



Weekly Newsletter

Week ending Friday 19 January 2024

School Applications for September 2024

The deadline for applications to Year R and Year 3 in September 2024 has now passed. If you still need to apply for a Year R or Year 3 place, you must complete a late application online via the Hampshire School Admissions website (<http://www.hants.gov.uk/admissions>).

Completed late forms can be returned to any Hampshire school or the County Admissions Team. Please ensure that you date stamp any forms received in school on receipt and forward them to the admissions team as quickly as possible.

Year 6 Natural History Museum Evolution Workshop

Year 6 are learning about Evolution. This week, Matt, from the Natural History Museum kindly ran workshops for each class to tell us all about the topic. We explored the following questions: What is evolution? How does it happen? Why does it happen?

We were presented with lots of exciting information. We learnt when different species were around and when they first existed. As the time of evolution takes generations, we split the evolution timeline into 3 periods. This helped us understand how far apart different and new life is formed. We were all shocked when we found out that grass hadn't been around too long before humans. Matt even told us about an experiment that scientists have been working on: they have sent some scientists to an island to learn about the current evolution happening with lizards. They have taken the prints of the lizards and 40% of them have large toes that makes them slower, yet they have a stronger grip. 60% of them have spread out, smaller feet, so they can move faster. We looked at how - if there was a storm – which lizard type would most likely survive, as well as other factors, like if there was a hawk. We looked at different stages of how the Earth looked and we worked out how animals have changed over time. We understood how they changed their appearance to adapt to their surroundings. We are all very grateful for the natural history museum for giving us this experience!

Written by Isla H & Edith B 6FS.

A Reminder of PE Kit Requirements

On those days when children have PE, they should arrive at school wearing the PE kit described below instead of their regular school uniform.

Our PE kit expectations are [clearly explained on the Uniform page of our website](#).

All children are required to wear an appropriate combination of the following upper body and lower body PE kit:

- White short- sleeve polo shirt bearing the Hook Junior School logo in the appropriate House colour
- Navy branded shorts, or plain navy unbranded short; navy branded or plain navy unbranded skirt; navy branded tracksuit or plain unbranded tracksuit
- White sports socks
- Black, grey or navy trainers

An optional navy tracksuit, formed of navy top and bottoms may be worn for some outside activities during the winter months.

The following items **do not** form part of the school PE uniform and must not be worn or taken to school by any child:

- Any shirt bearing a logo, brand or other visual or graphical element
- Any shorts bearing a logo, brand or other visual or graphical element
- Trainers must be smart and appropriate for physical activity

Infant School Staff Car Park

Hook Infant School would like to remind all parents that the Infant School car park is for use by Infant School staff only and parents are not permitted to use it for drop off or collection. The same applies for parents who may be arriving with children for the pre-school Koosa breakfast club, or collecting children from the after school Koosa club. The Infant school car park is for the use of school staff only and access is to parking is constantly required for school staff.

Shots Foundation Soccer Camp, 15 and 16 February

Spaces are still available for the The Shots Foundation half-term football camp at Hook Junior School on Thursday 15th February and Friday 16th February.

Children attending will receive top quality coaching from FA qualified coaches and a free community stand family ticket (max 4 people) to an Aldershot Town 2023-24 home game.

More details are included in the flyer later in this newsletter. You can book a place online via <https://www.participant.co.uk/register/HookJrFeb>.

RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch

Across the UK, over half a million people took part in Big Garden Birdwatch 2023, counting a whopping 9.1 million birds! House Sparrows took the top spot, but counts of these chirpy birds are down by 57% compared to the first Birdwatch in 1979. In fact, we've lost 38 million birds from UK skies in the last 60 years. With birds facing so many challenges, it's more important than ever to get involved in the Birdwatch. Every bird you do – or don't – count will give us a valuable insight into how garden birds are faring.

