



Ropley Church of  
England Primary  
School

Autumn 1 Newsletter



Welcome to our first newsletter of the year! The children have made a positive start to the autumn term and we have been impressed by their hard work and learning. Our new Christian values of Love, Community and Courage have been a big focus and it has been lovely to see these in action across the school.

It has been a joy to see our new **Bumblebee children** settle well into school life and they sang beautifully in our EYFS Harvest Service. We hope the parents who were able to come along to watch enjoyed it.

**Honeybee Class** have transitioned well to a more formal style of learning – there's been a lot of excitement over the dragon eggs spotted in their English lessons. The children have enjoyed their first History unit exploring how toys have changed over time and in Science, they have been exploring properties of different materials.

**Carpenter Bees** have been thinking about what they are grateful for and have made Trees of Gratitude: take a look at the photos on our [Class Pages](#) of our website to see their fantastic artwork. In History, the children have been learning all about The Great Fire of London – do ask them about this.

In **Nectar Class**, the children have been enjoying this term's History unit of Stone Age to Iron Age. They have visited Butser Ancient Farm to enhance this learning. In Art & Design, the children have been exploring the works of William Morris and creating their own printings.



In **Honeycomb Class** the children have had a busy and exciting half term! In English, they've been enjoying *Charlotte's Web* and using it as inspiration to write letters and non-chronological reports. In History, the class has been learning all about the Anglo-Saxons, discovering how they lived and the impact they had on Britain. In Art, they've explored fashion design, creating their own imaginative clothing pieces inspired by different styles and eras. Music lessons have been filled with the sound of recorders as the children practise reading music and playing simple tunes.

In **Pollinator Class** the children have been enjoying their class text 'Holes' by Louis Sachar. The children also had a great morning at Pizza Express and they are currently designing their own pizzas to taste better than those they made at the restaurant: time will tell!

Mr Mills also enjoyed watching **Beekeeper Class** perform their gymnastic routines and they have been designing their own interpretation of Mayan weaving artwork. The results are spectacular as you can see! We look forward to hearing all about their residential visit to Avon Tyrrell which takes place straight after half term.



## **Communications**

We hope parents are benefitting from our revised systems of communication with the weekly bulletins being condensed. Our new website is live and you can find regular photographs and updates of what your child is learning on the Class pages here: [Class Pages](#)

## **Open Afternoon**

We were delighted to welcome lots of prospective new families to our school; they were toured by our Year 6 children and the feedback was wonderful to hear. Our children were informative, polite and able to answer questions clearly. More importantly, they were enthusiastic and clearly very proud of our school, with one child reported as saying, "I really hope you choose our school for your child and they have the same amazing experience that I have!"

Thank you to some of our parent helpers who manned the cake and refreshments stall as well as running the second-hand uniform shop.



## **Harvest Festival**

We hope the parents, carers and grandparents enjoyed our Harvest Service: a joyful gathering that brought our school community together in celebration of the season's abundance and the values that unite us.

Our younger children delighted us with heartfelt artwork and performance poetry, sharing what harvest means to them — from golden fields and family meals to the joy of giving and sharing.

Our older children offered thoughtful readings that reflected the deeper themes of Harvest: Love, Courage, and Community. Their words reminded us that harvest is not just about crops, but about kindness, resilience, and the strength we find in one another.

It was a service filled with creativity, reflection, and warmth — a true testament to the spirit of our school.



## **Sporting news**

It has been another busy term for sporting events! Well done to our Year 6 Basketball team who won 4 out of 5 of their games. The Year 2 football team enjoyed a tournament at The Butts Primary in Alton; the children won 3 games and drew 1. Well done, also, to Art and Elijah in Year 6 who came 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the East Hampshire Table Tennis Tournament. Finally, a big well done to the KSI children who represented the school at the Agility Festival held at Amery Hill this week.



## **Butser Ancient Farm**

Nectar Class enjoyed their visit to Butser Ancient Farm as part of our exciting history learning about Stone Age to Iron Age Britain. The children consolidated their learning from this term and had opportunities to try chalk carving and fire lighting too. The feedback from the centre, as we would expect, said our children were exceptionally well-behaved. There are lots of photos in the gallery on our website for you to see the fantastic day they had!



## Marwell

Children in Honeybee and Carpenter Class enjoyed their visit to Marwell Zoo as part of their science learning this year and managed to see lots of animals, learning about their habitats to enhance their Science understanding. There will be lots of photos on our website as soon as we can upload them. Please keep an eye on the Gallery page to see them!


