



Weekly Newsletter

Friday 18th December 2020

'Christmas will be, as long as we stand heart to heart and hand to hand', Dr Seuss

Dear Parents and Carers,

This has certainly been a challenging year for everyone but we have all proven that there is nothing we have not been able to adapt to and overcome; no doubt the challenges will continue as we move in to the New Year but we are all prepared to meet them. Our school community (of which we are all a part), its partnership, care and shared purpose is stronger than the challenges we have been presented with. I wish to thank you, your amazing children, Hook Junior School staff and governors for the individual part you have played that has contributed to the collective shared goal to keep our children safe, engaged and learning since March 2020. It's different, but the same!

The children are the real success story. Despite the many changes to the routine and structure in their lives they have dealt stoically with it, showing grit, resilience and a desire to Keep Calm and Carry On! Whilst we have had to adapt our curriculum, rearrange how play, lunch and lessons are delivered our core purpose has remained the same as it was pre-March. The school may be logistically different but the focus on learning, engagement, standards and enjoyment are the same, that consistency is fundamental. Coronavirus cannot and has not changed that!

Earlier in the week we provided guidance to continue to maintain safe practice over the Christmas period to restrict infection and the prevent you having to isolate when the need to be with our loved ones is greatest. Please do adhere to government guidance.

The children and staff have worked so hard over the course of this term they fully deserve a well-earned break to recuperate and recharge ready for the spring term. I do hope you have enjoyed the class recordings to gain a short glimpse of the children's learning this term, the Y4 Christmas poem adaptation and the remote orchestra performance. The children have enjoyed their Christmas lunch box, Christmas crackers and Christmas activities generously supported by the HSPA; they are all excited for the festive season ahead.

Whilst our lives are changed and continue to be affected by the pandemic, Christmas provides us with reprieve from it for a while, *'Christmas waves its magic wand all over the world and behold, everything is softer and more beautiful', Norman Vincent Peale.*

Thank you parents, governors, staff and most of all children for all of your efforts working with us to determine our new normal and the first term of it a success. Please do enjoy Christmas with your families, stay safe and well.

Merry Christmas

Mrs L Martin

Headteacher

Year 3 – Miss Evans

What a term! The year 3 team are so proud of our children. The children moved up to Hook Junior School in September and have made a very positive start. Other adults in school have commented how polite, friendly and keen the children are. Every morning the children are keen to come, often skipping, through the gates. This sense of enthusiasm continues throughout the school day. I asked a sample of children what they had enjoyed this term. Answers included making new friends, taking part in a food tasting, cooking muffins, playing instruments in music, growing cress seeds and reading our books in guided reading.

I hope that you enjoyed our class videos that were sent on Seesaw earlier in the week and you could see some of the fantastic learning that has been taking place.

On behalf of the year 3 team, I would like to thank you for your help in aiding a smooth transition from infant school and hope that you are able to enjoy a special Christmas with your loved ones. We look forward to working with you in 2021!

Design and Technology

So far this term year, 3, 5 and 6 have all taken part in learning about cooking and nutrition. The children have looked at the principles of a healthy and varied diet, seasonality and where ingredients come from. Year 3 prepared carrot and raisin muffins, year 5 cooked space crumble and year 6 created ration biscuits. It has been a pleasure to see the children enjoy their learning about design and technology, If your child/ children take part in any festive baking or cooking, savoury or sweet, we would love to see some photos. Please post some photos on our school Facebook page so we can see your learning continue at home.

Year 4 – Mrs Roberts

What a busy term we have had in Year 4. The children have all been amazing, adapting to the 'new norm' of the class bubbles, play zones and no mixing with peers.

We have thoroughly enjoyed our topic, 'Why people take risks?' learning about Sir Ernest Shackleton, a polar explorer, and his epic escapade to the Antarctica. The children have learnt fascinating facts about how volcanoes are formed and why they erupt, and they have used this knowledge to write their own information texts as well as creating PowerPoint presentations on the computers, which National Geographic would be extremely proud to publish.

In English, the children have learnt to capture the attention of the reader by using various writing skills and techniques allowing them to describe volcanic scenes from Pompeii to writing their own continuation of the Polar Bear Explorers' Club. Year 4 have thoroughly enjoyed this adventure so far and they are looking forward to finishing the book next term. In science, we have taught the children that different materials can change states and even reverse again. Many have enjoyed our lessons on separating substances using sieves, colanders, funnels, and filters. Watch out for missing colanders from your kitchens over the holidays!

