



Weekly Newsletter

Friday 17th September 2021

Governing Body News

A huge welcome back to everyone at school, we hope that you had a great summer break. We held our first full governor meeting of the new academic year on Tuesday 14th September and were pleased to hear that everyone has returned to the school with a high level of enthusiasm. There has also been lots of positive feedback about the new catering arrangements with children enjoying fresh food and an improved dining experience.

We also welcomed Tom Shedden as our new Co-Opted Governor. Tom is a History teacher at Lord Wandsworth College, where he is currently also a Houseparent, running a senior boys' boarding house of around 80 boys aged 11-18. A keen sportsman, he coaches senior rugby and cricket teams and plays a wide range of sports. Tom has two daughters; both educated locally and is currently completing a Masters in Pastoral Leadership. We look forward to the skills and experience that Tom will bring to the Governing Body.

With regards to the structure of the Governing Board, following the departure of Teri Viney and Darren Myles, the Governors have appointed me as Chair and Chris Bass as Vice Chair. A massive thank you to Teri and Darren for their significant contribution to the school over many years. There are currently 3 Governor vacancies of which one is for a Parent Governor. Therefore, we will be holding a Parent Election during the Autumn term so look out for further communication on this in the coming few weeks. If you are interested in the role one of the current Governors will be more than pleased to discuss the key aspects of the position.

Gareth Evans

Chair of Governors

Parking during drop off and collection

We hope that you are finding the return to one drop off and collection time convenient. With a higher concentration of visitors to the school, parking spaces in the Community Centre car park are in higher demand. The Community Centre car park is a shared space that can be used by parents and also by others using community centre facilities, Hartlett's cafe and Hartlett's park.

All parents and children are encouraged to walk to school when possible. If you do need to drive, please be considerate of those who are also entitled to use the car park and for nearby residents for whom access to their properties should not be obstructed. When parents and children are walking to and from school, they will need to make full use of the footpaths and we ask that you do not obstruct these paths when parking.

Coronavirus Actions

Operating instructions for schools have been further eased along with national guidance. Please remember that coronavirus continues to be present in the community and we must all continue to take appropriate steps to reduce transmission.

We continue to follow national guidance to reduce the likelihood of coronavirus infection. Good hygiene practices are followed, all rooms are well ventilated and school staff continue to take lateral flow tests at least twice each week. Our measures will be adjusted according to revisions in government advice for the safety of pupils, staff and parents.

If your child is unwell, consult the [NHS "Is my child too ill for school?" guide](#) to decide whether they need to stay at home. Within this you will find [an explanation of whether isolation is required](#). If you cannot find the right medical advice online, call 111.

School Meals

Our new catering provider, Pabulum, have been providing freshly prepared hot food for children this term. If your child has already eaten a hot lunch at school, we hope that their meal was tasty, nutritious and filling. If your child hasn't yet tried a school lunch and you would like them to, they simply need to choose a school meal when asked by their teacher at the start of the day. Please remember that school meals cost £2.50 each and you must pay for these in advance via ScoPay. We invited all parents to register for Scopay access with a letter at the start of this term - if you have not received a copy, please [email a request to the school office](#). Scopay can be configured to send you an alert when your child's meal balance is low - [read how to setup an alert and learn about other Scopay features in the Parent FAQ](#) (the alert feature is item number 24). More information about our school meals and copies of the menu can be found [on the School Meals page of the school website](#).

Clubs

We have updated the list of clubs currently on offer before, during and after school. [Visit the Clubs page in the Parents section of our website to learn more](#). Clubs are facilitated by third parties and you should contact the facilitator directly to make an enquiry, book a place or make a payment.

Bikeability for Year 6 Pupils

Pupils in year 6 have been invited to participate in a [Bikeability](#) course during the autumn half term week. This free to attend training provides children with the essential skills required to safely and capably ride their bike on the road. Bikeability sessions are funded by the Department for Transport and in some regions funding is supplemented by the local authority and local organisations. Bikeability sessions are always in high demand and places are limited - for much of the pandemic we have been unable to offer Bikeability training. To enable all year groups to benefit, including those who have been unable to participate due to the pandemic, the initial offer is for year 6 pupil only – other year groups will be invited to attend later in the academic year.

Communication with Parents

Your contact details have been added to our email and text messaging systems. If we need to send you an urgent message, we will do this with our 'Teachers2Parents' system. We will send you a regular email each week alerting you to this newsletter and occasional other messages to inform you of other school news, activities or invitations.

Teachers2Parents offer an IOS and Android app for use on mobile devices, however we *do not* recommend that you use this and instead only rely on receiving text messages from us. If you install the Teachers2Parents app, it is possible that urgent text messages from us will not be displayed on your mobile device.

