



Rachel Madocks Newsletter



Autumn 2

December 2025

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents & Carers,
As ever we have had lots going on with our rehearsals in preparation for the Christmas show, practicing for Dance Live with Cowplain school, achievement assembly, Stay and Plays as well as Parent Forum. All parents and carers are welcome to attend if you have not come previously, we send out reminders via text of what the focus is and if you have social media, information is also on our Facebook page.



We are also proud to say that due to the work we do as a school we have received a silver award from the International Stress Management Association in recognition of the clinical and non clinical work we do in supporting our community. Alison Francis also received the special recognition award for her work overseeing the trauma informed training and work within the school, as well as overseeing the wellbeing team.

We have also become part of the Rotary Club community and we were fortunate to be presented with a donation.

As ever from Rachel Madocks to you all we wish you a merry Christmas however it looks for you and we look forward to seeing you in January 2026.

Niki Wilson, Headteacher

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Thank you Keydell!

Useful Dates

19 th December	P16 Closure Day
5 th January	Spring Term Begins
20 th January	Wellbeing Day
27 th January	Whole school Parent/ Carer Coffee Morning
3 rd February	Dance Live!
11 th February	Stay & Play Session (Robins, Puffins & Serins)
12 th February	P16 Closure Day
13 th February	Whole school INSET Day
16 th - 20 th February	Half Term Holiday



Message from the Governors



Dear Parents & Carers,

Hello, my name is Craig, and I have been a Parent Governor for two years. It has been a privilege to see behind the scenes and witness the passion, professionalism and dedication shown by staff at every level in supporting our young people. This was especially clear when Governors attended the recent safeguarding training, joining the whole staff team packed into the school hall for an informative and engaging session.

My visits to the school have been inspiring, with a highlight being the Harvest Church Service, where I found myself enthusiastically signing Makaton while singing hymns alongside pupils and staff.

I would also like to offer sincere thanks to Dr Helen Burrard-Lucas for her years of service as a Governor, following her career as a community paediatrician. Throughout her professional career she regularly visited the school, and then offered her time to volunteer as a Governor afterwards to continue her support.

On behalf of the Governing Body, I wish all families, pupils and staff a very Happy Christmas and a joyful holiday season.

Craig Hattersley
Parent Governor

The Rotary Club -Thank you!



In November Headteacher Niki met with members of The Rotary Club in Portsmouth and provided them with more information about our school.

We would to thank The Rotary Club for their subsequent donation to the School's Eagle Appeal fund, and look forward to being part of the Rotary Club Community.



Children In Need 2025



This year's Children in Need Day was enjoyed by all students. There was a rainbow of colours, lots of yellow and Pudsey clothes, even the adults joined in with their colours and stickered clothes.

We had a great cake sale, with an array of different cakes in all shapes and sizes. Post 16 had made their own creations to sell and Hawks class enjoyed being in charge of the cake stand this year. We even had a mobile trolley of cakes going around school in the afternoon to make sure we maximised our sales!

Thank you to everyone who provided cakes they were all absolutely lovely. A special mention to Chelsea Senecal who made over 100 to ensure everyone could take home at least one cake each!

All together we raised a total of **£296.97** from our cake /creations sale and online donations. Thank you to all who donated, it will make a big difference to the local charities who benefit from the money to provide much needed activities and community spaces for children.





MFL Day - 25th November



We kicked off the Christmas season early with another MFL day on the 25th November.

We celebrated "Christmas around the World" and were wowed by the pupils' fabulous festive clothes and enthusiasm for our music filled day.

We were lucky enough to welcome back lots of familiar faces to Rachel Madocks including Jack who played traditional festive tunes for us on the accordion, Sav from The Lyrics Singing crew who got us all moving with her Christmas pop music, The Wacky Wednesdays who played and sang lots of festive songs with their Ukulele's and Tesoro Choir who serenaded us with their beautiful voices .

We also had the amazing Princess the Unicorn come and visit us. We can't thank our visitors enough for coming to our school and creating such a magical day for us. Pupils moved and danced to the music and were very brave when meeting Princess.

We also enjoyed traditional festive food tasting, creating Christingles, visiting the sensory room for winter wonderland and opening our giant advent calendar.

It was lovely to have the whole school together sharing fun and laughter. The whole school disco is always a magical hour with everyone together having lots of fun and sharing laughter. Here's to the next MFL day!





Stay & Play Morning Robins & Penguins

Robins and Penguins really enjoyed our Stay and Play coffee morning where we got to welcome lots of parents, grandparents and family to school. It was really nice to have new and returning families have the opportunity to meet and chat and for pupils to share and show what we have been doing at school.



