



# HOOK JUNIOR SCHOOL

## Weekly Newsletter

Friday 25 November 2022



"Thank you teacher", "Detailed report", "Confidence", "Support" and "Enjoyed". Those were the top 5 sentiments expressed in parent feedback to end of year reports in the summer - see the word cloud above for more. As a governor, this is useful data to understand how the school is doing. It's lovely to see the thanks to the teaching staff, and parents' pride in their children's success. Writing these reports takes a lot of time for the teaching staff, so it is helpful to know that the detail is appreciated, particularly as the school made a choice to refocus on the full range of subjects and ensure that each was reported on individually.

The governing body are keen to get broader feedback from parents and carers on school successes and where we can do better. You may have seen the email link to an online survey earlier this week, or you may have completed the survey in school recently - if not, [please go to our Parent Survey before 1st December to share your views.](#)

There are three core roles of any school governing body: Setting strategic direction; ensuring robust accountability for progress and attainment; and ensuring financial probity. This week's Full Governing Body meeting fell into the third category focussing on the mid-year budget update. I'm pleased to report that the school finances are in a good shape. Mrs Martin and her team are confident they have the money they need to deliver the activities on the school strategic plan. The key challenge is around finding the right resource to support this delivery. We had a healthy conversation about the similarities and differences between education and wider industry, and any approaches that the school could borrow to help.

Governors also talked about what we saw on a recent monitoring day in school. We combine these observations with the information the school provides us, and external data (from government, Hampshire Council, or parent surveys for example) to get a rounded view on overall performance. Two monitoring activities that I updated on were:

- Attendance management, which is really important as children have to be in school to be able to learn and benefit from the teaching; we know this as all the data shows there is a strong link between attendance and attainment. It's also very important for safeguarding that the school has a robust process to make sure they know where every child is. I observed the normal morning attendance process in action, from register collection, to checking against reported absence, to phone call follow ups, and review of the data patterns. I also saw some of the strategies Miss Carne, the attendance lead, is deploying on a really targeted basis to help maintain attendance - for example helping children who are anxious about school have a softer start to the day and a friendly face to talk to first thing.
- Curriculum. From observing English lessons, and talking to a subject leader, I saw the work that is going on to continually refine the what is taught, making it as effective and learnable as possible. Two of the school's quality of teaching focuses for the year are medium term planning - making sure that the curriculum across several years builds and links together; and progressive learning - ensuring that each lesson builds on the ones before, and have right amount of recap, stretch and new material so that children can take in what they need and not be overwhelmed. Although I'm no expert on education, I could see the way teachers were weaving different elements together, and building on previous teaching to help children understand and learn. Seeing this in action will also help in future governing body conversations around curriculum and attainment.

The amount we can do as governors to support the school and hold the leaders to account is limited by our numbers. We are all volunteers, and following some recent departures, we have a number of vacancies. Currently there are 4 parents and 3 staff on the governing body. We're really conscious of the need for a diverse range of views and experience so would love to get some more membership. If you know of anyone who might be interested in joining us, and help lead Hook Junior School's vision of Inspire. Learn. Achieve, then please get in contact via the school office. Maybe a friend, relative or co-worker who wants a new experience, and the opportunity to make a difference to education of our children - the future of Hook, the UK, and maybe even the world!

Mark Powell

Parent Governor

## **Cycle Safety**

If your child is in year 6, you will have been invited to express your interest in Bikeability cycle safety sessions in the Spring and Summer half term breaks. Please note that places are subject to the availability of Hampshire County Council road safety instructors and bookings may be subject to change in the event that the team is unable to deliver the sessions as currently booked. Invitations will be extended to year 5 pupils will be invited if sufficient spaces are available.

Please remember that if your child cycles or scoots to school, for their own safety, they must at the very least wear a helmet, as explained in our [cycle and scooter permit application](#).

## **INSET day**

Please remember the school has an INSET day on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November and will be closed to children. We look forward to welcoming the children back on Tuesday.

## **Koosa Holiday Club**

KOOSA Kids are pleased to confirm the dates for our Christmas Holiday Clubs (19th to 23rd December). Our Winter Wonderland holiday club programme is jam-packed full of festive fun & excitement! Children will take part in up to 9 activities each day, always a mixture of sporty and team games, arts & crafts, drama and imagination. All from just £24 per child for a standard day (10.00am to 4.00pm)! Visit [www.koosakids.co.uk/holiday-club](http://www.koosakids.co.uk/holiday-club) for more information or call 01276 21884. Bookings are open.

