

HEADTEACHER'S End of Year UPDATE

21 July 2026



Dear Parents

It seems incredible that another school year has passed so quickly. We were so pleased to bring the school together today at the Leavers' service where we celebrated the time our year 6 children have been at Hook-with-Warsash C of E Academy. We also said farewell to our staff leavers – Mrs Larcombe, Mrs Devine, Miss Hawthorne and Mrs Docherty.

Pupil Leavers: We would like to wish all the children who are leaving us today every success at their new schools. With the positive attitudes they have shown throughout their time at Hook, I am sure that they will continue to thrive in the coming years. We will miss them all and look forward to hearing of their future successes. Thank you to all of you who joined us for the Leavers' Service this morning.

SATs Results: Children in year 6 have undertaken their end of key stage assessment. They should all be extremely proud of their achievements, an overview of which is provided below.

Subject	National 2026 Age Related Expectations and above (ARE)	Hook with Warsash 2026 Age Related Expectations and above (ARE)	National 2026 Greater Depth standard (GDS)	Hook with Warsash 2026 Greater Depth standard (GDS)
Reading	75%	86%	33%	34%
Writing (TA)	73%	75%	13%	20%
SPaG	74%	77%	30%	20%
Maths	75%	94%	26%	45%
Combined	63%	70%	8%	17%

School Day Timings: I would like to remind you that when school opens again on **Tuesday 1 September 2026** the timings of the school day are as follows:

School Phase	EYFS & Infants	Juniors
Classroom doors open	8.40	8.50
Lessons begin	8.50	9.00
Lunch-time	11.45 – 12.45	12.15 – 1.15
Home-time	3.20	3.30

Classrooms will open as shown above. No children should arrive at school prior to this time. On arrival pupils should come straight in, using the classroom entrance, to meet their new teachers.

Please remember that lessons start at 8:50am Infants/ 9:00am Juniors and all children should be sat down in their classrooms ready to commence their learning at this time.

Early Morning Groups – 8:20 Inf /8:30am Jnr morning groups will **NOT** start straight away in September. Individual teachers will speak to parents directly after they have identified which children they wish to attend these sessions.

2026/27 Inset Days – Three Inset days for the next academic year 2026-27 are confirmed as: -

Monday 28 September 2026

Friday 12 February 2027

Wednesday 21 July 2027

Inhalers & Medicines – Please remember to bring all Inhalers and regular medicines back into the school office on Tuesday 1 September 2026 with a completed **Admin of Medicines Form**, which can be downloaded from the school website.

On behalf of all the staff, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a safe and very happy summer holiday. Mr Bartlett and the staff look forward to seeing you in September.

And Finally:

As I have been writing my final Headteacher's Update, I have found myself reflecting on my time at Hook-with-Warsash, the changes I have witnessed and the journey my career has taken within this one school. I often think how fortunate I was to be appointed as a 22-year-old teacher, freshly out of college, by the Headteacher at the time.

Hook looked very different then. My first visit was in July 1989, when only four infant classes were operating in the new building (now the Year 5 and 6 classrooms), while the juniors were still based in the old school opposite the church. I had the opportunity to visit both sites that day, and it was the only time I saw the school running from its original building.

By September 1989, all classes had moved to the site we still occupy today. Five new classrooms, housing the infant children, had opened during the summer holidays. The building that now accommodates Turtles and Years 3 and 4 did not exist, nor did the environmental area or outdoor classroom. The playgrounds seemed enormous. Security was also very different. Apart from the front vehicle and pedestrian gates and the tennis court gate, there was no fencing, and none of the gates were locked during the day. Looking back, it seems remarkable that we never lost any children!

Classes were mixed-age and I began with a Year 4 and 5 class in what is now Mrs Huddleston's room. There was no National Curriculum and I was simply told to teach what I thought appropriate, as long as the children completed the Beta Maths Scheme by the end of the year. It sounds incredible now. I can still remember sitting at home on Sundays trying to decide what I would teach the following week. There were no teaching assistants, no computers and not even a photocopier. The school roll stood at around 210 pupils, so my first class was relatively small. That soon changed when the Boats Estate was built and numbers increased rapidly. Before long I was teaching a class of 37 children, which did not seem difficult until it came to handwriting every annual report!

The Year 3 and 4 classrooms and the Turtles building were added in 1994–95 and officially opened in September 1995. At first, Years 3 and 4 were completely open plan, with no walls or doors separating the classrooms. It was noisy, but we simply got on with it. Only later, when the building was adapted, did I realise how challenging that environment had been.

When I first joined Hook, parents were not allowed onto the school site. Children were taken to the gates at the end of the day and staff were expected to observe very strict routines. In my first few weeks, I was called into the Headteacher's office and reprimanded for talking to another member of staff in the corridor. I was quite intimidated by him and would often stand outside the staffroom, listening at the door to check whether he was inside before I went in!

Everything changed when Chris Hines became Headteacher in 1991. The culture of the school shifted dramatically and Hook became an exciting and inspiring place to work. I genuinely looked forward to coming in each morning. Over the years I worked closely with Chris, taking on increasing responsibility before becoming Deputy Head in the late 1990s. During that time, many of the values and traditions that still shape the school today were established, including productions, residential trips and the library.

When I became Headteacher in 2013, my aim was to preserve everything that was special about Hook while continuing to develop and improve it. I am incredibly proud of what we have achieved together over the past 13 years. My vision has always been for Hook to be a happy school where children's social and emotional development is valued just as highly as their academic progress. I believe we have achieved this for the vast majority of children who have passed through our doors. Over the years I have had the privilege of working with so many wonderful young people, and I take great pride in the fact that Hook is a caring, vibrant and ambitious school that offers opportunities I could only have imagined when I first started my career.

Thank you for allowing me to play a part in your children's lives. It has truly been an honour, a privilege and a joy. Today I have been overwhelmed with so many good wishes, cards and presents. I will spend time over the coming days opening them all and appreciating all the kind words. I can't thank you enough for the kindness you have shown me throughout my final year at Hook.

Please do say hello if you see me around the village.

With my very best wishes for the future,

Yours sincerely

Sara Willoughby

Sara Willoughby
Headteacher

Dates for your diary:

22 July – 31 Aug Summer Holiday		
Tue	01 Sept	First Day of School (Years 1-6)
Mon	07 Sept	HMS Woodwind Lessons Start
Tue	08 Sept	New Year R start Part Time HMS Guitar Lessons Start
Wed	09 Sept	HMS Brass & Piano Lessons Start
Thurs	10 Sept	HMS Drum Lessons Start
Fri	11 Sept	Y6 Swimming Starts
Mon	21 Sept	Y5 Dorset Residential
Mon	28 Sept	Inset Day

