



Forest Park Newsletter

2nd October 2026



At Primary this week I have had lots of visitors to my office J. It's been great to see so many pupils popping in to say hello. I'm also really happy to see some of the toys in my office getting used and explored. My musical marble run is proving a hit. Pupils are able to transfer their communication skills really well using aided language boards (ALBs) to make requests.

At secondary I really enjoyed seeing the focus on transitions continuing to show impact. One of our students leapt off the bus when shown his double symbol. This is another key area that underpins independence for our students when they leave school.

Warm Regards

David



A gentle reminder for parents and carers, the school opens to pupils at 9:00. We need to maintain this for safety and operational reasons. Staff are not expecting pupils to be on site before 9:00 so not all normal processes are in place. For example, some doors that are usually closed during pupil hours are open. This time is often when contractors attend site and where staff move resources around the school. In addition, Widget has more freedom as part of his de-sensitisation and training. I appreciate your support in maintaining this. Please do reach out if there are any questions or concerns.



Thank you to anyone who has already sent in donations. If you would still like to send in donations, we are collecting till Friday 9th October.

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.



We have joined Walktober!

The aim is to get out, walking and wheeling, as much as possible. Every class has an old-school pedometer to count their steps.

We're really excited to be joining in with this cross-Hampshire initiative. It's also a really great excuse for us to get out into our local community, exploring walks in the forest and try out lots of local parks with our friends and classmates. You can join in too! Please add your steps via the QR code.

If you're in a group – multiply the number of steps by the size of the group.

If someone is using a walking aid (walking frame, stick, crutches etc) their steps count as double!



Walktober happens in October.

We walk and wheel as much as possible.

It is good to go outside. There are lots of things to see.

It helps us feel better and be healthy.

In school we are having a competition.

Each class has a pedometer to count how far they walk and wheel.

The class that walks and wheels the most wins prizes.

You can count how far you walk and wheel in school and at home.

Important information

Sign of the Week

This weeks sign of the week is.

Sign of the week

dinner

How to sign it:

Using ring and middle finger move your hand up and down towards your mouth.

Watch the sign

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

If you would like to practice the sign at home please scan the QR code on the poster.

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/



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.

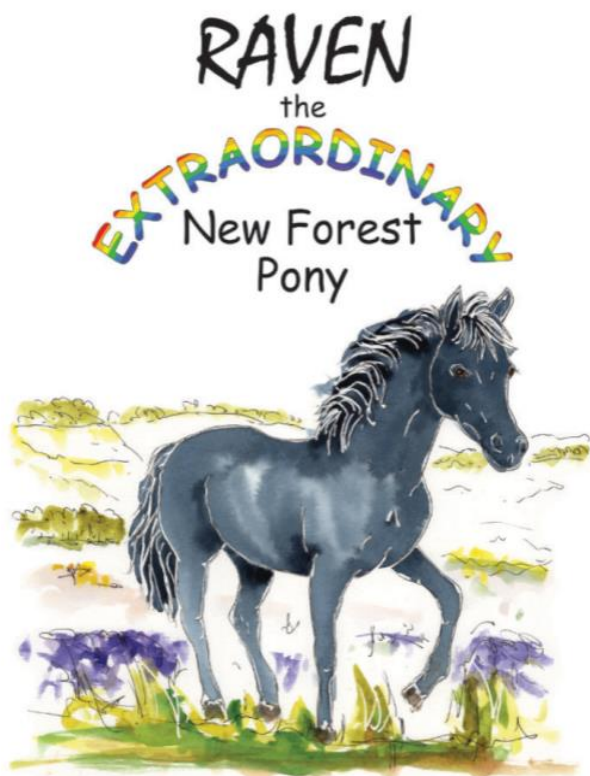
If you think your child may now be eligible

Please submit an application through the Hampshire County Council portal:

www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/freeschoolmeals

Important information

Please see the details below of 'Raven', which has been written by a mum of one of our key stage 2 pupils, and is based on the story of the pupils sister and pony Raven.



Michelle Burgess ~ David Tovey

RAVEN the EXTRAORDINARY NEW FOREST PONY



Raven thought he was just an ordinary little black New Forest pony running on the Forest with his friends.

He wasn't the fastest when playing chase and always ended up being the one chasing to catch up with the others.

He watched horses being ridden across the heathland that was his home and dreamed of one day finding his very own human and sharing adventures together.

