



Friday 13th November 2020

Dear all who are associated with Sunnydown,

Our first full week of the second lockdown and I can only report how impressed I am with staff and students alike. Because of the comprehensive plans already in place, the only major change to school was the request for staff and students to wear masks in the communal area near the dining hall and entrance to the office, up the stairs to the Year 11 home rooms. Some of the mask designs have certainly brought a smile to my face as well. As we continue to navigate our way through the lockdown, please do continue to look out for one another, following the guidance which we are all accustomed to now.

On watching the BBC news on Thursday and seeing Rishi Sunak (UK Chancellor of the Exchequer) light diya (earthen lamps) I did some reading to remind myself of the traditions of Diwali. In the UK, we promote British values, one of which is mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs, and for those without faith.

*A BBC article says that 'Diwali is the five-day festival of lights, celebrated by millions of Hindus, Sikhs and Jains across the world. Diwali, which for some also coincides with harvest and new year celebrations, is a festival of new beginnings and the triumph of good over evil, and light over darkness. The festival is usually some time between October and November, with the date changing each year. In 2020 it begins on Thursday 12th November and lasts for five days, with the main day of celebrations taking place on Saturday 14th November. The word Diwali comes from the Sanskrit word deepavali, meaning 'rows of lighted lamps'. Houses, shops and public places are decorated with small oil lamps called diyas. People also enjoy fireworks and sweets too, so it's really popular with children.'*

Those who celebrate Diwali face Covid-19 restrictions this year but the BBC has several articles outlining how the festivities are being adapted. To all who do celebrate Diwali, may your life be as colourful, shimmering and magical as the lights of Diwali.

Our whole school act of remembrance was captured this year by Mr Derrig-Adams. He has developed a 5 minute video which we will upload to our school YouTube account for all to view. Several young men wore their respective service or club uniforms and helped lay wreaths, others read and we again planted poppies. And of course, we reflected during the Last Post and subsequent 2 minutes silence. The opportunity to pay our respects and reflect on lives impacted by conflict as a whole school provided us with a moving ceremony, captured so eloquently in the video. Please do take a moment to view it over the weekend.

**We will remember them.**



On a weekly basis, Monday afternoon sees the Senior Leadership Team meet. Since March these meetings have predominantly been online. On Monday this week, however, I invited middle managers as well and we took the opportunity of meeting face to face in person, socially distanced of course. The gathering had a completely different feel to it - the interactions were human and real, warm and engaging. As we reflected on the benefits of such a gathering, we also recognised that though our students are meeting their classmates daily, we are not gathering as a school nor even as year level groups. Such interactions are crucial in maintaining societal structures and norms, our development and for our wellbeing.

As a result, on Monday 16th November during form time, Year 7 will assemble in the hall for a year level meeting with myself. We will discuss school expectations, Covid Developments, world news and just have a conversation. This will be extended to the other year groups in subsequent weeks.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Paul Jensen

### **Greenhouse T-Shirts**

I asked Greenhouse to send T-shirts through so I could distribute them amongst the students who I felt best represented the school's, and Greenhouse's, values of resilience, leadership, teamwork and cooperation. I will be distributing them throughout the term. I couldn't be prouder to give the first out to Liam. He is a young man I have seen develop so much in maturity in the short time I have been here. He has developed his resilience and I have found him to be consistently helpful and cooperative. Well done Liam and keep up the good work.



Mr Odia

## **Friday Food Experience**

Over the next 4 weeks, pupils in Years 8 & 9 will be working on their individual Christmas cakes. We would normally be visiting a local sugarcraft shop to purchase our cake decorations but due to the current lockdown restrictions the shop is not open. We had anticipated this happening, so the owner of the shop very kindly allowed me to collect a selection of decorations for us to sell at school.

During the Friday Food Experience we will be setting up a shop in class and the boys will have the opportunity to purchase their decorations. They will each have a limit of £3 to spend.

Please do not send in any money at this stage. We will advise you of the exact amount your son spends after their session and ask you to contribute this amount to the school fund. Once the cakes are completed at the end of term, your son will bring the cake home fully decorated with the chosen decorations, which will be yours to keep and use again.

**Mrs Hull**

## **Practice Exams**

I spoke to the boys in Year 11 this week about their practice exams, which will take place in the last 2 weeks of this term. Staff have been preparing the boys for these over the last few weeks and will continue to do so in the run up to them.

The practice exams here at Sunnydown are designed primarily to allow the boys to practice the process. This involves making sure those boys who have access to a scribe get the opportunity to work with their support, making sure the boys know what they need to take into the exams, planning their time, learning exam rules and realising that they are well supported throughout. This is not a process about getting predicted grades, however, it will of course give some insight into how the boys are progressing.

