

Newsletter

November has been another busy month for us at Portswood Primary school, with our children continuing to work hard – building on the excellent starts that they have made to the year already. Year 4 have had a busy month, dressing up for Roman week and their visit to Butser Ancient Farm. Year 6 also enjoyed dressing up for Macbeth in English.

The end of term will also be a busy two weeks with performances and the Winter Fair. You still have time to drop in your donations for the Fair and the Festive hampers.

Tony Head
Headteacher

Curriculum update.

Nursery

The last few weeks in Nursery have been very busy ones!

As part of our work on Diwali and Bonfire night we made fireworks in the sand, decorate home grown pumpkins, made our own fire to melt marshmallows, and ribbons to make a firework dance.



Hiba has drawn a
stripey sock.

Since returning from half term, we have started our phonic sessions. Every day we practice our Nursery Rhyme of the week, we play sound games and listen to our story of the week. During Discovery time the children have been practising the sound of the week, drawing pictures of things that start with that sound.

Year R

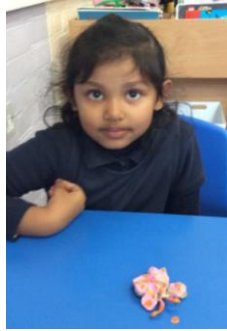
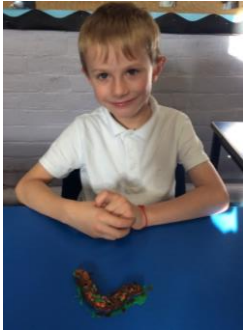
At the beginning of the month, Year R really enjoyed learning about Fireworks and Diwali. They produced some fantastic artwork from these topics. Year R have continued learning some traditional tales such as The Little Red Hen and The Three Little Pigs. They have been applying their phonic knowledge to write words from the story such as 'pig', 'hen' and 'dog.'

We are working at a fantastic pace at learning our phase 2 phonemes and blending with these. Our expectation is that all children will be blending independently by the Christmas holidays. We would like to thank all the parents who read daily with their child, it makes a huge difference to their progress. In Maths, we have been learning about the composition of numbers to 5 and one more, one less using a five's frame.



Year 1

The year 1 children have loved exploring clay within art this half term. They began by exploring the material and making lots of different shapes. The children used their joining skills and shape skills to make an animal out of clay. There were lots of fabulous ideas such as butterflies, hedgehogs, rabbits, turtles and cats. The children then carefully painted their animal and were so proud of their creation.



Year 2

In Year 2 we have really enjoyed our learning! In History, we have been learning about Florence Nightingale. We learnt all about her life, including when she went to Turkey to help soldiers in the Crimean War and how hospitals have improved because of her hard work. She even came to visit us!



In English, we wrote a dairy entry as if we were Florence Nightingale, describing the journey to Scutari Hospital and what happened when she got there.

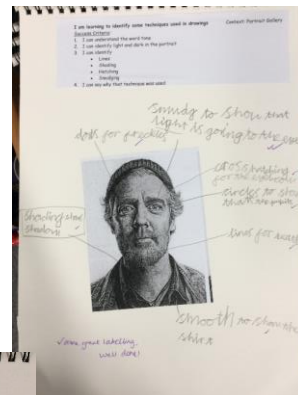
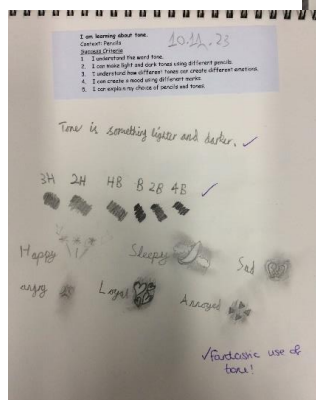
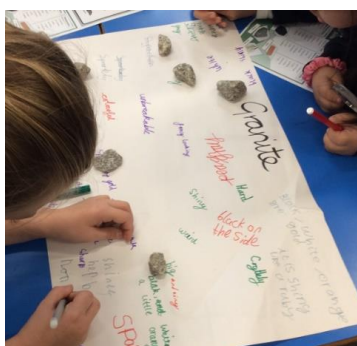
We also had a nurse from Southampton General Hospital come in to talk to us about what hospitals are like now compared to what they were like in the past and even showed us the equipment they use every day. Then, we got to explore the equipment and ask questions.

