



With Jesus in our Hearts, we have: The passion to learn, The courage to fail, The Strength to love

February 2026

From Our Head Teacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

Next week marks the beginning of Lent, a time to prepare, pray and renew our friendship with God. During this important time our community will explore what it means to say "Yes!" to God, as we walk along with Jesus on our Lenten journey.

The children enjoyed our visit from Bishop Philip. It was such a fantastic experience. He was taken aback by the reflective and silent prayer, the conduct of the children and commented on what a vibrant community we are. Thank you to Mrs Emanuel and Mrs Rowley for teaching us the beautiful Latin prayers that we sung during Adoration.

It was great to see so many of you taking the opportunity to come into classrooms and look at books. The children were so excited to be sharing their learning with you and I hope you were able to see, first-hand, the progress they have made this year.

After 18 years of service to our school community, Mrs Baxter has decided that she will be retiring at Easter. Whilst this is sad for us, I know she is looking forward to having the time to focus on her family and other pursuits! I know you will join me in thanking Mrs Baxter for her immense effort, impact and contribution to the children she has supported over her time here.

I hope you all have a fun-filled half term. We look forward to welcoming you back to school on Monday 23rd February.

Yours sincerely,
Mr Lynch

Safeguarding corner

Balance screen time tips

Internet Matters have created simple tips to help you develop healthy online habits for your child. They also answer key questions such as “how much screentime is too much” and “is gaming bad for children.” Access this information here:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/creating-a-balanced-digital-diet-with-screen-time-tips/>

7 Steps to Good Digital Parenting

The Family Online Safety Institute have created seven steps to assist you as a digital parent. Find out more here:

<https://fosi.org/program/7-steps-to-good-digital-parenting/>

Children’s Commissioner launches new guide for parents and carers

The Children’s Commissioner has released a new guide to help you in managing your child’s digital life. The guide was written with direct involvement from children. It includes advice on setting boundaries such as no devices in the bedroom and how to chat to your child. You can find the guide here:

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/blog/what-i-wish-my-parents-or-carers-knew-childrens-commissioner-launches-guide-for-parents-and-carers-on-managing-childrens-digital-lives/>

Breakfast and After School Club

The Breakfast Club and After School Club are open from Monday to Friday term time only. Mrs Dias, Mrs Bennet and Miss Rani run the clubs and there are many activities, games and themed days to enjoy.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club opens from 8:00 am. The cost per session is £2.50, all payments need to be done via Arbor. You do not need to book for Breakfast Club.

After School Club

After School Club will operate from 3:20pm to 6:00pm. The cost per booking is £10.00, however you can collect your child anytime between 3:20pm and 6:00pm, snacks are served at 4:30pm

Please book Arbor in advance, the cut off for booking is 48 hours. If you cancel within 24 hours you will incur the cost. We are still able to take Ad Hoc bookings.

Please note late collection fees are £5.00 plus £5.00 per 5 minutes after 6:00pm.

SENDCo Team

Dear Parents and Carers,

Half-term is almost here, and we would love to wish you a wonderful and restful break!

CAMHS Hampshire have released a new series of videos – please just scan the codes!

SEND Team



Hampshire Child and Adolescent
Mental Health Services

New Strategy Based Films for parents/carers and Professionals New for 2026

**What is Emotionally
Based School
Avoidance**



**Risk factors for
Emotionally Based
School Avoidance**



**Tips for Emotionally
Based School
Avoidance**



**Thriving with
ADHD in school**



**ADHD
and sleep**



**Reframing
ADHD**



Girls and ADHD



**ADHD – order out of
chaos**



**Growing older and
changing ADHD
symptoms**



**The importance of
sleep**



**Tips to support
sleep optimisation**



To watch the
videos, scan these
QR codes



Well done to Armstrong Class for their January Attendance

Thank you for working with us in ensuring your children are in school. We will regularly be reviewing the children's attendance and contacting parents where we are concerned.

