

Newsletter

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2026. Since our return from the Christmas break the children and staff have continued to work hard. Below are some highlights from across the school.

Tony Head
Headteacher

Curriculum update.

Year R

Year R have had a wonderfully busy and exciting few weeks! The children have begun learning their Phase 3 phonics sounds, including new digraphs and trigraphs. They are growing in confidence as they recognise and use these phonemes not only in phonics sessions but across their wider learning.

As part of our Dinosaur topic, the children were delighted to discover that *Mummy Dino* had left us a special egg to look after. This sparked lots of imaginative thinking, and the children produced fantastic sets of instructions on how to care for a dinosaur egg. Their enthusiasm for the topic has been brilliant to see!

We have also been learning about Lunar New Year. The children enjoyed finding out new facts, as well as sharing their own experiences and family traditions with the class.

This week, the children had great fun making their own pizzas and then writing instructions to show the steps they followed. We have continued our maths learning too, exploring the concept of capacity. The children enjoyed using words such as *empty*, *full*, *half full*, *nearly full* and *nearly empty* as they investigated different containers.



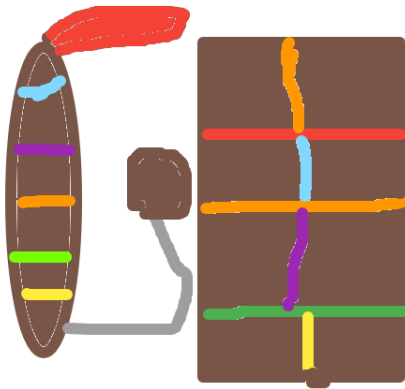
Year 1

This month, the children have been working incredibly hard during our Toy Unit, and we are delighted to share some of the wonderful learning that has taken place.

The children have been exploring toys from the past and present, looking closely at how they are made and how they have changed over time. As part of this learning, they used their drawing skills to create detailed pictures of an old toy and a toy from home. It was fantastic to see the use of tone being used within their drawings.

In computing, the children have been using their mouse control skills to draw a picture of an old toy on the computer. They have been learning how to click, drag, select tools, and add simple details to their digital artwork.

We are so proud of the effort, concentration, and creativity the children have shown across the Toy Unit. We cannot wait to share even more of their learning with you at the Toy museum.



