



Weekly Newsletter

Week ending Friday 24 November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

This is such an exciting half term leading up to Christmas and everyone is focused on ensuring the children enjoy their learning and harness their excitement for the Christmas events at a school in the coming weeks. I wish to thank all staff for their commitment and hard work, when the children leave at 3.20pm their work continues beyond that and always with the children's needs at heart. Working in a school is challenging and rewarding in equal measure and we always appreciate your support and partnership with us, we are working towards the same goal; to make sure your child/ren receives the best all round education.

A highlight of my week was seeing our netball team dressed in their team kit and looking smart and ready for action and awarding a handwriting certificate to a Y3 child who was so excited and delighted with his achievement. Whilst writing out his certificate he stated, "Wow, Mrs Martin you have lovely handwriting too, you should give yourself a certificate." Praise indeed! Yesterday, Mrs Elwood and Miss Temple led another Fitness Thursday at lunchtime on the playground, they put me, Mrs Bailey (who enjoyed the dance routine to Cha Cha Slide way too much!) and the children through our paces in the lovely autumn sun, red cheeks and big smiles all round.

Name Change - from Mrs Martin to Miss Powell

I wish to inform you that following my divorce, my name will revert to my maiden name forthwith. I will be known as Miss Powell. This will take time for everyone to get used to (including me) and I shan't be offended if anyone forgets or uses Mrs Martin, it will take time. I will be taking assembly on Monday and will inform the children then, we will also gradually change letter headings and signs to reflect my name change.

In the meantime, have a lovely weekend and I look forward to welcoming you to the many events we have planned at school over the remainder of the term.

Yours sincerely,

Miss L Powell

Headteacher

Bring some welly boots to school!

Outside every classroom at school we have storage for children to keep a pair of welly boots at school.

Having a pair of boots at school increases the opportunities for children to engage in a variety of learning activities around the school grounds throughout the year and even during the winter months. Send your child to school with a pair of wellies to keep outside their classroom. Boots should be in good and watertight

condition. It's best if your child can leave them at school so they are always available when an outdoor learning opportunity is available.

Roar Competition



This term, a group of children across Year 5 and 6 have been participating in the 'Lions Roar Competition' 2023.

This inspirational competition is run by the award-winning education company, 8billionideas and Lions Clubs British Isles. The unique Lions programme aims to inspire children and young people to think big and dream bigger about their ideas. Lions Clubs across the British Isles are invited to join this exciting venture by providing funding and support for local primary schools in their local community.

The competition took the format of a 'Dragons Den' style project where the children were challenged to create a 'World Changing Idea'. The children worked in teams generating ideas and then completed presentations of their inventions. We were delighted that Mrs Barnes, our Design and Technology leader, was able to judge the entries alongside Miss Carne.

After judging, the competition finished with one group winning the chance to go on to the next stage of this national competition. The winning designers were: Hope B, Eva S and Emily W all from Year 6. Their invention was a multi-purpose machine that picks up litter on the beach and can also be taken into the water to help rescue sea animals caught in plastics and litter.

Well done to everyone who took part in the competition and good luck to the winning group in the national competition. Certificates and medals from the Lions have been given out to everyone who participated in Celebration Assembly today.

Uniform Expectations

All children were spoken to in assembly earlier this week in regard to expectations on behaviour and uniform. We would appreciate support from parents in reinforcing the message that children should be polite and respectful to each other and all members of staff and they should come to school dressed in appropriate uniform.

Uniform expectations clearly illustrated on the Uniform page in the Parents section of our website and also set out in our [Uniform Policy](#).

Earth Uniform are one of our chosen suppliers of branded and un-branded uniform. Items of uniform can be purchased from Earth Uniform [via the Uniform page in the Parents section of our website](#). Earth Uniform are offering a 'black Friday' discount on sweatshirts, jumpers and cardigans from 1 December until 4 December. More details are included in the flyer at the end of this communication. Use a discount code of 20OFF23 at the Earth Uniform checkout to take advantage of this offer.

Children in Need 2023



We would like to express our gratitude for supporting Children in Need last week; together, we have raised an impressive £860.

