



It is hard to believe that we are already half way through this half term. Time flies when you are having fun, as they say! As a staff, we had a very productive day on Monday, looking into how we can further enhance our curriculum, to make our lessons even more exciting. We did miss the children, however, and were delighted to welcome them back on Tuesday! A particular highlight of the week for me was walking into the hall to find all our lovely year 5 pupils spread out on the hall floor, fully immersed in the beginning stage of creating their modroc masks. I cannot wait to see the finished products and was highly impressed to see such fantastic teamwork.

As a whole school we had an incredible day yesterday. The children made us so proud in their tenacity and sportsmanship during our Interhouse Sports day. Again, it was so pleasing to see how respectful and supportive the children are of each other, and how many people were able to share. I am sure they will let you know the outcomes of the day when they get home today.

As many of you will know, we will be saying goodbye to our fabulous Crossing Patrol Officer, Rodney, in March. We are so grateful for his support in keeping us all safe, and would like to reassure you that we are in discussion with Hampshire County Council to ensure that we can secure continued crossing control support.

Wishing you a very pleasant weekend,

Miss Philip



Arriving after registration – please book school dinners



Each day the kitchen staff cook to the numbers registered for lunches on that day.

If your child is going to miss morning registration and they would like a school lunch please can we ask you to let the office know, **in advance**, so that they can order a meal.

A Spoonful of sugar



On Tuesday this week any children who have chosen to audition for our new production brought home their instruction packs.

This year we have our highest ever number of children involved, which is very exciting! None of this can happen without the incredible hard work of people behind the scenes.

Thank you in advance to you too for all of your support helping your child learn lines and prepare for their auditions. As we shared with the children, the auditions are fun and friendly and just help us match your child with the part that is right for them.

Auditions take place on the 13th and 14th February and, we are sure, will be practically perfect in every way!

Spit spot!

Miss Chambers 😊

Careers Afternoon

On Wednesday 3rd April we will be hosting a careers afternoon in school. We ran this very successfully a few years ago and our children were so inspired by all the different careers they had the opportunity to find out about (as were all of the staff!) I still remember learning about computer aided design, oceanography and pharmaceuticals to name but a few!



To make our Careers afternoon happen, we need you! We would like to invite parents, neighbours, friends and members of our community to come in and talk to the children about your job and what it involves. This is such a wonderful opportunity for our children to find out the wide range of opportunities available to them and to inspire them about what they might like to go on and do. No job is too small or too unique - we really welcome as much diversity as possible.

To get involved, you would need to be available for the afternoon of Wednesday 3rd April. The children brought home a letter about this last Friday with a slip to complete and return. We also have spare copies in the office.

We would really love to hear from you. Any questions at all, please contact Miss Chambers.

Miss Chambers ☺

We Care Certificates this week



Annabelle M (6W) Hockey Hero
Will G (5R) Great Team Player
Chloe M and Freddie WJ (4P) Wowing at netball
Spencer W (3DN) Superb hockey positioning
Tilly C (6C) Complimenting the opposition
Reuben G and Eli H (3P) Marvellous Paired Writing



Edward Z (5W) Talk of the Astro
Charlotte H (4E) Magnificent, Marvellous Maths



Joanna AA (3O) Meticulous tree painting



Thomas B (5B) What A Week!



Usman T (4S) Thoughtful Hindu Questions
Chris M (6H) Superb historical knowledge



Communications this week (copies of these letters can be found on our website)

Group	Content	Date of Event/Deadline
Whole School	Parents Evening Booking Information	From 23 rd January
5B	Staffing Update	
Mrs O'Driscoll's Group	Concert Information Letter	11 th February

Dates for Next Week

28 th January	Mrs O'Driscoll's music lessons cancelled Y6 SeaCity visit R&R Lower School Football 15:30 – 16:30 collect from the music room
29 th January	Y6 Guys and Dolls visit
30 th January	Street Dance whole school 15:30 – 16:30 collect from the hall
31 st January	R&R Y5 Netball 15:30 – 16:30 collect from the music room
1 st February	R&R Lower School Netball 15:30 – 16:30 collect from the music room

HSPTA News

Get to know the HSPTA Chair...

Name: Helen

Children: 2 Children, one currently in Year 4 and one in Year 6.

Occupation: I work 8am-3pm 4 days a week as a Software Engineer.



Why did you take on the role of Chair?

When I took over the role of Chair my children had just started Year 2 and Year 4 and my life was at a point where I felt I had the time to give more back to the schools. The Chair role has been a good way to do this as I'm able to fit it around the children, work and home life. Moreover, I wanted to do the role for the full 3 years and knew that I would then hand it over to someone else when my eldest left for Thornden which I felt worked for me.

What is the best thing about being Chair?

In all honesty I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as Chair so it's quite hard to pick a best thing. The committee are a wonderful group of volunteers and it's great to work with them. We are also very lucky as both the Infant and Junior schools are incredibly supportive and involved in what we do, both for the events and in the background at committee meetings. But if I have to name one thing, my favourite two and a half hours of the last two and a half years has been distributing the Christmas presents to the classes last Christmas. Seeing first-hand how the HSPTA makes a difference definitely made me feel very Christmassy!

What is the worst thing about being Chair?

The only thing I can think of is that like with everything there are times you wish you didn't have to do bits because you just don't feel like it. For me that happens rarely though and there's nothing more than that. With the Chair role the time commitment is continuous throughout the year, rather than a burst of activity in the run up to an event but some weeks I do more and some weeks I do much less.

What have you gained personally from being Chair?

Being Chair has reminded me just how much I enjoy working with people and doing team leading type roles. I did team leading at work before having children, but returning part time after maternity leave I've never really got back into it. This part of me has therefore stayed dormant to the extent of being forgotten for 10 years. What's been a wonderful unexpected outcome is that through being HSPTA Chair I've been reminded of how much I enjoy this type of role! As a result my job at work now includes these aspects which gives me far more enjoyment and personal satisfaction on a day-to-day basis.

Do you have any advice for someone thinking of being Chair?

My obvious advice is to go for it if you think it's something you would enjoy because you never know what you'll get out of it personally over and above the satisfaction of knowing you're doing a worthwhile role in supporting the schools. I would also advise you work closely with the Vice Chair. Nicky and I have a Chair/Vice Chair split with myself taking on more of the day-to-day running of the HSPTA due to our personal work commitments. With Cat and Nicola before us, the role was more equally split to the extent that they were both co-Chair's and we didn't have an official Vice Chair. It's really up to what works for the people involved.

Dates/Events for the Spring Term

- **Friday 1st February:** Coffee morning for the parents and carers of Infant School children, 9am Infant School Staff room
- **Thursday 28th February:** Committee meeting, 7pm Junior School Staff Room
- **Friday 29th March:** Easter Egg Hunt, 3:30pm Junior School field

For any queries or questions about the events or anything HSPTA related please contact us at info@hspta.co.uk or see our Facebook group [facebook.com/groups/hspta](https://www.facebook.com/groups/hspta). Don't forget to also visit the Business Directory <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/hspta/index.cfm?event=business-directory> to support local businesses.

Helen
(HSPTA Chair)