Newsletter 2 - Nov. 2026

Ringwood CE Infant School www.ringwood-inf.hants.sch.uk

Welcome back to the second half of the Autumn Term. The children have all settled back into their respective classes and are already fully engaged in their learning. Over the coming weeks we will be preparing for Christmas and look forward to sharing in these festivities with the children. It really is a very special time.

Key points to note in this issue:

- **Partnership with Parents**
- **Christmas**
- **FORIS**
- **Diary of events – please check for latest additions / changes**

Our curriculum this half term

Year 2 have begun a new Integrated Curriculum (IC) unit called All Creatures Great and Small. The children are learning to be scientists and geographers, and are learning about animals, their habitats, food chains, how animals can be classified and the features of the different habitats they live in. They will be writing science reports, carrying out investigations and will create bubble diagrams of the key features of each animal group. A visit from Jonathan's Jungle Roadshow will further inspire them as they meet a range of creatures, and their learning will end with an opportunity to showcase their knowledge and expertise at an animal roadshow for parents.

Following a visit from the Giant in the Jack and the Beanstalk fairytale, the children in Year 1 find a mysterious large letter and objects the Giant has left for them. They learn about different aspects of the story of Jack and the Beanstalk, exploring the characters, setting and plot within the story. They write their version of the Jack and the Beanstalk story and bring it to life with their personally designed puppets as they retell the story to the children in Year R and play them their musical accompaniment for each character.

Now the children have settled so well into Year R, they are ready to continue their learning journey. During this half term, as well as learning the Christmas story, the children will be exploring their new project, 'Tell Me A Tale!' The children will be helping Mr Webster by learning four traditional tales and creating him story sacks to enjoy as he reads each of his favourite traditional tales. He will be invited back into class to enjoy an afternoon of retelling of his favourite stories.

Our Christian Ethos

As Church School, we hold collective worship on a daily basis. This is a daily opportunity to come together as a school community and develop everyone's spirituality through a range of experiences including individual prayer

and reflection. Each half term we take a different value and explore this with the children through a range of stories, including those from the bible, reflections, poems and songs. Our theme for this half term is **patience**, and we will be thinking about what it means to be patient, even when that is tricky.

Why is school attendance important?

Pupils with good attendance are more likely to do well at school. When pupils miss school, even if the time period is very short, it can lead to gaps in their learning which might make future lessons more difficult for them. Regular attendance helps pupils to feel part of the school community and enables them to develop good relationships with their peers and other members of the school community. This can have a positive impact on their wellbeing and help them to feel more settled in school.
When a pupil attends school every day, it helps to establish good routines and habits for their later life.

What are the different types of absence?
There are two broad categories of absence:

Authorised absence: This is an absence that has been authorised by the school for a legitimate medical, emergency or unavoidable situation.

Typical examples of authorised absence include:

- illness that means a child is too unwell to come to school;
- following NHS advice regarding remaining off school following a period of illness (in the case of certain infectious illnesses);
- an emergency medical appointment;
- the recent death of a close family member;
- religious observance, as long as certain conditions are met.

Unauthorised absence: This is where a pupil's absence is for a reason deemed to be unacceptable by the school or where the reason for a pupil's absence has not been provided and cannot be established.

Some examples of unauthorised absence include:

- time off for birthday celebrations;
- a family holiday;
- oversleeping;
- shopping trips or days out;

Why is it important that my child is on time each day?
When children are late to school, they may initially feel unsettled and they might miss important information and activities.
Schools are required to record late arrivals. If pupils arrive after the start of the school day but when the register is still open, it will be recorded as a late mark. If pupils arrive after the register closes (which government guidelines state must be within 30 minutes of the register opening), then their morning mark will be recorded as an unauthorised absence, unless evidence can be provided that there are exceptional circumstances that led to the late arrival.