Please remember that we often send directed communication to specific year groups. When this is the case, messages and included content are intended for a specific audience only – this includes those shared via text message, email, SeeSaw and invitations to Teams meetings shared with a hyperlink. To avoid confusion and ensure that the message(s) remain with the correct audience, please do not forward / recirculate / share links with other parents. If you think you have missed a communication from us, please contact the office in the first instance.

Portrait photographs

All children will have a portrait photograph taken when the school photographer visits on 22 September. Please ensure that your child is dressed in their full school uniform, [as explained in the Parents section of the school website](#).

Children in class 5JH, 5LO, 6TC and 6LE should wear school uniform to school and bring their PE kit in a bag.

Class photographs will be taken on 19th May 2022.

Fuse Drumming Club

Fuse (or bucket) drumming is not just great fun! It also encourages musicality, promotes teamwork, teaches basic percussion techniques and can lead onto various other musical activities.

This term the club is open to those in Years 5 and 6 - Years 3 and 4 will have the opportunity to join next term. The club is taking place after school on a Monday, starting at 3:20 and finishing at 4:20. There is a charge of £3 per session. If you'd like more details or to enrol your child, please contact Nicky Raimbaux via nraimbaux.music@gmail.com. Places are limited and will be offered on a first come first served basis.

Orchestra News

Orchestra rehearsals resumed for all existing members this week. The orchestra meets every Friday in the school Hall from 7:45 until 8:40.

Thinking of joining the orchestra?

If your child has been learning an orchestral instrument (violin, flute, brass etc.) for 6 months or more and has begun to read music, then we would love them to join us.

Playing in an ensemble is an excellent opportunity to put into practice the skills and techniques they've acquired through their instrumental lessons. We find that children who join an orchestra progress more quickly on their instrument and it's incredibly sociable and fun too!

If your child is unsure whether joining the orchestra is for them, they are welcome to come along for a taster session. Please contact Nicky Raimbaux via nraimbaux.music@gmail.com to find out more.

Want to learn an instrument?

There are opportunities to learn instruments during the afternoons at school. If your child is interested in learning the violin, flute, trumpet, cornet or trombone, teachers' details of those instruments are below. Spaces are limited and there may be waiting lists for some instruments.

Nicky Raimbaux - Orchestra Leader

Flute: Sam Gill - samgillmusic@hotmail.com

Brass (trumpet, cornet, trombone): Nicky Raimbaux - nraimbaux.music@gmail.com

Violin: Diane Wakefield - dianewakefield.com@gmail.com

Village Connect Trail

The Village Connect Trail is a walking route on mainly footpaths, covering 16 miles in length connecting Hartley Wintney, Hook and Odiham and has been produced as a post COVID opportunity for our communities to get out in the fresh air and raise money through sponsorship for our local schools.

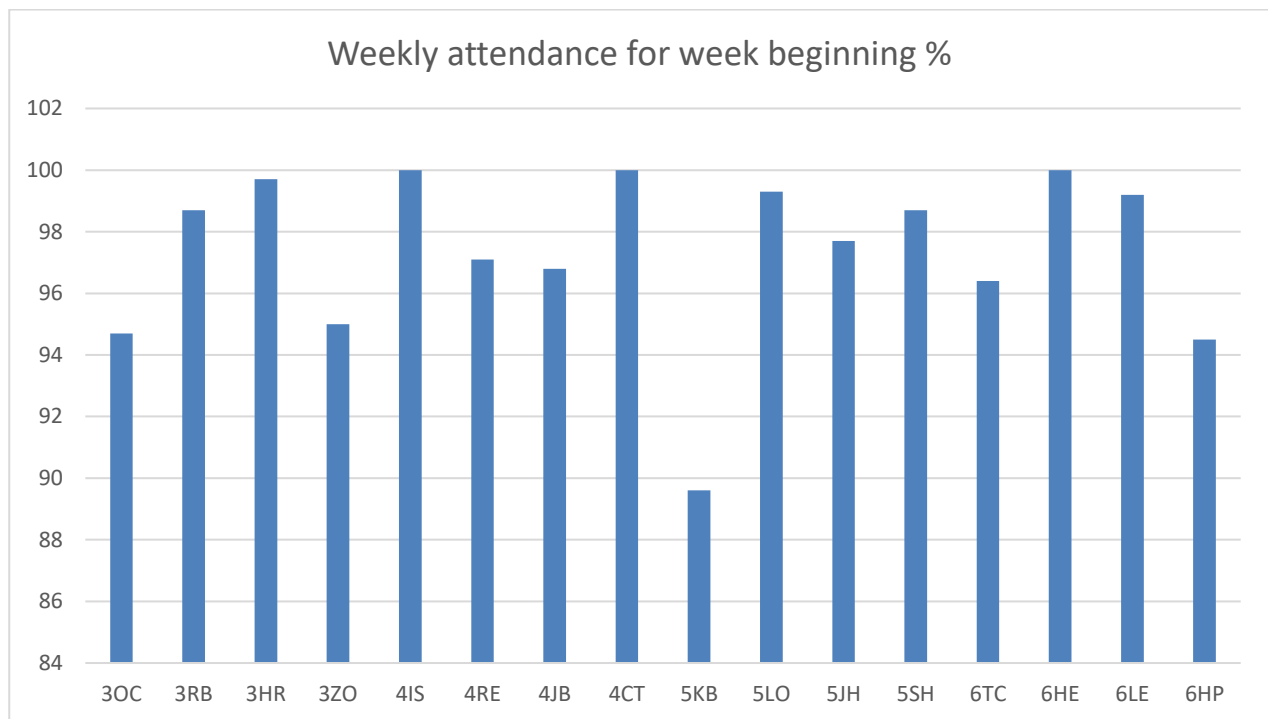
Sign up for the walk [using the Lions registration page](#). Make a donation via the [Village Connect JustGiving page](#).