## Author Visit: Hugh Bonneville

As part of our ongoing commitment to the enjoyment of reading, we are delighted to be welcoming into school a new children's author after half term. Hugh Bonneville will be coming in to read with some of our older pupils on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November.

Hugh will be available after school to sign copies of his new book.

P&G Wells Ltd, Winchester's independent bookshop, is very happy to be able to offer you an opportunity to pre-order your books to be delivered to the school.


Please use the online order form at <https://www.pgwells.co.uk/shop/events/school-preorders/hugh-bonneville/> or via the QR code in the poster below by Thursday 6 November to ensure the book arrives in time for the author's visit.



# Author visit


On Tuesday  
11 November

# Hugh Bonneville

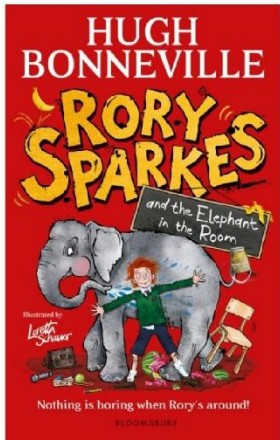


will visit Ropley C of E Primary School

Pre-order your copy of Hugh's new book 'Rory Sparkes and the Elephant in the Room' from P&G Wells via the event link by Thursday 6 November to collect your book for signing on the day



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Independent Booksellers & Stationers  
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[www.pgwells.co.uk](http://www.pgwells.co.uk)



## Pizza Express

As part of the school's updated curriculum with more opportunities for cooking, Year 5 enjoyed a visit to Pizza Express in Alton.



## Catering Update

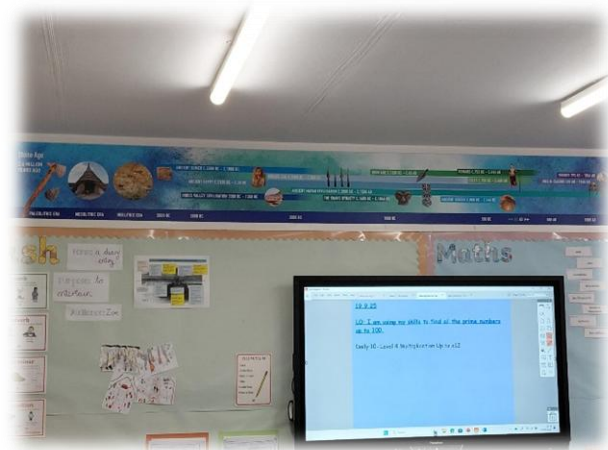
The school has recently changed its catering contractor to CaterLink. Whilst there are always teething issues with new contractors, we are delighted with some of the positive changes to our school lunches. The children now have access to an unlimited salad bar, a range of flavoured bread choices each day as well as larger portion sizes and, dare we say it, better tasting food. They are also being introduced to flavours they may not have tried before as well as salad options such as cous cous and chickpeas. We have a new cook starting after half term with great ideas and enthusiasm as to how we can make our offering even better.

A reminder that school meals are now only £3 per day. Children in Bumblebee, Honeybee and Carpenter Bees get a free meal so it is worth taking this up if you are not already.

There has also been a slight tweak to the Autumn menu. The new menu has been sent down to classes already and has also been uploaded to our website here: [School Menu](#)



## Exciting Updates in School



The children returned to school in September to a newly decorated wall in the hall and timelines in all the classrooms. The hall wall reflects our village heritage as well as our motto and values. The timeline in every class is bespoke to our school's History curriculum and builds on progressively as the children move their way up each year. We hope this will play a large part in supporting our children to be 'Ropley Historians' in their lessons and will be a great resource to support with their chronology knowledge. Thank you to the Ropley History Groups who have helped us to fund both of these fantastic installations!

We are also delighted to finally have the wall repaired! I'm sure you agree the front of our school is starting to look a lot smarter.

## **Music Opportunities**

Our music offering is going from strength to strength! We now have an additional peripatetic teacher on Fridays due to the high demand; our 'Garden Room' is now used every day for private, instrumental lessons, offering piano, violin, guitar, ukelele and drums. If you would like more details of the offer, please visit our website here: [Music Providers](#)

The school has been successful in obtaining a grant for musical instruments and now we have a class set of ukuleles, recorders and boom whackers. It has been great to hear children playing these during afternoon curriculum lessons.

