



## Weekly Newsletter

### Week ending Friday 15 December 2023

*'If you want to experience the true meaning of Christmas, give something to someone who can offer nothing in return' Toni Sorenson*

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a long Autumn term and Christmas will soon be with us, we are all excited about it. We have enjoyed ending the term by sharing our Christmas celebrations with you whilst showcasing the children's talents at the Year 4 Christmas plays, 'No One Wraps Like an Elf', and Carols around the Tree; we have thoroughly enjoyed watching them perform and bringing the festive spirit to life.

The excitement as Christmas looms large is palpable, the children have worked hard, achieved so much and fully deserve a Christmas break; it is well earned. They have enjoyed their learning this term, benefitted from rich curriculum experiences and putting their skills, knowledge and understanding to purposeful use across a range of subjects, and in context of their topics. Their thirst for learning, their kindness, energy and determination to do well is never diminished. They live our vision and values; the strength of team-ship runs through them and they make our school community a very special place to be.

The value of team-ship is one we embody as a school and a community. No matter what role you play as part of our school community, a team is only ever successful when each and every single member plays their part. All team members are unique, have different strengths and brings something of value to our special school. My thanks to parents and carers, governors and HSCA as part of our team, your continued support and active involvement hugely benefits the children and our school. A huge thank you to my team of amazing staff who go above and beyond every day, working tirelessly to provide the best education that enables the children to flourish.

I wish to extend to you all a peaceful, restful Christmas and good health and happiness in the New Year. I look forward to welcoming you and the children back on Wednesday January 3rd, 2024 for the start of the spring term.

*'Just remember the true spirit of Christmas lies in your hearts' Santa, The Polar Express*

A very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Yours sincerely,

Miss L Powell

Headteacher

## Thank you messages

We have received many positive messages in regards to various end of term events in school for which we are most grateful. We would like to share with you two such messages from two of our parents.

*Dear Miss Powell,*

*Thank you for inviting parents to Carols Around the Tree yesterday. I was so impressed by the performances.*

*It was a testament to their dedication that your peripatetic teachers took time to come along and support their pupils, with fantastic results.*

*Well done to Miss Francis for leading a lovely, enthusiastic choir and to Mrs Raimboux for the wonderful, always well-prepared orchestra. Mrs Linehan-Hill accompanied everyone beautifully and it couldn't have been done without her.*

*I also noted how well the perfects spoke: many of them off by heart!*

*It's truly commendable that the teachers are willing to get up there on stage and perform. The children are delighted to see that. And a special mention to Mr Leitch for playing his hand chimes with aplomb!!!*

*It was really a wonderful concert and a great celebration of the music at HJS. I'm sure you're already exceptionally proud but I wanted to add my thanks and admiration.*

*Dear Year 4 Team*

*We would like to congratulate you all on the joyful, poignant, hilarious and totally wonderful production of 'Nobody Wraps Like An Elf' that we were captivated by this morning.*

*The Year 4 children did you proud, and we would like to send our sincere thanks to all the staff who clearly invested so much time and energy in ensuring its success.*

*We loved it, all of it!*

*Thank you!*

## Curriculum Overviews and Knowledge Organisers

All parents and carers have been sent via Parentmail the Spring term curriculum overviews and knowledge organisers. These contain an overview of learning within each year group and key definitions of vocabulary for each foundation subject.

## Year 3 Learning



What a term! The year 3 team are so proud of all the children. They have made a positive start to Hook Junior School, with many children knowing, following and demonstrating the core values 'Responsibility, Respect, Inclusion and Empathy' well.

This term the children have looked at *The Magic and Mystery of Trees* and *Malala's Magic Pencil* in guided reading, which they have all thoroughly enjoyed and produced some lovely work about. They have written some detailed and imaginative setting descriptions about the Secret Garden, written clear and organised instructions for planting cress seeds and even researched and created a biography all about Malala.

During maths lessons, the children have revised and developed their place value knowledge, learnt multiple mental strategies for addition and subtraction and have begun to work on the formal written method of column addition.

