



HOOK JUNIOR  
SCHOOL

# Weekly Newsletter

## Week ending Friday 20 September 2024

Thank you, Hook Schools Community Association



At the AGM of the Hook Schools Community Association this week, the charity donated a total of £30,000 to Hook Junior School and Hook Infant School. This will be shared equally between schools for use in improving the experience of children attending. It's an incredible achievement and your contributions as parent and carers in our community have directly contributed to this amount. We would like to express our sincere thanks to the HSCA for their fundraising efforts this year. A number of long serving HSCA volunteers are leaving their current positions and we are particularly grateful to Sarah, David, Scott and Zoe for their dedication.

# Attendance

We've stressed the importance of maintaining consistent high school attendance, and explained some of the reasons for this:

- It significantly enhances your child's potential and life prospects
- It positively impacts your child's physical, social and emotional development
- It puts your child at a significant advantage to reach their academic potential
- It improves confidence, creates stability and is good for overall wellbeing
- It galvanises new friendships and supports your child to maintain friendship circles

That all makes sense. But, why do we keep talking about attendance?

Nationally, there has been a decline in regular school attendance since the Covid-19 pandemic. Furthermore, the way that preventable odd days of absence, and/or unexceptional absence during term time is viewed has changed.

"They're ok but we'll just keep them home today to keep an eye on them."

"They hardly slept last night so I'm letting them sleep in."

"Their sibling had a bug at the weekend so I'm just checking that they don't have it."

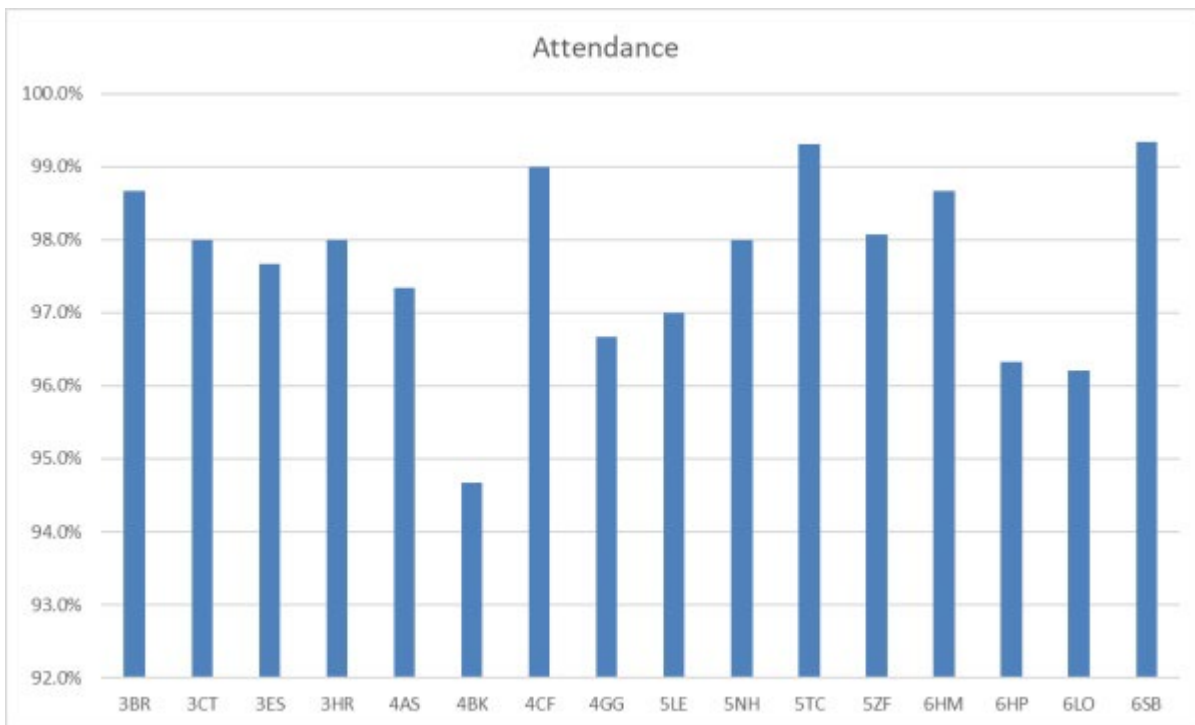
"They're not themselves and are a little bit warm."

"They've got a bit of a cold which I'm sure you don't want to pass around."

Whilst these might appear to be valid reasons for school absence, the vast majority of these children that come into school turn out to be fine. We are able to administer Calpol at school, seeking prior- authorisation from you first. We can also call you to collect them if they appear to be suffering, and would not allow a child to struggle in the school environment if their symptoms indicated they'd be better off at home.