We will be taking part in 'Night at the Musicals' with Amery Hill Secondary School on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2026 with our school choir. We will also be joining up again with Perins for the production of Grease in June 2026. Further information about how the children can get involved in these will be shared after Christmas.

## **Supporting the Community: Harvest and Brendoncare**

Thank you to all the parents who supported our food collection for this year's Harvest Festival. As in previous years, we collected for Alton Foodbank who are part of the Trussell Trust. They are an anti-poverty charity and community of food banks. They work together to ensure no one in the UK needs a food bank to survive, while providing food and practical support to people left without enough money to live on. Our food collection will help them to continue to support the most vulnerable families in our area.

We are delighted to continue to work with Brendoncare in Alton. This year we will be visiting half termly with a larger group of children to play board games, sing songs and exchange stories together. The benefits to both the residents of Brendoncare and our children have been tremendous and the children love to visit! This time, the children played the 'Left and Right Game' and then listened to the song 'Jesus Bids Us Shine' - this is a song suggested by one of the residents who recalled singing it when at Sunday School, as a child. The children then sang 'Shine, Jesus, Shine' to the residents to enjoy. Their visit finished with a game of Tetris Tumble and Connect 4 and final song of the King of Me!



## **New Bumblebees**

Our new Bumblebee children have been settling into their new routine well. They have been learning the routines and expectations of our school, starting their phonics and maths learning as well as making lots of new friends. They have also been enjoying their school lunches and have shown good table manners. Well done, Bumblebees.



## **Year 6 Responsibilities**

Our Year 6 children have been offered the opportunity to take on extra responsibilities by putting themselves forward for roles across the school. Children had to write a letter to Mr Mills and Mrs Noott explaining why they would like to be considered and what skills they would bring to the role. There were some very well thought out letters and both Mr Mills and Mrs Noott were impressed with the maturity of our Year 6 children. Well done to:

### **Prefects**

William  
Gigi  
Micky  
Ida

Alexis  
Nikolas  
Celia  
Aoife

Ziva  
Alba  
Fraser  
Emilia

Will  
Elijah  
Alfred  
Sienna

### **Librarians**

Arthur  
Alba  
Scott

Gigi  
Alfred  
Elsie

Evie  
Aoife

Nikolas  
Sienna

### **Play Leaders**

Art  
Elijah  
Fraser

Alexis  
Micky  
Ida

Will  
Al  
Emilia

Gigi  
Celia  
Elsie

## **Eco Star!**

Finn C has taken on the responsibility of being our school Eco Representative. He will be the liaison between pupils and our Senior Leadership Team to highlight ways that we can improve our commitment to improving our waste management, biodiversity and conserving energy. We look forward to hearing Finn and his new team's ideas!



## SORA App

We are delighted to relaunch access to the SORA App from Hampshire Library Service. The app allows children to access thousands of books digitally and also audio books! To access Sora follow the following instructions:



- Download the SORA App
- Use the Setup Code: hampshiresls
- Search for our school
- Login using your child's name in the format **FirstnameSurname** (no spaces). If you have a double barrelled surname it will be **FirstnameSurnameSurname**. If you have punctuation in your surname, it is not included in the user name.
- Search and download books! All available books are appropriate for your child's age range. This is governed by Hampshire Library Service carefully monitored referencing.

## Second Hand Uniform Sale

The next sale will take place on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 3.15pm. Weather permitting, it will be held at the top of the drive. If the weather is wet, it will be in Norma's Garden in the outdoor classroom. If anyone has any school jumpers (not cardigans) that their child has grown out of, and they are still in good condition, please donate them to the second-hand shop.

All items are only £1.00 and are in good, clean condition. Please bring small change with you.

## Extended Day

Our Extended Day provision continues to grow and we are delighted to provide a range of activities, snacks and food options. This half term, we have been fortunate the weather has been mainly dry, allowing the children to be outside as much as possible; they have even had their tea cooked and eaten outside! The team have introduced some different options for tea, to include a hot offer as the weather gets colder, and we have now made arrangements with the kitchen that some of the excess lunchtime food can be used by Extended Day which also reduces our food waste bill! The hot dogs that were offered recently were a particular hit with the children.