How does occasional absence affect my child?
Missing occasional days from school may seem unimportant at the time; however, this can have a significant impact on your child in the long term:

% of attendance in a school year	Number of days absent	Weeks missed
98%	4	Less than 1 week
95%	9.5	Nearly 2 weeks
90%	19	Nearly 4 weeks
85%	28.5	Nearly 6 weeks

A pupil with 85% attendance is missing nearly half a term of learning time each school year.
Regular absences can result in poorer outcomes over time. Research shows that pupils who miss between 10% and 20% of school (which is between half and one day per week on average) stand only a 35% chance of achieving five or more good GCSEs, compared to 73% of those who miss fewer than 5% of school days.
Late arrivals also add up over time – being 10 minutes late each day adds up to two weeks of lost learning time over the whole school year.

How do I request an absence in advance?
If you want to request authorisation for a planned absence, please use our absence request form which can be found on our website https://www.ringwood-inf.hants.sch.uk/
Paper copies of this form are also available from the school office.
Please submit any requests as early as possible as we may need to ask for additional information before we can consider your request. Please do not make any plans until you have been told the outcome of your request.
Please be aware that we can only approve absences that are for exceptional circumstances so will be unable to authorise family holidays in most cases.

How do I report an unplanned absence to the school?
Unexpected absences should be reported to school by:
A phone call to the school office or an email to either the admin email, admin@ringwood-inf.hants.sch.uk or Arbor.
Please report any absences by 9am or as soon as you become aware that your child will be absent.
In the case of illness, the absence will usually be authorised unless there are grounds for concern that the illness may not be genuine or that it might not be sufficient to require time off school. In these cases, the school may ask for additional evidence, such as a doctor's note, appointment card, hospital letter or medical report. The school will not ask for this additional evidence unnecessarily.
If you do not provide a reason for your child's absence, we will make contact with you to find out why they are not in school. Unexplained absences will be recorded as unauthorised.

As a school we really want to work with you to ensure that your child attends school every day. This will ensure that your child has the very best learning opportunities, so that they are able to flourish, thrive and achieve their full potential.

Partnership with parents

Parents Evening

Thank you to all the parents who fed back to me regarding parents evening. I know that you found this a wonderful opportunity to hear how your children have settled into class and their key next steps in their learning. Our partnership with you is so incredibly important and your children really benefit when you support them in their learning, whether that is reading, spellings, phonics, handwriting or number. Please can I ask you

to work with your child on the areas shared at parents evening, as this really helps them to progress in their learning. Just a few minutes spent sharing a book together makes such a difference.

Curriculum Afternoons

The feedback from these afternoons was extremely positive. All parents have found the sessions helpful, as we have shared how subjects are taught in school and ways in which you, as parents, can support your children at home. The power points are available under the curriculum tab. I would welcome feedback on future workshops you would like to attend.

Open Mornings for Prospective New Parents

We are currently holding our open mornings for those parents whose children are due to start school in September 2027. During the morning, parents have had an opportunity to take a tour and hear about our school and what makes it a very special place to grow and learn. I have been so proud of all of your children as we have toured the school as they have shared in such a wonderful way all the learning that they are engaged in. If you know anyone whose child is due to start school next year, please let them know of these events.

FORIS (Friend of Ringwood Infant School)

Thank you so much to Emma and Dale, together with the FORIS team, who have worked so hard this year organising a number of events. These have included: -

- The organisation, collection and distribution of gifts for the Foodbank. Thank you to everyone who supported our Harvest Festival. You made an amazing contribution of 62kg of food and this will provide 6 people with 3 meals a day for 3 days.
- Running a cake sale that made the wonderful total of £122.
- Organising a whole host of forthcoming Christmas events, including the Christmas cards and the much-loved Chamber of Surprises (previously the Chamber of Secrets).
- Running our ever popular popcorn after school film clubs.

Thank you to everyone who has supported these events.

