HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE
Friday 23 October 2026

Dear Parents,

As my first half term as Headteacher draws to a close, I wanted to say, first and foremost, what a pleasure it has been **getting to know everyone and seeing the school from a different perspective**. Having previously known the school as both a teacher and a parent, it has been a real privilege to experience it now as Headteacher and to develop an even greater appreciation for **the children, families and staff who make our school such a special community**.

There have been numerous memorable events over the past eight weeks, but I wanted to make special mention of your support for the harvest festivals and generous offerings both in terms of food donations and the retiring collection. Thank you. I also attended by first dig day on Sunday – the nature nook is looking fantastic and is a really special resource. My thanks to all those children, parents and staff who helped on Sunday and special thanks to Mrs Holding, Mr Lamb and Mr Clifford for their especially hard work on this project.

Last week's cross-country event at Portsdown Hill was also memorable – notably due to the road closures causing severe delays that meant only a small handful of competitors (and Miss Spiers) made it. Nevertheless, an excellent effort by all!

I was also recently interviewed by some of our Year 6 journalists for 'The Hook' newsletter. I thought they did a brilliant job but I'm not entirely sure where they got the quote *'Mr Bartlett has got loads of secret talents'* from. I'll accept the compliment but am pretty sure it's not accurate!

I want to add my special thanks to Mrs Willmott, our School Business Manager, who begins her well-earned retirement shortly. Ann has been a much loved and valued member of the team and given so much over her time at Hook with Warsash. Her calm and approachable manner coupled with an unmatched level of expertise will be missed… however, we are pleased we will see her around and about the school from time to time and wish her all the best for the future.

Finally, after what has been a long and very busy eight-week half term, I hope everyone gets the chance to slow down a little next week, enjoy some family time and have a well-earned rest.

I look forward to seeing everyone again in November, hopefully well rested and ready for another busy half term!

Secondary School Applications – Reminder that Year 7 applications for a secondary school place are currently being accepted via the Hampshire Admissions online portal and the deadline for applications is midnight on **Saturday 31 October 2026** **https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/admissions**

New Menu – Reminder that the new menu from Aspens which take effect after half term. Please can we ask that you go through it with your child and pre-order their lunches via the Aspens website weekly or monthly in advance or as a minimum **before 9am** on the day required (**https://select.aspens-services.com/account/index**)

Poppy Appeal - Poppies and other Remembrance items will be on sale in school from **Monday 02 November**. Items are available for the suggested minimum donation below. Please ensure your child has the **correct money** as no change can be given.

Pin Badge	£2	Key Ring	50p
Pen	£1	Zip Pull	20p
Ruller	£1	Poppy	20p
Wrist Band	50p (Rubber)		
Festival Band	50p (Fabric)		

Reception September 2027 - We are conducting individual tours of the school for any parents whose children are due to start in September 2027. In addition to this we will be holding our second Open Afternoon on **Thursday 05 November at 1:45pm**. If you know anyone with a child due to start next September, please ask them to contact the school office for further details.

The **Application Portal** opens on **01 November 2026** and when applying for a place the following guidance has been provided by Hampshire Admissions:

- Include three school preferences on the application to maximise the likelihood of receiving an offer at one of their preferred schools.
- Ensure applications are submitted by the closing date of **15 January 2027**.
- Use the County Council's school catchment area finder to identify the catchment school for your home address.
- Read the school's admission policies to understand how places are allocated and the criteria that apply where a school is oversubscribed.
- Think about how your child will get to school. See travel to school to help plan your journey and find out if you are eligible for help with transport. You must name your catchment school(s) if you have one, as a preference if you wish to apply for travel assistance.

Aspens Theme Day – The caterers will be providing a special menu on **Thursday 05 November**. On this day your child will be able to choose from the options below. Please order your child's meal via the online Aspens Select website.

- Bonfire Banger Hot Dog Baguettes, wedges & Smokey BBQ Baked Beans
- Quorn Bonfire Banger Hot Dog, wedges & Smokey BBQ Baked Beans
- Jacket Potato, Cheese &/or Beans or Tuna
- Hot Pasta topped with Homemade Tomato sauce & Cheese

Remembrance Sunday – Sunday 8 November - We will be joining with St Mary's Church and the Warsash community in remembering those who fought and lost their lives in times of conflict. We would like to invite children and their families into school on the morning of **Sunday 8 November** for a short service of Remembrance and creative activities. This will begin at approximately **10.30am**, following the wreath laying at the war memorial in the village. We look forward to welcoming many of you into school for this important annual event.

Remembrance Display Contributions - St Mary's Church have asked pupils to contribute to a new part of the reflections for the Remembrance Service. We have previously invited Junior children to contribute but are now opening this up to Infant children as well.

In order to promote broader opportunities to remember people with old or new family connections to our area we have been asked if children from the school might like to contribute to a display in the church about service personnel relatives so that they can also be remembered. This may involve recollections from relatives or a chance to reflect on the service of a family member, such as a great grandparent. The display will be from **11am to 4pm on the Saturday 7th November**, with tea and cake in the hall and then after the church service on the 8th of November.

They are looking for a short, written recount of the family member and their service and maybe a photograph as well (please try to send a copy of the photo - not the original). This should be limited to A4. We are asking that these contributions be bought into school and handed to the class teacher immediately after Half Term.

