



Weekly Newsletter

Week ending Friday 6 September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to the start of the new school year, we look forward to working with you and seeing you at school events as the year progresses. The junior school team are well prepared, positive and excited about making our curriculum engaging and memorable for the children.

Y3 children

Our Y3 children have come in to school independently and so confidently, they have been real troopers getting to grips with their new routines and settling into life as junior school pupils. We are so proud of them. The current arrangements for Y3 parents collecting children from the Y3 classes at the end of the school day will be maintained as it is so far proving positive for all concerned.

Flooding

During the summer break many of you will be aware of the freak flooding that occurred in Hook and our school was flooded too. The school hall, the school kitchen, three classrooms and the corridor leading up to the children's kitchen were sadly flooded, however, it is thanks to the quick response of Mr Grant, Mr Addison and the support of the cleaning team manager at YBC with their cleaning equipment, that much of the water was removed and not left to lie on the evening of the storm. The efforts of staff and the vinyl flooring in most rooms enabled us to mitigate as much damage as possible under the circumstances and I am hugely grateful to all for the resilience shown. However, the wooden hall floor was damaged beyond repair. We worked with Property Services at Hampshire County Council and had our hall floor completely replaced during the holidays, and on Tuesday I was able to deliver my assembly with the children sitting smartly and proudly in their school uniforms on a lovely, new hall floor!

During the storm, eight gazebos on the school field which provide shade for pupils were completely destroyed and had to be disposed of. We would like to thank the Hook and Odiham Lions for their generosity in paying for four replacement gazebos to the value of £500.

We also lost many class reading books, exercise books that children would have used this term, toys and games that children use during break times and many reams of plain paper onto which learning materials would be printed for children. Our insurance covers these items and we therefore have not requested fundraising support from the community. However, as we continue to discover areas affected by the flood water, it may be that we host events to replace items that have been lost or damaged and that insurance has not covered.

New Acting Chair of Governors

As we start the new academic year, we welcome Bruce Anderson as Hook Junior School Acting Chair of Governors. Having him as a governor we know that the governing body is in good hands, and we look forward to his support working with senior leaders and the school team to as we work continually improve our school for our children.

Staffing

You will be delighted to know that during the summer break Mrs Ellwood and her husband welcomed their new born baby girl Lottie weighing just over 7lb. Both parents visited us during inset day to show her off with pride.

In March, Miss Temple and her husband will also be welcoming their first child; huge congratulations to them and we look forward to meeting the new arrival. For parents of 3CT I will of course inform you as soon as possible about teaching arrangements for Miss Temple's class to cover her period of maternity leave for the remainder of the year.

In the meantime, have a good weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Miss L Powell

Headteacher

Replacing the Hall Floor

Exceptional weather during at the start of August led to flooding in several external and internal areas of the school. After an initial clean-up it was agreed that despite allowing adequate drying time the wooden Hall floor was beyond repair and needed to be replaced. The wooden floor has been part of the school character throughout the 50 years that school has been open, repeatedly being extended to accommodate additional pupils, evidenced with the change of timber colours with each growth.

With the decision to replace flooring taken only two weeks before the start of the Autumn term, contractors and materials had to be quickly organised.

12 August: Floor deemed beyond repair due to water damage. You can see here that water had settled below the floor.



16 August: Removal of flooring begins, including safe removal of materials suspected to contain asbestos.



27 August: Replacement flooring installation underway with a new damp membrane installed and raised timber structure.



24 August: Levelling compound is laid.



29 August: Vinyl layer installed.



This week some final details are still being completed, such as installation of new skirting and we still have to reinstate the climbing apparatus that children regularly use during their PE lessons.

We are particularly grateful to DGK Flooring and Hutchison Flooring who worked with us to replace the flooring within the time available.

Boys Toilet Refurbishment

Last year we asked children to tell us which areas of the school they think needed improvement and one of the common answers was the boys toilet. During the summer break, the toilet was completely refurbished. All fixtures, fittings and plumbing were removed, including five toilets and three urinals. A new floor has been laid along with new sinks and taps. Eight new toilets have been installed in place of the old sanitaryware.



