

HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE

Friday 14 June 2024



Dear Parents

We are now in a very busy half term with so much going on in school - the production, educational visits, parents evenings and so on. It was wonderful to see so many of you at the Junior Sports Day this week, despite the chilly climate. The children all tried so hard and certainly looked like they were having lots of fun!

Staffing – At the end of this school year several valued members of staff will be leaving our team.

Heidi Jackson, Suzanne Childs and Julie Nunn will all be retiring from the school having worked at the school for many years. During their time at Hook they have all gone above and beyond in what they have offered and we feel extremely fortunate to have worked with them. We are sad to be saying farewell to them but wish them all the best with their extended leisure time.

Taster Sessions in next years' classrooms – On **Monday 17 June** we are taking the opportunity whilst Year 6 are in France to allow the children in their current classes to move up and experience all of the facilities in the year above ready for September. Each class will be taught in both of the classrooms in the year above by their current teacher. E.g. Class 3S will be taught in the current year 4 classrooms during the course of the day, experiencing both rooms. **This exercise is just to familiarise the children with the classrooms and is not an indication of which class they will be in or who their teacher will be in September.**

Infant Sports Day will take place on **Wednesday 26th June** starting promptly at **9:15am**. The children will rotate in teams around a circuit of activities finishing with a traditional class running race. Infant gates will close as normal at 9:00am and reopen at 9:10am. This gate is the **ONLY** access point for Infant sports day.

Please note: Children should come to school wearing their PE kits. Please ensure your child has a hat and sun cream as there is very little shade on the field.

Transition dates – The end of term will soon be upon us. Year 2 to 3 Parents Transition meeting will be on Thursday 18 July 2024 at 3:40pm in Class 3S. The meeting for Year R to 1 will be on **Thursday 27 June at 2:30pm in 1H**

Parents' Evenings – Face to face Parents' Evenings for all year groups will be taking place on **Monday 15 July and Tuesday 16 July 2024**. Further information about booking will follow.

Leavers' Service - We will be holding our Leavers' Service on **Tuesday 23 July at 9.30am** at St Mary's Church. Parents of children who will be leaving the school are invited to join us for this celebration.

Production Tickets – Please note that tickets will not be allocated until **BOTH** payment and order form are received in the office and that **Thursday** night has already **SOLD OUT**. Ticket Order Forms are available to download from the school website (<https://www.hookwithwarsash.co.uk/school-production/>) or from the school office.

SEND Referrals - We are currently facing a large number of families seeking diagnoses for their children for a range of conditions. While we are always keen to work with families and support them through these processes, we felt it would be useful to let you know the pathway you should follow in order for us to have the capacity to do the school submissions in a timely manner.

Initially you should contact the school SENDCo – Zoe Hine and ask for a meeting to discuss your child's needs and what provision they are being supported with in school. If following this, you still feel you would like to seek an external assessment, Mrs Hine will be able to advise you about the best way to do this; the level of referral requests currently in the school system; and the time scales in which we can realistically respond to agencies asking for the school's perceptions and further information.

The practice at Hook-with-Warsash is for the class teacher and the SENDCo to meet and work through diagnostic questionnaires together. The reason for this is that a SENDCo has a vast range of experience and works with many external professionals. This means that they are able to interpret what the questions are really asking and, in talking to the class teacher about these, can ensure that the school submits a well-considered and realistic picture of how the child presents in school and the areas of concern they may have.

We hope that anyone feeling concerned about their child has found this useful and also reassured about the process to follow to seek further advice. If you would like to make an appointment to see Mrs Hine please contact the school office and she will get back to you as soon as possible. For your information Mrs Hine is out of class on Thursdays and Fridays to carry out her SENDCo duties.

Potential dangers of smartphones - As part of our support for parents on both mental health and E-safety we would like to draw your attention to an interesting article from the BBC relating to internet safety for parents:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-68225707>

As we have pointed out via our E-safety meetings, many apps (i.e. WhatsApp) and social media platforms are age restricted (many require users to be 13 or above, WhatsApp is now **16**), and so no primary age children should have access to these.

Some of the potential dangers associated with internet access, particularly via smart phones:

- highly addictive, with the lasting effects on developing brains similar to that of gambling
- link to poor mental health, depression and low self-esteem, especially in young teenagers
- exposing children to harmful content including pornography, grooming, bullying and material that's not age appropriate
- changing the way children's brains develop, affecting their ability to concentrate
- robbing children of their childhood. Time spent on a device reduces time spent playing, interacting and developing vital social skills.

