Edition 3: 23 October 2026

Portswood Primary School

Newsletter

Pride, Passion, Success

As we approach the half-term break, I would like to take a moment to celebrate the incredible effort, determination and enthusiasm shown by our children since the start of the academic year. Every day, I am proud to see our pupils embracing new challenges, demonstrating kindness towards one another and striving to be the very best versions of themselves.
I would also like to thank our dedicated staff team, whose commitment and passion ensure that Portswood Primary School continues to be a place where children can learn, thrive and succeed. Together, our school community has achieved so much already this term, and there is much to be proud of.

Have a wonderful break

Tony Head
Headteacher

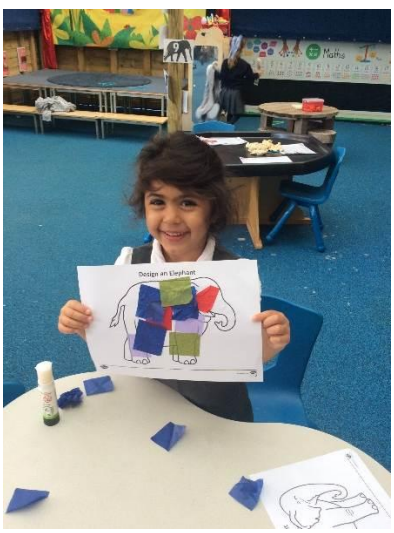
Curriculum update.

Year R

During October, the children have enjoyed exploring the stories Owl Babies, Goldilocks and the Three Bears and Rosie's Walk. These familiar tales have inspired lots of discussion, storytelling and creative activities. Through Owl Babies, the children talked about feelings and families, while Goldilocks and the Three Bears encouraged them to retell stories and compare different sizes. As part of our work on Rosie's Walk, the children have been learning and using positional language such as over, under, through, around and across to describe Rosie's journey and their own movements.
In Maths, the children have been learning to count and recognise numbers to 5. They have been practising counting objects accurately, matching numerals to quantities and developing their understanding of what each number represents. The children have also been exploring 2D shapes, identifying circles and triangles in their environment and describing their properties with increasing confidence.



In Phonics, the children have now learnt most of the Phase 2 sounds and are beginning to use these to read simple CVC (consonant-vowel-consonant) words by blending sounds together. They are becoming more confident in recognising letter sounds and applying their phonics knowledge during reading activities. It has been wonderful to see their enthusiasm for books and the pride they take in sharing their growing reading skills.



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



This half term 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. We learnt that something is still a living thing if it is no longer alive but was once alive – like a log that has been chopped from a tree.

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. We learnt about producers (things that create their own food, like plants) and consumers (things that eat other things).

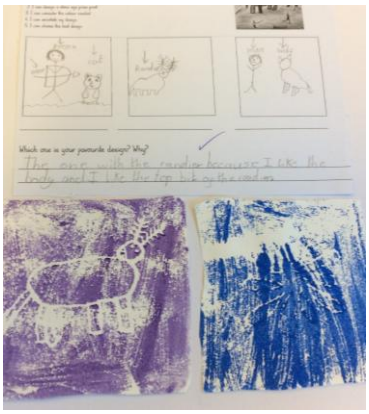




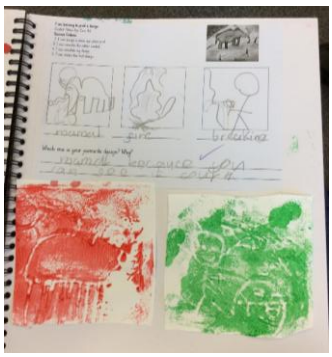


Year 3

This month, in Art, we have been focusing on printing. We were inspired by the work of artist Andy Warhol and explored the key features of his artwork, particularly his use of bright colours and repeating patterns. We began by drawing our own designs onto square printing tiles before using paint to create repeated patterns. As we are learning about the Stone Age this term, we then applied our printing skills to create repeating patterns inspired by the images and symbols found in Stone Age cave paintings.







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

In Year 4 we have still been enjoying our history learning! The children look brilliant in their costumes We have ended the half term with our exciting Roman Week, where we have learned more about the Roman Empire and have enjoyed a range of activities. These have included exploring artefacts, learning Roman games, designing and making mosaics and also creating Roman shields.

We will end the week enjoying our Roman banquet!









Year 5

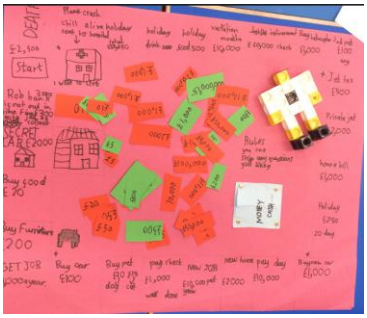
Year 5 have been learning about money in PSHE, exploring different financial terms such as tax, pensions, loans and debt. We thought carefully about how to design and create our own board games to help others learn about these topics in a fun and educational way. The children worked extremely well together to bring their ideas to life.