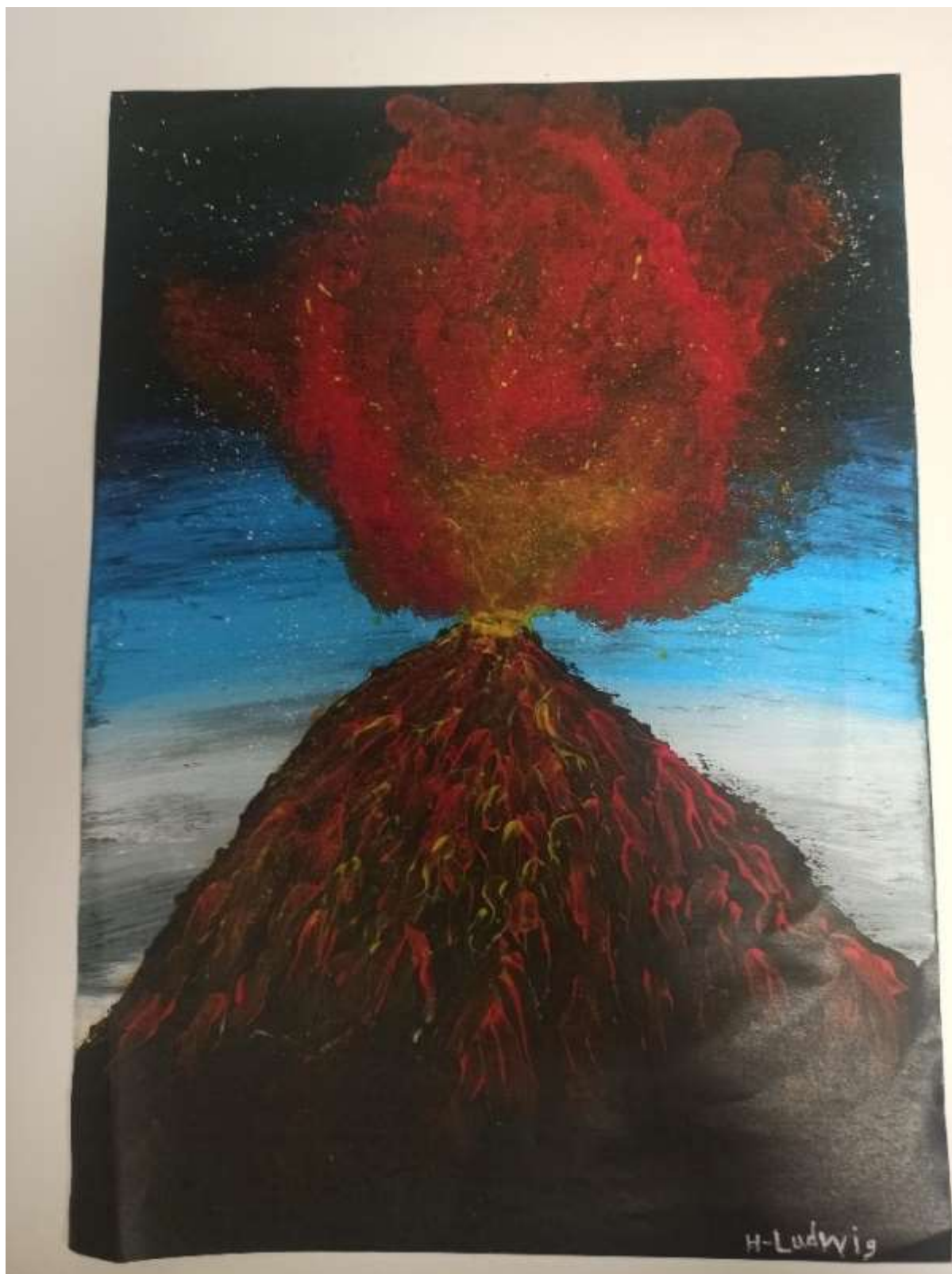
Science has taken a plant focus all term learning about germination to pollination. They have even designed and created greenhouses to help germinate their own cress seeds. During their DT lessons, the

children have been using saws effectively to cut wood to exacting measurements, with a good level of accuracy.

During geography lessons, the children have studied their local area of Hook and undertaken a trip into the village to collect data.