The RSPB are once again asking people to take part in the Big Garden Birdwatch, which runs from Friday 26th to Sunday 28th January this year. This is entirely optional, but I know that some children will be keen to take part. You can sign up and participate by visiting the [Big Garden Birdwatch page on the RSPB website](#). Spend just one hour watching the birds in your garden and record the birds that land. Full

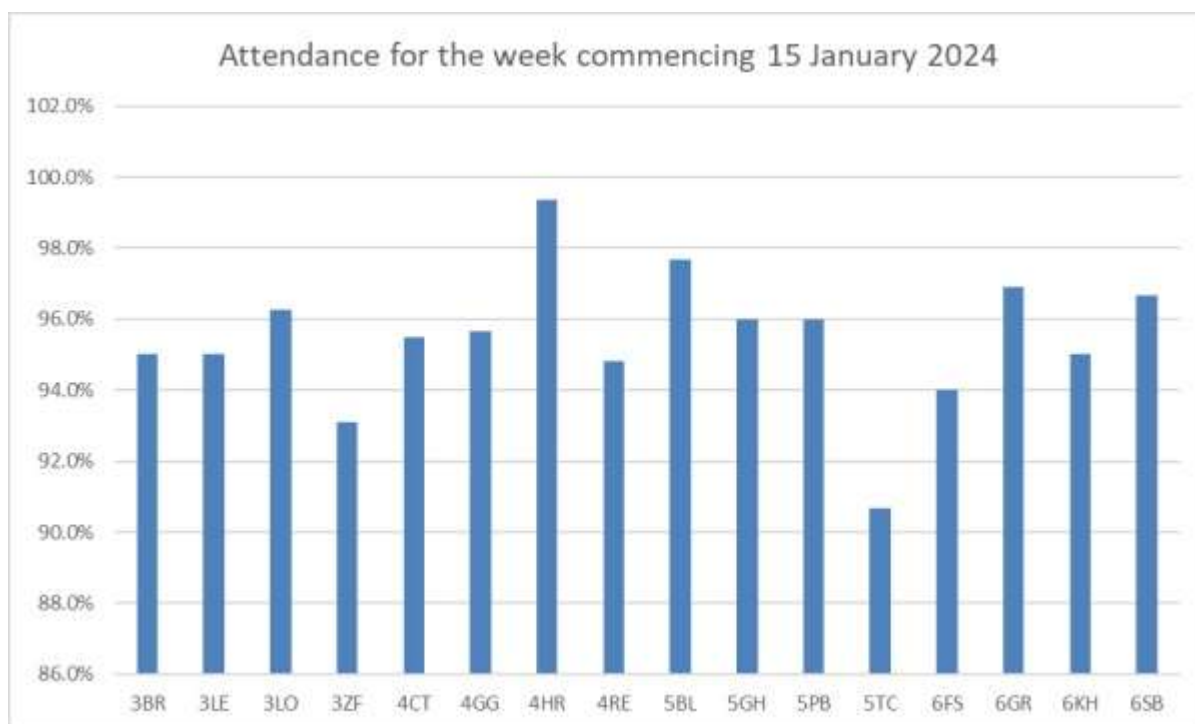
instructions are on the RSPB website. Your results must be shared with the RSPB, either by recording online, or by post. The RSPB uses your birdwatch results to assist them in gathering data about the birds in the U.K.

We've included a recipe for a bird feeder at the end of this newsletter which you may like to make at home to attract more species of birds.

Attendance

If your child won't be attending school on a given day, as a parent, you have a responsibility to inform the school as soon as possible. This can be done via either sending an email to the school office (adminoffice@hook-jun.hants.sch.uk) or by calling us on 01256 762 468 and select option 1 to leave a message on the absence line. If you would prefer to speak with a member of staff directly, select option 2.

Your message about your child's absence (whether verbal or written) must include the child's name, their class and a clear reason for absence.



