

Friday 19th October 2023

01962 772381 adminoffice@ropleyschool.hants.sch.uk

APPRECIATION ❤️ **BELONGING** ❤️ **COMPASSION**

We grow in kindness when our kindness is tested Archbishop Desmond Tutu

BEE RECOGNISED

In our Bee Book and in Celebration Worship this week the following children were recognised:

Bumblebees: **Lulu M** for bee-ing a brilliant Bumblebee. She listens to instructions, follows our school rules and is so helpful at tidy up time. Thank you Lulu, well done!

Dee Dee N for an excellent week of learning. You have shown kindness towards others and tried your best in all activities.

Jenson K for making wonderful progress in phonics this half term. He enthusiastically joins in with every lesson and now knows most of the sounds in the alphabet. A BIG well done Jenson!

Honey Bees: **Ella-Rose W** for bee-ing a super independent writer. You thought carefully about what you wanted to write, used your sound card to find the sounds and tried especially hard with your handwriting. Well done, we are very proud of you.

Carpenter Bees: **Freddie J** for making some great choices this week and doing some great writing for his wanted poster. Keep up the super work and attitude, Freddie!

Year 3: **Alice C** for working so hard in maths. She has been focused and resilient to overcome challenges which at the start of the week she was finding tricky, and is now able to solve confidently and independently. Well done Alice!

Harrison D for bee-ing such a responsible learner this week. He has started a new maths book and the improvement in his presentation has been fantastic. Keep it up, Harrison!

Year 4: **Sienna J** for consistently working hard in all lessons. She is active and engaged with her learning meaning she is making terrific progress.

Art S for listening and responding to advice given to him. He is working hard to improve his writing and that effort is really paying off.

Arthur M for bee-ing such a positive member of Year 4. He works hard in all lessons, consistently challenging himself to improve and always shows kindness and compassion to others.

Year 5: **Finley N, Cecily W, Ayanna NC** for enthusiasm in learning, contributing and focusing and sharing ideas.

Beekeepers: **All of Year 6** for bee-ing superstars at Avon Tyrrell last week. They were kind, adventurous, supportive and brave and a real credit to themselves and the school. Well done Year 6!

HALF TERM

Thank you for a great first half term of this academic year. It is lovely to see the children settled to their learning. Our Bumblebee children have already shown us how creative and resilient they can be.

At the other end of the school, our Year 6's are proving to be a reliable and adventurous year group who are rising to the challenges that Year 6 brings.

Have a restful half term and remember your children have worked hard and will need to rest and recharge.

We look forward to welcoming you all back to school on Monday 30th October.

Miss Vittle



NATIONWIDE BANK VISIT

This week, two members of staff from Nationwide spent the day with the children in years 2 through to 6. They learnt some basic banking skills, such as how to open an account, how to manage their money, the difference between needing something and wanting something, the different ways to spend money, such as in cash or using a debit card, and also played some games. The children came away with a certificate and a clearer understanding of how money works!

YEAR 7 APPLICATIONS

A reminder that the Year 7 application portal will close on 31st October. Any applications received after this date will not be processed until all of the on time applications have been sorted. Please visit the [Hampshire Admissions portal](#) for full details of how to apply.

YEAR 8 APPLICATIONS

The portal for Year 8 applications opens on November 1st. Again, visit [Hampshire Admissions](#) for full details of how to apply. Please also let anyone in your social network know about our school and if they didn't manage to come to the Open Afternoon, to give us a call and make an appointment for a 1:1 tour with Miss Vittle to see the amazing facilities and opportunities we can offer.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy Birthday to all the children who have their birthday in this week:

Amelia N

Finlay RW

Thank you to Finlay RW who has donated a fantastic book to the library for his birthday. Mrs Howling will add a sticker to the front with his name on it.

If you would like to donate a book for your child's birthday, the link to our wishlist is:

<https://amzn.eu/bXvpSme>

A BIG THANK YOU FROM FROGS!

A big thank you from FROGS for all of the support our parents and teachers have given during our first half term!