Parent Survey - We would be grateful if you could complete this wellbeing survey accessed via the following link. The closing date is Friday 13th Nov https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/SRMeTy88tE?origin=lprLink

School Photos – "Yellow" School Photographers will be in school on **Tuesday 10 November** to take Individual pupil photos.

Christmas Services - Christmas Services will take place later this term at St Marys Church. As usual we would like to invite you to join us at these special events. The dates and times are:

Infants **Tuesday 15 December**	09.30am - **P, 1H, 2D**	10.45am - **T, 1J, 2B**
Juniors **Wednesday 16 December**	09.30am - Led by **Y6** accompanied by **Y3** & **Y5**,	
	10.45am - Led by **Y4** accompanied by **Y5** & **Y6**	

St Mary's Church - St Mary's Church is putting on its annual Nativity Production and would like to invite children from the school to join them for their nativity weekend. Please note this is not a school production but is run by the church. **Workshop Sat 12 Dec 11:00 - 16:00 and Church Nativity service Sun 13 December at 10:00.**
As in previous years, they will be running a workshop on the Saturday and then performing the nativity in St Mary's Church on the Sunday. Details on the poster. If you would like your child to be in the nativity and the workshop, please complete the participation form by following the QR code on the poster, by **13th November.**

Scooters & Bikes on the Playground – Please can you remind your children that they should dismount from scooters and bikes as soon as they enter the school grounds.

Vacancy – We currently have a vacancy for a Lunchtime Supervisory Assistant. Please see the attached flyer for further information.

Borrowed Uniform – If your child has come home in any items of borrowed school uniform, either from the main school or wraparound, please can they be returned cleaned and pressed after half term.

Day Closures – Current INSET days are scheduled for Friday 12 February, Thursday 25 March and Wednesday 21 July. There is one more to be scheduled and we will let you know when details of this date have been finalized.

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.

Regards

Justin Bartlett

Justin Bartlett
Headteacher

Attachments: St Mary's Church Nativity / Vacancy Advert / Shining Light Slips

Next Week

Sun 25 Oct		**Clocks GO BACK at 2am**	
Mon 26 – Fri 30 Oct		**Half Term / IDPE Sports Camp**	
Sat	**31 Oct**	Y7 Secondary School Application Portal Closes	
Sun	**01 Nov**	New YR 09/2027 Admission Portal Opens	
Mon	**02 Nov**	New Menu Starts Poppies go on Sale HMS Music – Woodwind	3:30-4:30 Y5 Netball 3:30-4:30 Fun-Nastix
Tue	**03 Nov**	**Y3 Butser Hill Trip** HMS Music – Guitar	Lunchtime Spanish Lunchtime Y3/4 Football 3:30/4:30 Y1/2 IDPE Dodgeball 3:30/4:30 KS2 Hockey
Wed	**04 Nov**	HMS Music – Brass & Keyboard	8:00/8:45am Y3/4 Dodgeball Lunchtime French 3:30-5:30 Judo 3:30/4:30 Y5/6 BOYS Football
Thurs	**05 Nov**	Rock2theBeat Aspens Theme Menu **New Year R Sept 2027 Open Afternoon 1:45pm** **PTFA Fireworks** 	Lunchtime Y5/6 GIRLS Football (2/10) **NO** Y6 Netball **NO** Showstoppers
Fri	**06 Nov**	**Y6** Swimming HMS Music – Drums	7:45/8:45 Y2/Y4 Cheer Club 8:00/8:45 KS2 X-Country 3:30/4:30 Y3-6 IDPE Dodgeball

Future dates

Sun	**08 Nov**	Remembrance Service in school 10:30am
Mon	**09 Nov**	PTFA Harvest Theme Bake Sale
Tue	**10 Nov**	Individual School Photos **NO** Y1/2 IDPE Dodgeball
Tue	**11 Nov**	KS2 Remembrance Service St Mary's Church 10:30am
Fri	**13 Nov**	**Y5** Swimming Starts
Sun	**15 Nov**	Gosport Children's Fun Run (Bay House Sports Complex)
Fri	**20 Nov**	Children in Need – Dress in Spots & Stripes for £1 Donation
Mon	**23 Nov**	PTFA Rags2Riches Clothes Collection
Wed	**25 Nov**	Y6 Make £5 Grow Sale
Fri	**27 Nov**	PTFA Christmas Wreath Making Evening 7:30pm
Thurs	**10 Dec**	Rock2theBeat Concert
Sat	**12 Dec**	PTFA Christmas Fayre St Mary's Church Nativity Workshop 11:00 - 16:00
Sun	**13 Dec**	St Mary's Church Nativity Service 10:00am
Tue	**15 Dec**	**Infant** Christmas Service 09.30am – P, 1H, 2D 10.45am - T, 1J, 2L
Wed	**16 Dec**	**Junior** Christmas Service 09.30am – Led by Y6 accompanied by Y3 & Y5 10.45am - Led by Y4 accompanied by Y5 & Y6

Thurs	**17 Dec**	Christmas Lunch; Class Christmas Parties; Christmas Jumper Day
Fri	**18 Dec**	Last Day before Christmas Break
21 Dec – 03 Jan		Christmas Holiday / IDPE Sports Camp
Mon	**04 Jan**	New Term Starts