



## Weekly Newsletter

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

As I sat revelling in Y3's wonderful Easter service on Wednesday morning, I reflected on the messages our children so eloquently presented through the Easter story and the meaning behind the rituals we attach to it. The children reminded us that Easter is about hope, growth, and transformation, which for me easily translated into how our school, has gradually sprung back to life, over the course of this term. The lived experience for our children and staff has been enhanced and regenerated again by the return of educational visits, (for example Y5 river trip, Y4 visit to the Science Museum), workshops delivered by visitors (e.g., Y3 Iron age man, Reading Rockets basketball), our participation at local events (e.g. Dance Challenge and football tournaments), musical performance by our fabulous orchestra and the return of parents and carers as our audience and partners at learning events and learning consultations. I welcome having parents and our community involved in the life of our school, everyone benefits from your presence and the joy it brings to the children cannot be underestimated.

On Wednesday of this week our non-staff Governors (all parents) collaborated with staff Governors to monitor and experience the school in action. Our collective work as Governors is essential for self-evaluation, to celebrate what we do well and where we may need to adapt and improve. I want to thank Gareth Evans, Chris Bass, Katherine Carter, and Mark Powell for spending the day working with us; I am told they were impressed with the children's behaviour, attitudes and focus and indeed their school lunch!

As we still negotiate the challenges of the pandemic, which for us has particularly affected in pupil and staff absences, I am delighted we are able to continue to operate fully and deliver the experiences and curriculum we believe our children deserve and can latch memories onto. As we look to the summer term, we have a full term of activities returning with the exciting addition of the Queen's Jubilee celebrations to plan for and I do hope you are able to join in with as many of them as possible with us.

We are all too acutely aware of the impact of the pandemic on our children's mental health and wellbeing. Our Pastoral Curriculum and support are as important as our academic curriculum and supports our school ethos to take a rounded approach to developing our children. We recognise the importance of positive and resilient mental health and as such have two Mental Health Ambassadors to champion the wellbeing needs of pupils and staff and provide the support and signposting appropriate to needs. If your child is experiencing any form of anxiety, change in mental wellbeing or behaviour I would encourage you to address any such concerns about your child to our ambassadors; your child's class teacher is also a source of support:

### **Mental Health and Wellbeing Ambassadors:**

- Miss Carne (Acting Deputy Headteacher) with responsibility for pastoral support
- Miss Smith (SENDCo)

Whilst we all look forward to our Easter break, I wish to extend my gratitude for your continued support and your involvement with the school. We have received a lot of positive feedback from

parents this term and we are grateful for your feedback, but equally if there is anything you are concerned about, please do get in touch, and speak with us.

In the meantime, have a safe, relaxing, and enjoyable Easter break.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs L Martin

Headteacher

## **Music Exam Success**

Huge Congratulations to the following pupils who have passed their ABRSM Violin Exams with Merit and Distinction! A fantastic achievement indeed!

Jun L, Daniel P, Samuel P, Sofia G, Emilia C

I am so proud of you all. Well done!

Mrs Wakefield

## **Orchestra Spring Concert - Chineham**

On Wednesday evening this week, the children of Hook Junior School's orchestra headed to Christ Church in Chineham to perform in their first 'out of school' concert for more than 2 years. For many of the children it was their first ever such concert!

They were joined by other young musicians from Fairfield's, Great Binfields, Oakley and St Mary's junior schools. Each orchestra presented a selection of pieces by themselves before joining together to perform as a combined orchestra of about 90 children. Hook's programme included a Latin inspired medley, Winter II (from Vivaldi's Four seasons), and finished with the ever-popular Yellow Submarine. The joint piece was called Rock-It! And 'rock it' they did...raising the roof in the process!

The whole concert, and especially the last piece Hook played (it's one of the Ocean Commotion pieces which is being performed at the Anvil in June), gave the audience and musicians a preview of what's to come in the BPSM concerts in the summer term.

