



Rachel Madocks Newsletter

Summer 2 2026

July 2026

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents & Carers,

What a year it has been with so many events, opportunities and trips. It has been an amazing end of term with our Fun Day of course, but also with the resources arriving and being set up as a result of the Lifelites competition that we won thanks to your support and voting.

Coming to the end of term is always bittersweet with the excitement of new things coming, reflecting on progress that children have made but also with sadness saying goodbye to both pupils and staff as they end their journey at Rachel Madocks. We wish all of those leaving for exciting new adventures whether it be in education, Residential, new job or retirement.

As ever to families, parents, carers and staff thank you for your continued support, dedication, hard work and engagement with the school it is deeply appreciated.

**Niki Wilson,
Headteacher**



Useful Dates

Summer Holidays	Thursday 23 rd July—Monday 1 st September
INSET Days	1 st & 2 nd September 2026
Winter Term Starts	3 rd September 2026
RE Day / Harvest	15 th October 2026
P16 Closure	22 nd October 2026
INSET Day	23 rd October 2026
Futures Evening	11 th November 2026
Parents Evening	11 th November 2026



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News from the Governors

Dear Parents / Carers,

The end of the school year often brings change for pupils, teachers and to a degree parents and carers. It can also bring about change for governors too.



Governors had their last meeting before the end of the academic year on 7th July and we said "goodbye" to two very important people within the governing body.

The first is Carol Endersby, who after nineteen years as a governor at Rachel Madocks School felt it was really time to "retire". For some, you may be aware that prior to becoming a governor, Carol was a teacher at Rachel Madocks. So I think its fair to say Carol has now properly "retired"! During her time as governor, Carol has been vice-chair, along with sitting on various committees and teacher interviews. Her knowledge and skills of what it means to be a governor will be very much missed.

We also say goodbye to Judith Wilkins, who has been our clerk to governors for thirty years, far longer than Carol or I have been governors. Judith's knowledge around paperwork, policies, agenda setting, minute taking and ensuring we as governors are kept up to date with any changes made by the Education system, is outstanding and I know for the first few terms of the new academic year we are going to be very lost without her.

I am sure you will all want to join me in saying a very big Thank You to Carol and Judith for all their hard work and support given to Rachel Madocks School and the governing body over many years. We really are going to miss you both.

Alison Brooker

Chair of governors



Carol Endersby:
Retiring after 19
years as a Rachel
Madocks Governor



Judith Wilkins:
Retiring after 30
years as Clerk to
the Governors

Calshot Residential 2026

The Adventurers Really Did Adventure!

WOW! What an absolutely bonkers, brilliant and action-packed few days we had at Calshot! The Adventurers certainly lived up to their name and spent the whole trip being **brave, daring and occasionally slightly terrifying to watch!**

We flew around on Ringos, attempted snowboarding (some with more style than others!), sailed Dart catamarans and sailing boats and took to the water for some epic katanuung. We cycled around the velodrome and headed outside on our bikes to the castle. There were tired legs, big smiles and probably a few staff wondering why we had chosen such an active Residential!

Then came climbing, bouldering, the high swing and crate stacking. Our students climbed higher, swung faster and generally showed absolutely no concern for the nerves of the staff watching from below! There was also archery and shooting, where we discovered some seriously impressive aiming skills. We are now being extra nice to a few students!



Calshot Residential Continued....