## **Keeping our Library Stock in Good Condition**

This week a number of library books have been damaged while on loan, partly due to the exceptionally heavy rain. If your child's school bag is not waterproof, please consider placing any library books in a separate carrier bag within to protect them from damage. Books are owned by the school and also by the School Library Service who provide a continually changing selection of books for children to read. When books are damaged, we have to withdraw them from our library and they must be replaced, in which case we will ask you to pay a fee for their replacement. Thank you for your support.

Mrs Adsley

## **Home School Communications Policy**

We believe that clear, open communication between the school and parents/carers has a positive impact on pupils' learning. We would like to draw your attention to our School Communications Policy which aims to promote clear and open communication. It sets out how we will communicate with you and also our expectations for how you will communicate with us. You can read the Home School Communications Policy [via the Policies page on our website](#).

## **Christmas Jumper Day**

We are celebrating Christmas Jumper day on Thursday 8th December, where 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 the 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.

## **Trading Cards and other Personal Items**

Please be advised that football cards, personal items, toys and similar items of any kind are not allowed to be brought into school. This helps minimise issues such as:

- behaviour and regulation
- relationship and friendship issues
- haves and have nots
- personal items getting lost or damaged

Should they come across such items, our staff will retain them for the duration of the school day and return them at the end of the day.

## Pupil Christmas Lunch on 15<sup>th</sup> December

Pupils can enjoy a Christmas lunch from the Pabulum school kitchen on 15 December 2022. This meal is offered in place of our regular meals for a charge of £2.50 and payment can be made via Scopay into your child's dinner account. Pupils in receipt of free school meals will not be charged.

The Christmas meal will consist of:

- Roast Turkey served with Chipolata Sausage & Herby Gravy (meat option)
- or
- Cranberry & Roasted Vegetable Wellington (vegan option)

Both meals are served with:

- Rosemary Roasted Potatoes (vegan)
- Fresh Carrots and Steamed Peas (vegan)

For Dessert:

- Chocolate Christmas Pudding (vegetarian)

All children, whether they are having a Christmas meal or their own packed lunch, will receive a Christmas cracker.

If your child would like to have a Christmas lunch, please let us know by [completing a very brief survey](#) before **1st December**. Doing this will help our catering team provide the right number of meals. A menu change will apply to one or more days during the final week of term in order to accommodate the Christmas meal being served in the Infant school. We will let you know when menu changes apply.

## Applications for Year R in September 2023

Applications for a school place in year R opened on 1 November. If your child is 4 or will turn 4 before 1 September 2023, they can start school in September 2023.

The national closing date for applications is 15 January 2023.

