



Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2025

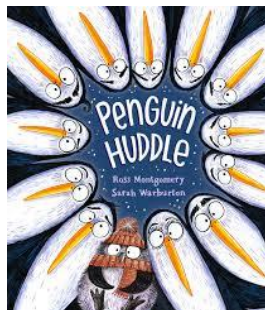
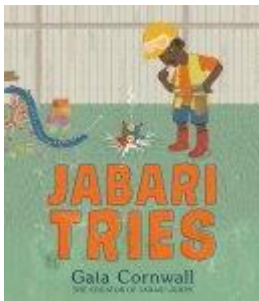
Dear Parents and Carers,

The children have had a great first half of the week taking part in assemblies and activities to focus on their mental health. Today saw all of the children either relaxing with a film, a book or some colouring or letting off some energy dancing or walking in our beautiful surroundings. Thank you to all of you who supported the bake sale on Tuesday to raise money for Place2Be and a reminder that Friday is a non-school uniform day in exchange for a donation, again going towards Place2Be.

### National Story-Telling Week

As well as it being Children's Mental Health Week, it is also National Story-Telling Week! Each class has had a new story bought for them and shared over the week. Robins have had Jabari Tries by Gaia Cornwall, Kingfishers have had Penguin Huddle by Ross Montgomery, Owls have had The Land of Roar by Jenny McLachlan and Ospreys have been enjoying The Kingdom of the Sea by Zohra Nabi.

In addition, Kingfishers, Owls and Ospreys have/will be taking part in virtual author story-telling workshops and Robins have been creating 'helicopter' stories in class. More information on what these are can be found here: <https://helicopterstories.co.uk/>



### Guinness Book of World Record Attempt Successful!

On October 3rd, Hambleton Primary School took part in a world record attempt for the largest ever poetry lesson to take part in multiples locations. The attempt included a live workshop held by Laura Mucha where she gathered over 43,500 children from 500 schools across the UK (and beyond!) to write and edit a collective poem titled 'What Do You Think Counts?'. The poem touches on themes close to children's hearts -family, friendship, mental health, climate change, and what really matters in life. The finished poem can be found [here](#).

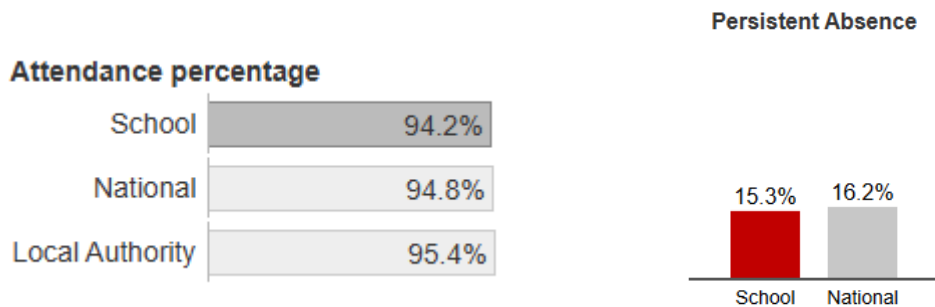
I am pleased to say that the attempt was successful and that Hambleton Primary School was part of this! More information can be seen in this video produced by Laura Mucha: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tr4UPuslss4>

### Communication

A few parents have said that they haven't known about recent events. We use the school newsletter, email and text messaging to share information. If you think we may not have up-to-date information for any of these services, please do check with the School Office. I know that, at times, there is a lot of information that comes through but it is important to make sure it is read to keep up to date with school events.

## Attendance

I am pleased to say that our attendance percentage has gone up and is closing the gap against the National and Local Authority figures. Our percent of pupils classified as 'persistent absentees' (where attendance is below 90%) has also decreased and we are currently below last year's National Average. Thank you for all of your support in ensuring your children are in school at all possible times and I am sure that this positive trend will be built on as we continue through the Spring Term!



## Help with lifts to school

We still have a family who need help with transport and getting their child to school on some days. If there is anyone from the Denmead area who would be able to help and make a slight detour of a mile off Denmead/Hambledon Road, please let the school office know and we can give you their contact details. Thank you.

## Mental Health

Place2Be, this year's nominated charity for Children's Mental Health Week have collated useful resources for families in supporting children's mental health. Please visit their website to find out more:

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/resources/#families>

## Inset Days

A reminder that the school will be closed to pupils on Friday February 14<sup>th</sup> and Monday February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Staff will be undergoing training on autism, behaviour management and writing moderation across the two days and look forward to welcoming the children back on Tuesday February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

Best wishes,

*A. Corr*

Ms Adrienne Corr  
Headteacher

## **Key Dates Spring 1 2024-2025**

**These will be added to so please check the bottom of the newsletter regularly!**

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February at 9.30am - Guitar concert at school (for parents/carers of children having lessons)  
Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February at 9.30am - Drum concert at school (for parents/carers of children having lessons)  
Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February - Inset Day  
Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February - Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February - Half Term  
Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February - Inset Day

School Holidays dates can be found here: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/schoolholidays>

## INSET Days for 2025

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February  
Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February  
Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June