Please note that no holiday during term time will be authorised. Holiday dates have been published on our website so please do book family breaks during this time.

We know that for some children, worries can make attending school tricky. Please do contact us if your child is worried about anything, especially school related, so we can offer support and resolve any issues.

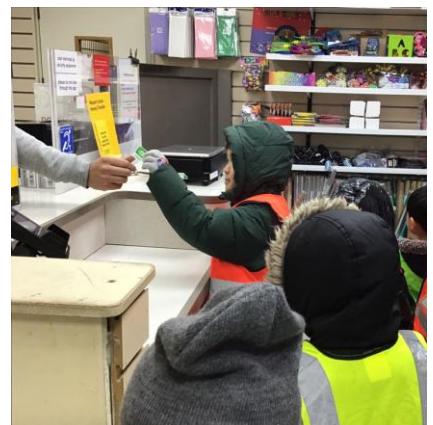
	January	2026
Class	Attendance %	Lateness %
Shakespeare	92.4	2.4
Seacole	92.1	2.9
Anning	95.8	1.8
Parks	96.7	1.6
Einstein	93.9	1.2
Armstrong	97.2	1.3
Mandela	92.3	1.2

Shakespeare Class

'What a busy half term we have had in Shakespeare Class! Our theme this half term has been 'People Who Help Us' and we have visitors in to tell us their important and helpful jobs. We took part in balance bike training and many of us moved on to pedal bikes by the end of the week.

We had a visit from Bishop Phillip last week which was very exciting for the children. And we had our first (rather muddy!) trip off site to the Post Office where we bought stamps and sent the postcards we had written in school, to our homes!

Next half term our theme is 'Heroes and Happily Ever After' - a focus on traditional tales and Superheroes as well as a big focus on reading, writing and maths. We would appreciate some parent/carer volunteers for our trip to Queen Elizabeth Park after half term - please speak to a member of staff in Yr R if you are available to support this.



DT

Art



Year 2 have been exploring levers and linkages as part of their 'Moving Monsters' unit – a key thread of 'Mechanisms and Mechanical Systems in DT. Look at this fabulous display of their designs!

Bishop Philip's Visit



Taken from Bishop Philip's Newsletter

Last Thursday, I visited two impressive Catholic schools in Farnborough, both primary schools and now federated together: St. Bernadette's in Tile Barn Close and St. Patrick's in Avenue Road. St. Bernadette's is led by Peter Lynch and his staff and here I am pictured with some of the school's student chaplains. The visit there was in the morning, and it began with a Holy Half Hour of Eucharistic Adoration with Benediction in the school hall, attended by staff, governors and the children of Years Four, Five and Six. After a brief tour of the school, I then met with the Senior Leadership team and Chair of Governors. Both schools are one-form entry. At St. Bernadette's, about 66% of the pupils are Catholic and 33% of the staff and support staff. I then went over to St. Patrick's for the afternoon, following a similar programme. This time, it was Years Three, Four, Five and Six who joined us for Eucharistic Adoration and prayer. St. Patrick's is led by Alison Tong, the Headteacher and her team. Again, about two-thirds of the pupils are Catholic and about 60% of the teachers and support staff. Ged Owens, who is the Head of Salesian College, is generously the Chair of Governors for both these schools. It was a joy to visit them and I was very impressed in both with the children's enthusiastic singing of the *O salutaris* and the *Tantum ergo*, and even more with their total silence and concentration during Adoration. The sense of prayer was palpable. Our gratitude and thanks to the head teachers and others, and also to Canon PJ and Catherine Hobbs, who helped make these two schools visits so successful and memorable.

