

# NEWSLETTER



OCTOBER  
2025



## Message from Mrs Cooper

As we come to the end of the first half of the term, I wanted to take a moment to thank you for your continued support and encouragement. We have enjoyed such a wonderful and productive start to the school year. Your children have settled in beautifully showing enthusiasm, kindness and curiosity in all they do. Earlier this week, we were so touched by your generosity in sending in food donations to our Harvest Festival.

We enjoyed the most wonderful celebration, singing and sharing happiness as a whole school. One of our highlights this term has been welcoming our new school councillors who were thoughtfully chosen to represent their classmates and share ideas on how to make our school even better. They have already begun their roles with great enthusiasm and a strong sense of responsibility. We have been delighted watching children earn leaves for our 'Kindness Tree'. They have been so thoughtful and caring towards each other, whether helping a friend, sharing, or simply using kind words. The tree is blooming beautifully thanks to them!

We hope you all enjoy a lovely family break together over the next two weeks. Remember to put your clocks back next weekend!! We look forward to seeing you again at the beginning of November.

With very warm wishes,  
Mrs Cooper

## Community Fridays

We have been delighted to welcome so many parents, grandparents, carers and families to our first Community Friday this week. Our community links are very important to us and we enjoy getting to know you all. The Community Friday sessions are a unique opportunity for you to be able to see what your child does within their classroom and for you to get to know the school environment. We have regular Friday drop ins from different agencies in Portsmouth including, The Mental Health Support Team, Cost of Living Champion, Homestart, Community Police and our lovely Parent and Teacher Association known as PATCH. Look out for visitors each week, they are based in the library.



## Phonics Presentation

In October, we welcomed parents and carers to our recent Phonics presentations where we shared how children in Early Years and Year 1 learn to read and write through phonics. If you missed the presentation or would like a copy of the materials shared, please contact your class teacher.



## Parents Evening

Parents are warmly invited to speak with their child's teacher on either Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November between 4pm - 7pm. Don't forget to sign up for a time slot with your class teacher.



## Early Years

We would like to start by saying a massive WELL DONE to all our children in Early Years with their transition into school. This half term we have been developing our listening and attention skills by understanding and following classroom rules. We have enjoyed learning a new Makaton sign each week, which we are sure the children have been showing you at home. The children have enjoyed building new friendships across EY and sharing new ideas with their friends. At the end of the half term the children enjoyed their first cookery lesson, they had lots of fun making their own porridge (especially when they got to taste it). We look forward to seeing what fun is going to happen next half term!



## Visit from Simon Philip

We were delighted to welcome back best selling children's author Simon Philip to our school last month. The day began with a story session for our children in Early Years and their parents. Later on, Simon read more of his classic books to our Year 1 and Year 2 children, including his brand new book: 'Perfect Pedro' The children were thrilled to get their books signed by Simon and we hope it was a day to remember for them all.

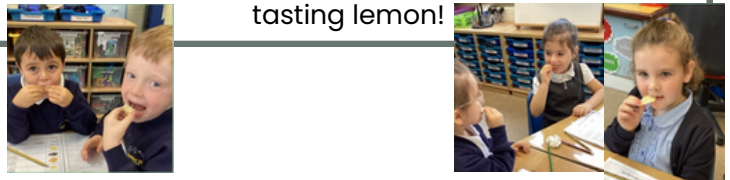


## Year 1

It has been a busy and exciting first Autumn term! We have been so proud of all of our children for positively settling into their new Year 1 routines.

The children have been enthusiastic learners within our 'Adventure Awaits' topic and have enjoyed learning all about different types of transport. This has included creating their own hot air balloons, flying off into space and designing their very own rocket on a string, reciting and performing fire engine poetry and using tractors as inspiration within our Autumn writing and Harvest learning.

We have been busy in Maths practising our counting skills, number ordering and formation too. In Science, we have been exploring our senses and have enjoyed learning about our sense of touch, smell, hearing and sight. Our favourite experiment was learning more about our sense of taste, although we weren't quite sure about the sour tasting lemon!