 **INSPIRING
FUTURE
TEACHERS**
HISPT
TEACHER
TRAINING



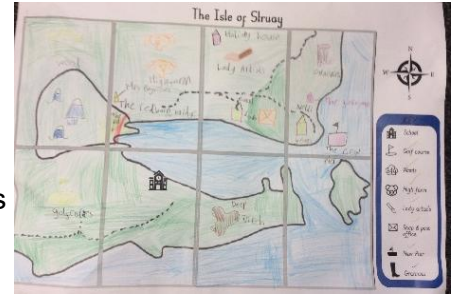
**TRAIN TO TEACH
IN HAMPSHIRE** 



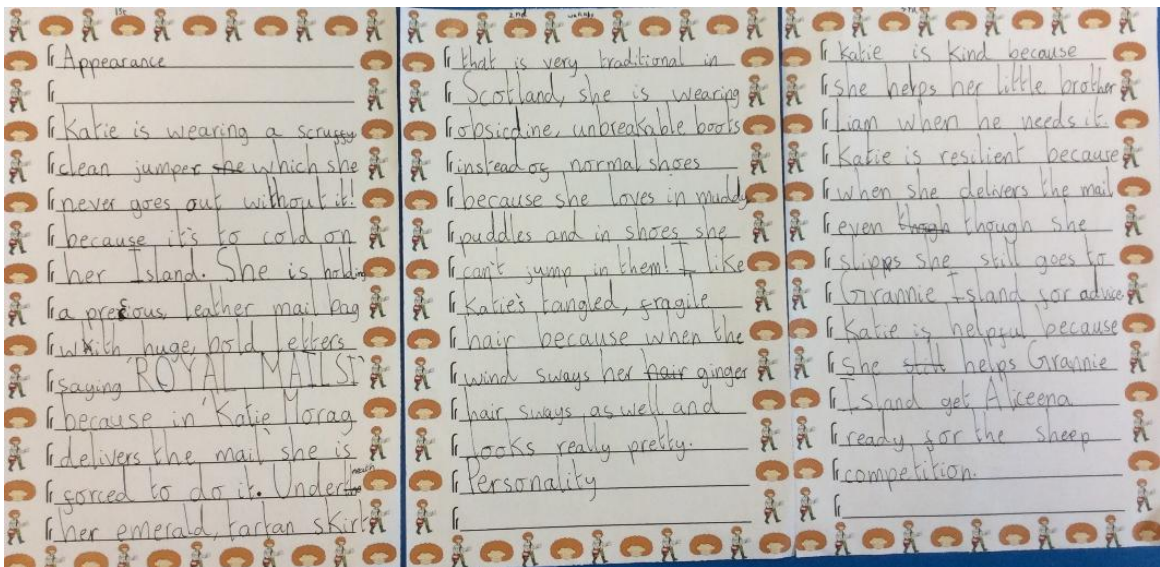


Year 2

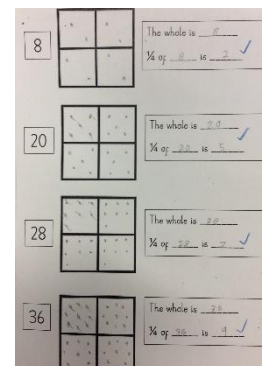
This half term we have been learning all about Katie Morag. We have thoroughly enjoyed discovering the Island she lives on, The Isle of Struay. Did you know this island is based on a real place? It is inspired by the Isle of Coll, which is off the coast of Scotland and where the author lives! After finding this out, we were keen to learn more about the Isle of Coll, in our geography lessons, including places you can visit and things to do there. Using this learning, we created our own maps of the Isle of Struay in geography, using our compass knowledge.



In English, we have written a character description of Katie Morag and a setting description of the Isle of Struay. We are currently writing letters to Katie Morag, convincing her to visit Portswood for her next holiday! We have been inspired by the exciting new vocabulary found in the *Katie Morag* stories and have carefully chosen our own interesting and adventurous words to include in our writing.



In Maths, we have been learning about fractions. We started by exploring equal and non-equal parts, with a strong focus on understanding what equal means. We have identified halves of shapes and pictures and have now moved on to finding halves, quarters and thirds of amounts.



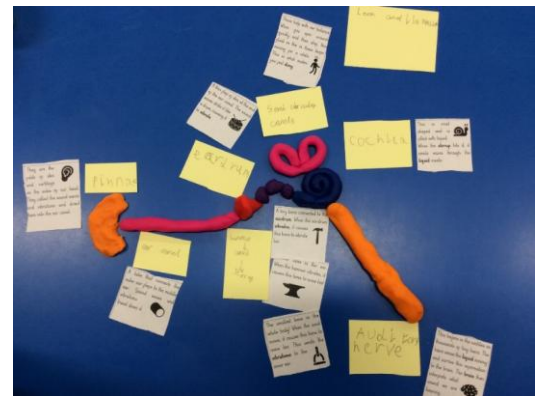
Year 3

This month Year 3 have started learning about Ancient Greece. We have been reading Greek myths in English, and we have recently written a persuasive letter in role as King Midas. We were able to empathise with the character and infer how he was feeling throughout the story, which helped us to write from his perspective. We have also read the story of Theseus and the Minotaur and will use this to inspire us when designing our own collage monsters in art. Our final piece of art will be created using different paper techniques to represent different body parts of the monster. In science, we have started the topic of forces. So far, we have learnt about simple non-contact forces and investigated the friction of different surfaces. We have now started to learn about magnetic force and will be carrying out investigations in the following weeks.

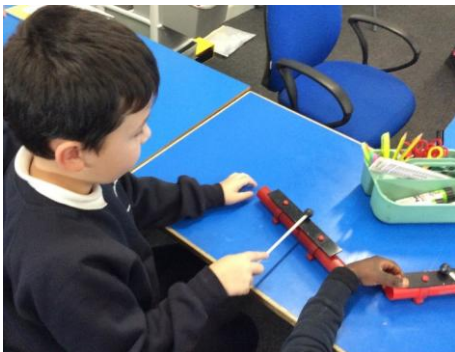


Year 4

This term in Year 4, we have been exploring how sound works in our science lessons. We began by investigating how sounds are created, using musical instruments to discover that sound is produced when objects vibrate. We then learned what happens when these vibrations reach our ears and how the different parts of the ear help us to hear. The children loved creating their own 3D models of the ear using playdough—take a look at one of our fantastic creations!

