



Newsletter

*'I have come that they may have life,
and have it to the full' John 10v10*

16th September 2026

Last Sunday was the Twenty Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time
Matthew 18:21-35

Dear Parents

Mission Ambassadors

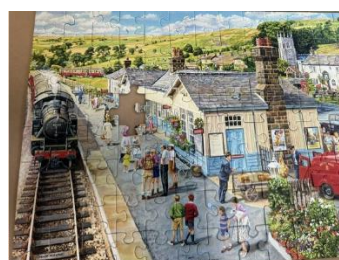
Our Mission Ambassadors from Year 6 are already serving our school well. They helped me with various jobs during our Monday's Celebration of the Word and are preparing a lunchtime prayer session focusing on creation. At St Catherine's Care Home the children completed their own Mona Lisa's with the residents and also two jigsaw puzzles – annoyingly with pieces missing!

6SK

Kaley M, Harriet G, Faith C, Aurora H, Maiya T, Edlyn O

6ND

Lucy D, Vania L, Kabir B, Olive H,



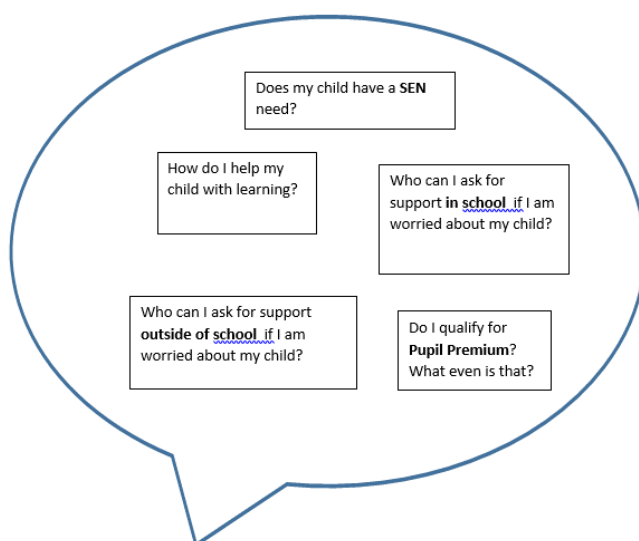
Mass for the new school year – Year 2 to Year 6

Everyone is invited to Mass, **Friday 18th September, 9.15am**
at St Stephen's Church.



Message from Grace Foster SENDCo

Parent Information Point



Come and find out how we can help you

Monday 21 September

8.30 – 9 & 3 – 3.30

In the Music Room

Mental Health in Schools

In our continual strive to be offering the best support available to all our pupils we have been working closely with the Mental Health Support Team (MHST). If you are concerned about your child's mental health, please do contact us so we can work together and direct you to support available.

The team are in school offering an EBSA workshop on **Tuesday 20th October at 9am**. This is a workshop for any parents of a child with anxiety, separation anxiety or other worries and will last for 90 minutes with time for questions. This will be a very useful session to empower you as parents.

The big drop in CAMHS event in Eastleigh may also be worth exploring.

THE BIG DROP IN

Hampshire Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services

As part of World Mental Health Day, we are running a series of **FREE** drop-ins across Hampshire.

This is an opportunity for parents/carers, professionals or young people to come and chat to our CAMHS clinicians, ask questions, get advice and resources.

Bookable slots available via our website or just drop in.

