



Rachel Madocks Newsletter

Autumn 1 2025

October 2025

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents & Carers,

The first half term has shown less sunny days sadly, but time has sped by with our parent forum, RE day and visit to church to name a few events.

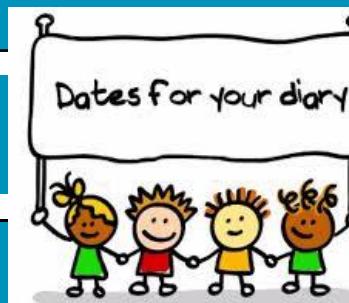
We welcome parents and carers both returning and new to Rachel Madocks, and we hope to see you at our many events coming in the future.

Niki Wilson
Headteacher



Inside...

Useful Dates



INSET Day	24 th October
Half Term	27 th – 31 st October
Stay & Play (Puffins, Parrots, Serins & Wrens)	5 th November
Futures Information Evening (Y10 & up)	12 th November
Parents Evening	12 th November
Whole School Parent forum / Coffee morning	27 th November
P16 Closure / Term Ends	19 th December
Spring Term Begins	5 th January 2026

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Message from the Governors — Jessica Brookes

Dear Parents /Carers,

My name is Jessica and I am a *Co-opted Governor* at Rachel Madocks. Part of my role as a Governor is to undertake visits to the school, and I was lucky enough to attend this term's performance by the Moonbeam Theatre. The group performed their current show called 'Exploshine'. The show is a fully immersive live performance for our students; including live music, singing and dancing. The main hall was set up as a cave; the whole environment felt very different to school.



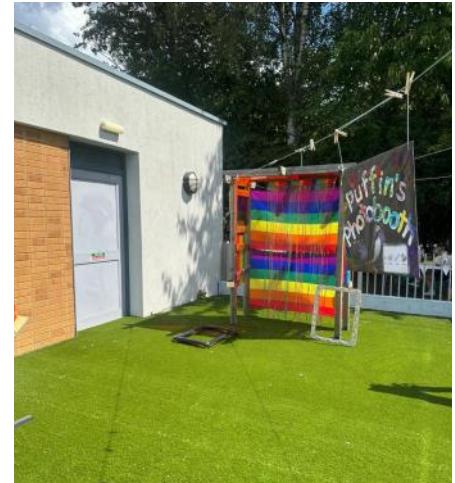
I was lucky to observe two classes experience this unique show. Pupils were fully immersed in the performance and interacted with the performers and the props that were supplied. The staff working with the pupils were incredible, ensuring pupils felt safe and got the maximum from the performance.

Carol Endersby, another *Co-opted Governor*, observed two different classes earlier in the day. She had the same experiences during her observations. She fed back: "An exceptional experience for pupils. Should be repeated as such a splendid and meaningful session."

**Jessica Brookes
Co-opted Governor**



Family Fun day Summer 2025



At the end of the Summer term we had a wonderful afternoon for our Family Fun Day where we were visited by PCSO's Amy Dean and Carl Boxall, our resident musician Jack, Disney Princess singer Shailey, Toy Story's Woody & Buzz and not forgetting our legendary Ice Cream man and van Graham Penrose!

Thank you to all our carers and families who came and supported the day, thanks to you we raised an amazing £1540 for the school's Charity, The Eagle Appeal—Thank you!



Alice Holt Forest Trip



At the end of the summer term Parrots class enjoyed an educational trip to Alice Holt country park where they met characters from the Gruffalo and enjoyed the play trail. A lovely, sunny day out was enjoyed by all!



Upper School Marwell Zoo Trip



As part of their Topic last term, Upper School students visited Marwell Zoo. Despite the rain and clouds at times, the students thoroughly enjoyed their day!



Masonic Fishing Trip 2025



In July some of our students from the secondary department were invited by The Masonic Fishing Charity to take part in their fishing and countryside experience day at Meon Springs Trout Fishery.

Although the students did not catch many fish, they still had a brilliant time fishing. They also got to see lots of wildlife and enjoyed a lovely BBQ.

A huge thank you to the Masonic Fishing Charity for organising a great event and a big thank you to all who supported the students.



Primary Geography Day



The Primary department enjoyed exploring farms for this half terms' Geography day. The primary playground was turned into a sensory farm with lots of Tuff trays to explore.

We loved our visit from Luke and Padrig the Alpacas from Dubreyth Alpacas, their fur was so soft. We also got to have a ride in a tractor and hear the roar of its engine.

Huge thanks to Ben at Peter Ashley Centre and Dubreyth Alpacas for supporting the day.



Discovery - Focus On Puffins



Puffins Class have had a super start to the new academic year! We have played lots of games getting to know our new friends such as parachute games and skittles. We also loved going on a sensory treasure hunt around school exploring different parts such as the library and the outdoor environment.

We have also recently started the Topic of 'Our Home' and have enjoyed exploring different types of homes such as a 'noisy' home with a Hoover on, someone snoring, cutlery clattering etc. For Art we have explored printing with everyday home related items to create our own wallpaper.

Puffins class are definitely looking forward now to a restful half term week!



Discovery - Focus On Robins

We are so proud of how our new and existing pupils have settled into the autumn term in Robins class! Everyone has been busy making new friends and getting to know the teachers in our class

We have had such a busy start to the term. We spent the first couple of weeks settling in, getting messy and learning all about the classroom environment. We have recently started our 'Home' topic. We have been exploring different types of homes in a multi-sensory environment communicating what our favourite elements of the home are.