One day that happened, and Raven turned his head to see a little girl walking towards him.

"Hello, I'm Jessica," she said.

Suddenly, Raven understood his mother's words, "Believe in yourself. You are extraordinary!"

RAVEN the Extraordinary New Forest Pony
a children's book inspired by real-life pony, Raven, and his human, Jessica.
written by Michelle Burgess ~ illustrated by David Tovey

ISBN: 978-1-9164846-5-8

£12.99

To order your copy go to
www.LittleKnollPress.com

click on SHOP > New Books for Sale > Children's Books

Want to know more ~ email jenny@littleknollpress.co.uk





PROUDLY DELIVERED BY
ROMSEY TOWN YOUTH FC



FUN!
PLAY!
BELONG!



FOOTBALL FOR EVERYONE

Looking for a fun, relaxed and inclusive way for your child to enjoy football?

Comets is a recreational, pan-disability football programme for disabled children aged 5-11, delivered by Romsey Town Youth FC.

It's all about fun, friendships and inclusion - with children of all abilities encouraged to take part, play football and, most importantly, **just be themselves.**

WHAT DOES PAN-DISABILITY MEAN?

Comets welcomes children with a broad range of disabilities and additional needs, including:

 LEARNING DISABILITIES Including moderate or severe learning difficulties, Down's syndrome and global developmental delays.	 PHYSICAL IMPAIRMENTS Including cerebral palsy, restricted growth and other mobility conditions.	 SENSORY IMPAIRMENTS Including children who are deaf, hard of hearing or visually impaired.	 NEURODIVERGENCE & ADDITIONAL NEEDS Including autism, ADHD and speech, language or communication needs.
---	---	--	--

You don't need any previous football experience - children can explore football at their own pace in a supportive and welcoming environment.



MOUNTBATTEN SCHOOL
3G Pitch



SUNDAYS
9-10AM



STARTS SUNDAY 4TH OCTOBER



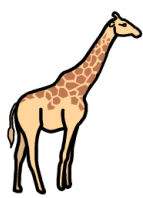
FREE!
FOR CHILDREN AGED 5-11

SIGN UP HERE →
or use the QR code on the right.



COME ALONG. HAVE FUN. JUST BE YOU.

Please see the details of the new Comets Disability Football Club, located in Romsey.



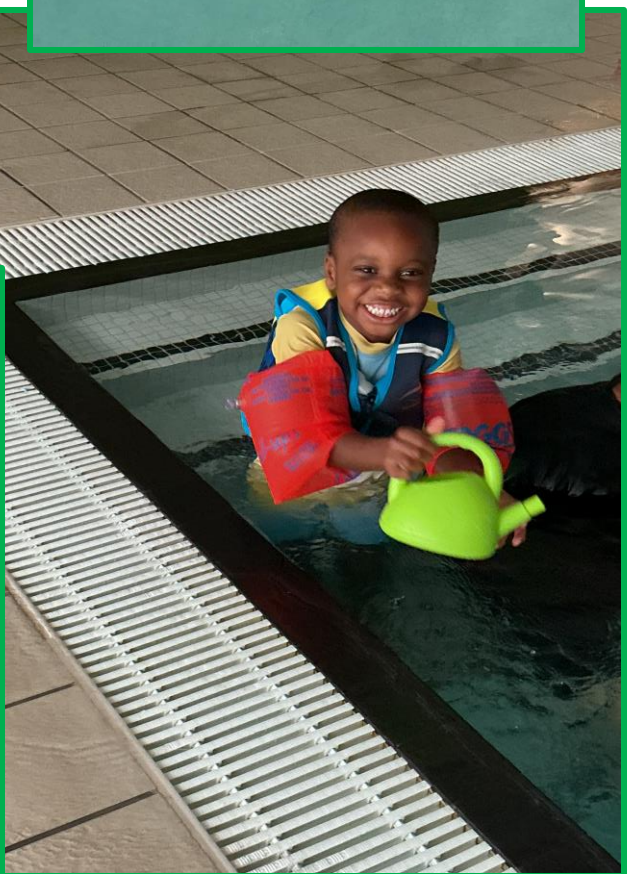
Giraffe Class



In Giraffe class we have started learning about cars. We have been exploring toy cars by using different shapes and resources which represent different parts of car. Cars have lots of different textures so we explored shiny metallic material, some laminate windows, big hoops, and car mats. All the children seemed to have different favorites this week.