The boys may wish to do some preparation in the coming weeks and if they need some support in this regard, can I suggest that they/you contact the subject teacher. In the meantime if you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Mr Lord**

## **E-Safety**

As a part of our regular E-safety updates we are sharing some advice around the use of the newer Xbox consoles (see the end of this newsletter). This advice is to ensure that everyone is aware of the potential dangers of using consoles and what we all can do to ensure the young men are safe at all times.

**Mr Cybuch & Mr Cassim**



## **SMSC**

Here at Sunnydown we like to support as many charities as we can. Happy Days charity have donated some wonderful activities to the boys here at school such as a theatre trip to see The Lion King.

Due to the pandemic charities are struggling financially at the moment. Happy Days charity have asked Sunnydown to support them through the festive season. Shopping through **Amazon Smile**, it costs no extra to you but everytime you shop, Happy Days can get a small donation: <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/>

You can support them through the **Give as you Live** website where you can shop in lots of different shops including: Argos, Ebay, Pets at Home and many, many more. It's very easy to sign up, just visit: <https://www.giveasyoulive.com/join/happydays> and put in your details to start shopping. Thank you for your support with this.

## **Next week it is Anti Bullying Week**

On **Wednesday 18th November** the theme for anti bullying is **Odd Socks Day**! If the boys and staff would like to help raise awareness of this then we would love to see them in odd socks on Wednesday!

Thank you.

**Miss Drake**

## **100% Attendance**

Congratulations to 11C and 9P for achieving 100% attendance for w/e 6th November 2020.

Certificates for 100% attendance during the first half of the Autumn Term were also handed out today. 47% of our school cohort received one of these certificates which is an amazing achievement. Congratulations!

## **Boarding News**

The takeaway and quiz evenings were a great success this week. Everyone enjoyed a burger or pizza and the boys all did better than the staff in the quiz, but fun was had by all! We also managed to squeeze in lots of football, wide games and cooking. Have a lovely weekend.

**The Care Team**



### Thought for THIS week was: Remembrance Day

Here is 7D's summary of this week's thought for the week.



### Thought for NEXT week: Anti-Bullying Week

Next week's Thought for the Week is 'Anti-Bullying' to coincide with National Anti-Bullying Week which runs from Monday 16th November to Friday 20th November. We will be focusing on:

- \*How the person affected might be feeling,
- \*What roles people can play when someone is being bullied,
- \*What we can do to prevent bullying from happening.

Here at Sunnysdown we share the message from the National Anti-bullying Alliance that as a school we are 'United Against Bullying'.



Mr Cybuch



### **Science guess the picture competition**

Picture of the week is shown below. Last week's answer was a Blob Fish. The winners for this week are Max Gibbins, Varen Estwick and Ben Tushingham who will all receive their prizes in tutor time on Monday.



**Mr Djehiche**

### **Friends of Sunnydown**

The Friends of Sunnydown are very excited to join the Big PTA Raffle 2020! We usually run a raffle at this time of year to win various prizes, but this year if you join the PTA raffle you will have a chance of winning up to £5,000! This is a fantastic opportunity to end 2020 with a windfall, so get your tickets now. For every ticket bought (just £3 a ticket), you will have one entry into 12 draws, which will run daily from 7th-18th December. The more tickets you buy, the greater your chance of winning. 50% of every ticket sold will support our PTA, so don't forget to select the Sunnydown PTA at checkout. The funds raised will directly benefit all of our boys at Sunnydown - we are currently fundraising for a new 3D printer for the boys to use in DT and a new minibus. You can find all details on the following website: <https://www.bigptaraffle.co.uk/support/sunnydown-school-cr3>.

A very special event is being planned at Sunnydown for the boys to celebrate the festive season this year. In the absence of the traditional shopping and fete event which usually takes place (sadly because of current restrictions, we are unable to go ahead), we are planning some exciting activities for the boys to enjoy in their bubbles! This will include a 'guess the number of sweets in the jar' competition, a selection box gift for each boy and other fun activities. And, as an extra special treat, we may even be able to arrange for it to snow on the day this year! So that we can truly make it a day to remember, this year a donation towards this amazing event would be very much appreciated. Details of how to contribute can be found on this site: <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/sunnydownevents>.

You are also able to donate to the Teachers Fund on the same site. We are sure you will agree that they have helped and supported the boys through an incredibly challenging year and it would be fantastic to thank them for all of their efforts. Thank you.

**Melanie Bridges**  
**[friends@sunnydown.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:friends@sunnydown.surrey.sch.uk)**



### Word of the Week

**Deciduous (adjective)** – please see end of newsletter (w/c 16th November 2020).

**Mrs Herring**

### Chef of the Week

The recipient of Chef of the Week, awarded by Mrs Hull is Alex Hennessy (8M).



