



NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER
2026



Message from Mrs Cooper

The last few weeks have flown by and as we reach the end of our first half term, I would like to thank you for your ongoing support and partnership. It has been a fantastic start to the school year and we are so proud of how well our children have settled into their new classes and routines. They have approached each day with enthusiasm, curiosity and kindness, making a wonderful start to the year. It has been wonderful to welcome our new and youngest children into Early Years. They have all settled beautifully and it has been a joy getting to know them all.

Earlier this week, we celebrated Harvest Festival together. Thank you so much for your generous donations. The children enjoyed a lovely celebration filled with singing, reflection and a real sense of community. Your support helped make the occasion especially meaningful and once again we were overwhelmed with your kindness.

This term, we have also been delighted to welcome our new School Councillors. They have already embraced their responsibilities with confidence and enthusiasm, representing their classmates thoughtfully and helping to shape ideas for the future of our school.

Another highlight has been watching our Kindness Tree flourish. The children have earned leaves through acts of kindness, friendship and consideration for others. It has been wonderful to see so many examples of children supporting one another and demonstrating our school values every day.

We wish you all a happy and restful half-term break and hope you enjoy some special time together as a family. Don't forget that the clocks go back next weekend! We look forward to welcoming everyone back at the beginning of November for another exciting half term.

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 and Community Police. Look out for visitors each week, they are based in the library.

Rocksteady

Our amazing Rocksteady children have begun their sessions and preparations are under way for the first concert of the year. Have you thought about signing your child up for Rocksteady music lessons? There are so many benefits to learning an instrument! As well as acquiring an exciting new skill, it can improve memory, reduce anxiety, regulate behaviour and boost confidence too! Visit the website to register your child and snap up one of the remaining spaces.

<https://www.rocksteadymusicschool.com/>



Early Years

A Wonderful Start to School in Early Years!

All our children in Early Years have made a fantastic start to their school journey this half term! We are so proud of the confidence they have shown when learning new routines, building friendships and exploring the classroom. The children have enjoyed sharing their family photos and discussing with their friends who is important to them. We have been amazed with their flying start in beginning their Little Wandle Phonics journey! The children have enjoyed learning a new phoneme each day and discovering objects which begin with the sound of the day. We enjoyed finishing this half term with a wonderful Harvest Festival and showing off our wonderful Early Years Scarecrows!



Year 2



Year 2 have had a fantastic time exploring the exciting world of castles! We have discovered what life was like inside a castle and investigated the many different jobs people had, from cooks, servants to guards and knights. The children also enjoyed comparing Henry VIII with King Charles III, spotting similarities and differences between monarchs past and present. Our learning was brought to life with a wonderful visit to Arundel Castle, where the children loved exploring a real castle and seeing many of the features we had learned about in class. This trip helped us with our writing about the features of castles and other fact writing.

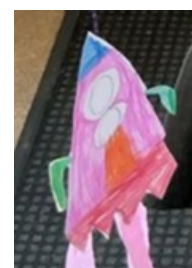
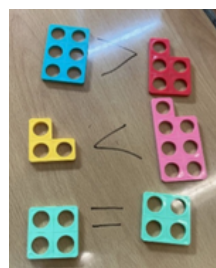
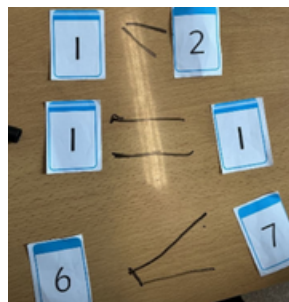
The children worked hard, creating beautiful stained-glass windows, amazing shields and coat of arms printing, demonstrating their skill and creativity. A great start to their time in Year 2!

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!





FunKidz Dance Club

Our new after-school club, Funkidz Dance, has been bringing lots of energy and fun to Wednesday afternoons for our Year 1 and Year 2 children! Every week the children have been learning new moves, developing their dance skills, and building their confidence.

