

# Serenity School Coulsdon – Autumn Term Newsletter

From Olivier Curcio, Headteacher



## A Season of Games and Discovery

We're thrilled to announce that **Big Potato Games** has donated a fantastic selection of board games to Serenity School! These games are already bringing joy and collaboration to our classrooms, helping students develop social skills, strategic thinking, and creativity.



**Big Potato Games Logo:** Playful and fun branding

We also received a **GraviTrax Action Set** from **Ravensburger**—a STEM-based marble run system that encourages students to explore gravity, engineering, and design through play. The set includes printed instructions and endless possibilities for imaginative construction.



**GraviTrax Action Set by Ravensburger** – STEM-based marble run system

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## New After-School Club: Fencing

This term, Serenity School is excited to launch a brand-new after-school club: **Fencing lessons!** Led by experienced coaches, students have embraced this dynamic sport with enthusiasm, learning not only physical skills but also the discipline and respect that fencing demands.

From mastering footwork to developing strategic thinking, pupils are thriving in a supportive environment that encourages confidence, focus, and teamwork. It's been a joy to watch them challenge themselves, cheer each other on, and grow week by week.

Fencing blends fitness, coordination, and tactical decision-making—and our students are proving to be naturals. We look forward to seeing their progress as the club continues to flourish.



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## Investor in Me Programme

All students are now enrolled in **Investor in Me**, setting personal goals at one of three levels:

- **Gold – £250**
- **Silver – £150**
- **Bronze – £50**

Please discuss prize choices with your child. Once selected, we'll share their choice with you.



## Residential Trip

Gold achievers attended from **Monday 8th to Wednesday 10th September**, departing at 10am and returning by 2:30pm. Activities included raft building, high ropes, archery, canoeing, and a celebratory disco.

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## Flu Immunisation Update

Thank you to all families for supporting our **flu immunisation session on 19 September**. All students were successfully immunised, and the **social story** shared with parents helped many children feel prepared and calm.

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## Fire Drill Success

Our recent fire drill on **23 September** was a great success:

- Students lined up promptly and calmly
- Registers were accurate—no students missing
- All staff and students were in position within **2 minutes**

Thank you for helping us maintain high safety standards.

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## Humanitarian Education Pilot

We are proud to be part of the **Red Cross Humanitarian Education Programme** pilot. Feedback from our students and staff is helping shape this national initiative.

Thank you to **Olivia Young** and the testing team for their ongoing collaboration.

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## Financial Education with HSBC

We are excited to welcome staff from **HSBC** to deliver engaging financial education sessions, including the popular **giant debit card activity**. These sessions support our students in developing smart money skills and align with the **Duke of Edinburgh Bronze and Silver awards**.

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## **Parent Consultation: RSHE Curriculum Update**

We are pleased to share highlights from our recent parent consultation evening, held on Thursday 2nd October, where we introduced proposed updates to our Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) curriculum. These changes are planned to take effect from September 2025 and reflect our ongoing commitment to delivering a relevant, safe, and inclusive education for all students.

 The updated RSHE curriculum will focus on equipping students with the tools they need to stay safe, make informed choices, and thrive. Key topics include:

- Online safety and harmful digital trends
- Deepfakes and manipulated content
- Strangulation and coercive control
- Misogyny and gender-based discrimination
- Incel ideology and radicalisation risks
- Suicide prevention strategies
- Mental health awareness and support

These areas have been identified as urgent priorities by OFSTED, the Department for Education, and safeguarding professionals. While sensitive, they are essential to helping young people navigate the realities of both online and offline life.





## Attendance Update

Here's how our tutor groups are doing this term:

**Let's keep up the fantastic attendance!**

| Tutor Group | Attendance % |
|-------------|--------------|
| Chestnut    | 100.00%      |
| Cedar       | 99.00%       |
| Rowan       | 98.00%       |
| Sapling     | 97.30%       |
| Willow      | 96.30%       |
| Walnut      | 96.40%       |
| Pine        | 96.00%       |
| Oak         | 95.00%       |
| Maple       | 93.70%       |
| Elm         | 91.40%       |
| Olive       | 90.00%       |
| Sycamore    | 89.40%       |



## Greetings from Rowan Class

Rowan Class has had a busy and joyful start to the year! Highlights include:

- **Communication & Literacy:** Practising short interactions and comic effects through facial expressions and storytelling.
- **World About Me:** Exploring seasonal changes and occupations through videos and artwork.
- **Art:** Experimenting with materials and colours—impressive results all around!
- **Thinking & Problem Solving:** Working with numbers, shapes, and basic operations.
- **Independence-Cooking:** Preparing fruit salads, stuffed tomatoes, and fajita wraps.
- **PE:** Enjoying gym hall games and classroom bowling.
- **Music & Dance:** Exploring instruments, rhythm, and movement through clapping and foot stomping.

## Greetings Elm Class Newsletter

- **Football Fever:** Tyrese B, Hamza A, Declan H, and Osirus M play competitive matches daily—school council reps Tyrese and Joshua A are even planning a tournament!
  - **Poetry in ASDAN:** Ralph R wrote about playing drums at church, Marija K about horses, Tyrese and Hamza about Arsenal FC, Declan about boxing, Jacob N about computers, and Joshua A about friendship.
  - **Wellbeing Initiatives:** Promoted by Joshua A—spa treatments and relaxation days for staff and students.
  - **Daily Achievements:** Students are gaining reward points and confidently asking for help when needed.
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## Student Spotlights

### 1. Rehan

**Activity:** Sentence Scrambling

**Purpose:** Enhances grammar, comprehension, and confidence in reading and writing.

### 2. Scott

**Activity:** Building a Classroom with LEGO

**Purpose:** Supports creativity, fine motor skills, and understanding of routines.

### 3. Hamzah

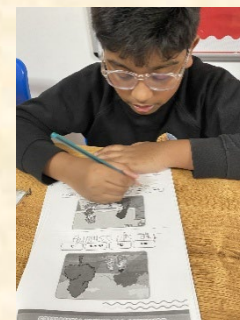
**Activity:** Roleplay & Cooking

**Purpose:** Builds independence, hygiene routines, and practical life skills.

### 4. Emmy

**Activity:** Using Wet Media

**Purpose:** Explores mark-making and pattern creation. Emmy created two stunning A3 pieces using self-shaped tools—excellent effort!



**Term Dates 2025 to 2026**

**Term time: Thursday 4th September to Thursday 16th October**

Inset Day – Friday 17th October

Half-term holiday: Monday 20th October to Friday 31st October.