More photos from Bishop Philip's visit can be found on our school website:

<https://www.st-bernadettes.hants.sch.uk/gallery-2/>

Bishop Philip invites you to sign up for his
FREE weekly e-Newsletter



www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/enews



16th January
2026

Charism Character Awards

Year 1 Seacole Mrs Grier & Mrs Lowdon	Gabby	For demonstrating compassion towards other children in our class and across the key stage. She is always looking out for others.
Year 2 Anning Mrs Ripley	Delphi	For demonstrating perseverance since returning to school after the Christmas break. She has been trying really hard with her spelling and handwriting.
Year 3 Ms McCue	Jared	For demonstrating perseverance in maths this week. Your number lines are now drawn well and can support your learning.
Year 4 Mrs Coatzee	Amelia	For demonstrating perseverance this week by setting a wonderful, mature example to her peers.
Year 5 Miss Huggins	Onesimus	For demonstrating perseverance. Onesimus has been working really hard on his handwriting and other class goals even when that means it gets tough!
Year 6 Miss Parkinson	Lily	For demonstrating compassion by always offering to help and support others – whether it is helping adults or your peers, you are always there!



16th January
2026

Mission Maker Award

Year 1 Seacole Mrs Grier & Mrs Lowdon	Freya V	For demonstrating the passion to learn in maths. Going back through her work to make sure she is correct. Well done!
Year 2 Anning Mrs Ripley	Andrea	For demonstrating the strength to love by always making others around her feel happy. She is always there to make you smile!
Year 3 Ms McCue	Jason	For demonstrating the passion to learn. You set an excellent example to others even though it is only your second week. You are focused and hardworking in all lessons. Well done.
Year 4 Mrs Coatzee	Barbara	For demonstrating the strength to love. You were so helpful and supportive towards your peers.
Year 5 Miss Huggins	Freddie	For demonstrating the passion to learn during indoor PE. Freddie worked really hard during gymnastics.
Year 6 Miss Parkinson	Nora	For demonstrating the passion to learn in all subjects recently. You have been super focused on your work, joining in with group discussions and reading out loud to the class – amazing work!



23rd January
2026

Charism Character Awards

Year 1 Seacole Mrs Grier & Mrs Lowdon	Aminah	For being such a helpful member of the class this week, showing courage to do the right thing.
Year 2 Anning Mrs Ripley	Skye	For demonstrating perseverance in Maths this week. She tried hard, even when it was tricky!
Year 3 Ms McCue	Sarah	For demonstrating perseverance in maths. You have worked very hard on your targets and made huge improvements with your times table knowledge.
Year 4 Mrs Coatzee	Aoife	For demonstrating perseverance in all of her work this week. Keep up the good work!
Year 5 Miss Huggins	Alannah	For demonstrating perseverance. Alannah has worked unbelievably hard this week, even when she found something tricky.
Year 6 Miss Parkinson	Elisa	For demonstrating perseverance always, but especially in English and Maths this week, where you have been focusing on your targets and improving your understanding.



23rd January
2026

Mission Maker Award

Year 1 Seacole Mrs Grier & Mrs Lowdon	Lucas	For demonstrating the passion to learn in maths this week exploring the number 10.
Year 2 Anning Mrs Ripley	Dwayne	For demonstrating the passion to learn this week, even when he was feeling a little under the weather he tried his best.
Year 3 Ms McCue	Freya	For demonstrating the strength to love by being a kind and helpful friend.
Year 4 Mrs Coatzee	Dominic	For demonstrating the passion to learn during indoor PE. Dominic worked really hard during gymnastics.
Year 5 Miss Huggins	Archie	For demonstrating the passion to learn. Archie has worked really hard in maths this week. I am super impressed.
Year 6 Miss Parkinson	Xaine	For demonstrating the passion to learn by being ready in all lessons, listening carefully and asking questions to deepen understanding and catch up on anything that you have missed!