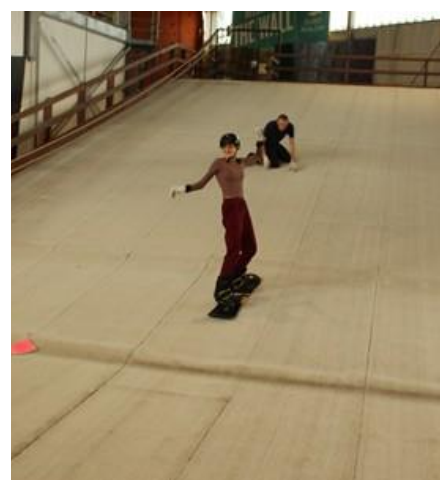
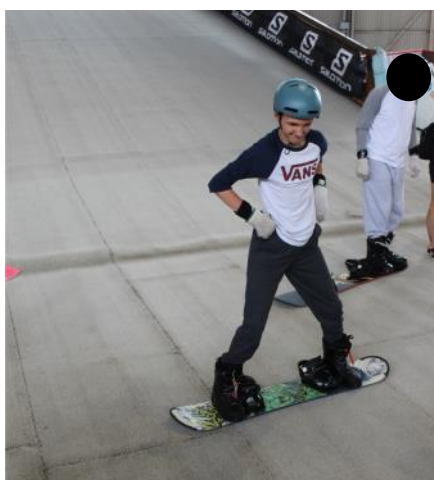
The evenings were just as busy. Epic Engineering saw us creating some amazing animals, Rushing Rockets involved lots of building, launching and excitement, and Laser Climb was a huge hit. We even squeezed in a film night when everyone finally stopped moving for five minutes!

And the sleeping... **SUPERB!** Beds were slept in. Rooms were quiet. Students actually went to sleep! Those who have been on residentials before will understand why this deserves its own paragraph and possibly a certificate!

Our students were honestly phenomenal. Their behaviour was exceptional, they supported each other, listened brilliantly and threw themselves into every challenge. They were brave, kind, hilarious and an absolute pleasure to take away. Quite simply, they were the **best behaved** bunch of Adventurers and made us ridiculously proud.

We laughed, we climbed, we sailed, we cycled, we swung through the air and we made some wonderful memories. Calshot 2026 was an absolutely brilliant experience.

Adventurers by name....completely bonkers adventurers by nature!



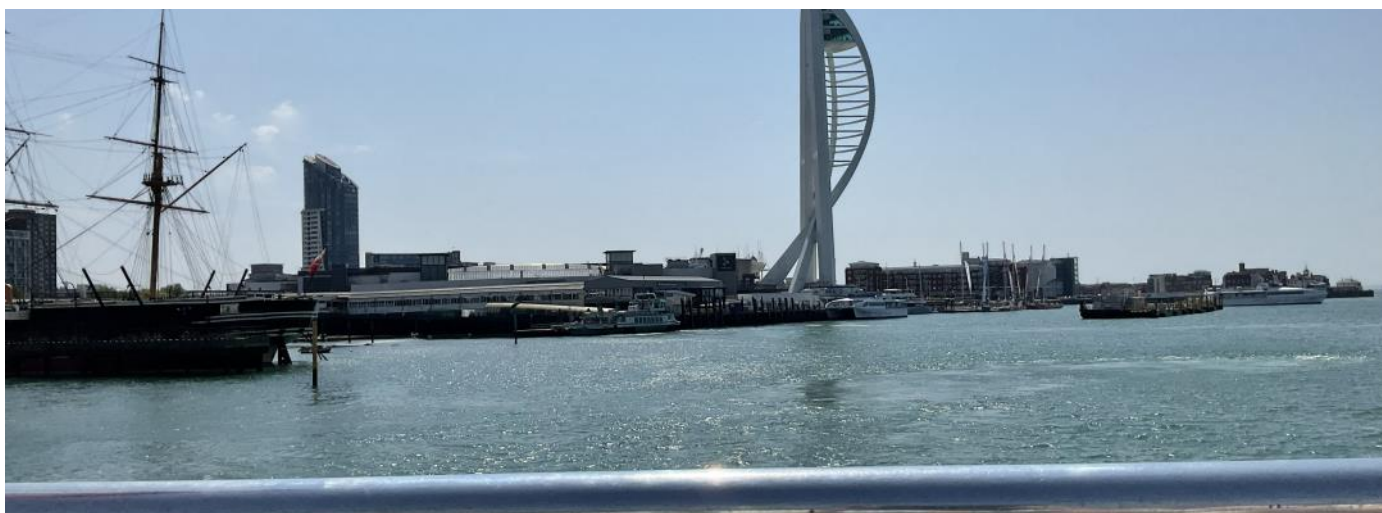
P16 Harbour Trip



Post 16 students had a fantastic day on a harbour tour Trip in Portsmouth a few weeks ago. They spent the day learning about Portsmouth's Dockyard while taking in the sights from the water.

