Edition 2: 25 September 2026

Portswood Primary School

Newsletter

Pride, Passion, Success

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to the start of a new year at Portswood Primary School. It has been a delight to see our new Reception children begin their journey with us so confidently over these first few weeks.

All children have settled into their new routines extremely well. It has been a busy start to the term, with children and teachers working hard.

Tony Head
Headteacher

Curriculum update.

Year R

We are delighted with how well our Year R children have settled into school this term. Their enthusiasm, curiosity and growing independence have been wonderful to see, and they are already embracing new learning experiences with confidence.

Our outdoor classroom continues to be a valued part of the children's school day. This inviting learning environment provides opportunities for exploration, creativity and active learning. Whether taking part in phonics activities, sharing stories, investigating the natural world or working collaboratively with friends, the outdoor space helps to inspire and enrich the children's learning experiences.

Indoors, the children have been busy learning the routines and expectations of school life and have adapted exceptionally well. They have made a fantastic start in phonics, already beginning to recognise and use a range of sounds. It has been lovely to see the excitement on their faces as they begin sharing their learning with family members.

We are incredibly proud of the positive start Year R have made to their school journey. Their confidence and eagerness to learn continue to grow each day, and we look forward to supporting them as they develop new skills, build friendships and enjoy all the exciting opportunities that lie ahead this year.









Year 1

Year 1 have made a fantastic start to the school year and have shown great enthusiasm and determination in all their learning. They thoroughly enjoyed their geography topic, taking part in an exciting treasure hunt around the school. The children followed clues brilliantly to help find their class teddy and then thoughtfully discussed their favourite places in school, explaining the reasons for their choices.

The children have also been excited to visit the computer suite and have enjoyed feeling very grown up as they begin their computing lessons. So far, they have been practising how to log in and out of computers independently, as well as developing their skills in using a keyboard and mouse with increasing confidence. We are incredibly proud of the positive start they have made and look forward to all the exciting learning still to come this term.

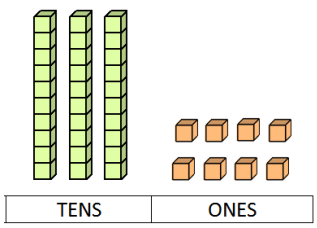
Year 2



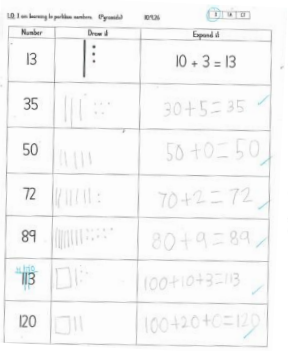
In Year 2 we have loved being back at school! In English we have been learning about different word types. We have focused on nouns (common nouns and proper nouns) as well as verbs (being verbs, regular verbs and irregular verbs). We have been super focused and doing a great job at remembering all of these word types. It has also helped us to make sure that sentences make sense.

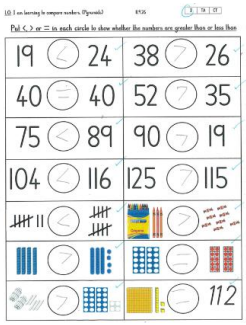


In Maths, we have been learning about place value, looking at tens and ones of numbers, greater than, less than and our number bonds to 20.



This week we have just started learning about Addition.





In History, we have travelled back over **200 years** to learn about **Florence Nightingale**!

We have discovered who Florence was and why she became such an important figure in the history of nursing. We learned how she worked tirelessly to make hospitals **cleaner, safer and healthier** for patients. We learnt that she introduced clean bandages and improved hygiene to make sure patients had nutritious food.