## KS3 Friday Curriculum - 20th November 2020

Class	Activity	On/Off site	Activity
7D	Performing Arts	On site	Work with Pro Corda Music - School Uniform
7T	Performing Arts	On site	Work with Pro Corda Music - School Uniform
8C	OOA	On site	Cycling and climbing activities on site - Arrive in school uniform with a change of clothes.
8M	RICE Challenge	On site	
9J	School Project	On site	School uniform
9P	Food Experience	On site	Christmas decorations - school uniform

### House Points

Certificates and prizes for earning House Points last week went to:

Callum Lagan	200 House Points
Jamie Rogers	200 House Points
Ryan Gellett	250 House Points
Mason-Ray Hayden	300 House Points
Cam'ron Pindi	300 House Points

These were handed out on Monday 9th November.

Certificates and prizes for earning House Points this week go to:

Varen Estwick	150 House Points
Oscar Stewart	200 House Points
George Hodgson	400 House Points

The weekly top scorers are detailed below:

KS3	Burntwood	Taylor Conway
	Buxton	Edward Gair
	Portley	Teddy Foster
	Whyteleafe	Logan East
KS4	Burntwood	David Daruval
	Buxton	Daniel Linney
	Portley	Miles Eliatamby/Joe Harley/Cameron Castle
	Whyteleafe	Mason-Ray Hayden/Max Thwaites



Word of the week w/c 16th November 2020

# Deciduous

adjective

A tree or shrub that loses its leaves in the Autumn

Sunnydown's cherry tree is deciduous. Its leaves will grow again in Spring.



This tree is deciduous.

what's the  
opposite of  
deciduous?



enduring, lasting, long-lived,  
permanent, perpetual, undying,  
evergreen, everlasting, lengthy,  
long



thesaurus.plus



These trees are evergreens.

# What parents & carers need to know about... XBOX SERIES X|S

The Xbox Series X and Series S are the next-generation video game consoles from Microsoft. They offer improved graphics, sounds and much quicker loading times. Parents should note that the two versions available are quite different.

## Safely Setting up Your Xbox Series X / S

### Xbox Series X

Xbox Series X is a larger device, with a disc drive, twice as much storage and higher performance chips. It can play the new Xbox games at the highest resolution and with the best visuals. It enables you to run games from disc or digitally.

### Xbox Series S

Xbox Series S is a smaller, disc-less version of the console which plays all the new games but with reduced visuals or possibly frame-rates. Because it doesn't support discs you can't play old games from discs and must purchase new games digitally. It also has smaller storage, offering 500GB which is about half that of the Xbox Series X.

### Apply Family Settings

Both Xbox models offer important family controls that should be set-up before your family starts using the system. Although this can take a little time, it ensures that children have their own account and sets limits on spending, interactions and age ratings of skins correctly. Children cannot circumvent these controls that require the parent's password to alter.

### Setting Age-Ratings

You can set a limit that stops any older rated games being played without a password being entered. This is not only a good way to ensure children are playing appropriate content but it is a good reminder to talk about the games they are playing.

### Managing Spending

You can set a limit on spending via the family settings. This means that any additional purchase requires your password. Another alternative is not to put credit card details into your account and instead add credit as they need it using the break-it-down-like-cash-in-store or online.

### Managing Online Interactions

Another important area of the Family Settings is specifying how and who your child can interact with online. Modern consoles enable players to share text, voice, images and video with each other. You can set whether they can do this, and also apply a password before they can add new friends.

### Setting Limits on Play-Time

You can specify the time of day and how long the console can be used to play without needing a password. Talk to your children and agree how long is appropriate. Then set this together so it's something they understand and accept. On the Xbox Series X|S you can also limit time on a particular game, which is a good way to encourage children to play a wide range of experiences.

### Creating Guest Account Password

An important step in the Xbox Series X|S set-up is specifying a password for your own account and a password to access the Guest account. This ensures that all users need to access the system with their own account and related limits and settings.

### Game Subscriptions

In addition to buying individual games digitally or in-store, you can also subscribe to services that offer access to 100's of games for a monthly fee. Xbox Game Pass is often bundled with the Xbox Gold subscription you need for playing online. Most of the bigger Xbox games are provided as part of the service, as well as a wide range of independent games that offer other educational and wellbeing-based experiences.

## Types of Accounts

### Set-Up Parent Accounts

Setting up a parent's account is important so you can manage the console for your family. After downloading the Xbox app to old set-up, connect to the Internet and while the console updates, use the app to start specifying settings. Once updated, create a parent user account with an email address you regularly check and password specified.

### Set-Up Child Accounts

Setting up child accounts are important to be able to limit play-time, spending and apply age ratings automatically. Separate accounts for each child user can be set-up. It's a good idea to specify a password for the guest account so children cannot access this also. You can also download the Xbox Family Settings app to help you adjust these settings in the future without having to access the console directly.

### Meet our expert

Freelance family technology expert for the BBC, Andy runs the Family Gamer TV YouTube channel and contributes to a range of national media on the topic of video-games and family.



**National Online Safety**  
#WakeUpWednesday

[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) Twitter - @natonlinesafety Facebook - /NationalOnlineSafety Instagram - @nationalonlinesafety

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