In maths we have been learning about division and 2D shape. We have exploring shapes that we see in everyday life, as well as the different properties they have.



Year 3

Year 3 have been working really hard over the last few weeks. In maths, they have been learning to multiply using the expanded column method and will now be moving on to division. Their art topic this half term is portrait drawing and have been inspired by the work on Monica Lee. So far, they have investigated the types of marks made by different types of pencils and charcoal. Next, they will be drawing a soft toy using the mark making techniques they have learnt. In science they have been studying rocks and have investigated which are permeable and which are durable.



Year 4

Year 4 have continued to have a brilliant half term so far! A highlight has been our trip to Butser Hill Ancient Farm, where we got to step back in time and find out more about life for the Romans and Celts. We experienced a round house and explored a Roman villa, tried our hand at chalk carving, jewellery making and cordage... and even became archaeologists!

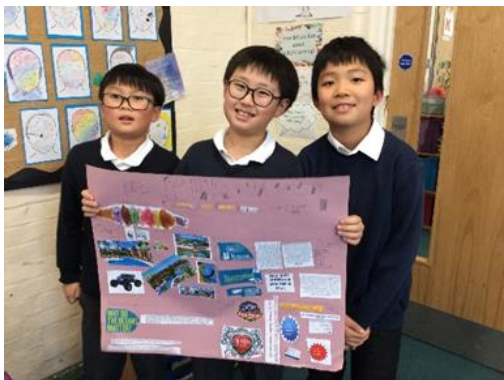
The staff who led the day commented on the children's excellent knowledge and fantastic behaviour. We were very proud of them.



A special thank you to all the parents who contributed so that we could make this possible, and those who gave up their time to support us on the day.

Year 5

In Year 5, we decided that we had had enough of Sayuki, so we mummified her! This grisly process was observed by the year group as part of our learning about Ancient Egyptian rituals. We are supremely thankful to Sayuki for making the ultimate sacrifice in order to further everyone's learning, and our thoughts are with her wherever she is on the death journey. In English, we have started reading *Holes*, a superb novel and the children are loving it and have already completed some excellent character studies of Stanley and Mr Sir. In writing, we have moved onto persuasion, and we are about to start writing a Camp Green Lake brochure (*Holes*). In science, we have been looking at chemistry, in particular, dissolving, material properties and irreversible changes. The pupils continue to do us proud and performed admirably in their November assessments. It gets messy over the remainder of the term with more science, a DT project and an Egyptian Museum project. We cannot wait!



Year 6

Year 6 enjoyed dressing up for a workshop to learn about the play 'Macbeth', written by William Shakespeare. We learnt about the characters, key events and some quotations of this famous tragedy which has given us inspiration for lots of creative writing in our English lessons.



In art, we have shown more creative skills when using clay. Looking at surrealism and the work of Dali, we designed our own abstract sculptures on the theme of evolution (which we have been learning about in science.) We had great fun developing our clay skills and are very proud of our final sculptures.



Arbor

Payments via Arbor – important changes from 15 December 2023

We are planning to move all dinner and trip payments over to Arbor in December of this year.

The school currently uses scopay.com for meals and trip payments. As of **Friday 15 December 2023**, you will no longer be able to access Scopay for your child. Any future payments will need to be made via the Arbor Portal or App where you will be able to top up your child's account.

If you have not yet set up your account on Arbor, please visit [Portswood Primary School - Arbor Parent Portal](#) for further guidance and helpful links.

Sports Roundup

Boys Football

The boys football tournament has kicked off to a flying start. The team worked exceptionally well together and impressed with their skill and sense of team spirit.

Some incredible goals were scored, and the defence worked hard against tough opponents. We look forward to seeing their performance in the final matches of this season. Well done boys!



Indoor Athletics Tournament



In November, Year 5 and 6 took part in our first indoor athletics tournament at Woodlands Community College. This competition is run by Hampshire School Games and involves schools from all over Southampton competing in athletics events. I could not have been prouder of all the children, many of whom had never experienced this type of competition. The level of support for each other was exceptional and they were exemplary representatives of Portswood Primary School. Well done to Lorenzo who came 1st in the triple jump, Jemi and Isla who placed 2nd in the relay and Yuxin who placed 1st in the speed bounce.

