



Forest Park Newsletter

25th September 2026



Another busy and productive week at Forest Park.

The Resources committee met this week. It was a really helpful and positive discussion ahead of the full Governing Body meeting next month. It is great to sit in a room with others who have a shared commitment to making Forest Park the best it can be for our pupils, students, staff and families. In particular, my thanks to Annie and her team for the work they have done so far this term. You won't often get to see what they do, but they are integral to the school running effectively and delivering on our core purpose.

We held a twilight session for staff on Wednesday too. We are continuing our focus on 'transitions.' We are looking at how to target what can make transitions challenging for our pupils, be it knowing where we should be or what we should be doing, being motivated to go or even the act of physically transitioning itself. It was a really positive session and I was again reassured by the how well staff know our pupils as individuals. I am really pleased to the whole staff team trying new things in a bid to get it right for our pupils and students.

The big event this week was the Macmillan Coffee Morning hosted at the Secondary site on Thursday. We had a brilliant turn out. The student made cakes and cookies were excellent! My sincere thanks for all those who attended. The event had a real warmth and positive energy. Well done and thank you to the students and staff at the Secondary site for putting on a great event.

Have a great weekend

David



Some joy to share this week,

One of our Crocodile pupils has really found their artistic flair this term. Here are just some of their fantastic creations. They are proudly displayed in Crocodile class and are being added to daily.

Important information

Sign of the Week

We are introducing a 'sign of the week' across our school. From Monday we are starting with the sign for Joy/Happy. If you would like to practice the sign at home please scan the QR code below.

Sign of the week



JOY / HAPPY



How to sign it:

Both hands open. Palm of dominant hand taps palm of non-dominant hand twice.



Watch the sign



Let's make communication kinder,
clearer and more inclusive!

Important information



Arbor Communication

We use Arbor when sending home communication. To ensure you do not miss out on any information, please download the Arbor app and have notifications switched on.

- 1. Download the app:** Search for 'Arbor' in the App Store
- 2. Logging in:** Use the email address registered with Forest Park. If you do not have a password, select 'Forgot Password' and follow the instructions.
- 3. First time setup:** Verify your child's details when prompted.

Key Dates

Autumn Half Term

26th October – 30th October 26

Christmas Holiday

21st December – 1st January 27

February Half Term

15th February – 19th February 27

Easter Holiday

26th March – 9th April 27

Easter Holiday

26th March – 9th April 27

Summer Half-Term

31st May – 4th June 27

Summer Holiday

22nd July – 1st September 27

Arbor – Please remember to update your details in your Arbor account, for example contact information, address, consents, medical details. If you need any help with Arbor please contact us.

Absence reporting
– Please phone or email before 07.30am to report your child's absence

Monday 5 th October	RE Day: Harvest Festival	Primary Assembly
Tuesday 20 th October	School Photographer in	Primary Site
Wednesday 21 st October	Parents' Evening	3.45 – 6.45pm ~ all families
Thursday 22 nd October	Parent's Evening	Giraffe Class ONLY
Thursday 22 nd October	Pumpkin Festival	Secondary
Friday 23 rd October	School Photographer in	Secondary Site
Friday 23 rd October	School Closes	3pm for all pupils

Giraffe Class Parents Evening will be held on Thursday 22nd October
3.45pm - 5.45pm

Important information



CAMHS – THE BIG DROP IN

As part of World Mental Health Day, on the 8th October 2026, CAMHS are running a series of free drop-ins across Hampshire.

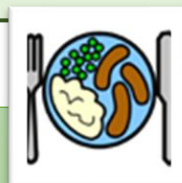
Bookable slots are available via their website or you can just drop in.

For more information visit hampshirecamhs.nhs.uk/events/



Chartwells
Schools

School Dinners



- ❖ Our school lunches are provided by Chartwells School, please see the latest menu on our website. <https://www.fpshants.co.uk/School-Meals/>
- ❖ School lunches are £2.75 a day or £13.75 a week and should be paid in advance on Arbor.
- ❖ A payment reminder will be sent after 2 missed payments. When your dinner account exceeds 2 weeks of meals (£27.50) we must ask that you provide your child with a packed lunch until the arrears are paid.
- ❖ If you are sending in a packed lunch please remember **WE ARE A NUT FREE SCHOOL**. Please check labels and packets on any food that you send in, to ensure it does not contain nuts.
- ❖ If you are having difficulty making a payment please contact the school office to discuss a payment plan.