Parking during Drop Off and Collection

Morning drop off and afternoon collections are always busy in and around school grounds when children are arriving or leaving school and we do our best, along with Hook Parish Council to maintain safety, however we do need your help and cooperation to achieve this. With this high number of visitors nearby roads and car parks quickly become very busy for a brief period. We encourage everyone attending school to walk whenever possible, however if you must drive to school, please be mindful of the residential and community area you are visiting and also the very high number of pedestrians, including children, who will be in the immediate vicinity.

When waiting to enter the school grounds, with or without your child, we encourage all pedestrians to wait on footpaths and not in the flow of traffic. Use the available footpaths to reach the school grounds, including the path directly adjacent to the skate park which is intended to provide a safe path for pedestrians. Please also explain to your children that the footpath is the safest place for them to stand or walk.

The community centre car park is owned and managed by Hook Parish Council and they kindly grant free parking for school visitors, however please remember that members of the community and customers of Hartletts Café also use the car park. On some occasions this will mean that spaces for school drop off and collection may be limited. You must park in marked spaces only. This is for the safety of all pedestrians (including those leaving their vehicles), to allow other vehicles to safely park and turn, and to ensure that our vehicular gates remain completely free from obstruction as they are the only route for emergency vehicles.

For the safety of children and adults entering and leaving the school grounds, the area immediately outside the school gates, including the area where bollards have been installed and the footpath leading away from the school pedestrian gate is not a suitable location for parking at any time.

If you are parking in nearby local streets, please be respectful of local residents access rights and do not obstruct access to their properties or use car parks intended for residents only.

Uniform

All children are expected to attend school wearing the appropriate full school uniform, [as explained on the Uniform page of our website](#).

All uniform is currently [purchased online via Earth Uniform](#). Uniform is not available to purchase via the school office, however, we can supply a school tie for £5, subject to availability of stock. You can call into the school office to purchase a tie – all payments must be made via your Scopay account.

We know that buying uniform for your children can be expensive and will be appointing a further uniform supplier in the near future to provide additional supplier choice and pricing. Please note that Marks and Spencer have decided to terminate their school uniform service – this is not a decision that Hook Junior School has taken and the cessation of uniform supply via Marks and Spencer is entirely the result of a business decision made by Marks and Spencer to discontinue their uniform offer. The Marks and Spencer uniform pages may continue to show that uniform items are available, however we no longer recommend attempting to purchase from Marks and Spencer, nor can we offer any guarantees that items ordered will be fulfilled.

Mark your child's uniform items clearly with their name and should they be lost during the school day we can help return them. Any uniform that is not marked will be collected with other lost property and unclaimed items periodically donated to the HSCA for re-sale. If you have any surplus uniform at home, you can donate this to the HSCA by placing it in the green donation bin outside reception.

The next HSCA pre-loved uniform sale will take place after school on Friday 13 September. Look out for the HSCA team and their uniform stall on the playground.

Remember that our uniform policy does not permit children to wear make-up or jewellery to school. Hair bands are permitted but must be inconspicuous and in keeping with the other uniform elements.

Tesco Stronger Starts – please vote for us!

This summer Hook Junior School is one of three local organisations you can vote for in the Tesco Stronger Starts initiative. We are already doing extremely well – thank you for the tokens you have already placed in the Hook Junior School voting box. Voting is open until 30 September and we will be very grateful for your continued support. If you receive a blue token when shopping at Tesco, please consider dropping it into the Hook Junior School voting box! If we win the customer vote, up to £1500 will be donated to the school and this will be used to purchase new picnic benches for all children to enjoy when outside in our grounds.

HSCA News

Welcome back! And a very warm welcome to new families that have joined the school this year. The HSCA has hit the ground running with a month full of news and events! If you have any questions or would like to learn more about any of the below you can message us on [Facebook](#) or [email](#).

