

# SUNNYDOWN SCHOOL

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Headteacher Mr Paul Jensen B.Ed Grad Dip (SEBD) NPQH



## Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Dear all who are associated with Sunnydown

Our annual Remembrance assembly was held today in drizzling conditions. The young men and staff were impeccable in paying their respects, feeling just five minutes of cold and damp discomfort as we paid our respects to men and women who have fought for our freedoms. The Order of Service is below. We were welcomed by Mr Glen O'Dwyer and had a live and moving rendition of The Last Post and the Reveille either side of two minutes silence.

**Welcome– Headteacher, Mr Jensen**

**Planting of Poppies– School Council**

**Readings:**

**In Flanders Fields** read by Alex Hennessy

**Thoughts to guide us** read by Freddie Ponsford

**Laying of the wreaths - Mr Jensen, students in uniform**

**Exhortation - George Whatling**

They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them.

**The last post.**

**Two minutes silence**

**Reading from the Bible - Alexander Neale**

**The Kohima Epitaph - Lucas Abrams**

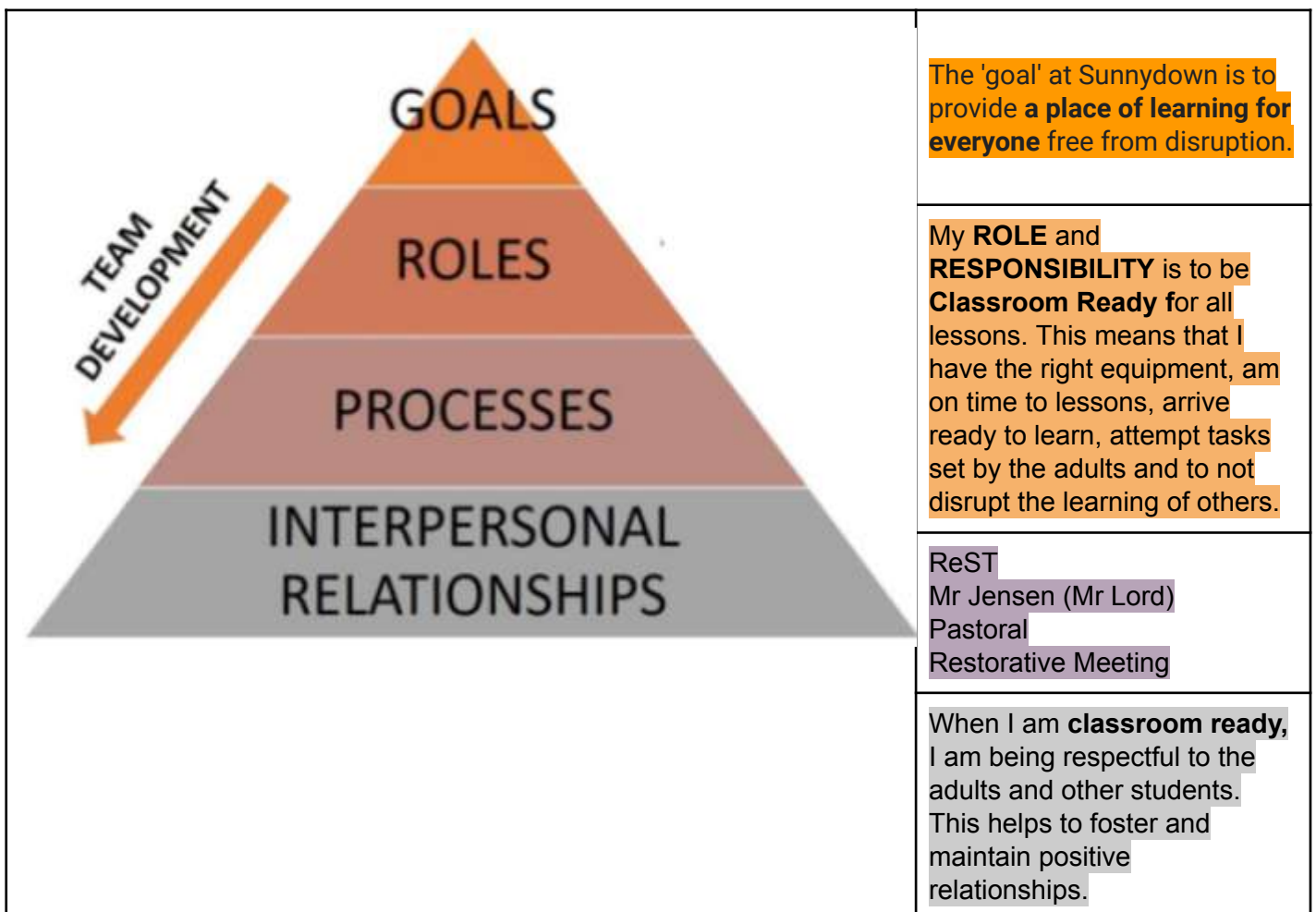
**Mr Jensen**



Movember is the advertising slogan for raising awareness regarding Men’s health during November. The push up challenge continues to gain momentum with many KS3 students, in particular Year 7s and 8s, joining in. On Thursday, 1,000 push ups were completed in total. That is an average of just over 100 in a day! A long way to go to be able to do 1,000 in a day - but through this initiative, we are discussing men's health and raising awareness. Please encourage your son to join me every lunch time in the gym as we move towards that huge milestone.

I take this opportunity to remind all students, staff and families that one of our aims or goals at Sunnydown is to provide lessons that are free from disruption. Staff have a responsibility to teach quality lessons and this is monitored regularly. However, students also have a role and responsibility which can be summarised as arriving at and being in lessons, ‘**classroom ready.**’ This means that they have the right equipment and are calm, engaged in the learning offered. When disruptive, and hence not classroom ready, students may be offered a ReST but these are short intervals out of the class to refocus. In some circumstances, the support of the Pastoral team, or even Mr Lord and Mr Jensen is required. Your support in encouraging your son to undertake his role which is to arrive at lessons ‘classroom ready’ is appreciated. I attach a diagram below which demonstrates this.