Well done to all the children involved for such confident and very polished performances - you did yourselves and the school very, very proud!

## **Year 3**

What a busy term Year 3 have had! Year 3 have been working hard learning all about the Iron Age. In Guided Reading we have enjoyed learning about 'The Secrets of Stonehenge' where we have learned about the potential ways the stones were transported and moved into position. We were extremely lucky to have Matt Russell deliver a two-day Iron Age workshop. During the course of the visit, the children got to handle real life artefacts, use a quern stone, create their own shields and spear tips, learn about the different materials and weapons that were around during this time period and complete a range of activities for warrior training whilst exploring what life was like in the Iron Age. We have continued this learning in our DT where we have been learning about leavers and linkages to create our own pop up books based on The Stone Age Boy.

Wellbeing, recognising our strengths and celebrating what we are good at are so important! During our My Happy Minds sessions, we have been learning all about the brain. We have been focusing on what we can do to keep our minds and brains healthy and noticing our strengths and those of others. We thoroughly enjoyed our visit from Caroline and Harold the giraffe (SCARF) where we learned more about the healthy choices we can make and how certain types of food can be good in moderation.

In their RE unit, the children have been learning about Easter and the changing emotions throughout the Easter story. Year 3 have worked extremely hard on their Easter Service and we

would like to thank all the parents and carers who were able to attend. It has been lovely to be able to invite parents back into school again.

Have a restful Easter break and we look forward to exploring the Romans in the Summer term.

Mrs Boardman and Year 3 Team

## **Year 4**

Throughout Spring Term, Year 4 have learnt all about Sustainability. Our topic started with a visit from Kate from Fleet Scoop, who provided an informative assembly to Year 4 detailing the way plastic is damaging the environment and what her shop does to try and combat this. From this, the children wrote leaflets to educate others on the importance of recycling, giving examples of sustainable swaps they could make in order to help save the planet. The top two from each class were chosen and are now up in Fleet Scoop for the public to see. This was further built upon in PSHE, where the children created a poster campaign to encourage members of the public to protect the planet from climate change. Within our school context, the children wrote a letter to a member of staff, including Mrs Martin and Mr Addison, detailing ways we could use less paper in school to become more environmentally friendly. We also went on a litter pick around school, finding many items to put in the bin! Recently, the children were able to create and produce their own podcast, aimed at other children their age, educating and providing ideas on how to become eco-warriors.

Year 4 have also had a busy few weeks in our Science lessons. The children were delighted to have their adults in to class for a Science week lesson – the great nest build! Using only pegs, they had the challenge of building a Gentoo Penguin nest using only the resources available, which were then tested with water, wind and rockfalls. The rooms were filled with excitement and the children spoke highly of the event after. We have also been learning all about sound within Science, including parts of the ear and how sound travels. This culminated in a very exciting trip to Winchester Science Centre. The children were able to sit back, relax and enjoy a planetarium display, pretending to be astronauts going up into Space and looking at all the different planets and constellations. After an exciting morning looking around the different exhibits (including a giant ear they could climb through!), they participated in a workshop demonstrating how sound travelled, as well as showing the importance of combining senses with sound. The children had to close their eyes and identify where the sound came from – even the adults found it tricky.

Within the rest of the foundation subjects, the children have had the opportunity to learn the Ukulele in music, finishing by playing along to the song Roar. They also learnt a new sport in PE, handball, and it has been lovely to see the children so involved and competitive on an even playing field. In geography, we have learnt all about different archipelagos and the human and physical features that might attract us to them. The children spoke about places they had visited and went away saying they had new places they wanted to go and see, including Norway and Iceland. It has been a very positive term for Year 4, and the children have worked incredibly hard and achieved high quality learning outcomes. We hope they enjoy a restful Easter break.

Happy Easter from the Year 4 teachers!

