# HOLYPORT NEWS

Love Learning, Love Life...in all its fullness John 10:10

## NEWSLETTER 8 - 13 MAY 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had another busy couple of weeks at Holyport Primary School!

Bikeability training for our Year 5 children helped them develop their confidence and competence when cycling on the road. The sessions focused on road safety, awareness of surroundings, and responsible cycling, helping children gain valuable life skills while promoting safe and active travel.

Our Year 3 visit to Kew Gardens was a fantastic opportunity for pupils to bring their science learning to life. Children explored a wide variety of plants from around the world, learnt about plant adaptation and conservation, and enjoyed hands-on activities led by expert educators.

The Year 5 trip to Ufton Court provided an engaging and immersive learning experience, allowing pupils to step back in time and deepen their understanding of history. Through practical activities and workshops, children developed their teamwork skills while learning in a memorable, hands-on environment.

Year 4 had an excellent time during their visit to Oakwood. The pupils challenged themselves with a range of outdoor activities, built resilience and independence, and strengthened friendships. It was a rewarding experience that created lasting memories for everyone involved.

Our Year 6 children are taking the SATS this week. We are incredibly proud of the effort, resilience, and positive attitudes they have shown throughout the year.
SATs are just one part of a child's learning journey and do not define who they are. Our focus is on helping pupils feel calm, confident, and supported as they do their very best.

Thank you to parents and carers for your continued encouragement. We wish all our pupils the very best during the week ahead.

Kind regards,
**Amanda Featherstone**
**Headteacher**

**Our Christian Value this term is.... Respect**

UNICEF Rights of the Child Article 29

Your education should help you use and develop your talents and abilities. It should also help you learn to live peacefully, protect the environment and respect other people.

## Want to know school dates on the go?

Did you know you can sync our school calendar to your phone's calendar?
On your phone or device, simply go to our calendar page on our school website and click "Subscribe to this calendar"

Click here to go to our calendar



# Menu Change

There is a school census on Thursday 21st May, which records how many Reception to Year 2 children take an Infant Free School Meal that day. Funding is based on the number of meals taken on this specific day, not across the year.

This means that if fewer children have a school meal on the 21st, our funding will be reduced, even if more children usually eat school lunches.

We would therefore really appreciate your support in encouraging your child to have a school meal on 21st May. To help with this, we have swapped the menus:

**Thursday**:
Fish fingers and chips
Crispy garden fingers and chips

**Friday**:
Homestyle sausage roll with mash and gravy
Plant-based balls with mash and gravy

(Jacket potato and pasta options remain available as usual)

| Term 5 | |
|---|---|
| 15/5 | HSA BBQ and Movie Night |
| 18-22/5 | Healthy Lifestyles Week |
| 19/5 | Year 6 It's Your Move Assembly |
| 19/5 | KS1 - Scootability |
| 20/5 | Sports Day<br>**Years 1 & 2 - 9.30-11.30am** |
| 21/5 | Sports Days<br>**Years 3 & 4 - 9.30am-11.30am**<br>**Years 5 & 6 - 1pm-3pm** |
| 21/5 | School Census - Menu Change |
| 22/5 | KS2 - Skateboarding |
| **22/5 - 3.15pm** | Last Day of Term |
| 22/5 | HSA Reception Class Cake Sale |
| **Term 6** | |
| 1/6 | Inset Day - School Closed to Children |
| 2/6 | Back to School |
| 8/6 | Year 1 Phonics Testing Week |
| 12/6 | HSA Summer Disco |
| 16/6 | KS2: JMF Music Festival |
| 16/6 - 9.00am | EYFS Big Toddle - details to follow |
| 17/6 | Year 6 RBWM Drowning Prevention |
| 18/6 | Yr 6 Trip to Mandir |
| 19/6 | HSA Father's Day Shopping Event |
| 24-26/6 | Year 6 Residential Trip to PGL Liddington |
| 30/6 | Class Swap Morning and Year 6 Transition Day |

