



Weekly Newsletter

Week ending Friday 15 March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

This term is flying by with only two weeks left until the children enjoy a well-earned Easter break before returning to embark upon the final term of the school year!

Apart from class trips, workshops, and learning events a lot has been happening to enrich the curriculum, and this does not cover everything! We all enjoyed dressing up for World Book Day which ended nicely this year with a range of creative book related activities for the children in the hall. Thank you, Mr McLaren, for pulling this together. Miss Carne and Miss Stewart took Year 6 Prefects on a trip to London via the train for a tour of Parliament to explore the history of the building and be at the seat of democracy; they also enjoyed a question-and-answer session with the Rt. Hon. Ranil Jayawardena, M.P. Miss Orchard organised a fantastic Science Week and the science fair which the children have been buzzing about; thank you to parents and carers who presented at the fair and inspired the children to think about their future careers in science and finance. Miss Orchard and Miss Foxwell choreographed the dance routine for our children to perform at the Gremlin Dance Challenge in Aldershot, which they did so brilliantly, it is quite an experience to perform in a theatre before an audience, but they did with confidence, and we are hugely proud of them.

Yesterday our non-staff governors (4 of whom are parents and 1 previously a parent of a child at our school, and 3 who are not parents nor have a connection with the school) spent the day with staff governors (Senior Leaders) to undertake monitoring of actions and outcomes against our school strategic plan. They spent the day looking at the school in action, completed learning walks with senior leaders, spoke to children, observed lessons, looked at children's books, observed the start and end of the school day, observed intervention groups, had lunch with the children, explored policy, processes and systems for improving attendance and behaviour, looking at how we safeguard children and meet the needs of the equality act within our curriculum. It was a successful day, non-staff governors were impressed by the level of consistency, the children's behaviour and engagement, the quality of teaching and the commitment and care shown by all staff. Their reports will feed into our next governing body meeting and the school strategic plan. Thank you to all governors who were able to give their time to work with us, the treats for the staff were also gratefully received.

Please refer to the school website for key dates of future activities. In the meantime, have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Powell

Headteacher

Science Week

Our science week kicked off with an electrifying visit from a rocket scientist (much to everyone's surprise, it turned out to be Miss Orchard's Dad!) who passionately shared insights into his role in the science industry. Following this, we hosted a STEM fair where professionals from diverse backgrounds engaged with all classes, shedding light on their exciting careers in the STEM field.

The children were captivated and inspired by the range of opportunities that science offers. We extend our gratitude to everyone involved in nurturing our children's passion for learning and paving the way for future rocket scientists, engineers, and many more.

In line with our theme of time, all classes embarked on fascinating journeys into the past to delve deeper into topics they've been exploring this year!

Year 3, currently delving into the mysteries of light, ventured back in time to assist the Croods in illuminating cave paintings in their neighbour's cave. They eagerly experimented with 'fire' torches to determine the optimal distance for clear visibility, immersing themselves in the ancient art.

Year 4, exploring the wonders of electricity, journeyed back to the origins of static electricity discovery. Through engaging experiments like the salt and pepper experiment, they uncovered the secrets of static electricity and even tested various materials to see which generated the most charge. Let's just say, a few balloons might have met their match in the process! :D

Year 5 took a thrilling trip through history to uncover the evolution of propulsion, connecting it to their exploration of space and forces. From Chinese fire arrows to crafting their own mini rockets, they investigated how air pressure affects flight distance, igniting their curiosity for the cosmos.

Meanwhile, Year 6, delving into the intricacies of the human body, embarked on a mission to unravel the mysteries of diagnosing bone fractures before the invention of X-rays!

Luckily, with the aid of simulated X-ray technology, they honed their diagnostic skills, setting the stage for future medical professionals.

Miss Orchard was astounded by the children's fervour for the subject and envisions a bright future filled with future scientists, innovators, and pioneers pushing the boundaries of knowledge and discovery.

Gremlin Dance Challenge



'Step right up for a mesmerising show of art and imagination! Witness the magic of the museum after hours as the statues and paintings come alive under the moonlight. Join us as history and creativity collide in an explosion of color and rhythm but beware as someone could be 'watching you' !'

Last night, Miss Orchard and Mrs Foxwell were lucky enough to take a group of talented and brave individuals to take part in the Gremling Dance Challenge 2024. They performed a routine to the theme 'art in in motion' to a packed theatre hall! They did Hook Junior School proud and returned with an award for the best 'In character' performance! Both teachers are super proud of the hard work and dedication put in by all the children and want to say a huge well done to them all!

Gremlin Dance Parent Feedback

Dear Hook Junior School

Today my husband and I had the privilege of watching our son, his awesome school dance crew and 13 other schools participate in the Gremlin Dance Challenge.

It was a wonderful experience for him and for us, and we are very grateful for both the opportunity for him to take part; and the level of support and professional practice that was led by Miss Orchard and Mrs Foxwell. Our son's enthusiasm has been growing in the run up to the event and he found the whole experience brilliant, exciting, petrifying (in a good way!) and great fun. They were brilliant and their performance was fun and brilliantly choreographed, with great dancing and acting from all students.