## **Better Lunchtimes Mark**

At the beginning of this term, we had a visit from a member of the School Health team who run a Better Lunchtimes initiative. We had previous involvement with the team before the pandemic and began on a journey to transform lunchtimes but unfortunately this was put on hold when we were unable to eat in the hall and had to play in classes. After their recent visit we received a report which included a summary of how things have progressed since the initial visit and some actions for us to put in place.

Here are some highlights from the report:

‘The dining space has significantly improved since the first audit. The layout is attractive, a restaurant styled service has been implemented and lunch is far more organised. The staff do a good job of engaging with pupils and have a presence in the dining space.’

‘Staff are doing great. Are very passionate and are innovative.’

‘Kitchen team – are new and seemingly doing a great job. Food looks great and pupils are enjoying it.’

‘The ball zone is a fantastic space, the playground lead, is doing a fantastic job.’

Since the report, we have implemented the actions given and are now waiting to receive our Better Lunchtimes Mark.

A big thank you to our lunchtime team and LSAs for all your hard work with this initiative!

## Maths

Maths at Hook Junior School has seen a number of changes this year as we have continued to teach for a depth of understanding in maths mastery. Central to attaining maths mastery is having strong mental fluency. The year started with training for all staff on the wide range of mental methods that children would be expected to be proficient in and each year group has had a unit exploring and experimenting with these lessons. The confidence that the children have in being able to select and explain how they’ve solved their mental calculations has been a joy to see, whether that be partitioning or redistributing, and has allowed them to free up their mental capacity when solving problems. The home learning has tied into this as many of the questions they have been set have been tailored towards specific mental strategies.

Key to mental fluency is the learning of times tables and this year has seen the introduction of a new times tables scheme that aims to develop this essential knowledge. Through hearing the times tables repeatedly through chanting and having opportunities to regularly recall them in low pressure conditions, the children are able to more effectively memorise these facts and many have expressed how their times table knowledge has improved considerably – even those who would have considered their number fact knowledge to be strong to start with. This has further been supported through Times Table Rock Stars which we have continued to subscribe to and continues to provide an engaging way for children to learn their tables.

Our maths curriculum has been revised to follow resources and sequences from the National Centre for the Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics (NCETM) which has given some wonderful visuals and teaching sequences to ensure a depth of conceptual understanding while meeting the aims of both the National Curriculum and maths mastery approach. The revised medium term plans will be available shortly from the school website along with a completely new calculation policy. This now ties in with our drive towards mental fluency as it contains the key mental strategies as well as the written methods taught in each year group. The point at which formal written methods are taught have also been reviewed leading to a formal written method for addition and subtraction now being taught in year 3 and a formal written method for multiplication and division now being taught in year 4. If you want to check how we teach each of these methods or just want to find out what redistribution is, take a look at the calculation policy. It has been specifically created with the aim of helping parents and carers in mind and we hope to be able to provide example videos alongside this in the no-too-distant future.

## Year 6 2022 SATS Attendance Expectations

**SATS week for all year 6 pupils is Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May.**

Please note, **NO** child is to be taken out of school during a period of statutory testing. Unauthorised absence during the week of SATS is subject to an immediate fixed term penalty regardless of length. Please therefore note the dates in your diaries where it is essential your child is in school.

## Life Education Wessex workshops

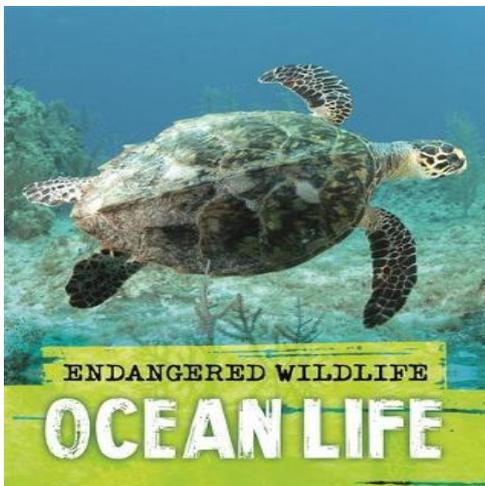


This week, each class was visited by Life Education for a workshop to help enrich their PSHE curriculum.

