Newsletter March 2026

Headteacher's Comment

As we come to the end of a very busy and productive spring term, I want to take a moment to celebrate the hard work and enthusiasm shown by all our pupils. Every class has thrown themselves into their learning with great focus and commitment, and it has been wonderful to see the progress they have made.

Today, we say a heartfelt goodbye to someone truly special. After many years of dedicated service, Mrs Budd, our much-loved Admin Officer, is retiring.



Thank you to Mrs Angela Budd and all our best wishes for a wonderful, restful and well earned retirement.

Over the years, she has been at the very heart of our school community — the calm voice on the phone, the reassuring presence in the office, and the person who quietly keeps everything running smoothly. Her kindness, patience, and unwavering commitment have touched the lives of countless children, families, and staff.

One of her greatest contributions has been guiding us through the merger of the Infant and Junior Schools — a significant moment in our school's history.

She approached this challenge with her trademark steadiness, care, and professionalism, helping to bring two communities together with warmth and positivity.

We will miss her greatly: her laughter, her compassion, and her ability to make everyone feel welcome the moment they step through the door. But more than anything, we are grateful — grateful for her years of service, for the love she has poured into our school, and for the legacy of kindness she leaves behind.

We wish her a happy, healthy, and joy-filled retirement. She has earned every moment.

Mrs Nikki George will be taking up the position of Admin Officer in the middle of April.

Our Year 3 teacher is currently recovering well following a recent knee operation. We look forward to welcoming her back once she has fully recovered during the summer term. In the meantime, we would like to express our sincere thanks to Miss Harvey for her wonderful support and hard work in covering the class. As she takes up a permanent position, a supply teacher will be leading Year 3 for the interim period. We appreciate everyone's understanding and support.

Miss Harris will be taking a sabbatical during the summer term following the successful completion of her Level 4 Sports Coach Apprenticeship. We hope she enjoys this well-deserved break and makes the most of the opportunities it brings. We look forward to welcoming her back, refreshed and re-energised, in the Autumn term.

I would like to thank our dedicated staff team for their continued hard work and our families for their ongoing support. I wish you all a restful and happy Easter break, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back for the summer term.

Pennington C of E Primary School

BeTheBestYouCanBe!

Welcoming newly hatched chicks in Year R

A particular highlight has been the arrival of our eight fluffy chicks, who captured the hearts of pupils and staff alike. Watching them hatch this week has brought such joy to the school and provided a lovely reminder of new beginnings as we approach Easter.
Thank you so much to Liz and Nick West, Millie Young's grandparents for giving us this wonderful experience.





Year 3 Easter Experience at St Thomas' Church

Our Year 3 students recently enjoyed a wonderful visit to St Thomas' Church, where they took part in an immersive and engaging Easter Experience. Throughout the morning, the children were guided through a series of interactive stations that brought the story of Holy Week to life.
The experience led them on a reflective journey through The Last Supper, The Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus' Crucifixion, and finally the Resurrection. Each station offered hands-on activities and thoughtful storytelling, giving pupils a meaningful insight into the events and emotions at the heart of the Easter message.
It was a truly memorable morning that deepened their understanding of this important Christian celebration.
A huge thank you to Helen Thompson and her wonderful team of helpers for creating such an inspiring and enriching opportunity for our children.





Year R

This first part of the Spring Term in Reception the children learnt all about Traditional Stories. We looked at Goldilocks and The Three Bears, The Three Little Pigs, and The Gingerbread Man. They focused on ordering, retelling of the stories, using puppets, role play, developing lots of speaking and listening skills. We followed a recipe to make gingerbread biscuits which were very tasty!







We also spent some time learning about Chinese New Year and how it is celebrated. The children loved making some chinese new lanterns, cards, dragons, opening fortune cookies, eating prawn crackers and making and tasting noodles. We also used music and dance to enhance our learning. The children performed a dragon dance.









In the second part of the Spring Term the children have been learning about growing and lifecycles. We have some caterpillars in the class which we are carefully observing. The children have been carrying out lots of planting and observing signs of spring.











Outdoor Learning in Year R

With the weather improving it has meant there has been lots of outside learning taking place.

We have a few children now who can independently ride a pedal bike without any stabilisers.







The water play has been popular and we are using it for our phonics play.

The children have also been introduced to the woodwork shed and are loving building their own creations using the Japanese Wood Saw and hammers!







Handwriting is improving and the children are really making great progress in their reading and writing and maths- well done everyone! It is lovely to see them being so independent in their own learning.