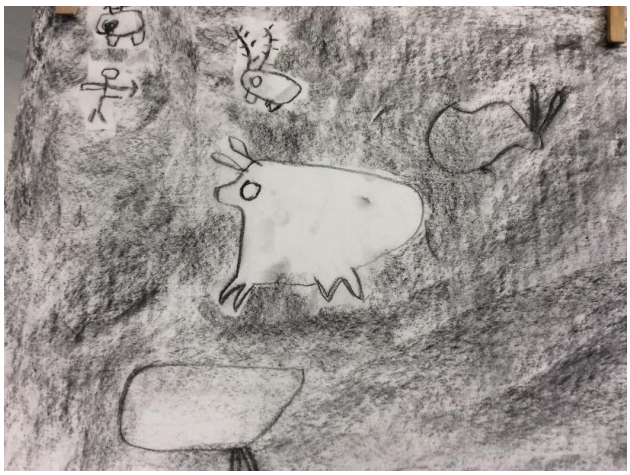
We have also had great fun comparing **hospitals then and now**. The differences have amazed us! We have explored the way hospitals looked and smelled to the equipment doctors and nurses used and we have discovered just how much has changed over the past 200 years.

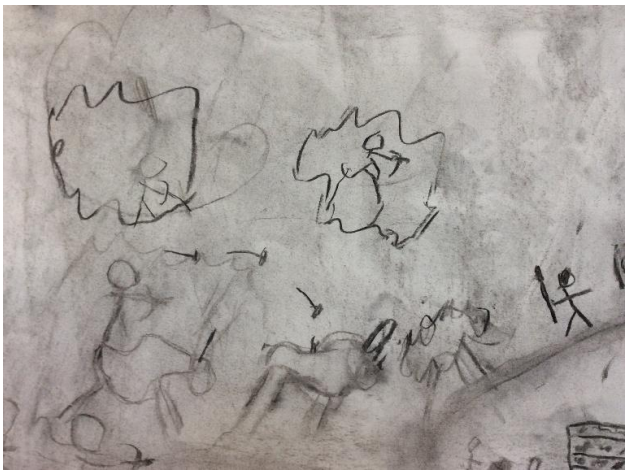


Year 3

We have had a great start to the year coming into year 3.

In music, we have started to learn to play a new instrument. 3MR are currently learning to play the PBuzz and 3H are learning the ukulele. We have been learning about rocks and soils in science, exploring the properties of them. Encourage your child to take note of the rocks they can see around them. Maybe they can tell you what they are! In history, we have been learning about life in the stone age. We have been exploring cave painting and had a go at making some using charcoal. This will help us when we come on to making stone age prints later this term in art





Year 4

Year 4 have started the year brilliantly. We have been really impressed with the way they have settled into their new routines.

Some recent highlights have included beginning our Year 4 music lessons. 4L have begun with the violin and 4C with the trumpet. Our music teachers have commented on how well the children have played.

In Art, we have begun our printing unit by practising our printing skills. We had a lot of fun experimenting with the tiles and improving our printing technique.



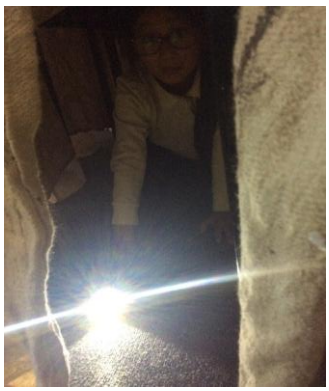






Year 5

We have had a fantastic start to Year 5! The children have settled in brilliantly to our new routines and are becoming familiar with our transitions between different classroom sets. They have thoroughly enjoyed being immersed in their learning and have shown great enthusiasm across the curriculum.

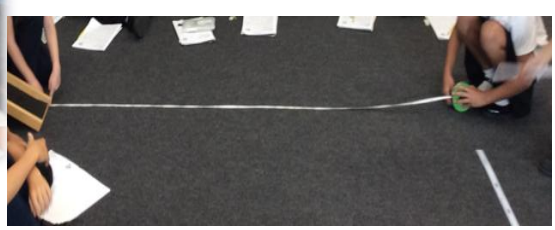


In history, the children explored ancient tombs and discovered interesting artefacts, which they carefully described to their learning partners. In science, they have carried out a number of investigations exploring friction and have enjoyed developing their scientific enquiry skills.