8 October 2026 10am - 4pm

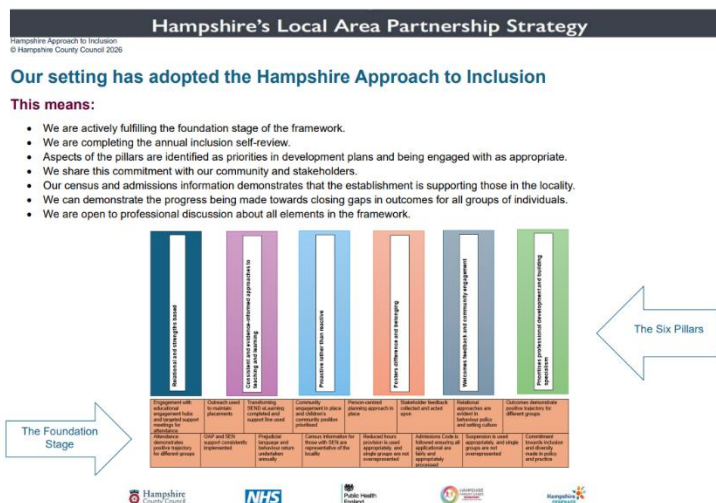
ETCH Youth Club, The Old Drill Hall,
79 Leigh Rd, Eastleigh SO50 9DF

For more information scan the QR code or visit:
<https://hampshirecamhs.nhs.uk/events/>

FREE

Hampshire Approach to Inclusion

We are pleased to say that as a school we have adopted the Hampshire Approach to Inclusion.



Year 6 Helpers

Reception Busybodies

Pupil leadership is something that we really value at St Peter's. Our Year 6 lead on a variety of areas within the school life. This week we are celebrating the Reception Busybodies who go down to our Reception classes to help welcome our youngest in for the school day. They enjoy chatting to, playing games with and learning that important skill of distraction!

Office Runners

Meanwhile the Office Runners turn up every day asking the office if there are any jobs needed to be done. They are very efficient at delivering letters to classes and sorting out magazines.



RSHE

Following the publication of the updated statutory Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) guidance, we have reviewed our provision to ensure that it continues to meet both statutory requirements and the values of our Catholic school. We are pleased to confirm that our RSHE programme, Life to the Full, remains fully aligned with these expectations, providing age-appropriate learning that promotes healthy relationships, emotional wellbeing, personal safety and respect for others within a faith-based context.

Parents can explore the content taught in each year group through the Life to the Full Parent Portal, which provides access to lesson materials and curriculum information to support discussions at home. We greatly value our partnership with parents in this important area of education. Should you have any questions or wish to discuss the programme further, please make an appointment with Miss Buxton, as we continue to work together in supporting the development and wellbeing of every child.

To access the online parent portal please visit: www.tentenresources.co.uk/parent-portal

Username: st-peters-so22

School Password: cathedral-south

<https://www.stpetershants.co.uk/rshe>



School Council – Harvest Collection

Our School Council met this week to plan our Harvest collection.

The student councillors agreed to support our local community in Winchester by donating the food and products collected to the **Basics Bank** and the **Carroll Centre**.

A poster is displayed in each classroom window and at the front of the school with suggested items for donation. Please support our local communities by donating – one single item could make a huge difference. Items can be brought into school up until our harvest festival which takes place on 23rd October. Thank you for your support.



New PE Curriculum Opportunities and Resources

We believe that every child should have the opportunity to discover activities they enjoy and in which they can succeed. We are excited to expand our PE curriculum to give children even more opportunities to develop their skills and try new activities, including **badminton, volleyball, tri-golf and curling**. These new sports will help children build confidence, teamwork and a love of being active. Due to this, we have a new storage container for our PE equipment, which will allow us to safely store and organise our growing range of resources.

Our PE kit

Our PE kit consists of named:

- White polo-shirt
- Royal blue shorts
- White socks
- Trainers
- A navy blue tracksuit

If your child has a part of this kit missing they will receive a letter specifying which part they need added to their kit.

How Families can support Physical Activity

Healthy, active habits are a partnership between school and home. Here are some simple ways families can support children to enjoy being active:

- **Keep PE kits in school:** Please send your child's PE kit in on Monday and take it home on Friday to be washed.
- **Be active outside school:** Encourage walking, cycling, swimming, dancing, playing in the park or joining a sports club.
- **Try something new:** Give children opportunities to explore different sports and activities to discover what they enjoy.
- **Be active together:** Family walks, bike rides and active games are great ways to **Move, Think, Feel and Connect**.
- **Support school sport:** We welcome parents and carers who can volunteer at sporting events and clubs, helping us provide even more opportunities for our children.