Year 1 & 2

Wow have we had a busy term in year 1 and 2!
In our science we've been exploring habitats and our trip to the wildlife park really helped bring this to life for us! We saw so many animals and we were able to use this in our learning. We spent time making habitats of animals that we'd seen and doing some research into how their bodies adapt for those habitats!






In our Art we've been exploring waterclours and have been practising painting an arctic scenery. This has included varies techniques such as colour mixing, blending, using salt for texture as well as using biro to make parts stand out more in our pictures.





In Geography we've been comparing New York and Southampton and as much as they are different there are some similarities! We've really enjoyed using both the laptops for Google Earth and maps to locate New York and spot the different landmarks and attractions there are in such a big place compared to Southampton!

We've been loving using all our knowledge that we've picked up and putting these into our play projects where we practise the skills we've learnt and showcase them independently within our own learning time! Here's just a few things we've done!



Red Kites Class



This term, Year 3 have enjoyed a wonderful journey of learning, curiosity, and exploration.

We began by learning all about Uganda, focusing especially on what life is like for children living in rural areas. The class were fascinated by the similarities and differences between their own lives and those of Ugandan children. We were very fortunate to be visited by Gill from the Christchurch Deanery, who travels to South West rural Uganda regularly. She shared photographs and stories from her visits, which really brought the topic to life. Gill is also helping us develop links with Rwangaboka Primary School and we are excited about building meaningful connections with the school and learning even more from one another.

In Art, the children explored traditional African designs and learned how to create repeating patterns through printing. They enjoyed experimenting with shapes, colours, and textures to produce bold and vibrant artwork inspired by African textiles.







Our History learning took us back in time to Roman Britain. A highlight of the term was our visit to Fishbourne Roman Palace, where the children discovered mosaics, experienced Roman-style rooms, and learned about life during the Roman occupation. They asked thoughtful questions and demonstrated great curiosity about how people lived nearly two thousand years ago.

We have also been studying the eruption of Mount Vesuvius, using this dramatic historical event to inspire our English work. The children wrote diary entries imagining what it might have been like to witness the eruption in Pompeii. Their writing showed fantastic imagination, emotion, and descriptive detail.

We have greatly missed Mrs Harvey this term, but we have been very lucky to have her daughter, Miss Harvey, teaching the class in her absence. We all wish Mrs Harvey a speedy recovery. She will not be returning immediately after Easter, so a supply teacher will be covering Year 3 for the first few weeks of the summer term until she is well enough to come back.

It has been a busy and exciting term, and the children should feel very proud of everything they have achieved.



Eagles Class



This spring term, Year 4 have been busy exploring a new history topic all about the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings. This follows on beautifully from their previous learning about the Romans in Year 3. To bring the topic to life, we visited Butser Ancient Farm and the children had a great time exploring the outdoor museum, making jewellery and spinning wool. It was a fantastic day and the weather was kind to us.

In maths, the children have continued to work hard on their times tables and have now begun learning about fractions, following their earlier units on addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

Our English work has been inspired by a range of high-quality texts. We began the term using The Legend of Podkin One-Ear as a stimulus for writing, and It Started With a Seed as our class reading focus. Towards the end of the term, we have been using Beowulf to inspire the children's own kenning poems and narrative writing. In DT, the children have been developing their sewing skills by designing and making a stuffed toy linked to Podkin One-Ear.

In science, the children have learned all about the digestive system and the journey food takes through the body. A particular highlight was the practical (and memorable!) lesson where they simulated the digestive process and even created model "poo".











Making 'poo'

Despite the relentless rain, the children in Eagles have had a fantastic spring term and have shown real enthusiasm and resilience in their learning. We are looking forward to many more exciting learning opportunities as we move into the summer term.

Falcons Class

Year 5 have enjoyed a wonderfully busy and enriching term, full of curiosity, creativity and excellent effort across the curriculum.

In History, the children have explored the theme of monarchy through time, learning about the lives and influence of William the Conqueror, Henry VIII, Elizabeth I and Elizabeth II. This has sparked great excitement for their upcoming visit to the Tower of London in May, where they will experience first-hand one of the most iconic royal landmarks in the country.

As part of this topic, the children also examined portraits of Elizabeth I, investigating how symbolism and imagery were used to represent power and authority. Inspired by this, they created their own impressive self-portraits in Art, applying their understanding of royal portraiture. They also explored contouring techniques using mystery bags, relying on their sense of touch to carefully observe shape and form — a fun and challenging way to develop their artistic skills.