The use of smartphones is now a feature of daily life for most adults and over the last few years the age at which children are given their first smartphone has dropped significantly. We know that in our school some children as young as 4 have access to smartphones. Therefore, we would encourage all our parents to monitor and restrict their children's usage/access and delay purchasing one specifically for their child until they are older and mature enough to understand and deal with the complexities that can arise.

In relation to smart phones, we understand the importance of being able to contact your child as they become more independent, walking to and from school, in order to give you peace of mind and for children to be able to call in emergencies. However, children's phones do not need to have access to the internet in order for you to keep them safe. So, we would recommend that you use the parental controls to turn the phone's internet access off.

PTFA UPDATE

- **Volunteers** - We are still looking for volunteers for the fair, if you think you can help please drop us an email or contact Melissa on 07802748139. **VOLUNTEER WHATSAPP GROUP:** <https://chat.whatsapp.com/LPqjP0504VP4aGulznyBcl>
- **Raffle Tickets** - Raffle tickets were sent home with your children earlier this week. You will have received 3 sheets of numbers (3 strips), this is £15 worth of tickets, that can be sold individually or by the strip. If you wish to purchase, please clearly write your **Name, Child's Class & Contact phone No.** on the back of **EACH** ticket that you wish to purchase and return them in the bag provided with the **Exact Money** to school in your child's book bag by **Monday 24 June**. Please return these packs in your child's book bag even if you have not purchased any tickets to help us reduce waste.
- **Non-Uniform Day** - On the day of the fair, **Friday the 28th of June**, the children will be allowed to come to school in non-uniform in exchange for a **donation to the tombola**. This could be books, toys, wine, chocolate, etc. Please bring your donations to your child's classroom or the environmental area on the morning of the 28th.

Regards

Sara Willoughby

Sara Willoughby
Headteacher

Diary Dates:

Day	Date	Events	Clubs
Mon	17 Jun	Y6 French Residential HMS Woodwind (am) & HMS Drums (pm) Transition Taster Sessions Y6 Production Choreography 3:30/4:30	Art Club (Inf) 3:30pm/4:30pm
Tue	18 Jun	New YR Parent Lunch	Y5/6 Boys Cricket 8:00am Spanish Lunchtime IDPE Dodgeball Y1/2 3:30pm IDPE Dance Y2/6 5:00pm
Wed	19 Jun	HMS Guitar (am) & HMS Brass (am)	Y3/4 Netball 8:10am Y5 Football Lunchtime Judo 3:30pm & 4:30pm

			Art Club (Jnr) 3:30/5:00pm
Thurs	20 Jun	New YR Parent Lunch Production Choir 3:30/4:30	Y3 Football Lunchtime French Lunchtime
Fri	21 Jun	Bags2School Collection HMS Piano (am) Swimming Y3	Y5/6 Girls Cricket Lunchtime Y5/6 Netball 3:30/4:30pm IDPE Y3/6 Dodgeball 3:30pm

Tue 25 June	Production Photos Ageas Bowl Cricket Netball Final
Wed 26 June	Infant Sports Day
Thurs 27 June	YR to Y1 Parents Transition Meeting 2:30pm Class 1H
Fri 28 June	PTFA Summer Fair Non-Uniform Day (For Raffle Prize donation) No Dodgeball
Wed 3 July	Y4 Mary Rose Trip Y0 Longdown Farm Trip
Thurs 4 July	Turtles Class – Stay & Play 1:30pm-2:30pm
Fri 5 July	Brookfield Induction Day
Mon 8 July	Y6 Tech Day at Waypoint Church
Tue 9 July	Whole School Dress Rehearsal at Waypoint Church Production (pm)
Wed 10 July	Penguins Class – Stay & Play 1:30pm-2:30pm Production (pm)
Thurs 10 Jul	Production (pm)
Fri 11 Jul	Inset Day
Mon 15 July	Rock2theBeat – Extra session Parents Evening
Tue 16 July	Parents Evening
Wed 17 July	School Fundraising Day
Thurs 18 Jul	Y2 to Y3 Parents Transition Meeting 3:40pm Class 3S Rock2theBeat Concert 2:45pm/3:10pm
Fri 19 July	Y6 Leavers Party
Tues 23 Jul	Leavers Service 9:30am – St Mary’s Church Last Day of Term
SUMMER HOLIDAYS	
Mon 02 Sept	School Restarts for Years 1-6