



NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents and Carers,



Happy half term and Happy Valentine's Day too! Your children have made it to a very well-earned break after another busy half term. We hope that you found Parents Evening useful this week and that you enjoyed seeing your child's progress in their books. It has been fantastic to see Year 2 being very active this week, running around our playground everyday for five days, as part of their 'Exercise and Hygiene' science topic. A great chance for them to learn about the benefits of exercise. We also now have the link for you to watch the amazing performance of some of our children at the Dance Live event. Read on for more information about how they were truly outstanding ambassadors for our school.

Next Week

Date	Event
17 th – 21 st	Half Term Break
24 th	Start of Spring 2 – Gates open 08:30
26 th	Year 5 Swimming
27 th	Year R Screening – School Nursing Team Year 5 Junior Literature Quiz Year 5 Pompey Pirates
28 th	Year R Screening – School Nursing Team

Reading in class continues...

Don't forget that 'Reading in Class' continues every **Wednesday** between **8.35 am and 8.55 am**. It is lovely to see so many parents and children reading together. We look forward to welcoming you back in again after half term to continue all your great reading.



Parking outside school



We have received reports this week of parents parking outside of school in such a way as to make it unsafe for our children. Please can we ask that you park considerately and safely outside the school at all times. Therefore, please do not park on the double yellow lines outside of the school as it creates an unsafe situation for our children as they are walking to school.

Please may we also remind you that parking onsite is for staff only, including dropping children off for Breakfast Club, unless specific arrangements have been agreed with me.

The safety of our children is paramount at all times so thank you in advance for your support in this matter.

New football kits have arrived!

Part of the money raised from the GB Gymnast visit has been spent on new football kits for the Year 5 and 6 girl's and boy's football teams. We look forward to seeing them proudly striding out in them at their next fixture.

And this is just the beginning... there will be lots more great equipment appearing on our playgrounds in the not-too-distant future.



EYFS and KS1 Meet Booksy Bear

In Reception and Key Stage 1 we have welcomed Booksy Bear to our classrooms. Each week, Booksy goes to the class that has had the most children read four times or more and gets to spend time with them listening to stories in their book corner. Teachers are collecting in Reading Records **every Wednesday** to count up the results. Please help us by recording any time your child has read in their Reading Record. This could be their book banded book, enjoying a book with an adult (such as a bedtime story), or read anything that interested them - it all counts!

We will share which class has won Booksy in the newsletter each week.



Attendance Cup

This week's winning house is:

	Mary Rose	Victory	Alliance	Warrior
KS1	96.9%	91.0%	95.3%	94.3%
KS2	93.2%	94.3%	95.0%	95.8%

Congratulations to **Mary Rose** in KS1 and **Warrior** in KS2 who have won this week's house cup.

House Points

This week's winning house is:

	Mary Rose	Victory	Alliance	Warrior
This week	270	207	341	321
Total	1759	1266	1669	1969

Congratulations to **Alliance** who collected the most house points this week and at the half way point, Warrior are in the lead, will this still be the case at the end of the spring term? Only hard work and effort will tell!!!

Dance Live 2025



On the 31st of January, we watched with immense pride as our incredible children from Years 4, 5, and 6 took part in Dance Live! — an inspiring competition run by The Guildhall Trust. This event encourages creativity, well-being, and future aspirations, and our children embraced it wholeheartedly.

For five months, every Tuesday after school, our dedicated dancers worked tirelessly alongside Miss Rinehart and Miss Jones to craft a breathtaking seven-minute piece. Their performance carried a powerful message about deforestation, raising awareness through movement and storytelling. Their hard work and passion paid off as they won the award for **Best Concept**, a true testament to their creativity and dedication.

Although we didn't place overall, our school achieved something even more special—the **Fellowship Award**. Voted on by other schools, this award recognised our children for their kindness, support, and encouragement towards fellow competitors. This moment of recognition filled us with overwhelming pride, as it reflects the values we cherish the most.

Myself, Miss Rinehart and Miss Jones could not be prouder of every single child who took part. Their dedication, teamwork, and spirit shone brightly, and we cannot wait to do it all again next year!

See below the link to watch our superstars in their performance:

<https://vimeo.com/1052425755/e9c1dae239?share=copy>



Congratulations to...