Events we are looking forward to in the coming weeks include: -

- Preparations are underway for our special Christmas craft event in school on November 28th. The sessions are 11.00-12.00 and 1.30-2.30 and there will be a chance for your children to, not only take part in some crafts, but also to enjoy a story time with Santa.
- Chamber of Surprises is our most special FORIS event. An area of the school is transformed into a grotto and the children have the opportunity to choose a surprise gift for a member of their family, that you have previously nominated. It is always one of the highlights of the year for the children, so please do sign up so your child can be part of the fun that day.

You may be aware that many companies are able to provide additional financial support to charities such as FORIS. This is through a scheme called match funding, where companies agree to make charitable donations to match the amount raised at charity events. If you work for a company that you know would consider match funding some of our fundraising events, then please let me know.

Safeguarding

Online Safety

Online Safety is an extremely important part of our safeguarding curriculum. It is something that we teach to children each time they use the computer to ensure that they are fully aware of how to keep themselves safe. Please can I ask you to look at the online safety power point that we shared at the curriculum afternoon to remind yourselves of the key messages we shared. You will find this under the curriculum tab in the key information section.

On site parking

Thank you to everyone who has parked away from the school over the past half term. This really does make a huge difference to the congestion in and around the school roads and helps to keep everyone safe. It is wonderful to see how many people are now cycling and scooting to school. So important if we are going to make a positive, collective impact on our environment. Please can I ask you to ensure that, if you have to drive to school that you do not park in front of the residents driveways on School Lane and the surrounding roads as this causes great inconvenience is they need to move their car during school drop off and pick up times.

Website

We are have spent a great deal of time creating our website. The website contains a wealth of information about the school and about all of the exciting learning your children are involved in. Please do take time to look at this over the coming weeks. It contains lots of information, such as the latest policies and statutory information as well as some wonderful examples of your children's learning in the showcase of learning section.

Community Support

We continue to work very closely with our local charity STARF (Stronger Together Around Ringwood and Fordingbridge). As a result of the money raised by the charity, we are able to financially support some of our most vulnerable families and the money has also been used to provide a Financial Support Worker to support across the Ringwood and Fordingbridge Schools and to employ a Counsellor to support in school too. If you feel you or your child would benefit from any of these services that are available then please get in touch with myself or my family support worker, Juliet Wickstead. Also, if you feel that you are part of a business who would be able to financially commit to supporting this group, please do contact us.

We have been pleased to be able to support local community events once again this year. Thank you to everyone who brought in a shoe box for the annual rotary appeal. We provided 61 boxes this year! Thank you to everyone who contributed.

Children in Need – Non uniform Day



Children in Need will take place on Friday 13th November. We will be holding a non-uniform day in aid of this worthwhile cause and encourage the children to come to school dressed in their own clothes or something with a Children in Need theme! We will give you our Pudsey fund-raising figure after the event.

Christmas Lunch



This will be served on Wednesday 16th December. Should you wish your child to have a Christmas lunch, please complete the Google form which will be sent out shortly, so that the necessary food can be ordered.

Christmas Services

We are once again holding our Year R Christmas Nativity in school and the Year 1 and 2 services in the Church. Please keep a look out for more information moving forwards, including requests for a costume for your child.

Yours sincerely,

Hilary Silk
Headteacher



DIARY/CALENDAR DATES

Please make a note of these dates for easy reference.