These are just a few subjects the children have experienced this term but there has been many more! It was lovely to see so many parents and carers for the Year 3 learning events recently which the children got to share this learning with you. On behalf of the year 3 team, I would like to thank you for your help and support in aiding a smooth transition from infant school and hope that you are able to enjoy a lovely Christmas and we look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

## Year 4 Learning



Year 4 have had a very exciting Autumn term focusing on explorers and volcanoes. The children thoroughly enjoyed learning about Shackleton and his expedition to Antarctica, using this as inspiration for some fantastic diary entries and biographies in English. Their non-fiction work continued with a non-chronological report about volcanoes. Children used key features such as subheadings and facts to inform their audience

about the fascinating structures. Their enthusiasm for volcanoes was immense; with some wonderful work being produced at home and showcased in school. There were many models and paintings produced and were a joy to behold in school.

DT work was linked to the diets of explorers, with the children planning, making, tasting and evaluating vegetable curries. They practised key cooking skills, including cutting techniques, and worked well in groups to produce some delicious smelling (and tasting) curries. We definitely have some chefs in the making!

Along with their learning, there was also the...

#### **Year 4 Christmas Production**

The children in Year 4 put on amazing performances of their production 'No One Wraps Like an Elf' over the past two weeks to their parents, the community and to the rest of the school.

From the moment rehearsals began, the children poured their hearts into every scene, practicing their lines and perfecting their singing and dancing.

Together, the children and the school staff were like a well-oiled machine, thriving off each other's energy and dedicating countless hours to make the Christmas production an unforgettable experience.

Their commitment to excellence is evident in the magical performances that left the audiences spellbound, and their hard work and dedication deserve all the applause they received. There were many stand-out moments where the flair and creativity of the children shone brightly in the spot light they were in.

#### **English**

As the Christmas break approaches, I wanted to take a moment to remind you about the importance of encouraging your children to read regularly during this time. Reading is not only a wonderful way to relax and enjoy oneself, but it also has a positive impact on their education. By nurturing a reading habit over the holiday, your child can reap numerous benefits.

First and foremost, reading regularly expands their vocabulary and comprehension skills. Exposing them to a variety of books, both fiction and non-fiction, enhances their language skills and helps them develop a deeper understanding of different subjects. This, in turn, aids them in grasping complex concepts across all areas of their education.

Additionally, frequent reading also sparks creativity and imagination. By immersing themselves in the fictional worlds of books, children can explore different perspectives, develop empathy, and enhance their problem-solving abilities. These skills are indispensable in all aspects of their education, from writing essays to tackling math problems.

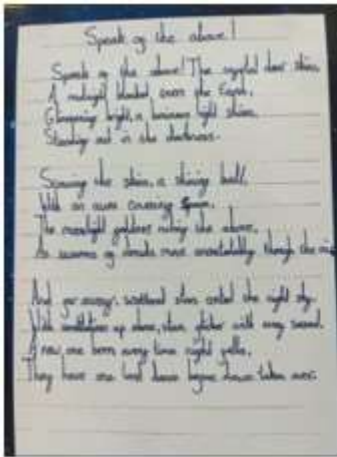
While encouraging reading over the break, let us not forget the importance of practicing spellings. Setting aside a small portion of time each day for spelling practice can significantly enhance your child's written communication skills. By regularly honing their spelling abilities, they can become more confident and accurate writers, which is essential for their academic success. Take the time as needed to recap or repeat any of the spelling words your child has had this past term, to help embed these spellings into their everyday writing.

Therefore, during the Christmas break, I urge you to provide your child with ample opportunities to indulge in reading. Encourage them to explore different genres and discuss what they are reading, fostering a love for literature and learning.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us provide the best education possible for your child. We wish you all a joyful and restful holiday season.

Mr McLaren, Assistant Headteacher

## Year 5 Learning



As we look forward to the spring term, it is important to reflect on what has been a promising and exciting start to the year. Throughout this term, the Year 5 students have immersed themselves in a captivating exploration of the cosmos, delving into the fascinating realms of space and the Solar System. From understanding the phenomena of night and day to creating captivating PowerPoint presentations on the neighbouring planets, their enthusiasm and engagement have been truly commendable. It was delightful to witness their participation in our astronomy evening, despite the weather, where they had the opportunity to gaze through a powerful telescope and expand their knowledge of the night sky.

In English, the students were captivated by the remarkable life of Katherine Johnson, the inspirational African-American mathematician, whose contributions to NASA were integral to the space program. Their subsequent exploration of suspense writing, inspired by the short film Planet Unknown, exhibited their adeptness in creating compelling narratives.

