



Weekly Newsletter

Friday 16th December 2022

'The best Christmas gift is to realise how much you already have.'

Dear Parents and Carers,

A long Autumn term is at an end and a lot has been achieved. It has been wonderful to see how much the children are enjoying the curriculum, learning from rich experiences and putting their skills, knowledge and understanding to purposeful use across a range of subjects in a range of contexts. This you will hopefully have seen in your child's books during learning consultations, their excitement and recounts following educational visits, visitors to school, workshops and at learning events. Our children's thirst for learning, their energy and determination to do well is inspiring and they now deserve rest, recuperation and time with family and friends – they deserve it!

It was lovely to see so many of you in school for learning events, Y4 Christmas play, Carols Around the Tree and attending the HSCA Fire Show and Christmas Fair. The joy and sense of belonging so evidently shown by your full involvement with school life is hugely valued and appreciated by all of us and it's these shared times that create memories. Our school community is strong and supportive and I welcome your involvement further if you are interested in supporting with reading, offering a club, using your expertise linked to the curriculum, helping to develop our school grounds for the children, become a school governor or member of the HSCA. Every role and every part you play adds value to our school. With that in mind we will be welcoming parents and carers to open coffee mornings in the spring term, which I hope you might find time to attend, an opportunity for you to discuss anything you wish with the senior leadership team or simply use as an opportunity for company and a hot drink. Date and time for each coffee morning can be found in the Key Dates section later in this newsletter and [on the Events page of our website](#).

I am minded to pause for a just a moment and remember the opportunity that Christmas brings; a time to think of others particularly where it is needed the most. For this reason, I am exceptionally proud of the generosity and compassion shown by the children and our community in supporting Children in Need, Odd Socks Day as part of our anti-bullying week, Christmas jumper day, offering pre-loved school uniform and pre-loved children's Christmas jumpers and supporting HSCA fundraising events. Every contribution helps and also enables our children to develop their purpose as citizens of their community and beyond. The children achieve a sense of pride being part of an outward facing community, where there is always time for others and, amongst the business of modern life, there is still space for giving in whatever capacity that may be.

As we end the term until our return in the new year, I want to close the year by extending a huge thank you to my amazing staff team and to the Governors. Each and every one from the office team to the classroom, cares so deeply for your children and gives so much of themselves to their role to improve the quality of education and experiences for the children. They demonstrate this every single day and I know that you notice their capacity to go that extra mile so aptly reflected in this lovely message we gratefully received from a parent following Carols Around the Tree.

'I just wanted to write and thank all the staff and children for such a wonderful concert this evening at the 'Carols around the Tree' event. It was an absolute pleasure to see so many talented performers and I left feeling both incredibly fortunate for the opportunities afforded my son, and

very Christmassy! What struck me most was how the event showed the role that music has in so much more than playing instruments or singing; the confidence, self-belief and willingness to move outside of comfort zones that the children displayed tonight was confirmation that Hook Junior School is a very special school indeed. Special thanks must go to the peripatetic music teachers, especially Mrs Hamer who made my son believe he could perform his solo, but also staff at HJS who stayed late at the end of such a busy term, and were so brilliant in their drumming performance (my son LOVED that!)

On behalf of staff and governors alike, may I wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas shared with the ones you love.

Yours sincerely

Mrs L Martin

Headteacher

'Time cannot be packaged and ribboned and left under trees for Christmas morning. Time can't be given, but it can be shared',

Cecelia Ahern.

Change in Staff

We sadly say farewell to fabulous members of our Office Team and wish them well in their future ventures. **Mrs Sidhu** who is currently Finance Assistant and was previously a teacher here, leaves to dedicate her time working with her husband to support his expanding business and **Mrs Shepherd** our Admin Officer leaves for promotion to School Business manager at a school in Basingstoke. They will be sorely missed, they have been a pleasure to work with and their calm, efficient manner has served the school and the community well during their tenure. Thank you Mrs Sidhu and Mrs Shepherd and the very best of luck in your new roles.

In January we welcome **Mrs Drew** as Senior Admin Officer to the office team and we look forward to working with her.

A big thank you to the Hook Schools Community Association (HSCA)- Miss Smith

This term has been a busy one for the amazing HSCA. The Fire Show and Christmas Fair were a huge success as always and we thank the team for putting on these events which bring the community together. The organisation and planning that goes into setting up and running these events is huge and we thank you all for your hard work and dedication. A big thank you to all of the parent, staff and community volunteers that help to make these events happen too.