Well done Year 5! What a fabulous start to the year — we are incredibly proud of you!



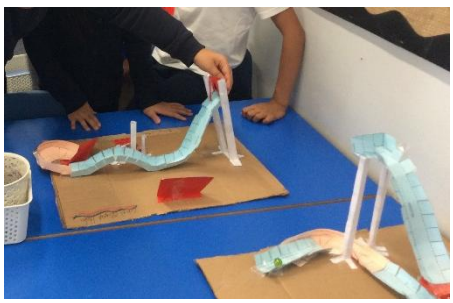




Year 6

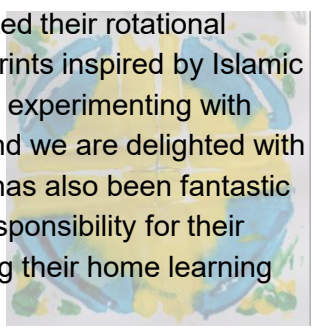
Year 6 have made an excellent start to the year and have settled well into their final year at Portswood.

They began with an exciting marble run engineering challenge, demonstrating great teamwork, communication and problem-solving skills as they tested and improved their designs. We were impressed by their creativity!





In Art, pupils have started their rotational printing unit, creating prints inspired by Islamic art. They have enjoyed experimenting with different techniques, and we are delighted with their practice prints. It has also been fantastic to see Year 6 taking responsibility for their learning and completing their home learning consistently.







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 Saturday 31 October 2026.

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/

School Photographs



The school photographer will be in school on Wednesday 21 October 2026 to take individual photos of the children.

Please ensure your child is in full school uniform on this day.

Free School Meals

Are you receiving Universal Credit? 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 https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/southampton.

No Cross Country

School Games Organisers have made the decision not to run the cross-country event this term due to ongoing building works at the sports centre.

We know this will be disappointing to some, however, due to safeguarding concerns, they feel it is not feasible to run the Primary Cross Country League as planned.

They will keep us updated as to whether it will be possible to run the LKS2 and UKS2 championships in March.

School Attendance

What YOU must do:

Try to telephone the school before 8.30am each day of your child's absence.

Tell the **school office** in advance, of any medical appointments and bring in appointment cards/letters.

If you are not sure whether your child is well enough to attend school, send them in anyway as they often perk up on arrival.

Have a backup plan for if your child misses transport, call on a family member, neighbour or friend.

If you and your child are experiencing difficulties with school attendance, then talk to us as a first step so we can help!

What WE will do:

Check your child's attendance every day.

Phone home to discuss your child's attendance with you.

Invite you into school for attendance meetings if we are concerned.

If we cannot establish a reason for absence, then we may make a welfare home visit.

Parking

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

- Do not park or leave your cars 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 be accessible at all times.
- Do not leave cars idling, please park up and turn your engine off.
- Please park a little further from the school and walk the rest of the way where possible.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Safer Roads for our children.

Road Safety Near-Miss Log

As a school we are supporting a parent-led initiative to gather data for Southampton City Council to improve road safety and parking enforcement around our school. If you witness a near-miss, dangerous parking or unsafe driving outside the school gates, please report it using the Near-Miss Log. There is also a short survey for you to complete on road safety.

The information collected will be used to highlight concerns to Southampton City Council and the local policing team.

Help Us Make Our School Roads Safer!

Please take a few minutes to support these two parent-led initiatives:

1.Complete the Road Safety Survey (3 mins): Share your views on traffic, dangerous spots, and road safety outside school: Road Safety Survey

2.Log Near-Misses & Incident: Bookmark this link to report dangerous driving, parking, or close calls as they happen: Near miss log.

Thank you again for your continued support in keeping our pupils safe.



