EMSWORTH PRIMARY SCHOOL

Enjoy, Persevere, Succeed

NEWSLETTER: Friday 2nd October 2026



This week, I have spent two days out of school attending different training courses. Both were extremely useful and have helped us continue preparing for our next OFSTED inspection. Yes, we are officially back in the inspection window again. Time really does fly!

Whilst attending training and networking with other school leaders is always valuable, nothing beats being in school, spending time with the children, and seeing their learning and progress firsthand. Those moments are always the highlight of my week.

On Wednesday, we welcomed a Hampshire English Adviser into school to review our Year 2 writing curriculum and planning. We regularly invite external advisers and experts into school to help us ensure that the education we provide is always the best it can be. The adviser was incredibly complimentary, not only about the quality of the Year 2 writing curriculum and the strong evidence of progress evident in pupils' books, but also about the school as a whole. She commented on how calm, purposeful and focused the school feels every time she visits.

We are incredibly proud of the school community we have built together, so receiving positive feedback like this is always appreciated. At the same time, we know that great schools never stand still and we remain fully committed to continually improving teaching and learning across the school so that every child receives the very best education possible. As part of this commitment, we use a professional development tool called **Swivl**, which your children may have mentioned already but if they haven't, they will probably start talking about the more it is used within the school.

Swivl is a secure recording device that allows teachers to record short sections of lessons and other educational activities. These recordings are used solely for staff training, professional reflection and school improvement purposes. By reviewing the teaching happening in school, we can identify strengths, celebrate effective practice and consider ways to further improve the learning experiences provided for children.

The recordings are designed to focus primarily on the **teacher and other adults in the room**. While children may occasionally appear briefly in the background of a recording or be heard contributing to a lesson discussion, they are not the focus of the recording.

All recordings are:

- Stored securely using approved systems with multifactor authentification.
- Accessible only to a small number of relevant school staff.
- Not downloaded onto personal devices.

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- Used exclusively within the school for professional development and quality assurance purposes.
- Not shared publicly or used for any other purpose without appropriate consent.

The use of Swivl supports our ongoing efforts to provide high-quality teaching and learning, helping staff to reflect on their practice and ensuring the best possible outcomes for all pupils – please do not worry, this is not 'Big Brother' and no one is forced to use the Swivl to record their own lessons – we work as a team to identify the best practice and share this. If you have any questions or concerns about the use of Swivl within school, please do not hesitate to come and speak with me. I will be happy to discuss the process further and provide any additional information you may require.

The remainder of my message this week focuses on a few important updates and reminders.

Items coming into school

Firstly, a gentle reminder that children do not need to bring anything to school other than their book bag, reading books, water bottle and, where appropriate, packed lunch. Items such as fidget toys, Pokémon cards, footballs and other toys should not be brought into school. This is not about being strict for the sake of it; rather, it helps children focus on their learning and avoids disappointment if belongings are lost, damaged or become the cause of disagreements. Please note that the school cannot accept responsibility for personal items brought in unnecessarily. Any items that are brought into school and are not permitted will be collected and returned to the child at the end of the day. Thank you for your support with this.

Helping to keep everyone healthy

Although we are still enjoying some sunny weather, we are fast approaching the cold and flu season.
Please help us minimise the spread of germs by encouraging your child to:

- Wash their hands thoroughly and regularly.
- Put used tissues straight into the bin.
- Cough or sneeze into their elbow or cover their mouth and then wash their hands.

We will continue to reinforce these messages in school, but they are most effective when children receive the same guidance both at home and at school.
At this time of year, we are often asked when children should attend school if they are feeling unwell. The NHS provides a helpful guide for parents to support these decisions, and a link for this in here:
NHS guidance sheet

As a general rule, we encourage children to attend school with mild cold symptoms, provided they do not have a temperature and are well enough to take part in the school day.