## Year 2

Year 2 have enjoyed 'Storming the Castle!' this half term. The highlight of this learning journey was our visit to Arundel Castle in West Sussex. We were greeted by our knowledgeable guides who led us on a wonderful tour of the castle. We began by visiting the education room where we heard the story of the Battle of Hastings before dressing up as knights, princesses, lords and ladies. Next, we visited the armory and marveled at the array of weapons and protective clothing on display. After that, we visited the Great Hall and learnt about the decadent banquets enjoyed by noblemen. Did you know they used to eat peacock in medieval times? Following a well-earned picnic lunch and a run around, we climbed the many steps to the top of the keep where we were treated to beautiful views. We found out that this was the safest part of the castle and where important people would hide during battle. Finally, we enjoyed a walk around the beautiful, ornamental gardens. What fun we had! Other highlights of our topic have included printing our own tapestries and making cereal box drawbridges. We can't wait to bring these home to show you.



## Harvest Festival

On Tuesday 14th October, we all gathered for our Harvest Festival. Becki Bickerton from The North End Pantry was delighted to join and loved hearing the beautiful harvest songs rehearsed by each year group. Thank you from The North End Pantry for your kind and generous food donations which will support many local families.



## PATCH Laser Light Show

3rd November gates open 6pm, show at 7pm  
Stamshaw Junior School  
Pay-what-you-can (recommended donation £5 per family, but tickets can be booked for free).

Tickets need to be booked so we can let the laser company know numbers in advance. Hot food and drink will be available to buy.

Light up toys available to buy  
[www.stamshawpatch.org](http://www.stamshawpatch.org) to book tickets



## PATCH Halloween event

31st October 4:30-7:30  
Stamshaw Junior School  
Free Drop in 'trick-or-treat' event  
Open to everyone

## Open Days

Is your child starting school in September 2026?

Our upcoming Open Days are the following:

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> November 10am - 11am  
Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November 10am - 11am  
Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November 5.30pm - 6.30pm  
Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 10am - 11am



## PATCH Christmas Fayre

6th December 10am -2pm  
Stamshaw Infant School  
Free entry



## PATCH Santa's Grotto

Santa's Grotto  
6th December 10:10-1:50  
At the Christmas fayre.  
Pre-booking essential  
£4 per child  
[www.stamshawpatch.org](http://www.stamshawpatch.org) to book tickets



## Important dates

Monday 20th October—Friday 31st October  
HALF TERM

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November - Back to school

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November  
PATCH Laser light Show - at SJS

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November  
MAKE Photography visiting

Friday 21st November—INSET DAY

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December  
PATCH Christmas Fayre

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December  
OpenBox Christmas Show

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December  
Christmas Dinner

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December**  
**LAST DAY OF TERM - Parents are welcome to**  
**collect from 1pm**

Monday 22nd December 2025—Friday 2nd  
January 2026  
CHRISTMAS HALF TERM

Monday 5th January 2026—INSET DAY

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January - Back to school

Monday 16th February—Friday 20th February  
HALF TERM

Monday 30th March—Friday 10th April  
EASTER HALF TERM

Monday 4th May 2026—BANK HOLIDAY

Friday 22nd May 2026—INSET DAY

Monday 25th May—Friday 29th May  
HALF TERM

Friday 3rd July 2026—INSET DAY

Wednesday 22nd July 2026  
LAST DAY OF TERM  
Parents are welcome to collect from 1pm



## Moments Matter

A good education is vital for children and young people and regular attendance at school is a key factor in opening up more opportunities in adult life. If your child develops a habit of regular school attendance, they'll have a positive attitude at school and beyond.

School is the best place for children and young people to enjoy developing independence, building friendships and learning with their friends. All Portsmouth schools are committed to enabling all children to develop the best versions of themselves as individuals, achieving the very best they can and learning how to develop the personal relationships and interests which will enable them to live rewarding lives.

As a parent or carer you have a hugely important role to play in your child's education. Your support is crucial to make sure they attend school regularly and to give them the positive encouragement they need. Your child's school will be keen to help you support your child in their learning. We strongly encourage you to ask questions and make sure you have the information you need from the school to help you do this as well as you can. Find out more <https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/services/schools-learning-and-childcare/schools/school-attendance/>

## Contact Info

### Telephone

02392661192

### Email

enquiries@stamshaw-inf.portsmouth.sch.uk

### Absence from school

Either call on 02392661192 or email on [absence@stamshaw-inf.portsmouth.sch.uk](mailto:absence@stamshaw-inf.portsmouth.sch.uk)

### Website

[www.stamshawinfant.chimat.uk](http://www.stamshawinfant.chimat.uk)

### Follow us