It's been a busy one with some successful and fun fundraising events, which have really started the year off with a bang!

- Harvest Festival Hamper Raffle - **£257** Thanks to Willow and Sage for the bouquet
- Open Day BBQ and Beekeepers Cake & Plant sale - **£703**
- Pumpkin Truck with fruit giveaway - **£428** (including our brilliant sponsorship from Complete Weed Control and support from Newhouse Farm Partnership)

And for those who want to know the weight of that incredible giant pumpkin?! It was a whopping **47.7kg (or 119 tins of baked beans!)** The winner of the pumpkin is Nick Hillary who was spot on with his guess of 48kg!

FROGS fundraising provides opportunities and learning tools to children that are not covered by local authority funding. This year your children will benefit from a heavily subsidised day out to the panto for the whole school, laptops, sports equipment, science equipment, library books, funding for our wonderful school garden and outdoor learning, Norma's Garden and many, many more class initiatives, to name a few.

We're looking forward to next half term where our big event is the **Christmas Fair and Grotto on Friday 24th November** during the afternoon. We will be seeking the help of our amazing class reps and parents to create a festive and fun filled Christmas fair. Huge thanks to

Bumble Bees who are already planning the Grotto with Father Christmas in attendance!

Thank you for your continued support.



DIARY DATES

New dates or changes in bold

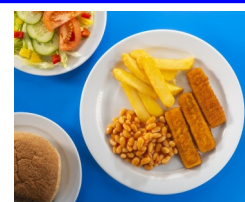
Mon 30th Oct	Return to School Autumn 2
Mon 13th Nov	INSET Day
Fri 3rd Nov	House Cross Country
Fri 17th Nov	Children In Need Day
Wed 22nd Nov	Full Governing Body Meeting, 6pm
Fri 24th Nov	Santa's Grotto & Christmas Market
Fri 1st Dec	House Cross Country, 2pm
Tues 5th Dec	FROGS Christmas Wreath Workshops
Wed 6th Dec	Infant Nativity to Parents, 9.30am
Wed 13th Dec	PANTO TIME! - Snow White at The Mayflower, 2pm
Thur 14th Dec	Christmas Dinner and Jumper Day
Fri 15th Dec	Christmas Service for Parents, 11am
	Break for Christmas, 12.30pm
Tues 2nd Jan	Return to School Spring 1
Wed 31st Jan	Year 6 Height & Weight
Fri 2nd Feb	FROGS Evening Social and Quiz
Fri 9th Feb	Break for Half Term
Mon 19th Feb	INSET Day
Tues 20th Feb	Return to School Spring 2

WINCHESTER BASICS BANK

Winchester Basics bank are running a school holiday lunch scheme over the Christmas break. The scheme will provide food for 10 meals per child, and is designed to replace the hot meal that children would receive in school. For more information, or to register please visit; <https://winchesterbasicsbank.co.uk/get-help/> or email; holidaylunch@winchesterbasicsbank.co.uk or telephone 01962 864720

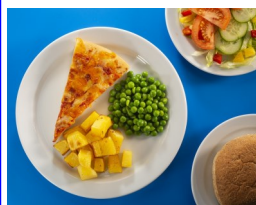
SCHOOL MEALS

A reminder that the school meals menu changes after half term. All children had a new menu to bring home last week but if you didn't see it, please visit the HC3S website here:



[HC3S Primary Menu October 23 - April 24](#)

A reminder that meals are **£3.00** each and should be paid for in advance of your child taking them. Please take some time over half term to log into your scopay account and check for any outstanding debt in both lunches and trips. There is currently outstanding debt of **£1371** for lunches and trips which is unsustainable to the school budget. If you need financial support please speak to Miss Vittle in confidence, or check your eligibility for free school meals here:



[Free School Meal Checker](#)



**Want to know
more about
sleep?**

ASK US THE
QUESTIONS YOU
WANT ANSWERS TO

 **03303 530 541**

Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 7pm - 9pm
Monday & Wednesday 9am - 11am

Rotary Shoebox Scheme

www.rotaryshoebox.org

Suggestions for filling your shoebox

Child ~ For young children

Cars, trucks, etc, balls, complete jigsaws, action figures, colouring books, pens, crayons, yo-yo, bubble blowers, wooden and plastic toys, pencil case, pencil sharpener, dominoes, playdough / plasticine & cutters, fluffy toys, dolls, stickers, writing pads, skipping rope, scarf, mittens / gloves, hat, harmonica, games, cards...

