



Weekly Newsletter

Week ending Friday 8 December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come near the end of the 1st term and steam ahead toward the festive period, the Governing Body would like to reflect on a successful start to the 23/24 school year period.

The school continues to be in a strong position and provides a well-balanced curriculum which ensures the interests of all our children are met.

Having personally spent some quality time with some of the teachers and support staff during one of our Governor Monitoring Visits, I can honestly say I was impressed with how much effort goes into the day to day operations of our school. A huge thank you to all the Staff at the school for all the hard work you have put in to a successful first Term.

The school's annual fireworks display and Christmas fair were both an absolute success again this year. The fireworks event had an excellent turn out of approximately 3000 people, even though the weather beforehand was atrocious. A huge well done to the HSCA and all the volunteers for making both events a success.

Now that we are in December we can look forward to the Year 4 Christmas Play which goes live on the 12th and the 14th December 2024. We know all the parents will be excited to go and watch their children show their acting skills and I know that the Year 4 team and children have been working very hard and look forward to having the parents come into the school to watch the performance. We also have the annual Carols around the tree on the 13th December where children will showcase their amazing musical talent.

Thank you to all our parents and carers for your continued support of our amazing school. We hope that you all have a wonderful Christmas and enjoy the festive break.

Kind regards

Bruce Anderson

Co-Opted Governor Hook Junior School.

End of Term 1:20pm Finish – Christmas Holidays

On Friday 15th December we break up for our Christmas holiday at 1:20 pm. We would like to remind parents that attendance is recorded as usual on this day. Registers will be taken by teachers in the morning and after lunch as normal.

We will be running our curriculum lessons right up until the end of term. On the Friday morning, classes will be completing Maths / English learning before undertaking some Christmas activities up to 1:20 pm. It is

therefore, essential for all pupils to attend on this day as we complete our Autumn Term curriculum along with having some Christmas fun!

Remaining Events for Autumn Term

12 Dec Christmas Production (4HR and 4GG) – 9.15am, parents to arrive from 8.45am

13 Dec Christmas Lunch for Pupils

13 Dec Carols around the Tree – 4pm

Invitations have been sent to parents of those children who are performing at 'Carols around the Tree'. We look forward to you joining us.

14 Dec Christmas Production (4RE and 4CT) – 9.15am, parents to arrive from 8.45am

15 Dec End of term – 1.20pm finish

Canine Assisted Learning – Thanks to Odiham Cottage Hospital



For several years now, we have been delighted to welcome Dennis, the Border Terrier, and his owner Claire to Hook Junior School. Thursdays are fondly known around the school as 'Dennis Days' and Claire and his arrival always gives everyone a lift.

Dennis and Claire are part of Canine Assisted Learning Support and provide specialist interventions and support to selected children across the school. Typically, these can be one-to-one emotional regulation or talking therapy sessions in a range of different areas of need. The reason for each child attending can vary greatly but the common factor is that over recent years, many children have greatly benefited from both Dennis and Claire's specialist support.

Due to the specialist nature of this intervention there is an understandable cost to providing the school with such a service. Thus, last week we were delighted to welcome four Trustees from Odiham Cottage Hospital who have kindly fully funded 'Dennis' sessions over the years and continue to do so. We are so grateful for their support as without, the school would not be able to fund such an initiative.

The trustees came to visit and meet Dennis and Claire for the first time. They were joined by Ella, Jacob and Ben who all spoke with great enthusiasm and passion about how the sessions had positively helped them. This was lovely for the Trustees to hear and they came away knowing that their funding was really making a difference. Dennis even, with the help of the children, performed from his catalogue of tricks to really impress our visitors!

As a school, we are truly grateful for the grant received from Odiham Hospital and thank them for their continued support. We would also like to thank Claire and Dennis who are both important members of the Hook Junior School staff team.

School Choir visit to Roslin Place

The choir visited Roslin Place (a local retirement community) on Wednesday this week to bring a little festive cheer to their residents. As all 42 of them squeezed into the residents' lounge, they were kindly presented with a pair of festive glasses as a gift which brought even broader smiles to both children and adults alike. Kim, the entertainment manager, was really impressed with how the children were able to sing in two parts and even included Makaton within one of their songs.

Year 4 Drumming Workshop



Year 4 have all thoroughly enjoyed an African drumming workshop this morning. They have learnt two techniques called 'Slap' and 'Base' to create a call and response sound. Each class played a piece of music, which involved 3 different parts using rhythm and collaboration.

Year 6 Learning Event

We would like to express our thanks to all of you who joined us for our Year 6 learning event today. It was truly fantastic to see so many of you taking the time to come and support your children as they showcased their learning journey.

The children were thrilled to share their knowledge and skills with you. They took great pride in guiding you through their learning journey and taking you on a trip back in time to the 1940's, and experiencing life in Britain during WWII. Children shared a range of work and knowledge and we thank you for your support.