What has changed with Free School Meals.....

From September 2026, the eligibility criteria for Free School Meals (FSM) has changed.

- ☒ **Targeted Free School Meals – For households receiving Universal Credit with an annual income below £7,400**
- ☒ **Expanded Free School Meals – For households receiving Universal Credit with an annual income above £7,400**

If your child already receives Free School Meals

If you have already applied through the Hampshire Portal and your child currently receives free school meals, no further action is required.

If you think your child may now be eligible

Please submit an application through the Hampshire County Council portal:

www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/freeschoolmeals



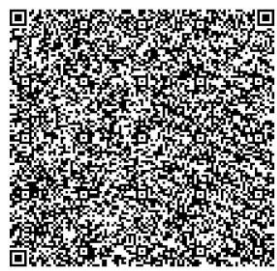
You're the icing on the cake

Thank you to everyone who came to our MacMillan Coffee Morning. It was lovely to see so many parents.

Together we raised over

£136

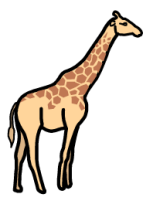
You can still make a donation by scanning the QR code.



Photos of the morning are on the following pages.







Giraffe Class



Giraffe Class always enjoy their weekly swimming sessions. This week, we were delighted to have Cat, who visited to review some of the children's individual hydrotherapy programmes. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed their time in the water, having lots of fun splashing and exploring.

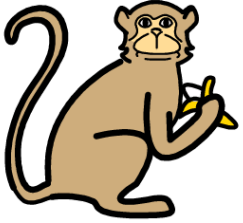


Koala Class



Koala Class continue to develop their transitioning skills and this week's adventure was to the trampoline! We used photographs and schedules to help us understand where we were going to and then had a brilliant time bouncing, swinging and exploring!

We can't wait to go again!



Monkey Class



Monkey Class have enjoyed exploring different foods, materials and textures using their hands, mouth and feet. Pupils particularly enjoyed mixing, tipping and pouring using different utensils.



Kangaroo Class



Kangaroo Class continue to enjoy learning together, both in the classroom and across our wonderful learning spaces. We have been exploring our varied curriculum while consolidating our routines and ensuring smooth transitions to the fabulous areas around our school. The concentration and joy on our faces says it all!



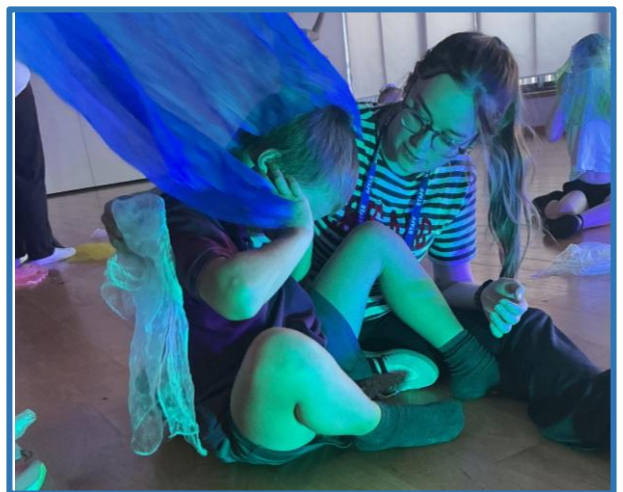
Meerkat Class



This week, Meerkat Class have been enjoying a variety of activities to support their learning and development. We have taken part in Dough Disco sessions to strengthen our fine motor skills, enjoyed swimming to build confidence and coordination, and continued working hard on our key skills throughout the week. We have also started a new morning routine of enjoying breakfast together, which has been a lovely opportunity to develop independence, social interaction and prepare for the day ahead. The children have shown great enthusiasm and are making excellent progress in their learning.