Next term the HSCA will be running the Bag2School event, the Mother's Day sale and the Beer Festival. The dates for these events are in the events calendar on the website or at the end of the newsletter. If you are available to volunteer to support any of these events, please contact the HSCA via [their website](#), [Facebook page](#) or sign up directly via <http://www.pta-events.co.uk/hsc>.

PE and Sport



We have had a very successful Autumn term with sport at Hook Junior School. The children have attended multiple events, including a very successful run of dodgeball events for year 4, 5 and 6, as well as indoor athletics, badminton, soft archery and curling. It was a wonderful opportunity for the children to try out a new sport and mix with children from other schools, with many requesting further events in these sports. We had wonderful feedback from parents too, who also enjoyed the chance to see their children participate in sports they have never experienced before.

Within competitive sport, we have had great success too. Our League Runners have competed in 2 runs, with Adam coming first in his first run. Both the boys and girls football team won the first round of the Cup events, progressing to the next stage. Our 3 football teams and the Netball Squad have been training hard, ready to start competing in their respective leagues in Spring.

It has been lovely to see such a buzz around sport and PE, especially with the Football World Cup. I hope to take more children to events in the Spring Term, and see our success continue. If your child is selected for these events, please ensure the survey is responded to as we had low attendance on some events which meant children missed out on these fantastic opportunities.

Mrs Ellwood

Music

Hook Junior School is always full of music and this term was no different. From Year 3 learning to play to recorder, to compositions about our topic 'Space' in Year 5 to learning about how singing improved people's moral during WWII-music has been a constant as you walk up and down our corridors. Year 4 thrilled us with their performance of 'What Christmas Means to Me' and we were all thoroughly impressed with how they learnt all their lines, staging queues and dance routines. We rounded off the term with 'Carols around the Tree' where all our musicians from across the school came together for a wonderful, festive celebration.

Year 3, Mrs Roberts



What a term! The year 3 team are so proud of all our children. The children moved up to Hook Junior School in September and have made a very positive and successful transition. Other adults in school have commented how polite, friendly and keen the children are. Every morning the children are very excited to come to school, eager to learn and find out what the day entails. This term the children have studied *The Magic and Mystery of Trees* and *Malala's Magic Pencil* in guided reading, which they have all thoroughly enjoyed. They have written some detailed and imaginative setting descriptions about the Secret Garden, clear and organised instructions for planting cress seeds, written a narrative about an exciting trip inside a washing machine and even researched and published a biography all about Malala. During maths, the children have revised and developed their place value knowledge, learnt multiple mental strategies for addition and subtraction and have begun to work on the formal written method of column addition. Science has taken a plant focus all term learning about germination to pollination. They have even designed and created greenhouses to help germinate their own cress seeds. In history and geography, the children have studied their local areas of Hook and Basing House and undertaken a trip into the village to collect data about how it has development over time. These are just a few subjects the children have experienced this term but there has been many more! It was lovely to see so many parents and carers for the Year 3 learning events in November in which the children got to share this learning with you. On behalf of the year 3 team, I would like to thank you for your help and support in aiding a smooth transition from infant school and hope that you are able to enjoy a lovely Christmas and we look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