The children were engaged and enjoyed the sessions.

We would like to say a big thank you to the Odiham Rotary for their continued support of this annual opportunity for the children, including their generous financial contribution.

## Hampshire Information Book Award 2022



Year 4 have been busy taking part in the Hampshire Information Book Award, where they get to read and analyse shortlisted books chosen by The School Library Service.

The aims of the award are to develop pupils' critical abilities of non-chronological texts using their discussion skills, whilst also helping them to develop the ability to evaluate information sources. It's a wonderful opportunity to watch the children grow in confidence using information texts and celebrate the value of information books in an electronic age.

In March the children were asked to vote on their favourite book – well the result is in and the winner is: Ocean Life by Anita Ganeri.

## KOOSA Kids Easter Holiday Club

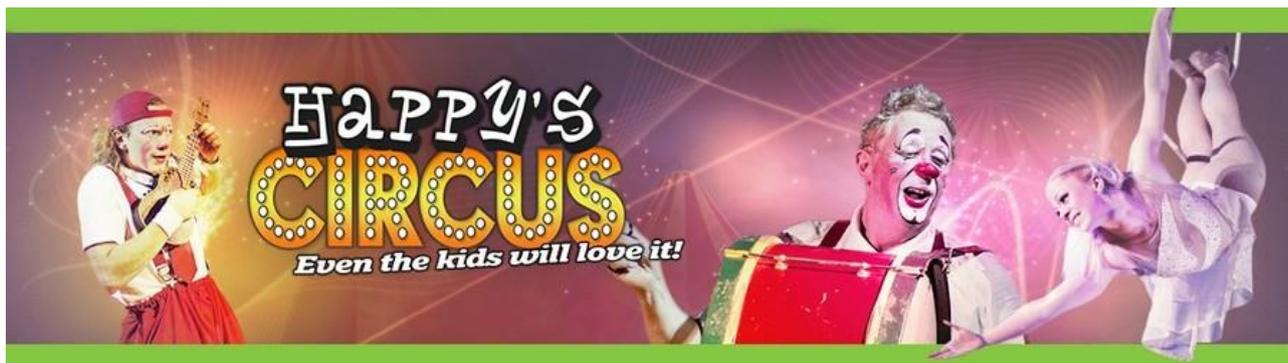
Two Weeks of Unlimited Fun Ahead at KOOSA Kids Easter Holiday Clubs (11th to 22nd April).

KOOSA Kids Easter Holiday Club programme is set to excite and delight your children with our Mini Beast Madness and Easter Eggstravaganza themed weeks. Your children will be taking part in up to 9 activities each day, always a mixture of sporty and team games, arts & crafts, drama and imagination. All from just £24 per child, per day (10.00am to 4.00pm).

Whether you need essential childcare or are looking for a fun day out for your children, we will ensure your children have so much fun, they will be itching to come back again and again! Bookings for May Half Term and Summer are also open.

Call 01276 21884 or visit [www.koosakids.co.uk/holiday-club](http://www.koosakids.co.uk/holiday-club) for more information.

## Happy Circus is back!



The HSCA are very excited to be welcoming back the fabulous Happy Circus!

Tickets are still available to buy for Wednesday 27 and Thursday 28 April. [Visit the HSCA's PTA Social website to buy your tickets.](#) Tickets are not available to purchase direct from the school offices.

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer and help the HSCA with this, or other events, you can sign up during ticket purchasing process, or contact the HSCA directly by emailing [contactus@hs-ca.org.uk](mailto:contactus@hs-ca.org.uk).