Thank you to all for getting involved, having fun and embracing the stay and play activities and sharing time with pupils at school. We were amazed at how well pupils coped with parents, families and carers being at school and then saying goodbye when it was time for the session to end.

We hope everyone who attended enjoyed themselves and look forward to welcoming you all back in the Spring term for another stay and play! A big thank you from the Robins and Penguins teams.





Discovery - Focus On Penguins



This half term has whizzed past in a flash and Penguins have been busy learning and having fun!

We welcomed 3 new pupils to Penguins class in September and we are all now settled and happy and enjoying being part of a class together. Returning Penguins have continued to amaze us with their hard work and achievements. Some lovely friendships have formed and it is so nice to hear shared laughter and fun.



We have all enjoyed sensory play this half term, playing with lotion. Some of us have loved getting really messy and others have enjoyed having hand massages and getting much braver getting messy!

We all loved MFL day and had the best time experiencing the music and meeting a unicorn!



We have all really enjoyed playing in soft play and have all become very brave climbing the stairs and jumping onto beanbags!

We have been busy rehearsing for the Christmas play and look forward to welcoming all our families and friends to see us perform.

We'd like to take this chance to wish everyone at Rachel Madocks a happy, healthy and peaceful Christmas and New Year from us all in Penguins class.





Discovery - Focus On Serins



Serins class have had a busy term. We have welcomed a new friend to our class, Asher. He has settled in really well as a new Serin.

This term we have enjoyed a trip to Mary Rose School to take part in their sports event. All the students thoroughly enjoyed rebound therapy on the trampoline. We have also taken turns to walk to the Acorn Centre cafe with Robins and Puffins classes as part of our topic work.

Our topic has been My Home and we have explored and experienced immersive environments of different types of homes such as noisy, boring and spikey. We loved listening to the noisy sounds and some of us were able to identify some of the sounds, such as a dog barking and someone snoring!

In art we have used different implements we find around the house to do some mark making to make our own wallpaper. We have used different kitchen equipment to make different food in Food Tech and have enjoyed our Sensology and Sherbourne sensory sessions.

We also enjoyed all of our theme days this term including meeting the alpacas for our Geography Farming Day.

Serins class wish you all a lovely holiday and a happy new year.





Discovery Focus on Parrots

Parrots have had a fun filled half term where we have continued to look at the 'my home' topic. The class have explored different rooms in the house and our focus in food technology has been the kitchen. We have been making different foods we eat during the day. The class created some amazing pizzas for dinner and some delicious cheese scones for a snack



Music has been a real success where we have been trying out different instruments and taking part in solo performances to the class. The keyboards were a real hit where everyone made different sounds for us all to enjoy.

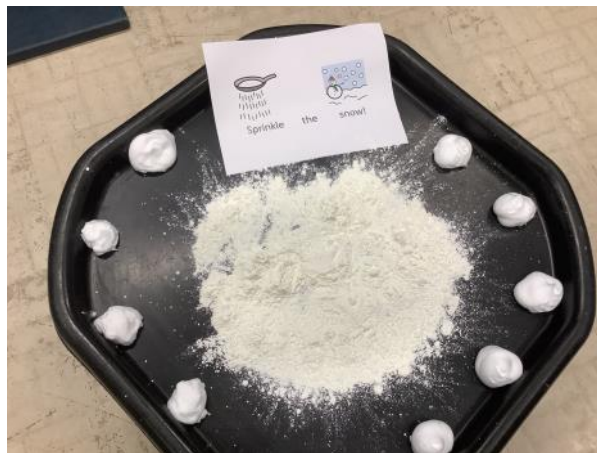
In PE we have been working on our gross motor skills moving around different apparatus in the hall in sequence. Every Thursday afternoon is our yoga and TAC PAC session where we get to have a very relaxed sensory session which has been a class favourite.

From all in Parrots class we hope you have a happy Christmas and new year.





Stay & Play Morning - Junior School



The stay and plays have been a huge success as ever. Pupils have enjoyed two themes of bonfire night and Christmas. There has been a lot of fun and mess to be had with sensory play, games, time in the playground and a relax in the sensory room.

Thank you to all the families who have come and supported these events and made them one of the highlights of the school year.

We will have more sessions in the spring and summer term and we look forward to seeing you all then.





