

Newsletter

The children have had an amazing end to the Spring Term with lots of work to showcase.

Some children have also had the opportunity to represent the school in a Cross-Country event.

This week we are sadly saying goodbye to Mrs Fox who has worked with us for 4 years, both as a classroom teacher and TA. We wish her well in her retirement and hope she enjoys spending time in her garden over the next few weeks.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support and to wish you all a restful break.

Tony Head
Headteacher

Curriculum update.

Year R

In Year R, we have been immersed in our pirate topic this month! We have been dressing up, steering the ship, digging for treasure, learning pirate words and even firing cannons. We loved making impressions in play dough with the deblooms and even making our own coins out of clay.



As part of our keeping healthy topic we learned about how important it is to brush our teeth and wash our hands. We looked at the type of foods we can eat often and discussed how important exercise is for our health. We had a baby clinic to help make sure the babies were cared for and had lots of fun role playing in our smoothie bar!

Year 1

This term Year 1 have been busy learning about animals in science. As part of this learning, they visited Marwell Zoo on a school trip which was a fantastic day. The children really enjoyed seeing the animals and included some of these animals within their own adapted Handa's Surprise story.

The children have also designed and made fruit salads as part of their DT learning. They choose the fruit they wanted to use and then used their chopping skills to cut the fruit and assemble their fruit salad. This was great fun and most importantly delicious!

Furthermore, Year 1 have had a fantastic time exploring the world of colours! Using powder paint, they mixed different hues to create vibrant and unique shades. The children then used their newly mixed colours to paint beautiful pictures of various fruits.

Year 2

This term we have been learning all about India. In geography, we explored India and where it is, discovering that it is in Asia and learning about its cities. We learnt that India has lots of cities and is on the border of Pakistan, Bangladesh, China and other countries too!



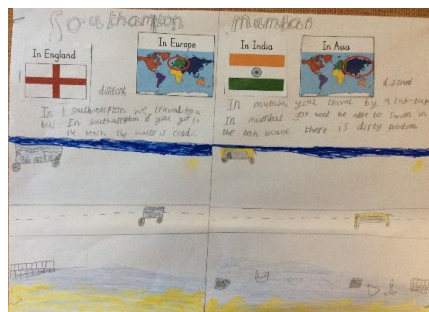
One Tuesday, when we arrived at school, we realised that our classrooms had been transformed and we were transported to the bustling city of Mumbai to experience the India culture! We rode tuk tuks around the hectic streets, made rangoli patterns and flower garlands and dressed up in Sari's. Then, we went to the street barber and tried some funny hair styles on each other.



We also learned fascinating facts about India at the Mumbai Street library. We played a spice game, using our senses to guess the name of each spice and learnt that Indian's use lots of spices in their cooking. After that, we tasted delicious Indian food like samosas, onion bhajis and naan bread. We even tried some Indian dancing too – it was so much fun!



Over the next few days, we compared Mumbai and Southamton, creating posters to show their similarities and differences.



In English, we have been writing a diary recount of India Day to share our amazing experience!

Year 3

This month in English, we have continued using ancient Greece myths as our inspiration and have written informative reports on mythical beasts. We have also been writing a set of instructions of how to tame one of these creatures without hurting it! This writing was inspired by our new book Leo and the Gorgon's curse. Another highlight linked to our learning about ancient Greece has been designing and making moving monsters. Everyone was successful in using a pneumatic system to make their monster move. Year 3 have also been enjoying their first few music lessons with new instruments! 3MR are now learning the ukelele and 3H are learning to play the Pbuzz. They have worked hard to learn a new set of skills and have already made so much progress! Thank you to everyone who is listening to their child read and recording it in their reading record. We can really see the difference it makes.



Year 4

Year 4 have been keeping very busy this month! We have enjoyed learning more about Antarctica, energy sources and energy use. This has included exploring the school environment to discover what plastic pollution we could find and thinking of ways we could reduce our plastic waste.

Last week, we really enjoyed making our purses in DT, using the sewing skills we have learned in art. We were so proud of how hard the children worked on these. A huge thank you to our amazing parent helpers who were a fantastic support.