During Science Week, the children revisited their learning about gravity, designing and testing paper aeroplanes and taking part in the exciting Egg Drop Challenge.

Science lessons have continued to be highly engaging, with Year 5 exploring the fascinating world of blood, the human heart and the circulatory system. They now have a strong understanding of how blood moves around the body and why keeping our hearts healthy is so important.

In RE, the children have been learning about the symbolism of the cross at Easter, linking closely with our assemblies on Lent. This has encouraged thoughtful discussion about tradition, faith and the deeper meaning of Easter.

In Maths, the children have shown fantastic effort as they tackled the challenging — but rewarding — topics of fractions, decimals and percentages. Their determination and resilience have really shone through, and we are very proud of the progress they have made.

It has been a busy and productive term, and we are incredibly proud of the children's enthusiasm, curiosity and hard work across all subjects. We look forward to another exciting term ahead!



Barn Owls Class



This term, Year 6 have been working incredibly hard as they prepare for their SATs in grammar, reading and maths, which take place in May. We have been really impressed with their determination, focus and the fantastic progress they have made.

In Writing, the children have created their own survival recounts, written formal letters from Ernest Shackleton at the moment the Endurance collapsed, and produced narrative pieces inspired by The Highwayman by Alfred Noyes.

In Science, the children have been investigating sound and learning how animals and plants adapt to survive in challenging environments. Our Geography topic has focused on tourism in Antarctica, where the children have explored both the advantages and disadvantages of visiting such a fragile environment. This has led to some lively and thoughtful discussions!

As we come to the end of a very busy and productive term, we would like to wish all the children a restful and well-deserved Easter break. We hope they return refreshed and ready to take on their SATs with confidence, as well as enjoy their final term at PPS.

It's an exciting time ahead for them, with memories still to be made — including our Year 6 residential and all the special events that mark their last months before moving on to secondary school. We are incredibly proud of them and can't wait to see what they achieve next.





Year 6 Movie Night Stormbreaker



Summer 1 Clubs

Monday	**Netball/Basketball**	**Gardening**
Tuesday	**Football**	**Art**
Wednesday	**Cross Country**	**Drama**
Thursday	**Gymnastics**	

Upcoming Dates

Dates	Events
Monday 13th April	Summer Term 1
Monday 4th May	May Day Bank Holiday
Monday 11th May	Year 6 SATs Week
Friday 22nd May	Sports Day
Monday 25th May	½ Term
Monday 1st June	Summer Term 2
Monday 8th June	Class Photos
Wednesday 17th - Friday 19th June	Year 6 Residential
Wednesday 1st & Thursday 2nd July	Year 6 Bikeability
Tuesday 7th July	Transition Day
Wednesday 15th & Thursday 16th July	Year 6 Performance
Friday 17th July	KS2 Camp
Wednesday 22nd July	Whole School Picnic - End of Term





Annual RNLI Lymington 10k & Children's Fun Run Sunday 10th May

I am writing to ask you to share the news of the annual RNLI Lymington 10k and Fun Run

The RNLI Lymington Lifeboat Station is hosting the Lymington Lifeboat 10K and Children's fun run on Sunday 10th May 2026 to raise funds for the volunteer lifeboat crews who provide a vital lifesaving service along our coastline.

We're reaching out to local schools to see if you would include a short mention of the event in your newsletter or kindly put a poster in the window. It's a community event open to runners of all abilities, and we love to see local families involved.

All funds raised go directly towards supporting the RNLI and the lifesaving work carried out by our local crew. As a charity independent from the government, your generous support matters more than ever in meeting the costs of saving lives at sea. Our volunteer lifesavers give their time for free, but they need training, well-maintained equipment, lifeboats and shore facilities. Your kindness saves lives.

If you're happy to include it, please find attached an event poster and QR code. Equally if you require some wording, please let me know.

Again, this year we have had an unbelievable prize donated which is a spa day for two people at the amazing Chewton Glen Hotel & Spa, which will be awarded to the individual who raises the most sponsorship money. This can be done via the JustGiving link, on the entry website.

Entries are via https://www.frsystems.co.uk/lymington-10k and close on 05th May 2026

There are prizes and trophies for the winners of the children's races and the 10k as well as for the fastest male and female 10K runners, along with other prizes for the different age categories as detailed on entry website. For the children's runs the age groups are Under 5's, 5-9 years old, and 10-15 years old.