Teenagers ~ up to 18 years age

Sportswear, scarf, gloves, socks, hat, football memorabilia, writing materials, games, playing cards, tennis ball, tooth brush & paste, roll-on deodorants, comb, mirror, costume jewellery, make-up, hair brush, toiletries, school stationery, clothing repair kits, sketch pad, coloured pens / pencils...

Household Goods ~ For older folk & families

Scarves, gloves, hats, wrapped soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, disposable razors, shampoo, soap flakes, pan scourers, antiseptic cream, bandages, face or body creams, cosmetics, pens, writing pad & envelopes, T-lights, candles, sewing kit, scissors...

Baby ~ Age up to 12 months

This is given to new mothers and can include baby wipes, baby shampoo, baby oil, talc powder, bonnet, booties and mitts, baby grow, baby blanket, small soft toy or plastic rattle...

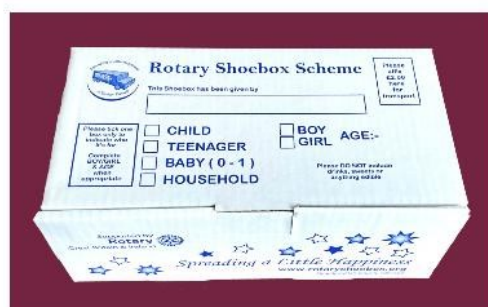
WHAT NOT TO INCLUDE IN ANY BOX

Do not include any sweets, chocolate, drinks or food of any kind

(They are against Customs regulations at country borders)

Battery operated toys, conflict related items, matches, inflammable liquids, inflammable aerosols (eg: deodorants & hair spray), seeds or any other living material, automatic washing machine powders

Please securely sellotape tops of liquid containers.
Protect anything sharp and do not put anything sharp into a CHILD box



- It is important to indicate on the box lid, who the box is for.
- The contents are of good quality.
- The box should be completely filled.
- Remember that the recipient will be opening the box in eager anticipation, and especially with the toys for the children, quite possibly the first real gifts they have received for a very long time.

“Spreading a Little Happiness”

FREE
EVENT

FRI 27 OCT 2023
10AM-4PM
HSDC ALTON COLLEGE

NEW DIRECTIONS

HELICOPTER
FLIGHT
SIMULATOR!



FREE
TRANSPORT
AVAILABLE

ARE YOU LOOKING
TO VOLUNTEER? CONSIDERING A
CHANGE OF CAREER?
WANT TO RETRAIN?

Find many local opportunities at
New Directions on Friday 27 October.
Visit: easthants.gov.uk/new-directions



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about AMONG US

A multiplayer 'social deduction' game set in outer space, Among Us enjoyed a surge in popularity in 2020, and has since maintained a dedicated fan-base (globally, around 60 million regular players each month) thanks to its unique nature, simple premise and ease of access across numerous platforms. The game's on-screen action revolves around danger, disguise and deception – and there are certain parallels to be drawn with some of the real-life risks that parents and carers of young Among Us players need to be aware of.



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

SENSITIVE PREMISE

In Among Us, up to three players are secretly assigned to be alien imposters, tasked with murdering their colleagues while the survivors try to unmask them. While the concept's not far removed from traditional games like *The Traitors*, some parents may feel uncomfortable about their child playing a video game in which deception and killing are prioritised.

VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

The on-screen death of characters may be fundamental to the gameplay of Among Us, but the majority of the animations depicting this are deliberately cartoonish and only appear very briefly. However, it is worth bearing in mind that the game has a PEGI age rating of 7 – meaning that certain elements (however heavily stylised they may be) could still upset some younger players.