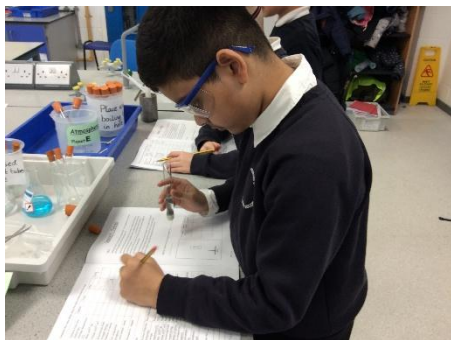


Year 5

Throughout this month, Year 5 have been very excited to restart their swimming learning journey. We have been enormously proud of them for walking to the swimming pool so sensibly and listening carefully to their teachers. Even after just a handful of lessons, we can already see how much the children are progressing and enjoying their time in the water.

In addition to this, we had another trip to Cantell to participate in a science lesson, where we investigated the conditions needed to sustain life on different planets. This was excellent preparation for our upcoming trip to the science centre in Winchester.

We also wanted to thank all of the parents who are supporting us with our trips and thank the parents to attended our fractions workshop, the children really enjoyed welcoming you.

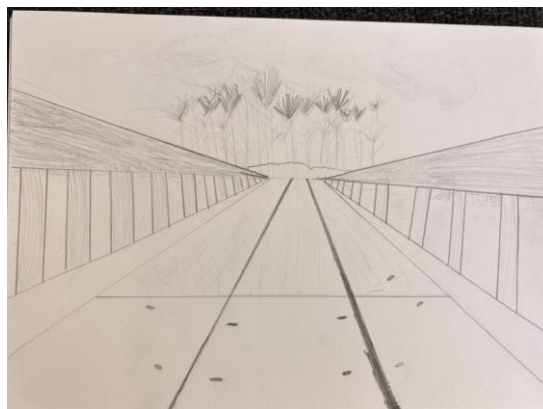
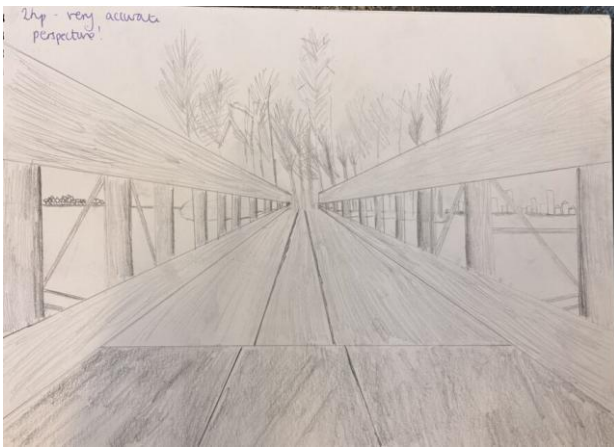


Year 6

Year 6 have been working incredibly hard in the lead up to SATs. We are so proud of them!

They have also been impressing us with their art this month; they have been practising their sketching skills and learning about perspective. They can identify the horizon line and vanishing point and have been able to create a one-point perspective drawing.

Have a look at their excellent artwork!



March Sports News.

HSAA Junior Cross Country Championships

Congratulations to Yalika (Y4) and Sadie (Y5) who went through to represent Southampton at the cross-country championships for Hampshire. They both ran exceptionally well, with Yalika finishing 15th and Sadie 75th out of 123 runners. We are so proud to have such wonderful talent representing our school and look forward to seeing the bright futures these hard-working athletes have.



Upper School cross country championships

Well done to the children who competed in the championships this month. We have some wonderful runners including Sadie and Joanna who placed 2nd and 19th and Louie (Y5) and Olaf (Y5) who came 23rd and 28th respectively.

The lower school championships are rescheduled for later in the year so look out for a letter with all the details then.

Sports leaders



Meet our wonderful Year 6 sports leaders. This group of children have volunteered their time at lunch to support the younger children playing games and setting up equipment. They are doing a wonderful job and show great kindness towards others. Well done for showing others what it means to be a Portswood pupil.