One of the highlights was seeing the historic HMS Warrior. Several of our students recognised the ship from our research in the classroom and got very excited to see it up close!

It was a wonderful day of learning, exploration and fresh sea air!



Hayling Light Railway Trip

Back in June Wrens class had a great time visiting the Hayling Light Railway, They dodged the showers and enjoyed a ride on the little train. Everyone loved looking out of the windows and seeing the sea.

After the train ride, they visited the park and had lots of fun playing on the swings and slides.

The weather turned so they headed back to school for a special treat- McDonald's finished with yummy ice creams. It was a lovely way to end a fantastic day.

Everybody all had lots of fun and made some wonderful memories together.



Lower School Bowling Trips

Puffin and Penguins classes enjoyed a visit to Tenpin in Chichester for their school trip this term.

Both classes had a really fun time on their trips and were all fantastic bowlers! Well done to all the children for such a fun and happy trip and thank you to all staff who supported.



MFL Day

The whole school enjoyed celebrating the World Cup during our recent MFL day.

Pupils and staff wore their football tops and school was filled with football cheer. We were lucky enough to welcome lots of visitors to our school including returning familiar faces and new guests.

All pupils got to have a go at their football skills being supported by a range of visitors. A big thank you to Dan, and pupils, from Prospect School, Gary and Will from Havant and Waterlooville Football club and Albie from Padnell Junior school. Thank you for adapting your sessions to meet the needs of all our pupils and making the activity so hands on and fun.

We also enjoyed a range of football anthems performed for us by our musical visitors. The Wacky Wednesdays retuned to Rachel Madocks to play their ukuleles and sing classics like "Sweet Caroline". Faye and Martin serenaded us with "We are the Champions" as we lifted the world cup. Rob helped finish off the day playing the saxophone at our whole school disco. It was super hot in the hall but great to have everyone together cheering on England!!

A special thanks to our very own Kim who made the most amazing 5ft cardboard football! And a big thank you to all pupils, families and staff for making the day such fun!

Come on England!!



Discovery - Focus On Parrots

It has been a very musical term, bringing a fantastic year in Parrots class to a close.

Throughout the term, we have explored a wide range of instruments each week, with the bells and guitars proving especially popular with everyone. The whole class has worked hard on sharing, using new cause-and-effect toys, taking turns in games, and passing instruments to the next friend in the group. It has been wonderful to see such great teamwork.

We also enjoyed getting creative by crafting our own instruments, making drums and even an artistic interpretation of a guitar.

All of the Parrots have done amazingly well this year, and we have had so much fun along the way. Well done everyone!



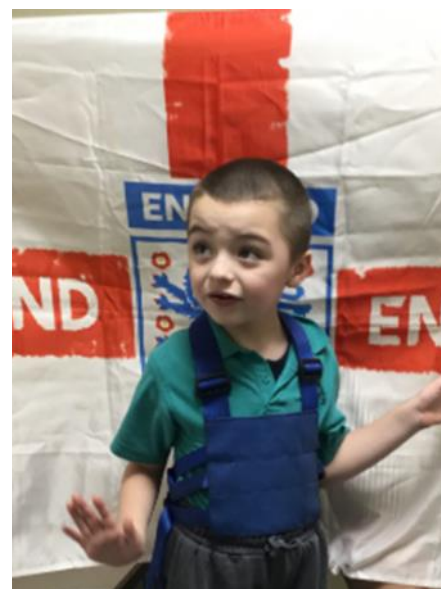
Discovery - Focus On Penguins

Penguins have had a busy half term and had lots of fun together! We have enjoyed exploring our topic of Movement and Sound and have loved our weekly discos where we have explored different dance moves and music. Penguins class can really move and have enjoyed socialising with the other Primary classes. It's been a really lovely for lots of classes to come together and have fun with our friends.