Year 4, Miss Bowyer

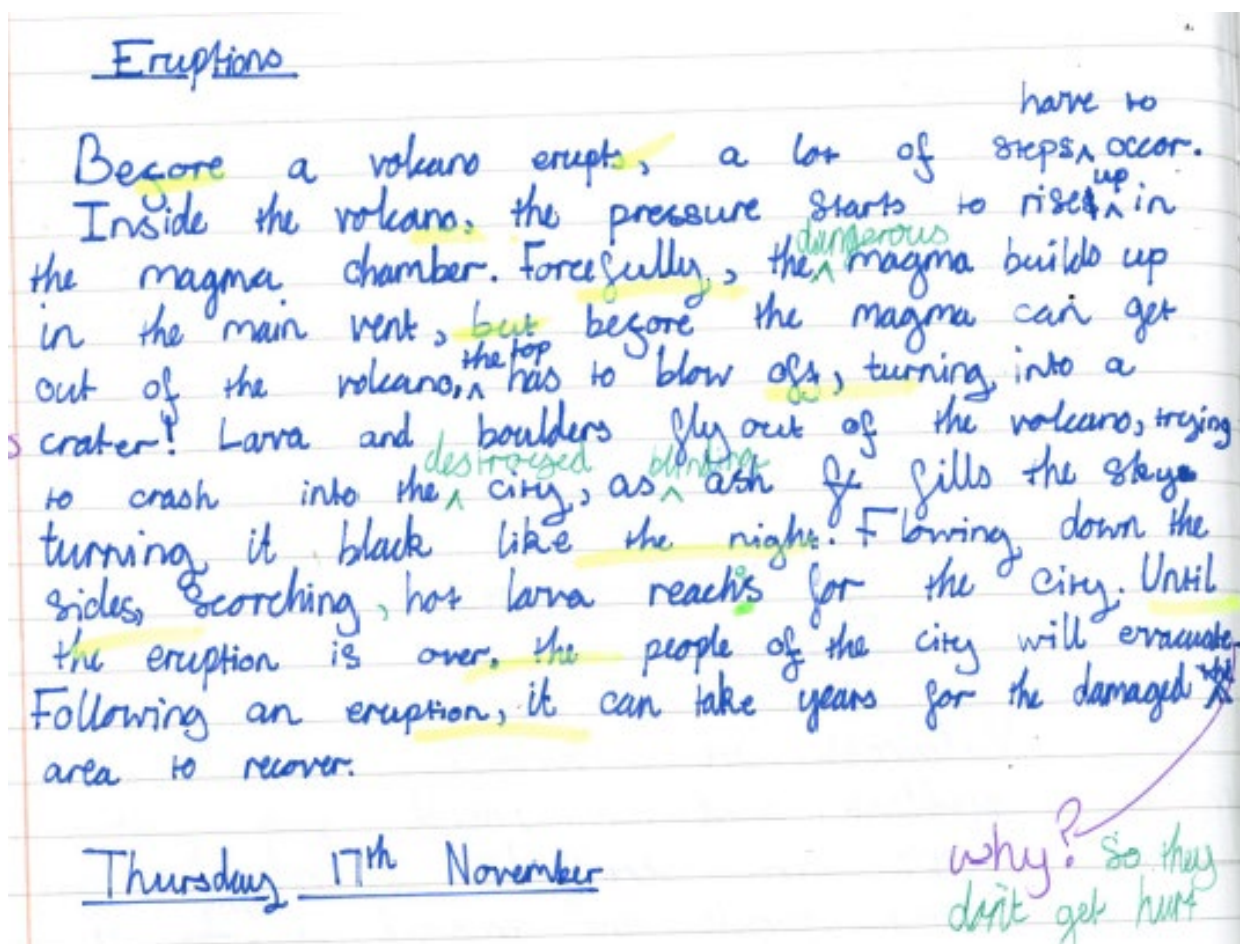


Year 4 have had a very exciting Autumn term focusing on explorers and volcanoes. The children thoroughly enjoyed learning about Shackleton and his expedition to Antarctica, using this as inspiration for some fantastic diary entries and biographies in English. Our non-fiction work continued with a non-chronological report about volcanoes. Children used key features such as subheadings and facts to inform their audience about the fascinating structures.

DT work was linked to the diets of explorers, with the children planning, making, tasting and evaluating vegetable curries. They practised key cooking skills and worked well in groups to produce some delicious looking and smelling curries. We definitely have some chefs in the making!

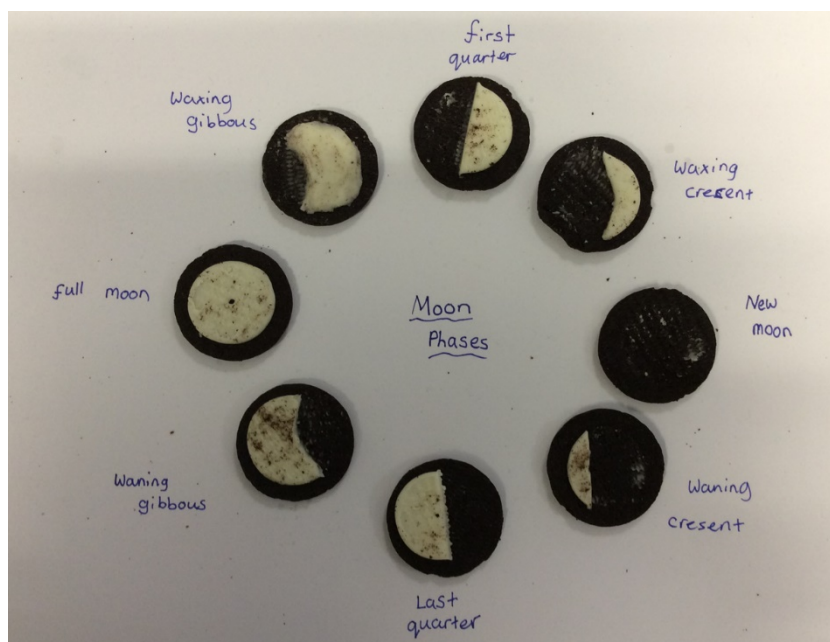
Shackleton was also the inspiration for our art work. Using mixed mediums, the children created zig zag booklets to demonstrate an explorer's journey.