Year R Parents' Phonics Session

All Reception parents are welcome to attend our phonics session at **3pm, Thursday 8th October** where we share our Little Wandle approach to teaching phonics and the ways in which you can support your child at home with their reading. Just turn up at the office from 2.45pm and the session will be finished in time for the end of the day.

Invitation for Parents to the Nurturing Programme

The Nurturing Programme will again be running in the church on Wednesday mornings from **23rd September** onwards.

A programme nationally co-ordinated by The Family Links Centre for Emotional Health. This is a 10 week programme for parents of children aged 2 to 12 years who live in Winchester and the immediate surrounding villages.

We all want to do the best for our children but parenting is challenging. The course aims to equip you with different strategies to develop good emotional health and positive relationships resulting in happier, calmer homes. Previous parents have said it's the best thing they've ever done, they hadn't realised there was another way to parent.

The venue: St Stephen's Church: Oliver's Battery Road North, SO22 4JB on Wednesday mornings 9.05 am - 11.05 am September 23rd - December 2nd (excluding half term).

Please email nurturingprogramme@ccwinch.org.uk for any questions or to sign up.

How Nurturing Programme parent groups have helped other parents

"I am a much more confident, positive and understanding parent. I feel much more able to cope now."

"We are having less family arguments and the household is a lot calmer."

"The group was fun. It's the only two hours I have for myself each week."

"The atmosphere was really relaxed. No-one judged anyone and everyone was listened to and respected"



Check out familylinks.org.uk for more information on The Parenting Puzzle book and the Nurturing Programme

The 10-week Nurturing Programme for parents and carers

where:

St Stephen's Church
Oliver's Battery Rd North
Winchester
SO22 4JB

when:

Every Wednesday, 23rd September
to 2nd December
excluding half term
9.05 am - 11.05 am

contact details:

To book a place, please email:
nurturingprogramme@ccwinch.org.uk
or phone: 07942 284611
Free crèche available

FAMILY LINKS
The Centre for Emotional Health
familylinks.org.uk
Registered charity 1062514



The Nurturing Programme

Information
for parents
and carers

How to get the best
out of family life



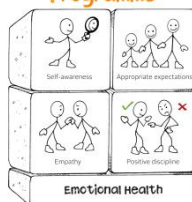
What is the Nurturing Programme?

Children are rewarding, stimulating and fun, but looking after them can be stressful and challenging.

The Nurturing Programme helps deal with those challenges so that you can have a calmer, happier life.

A tried and tested programme, it helps us think about what we do, why we do it, and how it makes us feel.

The Building Blocks of the Nurturing Programme



What does it cover?

Over the 10-week Programme, you will look at lots of different topics, including

- Understanding** why children behave as they do
- Recognising** the feelings behind behaviour (ours and theirs)
- Exploring** different approaches to discipline
- Finding** ways to develop co-operation and self-discipline in children
- Learning** the importance of looking after ourselves

Practical information

Partners are welcome and it's also fine to come on your own or with a relative or friend

There are ten 2-hour sessions with a tea and coffee break.

8-10 parents are invited and there are two Family Links trained group leaders

Some groups provide a crèche; check with group leaders beforehand

You need to come to all ten sessions as they fit together like a puzzle



Music Notices

Instrumental Lessons

A reminder that children need to check the music noticeboard to ensure that their name is on the correct list and find out their lesson times. Some timetables have changed so do check every week. Please remember to bring your instrument to your lesson and ask your child to check the timetable on the music noticeboard for their lesson times.

Hopefully you have your instruments sorted by now! If you are yet to hire your instrument you can do this through Hampshire Music Service by clicking the following link:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/hampshireremusic/instrumenthire>

Please let Miss Owens know if you need any assistance with sorting your instrument

Lessons take place on the following days:

Voice (Ms Duncombe) - Mondays

Piano/Keyboard (Mrs Liddle) - Tuesday or Fridays

Violin (Mr Baker) - Tuesdays

Brass (Mr Potter) - Wednesdays

Guitar (Mr Gruzelier) - Wednesdays

Woodwind (Mrs Williams) - Wednesdays

Drumkit (Mr Say) - Thursdays

Music Ensembles and Clubs

Worship Band - regular weekly rehearsals Thursdays 3.30 - 4.30pm. Please remember to bring your instruments.