We have had many in-depth discussions in PSHE about how to have a positive growth mind-set, relationships and keeping safe. In RE, we learnt about Diwali the festival of light in addition to the learning about the impact of angels as imagery.

...and finally our Christmas poem and dance sessions to the Twelve Days of Christmas. No wonder the children are so tired! They definitely deserve a restful holiday to recharge their batteries ready for a fun filled Spring Term.

The Year 4 Team would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Year 5 – Mrs Barnes

September and introducing the many new Covid rules to the fresh faces of year five seems like a distant memory! It has been a busy, successful term for the children in year five. From the moment the school opened, the children have taken the new school routine within their strides and haven't allowed it to get in the way of what they do best: learn and socialise!

The term took the year group on a space-bound journey which allowed the children to immerse themselves in the wonderful solar system in a variety of subjects. From making a space crumble; locating new rocket launch site in the UK; writing newspaper reports; sharing the concept of belonging; mastering our times tables to scoring tries in tag rugby, every minute has counted in year 5! Hopefully, you have all enjoyed our class assemblies to share our learning this term as it could fill this whole page.

"I was excited to get back to school as this is the best way to socialise and I have loved being back with my friend who I missed very much! I have enjoyed learning about space too!"

"The crumble we designed and created was the best thing I've ever made in school!"

It has been a delight to see the children keen to share learning from home and running (sorry, Mrs Martin!) through the school gates each morning, so keen for the school day to begin. All of the year five team are extremely proud of the resilience, zest, creativity and love of learning each child has shown this term and we cannot wait to see more in spring.

I know this Christmas will be slightly different this year for many reasons. I would like to wish all of our year five parents and their families a safe and restful Christmas break and all the teachers look forward to welcoming you back on Tuesday 5th January, ready to explore 'Secrets of the Past'!

Year 6 – Mrs Murray

The children in Year 6 have been incredibly busy this term! They have thoroughly enjoyed their learning about WW2 and should be proud of what they have achieved. The children reflected our school core values in their learning across the subjects and have proved themselves to be engaged learners.

Here are some of the highlights from this term: our narrative writing based on Goodnight Mr Tom, our WW2 inspired poetry, our Dance Day focussing on WW2 dance styles using WW2 music as our inspiration, the progress all children have made in their Arithmetic knowledge, our artwork in the style of Paul Nash and so much more!

We hope that you enjoyed our Virtual Assemblies – we enjoyed creating them and hope that they gave you a little insight into what we have been up to in our classrooms this term.

We are very proud of all of the Year 6 children and thank them for all of their hard work. We hope that they have a lovely break and return to school in January feeling refreshed and raring to start their Spring Term learning. Happy Christmas! The Year 6 Team.

Introducing our Head Boy and Head Girl

My name is Freddie and I am in 6TC. I am honoured to be this year's Head Boy. I hope to bring happiness to all children in this school. A little bit about me: I enjoying playing football, cricket and gaming with my friends.

My name is Grace and I am in 6EM. I am very proud to be this year's Head Girl. I aim to be a positive role model at all times and to inspire others to be the best they can be. When I'm not at school I enjoy dancing, singing and playing with my friends.

In our roles this year, we hope to work collaboratively with staff and pupils to firstly, continue to make the school a safe and happy place to be and secondly, to be the voice of the pupils – ensuring everyone feels comfortable to discuss with us any suggestions or concerns. We look forward to introducing ourselves to more pupils next term.

We hope that you have a Merry Christmas with your families.

Freddie Davis (Head Boy) and Grace Walton (Head Girl)

Pearson Teaching Awards – Thank a Teacher

Celebrate your teaching / school staff heroes. This is your chance to celebrate excellence in your school by thanking one or more of our team. Thanking someone is easy and free, and it makes such a difference! [Send a Thank You to a Hook Junior School staff member.](#)

Marchants Hill Residential

The Department for Education recently announced that overnight residential visits will not be going ahead until Easter 2021 - at the earliest. A further update will be provided by the DfE in February 2021.

This means that for children currently in year 6, we remain optimistic that the re-scheduled residential trip will be able to proceed in July, subject to Government and Hampshire County Council advice and the implementation of appropriate health and safety measures.

We will provide further updates to parents of children in year 6 in the spring term.

Before and After School Clubs

Given the current pandemic status our responsibility to the health and safety of children and staff remains paramount, as such clubs, peripatetic music and hire of facilities will unfortunately not operate for at least the first half of the Spring term. This decision is based upon our risk assessments and current operational arrangements within the school. We will review this again closer to the Spring half term.

