



Wednesday 11th March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

World Book Week: A Magical Week of Reading and Discovery

What an inspiring World Book Week we've had! The school was buzzing with imagination, curiosity, and a real sense of adventure as children explored stories, science, and the wonders of the night sky during our 'Adventures in the Stars' World Book Week.

The week (and a bit!) started with our whole school trip to the planetarium at Winchester where each class enjoyed a session in the magical dome. Classes stepped inside to experience a guided journey through space, learning about constellations, planets, and the stories behind them. The children were captivated by the swirling galaxies above their heads.



The visit was closely followed up with our light pollution assembly and workshop led by Rachel from the PeCAN group and our Star Gazing Evening supported by the Hampshire Astronomical Group. Thank you to all the families who wrapped up warm and joined us for our star-gazing evening. With telescopes set up along the footpath, pupils spotted the Moon's craters, held meteorites and bits of moon rock and Mars, and even caught a glimpse of Jupiter's moons. It was wonderful to see families exploring the night sky together.



On World Book Day itself, the children came in wearing their wonderful masks for our 'Masquerade Parade' of book characters - they looked brilliant and enjoyed sharing them with the rest of the school. Throughout the

day, pupils took part in storytelling workshops led by The Bard Dawn. From creating characters to building whole worlds, children practised the art of telling stories aloud and discovered how powerful their own voices can be.

This week, our World Book Week (and a bit!) finished with our Book Fair and on Friday (13th March) at 2.45pm, parents and carers are invited in to our 'Dark Skies' gallery where they will be able to see the work the children have completed linked to this exciting week - we are looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

We're grateful to staff, families, and our visiting experts for helping make World Book Week such a memorable celebration. The children's enthusiasm has been incredible, and we hope it inspires a love of reading that lasts long beyond this week.

Book Fair

Thank you to Briony from Usborne books for visiting our school yesterday. Each child had an opportunity to have a browse of the fantastic selection of books and create a wish list. Due to issues with the roads, not everyone (who wished to) was able to attend the book fair. Don't worry! The link to purchase books is open until 23.59 on Sunday 15th March.

Any books ordered will be delivered to school after the Easter holidays.

<http://www.tinyurl.com/HambledonPrimaryBookFair>.



Reading Top Tips

Please see the attached pdf highlighting top tips for encouraging reading. With reading for pleasure in decline, this practical guide offers ten thoughtful ways to reignite children's enthusiasm for books. From valuing all forms of reading to broadening access to diverse materials, it explores how adults can nurture positive reading habits both at home and in school. Digital tools, audiobooks and augmented reality are also considered as engaging ways to support today's readers.

It also highlights the power of social connection - recommending books, reading together and meeting authors - alongside the importance of modelling reading ourselves. With expert insight from literacy specialist Carl Pattison, this edition provides supportive, achievable ideas to help young people reconnect with reading and see it as a meaningful part of everyday life.

Owls Recorder Concert

Please see the updated time for the Owls Recorder Concert near the end of term. If your child is attending the BFG trip and therefore not at school on the day of the concert, you are invited to come in for their dress rehearsal at 1.30pm on Tuesday 17th March.

Ospreys Class Update

Ospreys have had an extremely busy start to the new term! Although our school trip to Winchester Science Museum had an unexpected adventure, they had a wonderful day. They were full of curiosity for all the activities in the museum and found the planetarium spellbinding.

Alongside this, they have been creating some amazing art for the Art exhibition in Winchester, which you will hopefully get to see at our Art with Me event on Friday 13th. They have been using their printing skills to create beautiful imprints of the night sky.

Ospreys got very creative on World Book Day and came in with some fabulous masks. They also had the opportunity to learn more about Greek Myths - with Mrs Nelson - and even wrote their own.



Church Car Park Closure - Message from the Church Warden

The church car park will be closed on the morning of Wednesday 25th March.

It will probably be open for pick up in the afternoon.

A branch of a tree in the Old Vicarage, which stretches over the War Memorial will be removed.

Pedestrians should walk round Church Lane rather than using the footpath.

The passage from Vicarage Lane into the church yard (at the War Memorial) will also be closed.

Safeguarding and Online Safety

Please see the attached guide for parents containing advice on how to keep your children safe while using online streaming services.

Important Safety Message

I am still concerned by the number of children I am having to stop who are running down the school drive at the end of the day and clearly run down the whole way when I am unable to stand on the corner (given away by their running around at the top to come to a quick halt with a 'oh, she's there!' comment!). Although we try to limit vehicles using the school drive at key times, we do have an increase in children using School Transport, end of day staff arriving and parents/carers with blue badges using the drive at key times. Please ensure your child walks down the drive and for those of you with older children who walk down into the village, please ensure you pass this message on as otherwise we will rescind permission for them to leave school property without a guardian. Once children are handed over to their guardians, they are no longer under school's care however we still care very much about their safety and would hate for an injury to happen. Even without vehicles, there are many other obstacles such as dog leads, younger siblings, older relatives, members of the public, uneven ground and it is in everyone's interest to walk down the drive and around the corner. Thank you for your support in ensuring your children walk.

Best wishes,

A. Corr

Ms Adrienne Corr
Headteacher

Key Dates Spring 2025-2026 Updated

Friday March 13th - Mother's Day Shop (am) and Art with Me @2:45pm - Dark Skies Gallery

Friday March 13th - Year 5 to Flag Football Tournament at Winchester Sports Complex

Wednesday March 18th - Owls Trip to watch West Hill's performance of 'The Lion King' (more information to follow).

Friday March 20th - Red Nose Day - please see separate letter sent out on 11/3

Friday March 20th - Year R to Forest School session at The Sustainability Centre

Monday March 23rd - 2:15pm Southern Music Project and Rock Steady Concert to parents of those taking lessons

Tuesday March 24th - 1:30pm Owls Recorder Concert to parents

Wednesday March 25th - Annual Reports out to parents

Friday March 27th - Easter Service at the Church @ 9:15am

Friday March 27th - Last Day of the Spring Term

Monday April 13th - First day of Summer Term

Wednesday April 15th - Owls trip to Fishbourne Roman Palace

Please note there will be a switch of PPA days the w/b March 9th. Please can Robins and Kingfishers wear their PE kits on Thursday 12th March and Owls and Ospreys on Wednesday 11th March.

INSET Days for 2025/2026

Friday June 26th, 2026

Monday June 29th, 2026

INSET Days for 2026/2027

Tuesday September 1st, 2026

Monday October 12th, 2026

Monday January 4th, 2027

Monday February 22nd, 2027

Monday June 7th, 2027

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

P.E. Days

Robins (Years R) - Wednesdays

Kingfishers (Years 1 & 2) - Wednesdays and Fridays

Owls (Years 3 & 4) - Thursdays and Fridays

Ospreys (Years 5 & 6) - Mondays and Thursdays