Reaching our 60 active minutes every day

As part of our commitment to supporting your child being active for 60 minutes every day, we have invested our Sports Premium Funding into running clubs every lunch time as well as ensuring a range of sports clubs for children after school. Coaches will be on the playground every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday running activities for all children to participate in alongside the basketball court games, football games and general playground equipment that is available.

Polite reminder – if your child has participated in the cross-country competition, please could you ensure that the school vests are returned as soon as possible as we need these for future competitions.

Attendance

The expected attendance for school pupils is 96%, as a school we are obliged to monitor attendance and to inform you when your child's attendance falls below this.

Although we understand absence may be due to your child being unwell, we are required to report persistent absences (below 90%) to the education welfare officer.

This time of year will always bring colds and viruses and it can be difficult to decide whether to send your child to school. The NHS have published a list of guidelines to follow: [Is my child too ill for school?](#)

Book Fair

As in previous years the book fair proved to be tremendously popular whilst it was here last week. Thank you to all those who came to visit during this time.



Children in Need

The children and parents of our school once again helped us support this worthwhile charity by dressing up in spotty clothes.

Due to your contributions, both on the day and after, we were able to raise over £340.00.



Thank you again for your participation.

Reminders

Festive Hampers and Winter Fair – Wednesday 6 December.

You still have time to drop in your donations for the Winter Fair and Festive hampers.

Here is a reminder of what you can bring for the Festive Hampers. We will need your donations by 30 November 2023.

- Year R - Chocolate
- Year 1 – Festive Nibbles
- Year 2 - Sweets and Treats
- Year 3 - Gold
- Year 4 - Foods of the World
- Year 5 - Red & White
- Year 6 - Body, Bath & Beyond



We are also still looking for donations of clothes, books and toys that are in good condition for the Winter Fair.

Christmas Lunch - Wednesday 13 December 2023



Christmas Jumper Day

On Wednesday 6 December 2023, we are inviting all pupils to take part in Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day.

The whole school will be taking part by pulling on a Christmas jumper for a great cause.

We are asking pupils to make a suggested donation of £1, to help transform the futures of children in the UK and around the world.

All money raised will go to Save the Children.

All your child needs to do is wear a festive woolly, instead of their usual school sweater, and bring in a donation. There is no need to splash out on snazzy new sweaters to join in the fun – why not swap, borrow or bring up an old woolly with some festive decorations.

We would really appreciate your support to make Christmas Jumper Day a success – it is a great cause, so together we can make the world better in our sparkly sweaters!



Date	Activity
Monday 4 December 2023	Last week for clubs
Tuesday 5 December 2023	Year 1&2 Performance – 2.30pm
Wednesday 6 December 2023	Christmas Jumper Day
Wednesday 6 December 2023	Winter Fair and Festive Hampers – 3.45pm – 4.45pm
Thursday 7 December 2023	Year 1&2 Performance – 2.30pm
Thursday 7 December 2023	Year R & 6 Height and Weight
Wednesday 13 December 2023	Christmas Dinner
Wednesday 13 December 2023	Year R Nativity 9.30am and 2.30pm
Friday 15 December 2023	Inset Day – School closed
Tuesday 2 January 2024	Children back to school



**TRAIN TO TEACH
IN HAMPSHIRE**

INSPIRING FUTURE TEACHERS
HISP TEACHER TRAINING

X Instagram

Friends of Portswood Rec.

Friends of Portswood Rec are trying very hard to access funding to replace the equipment that was taken away recently.

Play areas with high-quality, durable playground equipment for children has many benefits. It allows for children to engage in active play, develop physical coordination and strength, and have fun with their peers. We saw during the pandemic how beneficial playgrounds are at providing a place to get outdoors and socialise and how much impact it had when these spaces are taken away. We don't want to leave Portswood Rec with a sub-standard play area.



