

# Newsletter

*Pride, Passion, Success*

The children have settled into their new routines extremely well, whether they be seasoned professionals such as Year 6, or new to the school such as Year R. The first four weeks back to school have been busy, with children and teachers working hard.

Our first sporting extracurricular activities have also started this year; with children involved in both football matches and cross country.

**Tony Head**  
Headteacher

Following Su Whelan's announcement in the summer term that she planned to stand down as CEO of the HISP Multi-Academy Trust, the board has appointed David Pike as the Interim CEO.

During the summer break Su asked if she could be released early from her contract. That request was accepted by the board and Su has now left the Trust.

We would like to wish Su all the very best for the future and continue to be grateful for the legacy she leaves from her time with Thornden School and then the Trust.



## Curriculum update.

### Nursery



We are really proud of how well our children have settled in Nursery. We have been learning to follow the rules and to share our toys. During Hello time we have been learning our new friends' names and counting.



### Year R



The children have all settled in beautifully and are making some lovely friendships. We have been busy learning our classroom routines and rules and exploring all of the exciting activities in Discovery Time. The children have particularly enjoyed cutting and sticking as well as dressing up as their favourite character.

In literacy we have learnt the Owl Babies story and have been acting out what Mummy Owl and the baby owls would say with puppets and masks. We have also been writing our names. In Maths we have been matching and sorting objects.



### Year 1

Year one have been reading various stories in their English lessons including Paddington Bear. The children used adjectives to describe Paddington and thought carefully about what he might pack in his suitcase. They then went on to make jam sandwiches which were sticky but lots of fun. As expert sandwich makers, they then wrote instructions for how to make a jam sandwich to help others.

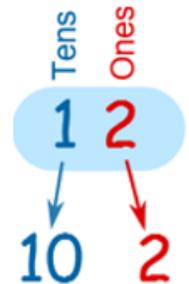


### Year 2

In Year 2 we have loved being back at school! We had a surprise visitor from Percy the Park-keeper who left a trail in the classroom looking for his animal friends. Since then, he has kindly left some books for us to read. We wrote a setting description of Percy's Park using our senses and wrote our own version of 'After the storm' in our English lessons. In Maths, we have been learning about place value.



In geography, we have been learning about the four seasons and the weather. We went outside to observe and describe the weather. Then we looked at different weather conditions. We described the weather and talked about what you need to wear when the weather is like this as well as what you can do. We also shared our opinions on different weather and explained which is our favourite and why. We will also be creating our very own rain gauge so please ask us how much it has rained in the upcoming weeks!



This week we had a visitor from Highfield church to talk to us about Harvest and its importance to Christians.

### Year 3

This month, Year 3 have been reading the Bear and the Piano. The children have been imagining what it would be like in the forest and have written a setting description using nouns, adjectives, powerful verbs and adverbs. Year 3 have also been looking at skeletons in science. So far, they have learnt about the positions of bones in the body and their names. As part of their learning, they drew around their friends and shared all they knew about the human skeleton.

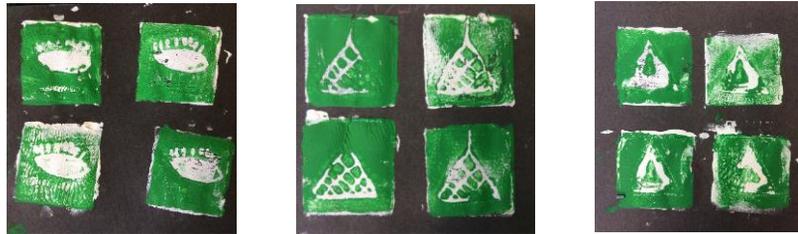


In computing, Year 3 have been creating algorithms to programme BeeBots to make different shapes. They have been trialling and debugging their algorithms over September.



## Year 4

What a superb start to Year 4. We have started our explorations into invaders and settlers and have planned to invade another space in our school to expand our empire. We have been enormously proud of the children in Year 4 as they have clearly been learning their multiplication tables making an impressive start to their soundcheck graph on Times Tables Rockstars. During art we have been learning how to print with ink including doing overlay prints. We are planning on developing a final print in the style of Klimt.



## Year 5

We have been having lots of fun starting our new topic about the Ancient Egyptians in Year 5. The children had a visit from archaeologist Howard Carter and were given the challenging task to decipher the message written on Tutankhamun's tomb! After they successfully did this, they bravely entered the tomb to explore and catalogue some of the artefacts found. Well done, Year 5!



## Year 6

Year 6 have returned from the summer holidays brilliantly and have got fully stuck in with their new learning.

In English, we have read the Giant's Necklace and produced some superb setting descriptions of Boat Cove.

In geography, we have been learning about the geography of the western United States of America. We have learned about biomes and climate zones and have learned to read a range of different map types.



## Sports News

It has been a fantastic sporting start to the year at Portswood. The cross country run at Southampton Sports Centre was enjoyed by lots of children in the Juniors. We had some fantastic runners and all the children showed great resilience to complete the run. A special congratulations to Isla Baylis in Year 5 who placed 3<sup>rd</sup> overall.



The football season has also kicked off and the girls' team impressed in their first matches of the season at St Mark's. They played so well, demonstrating great skill and sportsmanship in both of their games. A fantastic goal, exceptional goal-keeping and awesome attack/defence led to a 1-0 victory against Bassett Green and a closely fought 1-0 defeat to Highfield.

We cannot wait to update you with the results from the next matches.

## Flu Immunisation

Years R - 6

The school nurses will be in on Tuesday 17 October 2023 to administer the flu immunisations for children in Year R – 6. A letter will be sent shortly with more information.

## 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 Tuesday 31 October 2023.

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

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

## 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).

## School Photographs

The school photographer will be in school on Wednesday 4 October 2023 to take individual photos of the children.

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



## Parking

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

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.

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

## Dates / Activities

| Date                               | Activity                              |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Wednesday 4 October 2023           | Individual school photographs         |
| Monday 9 – Friday 13 October 2023  | Year 6 residential to Avon Tyrrell    |
| Friday 13 October 2023             | Year 3 Art learning                   |
| Tuesday 17 October 2023            | Flu immunisations Year R-6            |
| Wednesday 18 October 2023          | Nursery Individual school photographs |
| Monday 23 - Friday 27 October 2023 | Half term                             |
| Monday 30 October 2023             | Children back to school.              |