The highlight of the Autumn term for us all was our Christmas performance of 'What Christmas Means To Me'. As I'm sure you will agree, the children were amazing in all of their performances. Everybody had a role to play and developed their acting skills as well as their stage presence throughout the rehearsal and performance process. The children should be very proud of themselves as we know that performing can be a daunting prospect for many. The year four teachers are all extremely proud of the hard work and determination demonstrated. Well done Year 4!



Year 5, Mr Colebrooke

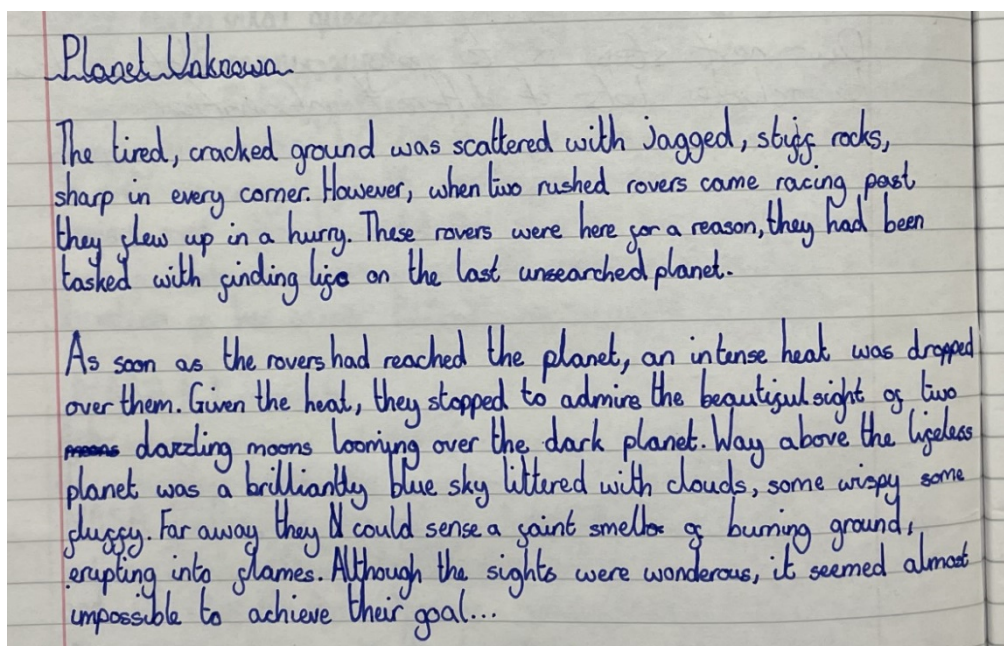
Year 5 have had a cosmic start to the year as we have ventured through space on a journey of discovery while learning about our Solar System. We explored why Earth experiences night and day and different seasons, used Oreos to represent the eight phases of the moon and created PowerPoint presentations to share our understanding of the neighbouring planets. Our Discovery topic culminated in a fantastic astronomy evening where - despite the cloudy weather - we were able to discover more about the night sky and experience what it is like to look through a powerful telescope.



The wonders of space inspired much of our learning this autumn, including within English where we were enthralled by the fascinating life of Katherine Johnson, the African-American mathematician whose work for NASA was crucial to the space program. We concluded the writing for this term by creating our own suspense stories about the short film Planet Unknown, which featured some brilliant language choices to create atmosphere.

Our art for the term was out of this world! We explored a range of new techniques such as masking and relief, combined with ideas gained from Peter Thorpe's rocket abstracts, to create a diverse mixed-media constellation of space-themed pictures.