Books and Games Available

We would like to share the remaining donations of books and games that were generously given to the Infant school with other education settings and community groups. If you work with children in the community and would like some books or games please get in touch. Collections will take place this weekend from a home in Hook.

Pre-Loved Uniform Sale

Our next pre-loved uniform sale will be held on Friday, 13 September after school (until 4pm) on the Junior school playground. We will have lots of good quality, logo uniform items for sale and all proceeds will go to Hook schools.

Annual General Meeting

Please join us for our AGM on Thursday, 19 September in the Infant School Hall. Drinks and nibbles will be available from 6.30pm with the meeting starting at 7pm. The AGM is your opportunity to meet your trustees and hear how the funds you have helped to raise have been used for the benefit of the children at our schools.

Volunteer Social

If you're interested in helping out with the HSCA this year please join us at The Raven on Thursday, 19 September from 8pm (straight after the AGM) to learn about our upcoming programme of events. We'd love to have a drink and share with you all that we have planned and how you could help.

Twilight Runway Challenge

The Twilight Runway Challenge is a fun, family-friendly event which takes place at Blackbushe Airport on Saturday, 21 September and this year pupils from Infants and Juniors are taking part! You can run, walk, cycle, scoot or skateboard your way round the airstrip (3km, 5km or 10km routes) and raise money for the HSCA.

Want to take part?

1. Book your place on [Twilight Runway Challenge](#). The entry fee goes to The Community Matters Partnership, a charity who provides support to schools and other community groups by organising corporate volunteering days.
2. Tell us you've signed up, which route you intend to do and how you're going to do it (3K, 5K, 10K - walk/run/cycle/scoot - email hscaevents@gmail.com)
3. Share our [JustGiving page](#) with your friends and family and ask them to sponsor you.

Asda Cashpot for Schools Program

Asda has partnered with Parentkind (a charity that supports PTAs) to donate to primary schools all across the UK and the HSCA has signed up! Asda will donate 0.5% of every purchase to your chosen school from now until the end of November. All you have to do is download the Asda Rewards app, opt-in to Cashpot for Schools and then get shopping! See [Asda Cashpot for Schools](#) for more details.

School Games Mark Award

During the holidays, Hook Junior School were awarded the Silver School Games Mark which is a great achievement, highlighting the school's ongoing commitment towards PE, sport and physical activity for all pupils. The PE curriculum is well-sequenced and taught to a high standard. The school also remain dedicated to ensuring all children are active for at least 30 minutes a day in school, alongside the two-hours of statutory PE lessons each week. This is achieved through structured activities at play and lunchtimes, including fitness Thursdays, sports led by Mr Cotton each lunchtime and special events such as children vs staff to name just a few. Children are also active within their classrooms with movement breaks and dances. We are proud to offer a wide range of opportunities for children to take part in inter and intra house competitions across the year, with events for children of all abilities.