## Aligning our Roles and responsibilities to the Goals of Sunnydown



## Art visitor

The Year 10 Art GCSE class had a great opportunity this week to meet a young graphic designer - Paige Misteli, who designed Messi's football boot, the football for the women's England team and is about to begin her first job as the graphic designer for Arsenal!

We had an inspiring session where the students designed their own football. Well done to all the boys for their respect, maturity and concentration throughout the session.



**Mrs Ogle**

## Anti-Bullying Week - Odd Socks Day (Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023)

Just a reminder to wear your odd socks on Monday for Anti-Bullying Week.



## Children in Need 2023 at Sunnydown School



We are still in need of gifts for our lucky dip. Please keep bringing them in so we can donate money to Children in Need and transform their lives.

At breaktime on **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2023**, a Lucky Dip will be taking place. Each lucky dip will cost 50p.

We need new gifts from students' families. Please ask at home for any small gifts we can use in our lucky dip. We would like to collect at least 91 gifts so all students can have a go and win a gift.

If you are bringing in any gifts, make sure to take it to F2 and give it to Mrs Jensen as all the gifts will be wrapped in the morning there.

Unfortunately, hundreds of thousands of children in the UK alone have disabilities. This is where Children in Need step in. They support the disabled children and mitigate their disabilities as much as possible. The money raised can transform and sometimes even save lives. If it wasn't for them, there would be so much more unnecessary suffering. The success of Children in Need is only made possible by money donations given across millions in the UK. Our donations make crucial differences in the way struggling children live their lives.

Thank you in advance for your support in helping students at Sunnydown School appreciate how fortunate we are, and how we can help others less fortunate.

From Lucas Abrams

## Family Voice Surrey Autumn Survey on Home to School Transport



Speaking up for the families of children & young people with additional needs in Surrey

Just a couple of days left to respond to our Family Voice annual Autumn Survey on Home to School Transport!

Last year all of our Home to School Transport Survey recommendations were endorsed by the Children, Families, Lifelong Learning and Culture Select Committee. The committee enthusiastically welcomed our report and one of their recommendations was that this survey be repeated again this year to track progress. The findings of this survey will be presented to the Select Committee later this year.