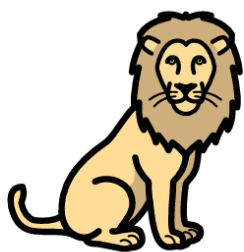
Panda Class



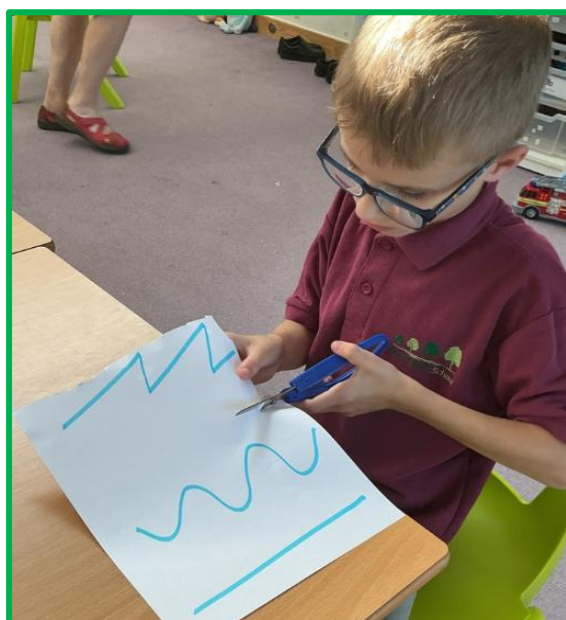
In dance this week we have been exploring the story Where the wild things are.

We used scarves, tunnels and different coloured lights to 'sail away'.

We enjoyed the big blue scarves and used them to make waves that moved all across the hall.



Lion Class



In Lion Class, we have been working hard on our individual Key Skills to support and develop our next steps in learning. The Lion Class team are incredibly proud of every child for their excellent effort, determination, and resilience throughout their learning journey. It has been wonderful to see the progress they are making and to see their confidence growing.

Keep up the fantastic work, Lion Class!

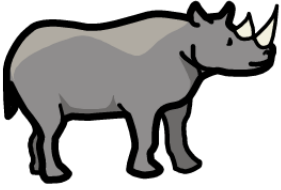


Zebra Class



Zebra Class have been trialling 'breakfast club' this week which has proved very popular! It is an excellent opportunity for us to practice communication, social and life skills.

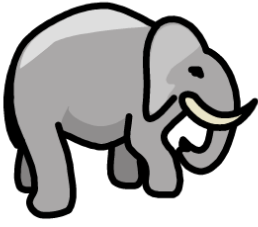
We have also found lots of enjoyment in group activities such as visiting our trampoline and swing area and also practicing our washing up skills.



Rhino Class



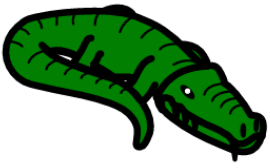
In Rhino Clas this week we have been having a blast using household objects to make music! In pairs we tried out different objects and used a variety of methods to change the beat and tune. We also spent some time outside this week, using our senses to describe what we could hear, see and smell around us as a calming activity.



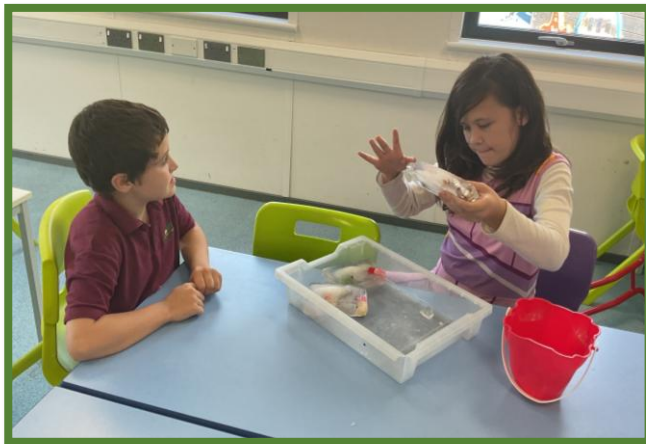
Elephant Class



This week in Elephant class, we have been using material and threads to weave our own story characters. We have also been exploring the changing states of different materials in our world around us activities. During PE we have been looking at different ways of moving in the Hall space using a range of increasingly complex routes.