In art, children ventured into uncharted territories, experimenting with varied techniques to create an impressive constellation of space-themed artwork. Their creativity and innovation shone through as they explored masking, relief, and drew inspiration from Peter Thorpe's rocket abstracts.

The aroma of freshly baked bread filled the central area as the children mastered the art of bread-making and explored various delicious toppings for their focaccia. The experience proved to be both educational and delectable! Who knows, we may have a Junior Bake-Off contestant amongst us?

A highlight of the term was our space assembly, where the children had the chance to showcase their learning and talents. It was a joy to witness their confidence as they delivered their lines and sang the songs. The pride they displayed was truly heart-warming.

As we conclude this term, I am thrilled to share that we have an array of exciting plans for the upcoming spring term, promising further opportunities for growth and exploration. I eagerly anticipate witnessing the continued progress and achievements of our Year 5 children in the months ahead.

Once again, thank you for your ongoing support, and I hope you have a wonderful break over the holiday season.

## Year 6 Learning



As we come to the end of the first term in Year 6, it is important to reflect on the incredible progress and achievements children have made. Throughout the term, our Year 6 have delved into the topic of World War II, immersing themselves not only in history, but also through our main text driver, 'Good Night Mr Tom'. This rich text has inspired a wealth of creativity and critical thinking, leading to some exceptional pieces of written work. The children have produced a wide range of writing, from air raid advice leaflets to emotionally impactful persuasive speeches, showcasing their ability to write for a range of purposes and from different perspectives.

Our residential trip to Marchants Hill in Autumn 1 provided a fantastic opportunity for the children to apply a range of skills in various forms. The experience was both enriching and educational, offering children a chance to make memories, bond, learn, and grow beyond the confines of the classroom.

Inspired by the work of Henry Moore, a prominent WWII artist, the children replicated some of his techniques to create their own pieces of art. Working collaboratively, they also developed a class sculpture installation, drawing inspiration from Moore's depiction of Londoners sheltering from the Blitz in the underground. Additionally, our music lessons centred around well-known WWII songs, which the children had the chance to perform at our Learning Event. Furthermore, they demonstrated their musical abilities by composing their own pieces based on 'Pack Up Your Troubles', using a variety of percussion instruments.

It has been truly impressive to witness the Year 6s engaging with the World War II topic across different subject areas, demonstrating their creativity, empathy, and engagement with historical events.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support, which plays a crucial role in the children's achievements. Encouraging their enthusiasm for learning at home and discussing their educational experiences, further reinforces their progress.



Looking ahead to the next term, we are confident that Year 6 will continue to apply themselves with great diligence and enthusiasm. I am looking forward to seeing their continued growth and progress as we move forward.

Miss Stewart, Assistant Headteacher

## Dodgeball



On Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December, Children from Year 6 competed in a Dodgeball Festival at Calthorpe Park. The festival was a fantastic opportunity for the children to showcase their skills and sportsmanship, while competing alongside other school teams from Hart and Rushmoore.

During their 7 matches, the children demonstrated exceptional teamwork and coordination, which ultimately led to a number of well-deserved victories. We are incredibly proud of the team, they showed great enthusiasm and passion for the game, which was evident to everyone in attendance.

We would also like to extend a special thank you to all the parents who supported our team by attending the festival and cheering them on.

## Mackenzie Smith Colouring Competition



Thank you to all children who entered the Mackenzie Smith colouring competition. Many entries are now on display [in the Hook branch](#). Representing Mackenzie Smith, Simon Dredge today joined our celebration assembly and presented competition winner, William, with a £50 prize voucher. Simon said 'It was a pleasure to present the winning prize to William and to experience the school assembly. William put a lot of colour and creativity into it, we especially liked the candy cane style border around the edge of the page!'



