

HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE
8 September 2023



Dear Parents,

Welcome Back - It has been a pleasure to welcome you all back at the start of our new academic year. It is so typical for the sun to shine brightly once the children return to school, but it has been good to stand in the warmth in the mornings and catch up with many of you in person while dropping your children off at school. Thank you for ensuring your children returned to school looking so smart, many with new uniform and shoes. In an effort to reduce lost property, can you please label all items of uniform etc. with your child's name. It was lovely to meet our new Year R children today. We hope they all enjoyed their time in school and that they continue to settle well and soon feel a part of the Hook-with-Warsash C of E Academy community. It has also been lovely to welcome many new pupils to the school in other year groups.

Staffing - We are pleased to welcome three new members of staff to our team.

- **Wayne Sullivan** has been employed as our new Facilities Manager – he is very experienced, having worked in 4 schools prior to this and for Southampton City Council. We are excited to have him working at Hook.
- **Tracy Devine** has joined us as a special needs assistant in year R. Tracy has worked for the school previously and it is lovely to have her back with us.
- **Lindsey Fane** has joined us as a new ELSA. She has spent many years working in schools, as well as running her own business. Lindsay will be working alongside Mrs Batt supporting children in the school.

Data Collection Forms – Each year we are required to check that we have up to date contact and medical details for every pupil. Please look out for a **light green Data Collection Form** and a **sky blue Medical Form** that your child will be bringing home in their book bag over the next few weeks. We will start with Year 6 and will be working our way down through the school. When you receive these forms please can you **check ALL the details thoroughly (especially email addresses and contact numbers)**, make amendments where necessary, sign and date it and return it to the school office. If there is only one contact on your sheet please can you provide a second, **we are legally required to have a minimum of two contacts for each child**. Please be aware that this must be done for every child and we will keep chasing until all forms have been returned.

Y6 France Trip – There will be a Y6 France Residential Trip Parents Meeting on **Thursday 21st September** at 3:45pm in Class 6S.

YR Coffee Morning – We would like to extend a warm welcome to all of our new parents and invite you to join us on Friday 22 September at 9:00am in the School Hall for a coffee/tea. This will give you an opportunity to meet other new parents and to speak to members of the senior leadership team. We hope many of you can attend.

Harvest Festivals – Harvest Festivals will take place in **St Mary's Church on Monday 2nd October**. The Infant Service will take place at 9.30am and this will be followed by the Junior Service at 10.45am. We welcome anyone associated with the school who would like to join us for these events.

We would be grateful for any donations of food that we can distribute to local organisations and food banks. If you are happy to send food in for this please deliver your non-perishable contributions on the morning of **Monday 2nd October** to class with your child.

Parents Evenings – Face to face parents' evenings will take place on **Monday 9th October** (3.30 – 8.00) and **Tuesday 10th October** (3.30 – 5.30pm). You will be sent information about booking an appointment in due course.

Curriculum Links – Our curriculum links inform you of what will be studied in each year group during each half term. The ones for September and October can be found on our website under **Curriculum/Curriculum Links** and have also been attached to this Update.

Shining Lights - We like to celebrate our school values of **Love, Independence, Growth, Happiness and Trust** within school every day and we would like you to share anything at home that your child does that you feel shows a good example of our school values. This could include, for example, children who are offering to help at home or being trusted to get on with tasks independently. If you would like to share this with us you can nominate your child for a 'Shining Light Award' which we can celebrate in school and your child will receive a 'Shining Light' sticker. Please see the PDF attached if you would like to do this.

Early Morning Sessions – Some children in the school attend early morning sessions. These are by invitation only and will begin on **Tuesday 19th September** (after the INSET day). Teachers will be in contact with parents next week if they wish your child to attend. Please do not send pupils in early before this date.

Parking – Please can I remind you to be mindful of our neighbours when dropping off or collecting from school. The local roads become very congested and I would ask that you avoid blocking people's driveways and narrowing

the road by parking opposite other cars. Some parents like to park a little way away from the school enabling them to engage with their child whilst walking the rest of the way.

Reception September 2024 Tours – We are conducting individual tours of the school for any parents whose children start in September 2024. If you know anyone with a child due to start next September please ask them to contact the school office to find out further details. We will also be holding Open Afternoons from 1:45 to 3pm for prospective parents on **Wednesday 18th October** and **Thursday 2nd November**.

