



Newsletter 5 - January 2025

YEAR GROUP TEACHING STAFF	YEAR GROUP PE DAYS
Year 3 - Miss Faulds (Poplar) and Miss Finn (Chestnut) <i>Mrs Freeland provides additional teaching support through a three way split in the morning</i>	Wednesday and Thursday
Year 4 - Mrs Thomson (Rowan) and Miss Brind (Willow)	Monday and Wednesday
Year 5 -Miss Daly (Hazel) and Miss Winzar (Maple)	Tuesday (swimming) and Friday
Year 6 - Miss Harding (Sycamore) and Mrs Walton (Redwood) <i>Mrs Lovisetto provides additional teaching support through a three way split in the morning</i>	Monday and Friday
Key dates for January The dates below are for your diary and are also included on the electronic calendar; occasionally they are subject to change	
Monday 6th January	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Return to school for all staff and pupils Dance Live rehearsal
Tuesday 7th January	Y5 swimming
Monday 13th January	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Dance Live rehearsal Y5 Teacher / Parent meeting (email and booking information sent in December)
Tuesday 14th January	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Michelle Simpson from MHST working with Y5 Y5 swimming
Wednesday 15th January	Y4 Teacher / Parent meeting (email and booking information sent in December)
Thursday 16th January	Y3 Teacher / Parent meeting (email and booking information sent in December)

Monday 20th January	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dance Live rehearsal 2. After School clubs begin
Tuesday 21st January	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Michelle Simpson from MHST working with Y5 2. Mrs Knoll, Mr Connor and 8 pupils attending Fareham College (Dance Live preparation) 3. Y5 swimming
Monday 27th January	Dance Live rehearsal
Tuesday 28th January	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Michelle Simpson from MHST working with Y5 2. Y5 swimming

Upcoming dates for February *(Please note dates will be added to this list in the next newsletter)*

Monday 3rd February	Dance Live rehearsal
Tuesday 4th February	Y5 swimming
Friday 7th February	DANCE LIVE at Portsmouth Guildhall
Tuesday 11th February	Y5 swimming
Thursday 13th February	Last day of term - start of half term
Friday 14th February	INSET
Monday 17th - 21st February	HALF TERM
Monday 24th February	Return to school
Tuesday 25th February	Y5 swimming
Thursday 27th February	Year 6 SATS meeting

A Happy New Year to you all

A Very Happy New Year to you all. We do hope that you are all well and are rested after the holiday. We are sure that the children will settle quickly into the school routine. Please help your children with this routine by ensuring that they are at school promptly to start the school day and have the correct uniform for both school and PE.

After school clubs

After school clubs will begin the week commencing 20th January. A Google Form will be shared with you the first week back for your child to sign up to a club if they wish to.

If your child takes part in Dance Live and Lego league, these clubs will continue and your child does not need to reapply for these. Because of this, we will not add them onto the Google Form.

Dance Live will commence again Monday 6th January (3.05-4.15pm)

Lego League will commence Wednesday 8th January (3.05-4.00pm)

Please note that our staff **volunteer their own time** in order to run the clubs for your children. There are occasions when we may need to postpone clubs due to staffing, other commitments and after-school meetings. We always endeavour to give as much notice as we can, but there are occasions when this may not be possible. After-school clubs are not wraparound care, and therefore we are unable to move children to other clubs if we have to cancel a session.

Attendance matters

We have a duty to monitor pupils' attendance very carefully. The school reviews the attendance of our learners on a weekly basis, identifying pupils that are at risk, or run the risk of becoming a persistent absentee (90% or less). In our autumn data analysis, we noticed the following things:

1. **Between September and October we had 20 absence requests. This was double the amount for the same time period in 2023-24.** Schools cannot authorise term time holidays unless exceptional circumstances dictate. We define exceptional as - rare, significant, unavoidable and short. For service personnel (all services) please provide a letter from your Line Manager/Divisional Officer/Commanding Officer to support any absence request, confirming that no alternative dates are available to you. Please note, we may still not be able to authorise the absence.
2. **Friday is the day when our attendance is the lowest.** With an average of 92% of the school attending on a Friday, this is significantly below the national average of 96%. Our staff are looking to see how they can make learning unmissable on this day, but every day is a key learning day. ***For each day missed, your child misses out on at least 6 lessons- 3 of these being from the core subjects: English, Reading and Maths. This means if your child has missed 5 days of schooling, this equates to about 30 lessons, 15 of these being core subjects.***
3. **Our lowest attending day was the day after our Spooky Disco.** We want to be able to offer these opportunities to your children, so we need your support in ensuring that your child attends after such events.