### Stars of the Week

Year 3: Darcey G, Amelia F, Robin K, Ellis B

Year 4: Kayden WA, Ella H, Bella F, Paige M

Year 5: Blake C, Daisy Mae MB, Emma H, Thomas A, Norah W

Year 6: Sanjeev V, Esme O, Poppy J, Evie P

### House Points this week

<b>Austen</b>	192
<b>Brunel</b>	218
<b>Nightingale</b>	199
<b>Wellington</b>	182

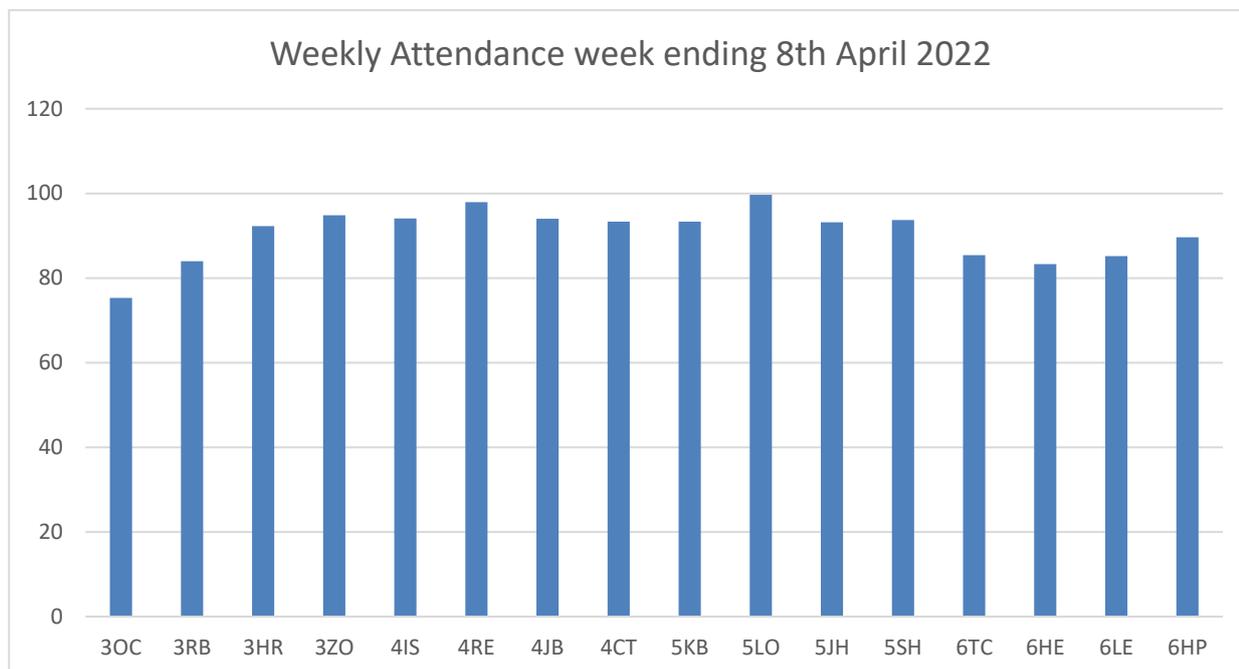
**House point winners this week: Brunel**

**Reading classes of the week: 30C**

**Reading Raffle Winner: Sophie R**

## Attendance This Week

*Every day counts... Your child's attendance matters!*



Overall attendance this week: 90.7%

## Find out more...

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

## Key Dates

<b>25 Apr</b>	Summer Term – back to school
<b>25 Apr</b>	Year 6 Parents SATs Information Evening, 5.30pm
<b>27 Apr</b>	Happy's Circus
<b>28 Apr</b>	Happy's Circus
<b>19 May</b>	Class Photos
<b>23 May</b>	Year 3 Roman Workshop
<b>30 May</b>	Summer Half Term Week
<b>8 Jun</b>	HSCA Bag2School
<b>9 Jun</b>	Year 4 Trip to Ufton Court
<b>10 Jun</b>	Year 4 Trip to Ufton Court
<b>14 Jun</b>	HSCA Father's Day Sale
<b>16 Jun</b>	HSCA Father's Day Sale
<b>22 Jun</b>	Sports Day
<b>25 Jun</b>	HSCA Gin Festival
<b>27 Jun</b>	Year 6 Transition day to Robert Mays School
<b>28 Jun</b>	Year 6 Transition day to Robert Mays School