St Peter's Singers - there will be an opportunity for a select group of new Year 5 and 6 pupils to join the St Peter's Singers this term. There will be a sign-up list on the music noticeboard for anyone keen to join and Miss Owens will be hearing the children sing in small groups next week.

Any questions at all, then please do get in touch with Miss Owens by emailing music@st-peters.hants.sch.uk.

And finally, **Busking Wednesdays** will start up again on the 1st Wednesday of each month (starting on 7th October!).

Miss Owens

Parent Reader Plea

Could you spare any time to hear children read? Stay late after drop off or arrive a little early for pick up? Please contact the school office if you are able to join this amazing group of volunteers helping our children to become more confident readers. If you are interested, please contact the school office. Safeguarding checks are carried out on all volunteers and training is provided.

Year 4 Carroll Centre Foodbank

This half term the two Year 4 classes are collecting food and toiletries for the Carroll Centre. Please send in any donations – they are grateful for packets and tins of in-date food. Many thanks for thinking of others in our community.



Holiday Dates

School term dates are available on:

<https://www.stpetershants.co.uk/term-dates/>

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/schoolholidays>

Attendance

Year R	97.67%
Year 1	97.25%
Year 2	93.76%
Year 3	97.95%
Year 4	95.65%
Year 5	98.46%
Year 6	96.17%
Overall school Attendance	96.80%

Well done Year 5 for having the highest attendance. An extra 5 minutes' break for you!

See the NHS website for advice on when not to send your child to school when unwell:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Future School Dates

Event	Date
New School Year Mass Years 2 - 6 – all welcome	Friday 18 th September, 9.15am
Inset Day – school closed to pupils	Friday 25 th September
Year 5 Living Rainforest trip	Friday 2 nd October
Show Around 2	Friday 2 nd October, 1.30pm
Year 6 Residential	Monday 5 th to Friday 9 th October
Year R Parents' Phonics Session	Thursday 8 th October, 3pm
Year R welcome liturgy, all Reception families welcome	Friday 9 th October, 9.15am
Parish – School Mass, St Stephen's	Sunday 11 th October, 9.15am
Show Around 3	Thursday 15 th October, 10am
Deadline for Shoeboxes	Monday 19 th October
Parents' Evenings	Tuesday 20 th and Thursday 22 nd October, 4pm to 7pm
Harvest Mass, Father Mark's last celebration with us before leaving	Friday 23 rd October, 2pm
Autumn half term Monday 26th – Friday 30th October	
Inset Day – school closed to pupils	Monday 2 nd November
Show Around 4	Wednesday 4 th November, 1.30pm
All Saints Mass, all invited	Friday 6 th November, 2pm
PTA Bonfire Night	Saturday 7 th November
Show Around 5	Thursday 12 th November, 10am
Individual and sibling photos	Tuesday 17 th November
Nativity – Reception, Years 1 and 2 - families invited	Friday 4 th December, 9.15am
Advent Liturgy – KS2 – parents invited	Thursday 17 th December 2.30pm and 6pm
Christmas Holiday Monday 21st December – Friday 1st January	
Inset Day – school closed to pupils	Monday 4 th January
Children return for beginning of term	Tuesday 5 th January

Inset Days - staff training with school closed to pupils

Friday 25th September 2026
 Monday 2nd November 2026
 Monday 4th January 2027
 Monday 22nd February 2027
 Friday 21st May 2027

Class Assemblies 2026-27

All class parents and family are welcome to attend these. Please wait outside church door for 3pm.

