



HOOK JUNIOR  
SCHOOL

# Weekly Newsletter

Friday 7 March 2025

## World Book Day



We were thrilled to celebrate World Book Day on Thursday, 6th March, with a host of exciting activities that brought the joy of reading to life across the school. Our Year 5 and 6 children had the unique opportunity to experience a captivating performance of "Hamlet" by the Young Shakespeare Company. The performance was made even more special as some of our children stepped into the roles of various characters, adding to the enjoyment and intrigue of the session.

Across the school, a wave of poetic inspiration swept across the school as children immersed themselves in the enchanting world of poetry. Each year group dedicated time to exploring and performing a variety of poems, enhancing not only their understanding of literature but also developing their expressive skills and confidence. Their ability to perform with such poise and passion was a testament to the dedication and creativity they have cultivated.

The enchantment of World Book Day extended beyond performances, as the entire school became a vibrant tapestry of beloved literary characters. Children and staff (including the four superheroes above) embraced their imaginations, transforming into figures from the pages of treasured books. The diversity and creativity of the costumes were a dazzling display of the stories that have touched our hearts, reminding us of the magic that books bring to our lives and the endless adventures that await within their pages. Further

adding to the day's excitement, 'The Masked Reader' PowerPoint captivated our students, sparking intrigue and curiosity as they eagerly guessed which staff members were reading their books behind the playful disguises. This engaging activity not only reinforced the fun of reading but also highlighted the close-knit community of our school, where everyone shares a love for stories.

## **Uniform and school owned clothing**

Please remember that all pupils are expected to wear their full uniform each day of the week. On most school days this is the daywear uniform and on days when children have PE, they should wear their PE kit. Uniform expectations are explained on our website. Daywear must only include clothing in the list of acceptable items. The same applies for PE kit – only items explained and illustrated in on our website should be worn. Children should not be wearing alternative clothing for daywear or PE kit.

Please check at home for items of clothing that have been lent out to children. We have a limited supply of uniform and PE kit that we can offer to children should then need it. Anything you know doesn't belong to your child, in particular socks and tights, please send it to class with your child – their class teacher will arrange for it to be delivered to the school office.

## **Science Week 2025 – Change and Adapt!**

We're excited to announce that Science Week is happening next week, from March 10th to 15th! This year's theme is "Change and Adaptation", and we have a fantastic lineup of activities designed to get students thinking scientifically while exploring how living things respond to their environments.

### **How We're Celebrating Science Week**

#### **Morning Science Starters (EMW)**

Each class will begin their day with a short science-based EMW (Early Morning Work) linked to adaptation and change. These quick activities will encourage curiosity and scientific thinking.

#### **Monday Assembly (March 11th)**

We'll kick off the week with a whole-school assembly introducing the theme and launching our Science Poster Competition.

#### **Live Assembly with Tim Peake**

At 11:00 AM on Monday, there will be a live lesson featuring astronaut Tim Peake.

#### **Hands-On Science Lessons**

Each year a group will take part in a science lesson exploring adaptation in an interactive and messy way! These investigations will help children develop their predicting, observing, and concluding skills while making the science of adaptation feel real and exciting.

#### **Real-Life Change – Our Butterfly Nets!**

We're bringing adaptation to life with live caterpillars! Butterfly nets will be placed in Lower and Upper School so students can observe their transformation in real-time. Each class will also get to vote on names for the caterpillars before we release them as butterflies in a whole-school event.

Science Week is a fantastic opportunity to spark curiosity and bring learning to life in a fun and engaging way. We can't wait to see our students explore, investigate, and get hands-on with science!

## Netball



A fantastic effort from our netball team last week! Despite being a couple of players down, everyone showed great determination, teamwork and resilience on the court. The squad kept fighting until the final whistle, with some brilliant passing and defensive work throughout.

Plenty of positives to take forward—this team is more than ready for the league matches to begin!

Mis Hill, Netball Coach



## Cross Country County Championships 2025



As a school, we are extremely proud of the outstanding achievement of three of our talented young athletes, Toby P, Rosanna B, and Lucy P, who represented North East Hants in the U12 Hampshire Primary Schools Cross Country County Championships 2025 on Tuesday. Competing at county level is a tremendous achievement and honour, and we are incredibly proud of their hard work and commitment reflecting their dedication, skill and passion for running. Likewise, well done to Cobi J who also qualified for this event too.