Thank you for creating opportunities such as these, which I know take a lot of time, planning, support and focus - we are very grateful to the school and teachers for all of your efforts.

Finally, and very belatedly, writing this email reminds me that I did not write a similar email after the rugby opportunity my son had earlier in the school year - something he enjoyed so much that he has subsequently joined Alton rugby club. Thanks again!

Thank you for all you do!

Grateful regards

HJS Parent

Year 6 Prefect Houses of Parliament Visit



On Monday, our Prefects had the opportunity to visit the Houses of Parliament. We took the train from Hook to Waterloo Station and walked along South Bank, past some of London's most famous landmarks.

We had a fantastic guided tour from a very informative man called Chris. The Parliament buildings are also called the Houses of Parliament or the Palace of Westminster. There are about 800 members in the House of Lords, but not all of them participate. There are 650 members in the House of Commons. We also learnt that the King is not allowed to enter the House of Commons and if he does enter, the people inside will slam the door in his face.

After the tour, we met our local MP, Ranil Jayawardena, to ask him some questions. He told us how he was once a prefect at Hook Junior School and how he became an MP.

We had an excellent trip to London and are very much looking forward to delivering our assembly in the Summer term.

By Hannah V, Ted P and Arianne I.

Comic Relief



Today, we came together to celebrate and raise money for Comic Relief. A huge thank you to everyone for their participation and coming to school dressed in red attire.

Your generosity and participation truly made a difference in the lives of children in need. Thanks to your efforts, we were able to raise a significant amount of money to support various projects aimed at alleviating child poverty and providing essential services to those who need it most. Together, we have raised over £500.

If you would like to donate, please visit [our Just Giving page](#).

Village Magpies

Our Eco Warriors have partnered with Village Magpies to enhance their recycling initiative in the Hook community.

Join us in collecting Pringles tubes and biscuit/cake wrappers. Deposit your recyclables in the Big Purple Bin on the playground. Remember, when in doubt, leave it out! Let's work together for a greener, cleaner Hook.

Thank you for your eco-friendly, Hook Junior School Eco Team

Cemetery Footpath to Church View

The 'short cut' through private property from St. John's Church car park on London Road across the graveyard to Church View will be closed for up to two weeks between Monday 22 April – Friday 3 May 2024 for essential work to be carried out on the West Window of the church.

We ask that the main footpath to the left (East) of the church, running between the Rectory boundary and the Village Garden be used during this time.

There will be notices put up nearer the time to remind people - see attached.

Martin Rudd on behalf of Parochial Church Council of Hook Parish.

HSCA News

Raffle Prizes Needed

The HSCA are looking for raffle prizes for our Summer Fair in June. If you or your place of work can donate a prize or voucher please contact the HSCA at the below email address. Donating a prize gives your organisation great exposure across the school community and helps to raise money for the schools!

Get Involved

If you are interested in getting involved with the HSCA we would love to hear from you. We are always looking for new people to join us, whether as a volunteer for a specific event or to help plan and coordinate activities on our Events Team. If you would like to learn more please get in touch by [emailing us](#), or [find us on Facebook](#).

Shots Foundation Easter Football Camp

The Shots Foundation will be running an Easter football camp at Hook Junior School on Thursday 11th April and Friday 12th April. Children attending will receive top quality coaching from FA qualified coaches and a free community stand family ticket (max 4 people) to an Aldershot Town 2023-24 home game. More details are included in the flyer later in this newsletter. You can book a place online via <https://www.participant.co.uk/register/HookJuniorEaster>.