We would also like to acknowledge the exceptional efforts by our children during their P.E lessons. Their enthusiasm and determination to participate in our 'Bearpees' challenge, was incredibly successful. Our children rallied together and completed an astounding 10,278 'Bearpees'.

Thank you to everyone who contributed.

The funds raised will be used to support various local children's charities across the U.K, helping them improve the lives of those who are less fortunate. Projects such as providing educational resources, mentoring programs, and mental health support will be made possible through your contributions.

Reading - Mr McLaren - English Leader

As a school, we strongly encourage you to read with your children at least four times a week and record this in their reading records. Reading with your child not only helps them develop and improve their reading skills, but it also promotes bonding time and a love for learning. By regularly taking the time to read together, children are exposed to various forms of literature, new vocabulary, and ideas that will broaden their knowledge and imagination.

Research shows that children who read regularly at home tend to achieve higher academic success. By reading with your child and recording it in their reading record, you are demonstrating your commitment to their education and encouraging them to do the same. The accountability of the reading record will also help your child stay on track and motivated to read regularly.

Spellings - Mr McLaren - English Leader

Children are provided with weekly spellings and as part of their home learning, they are expected to practise these daily. A strong foundation in spelling is crucial in all aspects of communication - in writing, reading, speaking, and listening. It is vital that your child practises their spellings to improve their spelling skills and to help them retain the correct spellings of words.

To keep you updated with your child's progress and spelling assessment scores, we will be sending home your child's test score in the reading record or spelling books each week to show their test results. We encourage you to work with your child at home and assist them in practising their spellings to help them achieve the best results.

Year 5 Stargazing and Learning Event



Year 5 have had a busy and exciting week with their stargazing evening and learning events. Thick cloud prevented the children from being able to get outside and see the night sky, but they were still treated to a fascinating presentation on the planets and constellations that can be seen from Earth. We would like to thank Cody Astronomical Society for providing the children with this wonderful learning experience.

The children should be incredibly proud of their contribution towards their learning event, as they shared some of their fantastic work from a range of subjects including English, Science, Art and Music.



HSCA Christmas Fair, Saturday 2 December

The HSCA are now busy planning some exciting fundraising for the festive season! On **Saturday 2nd December** we will host our annual Christmas Fair, from **11am to 3pm** across both the Hook Infant and Hook Junior schools. The fair will have lots of festive fun; games, Christmas marketplace (including fresh

Christmas Trees!), food & drink, games and crafts, facepainting and of course our fantastic grotto... plus much, much more!

We have released a limited number of Grotto tickets, book a trip to our magical North Pole Grotto to meet our very special Santa!

We have also launched our Christmas Raffle tickets. There are some fantastic prizes this year....

1st - Highfield Park Afternoon Tea for Two

2nd - 6ft Christmas tree from Gosling's garden and fencing services*

3rd - Christmas food & drink Hamper

Further prizes include: Hooked on Hair Voucher and Retail Hair Care Bundle, Hartletts Cafe Breakfast Voucher, Diverse Fitness Voucher, Pathfinder Cafe Voucher, Mens Watch, Basingstoke Country Hotel Afternoon tea and more! *note Christmas tree includes free local Hook delivery.

Raffle tickets and Limited Grotto tickets are now on sale at <http://www.pta-events.co.uk/hzca> you can also use this link if you are able to sign up to volunteer! The Christmas fair is a great opportunity for the children to get involved, especially in the games room, years 5 and 6 children are allowed to run games by themselves or with friends and younger years can do so with their adult helper.

In addition to our traditional fundraising we are also joining with local business Hooked on Hair to launch a bauble competition. Children are invited to collect a bauble from Hooked on Hair in the village, decorate your bauble and return it to be included in their window display. Customers will vote for their favourite baubles with the winner announced on Christmas Eve, the top prize will win £15 Smyths Toyshop voucher! Hooked on Hair will collect donations from customers over the festive period and will match donations, with all proceeds going direct to the HSCA! So please pop along to collect your baubles, between 10 Nov & 15 Dec. Thank you hooked on hair!