CHAT BETWEEN PLAYERS

With up to 15 people participating in each game online, a large part of Among Us' appeal is speculating with fellow players who the imposters might be and making accusations. This dialogue through the in-game text chat can occasionally become heated – and could, of course, involve your child being put into contact with people (including adults) who they don't know in real life.

GOING OFF PLATFORM

While Among Us provides basic ways to communicate, many gamers prefer to use external services such as Discord: a popular app which offers voice and video chat functions. These undeniably make cooperation easier, but also create a potential route for children to hear inappropriate language – or for strangers to message them privately in an environment which isn't regulated by the game itself.

IN-GAME PURCHASES

Among Us is free to download on mobile devices, and costs less than £5 to obtain on console and PC. A related longer-term pitfall, though, is that the game also includes options to pay for upgrades such as removing ads on the mobile version or adding cosmetic touches to characters (such as different costumes). It's certainly possible that a child could spend a significant sum without realising it.

Advice for Parents & Carers

CONSIDER SOFTER ALTERNATIVES

Although Among Us is hugely popular with young gamers, it's possible that some children might find the murder themes unsettling. If so, plenty of similar social deduction games are available (in both digital and traditional board game formats) which downplay the potentially grislier elements: some centre around undercover spies, for instance, and there's even a Marvel superhero-themed variant.

CHAT ABOUT CHATTING

You might feel it's prudent to talk to your child about the risks associated with voice chat while gaming, explaining in particular that strangers online aren't always who they claim to be. Keeping the conversation relaxed will reinforce your child's confidence that they can always come to you with any online concerns – not just about Among Us, but any potential future issues as well.

DISCUSS DISCORD

In general, Discord is an excellent app for keeping online communities together because of its use of dedicated individual servers, which allow comprehensive control over who can join – and who can't. Once you're familiar with the platform, you could set up a secure server for your child and their friends to communicate during games of Among Us, with no access for people they don't know.

AMONG US, AMONG FRIENDS

When your child and their friends get together, they can enjoy a private game of Among Us by choosing a 'local' lobby – that is, only people connected to the same WiFi (your home network, for example) can enter. This prevents any random online users – who may be total strangers – from joining and removes the need for voice chat, as the players are all physically in the same location.

STOP SURPRISE SPENDING

If you're concerned about the possibility of your child racking up an unexpected bill on Among Us' microtransactions, you could consider using a prepaid card with a set limit. Likewise, you could specify in the game's options that adult authorisation is required for every purchase – or you could make sure that no payment methods are enabled on the device that your child plays the game on.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site *GCRecon* and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent who understands the value of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including *IGN* and *TechRadar*.



NOS National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday



PUPIL PREMIUM FUNDING

Every year, the Government allocates funding to schools to help address the national trend that disadvantaged students do not attain as highly as non-disadvantaged students. This valuable extra money is allocated to schools to provide additional or enhanced provision, so that no child is left behind in their education as a result of financial circumstances. This can include subsidising after school clubs and trips as well as providing additional learning support or resources in class, for example.

Eligibility criteria

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Parents and carers can check eligibility simply and easily by visiting:

<https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/hants/>

and clicking on 'New Application'. Once you have input your details it will return an instant result and notify the school office electronically of your eligibility. If you would prefer us to check on your behalf, please email Mrs Burr with YOUR name, YOUR date of birth and YOUR national insurance number. We would like to reassure you that all applications made are confidential and no child is identified as a Pupil Premium child in any way in their day to day school life. Equally being entitled to free school meals does not mean your child has to eat a meal every day!

Even if your child is in Year R, 1 or 2 and already entitled to Universal Free School Meals, if you think you might be entitled to this benefit please complete the form. This valuable extra funding ensures that we can offer many different types of support throughout the years your child is at our school and will ensure they continue to receive free school meals as they move into KS2.

**Just one day of qualifying entitlement = 6 years of funding!
Current funding = £1455 per child per academic year**