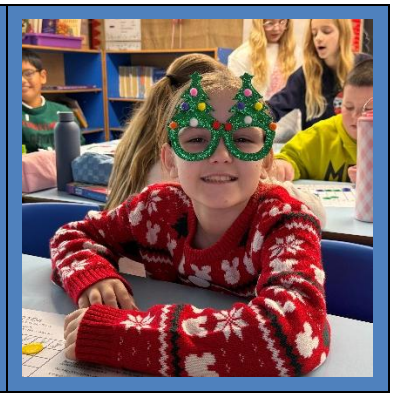
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NEWSLETTER: Friday 12th December 2025





Welcome to this week's newsletter; there have been lots of lovely highlights in school! Our youngest children (in Year R) performed The Twinkly Nativity to the local nurseries and to their familes, and it was wonderful! I had the pleasure of watching the Tuesday performance and I was very impressed by the children; they all worked very hard to learn the songs and it was great to see their confidence and enjoyment. Unfortunately, I did not get to see the Wednesday performance but I heard it was just as good and the children thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Well done Year R!

On Wednesday, I went to Brook meadow with Year 5 as the Owls class teacher was unwell. I felt very lucky to attend this event. The children had worked with Brook Meadow Conservation Group last week to make natural Christmas decorations and on Wednesday they took these to Brook Meadow where they hung them in the trees, sang some carols and enjoyed a drink and a brownie. It was a very festive event and, after being severely delayed, the mayoress made it just in time to say hello to the children and have a photo taken. Well done Year 5!

Thank you to EPSA

Christmas Market Day today was a delight and we are very grateful to our wonderful parents' association, EPSA, for the hard work that goes into organising and running an event like this – the children love it!

Tree Removal

Thank you for your patience whilst we waited for the tree to be removed from the footpath alongside the school grounds. We are pleased to inform you that the footpath is now clear and open to the public. Unfortunately, the remaining three trees (which shared the base of the fallen tree) were found to be rotten too and so have also had to be removed to make it safe.

Headlice

We have had some reports of headlice in classes, particularly in Year 3. Please could we ask all parents to remain vigilant and treat their children's hair as needed. Tying long hair back can also help.

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Governor Update

Our dedicated team of governors have provided an update below for parents so you can see the impact of their vital work:

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Governing Board and school leadership team thought it would be helpful to share a termly update highlighting some of the collaborative work we have been doing together to support the continued success of our school.

Over the autumn term, we have jointly focused on the following key areas:

- ***Strengthening our Governing Board:*** *We have welcomed new parent and co-opted Governors following the departure of several long-standing colleagues. Together with the Headteacher, we have supported new Governors through induction and training to ensure they feel confident and well-prepared in their roles.*

- ***Monitoring and celebrating progress:*** *Governors have carried out a number of monitoring visits, working closely with staff to review progress against the School Improvement Plan and to ensure the school remains a safe, nurturing and high-quality environment for all children. These visits continue to highlight the dedication of the staff team and the positive learning experiences taking place across the school.*

- ***Hearing pupils' voices:*** *We were delighted to receive an inspiring update from our new pupil governors, who confidently shared ideas and feedback gathered from the School Council and their peers. Their enthusiasm, maturity and deep pride in their school were wonderful to see, and both the Headteacher and the Governing Board are exploring how best to take forward several of their thoughtful suggestions.*

- ***Financial oversight:*** *Alongside the school's new Business Manager, we have reviewed the latest budget position. Thanks to careful planning and decisions taken in partnership over the past year, the school's finances are now in a stronger position, helping to secure stability for the future.*

- ***Championing road safety:*** *Working together with the Headteacher, we have made written representations to local Councillors, Havant Borough Council and Hampshire County Council to highlight ongoing concerns about road safety outside the school.*

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- ***Supporting the school community:*** *Following the tragic loss of Olivia Freeman, Governors have worked closely with the Headteacher as the school supported pupils, families and staff through this incredibly sad time. We will continue to support the development of the reflection garden outlined in the recent newsletter, ensuring it becomes a meaningful and lasting space for the children to enjoy.*

We remain extremely proud of the dedication, resilience and community spirit shown across the school. The Governing Board looks forward to continuing to work closely with the Headteacher, staff, and families as we move through the year.

With best wishes,
Brendan Gibbs
Chair of Governors
On behalf of the Governing Board

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter, we hope you all have a lovely weekend. See you bright and early on Monday morning.

Best wishes,
Rebecca Mitchell

LUNCH MENU UPDATE

Due to a new catering provider taking over in January there will be a change to the advertised menu next week – please see the menu below.

Please be reminded that Friday's Christmas lunch must be preordered via Scopay – if you have not ordered a school lunch your child will need a home packed lunch.

	Red	Green
Monday	**Chicken nuggets**	**Vegan Sausage**
Tuesday	**Pork sausage**	**Vegan Sausage roll**
Wednesday	**Fish fingers**	**Pizza**
Thursday	**Beef bolognaise**	**Savoury vegetable mince**
Friday	**Roast Turkey**	**Vegetable Wellington**

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Early Years (EYFS)

What a week it has been!

The children have coped extremely well with changes to their usual routine, especially with Christmas creeping up on us!

The whole Early Years team is incredibly proud of the wonderful nativity performances this week. It's easy to forget that the children are only four or five years old—learning songs, putting on costumes, and performing on stage is a huge achievement. They all rose to the occasion beautifully, and we know from the lovely feedback from parents how much it was appreciated (and you no longer have to listen to the songs on repeat!).

