



Rachel Madocks Newsletter

Spring 2 2026

March 2026

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents & Carers,

Sunny days and (slightly) less rainy days are on the horizon which always makes us feel positive.

In spite of a short term we have still managed to keep things busy with our World Book Day, Stay and Play sessions, Parent Forum, Egypt Day and our Wellbeing Day to name but a few. We also got to welcome our new teacher Renee from Australia!

Thank you for all of your support in voting for us in the Lifelites competition, it has been amazing to see and we are delighted to say that have been **successful in the competition!** Thank you once again to everybody who shared and voted for our school, we couldn't have done it without your help.

Niki Wilson,
Headteacher



Niki, Carol and Alison enjoying World Book Day!

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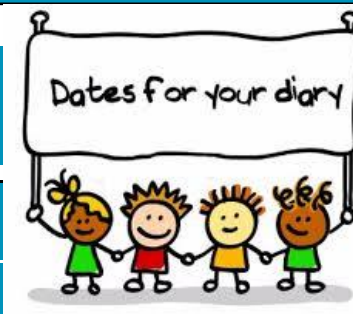
Red Nose Day 2026

Useful Information:

P16 Transport Application

Useful Dates

P16 Closure	27 th March
Easter Holidays	30 th March—10 th April
Summer Term Starts	Monday 13 th April
Stay & Play (Puffins, Serins & Robins)	Thursday 21 st May
P16 Closure	Friday 22 nd May



Message from the Governors

Dear Parents /Carers,

It has been a busy half term for Governors, amongst having our regular Governor meetings each half term we have also welcomed Wrens teacher Katie to a Governor meeting to provide us with a presentation on Humanities and what this means as a subject for our pupils.



This was followed up by Governor Craig attending 'The Great Fire of London' theme day. Craig very much enjoyed the visit and noted that "Pupils in all classes demonstrated positive attitudes to learning and were highly engaged throughout the sessions".

Along with this Governor David attended a Parent coffee morning, where the subject was bereavement. David noted this was approached in an understanding way and the school had arranged additional support from CAHMS and The Rainbow Trust.

I attended World Book day. During the day I visited the various rooms where activities were set up around the theme of growing and flowers. I was impressed with both student and staff, which included admin staff wearing floral headbands and some members of the leadership and management team dressed as a carrot or a sunflower growing in a pot!

Pupil progress meetings have been taking place over this half term, a member of the governing body regularly attends one of these meetings to understand how monitoring of a pupils progress is undertaken by teaching staff.

As Governors we are also aware of the positive feedback received from outside organisations who visit the school and see both staff and pupils enjoying themselves and it was extremely positive to hear about the visit from an NHS service manager, who remarked on the dedicated staff team, and that the quality of care at Rachel Madocks had set a very "high bar" for other schools.

Governors are very appreciative of all the hard work by all the staff within the school, who make Rachel Madocks such a wonderful place to be.

I wish you all a very Happy Easter.

Alison Brooker
Chair of Governors

Welcome to our new Teacher Renee!

Welcome to our wonderful new class teacher, Rennee Boden!

Originating from Brisbane, Australia, Renee has been teaching for the past four years and previously worked in a special school (very similar to Rachel Madocks) in Brisbane, before re-locating to the UK with her family earlier this year.

Rennee's hobbies include Hockey and travelling and she loves nothing more than a long walk with her family followed by a good curry!

Renee will be teaching in Shelducks class for the remainder of this term and has already hit the ground running!



Primary Stay & Play!

Our Stay and Play sessions have once again been a huge success-full of fun, exploration, and plenty of mess! This term's theme was sensory spring, and the children enjoyed painting, planting, tasting, and exploring a range of sensory activities.

We also held a whole-group Attention Autism session, which was a lovely opportunity for everyone to join in together. A big thank-you to all the parents and carers who took part so enthusiastically.

Keep an eye out for details of our final Stay and Play of the year, coming up in the Summer Term.



MFL Day—Egypt!

Another term, another MFL day! This term we enjoyed exploring the country of Egypt.

We welcomed back Debbie, Meriel and Angie who absolutely amazed us with their harp playing. The harp originates from Egypt and the whole school got to experience the sounds of this beautiful instrument. Pupils were so engaged and entranced by the music being played and the atmosphere was so calm and relaxing. A massive, heartfelt thank you to our lovely harpists for their time and support.