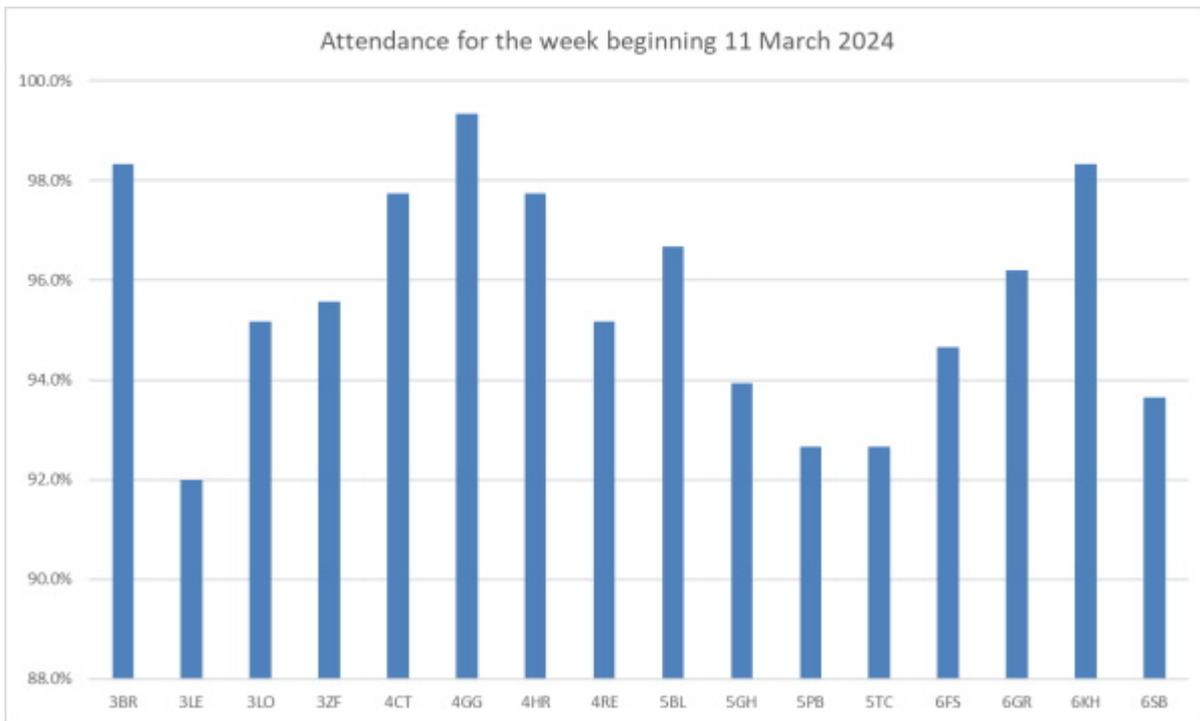
Payments for Meals and Activities with Scopay

Updates have been made to Scopay this week. Scopay is the platform through which you can pay for school meals, activities and trips.

New features introduced include the ability to make payments directly from Apple Pay and Google Pay directly from your mobile device using the Scopay app or through a web browser.

A new version of the Scopay mobile app is also due to be released soon – when your app updates, you will be logged out and will need to login again. If you experience any difficulties logging in, please use the 'forgot password' option initially.

Attendance



Whole School Attendance this week: 95.6%

Stars of the Week

Year 3: Josh E, Roman S, Thomas R, Clarissa J

Year 4: Archie B, George F, Pasha S, Toby P, William T

Year 5: Sienna S, Felix W, Charlie G, William S

Year 6: Megan C, Will C, Ellie-Rose W, Ethan P, Dorothy C

House Points this week

Austen: 216

Brunel: 186

Nightingale: 161

Wellington: 193

House point winners this week: Austen

Reading Raffle Winner: Bethany L

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

- 18 Mar Life Education Wessex SCARF visits all week
- 18 Mar Year 4 Learning Event
- 19 March Year 5 Learning Event 5PB – 9.00-10.00am
- 19 March Year 5 Learning Event 5GH -2.00-3.00pm
- 21 March Year 5 Learning Event 5TC - 9.00-10.00am
- 21 March Year 5 Learning Event 5BL - 2.00-3.00pm
- 27 Mar Year 3 (3BR and 3ZF) Easter Service in the Church (Learning Event) – 9.30am
- 27 Mar Year 3 (3LO and 3LE) Easter Service in the Church (Learning Event) – 2pm
- 28 March 2024 Year 6 Learning Event 9.00-10.00am
- 28 March End of Spring Term - 1:20 finish
- 29 Mar - 12 Apr Easter Holiday
- 15 Apr Back to School - Summer Term
- 16 Apr Year 3 trip to London, 3BR and 3ZF
- 17 Apr Year 3 trip to London, 3LE and 3LO
- 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 Year 6 SATs Week
- 14 May Class Photos
- 19 May Hook Fun Run
- 24 May End of half term – 3:20 finish
- 27 May - 31 May Summer Half Term
- 3 Jun Back to School
- 3 Jun Year 4 Times Tables Assessments
- 13 Jun HSCA Father's Day Sale
- 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 HSCA Non-school Uniform Day
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
9 Jul Lepe Beach 4HR and 4CT
10 Jul Lepe Beach 4RE and 4GG
10 Jul Strawberry Tea
16 Jul 9:15 Year 6 Production - 6GR and 6SB
17 Jul 9:15 Year 6 Production - 6SF and 6KH
22 Jul Year 6 Leavers Assembly
22 Jul Year 6 Leavers Lunch
22 Jul Year 6 Leavers Festival
23 Jul End of Summer Term – 1:20 finish
24 Jul - 30 Aug Summer Holiday
9 Nov HSCA Firework Show
2 Sep INSET Day – school closed
3 Sep Back to School – Autumn term

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.



Shots Foundation
Easter Football Camp

Thursday 11th April and Friday 12th April

10:00 - 15:00

Boys and Girls from Reception up to Year 6
Maximum 25 children per day

£25 for 1 day
£45 for both days

To sign up - <https://www.participant.co.uk/register/HookJuniorEaster>

Email jamie.macallister@shotsfoundation.org for any questions.



SHOTS
FOUNDATION