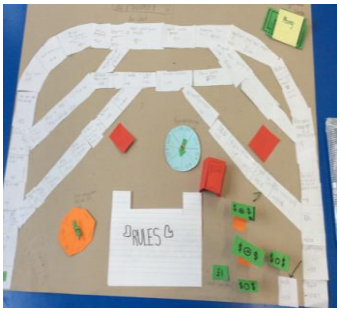
In art, the children designed and painted their final abstract pieces, carefully considering how to portray a particular emotion through their artwork.

Well done, Year 5!









Year 6

At the start of the month, Year 6 children had an amazing time away on residential. They were an absolute credit to themselves, you and the school. They pushed themselves, worked as a team and had a great time!



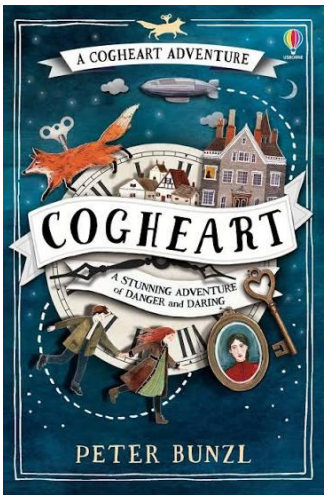


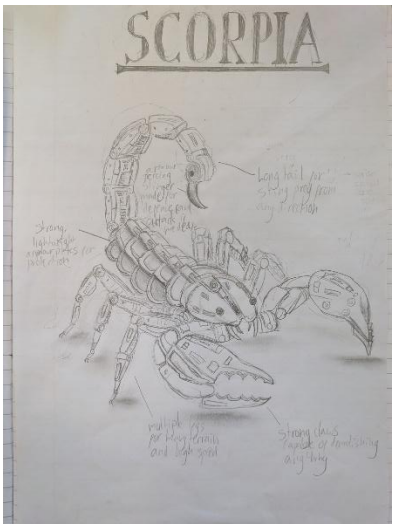
Year 6 cont….

The children who remained at school also had a great week – creating parachutes for eggs, taking a trip to Portswood library and using water colour to make some Chuck Close inspired art.

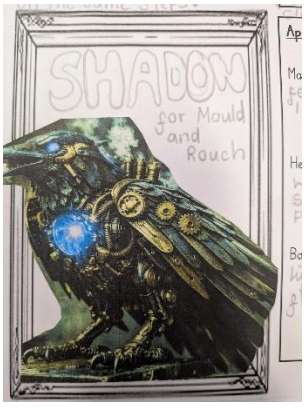


Now we are back in the swing of school, the children are enjoying reading their text Cogheart and designing their own mechanimals to write information reports on.

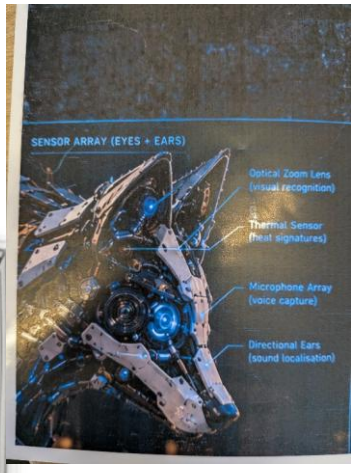












Year 6 Parents

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/

Shoebox appeal



Thank You for Your Generosity!

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas Shoebox Appeal. Thanks to your incredible kindness through shoebox donations, individual item contributions, and monetary donations from our non-uniform day, the project was a great success.

We were delighted to donate **over 60 shoeboxes**, which will make a real difference to children and families and provide them with a special Christmas gift this festive season.

I would also like to thank the staff members who generously gave up their own time to shop for additional items using the money raised from the non-uniform day. Their efforts enabled us to create even more shoeboxes and support more children and families.

Your generosity and community spirit have made a real difference, and we are incredibly grateful for your support.

Reminders

Bookbags



Cash only

A reminder that bookbags can be purchased from the school office for £6.75 – cash only.

Please bring in the correct money if possible.

Many thanks

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.

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.

Wellbeing

There are still places available on our free workshop for parents and carers entitled **'Parental Wellbeing'**.

This practical and informative session will explore what wellbeing means and why it is important to look after your own wellbeing so that you can support others. The workshop will focus on the Five Ways to Wellbeing**,** providing you with practical strategies to support and improve your family's wellbeing.

The workshop will take place at Portswood Primary School on **Monday 9 November, from 9:00 am to 10:00 am**.