Crocodile Class



Crocodile class have had such a lovely week, filled with so much learning and joy! We have loved exploring some new resources and learning all about how to share and take turns with our friends and adults.



Maple Class



Maple Class have had a very busy and productive week preparing for the Macmillan Coffee Morning. The young people have been developing a range of skills by folding napkins, carrying out market research by tasting cakes and different teas to help us decide what to serve, and baking delicious treats. During the coffee morning, pupils worked hard serving customers and welcoming visitors with confidence. Some pupils also took on the important job of counting the money raised, helping us find out how much the secondary department collected for this fantastic cause.



Cherry Class



Cherry class have loved preparing for our MacMillan Coffee Morning on the Secondary site.

We explored different ingredients and decided to make a delicious carrot cake, which we enjoyed sampling!

It was lovely to welcome everyone to our event today and it was a fantastic morning, with all the pupils coming together.



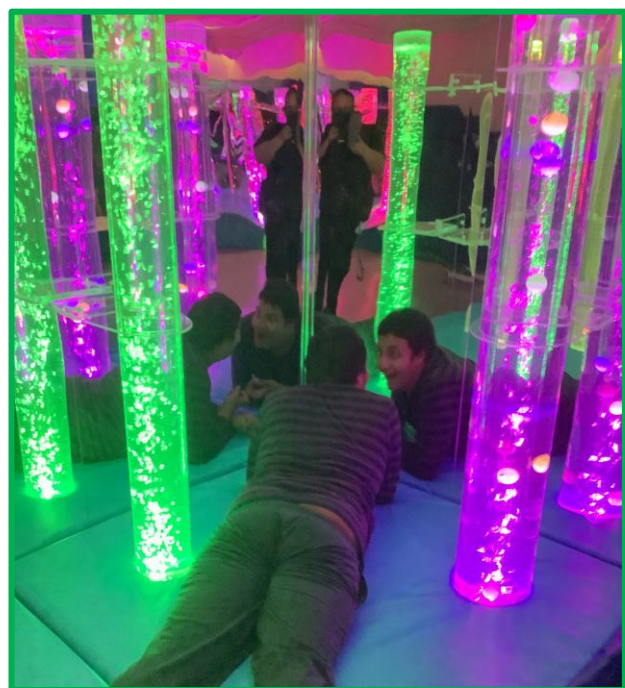
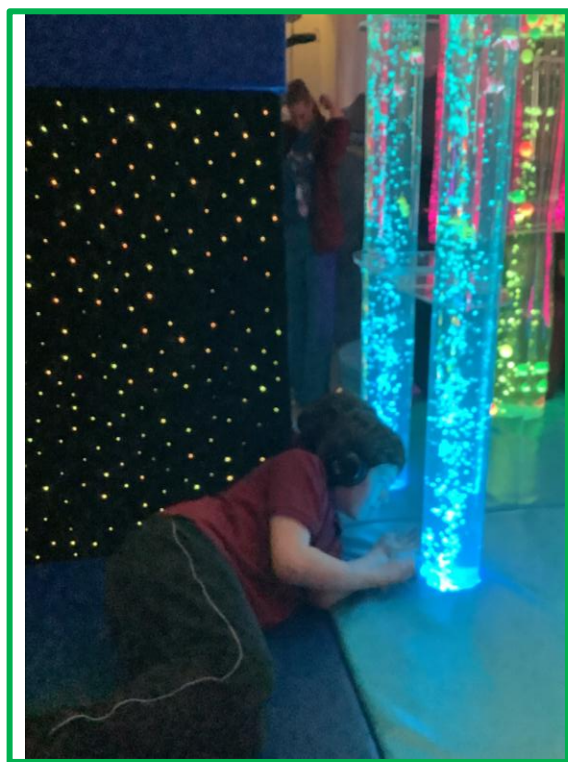
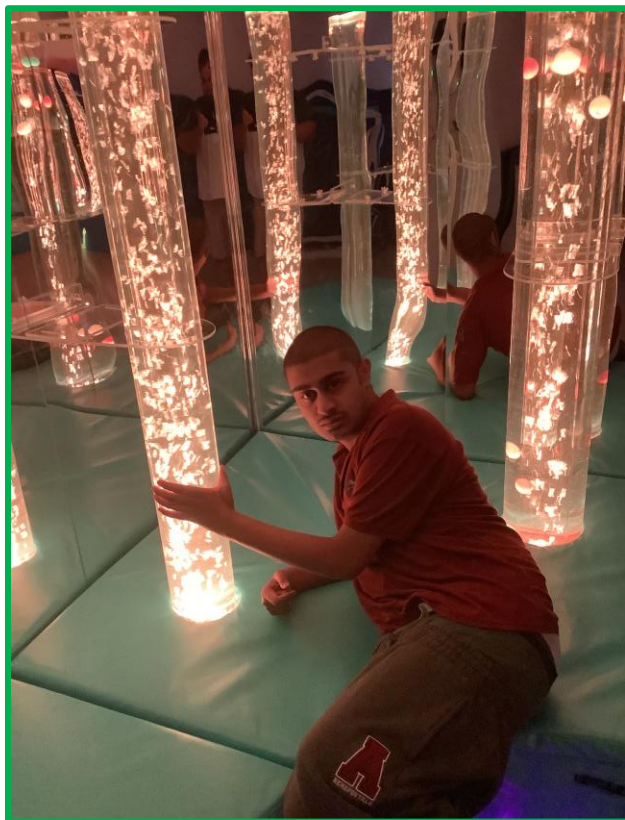
Redwood Class