We also welcomed Sue for her first visit to our school and she wowed us with her belly dancing. After experiencing the music, rhythm and dance of the belly dancing, pupils then got to join in wearing belly dancing belts and scarves. A huge heartfelt thank you to Sue for supporting our school.

We are lucky enough to have some very creative staff at our school and the amazing Kim created a huge snake charmers' basket and snake. Hayling Home Refurbishments generously donated their time and created the stand and we had our very own snake charming activity! Pupils got to pull the string to the music and make the snake dance. This was a real highlight of the day, enjoyed by the whole school.

We also got walk Camels (helium inflated ones!), stuff, smell, touch and taste traditional dates, enjoy a whole school disco with Egyptian themed music and explore Egypt through our senses by pyramid building, sand play and smelling and exploring the spices used in Egyptian cooking.

Thank you to all parents and carers for your support of the day by providing pupils with some really colourful and imaginative costumes.



Discovery - Focus On Penguins

This half term has whizzed past and we've had lots of fun in Penguins class!

This half term we have been focusing on the topic of Spring. We have enjoyed sensory play exploring Spring flowers, have experimented painting various types of Spring flowers using different equipment and made Spring vegetable pizzas.

We have enjoyed lots of different theme days this half term including RE days, MFL days and World Book day and have been really impressed with pupils' costumes. We enjoyed welcoming our families and loved ones to our Stay and Play and enjoyed showing them what we do at school.

We have had some real personal successes in class with pupils working hard on their own individual targets and making real progress. All of you are AMAZING!

The sunny and warmer weather has provided us with some much-needed respite from the rain and has given us the chance to get out and about playing in the sunshine. In our final week of term, we are busy making Easter gifts for our families and loved ones.

Penguins class would like to wish everyone at Rachel Madocks a happy and peaceful Easter break and look forward to seeing you all in the summer term.



Discovery - Focus On Wrens

Wrens have been making the most of the lovely weather by getting out and about in our local community. We've enjoyed some wonderful walks to the park, where we have had great fun exploring and playing together. The slides, swings, and roundabout have been firm favourites, helping to build confidence, coordination, and lots of smiles along the way!

We've also been making the most of outdoor water play. We have loved splashing, pouring, and experimenting with water. We particularly like the fruit flavoured water!



Swimming sessions have continued to be a highlight of our week. Wrens look forward to this time so much, and it's been fantastic to see their growing confidence in the water as well as their enjoyment during each session.

It's been a busy and fun-filled time, with lots of opportunities for learning, play, and laughter! We can't wait for the hot sunny weather so we can be outside more!



Discovery - Focus On Parrots

Parrots Class have been diving into all things winter this term, exploring the season through tasting white-coloured foods, experimenting with cold textures, and making warm winter comfort dishes. We've also been doing plenty of signing, which the children have really enjoyed.

A big highlight has been reading our very own adapted version of Stick Man, rewritten so that every child appears in the story. The class have loved bringing the story to life with props—tea parties, bubbles, water pistols, and a bit of joyful mess along the way!

We've also been focusing on reading and communication, using aided language boards throughout our sessions. The progress the children have made has been fantastic to see.

As we look ahead to next term, we're keeping our fingers crossed for good weather so we can enjoy weekly walks and fun water-play sessions.

Wishing all our families a wonderful Easter break.



Explorers - Focus On Serins

This half term Serins have been learning about and exploring Spring baby animals. We enjoyed the anticipation of finding out which baby animal we were going to explore each week - chicks, bunnies, lamb and calves. We used our senses to experience lots of things associated with each baby animal, sang songs and even hopped like a bunny!

We explored some cause and effect by using different communication methods to say "go" to the wind up chick and bunny.

In art we have explored action and process art. We did Egg Splatter Art (chicks), Little Lamb Painting (lambs), Magic Milk Painting (calves) and Cotton Ball Splat Painting (bunnies). We had lots of fun getting messy! We also made different milkshakes in Food Tech each week with a focus on a nice and a not so nice flavour. So we explored marmite, garlic and vinegar compared to chocolate, vanilla and strawberry.

We have enjoyed our theme days this term. World Book Day focused on the story of A Tiny Seed and we enjoyed all of the activities, especially the sensory story.

We also had MFL Day and Comic Relief Day leading up to Easter. In the last week of term we explored Easter craft and food.

We hope you all have a lovely Easter break.



Explorers - Focus On Pelicans

This term, Pelicans class have been enjoying a variety of fine motor activities during our Funky Finger lessons. We start with a warm up video where we copy hand and finger actions and once warmed up we use a pincer grip to pick up and place small pegs to create Rangoli patterns, practise our tripod grip whilst completing writing patterns with pen and use our fingers to create fireworks in rice .

In food technology, we have been working together to bake cupcakes. We have practised reading the recipe, requesting the ingredients and labelling the action we were doing such as mixing or cracking the egg.

We have been improving our mixing and spooning skills. I am really proud of how Pelicans class have been working together to tidy up the food technology room at the end of our session including washing up, putting everything away, wiping the tables and stacking our chairs.

Well done Pelicans!



Explorers - Focus On Skylarks



In Skylarks class we have continued to enjoy our Celebrations topic this term. We have really enjoyed exploring a range of Celebration themed tough trays and like playing alongside our friends.

We also really enjoyed the Chinese New Year theme day, exploring new foods and different resources!



Adventurers - Hawks & Kestrels

This term, our Post-16 students have been busy engaging in a wide range of exciting and meaningful activities.

In Food Technology, we have been developing our cooking and baking skills, focusing on pastry-based recipes. Students have successfully made delicious cheese straws, jam tarts, and pasties. These sessions have supported independence, following instructions, and teamwork—and of course, enjoying the tasty results!

We have also been enjoying our weekly bouldering sessions at the Peter Ashley Centre. It has been fantastic to see the progress students are making each week, building both confidence and physical strength while supporting one another.

Two highlights of the term were our themed learning days. During MFL Day, we explored Egypt, taking part in a variety of immersive activities including experiencing Harps, relaxing in the sensory room, tasting dates, learning about snake charming, and finishing the day with a lively disco.

On RE Day, students reflected on the story of Jesus and explored the emotions felt by his friends throughout different events. This encouraged thoughtful discussion and emotional understanding.

Our Mini Enterprise continues to thrive, with students working hard to prepare and serve staff lunches. This provides valuable opportunities to develop practical life skills, teamwork, and responsibility.

Weekly visits to the Blue Moon Café have allowed students to practise their communication and social skills in a real-life setting, building confidence in interacting with others.

Finally, Healthy Eating Monday remains an important part of our routine, helping students to make positive food choices and understand the importance of a balanced diet.

We are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm, progress, and achievements shown by all students this term.



Comic Relief's Red Nose Day 2026

We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who supported our Red Nose Day celebrations this year. Thanks to your generosity, we were able to raise money for a fantastic cause while enjoying a truly special day together.

We were overwhelmed by the amazing donations of both cakes and money. Our talented home bakers outdid themselves, providing a delicious selection of treats that were thoroughly enjoyed by all. The effort and care that went into each bake did not go unnoticed—thank you for your time and kindness.

It was also wonderful to see so much enthusiasm from everyone involved. The creativity and effort put into dressing up for the day brought lots of smiles and laughter, making the atmosphere even more fun and memorable.

We are delighted to share that we raised a total of **£96** on the day!

Your support and community spirit made the day a great success, and we are very grateful to everyone who contributed in any way.

Thank you once again for helping us make a difference!



Useful Information: Free School Meals:

Are you eligible for Free School Meals?

Even if your young person does not eat a school meal (or is nil by mouth) Rachel Madocks can still receive additional funding if they qualify.



To check your eligibility (and to ensure that the school is receiving all the funding that we can) please go to:

Online FSM Application



Useful Information: P16 Transport Applications

APPLY NOW FOR P16 TRANSPORT!

For all students at Rachel Madocks the entitlement to statutory (free) transport **stops after year 11** even if your young person is continuing education at the school.

Hampshire County Council provides the option for parents of students with SEND to apply for discretionary Post-16 Transport. If approved (and depending on your circumstances), you may be required to make a financial contribution towards this service.

To be considered for the Post-16 Transport service, you will need to **submit an application by 30th June 2026**. Applications received after this date will be treated as late applications.

Please be aware that you must apply for Post-16 transport assistance each year - if your young person is currently in P16 and on transport, then you will still need to re-apply for transport for the next school year.

Please visit:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/schooltransport/parent-carer/application-process/post-16-provision>

for more information and to submit your application.

Non Post 16 Students:

For students in Year 11 or below, if your young person already receives School Transport then you don't need to do anything, unless your circumstances have changed and you have moved house. In this case you will need to re-apply for transport.

Please be aware that you must reapply for P16 Transport each School year-Click this link to apply now.