Many thanks for all your support

The HSCA Festive Events Team

Applications for Year R in September 2024

Applications for a school place in Year R opened on 1 November. If you have a child is 4 or will turn 4 before 1 September 2024, they can start school in September 2024.

The national closing date for applications is 15 January 2024.

For further details, and to make an application, [visit the Hampshire School Admissions website](#).

Christmas Jumper Day

We shall be celebrating Christmas Jumper Day on Thursday 7th December, when children are invited to wear a Christmas jumper to school.

We appreciate these times may be hard financially for some and have set up a **Christmas jumper swap** rail in our reception area for you to donate any pre-loved jumpers your child may have outgrown, or swap it for a new jumper that will fit them. Everyone is welcome to come and have a browse and get a jumper if your child does not have one.

Christmas Post Box

From Friday 1 December our Christmas post box will be available for those children who would like to give Christmas cards to their peers. The post box will be located in the central area of school, our prefects will deliver the cards to class at the end of each day.

Please ensure that each envelope is clearly labelled with the recipient's **first name, first initial of last name and class**. We are not able to guarantee delivery of cards if the recipient name and class is not visible on the envelope.

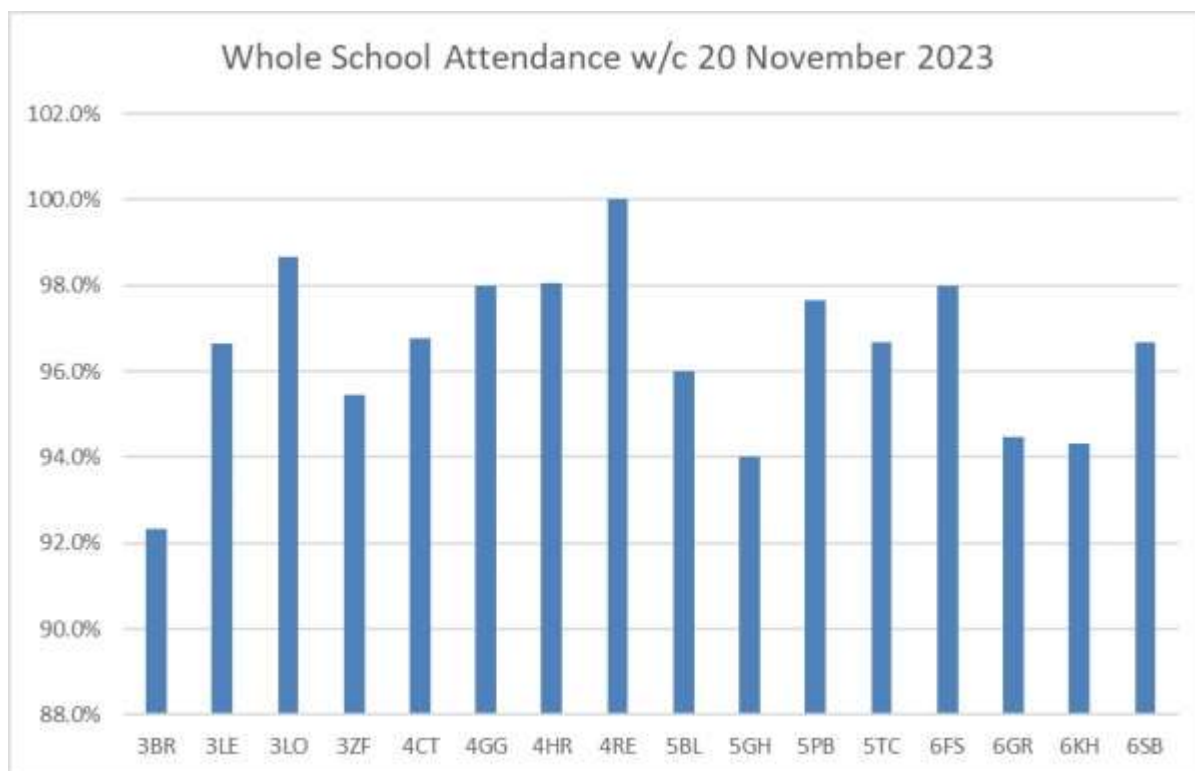
Robert May's Christmas Production

This year, RMS will be performing The Wind in the Willows at Robert May's School for their Christmas show.