We have also explored our Movement and Sound topic through our sensory story and messy play. We have crumbled, splatted, rubbed different foods and got really messy! Similarly during our art sessions, we have had fun using shaving foam paint to splat and squelch and make lots of interesting marks.

A real highlight has been our class school trip. We had the most happy and fun day at Chichester Tenpin Bowling. The children were amazing and were fantastic bowlers! It was a really relaxed, happy and fun filled day had by us all.

It has been a truly fabulous year in Penguins class and all the children and their families should be so proud of all pupils' achievements. Penguins class team are so proud of you all and would like to thank all families for their support this year. We'd like to wish everyone at school a peaceful summer holiday.



Discovery - Focus On Wrens

This term we have had a wonderful time enjoying the sunny weather! We had lots of fun with water play, splashing, pouring, and exploring different ways to keep cool in the heat.

We also enjoyed tasting a variety of summer foods. Everyone was encouraged to try new flavours and talk about the foods they liked best.

As part of our Food Tech, we practised our cutting skills while making our own pizzas. Everyone worked carefully to cut the toppings, choose their favourite ingredients, and create a delicious pizza to enjoy.

We hope you all have a great summer, see you in September!



Explorers - Focus On Pelicans

In Pelicans class we have been learning about forces. In Science we have been exploring how we use forces within different activities such as using playground equipment, playing with different toys, changing the shape of clay and playing games.

The elastic rope was a favourite when learning about pulling. In Topic we have been using forces to create art pieces by completing actions such as pushing a car into paint and then down a ramp, pulling string to create string art and pushing and pulling on paint rollers. We used different forces in Funky Fingers to practise our fine motor skills by pushing objects together and then pulling them apart and enjoyed using a magnet to move a paperclip around a maze.

In food technology Pelicans class baked savoury pastries in the first half term and smoothies in the second half. Pelicans class have been working really hard on reading the recipes and requesting the ingredients they need. They have also been working hard on tidying up at the end of the session.



Explorers - Focus On Peacocks

Wonderful Peacocks class have been working extremely hard this half term in all subject areas. Our topic this term has been 'Forces'. We have learnt about different forces in Science particularly push and pull. We have really enjoyed practising pushing and pulling when using a Hoover. This term for Literature we have been reading the book 'Duck in a Truck'. The story is all about a duck who gets their truck stuck in muck and the other animals who try to help by pushing and pulling the truck free. Peacocks have had fun re-enacting the story using toy versions of the characters and vehicles.



Explorers - Focus On Skylarks

This term Skylarks class have really been enjoying their topic, Forces. They have explored a range of different forces spinning, pulling, pushing and falling have been their favourite's. They have pulled on ropes, rakes and ribbons, pushed cars and curling stones down ramps, watched balloons and confetti fall down and used the roundabout outside to spin around. It has been lovely to see their responses to the activities and how much they enjoyed them.



Adventurers - Hawks & Kestrels

As another fantastic year draws to a close, we would like to celebrate everything our Post-16 students have achieved. It has been a busy term filled with learning, laughter, new experiences and growing independence.

Our Hawks and Kestrels Mini Enterprise Team has continued to go from strength to strength. Every Thursday, students have successfully prepared and served staff lunches, while Friday mornings have seen the return of our popular breakfast baps. A huge well done to Harry, Matty, Joe and Justin, who have confidently collected orders from staff using their communication devices and ALBs. Their confidence and communication skills have grown tremendously. The money raised will help fund our Prom and next year's Dance Live performance.

We thoroughly enjoyed our visit to the Historic Dockyard, where students loved spotting the many boats and ships sailing around the Solent, bringing our learning to life.