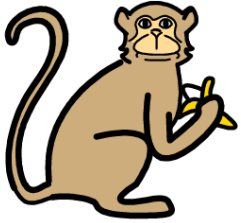


Koala Class



Over the last few weeks Koala Class have been transitioning to the swimming pool and exploring this new area. Whether we are having a look around, dipping our toes in, or having a swim. We are all doing a wonderful job of learning about all the exciting learning Forest Park has to offer!

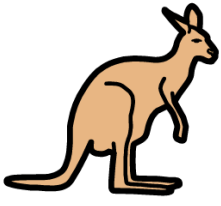
The Koala Class Team are so proud of the children for giving new things and places a try!



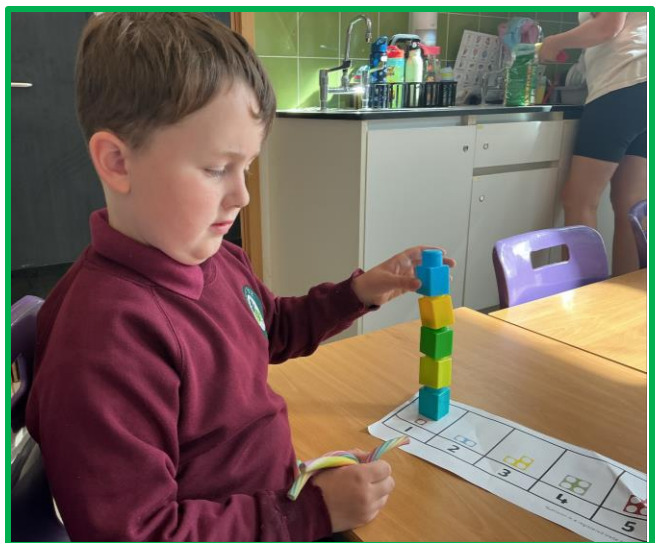
Monkey Class



Monkey Class have been working hard in their Phonics and English lessons this week. Pupils have enjoyed using cars to help them sound out and spell different words.



Kangaroo Class



Kangaroo Class have been transitioning around the classroom and enjoyed creating masterpieces using paint and handprints. We have explored how the paint feels on our hands and experimented with the different prints we can make. We have also enjoyed working independently, showing off our skills and sharing learning resources with our friends.



Meerkat Class



This week, the children in Meerkat Class have continued to impress us with how well they are settling into school life. They are becoming increasingly confident with their daily routines and have made fantastic progress with transitioning around the school, showing growing independence and confidence. We have enjoyed another successful swimming session, where the children demonstrated excellent listening skills and confidence in the water. The children also loved taking part in a sensory painting activity, exploring paint with their bare feet and creating colourful patterns. It has been wonderful to see their enthusiasm, resilience and willingness to try new experiences, and we are very proud of the progress they are making.



Panda Class



Panda class have been enjoying sensory play this week.

We were exploring freezing and melting with ice, we enjoyed helping the lemons, limes and oranges escape.

We also used different coloured water to mix and make new colours, we made pink!

Chia seed slime was very slippery, some of us like the feeling but some didn't.



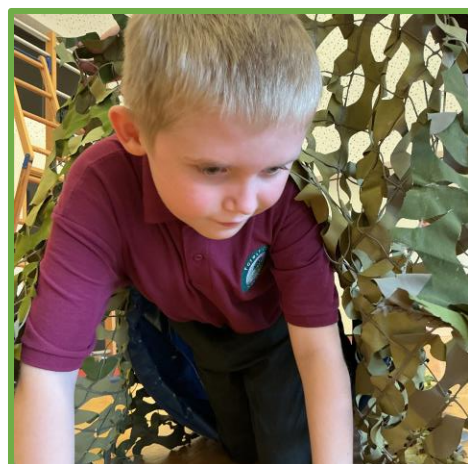
Lion Class



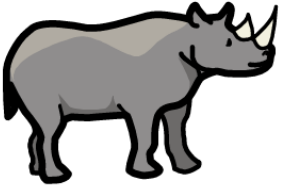
Lion Class have been exploring counting in a range of different contexts and developing their mathematical skills. Some of us have been focusing on number recognition and place value, building our understanding of how numbers work, while others have been beginning to use the four operations to solve practical problems. We have enjoyed working independently and alongside our friends, demonstrating perseverance, confidence, and pride in our learning as we tackle new mathematical challenges.