To quantify why we are continuing to discuss school attendance, having only been back from the summer holidays for 14 school days, 20% of our pupils have already had at least 1 day's absence. Although we recognise that the majority of these absences were necessary, that's over 100 Maths lessons, English lessons, and settling in days that have been missed.

## Attendance this week



Whole school attendance this week: 97.7%

## MacMillan Coffee Morning on Friday 27 September



On the morning of Friday 27th September you are invited to join us for a coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support as advertised in the key dates. Money is being raised for a great cause that supports so many families affected by cancer. The success of this coffee morning depends on the contribution of cakes from children and parents / carers that will be enjoyed within the class. We would be delighted if you would donate cakes to the coffee morning to enjoy with children in their class. We've sent full details to all parents and carers in a Parentmail message.

## **Inter-House Cross Country**

**On Monday 23rd September, all children will be participating in our interhouse cross country event.** This will be organised so that the children are running with their year groups. It is a great way for all the children to get involved with a school event. From this we will determine which Year 5/6 will be entered into the Cross Country League this year, which we have just received the dates for. Please can you ensure your child is wearing PE kit and appropriate footwear on this date.

## **INSET Day – 30 September 2024**

Please remember that Monday 30 September is an INSET day. School is closed for teaching and children should not attend.

## **Staying hydrated while at school**

Staying hydrated while at school helps children maintain their energy and focus in class. All children should arrive at school each day with a plastic water bottle containing water that they can refill during the school day from the drinking water tap in each classroom or the water coolers in shared areas. Please only send your child to school with a plastic bottle – glass bottles can sometimes break and then become hazardous to pupils. Please also only send bottles to school. While 'Stanley' style mugs can contain a similar amount of water, they are not suitable for school use, particularly when children move around school during the school day.

## **Measles**

We are advised by Hampshire County Council on behalf of the UK Health and Security Agency that there may be an increase in cases of measles as children return to school after the summer break. Detailed advice regarding Measles, including symptoms and actions you must take [are explained on the NHS website](#). If your child has not already received their MMR vaccinations, we strongly encourage you to speak to your GP for further advice.

## **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**

### **Results of AGM**



A big thank you to everyone who joined us at our Annual General Meeting on Thursday evening where we were very proud to announce that a total of £30,000 from our fundraising efforts in 2023/24 will be available to the schools! We are so grateful to all parents, teachers, students and community members that have given their time and money to help raise these funds. Miss Powell and Mrs Walker spoke of how they would like to allocate these funds towards the continued improvement of Juniors outside spaces and for a new Infants stage - we look forward to seeing the results in the year ahead.

The AGM also sees the election of Trustees for the new academic year. This year we've had several long-standing HSCA members stand down as Trustees - Sarah B, David B, Scott F and Zoe W collectively have over two decades of service to the HSCA and have been instrumental in the success of the organisation - we are immensely grateful for their contribution! Newly-elected Trustees Heidi S, Chris G, Wendy W and Christine G are pleased to join existing Trustees Laura P and Tanya P for the year ahead!

## **2024/25 Programme**

We are very excited to share with you the events for 2024/25 that we are planning so far. If you're interested in either helping to coordinate any of these events or in volunteering on the day, please [email us](#) to let us know! Follow our [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages to keep up with announcements on these events and more:

Twilight Runway Challenge - 21 September

Bag2School Collection - 18 October

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Bake Sale\* - 25 October

Christmas Fair - 7 December

Bag2School Collection - 12 February

Pre-Loved Uniform Sale\* - 7 March

Mother's Day Sale\* - w/c 24 March

Father's Day Sale\* - w/c 9 June

Summer Fair - 28 June

Pre-Loved Uniform Sale\* - 28 June

Infants Festival Day\* - 18 July

Year 6 Leavers Festival\* - 21 July

\*event or set up held during school hours

### **Twilight Runway Challenge**

There's still time to join the families taking part in the [Twilight Runway Challenge](#): a fun, family-friendly event at Blackbushe Airport this Saturday. You can run, walk, cycle, scoot or skateboard your way round the airstrip (3km, 5km or 10km routes) and raise money for the HSCA. Or please consider sponsoring the amazing kids taking part by donating on the [JustGiving page](#).

Want to take part?

1. Online registration has now closed but you can still sign up at Blackbushe Airport on the day. 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](mailto: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 Uniform**

Couldn't make it to our pre-loved sale? We can help throughout term time with any needs for logo uniform items, just send us a message with the item and size you need and, if we have it in stock, we are happy to arrange an individual purchase. Remember also that any logo uniform you no longer need can be donated to the HSCA for re-sale to other families - just drop it in the donation bins at the school office, but please do take care to ensure any items donated are logo items only (i.e. no grey trousers, etc.), clean and damage-free!

## Help Us Find Our Missing Reading Books!

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We need your help to locate some missing reading books.