It will run from Monday 4th to Friday 8th December, starting at 7pm Monday - Thursday and 6pm on Friday. Tickets are £10 for adults and £5.50 for concessions.

All pupils are invited to attend with their parents and carers to watch the performance. It is an excellent opportunity for pupils to see inside Robert May's if they haven't been before and they are promised a wonderful and entertaining show. Refreshments and other seasonal goods will be available to purchase on the night.

Attendance



Whole School Attendance this week: 96.5%

Stars of the Week

Year 3: Adam A, Erin T, Jasmyn S, Mason P

Year 4: James M, Zach D, Oliver C, Henry K, Joey K-V

Year 5: Claire W, Colette W, Eathan M, Rhian P,

Year 6: James C, Summer K, Isabelle E, Dinu H, Shia B

House Points this week

Austen: 177

Brunel: 156

Nightingale: 159

Wellington: 205

House point winners this week: Wellington!

Find out more...

Follow us online to see much more about what's happening in school.

[Twitter.com/hookjunior](https://twitter.com/hookjunior)

[Facebook.com/hookjuniorschool](https://facebook.com/hookjuniorschool)

[Instagram.com/hookjunsch](https://instagram.com/hookjunsch)

Key Dates

New dates added since the last Newsletter appear in green

2023

30 Nov Flu Vaccinations in School (*information sent to parents w/c 6 November*)

30 Nov Year 3 Learning Event – 2pm (parents and carers to attend)

1 Dec Non-school Uniform Day (Bring a bottle for the bottle stall at the Christmas Fair)

2 Dec HSCA Christmas Fair

7 Dec Christmas Jumper Day (children can come to school in their favourite Christmas jumper)

8 Dec Year 6 Learning Event – 2pm (parents and carers to attend)

12 Dec Christmas Production (4HR and 4GG) – 9.15am, parents to arrive from 8.45am

13 Dec Christmas Lunch for Pupils

13 Dec Carols around the Tree – 4pm

14 Dec Christmas Production (4RE and 4CT) – 9.15am, parents to arrive from 8.45am

15 Dec End of term – 1.20pm finish

18 Dec – 1 Jan Christmas Holiday

2024

2 Jan Inset Day – school closed to children

5 Jan Year 5 Swimming starts (*information sent to parents w/c 6 November*)

8 January Year 3 Iron Age Workshop

9 January Year 3 Iron Age Workshop

16 January Year 6 Natural History Museum Virtual Evolution Workshop (6FS & 6GR)

18 January Year 6 Natural History Museum Virtual Evolution Workshop (6SB & 6KH)

23 Jan Young Shakespeare Company Visit for Year 5 & 6

24 Jan Coffee Morning for all Parents – 8.45am

29 Jan Young Voices Concert (selected Choir members)

5 Feb Learning Consultations – appointments between 3.30pm until 6.30pm

6 Feb Safer Internet Day

6 Feb Learning Consultations – appointments between 3.30pm until 6.30pm

12 Feb – 16 Feb Spring Half Term

19 Feb Inset Day – school closed to children

28 Feb HSCA Bag2School Collection

4 Mar SATs Presentation to Parents – 5pm

7 Mar World Book Day

11 Mar Science Week (all week)

14 Mar Gremlin Dance Challenge

15 Mar Red Nose Day

27 Mar Year 3 (3BR & 3ZF) Easter Service in the Church (Learning Event) – 9.30am

27 Mar Year 3 (3LO & 3LE) Easter Service in the Church (Learning Event) – 2pm

29 Mar – 12 Apr Easter Holiday

23 Apr Year 4 Ufton Court Viking Workshop in school

24 Apr Year 4 Ufton Court Viking Workshop in school

29 Apr Open Box Theatre Company visit for Year 5

6 May Spring Bank Holiday

8 May Coffee Morning for Parents of Year 2 Children – 8.45am

13 May SATs Week

27 May – 31 May Summer Half Term

14 Jun Class Allocation Letters to Parents

17 Jun Sports Day

19 Jun Information Evening for Parents of Children in Year 2 - 5pm

21 Jun Non-school Uniform Day (Bring a bottle for the bottle stall at the Summer Fair)

