

# Newsletter

I would first like to thank the staff of the school for all their efforts over the first half term of this academic year

It has been a tremendously busy Autumn so far. I hope that both staff and children are able to have some form of break over the half term.

**Tony Head**  
Headteacher

## Curriculum update.

### Year R

Our Year R children have made a fantastic start to their school journey! Over the past half term, they have been settling in beautifully, getting to know their routines, understanding expectations, and forming lovely friendships with both their peers and the adults around them. It is wonderful to see how much they have grown already.

In Maths, the children have been learning to count and recognise numbers up to 5. They have also been exploring shapes, identifying circles and triangles in their environment and describing their properties with growing confidence.

In Literacy, the children have learnt most of the Phase 2 phonics sounds and are now beginning to blend these sounds to read simple CVC words. They have enjoyed listening to and discussing stories such as *Owl Babies* and *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, which has helped them build their vocabulary and develop a love of storytelling.

We are so proud of everything they have achieved in their first half term—well done, Year R!



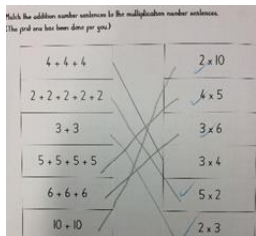
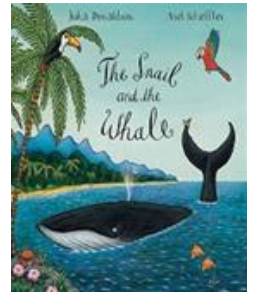
## Year 1

In Year 1, we have been learning about printing in art. We have been ensuring that we press down on the paper and print rather than using our fingers to paint. We explored different prints our hand and fingers can make and learnt about repeated patterns. We then used our skills to create our own imaginary bird. Finally, we printed a picture of an animal we wanted to create. We had lots of great ideas such as giraffes, tigers, monkeys, and cats. Have a look at some of our fantastic artwork!

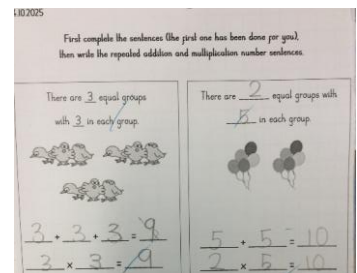


## Year 2

In English, we have been enjoying the story *The Snail and the Whale* by Julia Donaldson. We explored the exciting journey of the tiny snail and the kind whale as they travelled around the world. Along the way, we learnt some adventurous new vocabulary to describe the different settings they visited — from icy oceans to fiery volcanoes. We then used these words to write our own postcards, imagining we were the snail writing home about our travels. Our postcards were written with the purpose to entertain, and we had lots of fun being creative with our ideas!



In Maths, we have been learning all about multiplication. We started by exploring equal and non-equal groups, then moved on to adding equal groups and using repeated addition to help us understand multiplication. We also learnt what an array is and how to draw arrays to represent multiplication sentences.

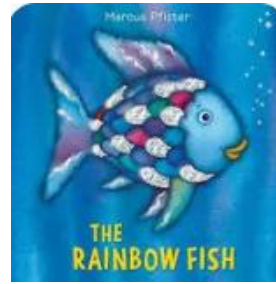


In science, we have been learning about living things and their habitats. We began by discussing what it means to be a living thing, then sorted pictures into living and non-living categories. After that, we explored different habitats and the animals and plants that live in them. We also learnt about microhabitats and the minibeasts that can be found there. To investigate further, we visited the environmental area to see what minibeasts we could discover! Finally, we learnt about food chains and how living things depend on one another to survive.



### Year 3

This month Year 3 have been reading the Rainbow Fish. The children have been able to recite the story and have been matching colours, feelings and textures to different parts of the story. We then spent some time looking at weaving, and we planned a piece of weaving based on the different feelings in the Rainbow Fish book. We had a fantastic art day where some fantastic parent helpers came and helped us create our artwork! Thank you so much to those parents who came and supported Year 3! The children had fantastic resilience and were able to weave lots of different fabrics on their loom.



This month, Year 3 have also been learning formal written methods for addition and subtraction. They have worked extremely hard on their expanded column methods, and they are starting to apply these to written questions for both addition and subtraction.

### Year 4



Year 4 have had an exciting month! In science we have been learning about living things and their habitats. As part of this learning, we searched the environmental area for different living things we could find and used identification keys to work out what they were. We continued this learning at home by identifying living things in our local area and we were so impressed with the children's findings.



We have also enjoyed celebrating Roman week. The children have looked amazing in their Roman costumes, and it has added to overall of the week. So far (as of writing this), the children have explored Roman numerals, the symmetry of mosaics and they have worked with a partner to design and make some impressive Roman shields. Look how fierce they look!



## Year 5

In October, Year 5 have been exploring abstract art. The children shared their opinions and created their own unique abstract portraits, focusing on tone to show light and dark. Take a look at some of their fantastic artwork below!



In music, the children have been learning to play rhythms on African drums. They practised holding the drum correctly, copying different techniques, and clapping and playing an ostinato in time with a steady beat. The children had lots of fun making music together!

In history, we have continued our learning about Ancient Egypt. The children discovered fascinating facts about Tutankhamun and even chose their own pharaohs to research. They really enjoyed finding out interesting information and creating their own fact files to share their learning.

## Year 6

In October, Year 6 have been exploring Islamic art in their art lessons, creating press prints inspired by traditional geometric designs. Take a look at their beautiful artwork!