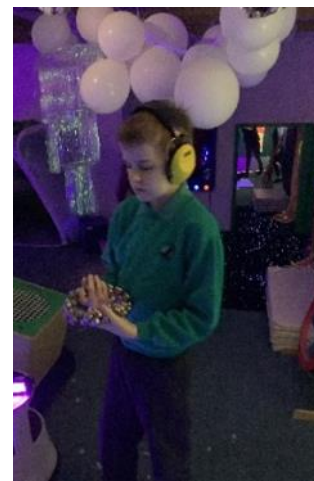
Explorers- Focus On Pelicans



This half term, Pelicans class have really enjoyed learning about the weather, especially snow! During our sensory story 'A Day in the Snow', we have enjoyed exploring a sensory snow mixture, crunching white paper with welly boots to replicate the sound of walking in the snow, feeling ice melt in our hands and having a taste of warm hot chocolate.

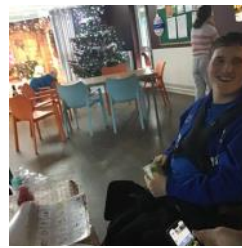
We have also been learning about what clothes to wear for different weather, our favourite was dressing for summer! We have been creating various pieces of weather art in PSHE and learning to tidy up after ourselves by cleaning any paint off the table.

Pelicans class loved the different musical activities that took place during MFL day including listening to an accordion being played, enjoying Christmas carols from a choir and singing and dancing along to our favourite pop and Christmas songs with a guest singer.





Adventurers-Hawks & Kestrels



We have had so much fun this half term with our curriculum. We enjoyed a trip to Milestones to walk the streets of Victorian England, we played Victorian pier games, met a match seller, paper seller and saw lots of Victorian toys, houses and shops.

We have also been learning about the Victorian Christmas traditions, we hope you enjoy them when they come home!

In English we have been continuing our early writing skills with mark making, printing, stamping and following lines as well as some of us spelling cvc and cvcc words to use when shopping or labelling.

Our mini enterprise has now changed to soups which we have all enjoyed doing. All the peeling, chopping and cooking vegetables for the different soups has made the falconry into an envious place on a Thursday lunchtime! The glorious smell of freshly baked rolls and hot soup has drawn in lots of new customers, adding to our savings for the 2026 school prom.

In Food technology we have been enjoying making recipes with pastry as well as cakes for Children in Need. We have enjoyed the cheese straws, jam tarts and pasties.

We had great fun at the MFL Christmas around the World Day. We enjoyed a visit from Jack playing the accordion, the Tesoro choir and Wacky Wednesday's. Evie and Amy enjoyed singing in the assembly with Sav from the Lyrics Singing Crew and of course we saw the unicorn again! It gave everyone the opportunity to enjoy some Christmas traditions around the World and try some Christmas food.

We are looking forward to our trip to Fareham Live to see Beauty and the Beast and to performing ourselves for our school community.

We wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas

Post 16





Futures Evening 2025



On the 12th November we hosted the Futures parents information evening. The evening is designed to help families make informed decisions about future pathways after leaving school. This year we had some different stand holders offering information to parents. It was lovely to see many of you taking advantage of the information available.

We had representatives offering advice from a range of different services and education opportunities. These included Portsmouth, Highbury and South Downs Colleges and Alton Independence Hub, Havant Keystone, QE2 and Go Create Day Services. It was great to have representatives from health services including MHST, School nursing and the Southern immunisation team. We also had representatives from Havant Thrive at the Horizon leisure centre, the Rainbow Trust and the Independent Futures Team.

We had set up a refreshment area in our food technology room which provided a great space to sit down, have a drink and cake and discuss further with teachers or professionals.

If anyone knows of any companies or services that would offer information and benefit other parents for our students, please let me know as it would be great to increase the information and contacts at the evening.

Mave Ash
Head of P16





Winchester Cathedral Trip



Pelicans Class had a wonderful time at the Winchester Special Celebration in Winchester Cathedral on 5th December.

The children loved singing along to the Christmas nativity songs and were amazed as the sound of the organ filled the cathedral. To top it all off, they even got to meet a very special visitor... a donkey!





Thank you!



We would like to say a big thank - you again to Keydell Nurseries for donating another fabulous tree for our young people to enjoy, we are so grateful.

Finally, following our Christmas shows we raised a whopping £656 for the school's charity, The Eagle Appeal! All thanks to our fabulous school community for taking part in the Christmas Show raffles.

We would also like to thank everybody who donated hampers and prizes — we couldn't have done it without you.

From all the staff here at Rachel Madocks we would like to wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a happy 2026. We will see you all in the New Year!