Lola

Lola wrote a fantastic story for the BBC's 500 words competition, and it was chosen to go onto the second round of judging by the Reading Agency. This meant that Lola's amazing story 'Going Home' was chosen from tens of thousands of entries to be in the top 5000. Wow! What an amazing achievement Lola! We are all very proud of you here at Copnor Primary School. Keep up the great writing! Attached is a copy of her story for you all to enjoy.



Golden Child



I am delighted to share the names of this week's Golden Children they are:

Year Group	Class	Golden Child
EYFS	Rosen	Nicole
	Hart	Elliot
	Donaldson	Max
1	Adeola	Gwyn
	Field	Fintan
	Gravett	Jacob
2	Steadman	Isla
	Simmonds	Arabella
	Jenkins	Isla
3	Adele	Willow
	Sheeran	Eliza
	Murs	Ruby
4	Thompson	Jude
	Rickman	Santiago
	Elba	Freddie
5	Peake	Ellis
	Hawking	Zena
	Franklin	Ellis
6	Hussain	Filip
	Roots	Kathleen
	Berry	Anna

EYFS/KS1 and **KS2** have all been recognised as someone who understands the importance of helping others.

EYFS & New Children to Year 1 and Year 2 - National Child Measurement Programme



The School Nursing Team will be in school on **Thursday 27th and Friday 28th February** to carry out the annual National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP). Information was sent to your registered email address so please make sure you have received this and contact the school office if you require any further information.

Portsmouth Force Match

Please see the details below of Portsmouth Force's next match tomorrow.

SAT 15 FEB 2025 TIP OFF 18:30

PORTSMOUTH
FORCE
VS CARDIFF MET
ARCHERS II

RAVELIN SPORTS CENTRE
CAMBRIDGE RD, PORTSMOUTH PO1 2SE

OFFICIAL TEAM SPONSOR **COSGROVE**
PAINTING CONTRACTORS LTD

UNIVERSITY OF PORTSMOUTH
(TRI/CK)

HAF Half Term Sessions

Funded by UK Government Portsmouth CITY COUNCIL

FREE

HOLIDAY SESSIONS

FOR 6-18 YEAR OLDS IN P01-P06
THROUGHOUT THE FEBRUARY HALF TERM

FOOTBALL MUSICAL THEATRE
LASER QUEST TACOS & MORE

FOOD, FUN AND TRANSPORT INCLUDED FOR MOST SESSIONS

OPEN TO LOW-INCOME FAMILIES

UPCOMING EVENTS

11-16 YEARS		
MON 17 FEB	Football and pizza party*	12pm-3pm Goals, Tangier Road
WED 19 FEB	Professional musical theatre workshop*	11.30am-3pm The Base, The Guildhall
THUR 20 FEB	Skate, scoot and pizza party*	10am-1pm Pitt St. Skatepark
FRI 21 FEB	Skate, scoot and pizza party*	10am-1pm Pitt St. Skatepark
SAT 22 FEB	Laser quest, archery and adventure*	11am-2pm Peter Ashley Activity Centre

*free bus travel included

11-18 YEARS		
TUES 18 FEB	T-shirt design and taco time!	4.30pm-8.30pm Brook Club, Somerstown Central

6-13 YEARS		
WED 19 FEB	Portsea venture and youth club fun day	11pm-3pm Goals, Tangier Road
FRI 21 FEB	PYC Bonfire, hot chocolate and s'mores	12pm-4pm Landport adventure playground

SCAN THE QR CODE TO BOOK YOUR PLACE

Got questions? ☎ 07901 100537
✉ eptengagement@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

Keeping our children safe online

Continuing our sharing of the informative posters from #WakeUpWednesday, National Online Safety. Please take the time to read through all the tips that will help to ensure that your children are safe online.



At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit nationalonlinecollege.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about MICROTRANSACTIONS

Microtransactions (often abbreviated as "MTX") are digital purchases made within an app or game to unlock extra features or additional content such as new levels. A popular sub-set of these are loot boxes, which contain a selection (usually random) of virtual items: from character skins to game-changing equipment like better weapons. Microtransactions (and loot boxes in particular) are now widespread in apps and games, but concerns persist that they normalise gambling and can foster addictive behaviours – especially among younger players.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

GATEWAY TO GAMBLING?

Microtransactions have been criticised for promoting gambling-adjacent behaviour in children. Research has also suggested that exposure to the loot box system could affect the likelihood of a young person suffering gambling harms later in life: children who purchased or used loot boxes in the last 12 months were found to be more likely to have gambled during the same period, as well.