The championships brought together over 120 of the best Year 6 boys and over 125 Year 6 girls from all across Hampshire. We are pleased to share the following results:

Toby (Year 5) placed 18th in the boys race

Rosanna (Year 6) placed 40th in the girls race

Lucy P (Year 5) placed 67th in the girls race

A huge congratulations to Toby, Rosanna, and Lucy for their success—what an incredible experience and you did both Hook Junior School and North East Hants proud. Keep up the running!!

Mr Bower, PE and Sport Leader

## Basingstoke Music and Arts



Last Saturday Harry W performed at the Basingstoke Music and Arts Festival in the piano pre-grade 1 category. It was a great opportunity to experience performing in public. He did fantastically well, achieving a merit and bronze certificate. Big thank you to Mrs Hamer for encouraging him to participate and for supporting through the process.

### **Movie Night – Raising Funds for our Library Refurbishment Project**

There is still time to buy tickets for the forthcoming movie nights!

We have been amazed at the number of tickets already sold and the additional donations that many parents have made to raise funds for our Library Refurbishment Project. We are off to a great start having raised more than £1000 for new library furniture. There's still a long way to go and your continued donations, however small really do make a difference.

The children voted for the film and the results are in:

Year 3 and Year 4 - Sonic the Hedgehog 2 (PG)

Year 5 and Year 6 - Despicable Me 4 (U)

Tickets are available to buy now at £3 per child which includes popcorn and a drink.

[Buy tickets for Y3 / Y4 Movie Night – 18<sup>th</sup> March at 3.30pm – 5.30pm](#)

[Buy tickets for Y5 / Y6 Movie Night – 11<sup>th</sup> March at 3.30pm – 5pm](#)

If your child is not attending the movie night but you would still like to donate to the library project, [you can do so here](#).

Movie Night will be a fun experience for the children and it will raise valuable funds for the Library Refurbishment Project. Thank you to everyone for their contributions.

You can find more information on the library project [on our website](#).

## HSCA News

### We have a winner!

Congratulations to our supporter who recently one £25 in [the Hart Lottery](#) draw! If you haven't yet bought a ticket, you can do so anytime to be in for a chance at winning in one of the weekly draws. Tickets are £1 (paid via monthly direct debit) and 50p of every ticket comes back to the HSCA.

### Volunteer for the HSCA Gift Sale

Our Gift Sale for Mother's Day and other V.I.P.s will be on 25 March (for Infants) and 27 March (for Juniors) from drop off to about noon, and we welcome any parents and carers who wish to come along and help the kids choose their gifts. We have two volunteer slots available each morning, and you're welcome to come help for just part of the morning if that best fits your schedule. If you're interested, please email [team@hsca.org.uk](mailto:team@hsca.org.uk).

### Summer Fair Sponsorship Opportunities

The Summer Fair team is already busy making plans for this year's fair on 28 June and we are interested in hearing from anyone who wishes to sponsor one of our key attractions - new and returning sponsors are welcome! [Full details and benefits of sponsorship can be found here](#). If you are interested in promoting your business through our school community please get in touch at [events@hsca.org.uk](mailto:events@hsca.org.uk).

## Attendance

### Myth #5: "We only need to notify the school on the first day of absence."

We are sharing a policy reminder this week, and providing the logic behind the request.

Our Attendance Policy states:

*A child not attending school is considered a safeguarding matter. This is why information about the cause of any absence is always required.*

*An active policy of first day contact makes clear to everyone that absence is a matter of concern and will be followed up. The main priority is always to establish that the child is safe.*

*Parents have a responsibility to inform the school as soon as possible if their child will not be attending school or is likely to be late on a particular day, by no later than 9 am. This can be done via either sending an email to the school's admin or ringing the attendance line and leaving a message.*

*Parents must contact the school on every subsequent day of absence. This allows us to keep track of the child's progress and the lines of communication open between home and school.*

Whilst it might seem laborious to report your child's absence daily, the reason behind it is a matter of Safeguarding. We are not 'checking up on you' or 'challenging that your child is unwell'. What we are doing is:

- Keeping the lines of communication open between school and home
- Monitor progress so that we can be prepared for when your child returns to school (academically, emotionally and medically)
- Ensuring that children are safe