## How you can support us

### Free Meal Shortfall

Did you know, free school meals are not actually free for the school?! The school receives £2.61 for every child in EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 which means the school has a shortfall of £1275.75 each year. When you factor in utility bills, staffing and our contract with CaterLink, the shortfall is closer to £4000 (£23 per child). If your child has a free school meal and you'd like to make a shortfall contribution, this would mean more money could be spent on supporting the children.

### Curriculum Resources Contribution

Quite a few schools ask for termly contributions from parents to cover the costs of in-school activities. We have an ambitious and exiting curriculum for our children at Ropley. This half term alone we've had weaving, fruit salad making, sewing, pizza making, printing, painting and collage across the school. These activities are really important but it does come at a financial cost to the school. If every parent donated £30 per year, this would reduce our curriculum cost by 40%! If you would like to make a contribution, Scopay does allow for this.

### Amazon Wishlist

Look at our Amazon Wishlist and buy a book for the library to celebrate your child's birthday or donate glue sticks, felt tip pens, colouring pencils etc. for your child's class. A big thank you to **Amelia C** who has donated a book for her birthday. Mrs Howling will put a sticker in the front of the book with her name on it!

## Amazon Wishlist

### General Donation

Use the Donate to School function in Scopay – Click on Products and then select Donate to School! Every penny is gratefully received.

### Easyfundraising App



The poster for the Easyfundraising app features a yellow background with a blue shopping bag icon at the top right. The text reads: 'Help raise free funds for our school every time you shop online'. Below this, it says 'Join easyfundraising today and search for Ropley Primary School'. A grey box contains the text: 'Thousands of well-known retailers will give us a free donation when you shop with them - at no cost to you!'. A list of retailers is shown, including M&S, Clarks, Groupon, Currys PC World, Argos, Viking, Waitrose, Just Eat, eBay, Debenhams, and Waterstones. At the bottom, there are buttons for 'Download the app' on Google Play and the App Store. The footer includes 'Over £31 million raised', a Trustpilot rating, and '1.8 million users'.

Follow the instructions on this poster!

**Update from our PTA**

This year’s annual AGM will be on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November at Titchbourne Arms at 7.45pm. The table is booked from 7pm if anyone would like a pre-meeting drink. This is as a great opportunity to catch up with FROGS and see what amazing fundraising plans they have for the coming year and also find out how last year’s funds have been spent.



**Get your orders in for.....**

FROGS have taken some fantastic photos for this year’s calendar shoot! A calendar makes a fantastic gift for anyone in your family circle. Orders can be placed via Classlist.

Christmas Card templates have also been sent home this week. Please make sure that you place your order online and then, most importantly, that you RETURN the artwork to school so that we can send it off to the printer. The company we are using this year are offering an array of products that will use your child’s artwork, such as mugs, gift tags, playing cards, wrapping paper, notebooks and much more.



FROGS PTA	CLASS REPS	TADPOLES
<p><b>Chair(s):</b> Cat D’Alton and Flopsy Landrock-Mettam</p> <p><b>Treasurer:</b> Warrick West</p> <p><b>Secretary:</b> Rhiannon Wicks</p> <p><b>Regular Volunteers:</b> Issy Wedlake Emily Budd Beth Henze Amy Nettle John-Henry Wicks Tash Hilary Camilla Howling</p> <p><b>Who else would like to join?</b></p>	<p><b>Bumblebee:</b> Natalie and Gareth Chivers</p> <p><b>Honeybee:</b> Allicia Dixon and Tim Higgs</p> <p><b>Carpenter Bee:</b> Lucie Moore and Emma Callow</p> <p><b>Nectar:</b> Dan Bowden and Sean Dalby</p> <p><b>Honeycomb:</b> Cherry Russell and Milly Rees</p> <p><b>Pollinator:</b> Naomi Lucas and Christine Kruger</p> <p><b>BeeKeeper:</b> Vicki Mackrell</p>	<p><b>Operational Team:</b> Anna Irwin Sarah Allen Laura Silk</p> <p><b>Fundraising Team:</b></p> <p><b>Who would like to join this new team?</b></p>

## **EYFS Forest School Area Update**

As you will have seen in the July letter, we are currently designing our next exciting development at our school! We are currently raising funds to be able to build an Early Years Forest School Garden.

This area will be dedicated to our Early Years and KSI children to enable them to explore, enjoy and develop their curiosity, physical stamina, gross motor skills, creativity and communication skills, through a dedicated outdoor learning environment.

