EMSWORTH PRIMARY SCHOOL

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NEWSLETTER: Friday 17th October 2025





Welcome to this week's newsletter! This week we have had our first parents' evenings of the year and it has been lovely to see so many parents in school and to hear about the great successes the children are having! I get to spend almost every lunchtime out on the field with the children, and this is one of the best parts of my job – spending time with them; watching them interact and speaking to them about the things that matter to them. Being on the gate at the beginning and ends of most days also helps me to get to know you, as parents, and then be able to identify family groups and the more this happens, the easier it is for me to understand and help you if you have any questions. So, if you haven't come and said hello yet, please do!

In our daily assemblies this week, we have been focusing on one of our school expectations – *Respect* - and have been considering why it is important to show respect to other people, and also to our school environment, so that the resources and building we have are looked after for everyone to enjoy. Continuing this message at home, if you could, would be really helpful.

Today, I was able to meet with Kerry Bridgeman, the outgoing EPSA chair, to thank her for all of her hard work and commitment to the school and children over the years. We were also hoping to meet Mel Hines, the outgoing treasurer, to thank her as well but this wasn't possible, so her cards and flowers have been sent to her instead.
We are very grateful for all Kerry and Mel have done over the years to benefit the children and the school, and so the prefects helped to meet with Kerry this morning to share their appreciation as some of children in the school who have benefitted from EPSA during their time here.



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Also, this week, I was able to meet the new co-chairs of EPSA to start planning the upcoming events and the way forward. One of the things they are keen to do is provide regular updates for you on EPSA events, their first newsletter slot is below:

🎉 EPSA News

We're thrilled to share that EPSA will now have a regular feature in the school newsletter! This is where you'll find updates on upcoming events, ways to get involved, and everything happening behind the scenes with the EPSA team.

Right now, we're in the middle of a handover from Kerry and Mel, who've done an amazing job supporting the school over the years. We're so grateful for all their hard work, and we'll keep you posted as the new team settles in. In the meantime, Sarah, Gemma and Phil are continuing in their roles and are busy preparing for the upcoming events.

🎃 Halloween Cake Sale – Friday 24th October

It's nearly time for our spooky cake sale! If you're able to donate a cake, we'd love to hear from you. The more treats, the better!

A few important notes:
- No nuts, please 🍰 🚫 🥜
- Include a full list of ingredients to help us manage allergies
- Prizes for the best cakes! Check out the poster at the end of this newsletter for all the details

🎄 Looking Ahead…

Planning for the Christmas Market is already underway. Keep an eye on future newsletters for ways to help. We're also starting to plan events for 2026, we'll share dates and details as soon as they're confirmed.

📧 Got questions or want to get involved? Drop us a line at emsworthpta@gmail.com we'd love to hear from you!

Safeguarding

Unfortunately, a lot of my time this week has had to focus on safeguarding. This safeguarding has been focused on the activities and risks to the children outside of school. **Today I have sent an email to all parents and carers with a video link and a guide. Please read this and watch the video if you can.** It is not a pleasant topic to discuss but it is important we do talk about it to be able to keep all children safe - this is not a problem happening somewhere else in the world.

Thank you for taking the time to read the newsletter. We hope you all have a lovely weekend - see you bright and early on Monday morning.

Best wishes,
Rebecca Mitchell

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Celebrating the Children

Our Stars of the Week this week are:

Class	Name	Reason
Badgers	Albert Horner	Albert, you always try your best in all areas of learning and never give up, even when things are tricky, well done!
Hedgehogs	Kit Ruscombe-King	Kit, you demonstrate a helpful and responsible nature in the classroom. You are a great role model, well done!
Squirrels	Alfie Davies	Alfie, you bring such a wonderful sense of enjoyment to the classroom and have shown great motivation in completing the Rainbow Challenges set this week. Well done!
Rabbits	Bodhi Slade	Bodhi, this week you have shown great perseverance. Even though you found using the mouse tricky at first, you kept trying, stayed positive, and showed real determination to improve your skills. Well done!
Puffins	The recipient of the Puffins' class star of the week is unwell so will receive their certificate next week.	
Penguins	Seb Nichol	Seb, you always demonstrate our school values and try your absolute best in everything you do. What a superstar!
Lions	Chase Moore	Chase, you always give your absolute everything to all you do. Your writing has been imaginative and creative and a joy to read!
Tigers	Florence Trafford	Florrie, you are a ray of sunshine! You try your best in everything you do, you show beautiful manners, and are such a kind and caring friend to others. Well done, Florrie — you're a wonderful role model to everyone in Year 3!
Kangaroos	Teddy Kenneth	Teddy, you demonstrate our school values at all times and are such a pleasure to teach – thank you for being such wonderful role model to others – well done!
Koalas	Laydon Goodall	Laydon, you have shown amazing Enjoy and Success this week. Your enthusiasm and hard work make you a true star, well done!
Owls	Max Gradidge	Max, you continue to shine as a role model, always helping others as you grow in confidence and lead with kindness. I'm incredibly proud of the resilience you have shown this week, well done!
Otters	Ronnie Coleman	Ronnie, you have demonstrated an excellent attitude to your learning; always bringing great energy, kindness and encouragement to others. Well done!
Flamingos	Robert Overton	For being a super role model around the school. You always set an amazing example in class and we are so lucky to have you in our class. Thank you Robert!
Toucans	Alfie Holt	For the dedication you have shown to your work both in and out of school. You were the first person to complete all of the home learning tasks Alfie. Thank you for working so incredibly hard.

Award	Child or Class Receiving the Award	Reason
Attendance Award	Lions	99.23%
Star Class Award	Squirrels	The Star Class Award is presented to the class who have shown the most respect for their learning environment this week. They have looked after their belongings and kept both their classrooms and their cloakrooms clean and tidy for everyone.
Headteacher's Award	Returning next week	

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Early Years (EYFS)

Autumn leaves have been our inspiration this week. We have explored their colours, shapes, sizes and textures. Collecting our own leaves was great fun and we then used them to print with, make rubbings and to sort.

Our story title was Leaf Man and we made our own with craft leaves and thought about where he would blow in the wind.

Lovely to see you all at parents' evening this week, your support is much appreciated!



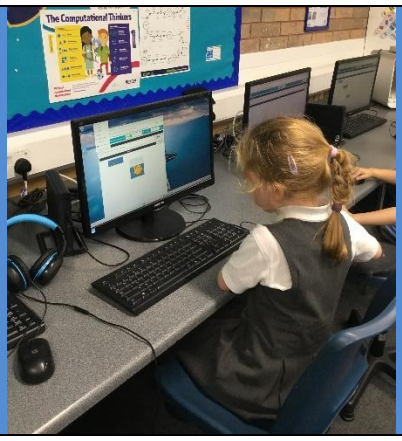
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Years 1 and 2 (Key Stage One)

In Year 1 this week, we have had a wonderful time exploring the story of *Elmer*! The children have been learning how to change verbs into the present tense and use them in sentences to describe what Elmer is doing at different points in the story. In maths, we have enjoyed comparing numbers using words like more, fewer, greater than, less than, the same, and equal to. In computing, the children have been practising their mouse and keyboard skills - we discussed how to use computers responsibly and created some brilliant class rules to help us stay safe online.

Year 2 had a swashbuckling time this week celebrating *Pirate Day*! The day began with a thrilling challenge to become a real pirate - all while avoiding the sharks! Once safely aboard our class ship, each child was given their very own pirate name, from Captain Longfinger to First Mate Seaweed.
As part of our design and technology learning, the children created delicious fruit salads - perfect provisions in case we ever found ourselves marooned on a desert island. The creativity didn't stop there: the crew got crafty by designing colourful pet parrots and drawing up treasure maps worthy of any pirate adventure. To top it all off, the playground turned into the high seas with exciting games like *Pin the Eyepatch on the Pirate* and *Captain's Coming*.
It was a fun-filled day packed with imagination, teamwork, and learning — we may have started the day as landlubbers, but we ended it as true pirates of Year 2!