Month	Friday (class/teacher Assembly)	
October	16 th	6SK Class
	23 rd	Harvest Mass - 2pm
	30 th	Half Term
November	6 th	All Saints Mass - 2pm
	13 th	5CJ Class
	20 th	4GK Class
	27 th	3BW Class
December	4 th	KS1 Nativity - 9.15am
	Christmas	Holidays
February	5 th	6DL Class
	12 th	5AH Class
	19 th	Half Term
	26 th	4RS Class
April	Easter	Holidays
	16 th	3GD Class
May	28 th	Corpus Christi Mass - 1.30pm
June	4 th	Half Term
	11 th	Year 2 Seals Class
	18 th	Year 2 Otters Class
	25 th	Year R/1 Seahorses Class
July	2 nd	Year R/1 Dolphins Class
	9 th	Year R/1 Turtles Class

Show Around dates

If you have a child due to start school in September 2027, we have the following dates available for you to come and look around the school:

Friday 2nd October 1.30pm

Thursday 15th October 10am

Wednesday 4th November 1.30pm

Thursday 12th November 10am

Please contact the school office if you would like to book onto any of these tours.

School Milk Arrangements

If you would like your child to have milk (a 189ml bottle of semi-skimmed milk) during the school day, please register online with Cool Milk at <https://coolmilk.com/parents/>

Children under 5 years old are entitled to free school milk, fully funded by the government, but parents must register with Cool Milk if they would like their child to receive it. For over-5s, school milk is available at a subsidised rate. All children eligible for Targeted Free School Meals can receive school milk free of charge – the school office will contact these parents by email.

Kings' School Open Events

We warmly welcome you and your child to attend one of our School Open Events this year. Our Open Mornings will be held on **Wednesday 8th July, Wednesday 23rd September and Tuesday 6th October 2026**. To secure your place, please book here:

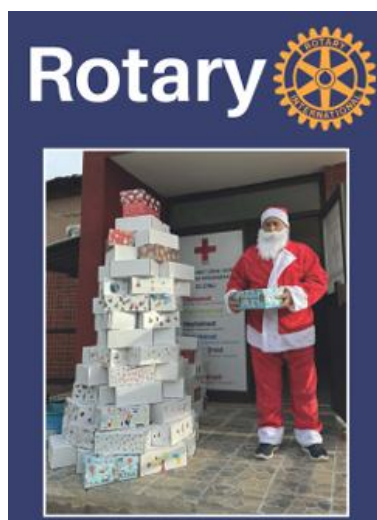
<https://kings.applicaa.com/events/OpenMornings>

Our Open Evening will be held on **Thursday 24th September 2026** and is a bookable event. To secure your place, please book here <https://kings.applicaa.com/events/OpenEvening>

We look forward to hopefully seeing you and your family at one of these soon.

Rotary Christmas Shoebox Scheme

We are supporting Wessex Rotary's Christmas Shoebox scheme again this year. We have a supply of the boxes in school so please come and collect a box if your child would like to take part. Filled boxes need to be returned to school before the half term break, by **Monday 19th October** latest. Thank you for your generosity to this very worthwhile scheme.



Picture News

Picture News is a new whole school project that we started last year to improve our oracy. Each week the picture that we have looked at in class will be sent home with a key question to aid some discussion on a piece of current news.

TAKEHOME 14th - 20th September



Do we all have a part to play in helping those in need?

UK Prime Minister Andy Burnham has pledged that, by Christmas, everyone sleeping rough in England will be offered a safe place to stay. Accommodation will be found to end the need for sleeping rough. There will also be practical support for any health needs, as part of a £442m investment.

Things to talk about at home ...

- Share your response to the pledge that no one will be sleeping rough this Christmas.
- Can you think of some different ways that people can help others in their local communities?
- Can you share a time when you needed help from others? What help did you need and who helped you?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss    

© Picture News 2026

Applying for a Secondary School (Year 7) Place

Applications for children transferring to secondary school in September 2027 opened on Monday.

Applications can be submitted [online](#) or parents can request a paper application form in exceptional circumstances by emailing admissions.team@hants.gov.uk. The deadline for applications is **31 October 2026**.