Children's Commissioner - The Big Ambition Survey

The Children's Commissioner has launched '**The Big Ambition**', a nationwide survey to hear from young people about their schools, communities, family life, hopes, dreams and aspirations. The campaign aims to ensure that the views of all children are represented fairly, and it is important that our children participate and share their opinions.

By completing this survey, it will provide our children with a valuable opportunity to tell key political decision makers what is important to them ahead of the General Election next year. The Children's Commissioner will then share the responses with the Government to ensure that children's voices are heard.

To facilitate this, children and parents can access the survey using the QR code below.



The Children's Commissioner for England has recently launched 'The Big Ambition' to hear directly from children, young people and parents across the country.

We want to hear from all children, in every part of the country and in every setting.

This is your chance to tell key policymakers what is important to you ahead of the general election. Take part now and ensure your needs are reflected in the decisions that will affect you in years to come.

Scan the QR code to
take part



 **CHILDREN'S
COMMISSIONER**

www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition



Well done!

Congratulations to Finn M who recently achieved Grade 2, Cornet. He passed with Distinction. Well done, Finn!

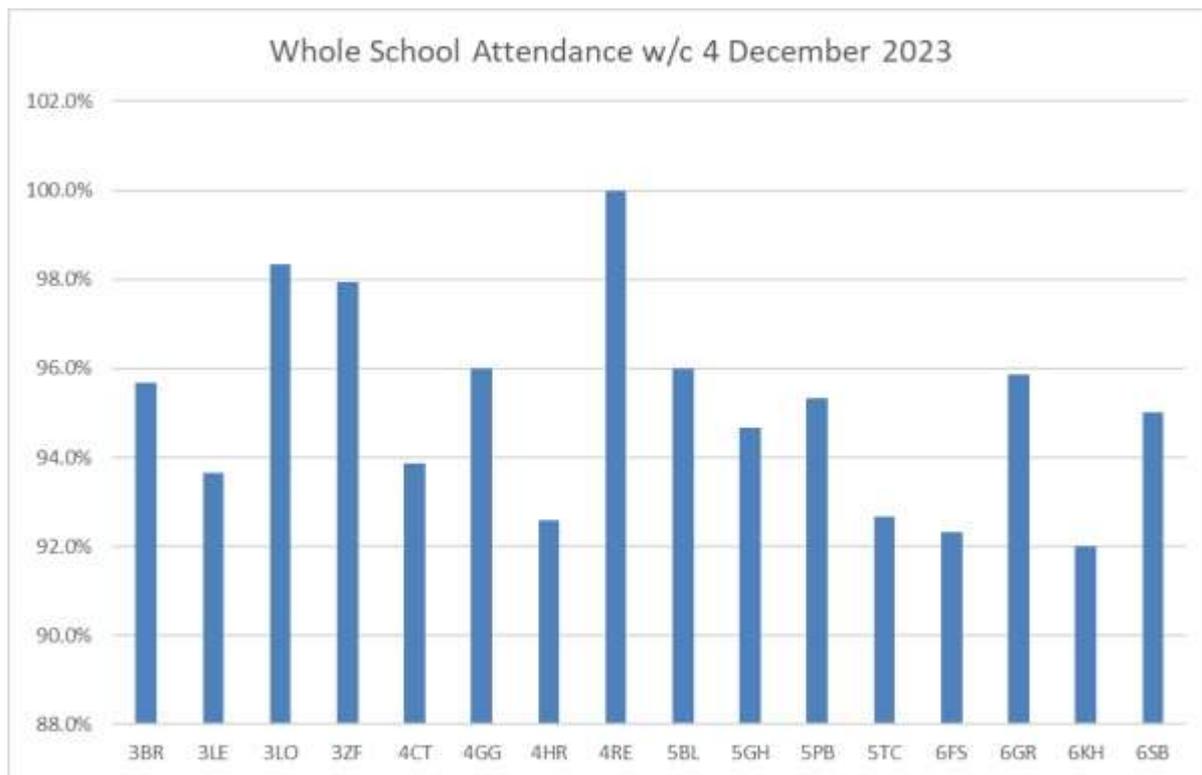
Applications for Year R in September 2024

Applications for a school place in Year R opened on 1 November. If you have a child who is 4 or will turn 4 before 1 September 2024, they can start school in September 2024.

The national closing date for applications is 15 January 2024.

For further details, and to make an application, [visit the Hampshire School Admissions website](#).

Attendance



Whole School Attendance this week: 96.7%

Stars of the Week

Year 3: Liam T, Mikayla C, Esther C, Clarissa J-H, Aliyah B, Josh B

Year 4: Blythe, George F, Jayden M, Amy V

Year 5: Abi P, Evie H-C, Alice R, Dominic T

Year 6: Esme, Summer, Sehansa, Emilia D, Alexa B, Shia B, Finn M, Zac K

House Points this week

Austen: 189

Brunel: 184

Nightingale: 202

Wellington: 173

House point winners this week: Nightingale!