Place value into the hundreds of thousands, negative numbers, efficient mental strategies for addition and subtraction and statistics have all been areas of maths that we have developed a deeper understanding in the autumn term. We even had one memorable day where we learnt about line graphs in maths, used a line graph to plot the emotions of a character in English and then finished the day by presenting our findings from a science experiment on a line graph!



For the final two weeks of term there has barely been a day where the central area hasn't been filled with the pleasant aroma of freshly baked bread. The children learnt how to make bread dough and the technique of kneading while exploring new flavours for the topping of their delicious focaccia.



One of the highlights for the term was being able to welcome parents and carers in to school and share much of our fantastic learning at our space assembly. It was wonderful to see how proud the children were to share their discoveries and achievements as well as the confidence with which they delivered their lines and sung the songs (I think I have only just managed to get '93 million miles' out of my head).

This is just a taste of what we have been doing in Year 5 this term. Well done to the children from all of the Year 5 teachers for a fantastic first term and a thank you to parents and carers for your continued support. We can't wait to share some of the fantastic things we have planned for the spring!

Year 6, Mrs Heaslop

We'll Meet Again

Since the first day of the term back in September, the Year 6s have thoroughly enjoyed the topic learning all about World War II. They have been immersed in the historical context not only through the history learning but also through our main text driver: Good Night Mr Tom.

This rich text has provided the stimulus for much of the writing the children have produced this term – from an air raid advice leaflet and writing a letter as an evacuee, to a lost chapter of the book and an emotive persuasive speech. They have all demonstrated they are able to write from different perspectives and they have been engaging to read.

Over the term the children have been able to apply their creativity in a number of ways. After studying the work on Henry Moore, a WWII artist, the children replicated some of his techniques to create their own piece as well as a class sculpture installation inspired by his work of Londoners sheltering from the Blitz in the underground. Our music lessons this term have focused around

singing well-known WWII songs which they had the opportunity to share at the Learning Event. After this, they composed their own compositions to 'Pack Up Your Troubles' with a range of percussion instruments. Finally, if you're not sure what to do with any Christmas leftovers, then look no further: the children have been perfecting the best recipes for bubble and squeak using ingredients which would have been available during the war and, we have been assured, that they will be more than happy to assist you in peeling, cutting, mashing, seasoning, cooking and serving (remember to go easy on the garlic salt).

The children have also been fortunate enough to hear two first-hand accounts from members of the Hook community. Sue who resided in Southampton and Giulio, who lived in Italy shared their experiences as children during the war. The Year 6s were surprised to learn how Giulio's home became occupied by Nazis and how barrage balloons were used in Southampton to protect the docks from German planes. Looking at the vast collection of historical European memorabilia they bought with them was certainly a privilege too.

Attendance

At the end of the Autumn Term 2022, we have 124 children who have achieved 100% attendance. As a school, we aim for 97% attendance which is an ambitious target especially considering the number of viruses and bugs that we have seen in recent weeks. This term, we have 268 children who have managed 97% attendance or better. Good attendance is important because statistics show that pupils with good attendance have higher attainment in school and studies show that children with attendance above 97% make better progress both socially and academically.

Persistent Absence is defined by the Government as attendance below 90%.

National and school data clearly shows that poor attendance leads to poor educational outcomes. Pupils who are persistently absent have lower levels of attainment at the end of KS2 than other pupils. National data shows that of those who were persistently absent, 40.2% achieved the expected standard in reading, writing and maths at the end of Key Stage 2 compared to 83.9% of pupils with no missed sessions and 71.9% who missed between 0 and 5% of school. This is a significant difference and a trend we have seen in our own data.

Over the past few days, we have been contacting some of the families of children whose attendance is below 96% to inform them of their child's attendance. For children below 90%, we have invited parents / carers into school for a discussion about how we can work with them to support their child's attendance. We acknowledge that every child's circumstance is very different and we aim to work with parents/carers to understand their personal situation. We believe that working together with parents is the best way to result in positive attendance outcomes for our children. Please come and talk to our attendance lead, Miss Carne, if you have any concerns about your child's attendance or punctuality.

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered

We would like to express our thanks to everyone who has volunteered their time to help the school this year.

Parent readers who regularly visit have provided lots of opportunity for children to improve their reading. We are grateful to those of you who come to school regularly (and in some cases several times each week!) to read with children. We hope that you will be able to continue to do so in the new year. If you would like to help children with their reading and can spend 15 to 20 minutes with a pupil at the start of school, or just before the end of the school day, please let us know by emailing the school office.