22 Jun HSCA Summer Fair

Hook Junior School Weekly Newsletter

5 Jul End of Year Reports to Parents

10 Jul Strawberry Tea

24 Jul – 30 Aug Summer Holiday

Safeguarding your children is our priority. Please contact the schools Designated Safeguarding Leads, either Mrs L Martin (Headteacher), Mrs N Bailey (Deputy Headteacher), Miss J Carne (Inclusion Leader) or Mrs Boardman (SENDCo) with any concerns. Further Safeguarding information and support can be found via www.NSPCC.org.uk or Childline 0800 1111. Any concerns may also be raised directly with Hampshire County Council Children's services phone line (anonymously if you wish) by calling 0300 555 1384. Keeping our children safe is everyone's responsibility.

Free Christmas Activities at Basingstoke Discovery Centre



For 4-11 year olds that receive free school meals

Zoolab Animal Encounters - The Last Present

Wednesday 20 December, 10.30 am

Join us and Zoolab for a Christmas special up-close and hands on session to meet a menagerie of mammals, insects, amphibians and arachnids during this 55 minute workshop! This will be followed by a lunch bag, games and a small gift*

StoryTribe - What is Christmas?

Friday 22 December, 2pm

A special festive edition of family fun, creative games and interactive storytelling, where imagination roams free For ages 4 - 9 years.

Booking in advance is essential. *Tickets / Gifts are limited - book early!



Crafty Fun Drop-in Sessions

Thursday 28 December, 10.30am

Paint your own suncatcher to take home, plus enjoy our selection of board games and puzzles for all ages. Limited resources - first come, first served.

Friday 29 December, 10.30am

Decorate a pencil case to take home, plus enjoy our selection of games and puzzles for all ages. Limited resources - first come, first served.



Please scan this QR code to book or email
basingsstoke.discovery.centre@hants.gov.uk
Alternatively visit the library and ask a member of staff.



www.hants.gov.uk/library   



Parents / carers must accompany children aged 8 years and under

www.hants.gov.uk

Monday 4th Dec: 7pm
Tuesday 5th Dec: 7pm
Wednesday 6th Dec: 7pm
Thursday 7th Dec: 7pm
Friday 8th Dec: 6pm
(Gala Performance)



Robert
May's
School



**TICKETS ON SALE FROM 6PM
ON FRIDAY 17TH NOVEMBER**



Book by JULIAN FELLOWES | Music by GEORGE STILES | Lyrics by ANTHONY DREWE

Based on the book by KENNETH GRAHAME | Original Production Produced by JAMIE HENDRY

"THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS" is presented through special arrangement with and all authorized performance materials are supplied by Theatrical Rights Worldwide (TRW), 122-124 Regent Street, 5th Floor, London W1B 5SA www.theatricalrights.co.uk

HOOK SCHOOLS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION PRESENTS

HOOK

CHRISTMAS FAIR

REGISTERED
CHARITY
281872

Saturday 2nd December



CHRISTMAS
MARKETPLACE



GAMES &
CRAFTS



SANTA'S
GROTTO



PRESENT
ROOM



MULLED WINE &
HOT FOOD



FABULOUS
RAFFLE!

FREE ENTRY!
1100 - 1500
@ HOOK SCHOOLS



RAFFLE &
GROTTO
TICKETS

WWW.PTA-EVENTS.CO.UK/HSCA





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All Sweatshirts, Sweat Cardigans, Knitted Jumpers and Knitted Cardigans for your school!

Friday 1st - Monday 4th December inclusive

Using Code 20OFF23

While stocks last - don't miss out!

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The small Print:

Offer runs from 12.01am Friday 1st December and ends 11.59pm Monday 4th December.

You must enter the given code at checkout to receive the 20% discount.

Discount applies to the previously published full price. While stocks last only

www.earthuniform.com