Find out more...

Follow us online to see much more about what's happening in school.

[Twitter.com/hookjunior](https://twitter.com/hookjunior)

[Facebook.com/hookjuniorschool](https://facebook.com/hookjuniorschool)

[Instagram.com/hookjunsch](https://instagram.com/hookjunsch)

Key Dates

New dates added since the last Newsletter appear in green

12 Dec Christmas Production (4HR and 4GG) – 9.15am, parents to arrive from 8.45am

13 Dec Christmas Lunch for Pupils

13 Dec Carols around the Tree – 4pm

14 Dec Christmas Production (4RE and 4CT) – 9.15am, parents to arrive from 8.45am

15 Dec End of term – 1.20pm finish

18 Dec – 1 Jan Christmas Holiday

2 Jan Inset Day – school closed to children

5 Jan Year 5 Swimming starts (*information sent to parents w/c 6 November*)

16 January Year 6 Natural History Museum Virtual Evolution Workshop (6FS & 6GR)

18 January Year 6 Natural History Museum Virtual Evolution Workshop (6SB & 6KH)

23 Jan Young Shakespeare Company Visit for Year 5 & 6

24 Jan Coffee Morning for all Parents – 8.45am

29 Jan Young Voices Concert (selected Choir members)

5 Feb Learning Consultations – appointments between 3.30pm until 6.30pm

6 Feb Safer Internet Day

6 Feb Learning Consultations – appointments between 3.30pm until 6.30pm

12 Feb – 16 Feb Spring Half Term

19 Feb Inset Day – school closed to children

28 Feb HSCA Bag2School Collection

4 Mar SATs Presentation to Parents – 5pm

7 Mar World Book Day

11 Mar Science Week (all week)

Hook Junior School Weekly Newsletter

14 Mar Gremlin Dance Challenge
15 Mar Red Nose Day
27 Mar Year 3 (3BR & 3ZF) Easter Service in the Church (Learning Event) – 9.30am
27 Mar Year 3 (3LO & 3LE) Easter Service in the Church (Learning Event) – 2pm
29 Mar – 12 Apr Easter Holiday
23 Apr Year 4 Ufton Court Viking Workshop in school
24 Apr Year 4 Ufton Court Viking Workshop in school
29 Apr Open Box Theatre Company visit for Year 5
6 May Spring Bank Holiday
8 May Coffee Morning for Parents of Year 2 Children – 8.45am
13 May SATs Week
27 May – 31 May Summer Half Term
14 Jun Class Allocation Letters to Parents
17 Jun Sports Day
19 Jun Information Evening for Parents of Children in Year 2 - 5pm
21 Jun Non-school Uniform Day (Bring a bottle for the bottle stall at the Summer Fair)
22 Jun HSCA Summer Fair
24 Jun Robert May's Transition Day for Year 6 pupils
25 Jun Robert May's Transition Day for Year 6 pupils
25 Jun Whole School Transition Day, including Year 2 pupils
5 Jul End of Year Reports to Parents
10 Jul Strawberry Tea
24 Jul – 30 Aug Summer Holiday

Safeguarding your children is our priority. Please contact the school's Designated Safeguarding Leads, either Miss L Powell (Headteacher), Mrs N Bailey (Deputy Headteacher), Miss J Carne (Inclusion Leader) or Mrs Boardman (SENDCo) with any concerns. Further Safeguarding information and support can be found via www.NSPCC.org.uk or Childline 0800 1111. Any concerns may also be raised directly with Hampshire County Council Children's services phone line (anonymously if you wish) by calling 0300 555 1384. Keeping our children safe is everyone's responsibility.



JAMCO COACHING



Hook Junior School After-School Clubs SPRING TERM 1

Wed 3rd Jan - Fri 9th Feb 2024

Tue - Football Yrs 5&6	- 5 weeks - £25
Wed - Football Yrs 3&4	- 6 weeks - £30
Thu - Basketball (all Yrs)	- 6 weeks - £30
Fri - Football (all Yrs)	- 6 weeks - £30

Sign up now:

jamco-coaching.pembee.app/

For more information please contact:



07778-398-098



jamcocoaching@outlook.com





KINGSCLERE
DENTAL PRACTICE

**NHS Children's appointments
available at
Kingsclere Dental Practice**

Free Dental check ups and oral health
advice available now for children aged
from 12 months to 16 years.

Call 01420 82365 or email
info@kingscleredental.co.uk to book an
appointment



Kingsclere Dental Practice
90 Normandy Street, Alton, GU34 1DH
kingscleredental.co.uk

LEARN TO SKATE & PLAY

ICE HOCKEY!

TINY SKATERS, MIGHTY ADVENTURES!

ALL SKATING ABILITIES!

WE WILL TEACH YOU TO SKATE

HOW MUCH?

FIRST 3 SESSIONS ARE FREE!

WE WILL LEND YOU EQUIPMENT

WHERE?

PLANET ICE, BASINGSTOKE



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