MFL Day was another highlight of the term, with everyone joining in football and World Cup-themed activities. It was a fantastic opportunity to experience different cultures through sport and teamwork.

Keeping safe has been an important focus this term. During our home safety lessons, Mave transformed the kitchen into a disaster zone, complete with slips, trips, burns and electrical hazards! Thankfully, our safety experts Amy, Rico, Evie and Leon were quick to identify every danger and make the kitchen safe again.



Adventurers - Hawks & Kestrels

Students have continued to develop valuable life skills through learning about money, shopping and visiting cafés. Picking and packing skills have improved significantly, and everyone has worked hard learning how to use a vacuum cleaner, dusters and a variety of brooms, helping to build confidence with everyday household tasks.

During the recent heatwave, we kept cool by enjoying water games, relaxing in our air-conditioned classrooms and taking part in lots of water-themed Attention Autism "Bucket" activities, which were a huge hit across Post-16.

In PSHE, students have explored what makes a good friend, how to recognise different emotions and how to identify these feelings in other people. These activities have supported communication, empathy and positive relationships.

Our Food Technology sessions have continued to be a real success. Students' baking skills have flourished, and staff now eagerly await the weekly treats! Chocolate cake, lemon drizzle cake and banana bread have become firm favourites, earning our young bakers an excellent reputation. A special mention goes to Amy and Rico, whose confidence and skills in the kitchen continue to grow.

Our Kestrels have enjoyed working with Ellie, our Speech and Language Therapist, developing their conversational skills through fun and engaging activities. Both classes have also continued to enjoy our weekly Friday Diary sessions, where students proudly share their achievements and favourite moments from the week.

The Katanuig Group has made fantastic progress on the water, developing their paddling techniques and becoming increasingly confident steering forwards, backwards, completing 360-degree turns and improving their speed.

Our PE lessons have remained varied and enjoyable, including yoga, Tac Pac, ball skills and team games, helping students to stay active while building coordination, confidence and teamwork.

As we look ahead, everyone is excited for two of the biggest events of the year — Prom and Fun Day. These are always wonderful opportunities to celebrate everything our students have accomplished together.

We would like to thank all of our families for your continued support throughout the year. We hope you all have a wonderful, relaxing summer break, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back in September for another exciting year of learning and adventure! Have a fantastic summer!



Farewell Judith!



The time has come where we sadly have to say Goodbye to one of our longest serving members of staff, Judith Wilkins. Judith has worked in the Office and been Clerk to the board of Governors for 30 years but it is now time for her to enjoy a well earned rest in her retirement.

Thank you to Judith for being the a queen of all things admin, or as we like to call her 'the Oracle!' From sourcing everybody's orders, fixing the photocopier, welcoming visitors, rifling through her 'resources cupboard' Judith is the woman we all turn to for help.

A clear memory of Judith was during a leak in the laundry room. Judith hoiked up her skirt, got out the towels, got onto the floor and mopped up the flood!

Judith - Rachel Madocks won't be the same without you. You are incredible and we will miss you so much! Enjoy every moment of your retirement with your family.



Useful Information: Free School Meals:

Are you eligible for Free School Meals?

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



Check to see if you are eligible
application today

Check your eligibility today and help ensure Rachel Madocks receives all funding it's entitled to!

[Online FSM Application](#)

Useful Information: Wheelchair Survey

NHS Hampshire and Isle of Wight is running a survey to understand the experiences of wheelchair users who are currently using services.

What will the survey do?

Gather insights on wheelchair users' experiences.

The findings from this survey will help inform the commissioning of services as we begin the procurement process for wheelchair services in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight later this year.

Provide an opportunity to be involved further to help shape the service in the short and longer term.

Who can take part?

Wheelchair users living in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight (or previous users in the last 12 months, who are 18 and over), their families, and carers.

Please share this link with your networks:

Take the survey here: Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wheelchair Service User Survey 2026



The survey should take around 10-15 minutes to complete.