Wicketz

For those that don't know us, we are Hampshire Cricket Board and we look after the recreational game in Hampshire.

Wicketz is a free community cricket programme for ages 8-15 across Southampton! Weekly sessions perfect for beginners or experienced players.

Sessions restart after Easter at our St Mary's and Shirley hubs (week beginning 13th April), with a brand-new hub launching in Bassett (week beginning 4th May). Whether you're new or returning, come along and get involved. It's completely free to attend - just register and join the fun!



WICKETZ



**FREE CRICKET FOR BOYS AND GIRLS AGED 8-15
TERM TIME ONLY**

ST MARY'S

Ages 8-11 • Tuesdays 5:30-6:30pm
Girls Only • Wednesdays 5-6pm
Ages 12-15 • Wednesdays 6-7pm

MOUNT PLEASANT JUNIOR SCHOOL, SO14 0WZ

SHIRLEY

Ages 12-15 • Mondays 6-7pm
Ages 8-11 • Wednesdays 6-7pm

ST MARK'S SCHOOL, SO15 5TE

BASSETT

STARTING 7th MAY

Ages 8-11 • Thursdays 5-6pm
Ages 12-15 • Thursdays 6-7pm

CANTELL SCHOOL, SO16 3GJ

To register and for more information, please contact Dani Ransley;
Danielle.Ransley@utilitabowl.com | 07880724768



LORD'S TAVERNERS
Empowering young people through cricket

Reminders

Free School Meals

Are you receiving benefits? Your child may be entitled to Free School Meals.

Applying for free school meals not only gives your child the opportunity to have a meal at lunchtime but the Government also gives the school additional money to help with your child's education. It is therefore to your child's advantage that you apply for free school meals (even if your child is entitled to universal free school meals; or does not actually take up the offer of a meal).

You can apply on-line at [Online FSM Application \(cloudforedu.org.uk\)](https://cloudforedu.org.uk).

Parking

To protect the health of the children and all other members of our school community, please could we ask you to turn off your engines if you are parking by the school.

Sitting with your engines idling will produce harmful emissions which can contribute to ill health and damage to the environment.

If you can: turn your engine off.

Our usual parking reminders are here:

Please can we ask you to be mindful of residents when parking around the school.

Do not park or leave your car in the disabled bays along Northcote and Brickfield Road.

Please do not pull up on double yellow lines or the school zig zag lines, even if you are only dropping your child off, as this causes congestion.

Please do not park over the entrance to the allotments, these gates should always be accessible.

Please park a little further from the school and walk the rest of the way where possible.

Dates / Activities

Date	Activity
Monday 30 March – Friday 10 April	Easter Holidays – school closed.
Monday 13 April 2026	Children back to school.
Thursday 16 April 2026	Year 5 Swimming
Monday 20 April 2026	Teacher clubs start this week.
Wednesday 22 April 2026	Year R Trip to Longdown Activity Farm
Wednesday 22 April 2026	5I visit to Cantell for science workshop.
Thursday 23 April 2026	Year 5 Pizza making
Thursday 23 April 2026	Year 4 Swimming
Tuesday 28 April 2026	Year 3 Parent Workshop – Coding
Thursday 30 April 2026	Year 4 Swimming
Thursday 30 April 2026	Year 2 Trip to Porchester Castle

Get into Teaching... with us!



If you are interested in any of the following, then please get in touch:

- a School Experience Day
- An online Information Event
- Applying for our courses

Email us on: teachertraining@hispmat.org



1. Primary teachers promotional

video: https://youtu.be/Jw9djCD7gDQ?si=_Y-53AO-Zu3bxuBC

2. Secondary teachers promotional

video: https://youtu.be/ISVo6ZsOxHg?si=PC8ii9q_YPbUdTAs

Southampton Parent Carer Forum invites you to...

SEND Family Fun Day 2026

Tuesday 31st March - 10am to 2pm

For Children and Young People:
Bouncy Castles, face painters
Unicorn, bubbles and lots more ...