ADDICTIVE NATURE

Microtransactions (and loot boxes especially) could lead to young people displaying compulsive behaviours. Loot boxes are designed to be addictive, and the sought-after prizes they contain are dispensed at random. This means that young gamers might not get what they want straight away, causing them to spend more money as well as additional time gaming.

PAYING TO WIN

In many popular games (the FIFA series being a notable example), microtransactions make it far easier to succeed – which is a concern because children can often find it difficult to keep track of their spending. Once a child starts making in-game purchases, they may continue buying to keep up with their friends and other players – sometimes without recognising the mounting real-world cost.

EXCLUSIVE CONTENT

DATA COLLECTION

To allow a young person to complete microtransactions, many app and game developers collect personal data such as their name, address, email, geo-location information, photos, payment details and so on. Even if this data remains secure (which is by no means guaranteed), there's always the chance that it will be used – and possibly sold on to third parties – for marketing purposes.

AFFECTING DAILY ROUTINE

Online games tend to revolve around repeated loops of activity that can affect purchasing decisions and potentially influence children's spending patterns. This could lead to your child not only handing over more money but also adjusting their daily routine to match the game's schedule – potentially impacting more important elements of their day, such as homework and family time.

SATELLITE SPENDING

If you've linked a payment method like a debit card or a PayPal account to your child's game or app, it's wise to keep a close eye on their microtransactions to ensure they aren't racking up a large bill. Letting a child have access to your card (if they're still too young to have their own) or other means of payment could also lead to them spending beyond the apps and games they normally use.

Advice for Parents & Carers

DO YOUR RESEARCH

It's important to have a serviceable idea of whether the games your child plays use the loot box system (even if it goes by a different name) or include the option of buying items, equipment and so forth. If so, it's crucial to help your child understand that this costs actual money, and that they shouldn't feel pressured into making any purchases.

CHAT ABOUT 'CHANCE'

It may help to explain to your child that many microtransactions involve an element of chance: they could pay money and still not get what they want in return. Emphasise that – while not usually costing much individually – these in-app and in-game purchases can soon add up. Talk to your child about how spending their money in a game or app means they have less to use in the real world.

(GIFT) CARDS ON THE TABLE

Investing in an in-game currency gift card can be a useful way of helping your child get to grips with budgeting. If you buy, say, a £10 V-bucks Fortnite gift card, monitor how long it takes them to spend it. When they come to you asking for more, you could make it the starting point for a conversation about how quickly that money went and how they could earn their next gift card.

STOP SPENDING AT SOURCE

You might decide that the wisest strategy is to remove the potential for spending money on microtransactions. If so, most games, apps and devices have options in their settings to help you manage what your child can spend – or to disable that function altogether, preventing them from buying additional items for their games or boosted functionality for certain apps.

WATCH FOR THE SIGNS

If you're worried that your child's passion for a particular game or app may tempt them into habitual spending on microtransactions, it's important to remember the indicators of addictive behaviour. Irritability, a lack of concentration and prioritising recreational screen time ahead of homework or mealtimes could all be signs that you need to have a conversation about a more balanced routine.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid *The Inquirer*, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.

National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

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Lunchtime trial – Monday 24th – Friday 28th February

Over the past half term, we have been working with School Council to look at how we continue to make all of our experiences at Copnor Primary School even better, and one of the suggestions that the children came up with was wanting to play outside during lunchtimes as much as possible and with children from other year groups. Therefore, during the first week back we are going to trial staggering lunchtimes over two 45-minute sessions, which will allow for the space outside to be maximized on the playground for all of the children and create a calmer environment to sit and eat in. We will also introduce a 15 minute break in the afternoon to help concentration and ensure that children have access to the fresh air, movement, exercise and have fun with their friends.

We explained to the children today that KS1 will have their lunchtime from 11:45 – 12:30, eating first and then going out straight out to play and having the use of the entire school grounds (KS1 Playground, Year 3 & 4 and Year 5 & 6 Playground and MUGA) to play on with different activities set up across them. KS2 will then have their lunches from 12:30 – 13:15 and again, have access to play with all of the different activities that are set up. This was met with great excitement, especially from some of our KS1 children who said, “we now get to play on the MUGA at lunchtimes and not just for PE lessons”.

I hope you all enjoy your half terms, whether that is staying in Portsmouth or venturing further afield for new adventures and we look forward to welcoming the children back into school on **Monday 24th February**.

Matt Johnson
Headteacher