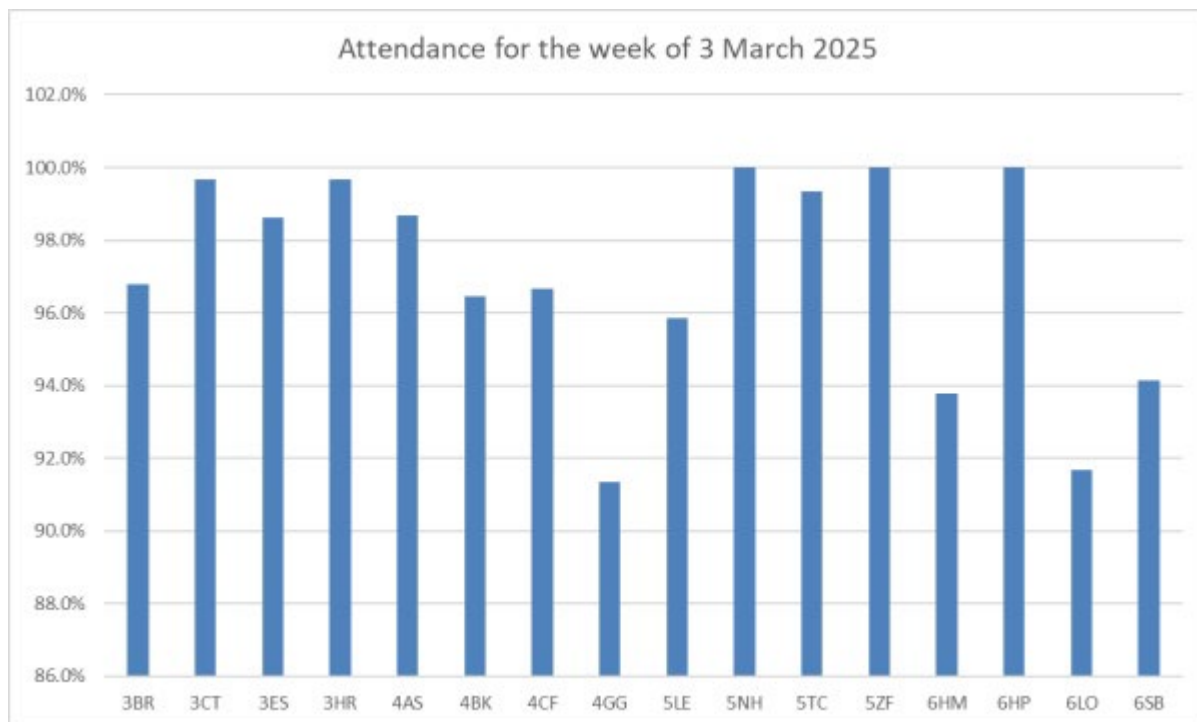
Whilst you might feel as though the third point does not apply to you or your child, Hook Junior School have a Safeguarding responsibility to all of our children and this point in the policy is therefore applied consistently across ALL of our families.

If anything about reporting absence is unclear, I would be very happy to discuss it with you, so please get in touch via the school office.

Yours sincerely,

Kay Doughty

Attendance Officer and Pastoral Support Worker



Whole school attendance this week: 97.1%

## Stars of the Week

Year 3: Reuben T, Leah W, Frank D, Alice G

Year 4: Evie H, Evie H

Year 5: Fabian A, Bella A, Jack N, Pasha S, Harry I

Year 6: Pavel P, Emilie R, Alex I, Jack N

## House Points this week

Austen: 156

Brunel: 163

Nightingale: 145

Wellington: 168

House point winners this week: Wellington!

## 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)

## School Events

A full list of key dates is published [on our website](#).

## Safeguarding

Safeguarding your children is our priority. Please contact the school's Designated Safeguarding Leads, either Miss L Powell (Headteacher), Mrs N Bailey (Deputy Headteacher) or Miss J Carne (Inclusion Leader) 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.



# Future in Mind



Looking for a way to support your young people with emotional and or mental health challenges? The Hampshire Parent Carer Network facilitate free small group workshops covering a range of important topics.

- ✔ Free workshops with trained professionals
- ✔ Identify the signs & symptoms
- ✔ Understand how to best support
- ✔ Connect, learn and grow with other families



**In locations across  
Hampshire and online**

Follow us



\* [www.linktr.ee/hpcn.org.uk](http://www.linktr.ee/hpcn.org.uk)



**NHS**

Hampshire Child and Adolescent  
Mental Health Service

New EmailArchiveForwardSending ....