In geography, they have been learning about different biomes around the world, focusing on the climate, plants, and animals found in each. To support their research, pupils have been using Minecraft to investigate and recreate the features of these biomes in a digital environment.

## Parking and Air Pollution

The school are now working closely with the Local Authority to see what assistance they may be able to provide regarding the parking situation near the school.

This month the children and staff took part in a survey around air quality and active travel. They each had the opportunity to discuss how they travelled to school and how they would most like to travel to school.

From next month you may see a diffusion tube appear near the school. The Local Authority will be putting one up in Somerset Road which will report back monthly data until the end of the school year.

This week the children also enjoyed an assembly on air pollution.

As another part of our work with the Local Authority they have invited the children to take part in a competition. This is the 'Winter Clean Air Challenge.' The challenge invites the children to become smell detectives – sniffing out cosy alternatives to wood burning that reduce air pollution and protecting health.

If your child wishes to take part, please see below for instructions:

1. Take a walk outside one evening and complete the [activity sheet](#) (attached for reference, please receive a paper copy from your teacher). Can you smell wood smoke in the air? Is it strong or faint? Can you see where it's coming from? Try to describe it.
2. Draw a picture or write a poem about fun things you can do in winter to feel cosy, other than burning wood.
3. Hand your entry into reception by Friday 12th December. Please include your name, class/year and school on your entry.

If you have any questions about the competition or would like further information about wood burning and air quality, please contact the team at tEC on [cleanair@environmentcentre.com](mailto:cleanair@environmentcentre.com).



## Reminders

### Year 6 Parents

#### Secondary school applications

A reminder to all Year 6 parents that the deadline for applying for a place at secondary school for your child to begin in Year 7 is Friday 31 October 2025.

Applications must be made online by parents/carers and all information can be found by following this link:

<https://www.southampton.gov.uk/schools-learning/find-school/apply-school/>

## Music Club cake sale.

Thank you so much to everybody who supported our cake sale yesterday. So far, we have raised a staggering £532.61.

Music club are very excited to shop for a new piano for our school hall.

Thank you.



**SCHOLASTIC** TRAVELLING BOOKS

Come to the  
**BOOK FAIR**  
and earn **FREE BOOKS**  
for our school!

Art © Dawn Pilkew

## Dates / Activities

Date	Activity
Monday 27 – Friday 31 October 2025	Half Term
Monday 3 November 2025	Inset Day – school closed to children.
Wednesday 5 November 2025	New intake for Year R – Open afternoon
Monday 10 – Friday 14 November	Year R parents in to help with backdrop
Monday 10 November 2025	1K parents in to help with clay animals
Tuesday 11 November 2025	1O parents in to help with clay animals
Wednesday 12 November 2025	Year 5JC visit to Cantell for science workshop.
Wednesday 12 November 2025	Year 3 French Breakfast
Wednesday 12 – Monday 17 November 2025	Scholastic Book Fair – Infant Hall
Friday 14 November 2025	Year 4 Trip to Butser Ancient Farm
Friday 14 November 2025	Children in Need – Wear spots
Tuesday 18 November 2025	Year 2 Parent workshop – Addition and subtraction
Thursday 20 November 2025	Year 4 parents in to help with Giacometti shapes
Monday 24 November 2025	No teacher led clubs this week.
Tuesday 25 November 2025	Parents' evening
Wednesday 26 November 2025	Year 5I visit to Cantell for science workshop.
Thursday 27 November 2025	Parents' evening

## University of Southampton's Arts and Humanities Festival 2025.

We would love to invite as many students, families, and Southampton locals as possible to our next event which is Arts and Humanities Day on Saturday 8 November 2025. It is a free event open and suitable for all.

[Southampton Arts and Humanities Festival 2025](#) is the University of Southampton's annual celebration of Humanities and the Arts. Each year the festival presents a vibrant program, which includes the ever-popular Arts and Humanities Day (formerly Hands-on Humanities Day), our free family-friendly event featuring engaging hands-on activities, workshops, talks and exhibitions. This year the event will be back at the Southampton Cultural Quarter, Sir James Matthews Building, on Saturday 8 November 2025, in collaboration with the University of Southampton's branch of the ESRC Festival of Social Science, John Hansard Gallery, SeaCity Museum and Southampton Library plus many more community partners.



# EXPLORE HUMAN EXPERIENCE

## Arts and Humanities Day

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2025

→ 10:30 – 16:30

→ Southampton Cultural Quarter

Free activities, workshops, exhibitions and talks.



### Book your tickets

[www.southamptonartshumfest.co.uk](http://www.southamptonartshumfest.co.uk)

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# Southampton Arts and Humanities Festival

6<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> November 2025

Online and in-person activities and events.



### Visit

[www.southamptonartshumfest.co.uk](http://www.southamptonartshumfest.co.uk)

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# Winter Clean Air Challenge

Become a smell detective  
and find cosy swaps  
for wood burning to help  
reduce air pollution,  
improve your health and  
even win some prizes!



**Take an evening walk  
- can you spot or smell  
wood smoke?**

Note your findings on  
our activity sheet,  
then get creative with  
ideas for staying cosy  
this winter  
without a fire.  
To enter, please  
use the activity  
sheet provided.

Entries  
must be in  
reception by

Friday 12  
December  
2025

**tec**  
the Environment Centre (tec)

[www.environmentcentre.com/  
clean-air-for-schools](http://www.environmentcentre.com/clean-air-for-schools)

  
SOUTHAMPTON  
CITY COUNCIL