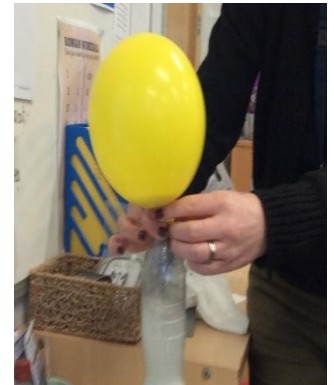
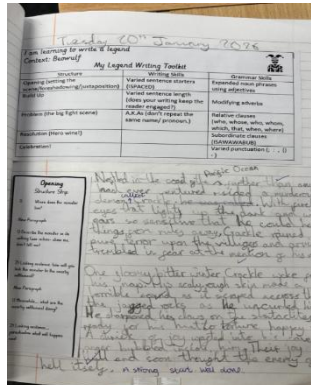
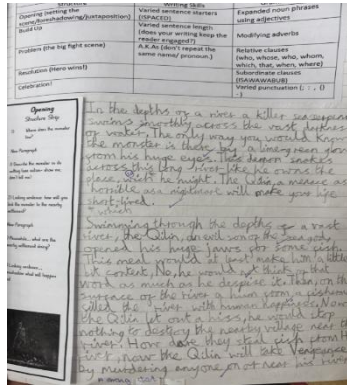
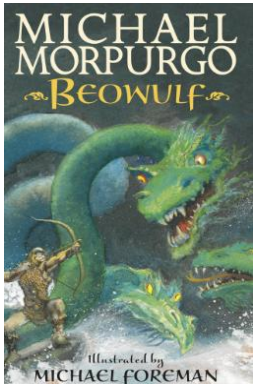


We have also really enjoyed learning new musical instruments this term. 4L have begun learning the trumpet, and 4S have started learning the violin. It has been wonderful to see how enthusiastic everyone has been and how much perseverance they have shown.



Year 5

Year 5 have kicked the year off with some fantastic learning! In English, we have been looking at the story *Beowulf and Grendel: The Monster of the Night*. Currently, we are working hard on retelling the story and thinking carefully about how we can entertain our readers by using fantastic word choices and showcasing our ever-developing writing skills. In science, we have been experimenting and discovering all about reversible and irreversible changes, as well as thinking about what constitutes a fair test. Well done, Year 5!



Year 6

This month, Year 6 have been diving into the world of the Victorians. Using a range of primary sources, the children have explored what everyday life was like for families during this period. They have also investigated the many jobs Victorian children were expected to do, from working as trappers in the mines to long hours in dangerous factories.

The children are now working in groups to create their own history projects, which will be showcased at our History Fayre on 12 February. We can not wait for you to see their hard work and the fantastic knowledge they have gained. We are all looking forward to welcoming you there!

Year 6 have also been getting creative in music. The children have been experimenting with chair drumming, learning how to use quarter notes, eighth notes and rests to keep a steady rhythm. They have had great fun putting these skills into practice by drumming along to a selection of songs.



Sports News

At Portswood, we are working hard to ensure our curriculum supports children's lifelong involvement in physical activity by:

- providing opportunities for all children to take part in a range of after-school activities
- developing a rich and varied sports curriculum
- involving the children in a range of competitions

In school, our teaching is focused on the development of fundamental movement skills. Without proficiency in skills like throwing, catching, kicking, leaping and balancing, students are less likely to explore the range of options available to them to establish and maintain active lifestyles.

We would love to involve our whole Portswood community in supporting the children to develop these skills and promote a lifelong involvement in being active.

Skill of the month.

February's skill of the month is the static balance. Being able to perform a static balance on one foot is an important skill that is used in gymnastics, dance, diving and many team sports.



Can you balance with your child?



Can you hold a balance for 30 seconds?



Can you play a game of freeze dance, follow along with Cosmic Yoga or set challenges at the park?

We would love to share your family efforts. Please send any photos to Miss Upfold at 6UW@portswoodpri.org.uk so we can share them in our weekly celebration assembly.