The event is being held in Woodside Park, Ridgeway Lane, Lymington SO41 8FP.

Myself and all the Lifeboat Crew at Lymington Lifeboat Station very much look forward to seeing you on the day

School Terms And Holidays
2025 – 2026

Determined programme of school term and holiday dates for county and controlled schools for the academic year 2025/26

SEPTEMBER 2025						
M	1	8	15	22	29	
T	2	9	16	23	30	
W	3*	10	17	24		
T	4	11	18	25		
F	5	12	19	26		
S	6	13	20	27		
S	7	14	21	28		

OCTOBER 2025						
M		6	13	20	27	
T		7	14	21	28	
W	1	8	15	22	29	
T	2	9	16	23	30	
F	3	10	17	24 #	31	
S	4	11	18	25		
S	5	12	19	26		

NOVEMBER 2025						
M		3*	10	17	24	
T		4	11	18	25	
W		5	12	19	26	
T		6	13	20	27	
F		7	14	21	28	
S	1	8	15	22	29	
S	2	9	16	23	30	

DECEMBER 2025						
M	1	8	15	22	29	
T	2	9	16	23	30	
W	3	10	17	24	31	
T	4	11	18	25		
F	5	12	19 #	26		
S	6	13	20	27		
S	7	14	21	28		

JANUARY 2026						
M		5*	12	19	26	
T		6	13	20	27	
W		7	14	21	28	
T	1	8	15	22	29	
F	2	9	16	23	30	
S	3	10	17	24	31	
S	4	11	18	25		

FEBRUARY 2026						
M		2	9	16	23*	
T		3	10	17	24	
W		4	11	18	25	
T		5	12	19	26	
F		6	13#	20	27	
S		7	14	21	28	
S	1	8	15	22		

MARCH 2026						
M		2	9	16	23	30
T		3	10	17	24	31
W		4	11	18	25	
T		5	12	19	26	
F		6	13	20	27 #	
S		7	14	21	28	
S	1	8	15	22	29	

APRIL 2026						
M		6	13*	20	27	
T		7	14	21	28	
W	1	8	15	22	29	
T	2	9	16	23	30	
F	3	10	17	24		
S	4	11	18	25		
S	5	12	19	26		

MAY 2026						
M			4	11	18	25
T			5	12	19	26
W			6	13	20	27
T			7	14	21	28
F		1	8	15	22#	29
S		2	9	16	23	30
S		3	10	17	24	31

JUNE 2026						
M	1*	8	15	22	29	
T	2	9	16	23	30	
W	3	10	17	24		
T	4	11	18	25		
F	5	12	19	26		
S	6	13	20	27		
S	7	14	21	28		

JULY 2026						
M		6	13	20	27	
T		7	14	21	28	
W	1	8	15	22 #	29	
T	2	9	16	23	30	
F	3	10	17	24	31	
S	4	11	18	25		
S	5	12	19	26		

AUGUST 2026						
M		3	10	17	24	31
T		4	11	18	25	
W		5	12	19	26	
T		6	13	20	27	
F		7	14	21	28	
S	1	8	15	22	29	
S	2	9	16	23	30	

School Terms And Holidays
2025 – 2026

Determined programme of school term and holiday dates for county and controlled schools for the academic year 2025/26

Bank and Public Holidays 2025/2026			
Christmas Day	25 December 2025	Easter Monday	6 April 2026
Boxing Day	26 December 2025	May Day Holiday	4 May 2026
New Year's Day Holiday	1 January 2026	Spring Bank Holiday	25 May 2026
Good Friday	3 April 2026	Summer Bank Holiday	31 August 2026

* First day after break

\# Last day before break

School Holidays

Bank Holidays and National Holidays

Autumn Term 2025 starts on Wednesday 3 September 2025 and ends on Friday 19 December 2025 (Half term from Monday 27 October to Friday 31 October 2025)

Spring Term 2026 starts on Monday 5 January 2026 and ends on Friday 27 March 2026 (Half term from Monday 16 February to Friday 20 February 2026)

Summer Term 2026 starts on Monday 13 April 2026 and ends on Wednesday 22 July 2026 (Half term from Monday 25 May to Friday 29 May 2026)

Term	Start date	End Date
Autumn 2025	3 September 2025	19 December 2025
	Half term 27 October- 31 October 2025	
Spring 2026	5 January 2026	27 March 2026
	Half term 16 February - 20 February 2026	
Summer 2026	13 April 2026	22 July 2026
	Half term 25 May – 29 May 2026	