Monday 2nd November 2026	Start of Autumn 2 Term
Wednesday 11th November 2026	School Photographer – Individual Photos.
Friday 13th November 2026	Children in Need – non uniform day fundraiser
November 2026	Prospective Parent Open Mornings
Friday 4th December 2026 -pm	Year 2 Parent outcome, details to follow
Thursday 10th December 2026	Christmas Jumper Day
Tuesday 15th December 2026 School Hall Tickets limited to two per family	Yr R Christmas Service – All children participate. COSTUMES REQUIRED – More information to follow with regards to timings. **Pre-school children and babies only admitted to this service by prior arrangement with the Head Teacher.**
Wednesday 16th December 2026 - 10.30am Ringwood Parish Church Tickets limited to two per family	Yr 1 Christmas Service – All children participate. COSTUMES REQUIRED – More information to follow. **Pre-school children and babies only admitted to this service by prior arrangement with the Head Teacher.**
Wednesday 16th December 2026	Christmas Lunch for ALL children
Thursday 17th December 2026 - 10.30am – Ringwood Parish Church Tickets limited to two per family	Yr 2 Christmas Service – All children participate. COSTUMES REQUIRED – More information to follow. **Pre-school children and babies only admitted to this service by prior arrangement with the Head Teacher.**
Friday 18th December 2026	End of Autumn Term - SCHOOL CLOSES AT 1.15PM.
Monday 4th January 2026	Start of Spring Term 1 Spirituality Day
Friday 22nd January 2027	INSET Day – School Closed to children
Thursday 11th February 2027	Year 1 Parent outcome, details to follow
Friday 12th February 2027	Year 2 Parent outcome, details to follow
Friday 12th February 2027	End of Spring Term 1
Monday 15th – Friday 19th February 2027	HALF TERM
Monday 22nd February 2027	Start of Spring Term 2
Monday 1st March 2027	Parent evenings sign up appointment sheets on Arbor

Thursday 4th March 2027	World Book Day – costumes required
Wednesday 10th and Thursday 11th March 2027	Parents evenings for all year groups 4-7pm
Wednesday 24th March 2027	Year 1 Parent outcome, details to follow
Wednesday 24th March 2027	Last Day of Spring Term – SCHOOL CLOSES AT 3.15pm
Thursday 25th March 2027	INSET Day School closed to children
Friday 26th March – Friday 9th April 2027	EASTER HOLIDAYS
Monday 12th April 2027	Start of Summer Term 1
Thursday 15th April 2027 – 2pm	Phonics meeting for Year 1 parents
Monday 3rd May 2027	May Day – SCHOOL CLOSED
Wednesday 5th May 2027	Class Photos
Friday 21st May 2027	Year 2 Parent outcome, details to follow
Monday 24th May 2027	Year 1 Parent outcome, details to follow
Friday 28th May 2027	End of Summer Term 1
Monday 31st May – Friday 4th June 2027	HALF TERM
Monday 7th June 2027	Start of Summer Term 2
June 2027 date to be confirmed	Country Dancing – All pupils participate for parents. Year R wear Victorian clothes (Dresses/Pinafores for Girls; Flat Caps/Waistcoats for Boys). Year 1 and 2 Clothes provided by School. PARENTS MAY COLLECT CHILDREN EARLY FROM CLASSES AT THE END OF THE EVENT.
DATE TO BE CONFIRMED	Competitive Sports Finals Sports Activity Afternoon More details to follow nearer the time
Thursday 24th June 2027 – 7pm	Information Evening for parents of Yr R children starting September 2027.
Monday 28th June 2027	Changeover Day 3.30: Opportunity for parents/carers to meet the new teacher
Tuesday 6th July 2027	Reports out to parents. There will be an opportunity for parents to discuss the report with the class teacher. Please make an individual appointment with your child's class teacher if you wish to do so.
Friday 16th July 2027 - 10.30am Ringwood Parish Church	Yr 2 Leavers' Service. All Yr 2 children lead the service for parents. **Pre-school children and babies only admitted to this service by prior arrangement with the Head Teacher.**

Tuesday 20th July 2027	Yr 2 Leavers Fun Day. Non uniform day for Year 2 only.
Wednesday 21st July 2027	Last day of Summer Term – School finishes at 1.15pm

All dates were accurate at the time of printing. Parents will be given ample notification of any changes. Obviously there will be other events and activities published in the half-termly Newsletters and reminders of dates for the particular term will be included.