Dates / Activities

Date	Activity
Friday 9 October 2026	Dress down for £1 donation towards shoe box appeal
Monday 5 – Friday 9 October 2026	Year 6 Residential to Avon Tyrrell
Friday 16 October 2026	Deadline to return shoebox for appeal – remember to attach £2. Flat pack cardboard boxes can still be collected from the Junior Office.
Monday 19 – Friday 23 October 2026	Year 4 Roman Week
Wednesday 21 October 2026	Individual school photographs
Friday 23 October 2026	Year 6 Height and Weight
Monday 26 – Friday 30 October 2026	Half term
Monday 2 November 2026	Inset Day – School closed
Tuesday 3 November 2026	Children back to school.


INSPIRING FUTURE TEACHERS
HISP TEACHER TRAINING
ARE YOU CONSIDERING A CAREER IN TEACHING?
WE ARE HOSTING IN-PERSON INFORMATION EVENTS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS ON 15TH OCTOBER.
INSPIRING FUTURE TEACHERS
HISP TEACHER TRAINING
• THORNDEN SCHOOL, EASTLEIGH FROM 4:15-5:15PM
• HIGHCLIFFE SCHOOL, CHRISTCHURCH FROM 5:30-6:30PM
• DANEBURY SCHOOL, STOCKBRIDGE FROM 3:30-4:30PM
BOOK VIA OUR WEBSITE
INSPIRINGFUTURETEACHERS.ORG/HISP
OR ON THE QR CODE
OR CONTACT US:
TEACHERTRAINING@HISPMAT.ORG

Southampton Mental Health in Schools Team

NHS Hampshire and Isle of Wight Healthcare

Mental Health IN SCHOOLS TEAM

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING IN SCHOOLS

We work together with your child's school to support the wellbeing of pupils, staff, and parents /carers.

We offer helpful, up-to-date information and skills through workshops, and activities to promote positive mental health and wellbeing.



"Thank you so much again. We honestly cannot believe the difference the programme has made to our family."
Feedback from a parent

INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT

What we can help with:

Anxiety - e.g separation difficulties, phobias, worries, OCD

Supporting a child with behavioural difficulties

For children under 11 our work is primarily with parents / carers, giving you practical tools to help your child manage their current difficulties in everyday situations. This way of working has been scientifically tested and found to really help.



HOW TO MAKE A REFERRAL TO THE MHST

If you would like to refer your child, please contact:

ANNA ADAMS
senco@portswoodpri.org.uk





Brownies

4th Southampton North West
Wednesday 6-7:30pm in Bassett

Girls have nonstop fun, learning and adventure

for ages 7 to 10

At Brownies, girls roll up their sleeves and get stuck in, growing vegetables, getting crafty, inventing games, earning dance badges and finding their voice.

Girlguiding
Registered charity number. Excepted from registration

Join a local Brownies group **girlguiding.org.uk/joinus**

TROJANS 18 74 RUGBY

YOUTH RUGBY AT TROJANS RUGBY CLUB



MAKE NEW FRIENDS
GET MUDDY
HAVE FUN

THEN COME AND GIVE RUGBY A GO!

AGES 4-18
BOYS AND GIRLS

MIXED U6 – U11
THEN SINGLE SEX FROM U12 UPWARDS



SUNDAYS
FROM SEPTEMBER TILL MAY

TROJANS RUGBY CLUB
STONEHAM LANE,
SOUTHAMPTON

www.trojansfc.rfu.club

RUGBY BRINGS US TOGETHER

Southampton Family Trust
building relationships



Does your child have ADHD or ADHD traits?

FREE ONLINE SEMINAR

"An Introduction to Parenting Children with ADHD"

Insights and strategies for families

Thursday 8th October 2026, 7.30 - 9.00 pm

No booking required!

Simply join the seminar by scanning the QR code or use the Zoom details below:

Meeting ID: 890 8579 5122
Passcode: 492249

If you prefer, feel free to email us at info@sftrust.org.uk for the Zoom Link.

www.sftrust.org.uk

Scan the QR code for the Zoom link