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Years 3 and 4 (Key Stage Two)

It's been another busy and productive week in Year 3!
In English, we've been learning about fronted adverbials and how they make our writing more detailed and interesting. The children have impressed us with their creativity and ended the week by planning a diary entry from the perspective of the *Stone Age Boy*.
In maths, the children have been exploring different strategies for adding numbers when crossing the ten and hundred boundary. We've been so proud of their perseverance and positive attitude.
In PE, the children applied their attacking and defending skills to small-sided rugby games, showing great teamwork, determination, and growing confidence.
Today, we enjoyed wearing red to support 'Show Racism the Red Card'—a lovely opportunity to celebrate kindness, equality, and respect for everyone.
It was also wonderful to meet so many of you at Parents' Evening this week. Thank you for your continued support!

This week in Year 4, the children have shown fantastic focus and enthusiasm across all their lessons. In maths, we have been working hard on addition and subtraction, developing efficient strategies for subtraction before moving on to our new measurement unit on area. In this topic, the children are beginning to apply their addition skills to calculate the area of rectilinear shapes.

In English, we have continued to dive deeper into our class text *The Boy Who Grew Dragons*, focusing on using adverbs of time, prepositions of place, and writing confidently in the past tense. In geography, we have been exploring the vibrant city of Rio de Janeiro and learning about what life is like for the people who live there. In science, we discussed the importance of biodiversity and the different factors that can threaten it. In computing, we have been learning about the internet and who actually owns and maintains it. Finally, in PSHE, we have reflected on how our actions can have an impact on others and why it is important to make kind and thoughtful choices.

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Years 5 and 6 (Key Stage Two)

Year 5 have had another busy and brilliant week! We've wrapped up our addition and subtraction unit in maths and have started exploring some Year 5 level persuasive techniques in writing - the children are already showing great flair for convincing arguments! In reading, we've linked our texts to World Mental Health Day, using stories that open up thoughtful conversations around wellbeing and emotions.
This afternoon brought a slightly unusual twist… Christmas card making in October! The children embraced the festive spirit early and created some wonderful designs. We're looking forward to another fantastic week ahead!

This week, Year 6 have been working hard to perfect long division. This formal written method of division can be tricky to master so we have been very impressed by the children's attitudes and their perseverance this week. It has been great to watch their confidence grow as the week has gone on and today some of them have even said they really enjoyed learning it and think it is fun!
In English we have been writing letters in role as the main character from our class text Floodland. We will be editing and publishing their final piece of writing and are hoping to display these in school so will add some pictures once we get back from PGL.
Speaking of PGL - the children (and staff) are really looking forward to the residential next week. I can confirm that we will be doing all of the following activities: climbing, archery, laser tag, zip wire, giant swing, orienteering, raft building and survivor. This means that the children will need to ensure they wear clothes which they don't mind getting a bit muddy - especially if the weather takes a turn for the worse. Please can you also ensure that they bring a bin liner/water proof bag to put any wet/dirty clothes in as the groups doing survivor on the last day will definitely be a bit grubby when they return! If you have any questions about the residential please do reach out to us before next week.





Sports Round-up

This week, a group of our enthusiastic Year 3 children took part in the **Hampshire School Games Golf Skills Festival** at **Horndean Community College** — and what a fantastic morning it was! The event gave pupils the chance to try out a range of fun golf activities, from putting and chipping to target challenges. Our young golfers showed brilliant teamwork, determination, and lots of smiles throughout the morning and were hitting shots more accurately and confidently as the festival went on. We were so proud of the positive attitude and sportsmanship shown by every participant. Well done to all our budding golfers for representing our school so brilliantly!

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