## Well done!

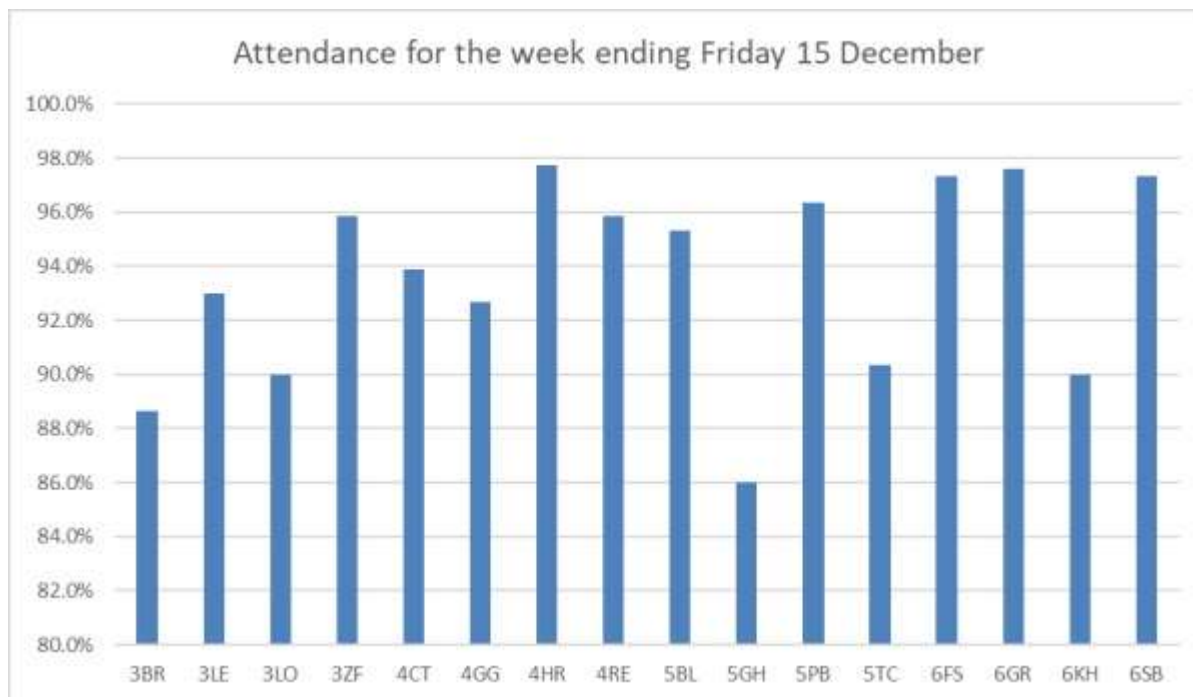
Congratulations to Hannah V who recently passed her Grade 1 Piano exam with distinction

Well done, Hannah!

## Starlight Stage School

Starlight Stage school have spaces available in their Monday after school club. If your child may be interested, please see the flyer later in this message for more details and contact information. The spring term theme for the stage school, as chosen by the children, is the Diary Of a Wimpy Kid books.

## Attendance



**Whole School Attendance this week: 93.6%**

## Stars of the Week

Year 3: Aleezeh Q, Emelia P, Emma T, Teddy T

Year 4: Jake, Zach, Sofia J, Reyansh I, Avinash P

Year 5: Kiki R, James B, Xander H, Poppy F

Year 6: Summer K, Mary-Anne V, Abeeshca S, Archie H, Ava M, Will P, Barnaby B, Dorothy C, Will R

## House Points this week

Austen: 185

Brunel: 169

Nightingale: 220

Wellington: 167

House point winners this week: Nightingale!

## 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

- 18 Dec – 1 Jan Christmas Holiday
  - 2 Jan Inset Day – school closed to children
  - 3 January First Day of Spring Term
  - 5 Jan Year 5 Swimming starts (*information sent to parents w/c 6 November*)
  - 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
- Hook Junior School Weekly Newsletter

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

24 Jun Robert May's Transition Day for Year 6 pupils

25 Jun Robert May's Transition Day for Year 6 pupils

25 Jun Whole School Transition Day, including Year 2 pupils

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 school's Designated Safeguarding Leads, either Miss L Powell (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](http://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.

# ST★RLIGHT

## STAGE SCHOOL

Would you like to bring your favourite stories to life?

Spring 24 we are taking inspiration from the Diary Of A Wimpy Kid books

Through performing arts games and activities we will help your child re-create scenes, develop characters and explore the art of story-telling.

Our sessions aim to inspire creativity and imagination, boost confidence and improve language / literacy skills - all whilst having fun!

Hook Junior School

Mondays 3.30pm - 4.30pm

Ages 7 - 11

£7.50 per session

Free Taster Session

For more information email:  
[starlightstageschoolltd@gmail.com](mailto:starlightstageschoolltd@gmail.com)

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