Mixed Veg	Peas Beans Oven Baked Wedges	
Pudding	Chocolate Muffin	Rice Pudding	Crumble	Cheesecake	Jelly, Yoghurt, Fresh Fruit	
Supper	Homemade Beef Burger	Pete's pie Chicken ham hock	Roast Pork Steaks with cheese and apple	Chicken Curry		

Winter LUNCH Menu

DID YOU KNOW? We use Free Range Eggs & MSC Fish!

w/c 12th March

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Everyday
Main	Chicken Curry	Shepard's Pie	Beef Burger in Bun	Sweet and Sour Chicken	Battered Fish or Chicken Goujons, Cornish Pasty	Salad Bar Jacket Potatoes Jelly Yoghurt Cut Fruit
Meatfree	Veg Curry	Macaroni Cheese	Veg Burger in Bun	Sweet and Sour Veg	Veg Sausage	
And to go with	Cabbage, Rice	Roasted Veg and New Potatoes	Chips and Peas	Noodle, Rice, Carrots, Cabbage	Peas Beans Oven Baked Wedges	
Pudding	Lemon Sponge with Custard	Shortbread	Flapjack	Jelly, Yoghurt, Fresh Fruit	Jelly, Yoghurt, Fresh Fruit	
Supper	Beef Lasagne	Chicken Jerk Coconut Rice	Homemade Pizza	Roast Chicken		

Winter LUNCH Menu

DID YOU KNOW? We use Free Range Eggs & MSC Fish! w/c 19th March

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Everyday
Main	Panang Chicken	Roast Pork with Apple Sauce	Sausage Roll	Shepard's Pie	Fish	Salad Bar Jacket Potatoes Jelly Yoghurt Cut Fruit
Meatfree	Cauliflower and Potato Curry	Roast Veg Quiche	Veg Sausage Roll	Macaroni Cheese	Veg Burger	
And to go with	Cabbage, Rice, Cgurgette	Roast Potato, Parsnips, Swede	BBQ Beans, Mixed Veg and Chips	Roasted Veg and New Potatoes	Peas Beans Oven Baked Wedges	
Pudding	Muffins	Crumble	Chocolate Sponge	Jelly, Yoghurt, Fresh Fruit	Jelly, Yoghurt, Fresh Fruit	
Supper	Chicken Wraps	Spaghetti Bolognaise	Roast Chicken	Chicken Curry		

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Winter LUNCH Menu

DID YOU KNOW? We use Free Range Eggs & MSC Fish! w/c 26th Feb

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Everyday
Main	Southern Fried Chicken	Roast Chicken	Pork Meatballs	Bacon Slice	Fish	Salad Bar Jacket Potatoes Jelly Yoghurt Cut Fruit
Meatfree	Leek and Cabbage Slice	Veg Sausage	Macaroni Cheese	Veg Slice	Veg Burger	
And to go with	Wedges, Coleslaw	Roast Potato, Carrots, Swede	Cous Cous, Veg of the Day	Mixed Veg, Corn on the Cob	Peas Beans Oven Baked Wedges	
Pudding	Chocolate Brownie	Bread and Butter Pudding	Cream Caramel	Cheesecake	Jelly, Yoghurt, Fresh Fruit	



* exact menu subject to change

** fresh fruit, yoghurts and jelly also available daily

*** Boys choose their menu during their Group Meetings.

The Catering Team order the fresh ingredients each week and the boys prepare their evening meal with the help of their residential PALS