As an example of positive change, our report recommended that parents taking up travel allowance are reimbursed for all 4 legs of the school journey rather than only when the child/young person is in the car. This change came into force in January 2023.

Your voice makes a difference!

So, if you live in Surrey and use Home to School Travel Assistance of any form, please do complete our survey - positive experiences are just as important to evidence as negative.

<https://familyvoicesurrey.org/2023/10/13/1167/>

### Online Safety

Please see the flyer at the end of this newsletter - 'What Parents and Carers Need to Know about Microtransactions.'

### Attendance

Congratulations to 8C and 7C for achieving 100% attendance during the week ending 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

### Achievement

Well done to Frankie McSorley for achieving his yellow belt. Great achievement!



## Practice Exams

Just a reminder that practice exams start on 4<sup>th</sup> December over a 2 week period. A full timetable will be published in coming weeks. These practice exams are designed to prepare students for the experience of the actual GCSE exams as opposed to being an indicator of academic progress or predicted grades.

**Mr Lord**

## 1/12/23 Coffee Morning: SCC Councillor Cameron McIntosh72100



Speaking up for the families of children & young people with additional needs in Surrey

Parent carers are invited to join Family Voice Surrey Tandridge Coordinator Gretta Schifano for a cuppa and a chat at the British Red Cross Hall in Oxted\* on Friday December 1st from 10.00am – 12.00pm. Oxted's Surrey County Councillor Cameron McIntosh is also joining this session, so if you'd like to talk to him about your experiences as a parent carer, do come along. Email [gretta.s@familyvoicesurrey.org](mailto:gretta.s@familyvoicesurrey.org) for details.

\*The British Red Cross Hall is opposite the entrance to Tandridge Leisure Centre, behind Morrisons. The address is Hoskins Rd, Oxted, RH8 9HT.

This event is free for Surrey parent carers. Family Voice Surrey speaks up for the families of children & young people with additional needs in Surrey. FVS website: <https://www.familyvoicesurrey.org/>

## Upcoming Science Assessments

Year 8 – Energy costs and energy transfers: 15<sup>th</sup> November. Students can revise using the PowerPoints on Google Classroom and BBC Bitesize.

## Friends of Sunnydown

### **Dates for your diary:**

The countdown is on to our first **Family Quiz Night** of the school year - bring the whole family for a night of fun and food at our family quiz night on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November, 6.30pm arrival for a 7.00pm start. Tickets are £12 for adults and £6 for children (under 12) and includes fish and chips and lots of fun. Bring your own drinks and nibbles. Book your tickets here:

<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/sunnydownevents>

or contact [friends@sunnydown.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:friends@sunnydown.surrey.sch.uk) for more information, or complete the attached form return to the office.

**Donation Days** - Do you have any unwanted gifts and or wrapped sweets/chocolate that you could re-gift/donate? We are holding donation days on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December and Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December at school ahead of the boys Christmas shopping day and would gratefully receive any good condition and unwanted gifts which can be suitable for women, men or children and sweet treats for the tombola.

**Christmas raffle tickets** will be coming home next week. If you own a small business or know someone who does and you would be happy to donate a raffle prize please could you email: [friends@sunnydown.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:friends@sunnydown.surrey.sch.uk)  
Thank you so much for your continued support.

**Pet of the Week**

Mrs Cole has sent in these super cute photos of her black cat ‘Troy’ who is twin to ‘Tilly’ who are both 18.



**Mrs Peterson**

|                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b><u>Thought for the Week</u></b><br/><b>(W/C 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023)</b></p> <p>Remembrance<br/>Remembering those lost</p> | <p><b><u>Thought for the Week</u></b><br/><b>(W/C 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023)</b></p> <p>Anti-Bullying Week</p> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

|                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b><u>Sportsmanship Award</u></b></p> <p><b>Nathan Small</b><br/><b>(10D)</b></p> | <p><b><u>Employability Skills Award</u></b></p> <p><b>Jonathan Edwards</b><br/><b>(9O)</b></p> <p>For his ability to learn and adapt</p> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