This year we have asked volunteers to help us with some projects in our grounds. A small number of parents have given their time to help construct 'welly walls' that will allow pupils to store a pair of wellington boots at school, enabling them to make use of areas that might otherwise be under-used in the winter months, such as the school field. Members of Hook In Bloom, a local

horticultural group, recently visited and assembled a number of raised beds that children in which children will soon be growing their own produce. We continue to seek multiple volunteers to help us assemble a poly tunnel that children will use to grow produce and sensory plants. If you would like to volunteer, please contact me via the school office. If your employer encourages you to volunteer for one or more days each year, a few hours spent at school will provide tremendous benefit to the pupils.

Throughout the year, many of you have made generous offers in many forms. Whether this has been with a personal financial donation, providing some support or donation to the HSCA, offering some of your time to volunteer, supporting a trip, coming to a learning event or watching a production – we are very grateful for your contribution and hope that you will continue to support us in the new year.

Mr Grant, Business Manager

Our communication system is changing

The product we use to send you email and text messages is changing over the Christmas break. From January, we will send messages to you using ParentMail. You may already be familiar with ParentMail as it is also used by Hook Infant School. There's nothing you need to do at this stage and we will let you know when ParentMail is operational.

Chelsea FC Spring Clubs

The Chelsea Foundation will be running their twice weekly clubs again in the Spring term as follows.

Tuesday Sessions

Booking page: [Hook Junior School Tuesday Football Club](#)

Invitation code: HJSFA1

After school on Tuesday, Year 3 to 6, 15:30 – 16:30 from Tuesday 10th January 2023 to Tuesday 7th February 2023 (January: 10, 17, 25, 31, February: 7)

Friday Sessions

Booking page: [Hook Junior School Friday Football Club](#)

Invitation code: HJSFA2

After school on Friday, Year 3 to 6, 15:30 – 16:30 from Friday 13th January 2023 to Friday 10th February 2023 (January: 13, 20, 27, February: 3, 10)