We have been printing and mark making in art to create our very own wallpaper designs. In food tech we have been exploring the food tech room and how to use different equipment, and in Sherbourne we have been playing a game of 'Eye Spy' in the house! Everyone has been busy moving in different ways and the physical development in our class has been amazing! It has been such a fun start to the year and we are looking forward to the next term!



Discovery - Focus On Toucans



This term Toucans class has been exploring the topic weather. We have had lots of fun dressing up when thinking about the different types of clothes we should wear for different types of weather. We have enjoyed making rainbow cookies and Toucans class have done very well at requesting different utensils and ingredients when using their aided language boards.

We have also been practicing our independent skills in PSHE. We have been washing our hands independently, made our own squash, hot chocolate and toast. We even had some very kind students help out with the washing up!



Explorers - Focus On Shelducks

This half term Shelducks class have been exploring the topic of Weather. We have particularly enjoyed taking part in a variety of exciting science experiments, where we worked hard to make predictions and observations about our experiments. Our favourite included creating our own thunder and making tornados and rainclouds in a cup!

Shelducks class have also enjoyed our two theme days this half term. During Black history day we particularly loved taking part in the carnival and experiencing Caribbean foods- even the spicy jerk chicken!. On RE day we explored Harvest. We all created some amazing artwork that we shared with our friends at the upper- school Harvest service in church.



Explorers - Focus On Roadrunners

Roadrunners class have been very busy this half term learning all about the weather. We have taken part in different art activities which have included using water bottles filled with water and paint to give the effect of rain. We also used ice to paint pictures.



We have enjoyed taking part in science experiments. One of the classes favourite activities was making thunder using paper bags. They had to predict what would happen if they blew air into the bag and then clapped it with their hands. Their faces were a picture as they eagerly anticipated the popping of the bag.

As part of literacy, we have been listening to a weather poem. Each week we look at a different weather to describe.

The class have made amazing progress using their descriptive language to describe the weathers.



Adventurers - Hawks & kestrels

We have had a busy and interesting first half term this Autumn. We launched our Victorian topic and have had lots of fun finding out how people in the Victorian times washed their clothes, worked when they were children, went to school and wrote on blackboards and had simple wooden toys.

We have made peg dolls, cups and balls and simple string telephones. We found the sounds through the telephones really funny!



Our mini enterprise has gone from strength to strength with our new Hawks team. We have been making wonderful salads and jacket potatoes for staff lunches on a Thursday as well as bacon or sausage baps and the now infamous cheese toasties!

In our food technology lessons we have been making flavoured and coloured cupcakes and have become more independent finding our equipment and ingredients as well as following instructions.

Our PE sessions have also been different this term with either archery or assault course at The Peter Ashley centre where our teachers have been amazed at how excellent we are at both!

We have also been playing hoop games, bowling, yoga, javelin, balance and beanbag games. We have been enjoying the mild weather and being able to play outside.



Adventurers-Hawks & Kestrels Continued



In English alongside our target work we have been exploring mark making with different media including pastels, chalks, stamps, vegetable and leaf printing.

In Maths we have been learning about money, shapes and measure.

We have also enjoyed our Harvest RE day when we made autumn biscuits and bread and a grateful tree.

We enjoyed celebrating Black History Month with a wonderful day of music, art, food tasting, carnival and baking.

Finally our work with The Cowplain School towards our Dance Live performance in February is going really well. We have been enjoying the Venetian music and performing together. We look forward to performing in the new year at the Guildhall in Portsmouth.

Have a wonderful half term holiday,

Post 16



Useful Information: Governor Vacancy:



VALUED FOR BEING ME

COULD YOU BE OUR NEW
CO-OPTED GOVERNOR?



Our Governing Body is actively looking for members of the local community to join the team as a Co-Opted Governors. Is this something you would be interested in?

If you would like to find out more about becoming a governor at our school, more information can be found on our website at www.rachelmadocks.hants.sch.uk or please contact Judith Wilkins, Clerk to Governors, 02392 241818, email governors@rachelmadocks.hants.sch.uk Prospective governors are always welcome to visit the school and/or attend a meeting.



Useful Information: Free School Meals:

Are you eligible for Free School Meals?

Even if your child does not eat a school meal the school can still receive additional funding if they qualify.

To check if you qualify or to ensure that you do not lose your entitlement please go to:

Online FSM Application



Useful Information: Managing Infectious Diseases



UK Health
Security
Agency



A practical
guide
for staff

Managing cases of **infectious diseases** in all education and childcare settings

The online guide offers information and resources for the following:

Introduction to infection control in all education and childcare settings

Staff health, pet and animal contact

Prevention and control

Cleaning the environment

Outbreak management

Managing specific infections

Immunisation

Exclusion table

Diarrhoea and vomiting outbreak action list



Advice and guidance

To find out more, visit www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities or bit.ly/2xiJpPZ.

Useful Information: School Uniform Promotion



The image is a promotional flyer for Brigade School Uniform. At the top, it says 'Order Your School Uniform Online' and 'BRIGADE Parents Direct Delivery'. It features three students in school uniforms: a girl in a dark blazer and skirt, a boy in a dark blazer and trousers, and a girl in a white shirt and blue tie. A yellow oval in the center contains the text 'IMPORTANT SUMMER HOLIDAY ORDER INFORMATION' and 'Place your order before 18th July for delivery before the start of term'. Below this, the website 'www.brigade.uk.com' and a QR code are provided. A small circular logo on the right says 'WORKING TO WARDEN FUTURE' with a turtle icon. The text 'SUPPLYING SCHOOLS Since 1990' is also visible.

Brigade, our school uniform supplier will be running a Halloween promotion on uniform for a short time only:

Promotion details:

Discount: 10%

Promo Code: PUMPKIN10

Dates: 31.10.25 - 2.11.25