We hope you all have a lovely weekend, and we look forward to enjoying all things Christmassy in our final week of term.



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Years 1 and 2 (Key Stage One)

What a wonderful week we've had in Year 1! The children gave a fantastic final Christmas Concert performance, sharing lots of enthusiasm and festive cheer. In English, we have been reading *Jack and the Beanstalk* and using exciting adjectives to make our sentences more descriptive for the reader. In maths, we have started learning how to subtract numbers using a part–whole model. In science, we have looked at the different seasons and enjoyed talking about how the weather and our surroundings change throughout the year.

What a wonderfully busy week it has been in Year 2! The children gave a *fabulous* performance on Monday, singing their Christmas songs with such joy and confidence. We were incredibly proud of how brave they were on stage and how beautifully they performed.
In art, the children have been exploring different types of printing. They particularly enjoyed trying mono-printing and press printing, experimenting with patterns, texture, and bold colours. It has been lovely to see their creativity shine.
In maths, we have been learning about the properties of 2D shapes, focusing on identifying sides and vertices. The children have become much more confident using this vocabulary. Next week, we will move on to symmetry and begin exploring 3D shapes.
Inspired by the book *The Little Wooden Robot and the Log Princess*, the children have also begun writing their own narratives about discovering a dragon's egg. Their ideas have been imaginative and exciting, and we are looking forward to continuing these stories.






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Years 3 and 4 (Key Stage Two)

This week in English, the children have been learning all about speech. We enjoyed reading the story Imaginary Fred and used it as inspiration to create our own comic strips. The children thought carefully about what the characters might say to each other and then turned this into direct speech, remembering to punctuate it accurately.
In maths, we have been focusing on multiples of 3 and using our 3 times table to tackle some tricky reasoning questions. The children showed great perseverance as they applied their knowledge in different problem-solving scenarios.
In computing, we have been exploring Microsoft Word and experimenting with what we can create using a range of shapes. The children learnt and practised key skills such as copying, pasting, saving, inserting shapes, filling them, moving them, and changing the outline. And in science, the children planned and undertook an investigation to find out what happens to a shadow if the light source is moved closer to the object.
It has been a busy and productive week in Year 3—well done to everyone for their fantastic effort!

In English, Year 4 continued their work on Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets, using their senses to write vivid descriptions of the Weasley kitchen. Next week, they will be creating an additional chapter based on an interaction between Molly and Arthur Weasley. We have been developing our 'telling the time' skills in maths, focusing on converting digital and analogue times and solving timetable word problems. Please encourage your child to practise telling the time at home as this is the best way to consolidate their learning. In science, the children produced excellent posters showcasing this term's learning on teeth, food chains, food webs and the human digestive system.
Finally, we were incredibly proud of the children's maturity and politeness during the Christmas market. The EPSA team passed on wonderful comments about their lovely manners and friendliness. Well done, Year 4 - one more week to go!



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Years 5 and 6 (Key Stage Two)

This week, Year 5 enjoyed a festive adventure as we walked to Brook Meadow to hang our beautiful Christmas decorations—crafted from natural resources—on the cherry trees. While there, we spread some holiday cheer by singing Christmas carols and indulging in delicious brownies! Back in the classroom, we've been continuing our work on fractions in maths and exploring how to write clear instructions in English. We're also nearing the end of our guided reading text, *Secrets of a Sun King*, a thrilling story about the curse of Tutankhamun that both classes have absolutely loved.

This week, the children have thoroughly enjoyed creating artwork for their *Mythologica* pages. We have been so impressed by their creativity and the careful attention they've given to mirroring the style and design of the original text. Next week, they will be bringing their pages to life as they add their stories and character descriptions.
On Thursday, we travelled back in time to ancient Greece with our guide, Nicomedes, who shared fascinating insights about the Spartans and Athenians. The children learned about an invention by Archimedes and played a strategic game called *Petteia*. Later, they examined artefacts and explored the weapons used during that era. We ended the day with a scaled-down version of the Olympics, where teams competed to score as many points as possible. A highlight was the javelin event—especially with the unusual targets: Mr Payne and Mrs Talley!
It was fantastic to see the children learning in such a hands-on way, and their enthusiastic participation could be heard throughout the school. Nicomedes was very impressed by their knowledge and energy, and we were delighted to hear him compliment them on this. We captured lots of photos from the day, which will soon be added to Google Classroom and our Year 6 webpage.





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Christmas Market Day











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EPSA Update

Firstly what an incredible end to the week. The Christmas market was a great success and it was an absolute pleasure watching the kids shop for their loved ones (and themselves 😜) and learn how to manage their money. They were all an absolute pleasure.

A massive thank you to everyone who has volunteered. Not only those on the day but those who spent time cutting wrapping paper, donating gifts and collecting jars etc. We couldn't do it without you 🙏

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY
As we look ahead to 2026, we wanted to share some key dates of the larger upcoming events that can be added to your diaries. These will also be added to the school calendar in due course. More details to be shared as and when we approach these dates.

* Rainbow Valentine's Disco: 6th February 2026
* School Summer Fair: 27th June 2026
* Colour Run: 17th July 2026
* Leavers' Disco: Date to be confirmed

We are also discussing other events but need to agree these with the school before we can confirm.

Next week will be the last newsletter of 2025 whereby we will share how all your contributions had added value to the school in 2025.

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