With funding that has already been committed to the project, we are looking forward to starting this build in the Spring Term so watch this space!

More photos on our website here:

### **Early Years and KSI Nature Area**



#### **Funding raised so far:**

East Hants District Council S106 Community Infrastructure Levy Bid - £20, 000

Alton Resurrection Furniture - £15, 000

South Downs National Trust - £1000

Boomtown Festival - £6000

Community Grant - £895

Parish/Councillor Grants - £2000

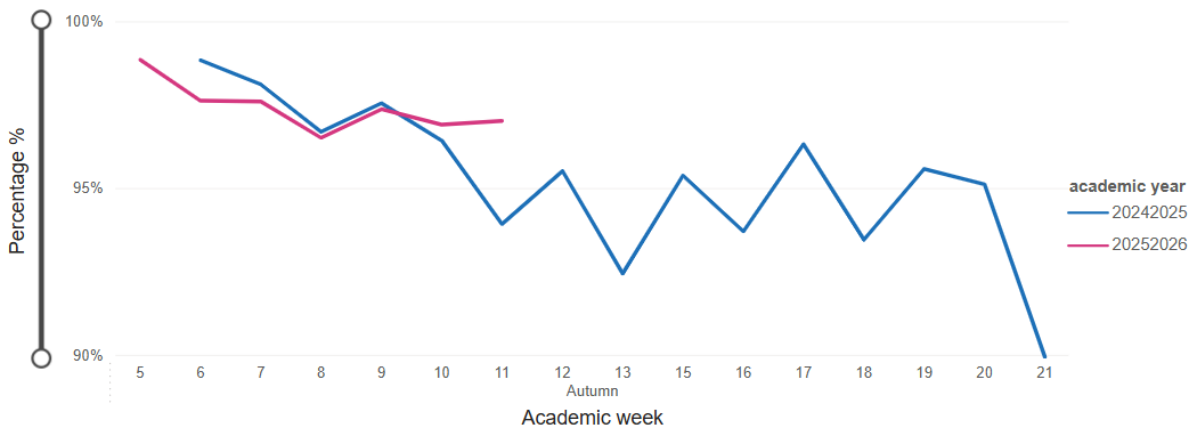
Total as of October 2025: £44,895. This means the school only needs £19, 105 more which we hope to achieve by further sponsorship from local organisations. If you know a company who may like to sponsor, please do let us know; we are very happy to install permanent plaques from sponsors in the garden.

## Attendance

The Department for Education and Ofsted require all schools to monitor and report on absence figures. Our school's attendance this term is 97% which is slightly above the national figure. The graph below, from Hampshire County Council, explains the impact of this on children's learning. Children who fall below 90% attendance are classed as at extreme risk of underachievement.



The below graph, provided by the Department for Education, shows our school attendance trend so far this year compared to last year. It would be great if we could follow the current trajectory of remaining above last year.



We understand that children do get unwell sometimes and have other reasons for absence, but we really encourage parents to bring children in, even if they are under the weather. The office team can help administer Calpol and will always give you a call if they are not well enough to stay in school. Many thanks for your support with this.



As the countdown to Christmas is now approaching, Mr Mills has outlined the important notices and diary dates to help you during the festive season.

### **Christmas Post Box**

Our Christmas post box will be located in the lobby each morning in December for children to post Christmas cards to friends or letters to Father Christmas. Please ensure a first name, surname and class are marked on the envelope for ease of delivery.

### **Christmas Lunch**

The traditional Christmas lunch will be held on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December. The Christmas lunch will be served in the hall with the traditional Christmas singing, Christmas crackers and festive fun! Children can wear Christmas jumpers on this date too. There is no fundraising for the wearing of Christmas Jumpers this year.

### **Christmas Carol Concert**

Children in Years 3 to 6 will be performing a selection of Christmas songs at St Peter's Church on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 10am. Parents/grandparents are invited alongside the local community to come along and watch/join in with this event. Doors open at 9.50am (as children will be rehearsing before)

### **Christmas Nativity Performance**

Children in EYFS, Year 1 and 2 will have their traditional nativity performance on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 9.30am and Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 1.30pm, both at St Peter's Church.

### **Christmas Service**

Our whole school Christmas Service will be held at St. Peter's Church on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 9.30am. Parents/carers are welcome to attend this event.