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

## Stars of the Week

Year 3: Elliot M, Sebastian G, Lilia A, Zachary D

Year 4: Tommy C, Thomas R, William S, Isis B

Year 5: Flossie M, Bryce W, Magda C, Lewis F

Year 6: Grace E, William M, Harry P, Bertie F

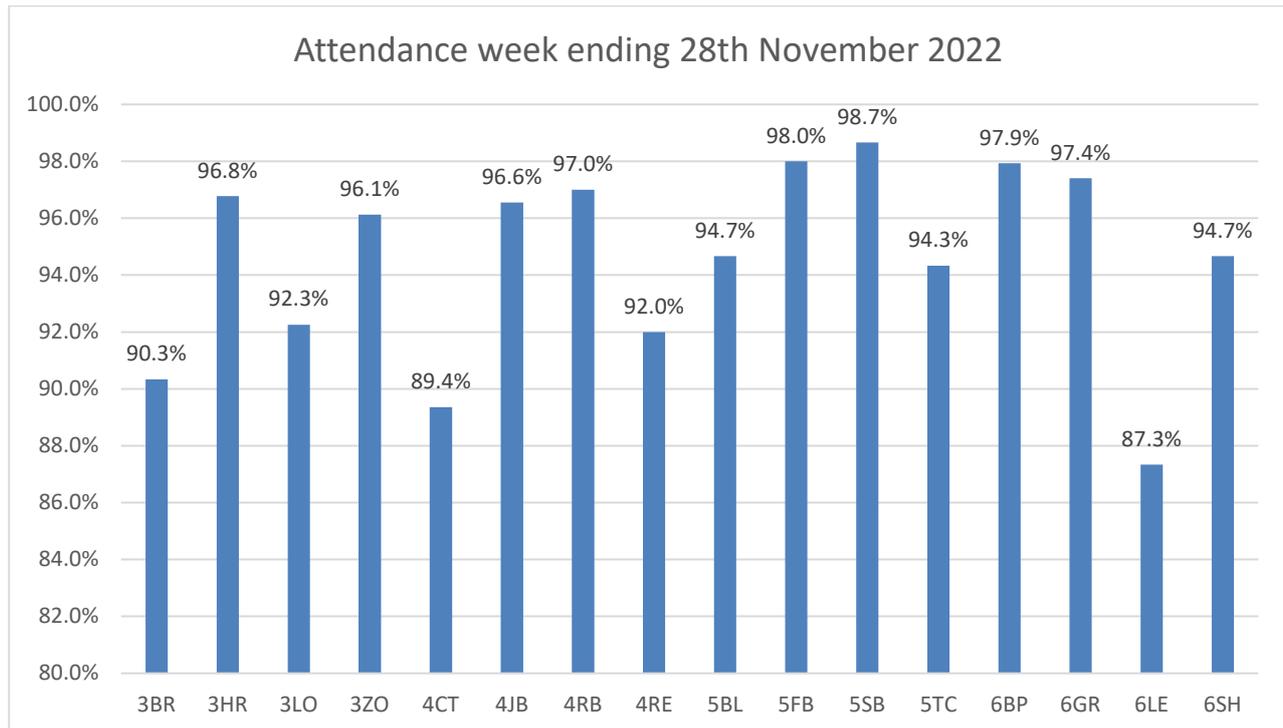
## House Points this week

<b>Austen</b>	207
<b>Brunel</b>	196
<b>Nightingale</b>	203
<b>Wellington</b>	188

**House point winners this week: Austen**

Reading Raffle Winner: **Dorothy, 5SB**

# Attendance



Whole school attendance this week: 95%

## Find out more...

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

## Key Dates – New dates added to this Newsletter appear in green

<b>28 Nov</b>	INSET Day
<b>3 Dec</b>	HSCA Christmas Fair
<b>6 Dec</b>	Year 4 Christmas Production
<b>8 Dec</b>	Christmas jumper day
<b>8 Dec</b>	Year 4 Christmas Production
<b>14 Dec</b>	Carols Around the Tree
<b>15 Dec</b>	Christmas Lunch
<b>16 Dec</b>	End of Autumn Term - 1:30 finish
<b>19 Dec</b>	Christmas Holiday
<b>3 Jan</b>	Spring Term – back to school
<b>13 Feb</b>	Spring Half Term
<b>20 Feb</b>	INSET Day
<b>22 Feb</b>	Learning Consultations
<b>23 Feb</b>	Learning Consultations
<b>1 Mar</b>	Bag2School collection
<b>20 Mar</b>	Young Shakespeare Company performing to Year 5 & 6

<b>23 Mar</b>	Iron Age workshop with Year 3
<b>24 Mar</b>	Iron Age workshop with Year 3
<b>31 Mar</b>	End of Spring Term - 1:30 finish
<b>3 Apr</b>	Easter Holiday
<b>29 May</b>	Summer Half Term
<b>16 Jun</b>	Bag2School collection
<b>19 Jun</b>	Sports Day
<b>4 Jul</b>	Year 6 Production
<b>6 Jul</b>	Year 6 Production
<b>7 Jul</b>	Annual pupil reports circulated to parents
<b>10 Jul</b>	Year 6 Residential Trip to Marchants Hill
<b>18 Jul</b>	Strawberry Tea
<b>20 Jul</b>	Year 6 Leaver Assembly
<b>21 Jul</b>	End of Summer Term – 1:30 finish
<b>24 Jul</b>	Summer Holiday

Hook Schools Community Association, Registered Charity No. 281872



Hook Schools Community Association

# Christmas Fair

at Hook Schools

- Christmas Marketplace
- Santa's Grotto
- Games & Crafts
- Mulled Wine & Hot Food
- Fab Raffle - £1,000 worth of prizes!
- Live entertainment

*Free entry!*



Saturday 3rd  
December  
11am - 3pm

Raffle and  
Grotto tickets:



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