Parent Governor Ballot

We are pleased to advise that following the ballot for two vacant positions in our Governing Body, Rebecca White and Katherine Carter have been elected. Congratulations to Rebecca and Katherine and we look forward to your future participation and contributions.

A Countryside Elf adventure: Thistle and Oak's Lost List

This Christmas enjoy a festive family walk with a difference. Join Thistle and Oak as they try to find the missing presents before Father Christmas leaves for Christmas Eve. Receive a trail pack which includes a booklet, stickers, pencils and a Christmas decoration to take home, plus lots of fun activities to enjoy along the way. Find the panels amongst the trees to solve the clues, work out the presents and save Christmas! You can join in between 3rd December and 24th December at the Royal Victoria Park, Queen Elizabeth Country Park and Lepe Country Park. The trail costs £5.00 per child (over two years of age) and must be booked in advance. [Find out more on the Hampshire County Council website.](#)

Stars of the Week

Year 3: Clara W, Taylor-Jane F, Eva S

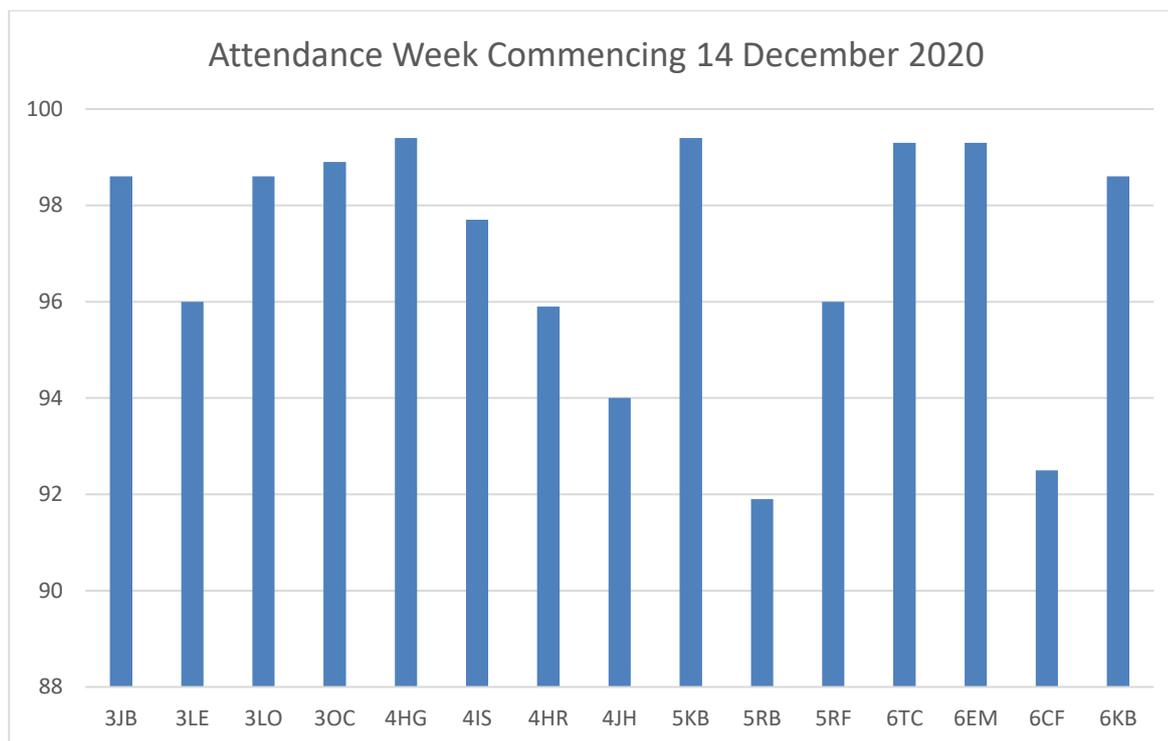
Year 4: All of 4IS, James N, Chloe S, Faye A

Year 5: Honor M, Maisie H, Charlie C, Seb F

Year 6: Jasmine W, Jessica J, Eliza B, Arthur B, Ava C

Attendance every day counts...

Your child's attendance matters!



Whole school attendance 97%.

Find out more...

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

Key Dates

21 Dec 2020	Christmas Holiday
4 Jan 2021	INSET Day
15 Feb 2021	Spring Half Term
22 Feb 2021	INSET Day
2 Apr 2021	Easter Holiday
31 May 2021	Summer Half Term
26 Jul 2021	Summer Holidays