Secondary School Applications – Y6 parents have received email instructions regarding their child's Year 7 application for a secondary school place. **Applications are being accepted from 11 September** and the deadline for online applications is midnight on Tuesday 31 October 2023. Notification date for on-time applicants is Friday 1st March.

Day Closures - There will be INSET days on **Monday 18 September, Monday 20 November** and **Friday 2 February 2024**. Further dates are still to be agreed and we will inform you of these as soon as possible.

Extra-curricular Clubs - We are pleased to let you know that School led extra-curricular clubs will resume again shortly. We will be updating our website with the clubs on offer during next week, and will let you know when this has been done.

ID PE & Sport - Bookings are now LIVE for their upcoming **Inset Day of Sport** here on **Monday 18th September 2023**. The day will be action-packed with sports and recreational play. Games include football, dodgeball, racket sports, Strike and field games, capture the flag and loads more. WHO CAN BOOK? For current Year 1-6 children from ANY SCHOOL are welcome to attend! And we ACCEPT childcare vouchers!!! BOOK your place here: <https://idpe-sport.classforkids.io/camp/21> For enquires email: bookings@idpesport.co.uk

IDPE's After School Club's will start week commencing Monday 18 September:

Year 3-6 after-school Dodgeball Club (Mondays)

15:30-16:30pm

Starts Monday 25th September due to inset day on 18th September

BOOK HERE: <https://idpe-sport.classforkids.io/info/75>

Year 1-2 after-school Dodgeball Club (Tuesdays)

15:30-16:30pm

Starts Tuesday 19th September

BOOK HERE: <https://idpe-sport.classforkids.io/info/65>

Dance with ID for Years 3-6 (Tuesdays)

17:00-18:00pm

Starts Tuesday 19th September

BOOK HERE: <https://idpe-sport.classforkids.io/info/68>

Year 1-4 after-school Multi-sport Club (Fridays)

15:30-16:30pm

Starts Friday 22nd September

BOOK HERE: <https://idpe-sport.classforkids.io/info/66>

Please email bookings@idpesport.co.uk if you have any questions.

Health & Wellbeing – Please click on the following link for information on coping with general mental health, stress and support for parents with babies and toddlers. <https://www.annafreud.org/parents-and-carers/resources/>

Water Bottles – Please can you ensure that your child always brings a water bottle to school as it is important for them to stay hydrated during the day.

We hope your children have enjoyed their first full day/week back and wish you all a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely

Sara Willoughby

Sara Willoughby
Headteacher

Mon	11 Sept	HMS Music Lessons – Woodwind Y7 Secondary School Applications Portal Opens
Tue	12 Sept	HMS Music Lessons – Drums Spanish – Lunchtime club
Wed	13 Sept	HMS Music Lessons – Guitar & Brass
Thurs	14 Sept	French – Lunchtime Club Rock2theBeat
Fri	15 Sept	HMS Music Lessons – Piano Y6 Swimming
Mon	18 Sept	INSET DAY IDPE Sports Club
Tue	19 Sept	Early Morning groups begin HMS Music Lessons – Drums
Wed	20 Sept	HMS Music Lessons – Guitar & Brass
Thurs	21 Sept	Y6 France Residential Trip – Parents Meeting 3:45pm Class 6S
Fri	22 Sept	YR Coffee Morning 9:00am School Hall HMS Music Lessons – Piano Y6 Swimming Cross Country – Portsdown Hill 4:15pm
25 - 29 Sept		Y5 Dorset Residential Y6 (Y7) Brookfield Tours
Fri	29 Sept	Cross Country – Portsdown Hill 4:15pm
Mon	02 Oct	Harvest Festival @ St Mary's Church Inf. 9:30am; Jnr. 10:45am
Fri	06 Oct	Cross Country – Portsdown Hill 4:15pm
Mon	09 Oct	NHs Whole School Flu Vaccine Parents Evening 3:30pm-8:00pm
Tue	10 Oct	Parents Evening 3:30pm-5:30pm
Wed	18 Oct	Open Afternoon 1:45pm – 3:00pm
23 – 27 Oct		Half Term