<b>11 Jul</b>	Year 6 Residential trip to PGL Marchants Hill
<b>16 Jul</b>	HSCA Summer Fair
<b>20 Jul</b>	Year 6 Festival
<b>21 Jul</b>	End of term – 1:30 finish
<b>1 Sept</b>	INSET day
<b>2 Sept</b>	INSET day
<b>5 Sept</b>	Children return to school

**King's Theatre Academy presents**

# HOLIDAY WORKSHOP



**21st and 22nd April @ Hook Juniors**  
**10am to 3pm**  
 (9.00-3.30 child care available if needed)  
**£50 per day or £80 for both days**  
**Sibling discount available**  
**To book a space please email**  
**[kingstheatreacademy@gmail.com](mailto:kingstheatreacademy@gmail.com)**



**Camp Venue**

JOHN MADEJSKI ACADEMY  
NORTHUMBERLAND AVENUE,  
READING, RG2 8DF

For bookings, please visit  
[www.readingrockets.co.uk](http://www.readingrockets.co.uk)  
Visit the "want to play" section  
and select  
"school holiday camps"

**Reading Rockets  
Easter Shooting  
Workout**

**Pro Shooting Workout**  
Girls and Boys Aged 8-12 Years Old  
Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April  
Time: 10-12pm  
£10 per player

**Pro Shooting Workout**  
Girls and Boys Aged 13-17 Years Old  
Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April  
Time: 1-3pm  
£10 per player



**EASTER CAMP - Reading Rockets All Girls Camp**

**CAMP INFORMATION**  
AGE: 9-15 YEAR OLDS  
DAY: WEDNESDAY 20TH APRIL  
TIME: 10-2.30pm  
COST: £27  
(Rockets squad member discount available)

To View Camp details and to book your place. Please visit

<http://www.readingrockets.co.uk/>

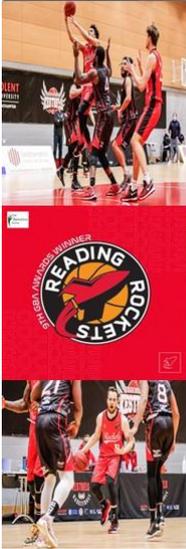
Visit the "want to play" section and select  
"school holiday camps"

For Rockets squad members please email  
[steph.johnson@readingrockets.co.uk](mailto:steph.johnson@readingrockets.co.uk) to get your member discount

**Camp Venue**

JOHN MADEJSKI ACADEMY  
NORTHUMBERLAND AVENUE,  
READING, RG2 8DF





## “New Look” Easter Camps

### MICRO BALLERS CAMP

AGE: 4-7 YEAR OLDS

DAY: MONDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> APRIL

TIME: 10AM-1PM

COST: £18 (Rockets squad member discount available)

### MINIBALLERS CAMP

AGE: 8-10 YEAR OLDS

DAY: TUESDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> APRIL

TIME: 10AM-2.30PM

COST: £27 (Rockets squad member discount available)

### COMMUNITY CAMP

AGE: 11-16 YEAR OLDS

DAYS: WEDNESDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> AND THURSDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> APRIL

TIME: 10AM-2.30PM

COST: £54 (Rockets squad player discount available)

To View Camp details and to book your place. Please visit

<http://www.readingrockets.co.uk>

Visit the “want to play” section and select “school holiday camps”

For Rockets squad members please email [steph.johnson@readingrockets.co.uk](mailto:steph.johnson@readingrockets.co.uk) to get your member discount

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