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Key Dates:	
W/B 20 <sup>th</sup> October-Arts week	4 <sup>th</sup> November – first day of term
20 <sup>th</sup> & 21 <sup>st</sup> October – Parents' evenings	5 <sup>th</sup> November – online Mental Health Support team workshop for parents on behaviour
W/B 27 <sup>th</sup> October – Half term	6 <sup>th</sup> November – Year 2 Florence Nightingale dress up day
3 <sup>rd</sup> November - INSET day	W/B 10 <sup>th</sup> November-anti bullying week (power for good)

Communications this week:	
Arts Week	
YR Junk Modelling	
Y1 Curriculum News	

Dear Parents & Carers,

We had a great open morning tour for prospective parents today. I am always so proud when I show visitors around school at the high levels of engagement for all pupils and fantastic learning taking place. If you know anyone looking for a school place in September 2026 please do encourage them to book onto one of our upcoming tours through the school website.

We are already looking forward to our Arts week with lots of visitors including artists, illustrators, drumming and dance all lined up, funded by the HSPTA.

The HSPTA are hosting our spooks and sparks event on the 6<sup>th</sup> November - remember to get your tickets for what is expected to be an amazing laser show this year!

Well done to all the families engaging in cycle to school week this week. Children with the golden lock have collected prizes each day which has been a great motivation. Continuing to actively travel to school as much as possible is great for the mind, body and environment!

### Arts & Humanities Day

Explore human experience at Arts and Humanities Day 8<sup>th</sup> November!

Arts and Humanities day is the University of Southampton's free family-friendly annual celebration of the Humanities and Arts. Families will be able to explore hands-on activities, workshops, talks, and exhibits presented by students, researchers, local community groups and artists. This year they will be at the Southampton Cultural Quarter on Saturday 8th November 2025, in collaboration with the University of Southampton's branch of the ESRC Festival of Social Science, John Hansard Gallery, SeaCity Museum and Southampton Central Children's Library. From recreating prehistoric cave art, to adventuring through immersive virtual reality rhythms, and creating leafy crafts inspired by autumnal Leaf Thief book Storytime, there really is something for everyone to explore. There's even a competition to win 4 tickets to a family show at Turner Sims Southampton for those who travel sustainably to the event. Free tickets can be booked through the festival website: [southamptonartshumfest.co.uk/artshumday](http://southamptonartshumfest.co.uk/artshumday)

### How Could you Travel to School? Drawing Competition

A reminder that the 'How could you travel to school?' drawing competition closes soon – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025.

Children can win one of the lovely prizes that encourage exploring nature and getting outside. The competition is for Hampshire primary pupils.

This year they are asking children how their active journey to school makes them feel:

- Perhaps the exercise means they feel alert, energised and ready to start the day?
- Maybe because of all the things they see and hear such as flowers, trees and birds, they feel happy?
- Having time to talk and have fun with family and/or friends on the journey may make them feel relaxed?
- Jumping in puddles on a wet day may make them feel alive?

- They may feel proud knowing their travel choice helps protect the environment, reduces noise and air pollution?

The competition details can be found on page 16 of the 2025/26 edition of How could you travel to school? booklet.

This could be a lovely half term activity!

### Open Day Tours

We have three more tour dates for prospective new parents September 2026. If you know anyone who is looking for a school space next year please encourage them to visit our website and book onto one of our tours on the following dates:

- Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October 9.30am**
- Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 9.30am**
- Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 9.30am**

### Reminder – Parents’ Evenings 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> October

If you have not yet booked a slot for Parents’ Evening, to meet the class teacher to find out how they have settled, their strengths and next steps in learning, please go onto your Arbor account and book before Sunday evening when the portal will close.

### Diwali celebrations for Staff!

Two of our wonderful staff laid out an amazing Diwali celebration spread for the staff today. We will be including Diwali within our arts week next week and within some learning after half term with the children. If your family celebrate Diwali please encourage them to share all about their celebrations with their class.



Happy Diwali to all celebrating this weekend!

Kind Regards

Phillippa Longman