This week Redwood Class have been busy making chocolate chip cookies and dairy free cookies to sell at our coffee morning. At the event, the pupils greeted the customers, handled the money and thanked them for the donations by activating a switch.



Sycamore Class

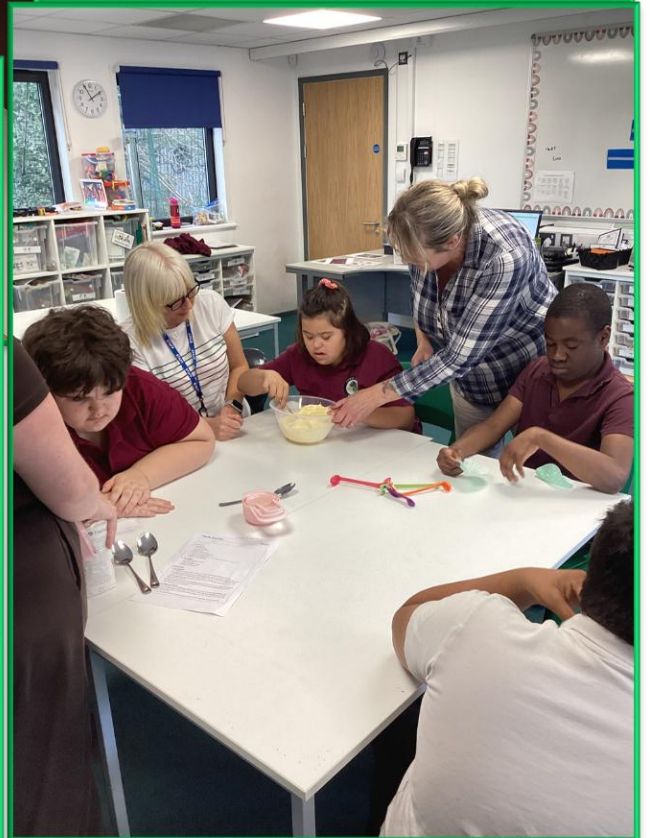


The levels of happiness and Joy were another level in Sycamore Class this week!

A visit to the Sensory Room was appreciated by everyone, who listened to requests and instructions from adults very well. Even when their turn was coming to an end the sensory room had a calming influence to enable everyone to have a turn with their peers.



Oak Class



In order to get ready for the Macmillian coffee morning, Oak class made some gluten and dairy free cupcakes. They were delicious and brought so much joy to us when we made them and ate them.