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Allergy reminder

Now that our updated allergy policy has been in place for a month, we would like to take the opportunity to thank parents for their support and cooperation. Whilst we are not a nut-free school, as no school can realistically guarantee this, we do ask all families to avoid sending any nuts or nut-based products into school wherever possible. This helps us create a safer environment for children with severe allergies. Thank you for your ongoing support in helping us keep all members of our school community safe.

An update from our Chair of Governors

Included with this newsletter is an update from our new Chair of Governors, Mr John Overton. I would encourage all parents to take a few moments to read this update. It provides useful information about the work of the governing board, the priorities they are currently focusing on, and the important role governors play in supporting and challenging the school.

The letter also contains details of a **current parent governor vacancy** and explains how you can express an interest if you would like to contribute to the continued success of the school in this rewarding role.

Online safety support for children with additional needs

This week we are also sharing some safeguarding information for parents on supporting children with additional needs when things go wrong online. The online world can be challenging to navigate, and we hope you find this information useful in helping to keep children safe:

Children with additional needs may not always recognise when an online situation has become unsafe, or they may find it difficult to explain what has happened.

They may also communicate distress differently, become overwhelmed by questions or worry about losing access to a device or online activity that is particularly important to them.

This short video gives parents practical advice on supporting a child calmly when something has gone wrong online and helping them feel able to share what has happened.

Link:

YouTube – Supporting children with additional needs when something goes wrong online

Have your say in The Big Future survey

Finally, a reminder that children can still take part in **The Big Future** survey being led by Dame Rachel de Souza, the Children's Commissioner for England. This national survey gives children the opportunity to share their views on a wide range of issues that affect their lives and futures. We would encourage families to take part so that young people's voices can be heard and help shape future decision-making. The survey can be accessed using this link:

https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigfuture/

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Thank you, as always, for your continued support. I hope you all have a wonderful weekend and we look forward to welcoming everyone back, bright and early, on Monday morning.

Best wishes,

Rebecca

Headteacher

Celebrating the Children

Our Stars of the Week this week are:

Class	Name	Reason
Badgers	Layla Gradidge	Layla, you have been an excellent role model since starting school, we are very proud of you. Well done!
Hedgehogs	Lennie Vincent	Lennie, we love your smile and all that you bring to our Hedgehogs class. Thank you for being you - you are a star!
Squirrels	Sonny Gallier	Sonny, your happy and kind nature brings so much enjoyment to our classroom and makes you a wonderful friend to others. Well done!
Rabbits	Willow Allen	Willow, you bring sunshine to every day. You are always smiling and your joy radiates through the classroom. It is so lovely to see you enjoying Year 1.
Foxes	Ada Austin-Warwick	Ada, you have worked hard, been a great friend and a great role model. Well done. What an amazing Fox you are!
Moles	Hallie Gray	Hallie - you are an unbelievably kind and helpful member of Moles class. You are an excellent role model and a lovely ray of sunshine! You are also really good fun. Well done!
Robins	Alfie Wooten	Alfie - you are a wonderful ray of sunshine! Your positive attitude, buzzing energy and zest for life are such a joy to have in the classroom. Thank you for bringing so much enthusiasm and happiness to our day!
Wrens	Lizzie Babb	Lizzie, you work incredibly hard, approach every task with a positive attitude, and consistently set a wonderful example for others through her kindness, effort, and determination.
Kingfishers	Pippa Walker	Pippa, you have been putting 100% effort into all your learning and have been an absolute superstar! Well done and keep it up!
Kites	Pau Kynoch	Pau, you show exceptional respect every day. Your dedication to your learning and determination to do your best is amazing, thank you and well done!
Owls	Fran Iesse	Fran, you are such a calm, caring and conscientious member of Owls class. You embody our school values in every way and are a joy to teach. Thank you!
Swallows	Lottie Simmons	Lottie, you are a brilliant role model for our class. Thank you for always setting an outstanding example to others. Keep it up!
Eagles	Kaihan Hashimi	Kaihan, you have been incredibly determined and hardworking. You have approached every challenge with positivity and your independence has grown. We are so proud of you!
Falcons	Jessica Roberts	Jessica, you are a great role model to others, offering support to friends in a range of subjects and helping them to feel more confident. Thank you!

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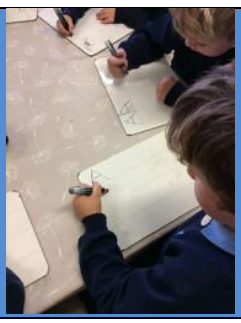
Award	Child or Class Receiving the Award	Reason
Headteacher's Award	Thomas Chalcraft	Thomas is receiving the Headteacher's Award this week for consistently demonstrating resilience, maturity and being an outstanding role model for others. Thomas is the kind of child every teacher would love to have in their class. He can always be relied upon to do his very best, not only for himself but also for those around him. He is calm, kind and dependable, and he regularly steps forward to take on challenges that others might shy away from. A recent example was when he confidently and independently led a tour for prospective Year R parents, representing our school brilliantly. Thomas, you continually impress us with your effort, character and humility. We are incredibly proud of everything you achieve and the positive example you set for others. Congratulations on a very well-deserved award!
Star Class Award	Eagles	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. The winning class this week was chosen by our site team.
Attendance Award	Moles – 98.9%	For achieving the highest % of attendance this week meaning that all of the children have the best chance of making progress and achieving well.

Early Years (EYFS)

This week, we have started our Phase 2 Bug Club phonics lessons and have covered our first set of sounds: **s, a, t and p**. The children have thoroughly enjoyed learning alongside the Bug Club characters, especially joining in with the alphabet song! They are beginning to recognise the sounds, hear them in words and practise forming the letter shapes correctly.
Phonics is taught daily in EYFS and is a vital foundation for future reading and writing success. As we introduce new sounds, we will continue to send home resources and activities to help you support your child's learning at home.
Don't forget to join us for our **Phonics Workshop on Tuesday 6th October**, straight after school. This will be a great opportunity to see how we teach phonics in class and learn some simple ways to support your child at home.

As always, if you have any questions, please do come and speak to us. We are always happy to help!





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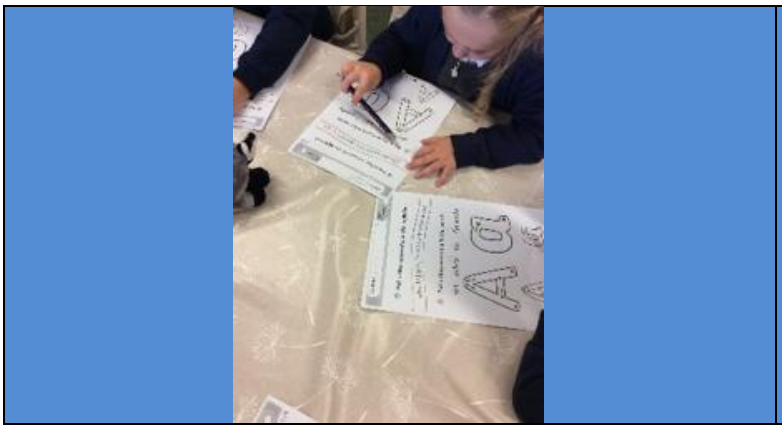
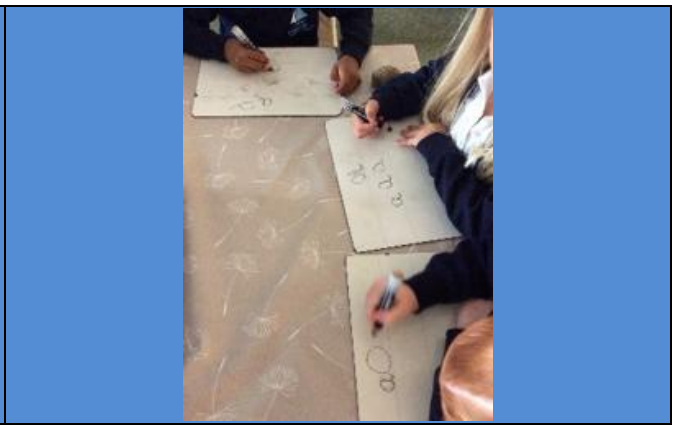