30th January
2026

Charism Character Awards

Year 1 Seacole Mrs Grier & Mrs Lowdon	JJ	For demonstrating perseverance this week in handwriting, incredible progress.
Year 2 Anning Mrs Ripley	Lavijah	For demonstrating perseverance with his handwriting this week. His presentation and letter formation has improved!
Year 3 Ms McCue	Oscar	For demonstrating perseverance in all lessons. Your focus and attention has really improved and you are increasingly keen to answer questions. Well done.
Year 4 Mrs Coatzee	Isabella	For demonstrating perseverance with her maths this week!
Year 5 Miss Huggins	Abigail K	For demonstrating perseverance. Abigail has worked super hard during maths. She is now amazing at multiplying 4 digits by 2 digits!
Year 6 Miss Parkinson	Sofia	For demonstrating compassion and kindness, always. You always want to help others, whether it's in their learning or making sure everyone is happy!



30th January
2026

Mission Maker Award

Year 1 Seacole Mrs Grier & Mrs Lowdon	Rosie	For demonstrating the passion to learn, always working hard – well done!
Year 2 Anning Mrs Ripley	Monica	For demonstrating the passion to learn in our spelling lessons. She has tried really hard to form great year 2 sentences.
Year 3 Ms McCue	Ailbhe	For demonstrating the passion to learn. You are always focused, calm and ready to learn and you are a great role model. Well done.
Year 4 Mrs Coatzee	Emily	For demonstrating the strength to love by trying very hard to be calm and kind.
Year 5 Miss Huggins	Rheynzo	For demonstrating the passion to learn in every subject. Rheynzo always puts his hand up to share or ask questions.
Year 6 Miss Parkinson	Eva	For demonstrating the passion to learn this week – you have shown amazing focus and demonstrated brilliant oracy skills in maths and guided reading!



6th February
2026

Charism Character Awards

Year 1 Seacole Mrs Grier & Mrs Lowdon	Yasir	For demonstrating perseverance with handwriting this week
Year 2 Anning Mrs Ripley	Iris	For demonstrating perseverance in DT this week. She made a fantastic moving monster.
Year 3 Ms McCue	Obanijesu	For demonstrating perseverance with your English writing. You have worked very hard to stay focused and have made fantastic progress.
Year 4 Mrs Coatzee	Emmanuel	For demonstrating perseverance with your handwriting. Well done
Year 5 Miss Huggins	Martha	For demonstrating perseverance. Martha has come such a long way in the classroom the past few weeks. She is now happier and more confident in class.
Year 6 Miss Parkinson	Munopa	For demonstrating perseverance throughout this week in all subjects and having some fantastic ideas for Wordle!



6th February
2026

Mission Maker Award

Year 1 Seacole Mrs Grier & Mrs Lowdon	Reeyan	For demonstrating passion to learn, a joy to teach every day!
Year 2 Anning Mrs Ripley	Bobby	For demonstrating the passion to learn in maths this week. He tried really hard when adding two 2-digit numbers together.
Year 3 Ms McCue	Michael	For demonstrating the passion to learn every day. You have an excellent attitude, always work hard and set an exceptional example to others.
Year 4 Mrs Coatzee	Olivia	For demonstrating the passion to learn in all subjects, setting an example for behaviour and concentration during lessons.
Year 5 Miss Huggins	Nkeiruka	For demonstrating the passion to learn across all subjects. She is always focused and a very good role model for her peers.
Year 6 Miss Parkinson	Avery	For demonstrating the passion to learn by showing a fantastic attitude to learning after returning to school by asking and answering questions to deepen your understanding!

Author of the Month February

Tom Percival



Tom Percival writes and illustrates all sorts of children's books. He has produced cover illustrations for the Skulduggery Pleasant series, written and illustrated the Little Legends, the Dream Defenders series, as well as twelve picture books. His Big Bright Feelings picture book series includes the Kate Greenaway-nominated *Ruby's Worry*, as well as *Perfectly Norman* and *Ravi's Roar*, and has been translated into twenty one languages. *The Invisible* is a powerful picture book exploring poverty and those who are overlooked in our society. In 2020 he created the animation *Goodbye Rainclouds*, for BBC Children in Need to celebrate unsung heroes and launch their campaign. He lives in Gloucestershire with his partner and their two children.

Books by this author:

