



Rachel Madocks Newsletter

Summer 1 2026

May 2026

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents & Carers,

Another busy time filled with various theme days, activities and events, although it has been a short half term it has been jam packed!

As ever thank you to our amazing school community for supporting us in these. We are now putting together our prizes and resources for our Fun Day on 21st July, which I hope you will be able to attend.

Niki Wilson,
Headteacher



Useful Dates

P16 Closure	Friday 22 nd May
Half Term Holiday	25 th –29 th May
INSET DAY	Monday 3 rd June
Stay & Play - Penguins, Parrots & Wrens	Thursday 4 th June
MFL Day	Thursday 9 th July
P16 Prom	Friday 17 th July
FUN DAY	Tuesday 21 st July

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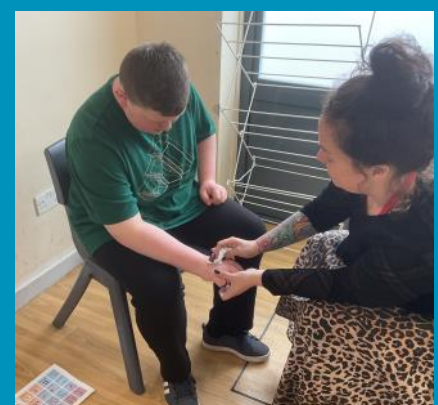
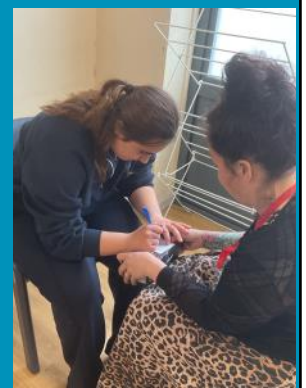
World Art Day:

On Wednesday 15th April the whole school celebrated World Art Day by exploring the well-known Portsmouth based street Artist 'My Dog Sighs.'

We enjoyed using our more creative sides to explore clay, make our own beautiful eyes and create our very own characters using recycled materials. We also celebrated the city of Portsmouth by experiencing the sea in the Sensory Room and with some messy play in the tuff trays. Throughout the day pupils went on a special themed 'My Dog Sighs' art treasure hunt around school!

We were very fortunate to have a local tattoo artist Heidi come and visit the school and give some of our older students a body art experience. The very talented musician Jack came in and also played some Portsmouth themed sea shanties.

It was a lovely day for all and great to see so many of our pupils embrace their creative side.



Kids Out On the Water Trip:

On Friday 16th May students had the opportunity to get out on the water sailing around Hayling Island from Northney Marina.

The students had a brilliant day with lots of happy faces. A big thank you to all staff who attended and supported the children on the trip and to Rachel who organised it all. Another big thank you to the amazing staff from the charity 'Kids Out on The Water' who ran the event.



Masonic Fishing Trip:

We were delighted to have once again been invited by the Masonic Fishing Charity to take part in their fishing and countryside experience day at Meon Springs Trout Fishery. During the day students were taught fishing techniques by experienced professionals, and some even returned home with their catch of the day!

A big thank you to all staff who attended and supported the children on the day and to the Masonic Fishing Charity for inviting us.



Discovery - Focus On Robins

We can't believe we are at this point of the year already! The progress that Robin's class have made over the last few months has been amazing.

We have been busy in Summer one learning all about sound, movement and dance. We have looked at ballet, and the pupils have shown us some great pointy toes and twirls. We have just moved on to tap dance and we can't wait to hear the tunes the pupils are going to tap out! We have been lucky enough to have a ballet dancer and a street dancer perform for us!



Our favourite lesson this term has been our funky fingers. We have had dancing fingers and been using catchy songs to practice our fine motor skills.

We have enjoyed a May Day festival, a Geography day all about wind, and an RE day about Eid where the food was loved by all!

We have loved getting outside more, getting messy and being dancing super stars!



Discovery - Focus On Puffins

Puffins Class have enjoyed the start to the Summer term so far. We have been exploring different dances as part of our 'Sound and Movement' Topic. We have all been getting really active and fully embracing the different dance moves through listening to music, playing instruments and exploring our bodies in our Sherbourne sessions. We have also been lucky enough to have some amazing dancers come and perform Ballet and Street Dance to us!

We have enjoyed getting messy with our friends in the other Primary classes whilst exploring different noisy foods as part of our 'Fun with Food' focus. We have explored crunchy foods, squeaky foods and squelchy foods!

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



Discovery - Focus On Serins

Serins class have enjoyed our new topic this half term - Sound and Movement. We have been exploring different styles of dance in lots of different ways. We have used our senses to experience ballet and lyrical dancing - pointing our toes, feeling scarves and ribbons on our feet, listening to the sound of ballet pointe shoes on the floor, watching sequin and floaty material move in front of us and smelling and tasting the colour smell for pink - candyfloss. We have explored our senses in a similar way when experiencing street dance, line dancing and maypole dancing. We have had lots of fun!

We have also enjoyed joining Robins, Puffins and Penguins classes for outdoor messy play each week. We have enjoyed exploring different foods and items that make different noises such as squeaky, squelchy, crunchy. It has been lovely to join our friends in other Primary classes.

We have all worked hard with our physical development, using our standers, walkers, walking slings and hydro sessions.

Our theme days this half term have included an World Art Day which we all enjoyed. We explored a local artist from Portsmouth and experienced sensory trays and the sensory room with the theme of 'seaside'. We enjoyed getting messy with clay by taking part in a clay sensory story.

We have had a busy and fun half term.



Discovery - Focus On Roadrunners

This term, Roadrunners have been exploring the topic Forces.

In Food Technology, students have been learning how to make a savoury pastry. The class love joining in with the cue song and actions, and take turns discussing the different forces involved in pastry making. Roadrunners have shown fantastic communication skills, using their ALB to select the ingredients needed and to collect equipment from the correct place. Everyone is becoming increasingly confident using a rolling pin and pressing the cutter firmly into the pastry.

In PE, Roadrunners have been enjoying sessions on the gymnastics equipment. They begin with adult led stretching to warm up each part of the body, before practising their travelling skills across low apparatus. Students have been using the benches to demonstrate how to move safely and confidently from one end to the other. Each session ends with a calming cool down to stretch the muscles they've been working hard.

Roadrunners continue to impress us with their enthusiasm, teamwork, and growing independence.



Explorers - Focus On Toucans

This term Toucans have enjoyed reading the book 'The Colour Monster' . We have been exploring our feelings through looking in the mirror and practicing different facial expressions.

We have also been looking at our colour monster sensory bottles and practicing how to deal with tricky emotions by practicing our favourite mindfulness activities that help us to feel calm and happy . These include playing with different sensory toys, listening to our favourite dance songs and chatting with our friends and teachers about our feelings.

Well done Toucans Class!



Explorers - Focus On Shelducks

Shelducks have been exploring big and small in maths by joining a Giant's Picnic. Students have enjoyed sorting the Giants BIG food on his plate and were surprised to see a sneaky mouse who wanted some of the Giant's food, but of course, he needed the SMALL food on his plate!

We have enjoyed reading Duck in the Truck in English and have washed all the dirty animals to make them clean again. Students have also enjoyed creating stick puppets of the characters to role play the story.

Science has been a joy in Shelducks as we have explored push and pull in some fun ways and in different environments. Students have really understood this concept and especially loved finding push and pull in the playground.

In Food tech we have been enjoying making some yummy pastries with different ingredients each week and exploring our preferences for toppings. Music has been super fun and noisy as we are learning to play instruments to a beat!



Adventurers - Hawks & Kestrels

With the arrival of the better weather, our Post-16 students have been making the most of being outdoors. Time in the allotment has been especially enjoyable, where we have been busy planting and nurturing sunflowers, herbs, and strawberries. We are looking forward to seeing the fruits of our labour in the coming weeks!

In History, we have been learning about the Portsmouth Navy, exploring its importance and heritage. To bring this learning to life, we are hoping to take part in a harbour cruise soon to view the ships up close.

Our Mini Enterprise continues to go from strength to strength. After carrying out a survey with teachers, students have been offering a wider range of food options. A special mention goes to Harry, who worked incredibly hard creating a tally and identifying the most popular dishes — fantastic real-life maths and teamwork in action.

In Food Technology, we have been focusing on party food, making a variety of tasty treats including cupcakes, sandwiches, biscuits, and scones. Alongside this, we have been learning about invitations, as we prepare to invite some VIP guests to a special tea party.

We have also been very lucky to work with music teachers from The Southern Music Project. Students have explored song writing, performance, and music comprehension, and it has been a fun and engaging experience for everyone involved.



Adventurers - Hawks & Kestrels

World Art Day was another highlight, where we created our own artwork inspired by Portsmouth street artist My Dog Sighs. It was a great opportunity to explore creativity and learn about local artists.

Outdoor activities have continued with the return of Canoeing, which has been great fun and a fantastic way to enjoy being on the water. We also continue our regular visits to the Blue Moon Community Café at Havant Day Service, where students practise communication and social skills in a real-world setting.

Finally, we have been developing our independence through shopping activities, using money skills to make purchases and manage budgets.

It has been a busy and exciting time in Post-16, and we are proud of all the effort and enthusiasm shown by our students.



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.