Whole School Attendance this week: 95.5%

Stars of the Week

Year 3: Kamila R, Deniz K, Ararius S, Theia F, Oliver N

Year 4: Archie M, Henry F, Lucy P, Gethin D

Year 5: Olivia T, Lila S, Ivy H, Mya F, George H

Year 6: Hannah V, Casper K, James C, Scarlett J, Amber P, Barnaby B, Ella H

House Points this week

Austen: 170

Brunel: 158

Nightingale: 244

Wellington: 188

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

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

7 Feb Year 3 Iron Age Workshops

12 Feb – 16 Feb Spring Half Term

19 Feb Inset Day – school closed to children

28 Feb HSCA Bag2School Collection

28 Feb Year 4 trip to the Mary Rose

4 Mar Year 5 River Trip – 5TC and 5GH

4 Mar SATs Presentation to Parents – 5pm

5 Mar Year 5 River Trip – 5PB and 5BL

7 Mar HSCA Mother's Day Sale

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

Hook Junior School Weekly Newsletter

23 Apr Year 4 Ufton Court Viking Workshop in school
24 Apr Year 4 Ufton Court Viking Workshop in school
28 Mar End of Spring Term – 1:20 finish
15 Apr Back to School Summer Term
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
14 May Class Photos
19 May Hook Fun Run
27 May – 31 May Summer Half Term
3 Jun Year 4 Times Tables Assessments
13 Jun HSCA Father's Day Sale
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
9 Jul Year 4 trip to Lepe Beach
10 Jul Strawberry Tea
16 Jul 9:15 Year 6 Production to 6GR and 6SB
17 Jul 9:15 Year 6 Production to 6SF and 6KH
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 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.

Make a speedy birdcake



Just as the name says, this is quick and easy to make. Hang it up and feed the birds this winter.



1 Make a small hole in the bottom of the pot/cup. Thread a long piece of string through the hole and tie a sizeable knot on the inside. Leave enough string so that you can tie the pot to a tree or bird table.

You will need:

- Good quality bird seed
- Raisins
- Peanuts
- Grated cheese
- Suet or lard at room temperature
- Yogurt pots/plastic cups
- String
- Mixing bowl
- Wooden spoon
- Scissors



2 Chop the lard into pieces and put in the bowl, mixing thoroughly with the other ingredients.



3 Spoon the bird cake mix into the pots. If you can, put them in a fridge for an hour or two to set.



4 Hang your speedy bird cakes up. Will birds such as blue tits come to feed? Wait and see!

FREE

FEBRUARY HALF TERM FUN FOR KIDS



**Wednesday 14th February
2024 11am-4pm
Hook Community Centre,
Ravenscroft,
RG27 9NN**



Come along to:

- * **Meet the animals from Mill Cottage Farm**
- * **Make mini willow sculptures with Special Branch**
- * **Organisations such as Hart Rangers, Hampshire & Isle of Wight Amphibian & Reptile Group, and the Wildlife Trust**

Refreshments will be available in Burtley

We also have Safari Pete!



Meet reptiles and other animals with Safari Pete – book tickets on thelittleboxoffice.com/hookvillagehalls (£3.50 per child. Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult. An adult can accompany more than one child. No charge/ticket needed for adult).



Make a date whatever the weather

We are able to put the event on thanks to support from Hook Parish Council and Jonathan Glen's HCC devolved budget; & support also from the Tesco Stronger Starts Grant. For more information and to book contact Hook Village Halls on 01256 764000 or email enquiries@hookvillagehalls.org.uk In the event of unforeseen circumstances Hook Village Halls Charitable Association reserves the right to alter or cancel any of the above events. E&OE



brought to you by:



In the Heart of Hook

♥ Hook Village Halls 2024 ♥



WIN a free children's party hire – see page 18 inside



**There's so much to see and do
Look inside and at
www.hookvillagehalls.org.uk**



Shots Foundation

Half-Term Football Camp

Thursday 15th February and Friday 16th February

10:00 - 15:00

Boys and Girls from Reception up to Year 6
Maximum 30 children per day

£25 for 1 day
£45 for both days

Includes:

Coaching from FA Qualified Coaches

FREE family ticket to Aldershot Town FC this 2023/24 season.

To sign up - <https://www.participant.co.uk/register/HookJrFeb>

Email jamie.macallister@shotsfoundation.org for any questions.



SHOTS
FOUNDATION

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LIBRARY
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Fantasy Animation Workshop

Basingstoke Discovery Centre
Saturday 27 January
10.30am - 12pm
£3 per person

In partnership with University of
the Creative Arts.

Discover a unique method of
animation in this phonotrope
workshop delivered by
director Jim Le Fevre.

Aimed at ages: 7-17



SCAN ME



Fantasy
REALMS OF IMAGINATION

or search: tinyurl.com/2urbfu6y

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Fantasy Puppetry Workshop

Basingstoke Discovery Centre
Saturday 27 January
2pm - 3.30pm
£3 per person

In partnership with University of the
Creative Arts.

Get a taste for working with puppets
within the film and television industry in
this workshop which particularly relates
to the fantasy genre.

Aimed at ages: 7-17

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Fantasy
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