## Santa's Grotto

The FROG'S Christmas Grotto is on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November between 3.30pm and 6.30pm. Please make sure you book in advance.

## Ropley Christmas Market

Make sure you pop along to the Christmas Market at Ropley Parish Hall on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November between 6-8pm! This is an opportunity to support local businesses and also look out for the school's stall too!

## Non-School Uniform Day

There will be a non-school uniform day on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November in exchange for hamper prizes. We are inviting children to bring in donations of chocolates, savoury snacks, candles, cosmetics and alcoholic beverages that can be combined to make a range of Christmas hampers. Each class will have a colour theme for their hamper.

EYFS Bumblebees	Gold	
Year 1 Honeybees	Pink/Silver	
Year 2 Carpenter Bees	Green	
Year 3 Nectar Class	Blue	
Year 4 Honeycomb Class	Purple	
Year 5 Pollinator Class	White	
Year 6 Beekeeper Class	Red	

## Winchester Basics Bank Holiday Lunch Scheme Booking Form

[Partner Login](#)[Donate](#)

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### Christmas Holiday Lunch Scheme 2025

**IMPORTANT – DUE TO CURRENT FINANCIAL RESTRICTIONS WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO OFFER ALDI/TESCO SHOPPING VOUCHERS ALONG WITH THE FOOD BAGS.**

We are inviting families with school-aged children (who live or attend a school in the city of Winchester and some surrounding areas, including Alresford) who feel they need some extra help over the school holidays to register for our Holiday Lunch Scheme.

The aim of the scheme is to provide food to cover 5 lunches per child per week. Please note that the holiday lunch scheme is in addition to our normal operation, and does not count towards the number of standard vouchers you can receive. However, we ask that you don't claim both during the same period of time. If you need more support, please register for a full food parcel for all the family – [www.winchesterbasicsbank.co.uk/get-help](http://www.winchesterbasicsbank.co.uk/get-help)

Please be aware that the food supplied is designed to replace the hot meal and will be tinned/dried; we do not have food items suitable for packed lunch style meals. We can offer food suitable for most dietary requirements.

This year we have 5 locations for you to collect from; Badger Farm, Bar End, Highcliffe, New Alresford, Weeke, – operating on specific days (Mon – Fri). You will be asked to nominate which location you will be collecting your food from – please choose carefully. The location cannot be changed.

**Badger Farm** (Community Centre, SO22 4QB) – Monday 15th December, 10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

**Bar End** (The Vineyard Church, SO23 9NR) – Monday 15th and Thursday 18th December, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.;

**Highcliffe** (21a Penton Place, Milland Road, SO23 0PZ) – Tuesday 16th and Friday 19th December, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**New Alresford** (St Gregory's Church, SO24 9HD) – Wednesday 17th December, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.;

**Weeke** (St Barnabas Church, SO22 6DS) – Thursday 18th December, 10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

You will be asked to nominate which location you will be collecting your food from – please think carefully about this as we cannot change it!

Those who need a delivery can apply online.

**Closing date will be Sunday 7th December 2025.**

**PLEASE CLICK HERE TO COMPLETE THE FORM.**



#### Get in touch:

Phone: 01962 864720

Mobile: 07436 409533

Email: [mail@winchesterbasicsbank.co.uk](mailto:mail@winchesterbasicsbank.co.uk)



HE'S COMING...

ROPLEY SCHOOL  
GROTTO  
SATURDAY 29TH  
NOVEMBER 2025

BOOKING OPENS ON CLASSLIST  
FROM THIS FRIDAY (17TH)





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 Free delivery on orders over £25, Cannot combine with other discounts.



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The  
**HERITAGE  
 5ADAY BOX**  
 — COMPANY —



**Exclusive discount for parents**

Heritage has linked up with your school to offer parents a 10% discount at 5adaybox.co.uk on all your orders– the home of chef-quality produce delivered straight to your door.

**Why 5adaybox?**

We supply the same top-quality fruit, veg, and grocery essentials trusted by professional chefs across the South West.

**Support local:** Seasonal produce from trusted local and UK growers.

**Unbeatable freshness:** Longer-lasting, little-to-no packaging.

**Ultimate convenience:** Buy as you like or choose a weekly, fortnightly or monthly curated box with swap and shop options.

**Free delivery on orders over £25:** Right to your door!

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**Free Gift:** Enjoy a free gift with our curated boxes.

**Help fight food waste:** We rescue perfectly good wonky veg.

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