

NEWSLETTER

A WELCOME MESSAGE

Welcome to another exciting weekly round up of learning and discovery at Copnor Primary School! As we move towards our half term break, we're proud to share the wonderful achievements, events, and updates that make our school community so special. For example, this week has seen Year 4 catching the bus to Old Portsmouth to enhance their geography learning, Portsmouth News have been in to photograph our Year R and we have once again opened up our school to share our fantastic school with prospective Year R parents.

We hope you enjoy reading about what's been happening around the school.

Wishing you all a restful weekend and we look forward to welcoming your child back into school on Monday for the last week before the half term break, and good luck to anyone running The Great South Run.

Matt Johnson
Headteacher



UPCOMING EVENTS

Next week:

- 20th - Year 5 - Bikeability - all week 
- Years 5 & 6 - Show Racism the red card
- Year 1 - Field Class - Spirit of the Wild
- 21st - Year 1 - Gravett Class - Marwell Trip
- Year 1 - Cricket Session 6
- Parents Evening 1 - 3.30 - 7.00pm
- 22nd - Reading in Class - 8.35 - 8.55 - Your weekly opportunity to read in class with your child.
- Open Afternoon - Prospective Year R Parents
- Parents Evening 2 - 3.30 - 7.00pm
- 23rd - Year 1 - Adeola Class - Marwell Trip
- 24th - Year 1 - Field Class - Marwell Trip

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

YEAR 4 - OLD PORTSMOUTH TRIP



This week, Year 4 have visited Gunwharf and Old Portsmouth as part of their geography unit - Are all settlements the same?

While exploring, they discussed how land is used in this area of the city, identified human and physical features and compared it to land use in New Delhi, India. Everyone had a fantastic morning!

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you."

B.B.King

ATTENDANCE

	Mary Rose	Victory	Alliance	Warrior
KS1	96.33%	97.24%	96.35%	98.13%
KS2	94.29%	96.97%	98.25%	96.77%

Congratulations to **Warrior** in **KS1** & **Alliance** in **KS2**, the winners of the Attendance Cups this week.

HOUSE POINTS

	Mary Rose	Victory	Alliance	Warrior
This week	351	883	653	775
Total	1963	2939	2792	2719

Congratulations to **Victory** house, the winners of the House Cup this week.

GOLDEN CHILD



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

KS1 and **KS2** have all been recognised as **someone who never gives up when learning is tricky**.

Year	Class	Golden Child
EYFS	Hendra	Hugo
	Gray	Ronnie
	Donaldson	
1	Adeola	George
	Field	Josie
	Gravett	Ava
2	Nightingale	Tymoteusz
	Austen	Andreas
	Seacole	Dalina
3	Adele	Sian
	Sheeran	Steplogy
	Styles	Naomi
4	Thompson	Avery
	Rickman	Calvin
	Elba	Ayaan
5	Banksy	Mia
	Hockney	Ronnie
	Lowry	Tommy
6	Holmes	Summer
	Hamilton	Ava
	Brownlee	

BOOKSY BEAR WINNERS



The KS1 class with the most children who have read 4 times or more at home is **Seacole Class**

They will keep Booksy Bear in their book corner this week.

A huge well done, **Seacole Class**! We are incredibly proud of you all!



CONGRATULATIONS



OLIVIA & FREYA



Olivia, Freya and Ella all performed in a dance show last Sunday, A Night of Music Legends, with the dance school Kinetic Academy at the New Theatre Royal.

All three of them were absolutely amazing in their performances. All the hard work and the practicing was worth it. Their families, and of course all of us here at Copnor Primary School, are very proud of them. What a fantastic achievement! Well done!

ELLA



OUR GIRLS FOOTBALL TEAM



Our Girls football team had a tournament on Monday. They played really well and came 3rd out of 14 teams in the league section, then were unlucky to go out of the knockout section on penalties in the Quarter final. Well done girls - a fantastic performance! We are all very proud of you.



NOTICES



KS2 - TIMES TABLES ROCKSTARS (TTRS)

Please may we remind you (just once more!) the importance of encouraging your children to spend time on TTRS at home.



Research has shown, that as little as three minutes a day can have an impact on your child's ability to secure their times tables. Knowing their times tables and related division facts supports their mathematical understanding and learning. Furthermore, those children who have a strong grasp of them, tend to be more confident when learning new concepts in maths.

Each week, the child who plays the most in class will be presented with a certificate in assembly, and the class who has played the most will be named earning extra breaktime.

ROTARY SHOEBOX APPEAL - DEADLINE - MONDAY



For several years we have been proud to support Rotary Club with the 'Shoebox Appeal' and we would like to contribute to this worthy cause again. All filled shoeboxes will make their way to disadvantaged and displaced children. (<https://wessexrotaryshoebox.org.uk/>).

If you would like to take part this year, please call into the office to collect a shoebox and leaflet with information on the appeal. A donation of £1 taped to the top of the completed box is requested towards this scheme. Unfortunately, Rotary Wessex are unable to accept donations in any other box.

Boxes will be collected from school the week of the 20th October so they would need to be in school by **Monday 20th October** please.

LOCAL OFFER LIVE RETURNS TO JOHN POUNDS

A promotional postcard for the Portsmouth SEND Local Offer Live event. The background is dark blue with a faint city skyline. At the top left, it says 'Portsmouth SEND Local Offer' in white, with a red banner below it that reads 'Connecting families, young people and services'. The Portsmouth City Council logo is in the top right. The main title 'Local Offer Live!' is in large white letters. Below this, the location 'John Pounds Centre' and address '23 Queen St, Portsea, Portsmouth, PO1 3HN' are listed. The date 'Thursday 6 November' and time '10am - 2.30pm' are also provided. A paragraph describes the event: 'Find out about the services available for families in Portsmouth who have children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND)'. An illustration of a diverse group of people, including a woman with a cane, a man with glasses, a young boy, and a family, stands in the center. A red speech bubble says 'Get your ticket today!'. At the bottom, it says 'Visit portsmouthlocaloffer.org/live' and 'BIG EVENT!' in a yellow bubble.

Portsmouth SEND Local Offer
Connecting families, young people and services

Portsmouth CITY COUNCIL

Local Offer Live!

📍 **John Pounds Centre**
23 Queen St, Portsea, Portsmouth, PO1 3HN

📅 **Thursday 6 November**

🕒 **10am – 2.30pm**

Find out about the services available for families in Portsmouth who have children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND).

Get your ticket today!

Visit portsmouthlocaloffer.org/live

BIG EVENT!

Portsmouth SEND Local Offer Live is returning on Thursday 6 November 2025, and this year's event is set to be the biggest yet with 27 exhibitors confirmed. Held at the John Pounds Centre from 10am to 2.30pm, the event is free to attend and welcomes families, carers, and professionals who support children and young people with Special Educational Needs and /or Disabilities (SEND).

Local Offer Live brings together a wide range of services, organisations, and community groups from across Portsmouth, all under one roof. It's a unique opportunity to discover what support is available locally, speak directly with service providers, and gather information tailored to your needs. Whether you're seeking advice, exploring new opportunities, or simply want to connect with others in the SEND community, this event is designed to help.

In addition to exhibitor stands, this year's event will feature informative talks from the Portsmouth Neurodiversity Team and the Mental Health Support Team (MHST).

To view the full schedule and list of exhibitors, please visit the Portsmouth SEND Local Offer website.

HALF TERM ACTIVITIES



MON 27TH OCTOBER - FRI 31ST OCTOBER

HALF TERM TENNIS CAMP

AT SOUTHSEA TENNIS CLUB

9AM-12PM MON, TUE, WED, THU & FRI

£18.50 PER DAY OR £75 FULL WEEK (save £18.50)

AGES 5-12 YEARS OLD

TENNIS, MULTI SPORT ACTIVITIES, INDOOR ACTIVITIES
IN CASE OF BAD WEATHER PUZZLES & CRAFTS

SOUTHSEA TENNIS CLUB, CLARENCE ESPLANADE, PO5 3PB

PLEASE BRING WATER BOTTLE AND WARM CLOTHES

TO BOOK VISIT WWW.SOUTHSEATENNISCLUB.CO.UK

07891 066989 | JOSHBARRETTTENNISCOACHING@GMAIL.COM | Josh Barrett Tennis Coaching



HarbourChurch

THE LIGHT PARTY


SIGN UP HERE!

SUNDAY 2ND NOVEMBER

St Alban's Church, PO3 5AL

3pm - 4pm - School Years 1 and Under
4.15pm - 5:15pm - School Years 2 to 6

Please use the link below to book half term tennis camp at Southsea Tennis Club:

<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/JBTENNIS/Coaching/Camps>

Please use the QR code on the flyer or the link below to book:

<https://harbourportsmouth.churchsuite.com/events/ye-myfmmk>



COMMUNITY LEARNING SERVICE

Portsmouth CITY COUNCIL

Halloween Family Learning Workshop.

Join us for a spooktacular Halloween Family Learning Workshop!

Enjoy fun, creative activities for children and adults, including crafts and games.

Costumes welcome!

Places are limited so please book early!

Maximum of 2 children per family - suitable for children in yR to y6.

This workshop will take place at

The Learning Place, 6 Derby Road, North End, PO2 8HH.

To book your space call (023)92 621860 or email: thelearningplace@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

Free Workshop

Wednesday 10:00am - 12:00pm

29th October.

023 9262 1860 | learn.portsmouth.gov.uk

THE LEARNING PLACE, DERBY ROAD, PORTSMOUTH, PO2 8HH

UPCOMING OPEN DAYS



Prospective Year R families are invited to join us for our

Open Day Tours

2025

October

Wednesday 22nd
1.30pm

November

Friday 14th
1.30pm
Wednesday 19th
6pm
Monday 24th
9.30am

December

Friday 12th
9.30am



All welcome! Please book online.
www.copnorprimary.co.uk/new-entrants/

Please use the link below to book. There is a google form on the page to complete to book your place:

<https://copnorprimary.co.uk/new-entrants/>



Starting school
September 2026

DON'T BE LATE
You **must** apply
by **Thursday**
15 January
2026

If your child was born between
1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022,
they can start school in September 2026.

Apply for a school place online from
Monday 3 November 2025 until
Thursday 15 January 2026 via our website:
www.portsmouth.gov.uk/schooladmissions

Don't be late – as this will
affect your chances of a place
at your preferred school.



Benefits of applying online

- It's quick, easy and secure
- You will receive a confirmation email once you have submitted your application
- You will have access to links to other useful information and websites
- You will receive an email notification with the outcome of your application, as well as being able to view the outcome online on allocation day
- Application will not go missing in the post

KEEPING OUR CHILDREN SAFE ONLINE

Continuing our sharing of the informative posters from #WAKEUP WEDNESDAY, 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 The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about AI VIRTUAL FRIENDS

Artificial intelligence has seen significant development over the recent months, with companies releasing new AI-based software or adding an AI element to existing apps (such as Snapchat). One form of AI that has become especially popular has been the 'AI friend' or chatbot. There are now numerous 'virtual friend' apps available, with other successful platforms likely to adopt it soon.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

CONTENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

AI chatbots may not always recognise when content is age inappropriate or harmful and should be filtered out. As a result, there's a possibility that children could be exposed to offensive language or explicit material while conversing with their virtual friend. The companies producing such AI solutions are also unlikely to take responsibility for any content that their algorithms generate.