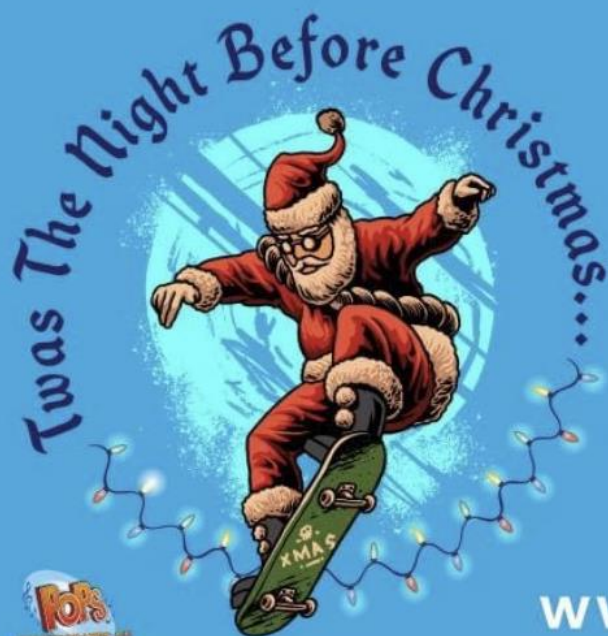
We know there has been local outcry since the equipment was removed and we are appealing for your helping hands so that local children can benefit from a suitable play area once more.

Many thanks,

Friends of Portswood Rec

The link is as follows

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/friendssofarportswood-rec?fbclid=IwAR2BhjSXuEtuXSlwLTJw1IEjR3VV16h13YIWomDkrNjF2N_gFH-hFaDQknw_aem_AbKTxPKCVPeK35us_E_B12sBq3Andnea8oPljvKSHXe-GLv_YmL7UGeWO_jMKK5OLqc



POPS INCORPORATED PRESENTS
**A NARRATED FESTIVE
SPECTACULAR**

**SUNDAY 10TH
DECEMBER 2023**

THORNDEN HALL, CHANDLERS FORD, SO53 2DW

SHOWS AT
3:00PM & 4:30PM
(DURATION 50MINS)

TICKETS: TWO ADULTS & 2 CHILDREN £28.00
ADULT £10.00 / CHILDREN UNDER 16 £6.00
BOX OFFICE: 023 8024 6555

www.thorndenhall.co.uk

www.wegotickets.com/southamptonculture

LET'S GET FESTIVE

TOUR FOR ALL: Christmas Lantern Tour

Sat 16 Dec / 5pm, 7pm / Tudor House

£7 per person, £24 family ticket



ART FOR ALL: Winter Watercolours (8yrs+)

Mon 18 Dec / 10am, 12.30pm or 2.30pm

Art Gallery / £8

ART FOR ALL: Brilliant Birds (5yrs+)

Tues 19 Dec / 10am, 12.30pm or 2.30pm

Art Gallery / £8

ART FOR ALL: Print your own Wrapping Paper (4yrs+)

Wed 20 Dec / 10am, 12.30pm or 2.30pm

Art Gallery / £8



LET'S MAKE A: Christmas at Hogwarts (6yrs+)

Tues 19 or Wed 20 Dec / 10.30am or 1pm

Tudor House / £8

ART FOR ALL: Wire Reindeer (12yrs+)

Tues 19 Dec / 11am-1pm / Art Gallery / £22

ART FOR ALL: Wire Christmas Decorations (12yrs+)

Wed 20 Dec / 11am-1pm / Art Gallery / £22

SCC CULTURE CLUB

Southampton Culture Club for Kids (6½-12yrs)

Mon, Tues, Wed: 9am-4pm

(drop off from 8.45am) / SeaCity Museum

£35 per day (£90 for 3 days)

Christmas Holidays

Monday 18 Dec: CHRISTMAS CHARACTERS

Tuesday 19 Dec: CHRISTMAS CRACKERS

Wednesday 20 Dec: ALL WRAPPED UP!



Birthday Parties for kids



If you've got a history fan or art enthusiast at home then why not throw them a birthday to remember at one of our unique venues?

Create a special day for your child full of hands-on activities. From £10 per child. Email museums.education@southampton.gov.uk



Father Christmas & Christmas Crafts at Tudor House (all ages)

Sat 9, Sun 10, Sat 16, Sun 17, Mon 18 Dec

£15 per child

Discover the magic of a Tudor House Christmas with your family this year. Enjoy a festive visit to Father Christmas in beautiful surroundings, complete with a traditional gift and craft activity where you can make a decoration to take home.



Ticket includes entry to the house, where you can enjoy our super cute Christmas Tudor House Mouse trail.

Why not add a festive afternoon tea at our café where the whole family can enjoy a range of tasty seasonal sweet and savoury treats while overlooking our beautiful garden. Book in advance
Adults £17.50 Children £10.50