Thames Water Maintenance to Sewers on A30

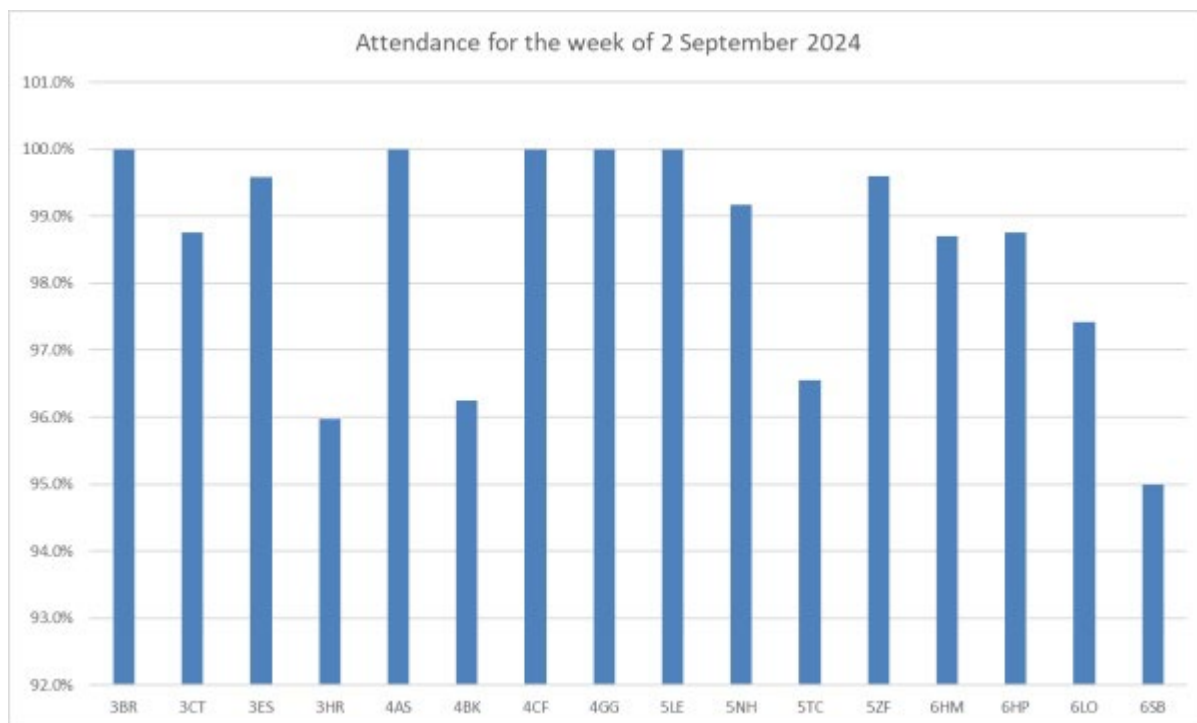
We are advised by Thames Water that the road closure currently affecting the A30 is likely to continue for a further one or two weeks. Please take account of the additional journey time that may be required to reach school. Thames Water are [publishing updates via a dedicated website](#).

Attendance

It has been an excellent week at Hook Junior School in terms of attendance - even the torrential rain on Friday morning couldn't keep the children away! We are aware that changing into a new academic year/school can be an unsettling time for some, so the encouragement and support that you have provided the children through the transition this week is greatly appreciated.

There are likely to be some tired children over the weekend, with some maybe reluctant to return to school next week as the routine of a new school year sinks in. The sooner we settle them back into school the better, so we ask that you keep encouraging their school attendance through these 'wobbles' and allow us the opportunity to get them settled.

If you have any concerns, or would like to talk to us about your child and their needs, please contact Kay Doughty, our new Attendance Office and Pastoral Support Worker, and she will provide you with the relevant support. She can be contacted through the school office.