Years 1 and 2 (Key Stage One)

We have had a lovely week in Year 1 and the children have worked hard with their learning. In English, we have been enjoying the story The Colour Monster and talking about the different feelings in the book. The children have been writing about the different emotions and thinking about how each feeling might make us feel. In maths, we have been developing our number skills by counting on from any number and finding one more. It has been fantastic to see their confidence growing! In PSHE, we have been learning about emotions and why people show different feelings. We talked about what makes us feel calm or excited and what we can do when our feelings become tricky. The children shared some lovely ideas and listened carefully to each other.
Well done, Year 1, for another great week!

Another fantastic week of learning and fun in Year 2! During our music lessons, we have been creating our own soundscapes and using patterns to represent parts of well-known songs.
As part of our PSHE lessons, we have been learning about the importance of sleep and how a good bedtime routine can make such a positive difference to our health and wellbeing.
We are also very excited for Pirate Day next Tuesday. Aha, me hearties! We can't wait for a day full of pirate-themed learning, adventures and fun!

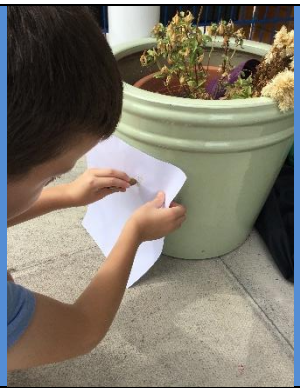
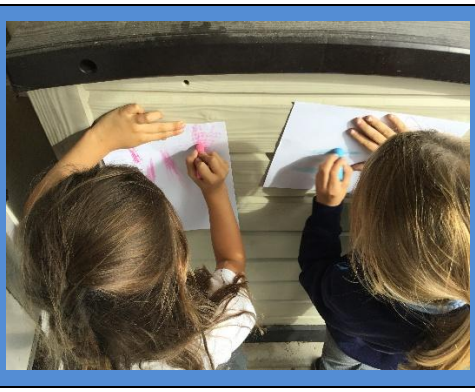
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Years 3 and 4 (Key Stage Two)

It's been another busy week in Year 3!
In English, the children enjoyed publishing their excellent instruction writing from last week. We have now started our new text, Stone Age Boy, and have been identifying different sentence types by creating statements and questions for the characters. In maths, we have started our new unit on addition and subtraction, with a focus on the 5 times table this week. Please encourage your child to practise their times tables at home, as we are aiming for everyone to be secure in their 2, 5 and 10 times tables. In Spanish, we learnt where Spain is in the world and discovered other countries where Spanish is spoken and in Science, we continued learning about igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic rocks.
Well done, Year 3, on another fantastic week!

It has been another fantastic week of learning in Year 4. In English, the children finished publishing their wonderful interviews with our class animals, and we have been so impressed with their developing authorial voices. We have now begun our new learning journey based on There's a Rang Tan in My Bedroom, where the children are already beginning to use inverted commas beautifully to punctuate direct speech. In maths, we have reached the end of our place value unit, finishing with rounding numbers to the nearest 10, 100 and 1,000. In science, we explored how classification keys can be used to identify and group different things. We started by classifying biscuits, yes biscuits, before putting our new skills to the test with animals. In geography, we continued our exploration of Brazil by learning about the Kayapo people and their connection to the Amazon Rainforest. In music, the children have been transforming musical loops by giving simple rhythms a voice. We continue to be so impressed with the enthusiasm, curiosity and determination the children bring to their learning each week. It is such a pleasure to see the children growing in confidence and enjoying their learning, and we cannot wait to see what another exciting week in Year 4 brings!