REDUCED SOCIAL CONTACT

An excessive reliance on chatbots for social interaction could potentially cause a child to begin reducing the amount of face-to-face communication they have, leading to social isolation. If young people become dependent on chatbots to provide companionship, it could possibly hinder the development of their real-life social skills.

LACK OF SENSITIVITY

Chatbot software isn't always sophisticated enough to pick up on subtle emotional cues or recognise signs of distress in children, as most humans would. It might therefore fail to respond appropriately. AI misinterpreting what it's being told or replying insensitively to a young user who's already struggling could potentially impact a child's emotional wellbeing or exacerbate any existing emotional issues.

UNINTENTIONAL BIAS

AI companions are only as reliable as the information they've been programmed with. The algorithms they use, therefore, may unintentionally promote bias, stereotypes or discriminatory behaviour. As many chatbots originate from the USA or UK, for instance, they can display a distinctly western-centric worldview. This could lead to children developing skewed attitudes and behaviours if they interact with the AI consistently.

COGNITIVE LIMITATIONS

Although many are now undeniably advanced, AI-powered chatbots still have limitations in terms of understanding complex concepts, context and nuance. Depending heavily on chatbots to help with learning or solving problems may stunt the development of a child's own powers of critical thinking, their creativity and their ability to engage in open-ended discussions with other people.

PRIVACY CONCERNS

Chatbots typically collect data about users, including personal information and conversations. This is ostensibly to improve their performance as they gradually learn about our behaviour – but many experts warn that there may be significant risks associated with how this information is stored and used (for instance, the possibility of potential breaches or misuse by third parties).

Advice for Parents & Carers

CHAT ABOUT CHATBOTS

If a child is already expressing an interest in AI apps, then a relaxed, natural chat should help you to discover which ones they're aware of and how they're using them (or are planning to). Discuss these options with children and perhaps do your own research to ensure that you think they're suitable. Once you're totally happy, you could sit and explore the range of AI chatbots together.

CREATE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

If a child is keen to engage with AI chatbots, encourage them to do so in a safe environment; ideally in a shared space, so you can easily keep an eye and ear on their progress. Set up appropriate content filtering measures in advance – and gently remind them that you'll be close by and ready to help with any questions or concerns that may arise.

FIND A BALANCE

Work alongside children to establish the right balance in terms of how they might use AI-powered chatbots – and when it's appropriate, it's important to make sure that children still get plenty of opportunities to learn to solve problems for themselves, as well as building their interpersonal skills through face-to-face conversations with friends, family members and teachers.

TAKE CONTROL

As with any form of app or game, when it comes to AI chatbots we'd strongly recommend that you consider employing parental controls (either on the device being used or within the software itself) to manage which apps children can download and interact with. This is particularly important for younger children, who may be more at risk of being upset or frightened by inappropriate content.

RECOGNISE THE RISKS

It's unlikely that most children will have even considered the potential risks attached to having a virtual companion. So it's probably wise to explain some of the possible hazards and challenges of AI chatbots to them. Emphasise that AI isn't a real person (however much it might sound like one) and may occasionally tell them something inaccurate or skewed by bias.

Meet Our Expert

A Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP), Gary Henderson is the Director of IT at a large boarding school in the UK, having previously taught in schools and colleges in Britain and the Middle East. With a particular interest in digital citizenship and cyber security, he believes it is essential that we become more aware of the risks around technology, as well as the benefits.



The National College



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CLUBS



**7 weeks
for
£42.00**

Copnor Primary School
Multi-Sports After School Club

Information:

- School Years 1-2
- 3:15pm – 4:15pm
- Thursday 6th November to 18th December

Registration

Book via our website or
give us a call!

02392 728899 | pompeyitc.co.uk

SCAN ME



Please use the link below to book your child's place at
Multi-Sports for Autumn 2:

<https://pompeyitc.co.uk/after-school-clubs/>