The Hook & Odiham Lions Club and Rotary Club of Odiham and Hook have organised this event with the help of other Village Connect partners and schools, and like other charitable organisations have had almost no fund-raising events for more than a year but identified this opportunity to assist local schools directly, who themselves have faced quite unique challenges during the pandemic. The event will take place on 25th and 26th September 2021 and start at a place on the route and a time of your choosing.

We've included a flyer for the Village Connect Trail at the end of this newsletter and you can also find out much more, including how to participate and raise funds for both schools via the Odiham and Lions website.

Attendance This Week

Every day counts... Your child's attendance matters!



*Whole school attendance **97%**.*

Well done to classes 4IS, 4CT & 6LE for 100% attendance

Stars of the Week

Year 3: Caitlin D, Jack N, Noah H

Year 4: Eloise T, Eric B, Albie R

Year 5: Lucas T, Yvette W, Ed B, Kate R

Year 6: Esme W, Lilly S, Harry H

House point winners this week: Brunel

Find out more...

Follow [@hookjunior on Twitter](#) and [visit our Facebook page](#) for more updates and photos.

Key Dates

22 Sep	Portrait Photographs
27 Sep	INSET Day
29 Sep	Sibling photographs @ Hook Infant School
05 Oct	Hook Schools Community Association (HSCA) AGM, 7:30pm
14 Oct	Flu immunisations
18 Oct	Learning Consultations
19 Oct	Open morning for Year 2 Parents
19 Oct	Learning Consultations
21 Oct	Harvest Festival – 5SH and 5JH, 9:00 to parents / carers
21 Oct	Harvest Festival – 5LO and 5KB, 2:15 to parents / carers
25 Oct	Half Term Week
25 Oct	Bikeability for Year 6 Pupils only
01 Nov	INSET Day
02 Nov	Pupils return to school
06 Nov	HSCA Fireshow
27 Nov	HSCA Christmas Fair
07 Dec	Year 4 Christmas Play, 9:15 to parents / carers
07 Dec	Year 4 Christmas Play, 1:45 to parents / carers
08 Dec	Year 4 Christmas Play, 1:45 to parents / carers
17 Dec	End of Term – 1:30 finish
28 Feb 2022	INSET Day
19 May 2022	Class Photos

A Community Seeking Excellence for All
Excellence: every person, every day



Robert
May's
School

OPEN EVENING FOR YEAR 7 ENTRY IN 2022



Open Evening for Year 6 Parents/Carers:

- Wednesday 22nd September at 6.00 - 8.00pm

Open Mornings for Year 6 Parents/Carers:

- Tuesday 5th and Wednesday 13th October 2021
Tours start promptly at 9.00am and 11.00am

*Please see the **News & Events > Events booking** section of our website www.rmays.org to book a place on one of the tours (no booking required for the Open Evening).*

We look forward to welcoming you to Robert May's School.

Robert May's School, West Street, Odiham, Hampshire RG29 1NA
tel 01256 702700 email info@rmays.com www.rmays.org



HOOK & ODIHAM LIONS ARE CO-ORDINATING
THE VILLAGE CONNECT TRAIL

SATURDAY 25TH & SUNDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER

A SPONSORED WALK TO RAISE MONEY FOR LOCAL SCHOOLS

- ♥ Enjoy the local countryside in an event for all local residents
- ♥ Connecting the local villages in an event for our community
- ♥ Support local pubs and outlets

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER GO TO
<https://www.hookandodihamlions.co.uk/villagetrailwalk.html>



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