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Years 5 and 6 (Key Stage Two)

This week in maths, Year 5 have successfully completed their learning on place value and have now moved on to their new unit on addition and subtraction. The children began by revisiting a range of mental calculation strategies before progressing to the column method, using it confidently to add numbers with more than five digits.
In English, the children were excited to begin exploring a new class text, *The Girl Who Walked on Air*. We started by comparing the opening chapter with our previous novel, discussing the similarities and differences between the two texts. Drawing on the descriptive writing skills developed earlier this term, the children then created vivid setting descriptions, using a range of figurative language to bring their ideas to life.
The Year 5 team would just like to say a huge well done to all the children who have already started their home learning tasks. Paper copies were sent home last Friday, so if you have not yet seen them, please speak to a member of the Year 5 team.

This week, Year 6 have been developing their confidence with column multiplication, focusing on the importance of recalling times table facts quickly and accurately to support efficient calculations. In writing, the children have been working hard to create meaningful and engaging dialogue, thinking carefully about how speech can reveal character and move a story forward. In science, we have begun exploring natural selection, making links to our new whole-class text, *Moth*. The children have enjoyed discussing how species adapt to survive and are already making thoughtful connections between our science learning and the themes within the book. We continue to be impressed by their positive attitude, effort and enthusiasm across all areas of learning.

Monday Mystery Readers

We are looking for volunteers to sign up as our Monday Mystery Readers! Come along and surprise your child with a favourite story, helping to inspire a lifelong love of books and reading. Please see your child's class teacher to sign up!



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✨ EPSA Newsletter ✨

🎃 Halloween Disco – Tickets On Sale Now! 👻

Halloween is creeping up on us, and **EPSA's Halloween Disco is coming up on Thursday 15th October in less than 2 weeks!** We're looking forward to an hour of music, dancing and Halloween fun. 🎶🕷️🎃

Tickets are on sale now, so please book yours as soon as possible!

🪩 Disco Times

- **Years R & 1:** 3:15–4:15pm
- **Years 2–4:** 4:30–5:30pm
- **Years 5 & 6:** 5:45–6:45pm

🎟️ **Buy tickets here:**
www.pta-events.co.uk/epsa

You can also **scan the QR code on the poster below** to go straight to the ticket page.

🍬 Tuck Shop & Tokens 🍬

A quick reminder about how the tuck shop will work at the disco.
The year R and year 1 disco tickets include a tuck shop bag with orange juice, crisps, sweets and chocolate. For our other discos, items will be purchased at our tuck shop at the disco.
Pre-bought tuck shop items are ONLY for children with allergies. Please only use the pre-order option if your child has an allergy.
For everyone else, tuck shop purchases will be made **at the disco using tokens or cash**.

Please send children with their money/tokens in a **named envelope or named wallet** to help keep everything safe.
Need extra tokens? EPSA will be **outside the school office at both drop-off and pick-up on Friday 9th October**, selling extra tokens in **£5 bags**. This is a great opportunity to get organised before disco day!

🦸 Pre-Loved Halloween Outfit & Uniform Sale – 9th October

A huge **thank you** to everyone who has already donated pre-loved Halloween outfits! 🎃🦸👻

Please keep the donations coming. Halloween costumes and outfits can be dropped into the **yellow uniform donation bin outside the music room**.

Then come along **after school on Friday 9th October, outside the school office**, to pick up a pre-loved Halloween outfit ready for the disco. We'll also have **second-hand school uniform** available, so it's a good chance to stock up on anything you need.

Buying pre-loved is a brilliant way to save money, reuse costumes and support EPSA at the same time. 💜

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🎉 **COME AND JOIN US FOR OUR ADULT SOCIAL NIGHT!** 🎉

🎶 BINGO WITH A TWIST! 🎶

Sing it. Dance it. Dab it. BINGO! 💃 🕺 🎤

Get ready for a fun-filled night of music, dancing, bingo, laughs and prizes! 🥳

🗓️ Friday 13th November

⏰ 7.30pm

📍 St James Church Hall, 20 Church Path, Emsworth PO10 7DP

🍹 Bring your own bottle!

🏆 Prizes to be won!



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