Over the summer, Mrs Adsley carried out a book audit in our school library. As a school, we are currently missing nearly **150 schemed reading books**. *This would cost around £1,200 to replace.*

There are also around **200 other books** missing, this again would cost around **a further £1,000 to replace**. These books are vital resources that support your children's learning and development both at home and in school.

### How You Can Help

**Check at Home:** Please take a moment to check at home for any school reading books that may have been overlooked.

**Return to School:** If you find any, kindly return them to school as soon as possible.

Every book counts and your cooperation in this matter will help us maintain a rich and engaging reading environment for all our pupils.

Thank you for your support!

Mr McLaren, Assistant Headteacher

## Speak Out Stay Safe

I am pleased to inform you that we are participating in the NSPCC's *Speak out. Stay safe.* programme this term. *Speak out. Stay safe.* is a programme for children aged 5-11 which aims to help children understand abuse in all its forms and to recognise the signs of abuse. Children are taught to speak out if they are worried, either to a safe adult or Childline.

This child friendly programme is aligned with the curriculum and consists of an age-appropriate virtual assembly. Later in the term, we will provide further details about workshops for Year 5 and 6 led by a class teachers. The content is delivered in an engaging and interactive way with the help of the NSPCC mascot Buddy. If you would like to know more about the *Speak out. Stay safe.* programme visit [www.nspcc.org.uk/speakout](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/speakout).

On Monday 23rd September, the children will be joining the virtual assembly which will be led by Miss Stewart.

The NSPCC have shared some important information below on wider NSPCC resources and support to help keep children safe.

**Parent/Carer support:** Take a look at information, support, advice and activities from NSPCC for parent and carers. [www.nspcc.org.uk/parents](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/parents)

**Activities to extend learning at home:** Take part in games and activities at home to help children learn about speaking out and staying safe. [www.nspcc.org.uk/activities](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/activities)

**Online Safety Hub:** For information on a range of different online safety topics including gaming, social media, sharing images, parental controls and more. [www.nspcc.org.uk/onlinesafety](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/onlinesafety)

**Childline – under 12's:** Childline have an accessible website with advice, support, games and activities. Children can change the language, enlarge text and also listen to the content. [www.childline.org.uk/buddy](http://www.childline.org.uk/buddy) (5-7), [www.childline.org.uk/kids](http://www.childline.org.uk/kids) (7-11)

**Talk PANTS with your children:** Talk PANTS is a simple conversation to help keep children safe from sexual abuse. From P through to S, each letter of PANTS provides simple but important messages. Download the free resources at <http://www.nspcc.org.uk/pants>.

## Happy's Circus is visiting Hook Junior School in half term week

Happy's Circus is visiting Hook Junior School during half term week.

There are two shows, one on Monday 28 October and one on Tuesday 29 October. The big top opens at 1:30 on the day of the show and the show itself begins at 2:00. The show finishes at approximately 4pm and there's an interval midway through. Tickets will be available to purchase very soon and we'll send full details with a Parentmail message and via this newsletter.

## Do you own this bike?

This child's bike has been left at school for several months, including over the summer break. Do you own it, or know the person that does? Please contact the office if you can help.





## **Stars of the Week**

Year 3: Joanna Y, Sophie J, Ashvin P, Lucie B

Year 4: Walter G, Evelyn B, Erin T, Harrison C

Year 5: Katie G, Megan D, Jasmine B, Hen K

Year 6: Sienna S, Isabel R, Hannah C, Jack N

## **House Points this week**

Austen: 164

Brunel: 100

Nightingale:158

Wellington: 148

House point winners this week: Austen

## 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

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)

16 Oct Governor Day

16 Oct 3:30 to 6:30 Learning consultations

16 Oct 3:25 to 6:30 Book Fair

17 Oct 3:30 to 6:30 Learning consultations

17 Oct 3:25 to 6:30 Book Fair

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

17 Oct Book Fair 3:25 to 4:00

21 Oct Year 6 Residential to Marchants Hill

24 Oct Year 4 dance workshop with Kala the Arts (session 5)

25 Oct HSCA Bake Sale

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

11 Nov Year 5 Stargazing

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

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  
22 Jan Young Voices O2 (choir only)  
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

24 Mar Year 5 River Trip, Gilbert White, Selborne

25 Mar Year 5 River Trip, Gilbert White, Selborne

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

30 Apr Year 5 Ancient Greek Olympics Workshop

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](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

Join us and share the joy of  
drama with others!

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)

# Starting school in September 2025

If your child is 4 or will turn 4 before **1 September 2025**, they can start school in **September 2025**.

For more information go to [www.hants.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.hants.gov.uk/admissions)  
Applications open for Hampshire residents on **1 November 2024**

THE NATIONAL CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS  
IS WEDNESDAY 15 JANUARY 2025

**DON'T MISS IT!**