First Holy Communion Preparation 2027

Applications are still open however they will close end of September.

Children who are in Year 4 (or above) may apply, however if your child is presently in Year 3 and you are a regular parishioner and feel they may be ready this year, please do get in touch. The compulsory parents' session will be on Tuesday November 3rd at 7pm in the Pastoral Centre adjoining St Peter's Church, Jewry Street.

If you have any queries before completing the form, please email Rosanne Walker at: rosanne@stpeterswinchester.org.uk or fhc@stpeterswinchester.org.uk

Please find the link (or QR code) to register below:

[FHC - 2027](#)



St Peter's Marriage Centenary Mass 3rd October 2026 11.00 am

As part of our Centenary celebrations, a special Mass marking 100 years of weddings is taking place in our beautiful parish church of St Peter's. We warmly invite all couples who were married at St Peter's, whether recently or many years ago - as well as those preparing to be married here - to join us for this joyful celebration. Wherever you are now, in the parish or anywhere in the world, you are very welcome. Please help us spread the word so that everyone who has celebrated marriage at St Peter's feels invited. If you would like to attend please register by clicking:

<https://stpeterswinchester.churchsuite.com/-/forms/fsme7fbd>

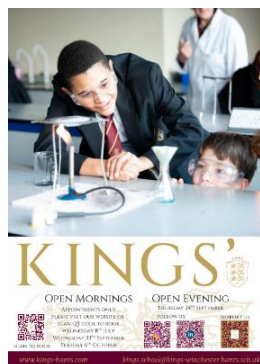
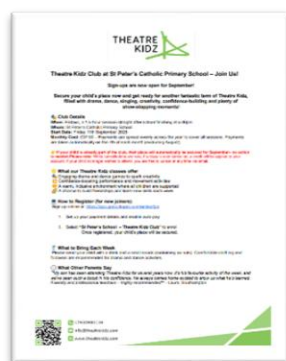
Alpha and Journey in Faith – starting soon!

Are you curious about the Christian faith, returning to Church after some time away, or interested in becoming a Catholic?

Our new **Alpha** and **Journey in Faith** (RCIA) programmes begin this autumn and offer a warm, welcoming space to explore life's big questions, deepen your relationship with God, and learn more about the Catholic faith. **Alpha** starts on **Monday 28th September** and is open to everyone, whether you're exploring faith for the first time or looking to reconnect. For more information, please email: alpha@stpeterswinchester.org.uk

Journey in Faith is an informal and welcoming programme at St Peter's, open to Catholics and non-Catholics alike. In each session, we reflect together on Scripture, explore different aspects of Catholic belief and practice, discuss the Sacraments and the teaching of the Church, and make plenty of space for questions and conversation. And there is tea! The group meets on **Thursday evenings at 7.30pm in St Peter's Church Parish Centre**, starting **1st October 2026**. There is no commitment involved in coming along, and you are very welcome simply to find out more. For those who wish, the programme can also provide preparation for reception into the Catholic Church. For more information, **speak to Alexis or contact the parish office**, or visit the Journey in Faith website: sites.google.com/view/journey-in-faith

Wherever you are on your faith journey, you are warmly welcome.



Best wishes

Louise Buxton



Newsletter - past bits that may be useful

Facebook

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/St-Peters-Catholic-PrimarySchool107010431022990>

Hants LA signposting websites

These websites may be a helpful resource should you need a bit of help or advice as a parent.

<https://fish.hants.gov.uk/kb5/hampshire/directory/family.page?familychannel=2>

<https://documents.hants.gov.uk/childrens-services/sfyc/ProviderBulletin-March2025-ParentCarerUpdate.pdf>

Safeguarding Quote of the Week

"If I could give my child three things, it would be the confidence to always know their self-worth, the strength to follow their dreams, and the ability to know how truly, deeply loved they are," Anon

Safeguarding is our absolute priority. Please act on concerns that you have about any children that you know. If you have a concern about the safety of a child or young person and you want someone to find out what is going on, contact the Hampshire Children's Services Department. Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 5pm, phone 0300 555 1384. At all other times, contact the out-of-hours service, phone 0300 555 1373. **Anyone can make a referral.**

At St Peter's Miss Buxton is our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), while Mrs Blake, Mrs Foster and Ms Pestana are the Deputy DSLs. Mrs Ricketts is DSL for Little Fishes Pre-School, with Mrs Church and Mrs Hudson being her safeguarding deputies. Please remember anyone can make a referral and safeguarding is everyone's concern!

