



Wednesday 22nd January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Time certainly is whizzing by! I can't believe we will be half way through the school year at the end of this week.

How do I know what my child is learning and how they are doing?

You should have received your child's curriculum leaflet by email this week with information on what they will be learning this term. These are also available on the website - both under our curriculum page as well as the individual class pages. Class teachers have begun the report writing process and all children will receive a progress report by the end of the term - these reports highlight what they have been learning as well as the progress they are making and their next steps. We don't offer separate parents' evenings this term however if you would like to discuss your child's progress, please do contact your child's teacher.

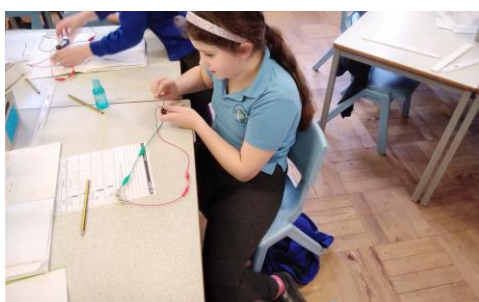
Robins Reading - a message from Mrs Bolton

Mrs Bolton and her team would like to remind parents that they should be listening to their child read at least 3x a week and recording this in their reading diary. Staff also listen to them read at school but this is not designed to replace regular reading at home. The reading can be listening to and supporting their reading of their phonics book or reading their pleasure book to them and discussing the story with them. By reading their phonics book regularly, the children will make the most progress with recognising their sounds and blending them together.

Reading is such an important skill as it unlocks many other areas of the curriculum as well as developing the enjoyment of reading. At the beginning it can be hard work but the more they read, the easier it becomes. If you have any concerns about your child's reading or wish to discuss how to help them further/the best way to read with them please do contact Mrs Bolton.

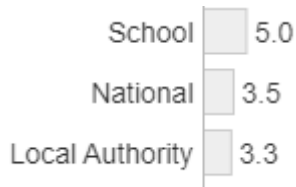
Owls' Science

Owls have been having a fantastic time exploring circuits as part of their new Science topic. Mrs Turner was really impressed with their collaboration, their curious questions and thinking about how to find answers to them!

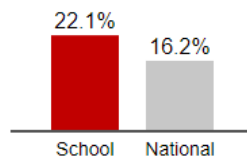


I know that there are many valid reasons why children are off but these would be the same for all schools across the county and nationally. Our school average for numbers of days missed so far this year is greater than both Hampshire and National, along with our percentage of pupils who are classed as persistently absent. This results in our overall attendance being lower than both:

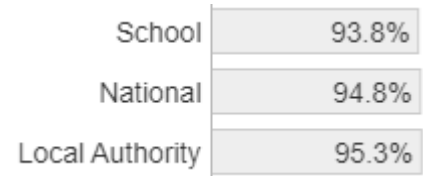
Average number of days missed so far this school year



Persistent Absence



Overall Attendance Rates



In order to increase our school attendance figures, we all need to work together. Please remember that children can come in (and are encouraged to, unlike during the pandemic) when they have coughs and colds unless they have a high temperature alongside. We are able to administer calpol should they need it - please contact the office for a medicine form. For further information if you are unsure of whether or not your child is too poorly to come to school, please consult <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/> and the attached poster from the UK Health Security Agency.

A big congratulations to the 59 pupils that have an attendance rate of 95% or higher - this is an achievement to be proud of, especially with the number of winter ailments around. If you would like any support with your child's attendance or are worried about the number of illnesses your child experiences, please do contact me through the school office for further support.

Help with lifts to school

We have had a family join us recently 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.

Online Safety

Please see the attached information poster on what Parents and Carers need to know about Reddit.

Children's Mental Health Week - February 3rd- 9th, 2025

Mrs Bolton, our Mental Health Lead, is busy planning a variety of activities to mark Children's Mental Health Week including a bake sale and non-school uniform day as fundraising activities to support Place2Be, a national charity that provides mental health support in schools through one-to-one and group counselling using tried and tested methods backed by research. Mrs Bolton is also planning activities throughout the week to promote children's mental health and well-being and will share more information closer to the time.

I am very pleased to announce that Mrs Walker and Mrs Angio have recently successfully completed their training as Mental Health First Aiders.

PE Days and Uniform

I know there has been discussion amongst parents and teachers recently about the correct PE uniform. We have seen an increase in children arriving wearing football kits and other items that do not meet our PE uniform specifications so I have asked the class teachers to be particularly observant about what children are coming in wearing as part of their uniform on PE days.

To clarify, we ask that children wear:

Royal blue t-shirt (school logo optional)

Black / Navy shorts

Black / Navy tracksuit bottoms for winter

Plimsolls or trainers

Navy/black sweat shirt and joggers for the cold weather

These items should be as plain as possible and if you don't have a plain navy/black sweatshirt then a school sweatshirt can be worn. If anyone needs a school sweatshirt, we have a number in lost property and our spare supplies and I am more than happy to provide one for free to those that need to replace any items should their current PE sweatshirts not be plain navy or black. Our school uniform policy is up for renewal at this week's Governors Meeting so we will review the current policy and make any adjustments we feel needed to add clarity to our expectations - I appreciate that the current stipulation on the website could be clearer.

The reason we ask for plain or a school jumper is to ensure consistency in what the children are wearing. Research has shown that when all pupils are wearing the same outfit, classrooms are more disciplined, with lower noise levels and significantly better 'listening' from pupils. Pupils who wear a school uniform do not have to feel insecure about their appearance and social status. Because all pupils are wearing the same clothes, there's no judgment. In addition, school uniforms are also thought to improve school spirit. In wearing one, pupils can feel greater levels of school pride, unity and community spirit - all things that we encourage at Hambledon Primary School.

A reminder that the PE days for the Spring first half term will be:

Robins - Wednesday

Kingfishers - Monday and Wednesday

Owls - Thursday and Friday

Ospreys - Thursday and Friday

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!

Wednesday 5th February - School nurses in to measure Y6 height and weight, Year R Autumn birthdays vision, height and weight. More information to follow.

Tuesday 11th February at 9.30am - Guitar concert at school (for parents/carers of children having lessons)

Thursday 13th February at 9.30am - Drum concert at school (for parents/carers of children having lessons)

Friday 14th February - Inset Day

Monday 17th February - Friday 21st February - Half Term

Monday 24th February - Inset Day

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

INSET Days for 2025

Friday 14th February

Monday 24th February

Monday 30th June