

# Newsletter

I hope this newsletter finds you and your family well. 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 three weeks back to school have been busy, with children and teachers working hard to make up for some of the learning pupils may have missed during lockdown.

## Curriculum update.

### **Year N & Year R:**

The children of Nursery and Reception have all made excellent starts to their time with us. The children of Nursey are working hard to learn new routines and have spent these early days settling into life in the Nursey. The children of Reception have equally spent some time settling in and have now begun work learning their first sounds in phonics.

### **Year 1:**

The children of year 1 have been using the theme of superheroes to support their work in English. One of the highlights of this work was superhero day, which gave the children the opportunity to dress up and take part in a number of superhero related activities.



### **Year 2:**

Within geography, the children of Year 2 have begun their studies on weather. As part of this work they have had the opportunity to build rain gauges, which over the last few days have recorded some significant amounts of rain!

### **Year 3:**

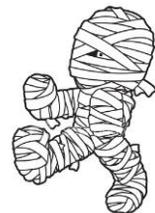
The children of Year 3 have been exploring what they think scientists might look like and the kind of things they might do. Having done that the children were then given the opportunity to investigate a number of actual scientists from the present and the past.

### **Year 4:**

Year 4 have also been working hard in science since our return. They have been exploring the classification of animals and will soon be using the skills they have developed to classify and identify living things within the local environment.

### **Year 5:**

Within history the children of Year 5 have begun their work on Ancient Egypt. As part of this work they were fortunate to be visited by the eminent archaeologist and Egyptologist Howard Carter, who apparently did not die in 1939 (as is claimed by Wikipedia), but is in fact very much alive and giving presentations in the hall of Portswood Primary school!



### **Year 6:**

The children of Year 6 have been busy working hard across many areas of the curriculum. Some of the more notable of these have been their explorations in RE of the 5 pillars of Islam and printing with rotational patterns in art, using Islamic art as their stimulus.

**Tony Head**  
Principal

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## NEW READING SCHEME KEY STAGE 1

A new reading scheme has now been launched across Key stage 1 and your children should be receiving a new book each week. A significant amount of investment in both time and money has been made to get this up and running and we hope that you will be able to support us to make it a success for your children.

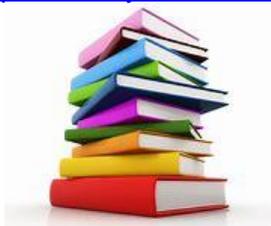
To give you an idea of how reading in school will be taking place and how you can support your child at home, Mrs Dyde and Mr Howie have made a series of YouTube videos that you can watch. We hope that they will give you some ideas about how you can support your child at home, and if nothing else the third video is particularly entertaining.

These videos are available on the Portswood Primary YouTube channel, the link to which is below:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwijiPZA9xkrIQW5INCO9A>

Or if you wish to go directly to a particular clip they are as follows:

1. Reading in School: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XU2KsDfKmWE>
2. Progress through reading development: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PdfWOvSG2Ug>
3. Questioning (and focus): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vvN2jSkIhqw>
4. Reading in school a week later: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PW3q1jVw5gl>



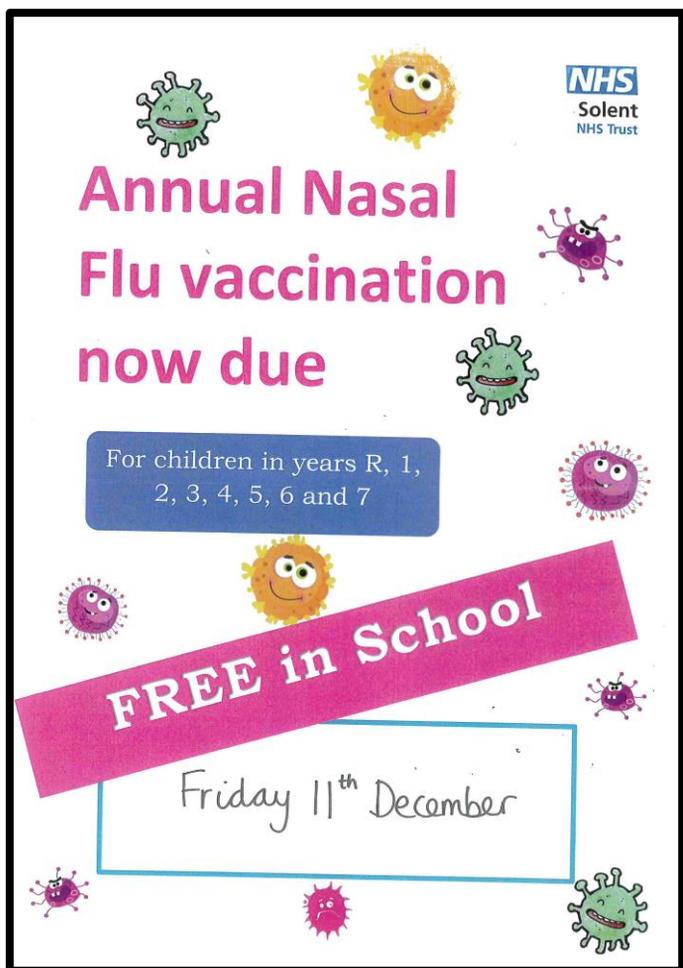
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## Attendance

Firstly, I would like to thank all parents for the huge efforts they have been making to get their children in on time.

Secondly, can I please remind you that the guidelines concerning school attendance is that children must attend school unless they are unwell due to normal seasonal illnesses, are having to isolate because they have been in close, prolonged contact with someone who has contracted covid-19 (and have been instructed to isolate), or they are awaiting results from a covid-19 test.

Covid-19 related absences will not impact upon your child's attendance record.



**Annual Nasal Flu vaccination now due**

For children in years R, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7

**FREE in School**

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December

NHS Solent NHS Trust

## 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 2020.

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 Thursday 8 October 2020 to take individual photos of the children.

Unfortunately, this year we will not be able to offer family photographs with siblings.

## Dates / Activities

Date	Activity
Thursday 8 October 2020	Individual School Photographs
Wednesday 21 October 2020	Nursery School Photographs
Monday 26 – Friday 30 October 2020	Half Term
Monday 2 November 2020	Inset Day – children not at school
Tuesday 3 November 2020	Children back to school