Please note that if we have an attendance or safeguarding concern and your child is absent, then the school might make a home visit. We do not need to inform you that this will happen.

Breakfast Club

Unfortunately, due to limited numbers, we will no longer be able to provide our Breakfast Club from the start of next term. We are sorry for any disappointment or inconvenience this may cause, particularly given the short notice.

We are aware that many of our children currently attend the wrap-around care offered by the infant school, which has been very well received. This remains an option for those who require breakfast provision and care before the school day.

As you may know, the government has committed to offering a free breakfast club in every primary school in England. We have applied to become an early adopter of this initiative, and we will keep you updated as soon as we receive more information.

Thank you for your understanding, and please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or need further support.

Contact information

Please note that it is the responsibility of parents/carers to ensure that the school has up to date contact telephone numbers for your child in case of any emergencies. Please contact the school office if you need to update us. Thank you.

Crossing

Rocon Construction Ltd on behalf of Hampshire County Council will be undertaking pedestrian crossing improvements on Forest Way/Tichborne Way.

Works are due to begin 6 January 2025 for approximately two weeks. The permitted working hours will be 9.30am-4pm Monday to Friday. Please note the entrance to Forest Way from Tichborne Way will be closed from 13 January for one week.

Parking at the layby in Yewside will be temporarily suspended to accommodate a welfare unit and equipment storage for the duration of the works. The exact location can be found on the scheme webpage.

Emergency vehicle access to properties will be maintained at all times during the closures. Pedestrian access will be maintained.

Further information about the scheme and the diversion route together with any updates about the planned timescales, traffic management arrangements are available at the County Council webpages at; www.hants.gov.uk/transport/transportschemes/brt-accessibility-signage-improvements

This should not affect school drop off and pick ups to the location of the work, but we were advised to share this information with our families.

Home Learning - it makes all the difference!

At our school, we believe that home learning is an essential part of helping children achieve their absolute best. With your support, we can ensure that every child reaches their full potential. As a minimum, we kindly ask all parents and carers to:

- Hear your child read at least five times a week.
- Practise spellings by making use of Spelling Shed
- Practise times-tables regularly by making use of Times Tables Rock Stars and general recall

Additionally, it's important to complete the Home Learning tasks provided by the school. These tasks are designed to consolidate classroom learning and build confidence, giving your child the best possible foundation for success. For our Year 6 learners, we are particularly focused on ensuring that home learning is completed to avoid any impact on SATs outcomes. For those who are finding it difficult to keep up with their Home Learning, we will be inviting them to attend a Home Learning Club - more information to follow. This is a fantastic opportunity to provide extra support in a positive and structured environment, and we are confident that parents will back us in encouraging their child to participate. Home Learning does make a difference. Together, let's set our children up for success by building strong habits now. Thank you for your ongoing support of your child.

School Uniform

After careful consideration, we have decided that we will not be using Skoolkit as our uniform supplier for the next academic year. This decision has not been made lightly and is based on several factors aimed at providing better value and convenience to our families.

We have identified a new supplier, **Sew and Print on Stoke Road, Gosport**, who offers the same trusted uniform brands as Skoolkit but at a more competitive price. Additionally, this supplier provides a free delivery service directly to schools, which will be of great benefit to our families. Another important factor is that this new provider is already serving two of the secondary schools within our Trust. This alignment will streamline the purchasing process for families with children in both junior and secondary schools, as they will only need to shop in one place.

Skoolkit will continue to stock some of our uniform until Easter. They have informed us that, at that point, they may look to reduce prices to clear the stock rather than sending it to landfill.

Swimming

During the spring and summer term, our swimming programme will take place for years 4, 5 and 6. Year 3 do not take part.