Nut Free School

Just a reminder that we remain a nut-free school due to serious allergies.

Also we encourage breaktime snacks to be healthier choices – fresh fruit and vegetables, bread sticks, raisins.... no crisps or chocolate please.

We will be sharing our new **Allergy Safety Policy** with you in the new couple of weeks.

Allergy Safety Policy

Our Allergy Safety Policy is now on our website at the following link:

<https://www.stpetershants.co.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=187&type=pdf>

The school holds emergency adrenaline auto-injectors (EpiPens) in accordance with national guidance. These may be used by appropriately trained staff in a medical emergency where a pupil is experiencing symptoms consistent with a severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis). Parents will be informed as soon as possible following any such incident.

Reporting to Parents 2026-27

Parent and school partnership is vitally important in ensuring the best for each child. We want to share the dates for reporting attainment and progress with parents so you can place them in your diary. Our aim is to ensure that you are kept informed and able to discuss progress at key points in the year as relevant to your child's year group.

As in the past, there is a formal reporting point in each term either via a parents' evening or via a written report. The aim of the initial meeting for all year groups is to ensure the children have settled into their new year groups and their routines.

The timings of parents' evenings and reports for each year group are as follows:

Parents' evenings:

Autumn Term All Year groups:	Tuesday 20 th October 2026 Thursday 22 nd October 2026
Year R/1, Year 2 and Year 6:	Tuesday 9 th February 2027 Thursday 11 th February 2027
Year 3, Year 4, Year 5:	Tuesday 22 nd June 2027 Thursday 24 th June 2027

As in the past, parents' evenings will be held between 4.00pm and 7.00pm. Details of how to book an appointment with your child's class teacher will be shared via the newsletter.

Written reports:

Spring Term Year 3, 4 and 5 – These will be sent out on 26th February 2027
Summer Term Year R/1, 2 and 6 – These will be sent out on 16th July 2027

Reminders of the timings of written reports will be shared in the newsletter nearer the time.

Please remember that if you wish to discuss your child's progress at any point in the year you can make an appointment to speak with your child's class teacher.

Private Fostering

Private fostering is the term used when someone who is not a parent or a 'close relative' (eg. great aunt, cousin, mum's friend or a neighbour) is looking after a child or young person under the age of 16 (under 18 if they are disabled) for 28 days or more in their own home.

In these situations the local council's Children's Services department must be informed. A social worker will visit the home to speak to the carer and the child to ensure the child is safe, carry out background checks and make sure support is being provided.

Extra-curricular clubs – AUTUMN

Please see below details of clubs being offered this term.

Year group	Club	Day of the week	Year group	.Club	Day of the week
YR	Theatre Kids	Friday	Y4	Comic Club Intergr8 360 Dodgeball 360 Board games Theatre Kids	Monday Monday Monday Tuesday Friday
Y1	360 Board games Football Theatre Kids	Tuesday Wednesday Friday	Y5	Intergr8 360 Dodgeball 360 Board games Comic Club Football Theatre Kids	Monday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Friday Friday
Y2	Intergr8 360 Board games 360 Football Theatre Kids	Monday Tuesday Wednesday Friday	Y6	Intergr8 360 Dodgeball 360 Board games Comic Club Football Theatre Kids	Monday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Friday Friday
Y3	Comic Club Intergr8 360 Dodgeball 360 Board games Theatre Kids	Monday Monday Monday Tuesday Friday			

Attendance and requests for time off during term time

At the beginning of another school year may I take this opportunity to remind you about the legislation regarding parents requesting time out of school for their children. The legislation makes it clear that head teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. It is extremely unlikely time out of school for a family holiday will be considered exceptional circumstances. It will be the same for requests for time out to spend time with visiting relatives or for birthday celebrations. As a school we fully understand and support the government's drive to ensure pupils miss as little school time as possible. Parents who take their children out without permission may be liable to a financial penalty notice.