Whole school attendance this week: 98.5%

Stars of the Week

Year 3: Lydia A, Jessica L, Theo R, Yuri G, Frank D

Year 4: Mason P, Scarlett A, Logith J, Esther C, Alfie B

Year 5: Zach D, Daniel P, Toby P, Thomas B

Year 6: Hattie S, Anya K, Jacob G, Syon S

House Points this week

Austen: 34

Brunel: 39

Nightingale: 51

Wellington: 43

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

30 Sep INSET Day – school closed

18 Nov INSET Day – school closed

6 Jan INSET Day – school closed

2 Jun INSET Day – school closed

11 Sep 6:00pm Marchants Hill presentation to year 5 parents

11 Sep 6:00pm Marchants Hill presentation to year Year 6 parents

12 Sep Assembly for International Day of Democracy (on 15 Sep)

13 Sep 3:30pm HSCA Uniform Sale on the playground

18 Sep Portrait photos

19 Sep Year 4 dance workshop with Kala The Arts (session 1)

23 Sep 3HR walk around Hook

24 Sep 3BR walk around Hook

25 Sep 3ES walk around Hook

26 Sep 3CT walk around Hook

26 Sep Year 4 dance workshop with Kala The Arts (session 2)

26 Sep Read Write Inc. workshop with parents of selected children

27 Sep MacMillan Coffee Morning

30 Sep INSET Day – school closed

2 Oct 8:45am Parent Coffee morning for all year groups

7 Oct Whole school photo

7 Oct Harvest assembly and foodbank donation

10 Oct World Mental Health day

10 Oct Year 4 dance workshop with Kala the Arts (session 3)

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16 Oct Governor Day
16 Oct 3:30 to 6:30 Learning consultations
17 Oct 3:30 to 6:30 Learning consultations
17 Oct Year 4 dance workshop with Kala the Arts (session 4)
21 Oct Year 6 Residential to Marchants Hill
24 Oct Year 4 dance workshop with Kala the Arts (session 5)
31 Oct Bikeability
1 Nov Bikeability
7 Nov Year 2 parents information morning and tour
8 Nov Diwali Light It Up festival
11 Nov Anti Bullying Week
11 Nov Remembrance Day
12 Nov Odd socks day (for Anti-Bullying Week)
15 Nov Children in Need
17 to 23 Nov Road safety week
18 Nov INSET Day – school closed
19 Sep 7:00pm HSCA Annual General Meeting
20 Nov Christmas jumper swap rail opens
26 Nov 9:00am Year 5 Learning event
27 Nov 9:00am Year 5 Learning event
3 Dec International Day for People with Disabilities
4 Dec 2:00pm Year 3 Learning event
7 Dec HSCA Christmas Fair
12 Dec Flu Vaccinations
12 Dec Christmas Jumper Day
13 Dec 1:45pm Year 4 Christmas Production to community (4GG and 4CF)
16 Dec Year 4 Christmas Production to school (4KB and 4AS)
17 Dec 9:15am Year 4 Christmas Production to parents (4CF and 4GG)
18 Dec Pupil Christmas lunch
18 Dec 9:15am Year 4 Christmas Production (4BK and 4AS)
19 Dec 4:00pm Carols around the Tree
20 Dec End of Term, 1:20 finish

2025

6 Jan INSET day – school closed
22 Jan 8:45am Parent Coffee morning for all year groups
23 Jan Robert Burns Assembly
25 Jan Burns night (school assembly / activity to celebrate)
27 Jan Holocaust Memorial Day

3 Feb Children's Mental Health Week
11 Feb Safer Internet Day
11 Feb 3:30 to 6:30 Learning consultations
12 Feb 3:30 to 6:30 Learning consultations
12 - 13 Feb Travelling books book fair
20 Feb Bikeability
21 Feb Bikeability
6 Mar World Book Day
6 Mar Young Shakespeare Co. perform Hamlet to Year 5 and Year 6
7 Mar 3:30pm HSCA Uniform Sale on the playground
8 Mar International Womens Day
10 Mar Science week
10 Mar STEM fair
12 Mar Governor Day
15 Mar Red nose day
21 Mar International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
27 Mar 2:00pm Year 6 Learning Event
2 Apr World Autism Day
2 Apr 5:00pm Year 6 SATS and RSE presentation
3 Apr Easter service at St Johns Church
4 Apr End of Term, 1:20 finish
7 May 8:45am Year 2 parent coffee morning
12 May SATS week
29 May Bikeability
30 May Bikeability
2 Jun INSET Day – school closed
18 Jun Sports Day
4 Jul 2:00pm Year 6 performance to Year 2 and community (6SH and 6LO)
7 Jul Year 6 performance to school (6SB and 6HP)
10 Jul Year 6 play to parents (6SH and 6LO)
11 Jul Year 6 play to parents (6SB and 6HP)
11 Jul Reports circulated to parents
17 Jul Strawberry Tea
22 Jul End of term, 1:20 finish

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.

It's time for a Macmillan Coffee Morning and you're invited

Let's do whatever it takes
to support people living with cancer.

Place: Hook Junior School

Date: Friday 27 September 2024

Further information will
follow by Parentmail



MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT

Macmillan Cancer Support, registered charity in England and Wales (26107), Scotland (SC039907) and the Isle of Man (2614). Also operating in Northern Ireland. MAC19933_in-vitePoster