For Parent Carers:

Range of **Local offer Service providers** for
advice, ideas and support

Refreshments for all (drinks, fruit, biscuits and ice
cream are all free, there will be a food van with
food for sale)



To register



Oasis Academy Mayfield, Ashley Crescent,
SO19 9NA - Free Parking



For more information
follow us on Facebook



turner SIMS

Babies' Adventures in Music | Spring Songs

Date: Sunday 19 April, 11:00 & 13:30

Audience: Suitable for ages 0 – 18 months and their families.

This interactive show for babies, families and friends celebrates music from around the world. Discover a host of instruments, styles, gentle movements and stimulating sounds. You can enjoy harp, accordion, a range of stringed instruments, songs in different languages and lots more!

This event has a relaxed atmosphere designed to be flexible around you and your baby. Join in – or just sit and relax and let the beautiful sounds of music from around the world wash over you.


[Book tickets here](#)

EASTER HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

Hands on History: Off With Their Heads (6+)

Mon 30 Mar | 10.30am, 1pm |
Tudor House | £8

Art School Plus: Mind-blowing Mixed Media, inspired by artist Emma Richardson (11 - 16 years)

 Drop off your young people

Mon 30 Mar | 10.30am - 3.30pm
Art Gallery | £26

Art for All: Perfect Peter Rabbit Puppets (4+)

Tue 31 Mar | 10.30am, 12.30pm
or 2.30pm | Art Gallery | £8

Art for All: Fabric Print an Egg Hunt Bag (5+)

Wed 1 Apr | 10.30am, 12.30pm or
2.30pm | Art Gallery | £8

Hands on History: WW2 Ciphers and Spies (7+)

Thu 2 Apr | 10.30am |
Tudor House | £8

Tour for All: Southampton and the Second World War

Thu 2 Apr | 2pm | Tudor House |
£10 (accompanying
children free)



Art For All: Wonderful Wooden Eggs (6+)

Thu 2 Apr | 10.30am, 12.30pm or
2.30pm | Art Gallery | £8

NEW FOR 2026

Toddler Time: Beautiful Butterflies (under 4s and friends)

Thu 2 Apr | 10.30am |
SeaCity | £6

Art for All: Paintsperimentation Workshop (6+)

Tue 7 Apr | 10.30am, 12.30pm or
2.30pm | Art Gallery | £8

Art for All: Spring Decopatch Plant Pots (4+)

Wed 8 Apr | 10.15am, 11.30am or
1.15pm | Tudor House | £6

Art for All: Clay Axolotls (5+)

Wed 8 Apr | 10.30am, 12.30pm
or 2.30pm | Art Gallery | £8

Tour for All: Titanic Walking Tour

Thu 9 Apr | 11am |
Tudor House | £10
(accompanying children free)


Art for All: MARVELlous Clay Superheroes (6+)

Thu 9 Apr | 10.30am, 12.30pm
or 2.30pm | Art Gallery | £8

Hands on History: Titanic Science! (7+)

Fri 10 Apr | 10.30am, 1pm |
SeaCity | £8


Junior Art School: Paint, Paint, Paint inspired by artist Emma Richardson (7 - 13 years)

 Drop off your young people

Fri 10 Apr | 10.30am - 3.30pm |
Art Gallery | £26

CULTURE CLUB FOR KIDS ACTIVITY DAYS

(Age 6½ - 12 years)

 Drop off your young people

Three days per week | 9am-4pm
(drop off from 8.45)

SeaCity | £35 per day or £90 for
all three days

Get creative, explore our
collections and learn new stuff
while making really cool things at
our themed activity days.

Week 1: Spring Has Sprung

Mon 30 Mar, Tues 31 Mar, Wed 1 Apr

Week 2: Planet Earth

Tues 7 Apr, Wed 8 Apr, Thur 9 Apr

See venue websites for further details on events and to book
seacitymuseum.co.uk | tudorhouseandgarden.com | southamptoncityartgallery.com