Over the past half term, they have been working hard to learn a fantastic Halloween dance routine, which they proudly performed for their parents during their final lesson. It was wonderful to see their enthusiasm, big smiles, and growing confidence as they showed off the new dance skills they had learnt.

Their instructor, Lily, is incredibly proud of how far the children have come and how much they have enjoyed performing. Well done, Funkidz – you were all spooktacular!



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.

Harvest Festival

On Thursday 15th October, we all gathered for our Harvest Festival. Becki Bickerton from The North End Pantry was delighted to join us 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.



STAMSHAW INFANT SCHOOL
"Helping stars to shine brightly"

SCHOOL OPEN DAYS 2026

You are warmly invited to attend our Open Day Sessions to look around our lovely school and meet with our Leadership Team and Teachers.

Dates and times are as follows.

- Wednesday 14th October 9.30-10.30am
- Wednesday 4th November 9.30-10.30am
- Thursday 12th November 1.30-2.30pm
- Saturday 14th November 10.00-11.00am
- Wednesday 6th January 9.30-10.30am

These dates are a drop in and there is no need to book ahead. For any more info contact our Admin Office 02392 661192 enquiries@stamshawinfant.chimat.uk https://www.stamshawinfant.chimat.uk/



Parents Evening

Parents are warmly invited to speak with their child's teacher on either Tuesday 17th and Thursday 19th November between 4pm – 7pm. Please make sure you sign up for a convenient time with your child's class teacher.



New School Council



This term we successfully welcomed our new elected School Councillors and they attended their first School Council meeting which was a huge success! Those voted in can be seen on our School Council board.



Our lovely new benches

The new rainbow benches have arrived in the school playground. These were chosen by our previous School Council and funded by PATCH!! Thank you again



Important dates

Monday 19th October – Friday 30th October Half Term

Monday 9th November
School photos – Sibling photos from
3.25pm

Tuesday 17th November & Thursday 19th
November 2026
Parents Evening

Friday 27th November 2026 – **INSET DAY**

Monday 21st December – Friday 1st January 2027 Half Term

Monday 4th January 2027 – **INSET DAY**

Monday 15th February – Friday 19th February 2027 Half Term

Friday 5th March 2027 – **INSET DAY**

Friday 26th March 2027 – Friday 9th April 2027 Half Term

Friday 28th May 2027 – **INSET DAY**

Monday 31st May – Friday 4th June 2027 Half Term

Wednesday 21st July 2027
LAST DAY OF TERM



Our School day

Our school gates open at 8.40am and will be closed at 8.50am everyday. The register will be taken in class at 8.45am.

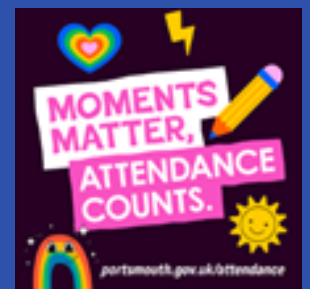
All children should aim to be in school by 8.45am every day.

Any children who arrive after 8.55am will be recorded as late after the registration closed. The late attendance marks do affect your child's overall attendance score.

If your child is unfortunately feeling unwell, we ask that you kindly let the school office know before 9.30am on the day of absence. You can either call the office, leave a voicemail on the answering machine or email us on absence@stamshawinfant.chimat.uk

Attendance Ladder

	Equates to number of school days off each year	100%	➤ Perfection
4	School days missed	98%	➤ Impressive
6	School days missed	97%	➤ Good
7	School days missed	96%	➤ On Target
9	School days missed	95%	➤ Slight Concern
13	School days missed	93%	➤ Concerns
20	School days missed	90%	➤ Very Concerned
30	School days missed	85%	➤ Serious Concerns



Contact Info

Telephone

02392 661192

Email

enquiries@stamshawinfant.chimat.uk

Absence from school

Either call the school on 92661192 or
absence@stamshawinfant.chimat.uk

Website

www.stamshawinfant.chimat.uk