Stars of the Week

Year 3: Sofia J, Will T, Lewis S, Lillie H

Year 4: Jobe M, Anya K, Nathaniel L, Jacob G

Year 5: Barney M, Evie B, Cole M, Hannah V

Year 6: Noah H, Bethany C, Jack N, Ben A

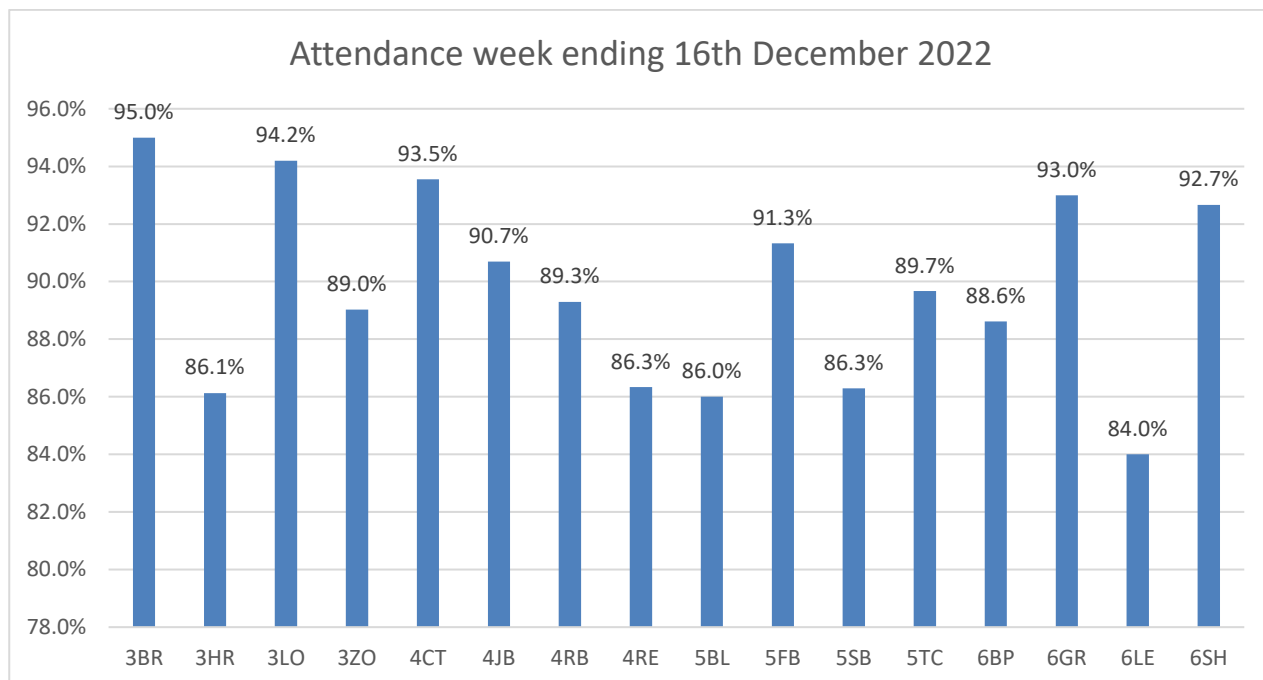
House Points this week

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Austen | 180 |
| Brunel | 159 |
| Nightingale | 189 |
| Wellington | 173 |

House point winners this week: Nightingale

Reading Raffle Winner: Anya K, 4JB

Attendance



Whole school attendance this week: 89.7%, this term 94.9%

Find out more...

Follow [@hookjunior on Twitter](#) and [visit our Facebook page](#) for more updates and photos.

Key Dates – New dates added to this Newsletter appear in green

| | |
|--------|--|
| 16 Dec | End of Autumn Term - 1:30 finish |
| 19 Dec | Christmas Holiday |
| 3 Jan | Spring Term – back to school |
| 18 Jan | Coffee Morning for parents and carers of Year 3 and Year 4 |
| 8 Feb | Coffee Morning for parents and carers of Year 5 and Year 6 |
| 13 Feb | Spring Half Term |
| 20 Feb | INSET Day |
| 22 Feb | Learning Consultations |
| 23 Feb | Learning Consultations |
| 1 Mar | Bag2School collection |
| 16 Mar | Mother's Day Sale – Junior School |
| 20 Mar | Young Shakespeare Company performing to Year 5 & 6 |
| 23 Mar | Iron Age workshop with Year 3 |
| 24 Mar | Iron Age workshop with Year 3 |

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| 25 Mar | HSCA Beer Festival |
| 31 Mar | End of Spring Term - 1:30 finish |
| 3 Apr | Easter Holiday |
| 17 Apr | Summer Term – Back to school |
| 8 May | Bank Holiday – The King's Coronation |
| 9 - 12 May | Year 6 SATS |
| 21 May | Hook Fun Run |
| 29 May | Summer Half Term |
| 15 Jun | Father's Day Sale – Junior School |
| 16 Jun | Bag2School collection |
| 19 Jun | Sports Day |
| 24 Jun | HSCA Summer Fair |
| 26 Jun | Year 6 Transition Day to Robert Mays School |
| 27 Jun | Year 6 Transition Day to Robert Mays School |
| 4 Jul | Year 6 Production |
| 6 Jul | Year 6 Production |
| 7 Jul | Annual pupil reports circulated to parents |
| 10 Jul | Year 6 Residential Trip to Marchants Hill |
| 18 Jul | Strawberry Tea |
| 18 Jul | HSCA End of Year Disco (Years 3,4 and 5) |
| 20 Jul | Year 6 Leaver Assembly |
| 20 Jul | Year 6 Leavers Festival |
| 21 Jul | End of Summer Term – 1:30 finish |
| 24 Jul | Summer Holiday |
| 16 Oct | Year 6 Residential Trip to Marchants Hill |
| 4 Nov | HSCA Firework Show |
| 2 Dec | HSCA Christmas Fair |



Oz Family art is pleased and proud to welcome your children to

Art Club

This opportunity will allow them to explore their creativity, develop skills, learn techniques and use a wide range of materials and resources in a fun and guided environment



“Most things can be washed; Memories can last a lifetime.”

BEFORE SCHOOL ACTIVITY!

THURSDAY *GYMNASTICS* CLUB

SPRING TERM STARTS ON
THURSDAY 12TH JANUARY!

WE OFFER:

GYMNASTICS FOR ALL! FLOOR,
VAULT, BEAM, BALANCE
STRENGTH AND
COORDINATION

SCHEDULE:

THURSDAYS
7.45-8.30AM

TERM: 11 WEEKS

PRICE: £66.00

FOR BOOKING INFO EMAIL US AT
INSPIREGYMNASTICSCHOOLS@GMAIL.COM