I regularly monitor attendance and I write to the parents of any child who falls under 90% (which is the equivalent of a morning off each week). The government views anyone under such a figure as a persistent absentee and I have to follow it up. Obviously some children do at times have more serious illness and time in hospital but some just have poor attendance often due to issues at home and it is my duty to follow this up.

Every year I receive holiday requests as parents say they didn't know the dates for school holidays. These are always on our website and can also be found on the Hampshire County Council website too. Please also inform anyone who is likely to be treating the family to a holiday of these dates - again it is often stated that a family member booked a holiday as a gift. These holidays must also adhere to the same rules. See website details below within inset dates section.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many parents who ensure their children are in school on time every day, ready to learn and would only request time away from school for very exceptional circumstances.

Penalty Notice Fines

Please see below the latest guidance from the DfE. We think it important to share with families these changes to the fining.

How much could I be fined if my child misses school?

In the majority of cases, schools and local authorities will try and provide support to help you improve your child's attendance first, but if this isn't effective or the absence is for unauthorised term time holiday, parents may face paying a fine.

Currently, it's the responsibility of the local authority to decide when to issue fines to parents, meaning the process varies from council to council. However, under the new national framework, all schools will be required to consider a fine when a child has missed 10 or more sessions (5 days) for unauthorised reasons.

Since August 2024, the fine for school absences across the country is **£80 if paid within 21 days**, or **£160 if paid within 28 days**. This rate is in line with inflation and is the first increase since 2012.

In the case of repeated fines, if a parent receives a second fine for the same child within any three-year period, this will be charged at the higher rate of £160.

Fines per parent will be capped to two fines within any three-year period. Once this limit has been reached, other action like a parenting order or prosecution will be considered.

If you're prosecuted and attend court because your child hasn't been attending school, you could get a fine of up to £2,500.

Universal Credit and Free School Meals

Please see below for upcoming changes to eligibility for benefits based Free School Meals (FSM) and what you need to do to apply or check your child's eligibility.

Upcoming Changes

From September 2026, the eligibility criteria for Free School Meals will change. All households receiving Universal Credit will be included, but eligibility will be divided into two groups:

Targeted Free School Meals - for households receiving Universal Credit with an annual income below £7,400.

Expanded Free School Meals - for households receiving Universal Credit with an annual income above £7,400.

What You Need to Do

If your child already receives Free School Meals and you have applied through the Hampshire portal, you do not need to do anything. If you think your child may now be eligible, please contact the school office.

Please note: children eligible under the expanded criteria will only begin to receive Free School Meals from September 2026.

If You Disagree with a Decision

If you have applied and believe the decision is incorrect, please contact your child's school. The school can contact Hampshire County Council on your behalf to request further advice.

Important Information for Reception and Key Stage 1 Parents

All children in Early Years Foundation Stage or Key Stage 1 already receive free meals under the Universal Infant Free School Meals scheme. However, we still encourage you to apply. This is because schools receive Pupil Premium funding for children who qualify under Targeted Free School Meal eligibility. This funding helps support your child during their time at school.

Transitional Protections (until August 2026)

Transitional protections have been in place since 1 April 2018 and will continue until the end of the 2025 to 2026 school year. During this time any child who becomes eligible for benefits based Free School Meals will continue to receive them until July 2026. This will not change even if household income increases. From September 2026 these protections will end. From this point, all families must meet the new eligibility rules for their child to receive Free School Meals.

For more information on Free School Meals please follow this link to the Government Website - [Apply for free school meals - GOV.UK](#)

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs Lane in the school office.