|                                                            |
|------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b><u>Baton Award</u></b></p> <p>Alexander Hennessy</p> |
|------------------------------------------------------------|

| <u>Mathematician of the Week</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <u>Scientist of the Week</u>                                                                                                                                                | <u>Musician of the Week</u>                                                                                                                                          | <u>Artist of the Week</u>                                                                                                                                   | <u>Chef of the Week</u>                                                                                                                                      | <u>Writer of the Week</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>The recipient of Mathematician of the Week, awarded by Mrs Webb is</p> <p><b>Freddie Ponsford (8W)</b></p> <p><i>For a magnificent effort with his maths homework</i></p> <p>&amp;</p> <p><b>Noah Atkins (8W)</b></p> <p><i>For working hard in maths</i></p> | <p>The recipient of Scientist of the Week, awarded by Mr Cybuch is</p> <p><b>Alfie Tharle (9O)</b></p> <p><i>For his resilience, cooperation &amp; independent work</i></p> | <p>The recipient of Musician of the Week, awarded by Mr Smith is</p> <p><b>Hayden Howells (7P)</b></p> <p><i>For his resilience, perseverance &amp; progress</i></p> | <p>The recipient of Artist of the Week, awarded by Mrs Ogle is</p> <p><b>Arthur Edmondson (7P)</b></p> <p><i>For his fantastic anti bullying poster</i></p> | <p>The recipient of Chef of the Week, awarded by Mrs Hull is</p> <p><b>Max Gibbins (10T)</b></p> <p><i>For this consistent effort &amp; independence</i></p> | <p>The recipient of Writer of the Week awarded by Mrs Wermig is</p> <p><b>KS3</b></p> <p><b>Sam Walsh (7C)</b></p> <p><i>For his excellent active learning &amp; self reflection on his myth</i></p> <p>&amp; awarded by Ms Newcombe is</p> <p><b>KS4</b></p> <p><b>Toby Chapman (10D)</b></p> <p><i>For his brilliant inference skills to answer GCSE questions</i></p> |

| <b>House Points</b> |                  |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Felix Drummond      | 800 House Points |
| Andrew Hendry-Smith | 750 House Points |
| Taylor Conway       | 650 House Points |
| Harry Franklin      | 600 House Points |
| Charlie McSorley    | 600 House Points |



|                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Harry Vaughan      | 550 House Points |
| Jayden Peters      | 500 House Points |
| Freddie Dunne      | 350 House Points |
| Callum Dowie       | 300 House Points |
| Milo Baker         | 50 House Points  |
| Daniel Leonard     | 50 House Points  |
| Jacob Napier       | 50 House Points  |
| Jacob Ryan         | 50 House Points  |
| Alexander Thompson | 50 House Points  |

### Forthcoming Events 2023

| <b>Date</b>                                                        | <b>Description</b>                           |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> November                                | Year 9 Parents Evening                       |
| Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> November                                   | Children in Need                             |
| Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> November                                   | KS3 Dodgeball - Guildford Spectrum           |
| Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> November - Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> December | Year 11 Annual Review meetings               |
| Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> November                                   | Friends of Sunnydown Quiz Night              |
| Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> November                                 | KS4 Dodgeball - Guildford Spectrum           |
| Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> December                                    | FoS Donation Day                             |
| Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> December                                    | Performance at the Arc - The Return of Jafar |
| Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> December                                    | FoS Donation Day                             |
| Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> December                                 | Reports sent home                            |
| Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> December                                 | Christmas Shopping Day 🌲                     |
| Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> December                                 | Christmas lunch 🌲                            |
| Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> December                                   | End of term 1.20pm finish                    |
| Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> June 2024                                | Scheduled formal graduation event 🎓          |

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about MICROTRANSACTIONS

Microtransactions (often abbreviated as "MTX") are digital purchases made within an app or game to unlock extra features or additional content such as new levels. A popular sub-set of these are loot boxes, which contain a selection (usually random) of virtual items: from character skins to game-changing equipment like better weapons. Microtransactions (and loot boxes in particular) are now widespread in apps and games, but concerns persist that they normalise gambling and can foster addictive behaviours – especially among younger players.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### GATEWAY TO GAMBLING?