Zebra Class



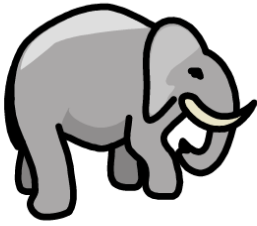
Zebra Class have enjoyed moving our bodies during our PE lessons! We have been doing lots of scooting, climbing, crawling, throwing and catching. Through a range of exciting activities, we have been building our confidence, coordination and awareness of our bodies whilst working alongside our friends.



Rhino Class



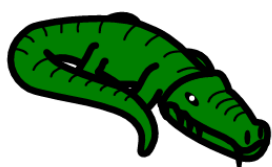
In Rhino class, we have been practicing our personal care routine. After lunch each day, we wash our faces, brush our teeth and put our deodorant on. We are becoming increasingly more independent doing this but finding the deodorant application a little bit tricky!



Elephant Class



This week we have been focussing on working together as a team in small groups to devise a class charter for our classroom for when we go out to play. We have also been busy making patterned papers to use in our house collages and have been developing our physical skills during our PE session.



Crocodile Class



It's been such a lovely week for us in Crocodile class with so many 'firsts' shared and enjoyed. A few of our students have been over to the secondary site to practice our transitions and enjoy the different resources they have to offer. We all loved it! We also experienced our very first and best assembly ever!



Maple Class



Maple Class have been loving our dance sessions with Christina! We have been exploring light and dark and investigating how shadows are created through movement and light. It has been wonderful to see everyone's enthusiasm and engagement, and we look forward to these sessions every week.



Cherry Class



Cherry class love our dance and movement sessions with dance teacher, Christina!

This week was our favourite session with new lights, music, scarves and pompoms to explore.

We were all so engaged with tracking and reaching for the lights as we moved around the hall.



Redwood Class

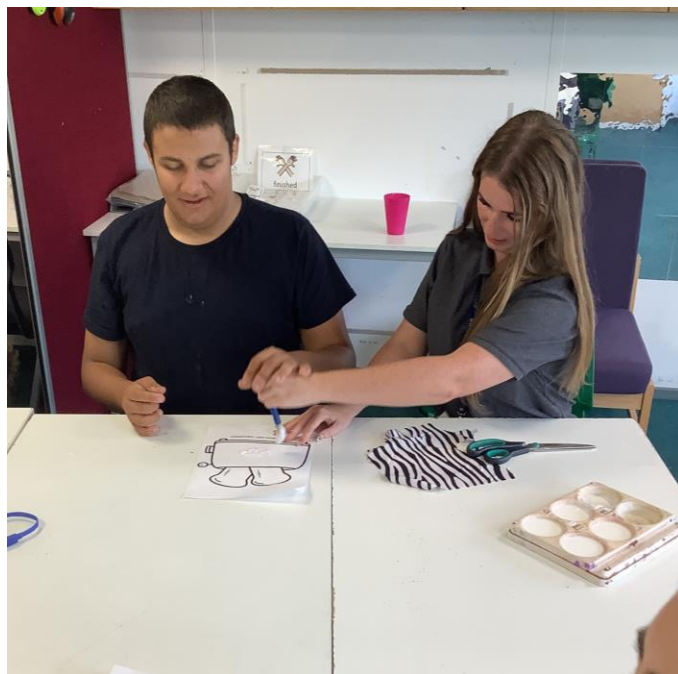


On Monday afternoons, Redwood Class will be exploring the local community as part of our mini topic, *Technology in the Community*. This week, two pupils visited Poundland in Totton, where they identified different types of technology used in everyday life, including the pedestrian crossing buttons, shop scanners, and automatic doors.

During their visit, the pupils also practised their shopping skills by purchasing items for our upcoming Halloween event!



Sycamore Class



As part of our Creativity focus this week we have started to look at texture and pattern. We used a range of different chosen textured media to decorate an image of a toaster and iPad. The Students worked together to use the materials and glue as independently as possible to start to create the images.



Oak Class



It's been lovely to see oak class enjoying time with friends both in and out of the classroom. Whether they are learning together, playing games, or sharing a laugh at break time, they are building positive friendships and creating happy memories every day.