Cross Country – The Gregg School

Well done to our fantastic team of Year 4 and 5 boys and girls who had a fantastic time in the cross-country competition at Gregg School. First place for Sadie, second place for Yalika, third place for Reevea and fourth place for Louie.



Year 4 girls came second overall, and year 5 girls came third.

We look forward to seeing more of them compete in the upcoming cross country competitions next term.

Eastleigh Fun Run

Sunday 22 March 2026

The Eastleigh Fun Run will be on Sunday 22 March 2026 providing children from 4-12 years with the chance to have fun and take part in a one of the largest fun running events in the area - run 1.2km around Fleming Park in Eastleigh to earn your medal.

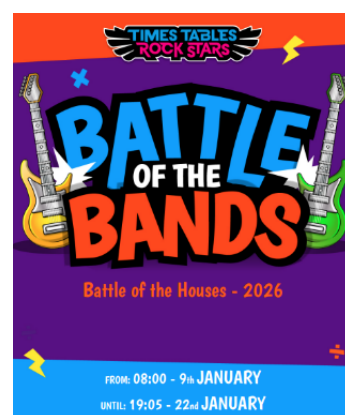
Entry fee: £8.00





[Racesignup](#) - flexible, feature-rich, great value online entry system

Congratulations

Times Tables Rockstar House Competition Results

A big well done to Shaftesbury House for winning the recent Times Tables Rockstar House Competition.



	Shaftesbury	91,573
	Somerset	69,087
	Welbeck	48,313
	Grosvenor	33,548

The pupils competed well and answered 242,251 questions between them during the contest.

The following pupils also deserve congratulations for being the highest scorers in the contest:

	 Ruhama J Shaftesbury	22,795
	 Maryam M Shaftesbury	22,107
	 Saif K Somerset	21,689

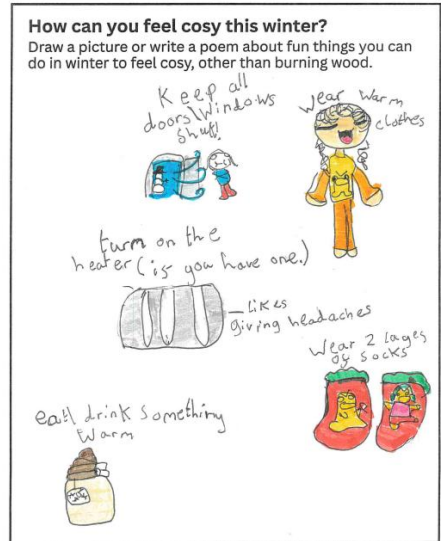
Congratulations

Winter Clean Air Challenge

Thank you for all who took part in the Winter Clean Air Challenge before Christmas.

We are pleased to announce the winning entry:

Wajiha 5JC,



Runners up:

Inge 2E and Heba 5JC.



Congratulations to Paya, Skye, Zahra T, Ollie, Tommy, Ted, Hafsa, Anqi, Yusuf K, Ana and Jessie, who all received a certificate.

If you have 30 seconds to provide feedback on the air pollution and wood burning resources shared alongside Autumn Term's Clean Air Challenge, this would be greatly appreciated. Please use the short feedback form [here](#). Your feedback will run competitions like this in the future.

Reminders

iPad donation.

We wrote to you recently to let you know that we have a number of ipads that can no longer be used in school that we would like to donate to pupils in our school.

A reminder that if you would like to apply for one on behalf of your child then the closing date for applications is **Friday 13 February 2026**.

The letter containing further information about this can be found on our school [website](#).

This is the link to the application form:

[iPad - allocation request - Portswood Primary School – Fill in form](#)

Dates / Activities

Date	Activity
Monday 2 – Friday 6 February 2026	Year 3 Greek Week
Wednesday 11 February 2026	Year R Parent workshop – Handwriting. 9am or 1pm
Wednesday 11 February 2026	5I visit to Cantell for science workshop.
Wednesday 11 February 2026	Year 1 Toy Museum 2.45pm
Thursday 12 February 2026	Year 3 Performance 2.45pm
Thursday 12 February 2026	Year 6 History Fayre 1.30pm
Monday 16 – Friday 20 February 2026	Half term
Monday 23 February 2026	Children back to school
Wednesday 25 February 2026	5JC visit to Cantell for science workshop

**SUNDAY 22
MARCH 2026**

EASTLEIGH JUNIOR FUN RUN

UKA LICENSE 45091

This is your chance to 'Go for Gold' at the Eastleigh Junior Fun Run event for the 12s and unders on Sunday 22 March 2026. The event is run around Fleming Park, Eastleigh and will be supporting WESSEX Heartbeat.