Microtransactions have been criticised for promoting gambling-adjacent behaviour in children. Research has also suggested that exposure to the loot box system could affect the likelihood of a young person suffering gambling harms later in life: children who purchased or used loot boxes in the last 12 months were found to be more likely to have gambled during the same period, as well.

### ADDICTIVE NATURE

Microtransactions (and loot boxes especially) could lead to young people displaying compulsive behaviours. Loot boxes are designed to be addictive, and the sought-after prizes they contain are dispensed at random. This means that young gamers might not get what they want straight away, causing them to spend more money as well as additional time gaming.

### PAYING TO WIN

In many popular games (the FIFA series being a notable example), microtransactions make it far easier to succeed – which is a concern because children can often find it difficult to keep track of their spending. Once a child starts making in-game purchases, they may continue buying to keep up with their friends and other players – sometimes without recognising the mounting real-world cost.

## EXCLUSIVE CONTENT

### DATA COLLECTION

To allow a young person to complete microtransactions, many app and game developers collect personal data such as their name, address, email, geolocation information, photos, payment details and so on. Even if this data remains secure (which is by no means guaranteed), there's always the chance that it will be sold – and possibly sold on to third parties – for marketing purposes.

### AFFECTING DAILY ROUTINE

Online games tend to revolve around repeated loops of activity that can affect purchasing decisions and potentially influence children's spending patterns. This could lead to your child not only handing over more money but also adjusting their daily routine to match the game's schedule – potentially impacting more important elements of their day, such as homework and family time.

### SATELLITE SPENDING

If you've linked a payment method like a debit card or a PayPal account to your child's game or app, it's wise to keep a close eye on their microtransactions to ensure they aren't racking up a large bill. Letting a child have access to your card (if they're still too young to have their own) or other means of payment could also lead to them spending beyond the apps and games they normally use.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### DO YOUR RESEARCH

It's important to have a serviceable idea of whether the games your child plays use the loot box system (even if it goes by a different name) or include the option of buying items, equipment and so forth. If so, it's crucial to help your child understand that this costs actual money, and that they shouldn't feel pressured into making any purchases.

### CHAT ABOUT 'CHANCE'

It may help to explain to your child that many microtransactions involve an element of chance: they could pay money and still not get what they want in return. Emphasise that – while not usually costing much individually – these in-app and in-game purchases can soon add up. Talk to your child about how spending their money in a game or app means they have less to use in the real world.

### (GIFT) CARDS ON THE TABLE

Investing in an in-game currency gift card can be a useful way of helping your child get to grips with budgeting. If you buy, say, a £10 V-bucks Fortnite gift card, monitor how long it takes them to spend it. When they come to you asking for more, you could make it the starting point for a conversation about how quickly that money went and how they could earn their next gift card.

### STOP SPENDING AT SOURCE

You might decide that the wisest strategy is to remove the potential for spending money on microtransactions. If so, most games, apps and devices have options in their settings to help you manage what your child can spend – or to disable that function altogether, preventing them from buying additional items for their games or boosted functionality for certain apps.

### WATCH FOR THE SIGNS

If you're worried that your child's passion for a particular game or app may tempt them into habitual spending on microtransactions, it's important to remember the indicators of addictive behaviour. Irritability, a lack of concentration and prioritising recreational screen time ahead of homework or mealtimes could all be signs that you need to have a conversation about a more balanced routine.

## Meet Our Expert

Carly Pogue is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of *tech tabloid The Inquirer*, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



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#WakeUpWednesday

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# INDIVIDUAL MUSIC LESSONS AT SUNNYDOWN SCHOOL

Lessons include:

**KEYBOARD** **GUITAR**  
**DRUM KIT**

Online registration:

**[bit.ly/SA-SpeedAdmin](https://bit.ly/SA-SpeedAdmin)**

Contact Surrey Arts for more information

T: 01483 519303

E: [surreyartsmusic@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:surreyartsmusic@surreycc.gov.uk)



Discover more at:

**[surreycc.gov.uk/music](https://surreycc.gov.uk/music)**

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