This will form part of the PE curriculum for the spring and summer term and will take place at Brune Park school. Swimming is part of the National Curriculum and therefore **all** children are expected to take part. Children need to have the appropriate swimwear, **not beachwear**, boy's trunks should be above the knee in length and girls must wear a one piece swimming costume. Goggles are permitted if your child would prefer to wear them. Long hair needs to be tied back and we encourage jewellery to be left at home – no earrings please on the days when they are swimming. We encourage children to wear swimming caps. Children will also need to bring a towel and waterproof bag to bring their kit into school. If children wear their swimming costumes to school as it is a morning session, please ensure they have underwear to change into. All swimming kit and school uniform need to be named.

For your information, year groups will take part in swimming at the following times:

Year 5: Tuesday 7th Jan, Tuesday 14th Jan, Tuesday 21st Jan, Tuesday 28th Jan, Tuesday 4th Feb, Tuesday 11th Feb

and Tuesday 25th Feb

Year 4: Tuesday 4th March, Tuesday 11th March, Tuesday 18th March, Tuesday 25th March, Tuesday 1st April, Friday 25th April and Friday 2nd May (please note the last two sessions are on a Friday)

Year 6: Friday 9th May, Friday, 16th May, Friday 23rd May, Friday 6th June, Friday 13th June and Friday 20th June

You said....we did

Thank you to the 25 of you who participated in our recent parent/carer survey. Your feedback is invaluable in helping us understand what we do well and where we can improve. Below is a summary of the key positives and areas for development based on your responses.

'Always putting the children first, all staff are approachable, non-judgemental and will support children and families.'

'I love the school community'

'I like the fact that the children are always put first and my children's struggles are noticed and not left.'

Some other key headlines include:

- 87% said that their child was happy at school.
- 96% said that their child feels safe at school.
- 91% said that the school makes sure that the pupils are well behaved.
- 94% of you said that the school keeps you updated on how their child is doing in school.

Positives

- **Supportive Environment:** Many of you highlighted the dedication of our staff, particularly their approachability and willingness to support both children and families.
- **Safe and Nurturing Atmosphere:** Feedback frequently noted how safe children feel at school, with specific praise for the Hive and other wellbeing initiatives.
- **Child-Centred Approach:** Parents appreciated the school's focus on individual children, offering support and encouragement that has helped build confidence and engagement in learning.
- **Communication:** The responsiveness of staff and the availability of updates on school activities and learning were valued.
- **Community Spirit:** Many families expressed appreciation for the sense of community within the school, as well as the opportunities provided to children for personal and academic growth.

You said: That you felt that the recent report cards did not give enough information about their child.

We did: The report card provides a snapshot of your child's attendance, academic outcomes and attitude to learning. This is followed up by a parent meeting to talk about things in more detail with your child's teacher. For Years 3, 4 and 5, these meetings will take place in January. Year 6 have already had their parent meetings due to updating parents on how they can support their child in SATS. We share report cards followed up by a parent meeting twice a year. In the summer term, you will receive an annual report that shares more information about your child.

As a school we have a statutory duty to only report to parents once a year through **an annual report**. There is no requirement to report to parents more than this. However, we know that it is important to keep you up to date with how your child is doing at school. This is why we report to you each term through a report card followed up by a meeting with your child's teacher. If you have any concerns at any other points of the year, you are able to make an appointment with your child's teacher by emailing enquiries@kgarowner.uk

Areas for Development

- **Behaviour Management:** Concerns were raised about the consistency and fairness of behaviour policies. We will review these to ensure they meet the needs of all children effectively.
- **Celebrating Achievements:** Some parents suggested more timely notifications about awards and accomplishments to allow for celebrations at home.
- **Clarity and Timing of Communication:** While communication was appreciated, there were calls for more

consistent updates from individual teachers and better timing of reminders for school events.

- **Homework and Reports:** Suggestions included offering more personalised feedback on children's progress and ensuring homework is manageable and accessible.
- **Extracurricular Opportunities:** A few families requested an earlier start to clubs in the term and more sporting activities for younger children.

We are already taking steps to address these areas and are committed to making meaningful improvements. Our leadership team is reviewing your feedback in detail and will implement changes to ensure a better experience for all students and families.

Thank you once again for your partnership in supporting our school's growth and success. Together, we can continue to create an environment where every child thrives.