FUN RUN FEATURES

- The race starts at 11am for 9-12s, and 11.15am for 4-8 year olds.
- Entry is only £8 per child but limited to a maximum of 300 e.g. 150 per race (entries will not be taken on the day).
- Appropriate running clothes or tracksuits are recommended.
- Free medal and a £5 voucher for Up & Running in Chandler's Ford, for all finishers.



To enter visit www.runningmania.co.uk

Supporting



Health partner



Retail partner

UP & RUNNING

BRASSROOTS

Do you play a brass instrument? Can you play 5 notes or more?
Do you enjoy making music others? Then this is the group for you.

Brassroots is the beginner brass ensemble in Southampton,
run by Southampton & IOW Music with funding
from the Friends of Southampton Youth Brass Band.

Rehearsals will take place at
Richard Taunton Sixth Form College
on
Tuesdays (5-6pm) during term time



Membership fee: £60 per term
Up to 3 free taster rehearsals

For further information and to sign up, please use contact details below:



**SOUTH
COAST
MUSIC**
PARTNERSHIP

siowmusic.org
music@siowmusic.org
023 8083 3648

Boom!

Boom! is a beginner percussion group for all young musicians.

Everyone is welcome. No previous experience required.



Rehearsals take place on Tuesdays in term time,
4.30 – 5.15 at Cantell School, Violet Road, SO16 3GJ

Membership fee: £60 per term

Up to 3 free taster rehearsals

For further information and to sign up, please use contact details below:



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Southampton and IOW Music Ensembles 2026

Beginner	Boom! Percussion Group – No prior experience required Tuesday, 4.30 – 5.15 at Cantell School				
Initial	Elgar Strings Bowed Strings Grades 1-3 Monday 4.30 – 5.30, Cantell School	Airplay Wind Band Woodwind, Brass, Percussion, Pre-Grade 1 – Grade 3 Thursday 4.30 – 5.30, Cantell School	Brassroots Brass Band Brass and Percussion 5 notes – Grade 3 Tuesday 5.00 – 6.00, Taunton's College		
Mid-Tier	Southampton Youth Strings Bowed Strings Grades 3-5 Monday 5.00 – 6.30, Cantell School	Pulse8 Wind Band Woodwind, Brass, Percussion Grades 3 – 5 Monday 4.50 – 6.20, Taunton's College	Southampton Youth Brass Band Brass and Percussion Grade 3 + Tuesday 4.45 – 6.45, Taunton's College		
Training	Southampton Youth Concert Sinfonia Bowed Strings, Woodwind, Brass and Percussion Grade 5 + Wednesday 6.15 – 8.15, Cantell School	Southampton Youth Brass Band Brass and Percussion Grade 3 + Tuesday 4.45 – 6.45 Taunton's College	Groove Syndicate (Rock Band) Guitar, Bass Guitar, Kit, Keys, Vocals Grades 3-5 Wednesday 4.45 – 5.45 Cantell School		
Top Tier	Southampton Youth Orchestra Bowed Strings, Woodwind, Brass and Percussion Grade 7 + Friday 6.15 – 9.15 Taunton's College	Southampton Youth Wind Band Woodwind, Brass and Percussion Grade 6+ Thursday 5.00 -7.00 Taunton's College	Southampton Youth Brass Band Brass and Percussion Grade 3 + Tuesday 4.45 – 6.45 Taunton's College	Groove Merchant (Rock Band) Guitar, Bass Guitar, Kit, Keys, Vocals Grade 5 + Thursday 4.45 – 5.45 Bitterne Park 6 th Form	Studio Band (Jazz Band) Grade 6 + Select Saturdays 9.45 – 11.45 Taunton's College

Please use the details below for further information. Membership fees apply.



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