If you are interested in attending, please click on the link below and complete the form to register your interest. Places may be limited, so we encourage you to respond as soon as possible.
Parental Wellbeing – Fill in form

We hope you can join us for what promises to be a valuable and supportive session.

Safer Roads for our Children

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 & Incidents: 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
Monday 26 – Friday 30 October 2026	Half term
Monday 2 November 2026	Inset Day – School closed
Wednesday 4 November 2026	New intake for Year R – Open afternoon
Friday 6 November 2026	Year 4 Trip to Butser Ancient Farm
Monday 9 – Friday 13 November 2026	No clubs this week.
Tuesday 10 November 2026	Parents' Evening
Wednesday 11 November 2026	5I visit to Cantell for science workshop
Thursday 12 November 2026	Parents' Evening
Friday 13 November 2026	Wear Spots for Children in Need.
Monday 16 November 2026	9 – 9:50am Year R Phonics and Reading morning.
Tuesday 17 November 2026	9 – 9:50am Year R Phonics and Reading morning.
Wednesday 18 November 2026	5UC visit to Cantell for science workshop
Wednesday 18 November – Monday 23 November 2026	Scholastic book fair 3:40 – 4.00pm Infant hall
Thursday 26 November 2026	Year R-6 Flu immunisation

SCHOLASTIC TRAVELLING BOOKS

Every book you buy earns FREE BOOKS for our school*

COME TO OUR BOOK FAIR

And find your next favourite read!



DATE: 18 – 23 November

TIME: 3.40 – 4.00pm

LOCATION: Infant Hall

GO ALL IN. National Year of Reading 2026

University of Southampton

Explore human experience

Arts and Humanities Day

Saturday 14th November 2026

→ 10:30 – 16:30

→ Southampton Cultural Quarter

Free activities, workshops, talks, exhibitions, and live performances.



Book your free tickets

www.southamptonartshumfest.co.uk

#UoSArtsHumFest

Southampton Family Trust
building relationships



Does it sometimes feel like everything is a battle with your child or teen?

FREE ONLINE SEMINAR

Understanding Demand Avoidance in Neurodivergent Children (diagnosed or suspected)

Insights and strategies for families

Thursday 12th November 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: 857 2711 9710
Passcode: 701137

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

Southampton Family Trust
building relationships



Is your child masking at school and crashing at home?

FREE ONLINE SEMINAR

"Understanding Masking and Burnout in Neurodivergent Children"

Insights and strategies for families

Thursday 26th November 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: 864 1384 1446
Passcode: 303701

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

Southampton and Isle of Wight music are currently looking to recruit more young musicians for their various ensembles, ranging from orchestra to rock groups and brass bands to jazz band.

Please see below for further information.

Southampton & IOW Music Groups: Ensembles 2026-27

BEGINNER	***Boom! Percussion Group*** – No prior experience required **Thursday, 4.30 – 5.15, Cantell School**		***Acorn Strings –*** First Basic Finger Pattern -Grade 1 **Monday, 4.30 – 5.15, Cantell School**	
INITIAL	***Elgar Strings*** (Bowed Strings, Grades 1-3) **Monday 5.30 – 6.30, Cantell School**	***Airplay Wind Band*** (Woodwind, Brass, Percussion, Pre-Grade 1 – 3) **Thursday 4.30 – 5.30, Cantell School**	***Brassroots*** (Brass Band: Brass & 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) **Tuesday 4.50 – 6.20, Cantell School**	***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, Percussion, Grade 5 +) **Wednesday 5.45 – 7.45, Cantell School**	***Groove Syndicate*** (Rock Band: Guitar, Bass Guitar, Kit, Keys, Vocals, Grades 3-5) **Wednesday 4.45 – 5.45 Cantell School**	***Southampton Youth Brass Band*** (Brass and Percussion, Grade 3 +) **Tuesday 4.45 – 6.45, Taunton's College**	
TOP-TIER	***Southampton Youth Orchestra*** (Bowed Strings, Woodwind, Brass & Percussion, Grade 7 +) **Friday 6.15 – 9.15, King Edward VI School**	***Southampton Youth Wind Band*** (Woodwind, Brass & Percussion, Grade 6+) **Thursday 5.45 - 7.45, King Edward VI School**	***Groove Merchant*** (Rock Band: Guitar, Bass Guitar, Kit, Keys, Vocals, Grade 5 +) **Tuesday 4.45 – 5.45, Bitterne Park 6th Form**	***Studio Band*** (Jazz Band, Grade 6 +) **Select Saturdays 9.45 – 11.45 Taunton's College**	***Southampton Youth Brass Band*** (Brass and Percussion, Grade 3 +) **Tuesday 4.45 – 6.45, Taunton's College**

For further information, please use the QR code, visit: siowmusic.org, or contact: music@siowmusic.org | 023 8083 3648