# STARS OF THE WEEK

**Reception**
Dua

**Year 1**
Franklin
Kian
Aliza

**Year 2**
Amelie
Mila
Jacob

**Year 3**
Freya
Oliver
Lila
Jack

**Year 4**
Gabriella
Ariana
Lokshith

**Year 5**
Amelia
Siya
Louis

**Year 6**
Thomas O
Taye
Gia

# PRE-RECEPTION CLASS



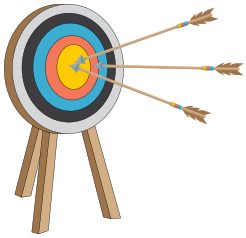

## WE STILL HAVE PRE-RECEPTION PLACES AVAILABLE FOR SEPTEMBER 2026

**People are often surprised to hear we have this facility - so please help us get the word out to your friends and family and those in the local area!**

Our special offer for this stage is play-based and full of exploring, active learning, creating and thinking critically as these are all essential building blocks crucial for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning. Children have the benefit of the EYFS outdoors area, which as you know is very special.

Attending Pre-Reception is sometimes the first time that children are independent from their parents/carers and we understand that families want to get the best start for their children. We offer part-time (8.30-11.30am), Monday to Friday places. Our applications are now open for parents whose children were born between 1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023 for September 2026.

If you would like to visit and have a tour with Mrs Featherstone, please call the school office on 01628 627743 to make an appointment.



# YEAR 4 OAKWOOD TRIP REPORT BY ARIANA

On Wednesday 6th May, Year 4 went on a trip to Oakwood Activity Centre, an there are 4 main activities. We went out in 3 different groups and had so much fun.
Here is what we did:

**Low Ropes** - The whole group tries to make it across each obstacle without falling off. If 4 people made it to the other side and the next person didn't, the people who made it, had to go back as well. Some people made it all the way across which is pretty impressive as the course is very hard. Oh, and by each obstacle there are some balls. They are called life points and you collect them so when someone falls, you can revive with a lift point and keep going.

**Archery** - First we hade 2 practices. Some people did really well and that was because Mr Deverall had taught us archery in 2025. But with arrows, they were super, super sharp! Whoever gets the highest target wins and gets a tally, while the loser sits down.

**Crate Stacking** - Next, we did crate stacking and it was very cool. First we got harnessed up, then we put our helmets on and then walked to the area. The instructor attached ropes to our harnesses and we stood on 9 yellow crates glues together crating a just about wide platform to stand on. We were stacking crates, and we were up just about 36 crates and we were very high.

**Bouldering** - Bouldering is my favourite part. Let me explain. So you climb up some walls with no harness and push up to discover a slide to slide back down onto the floor. While you are climbing you can grab some tags. You have to put on these special climbing shoes and play a game of rock paper scissors climbing style.

**Thank you Ariana - sounds an amazing trip!**



# IN THE SPOTLIGHT...

A huge well done to Archer & Zac, alongside their sister Callie, ran the mini-London marathon. There were 20,000 children running it and they ran the final mile of the London marathon past Buckingham Palace and through the finish line.
A fantastic achievement all round, and Archer and Zac were delighted to proudly show off their medals to their class!

# YEAR 5 UFTON COURT

Year 5 visited Ufton Court on 28th April and extended their learning about the Tudors. During the visit, children learned about the skills that people needed to have to survive at the time such as weaving wood to create walls, using flint to create sparks as well as developing their sling shot accuracy!

The children went on to explore and discuss various artefacts from Tudor times and tried to find clues that indicated whether it was an item belonging to a Catholic or not. The last activity of the day saw the children playing the roles of a Tudor courtroom and debating important issues such as poaching.

The children were brilliant and the staff at Ufton Court commented on how enthusiastic and focused the children were.






# YEAR 3 KEW GARDENS

Our class had an exciting and educational trip to Kew Gardens, where we explored beautiful plants from around the world. We visited the Palm House and the Princess of Wales conservatory. We took part in a workshop about plants which was brilliant! It was a fun day of learning about plants and how they pollinate, and everyone agreed it was a fantastic school trip!

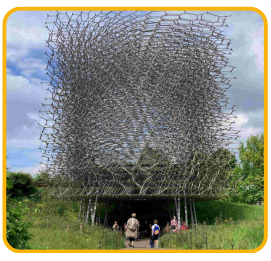
"I really enjoyed the trip and learnt loads!" – Teddy

"I loved it, it was a great adventure" – Luca

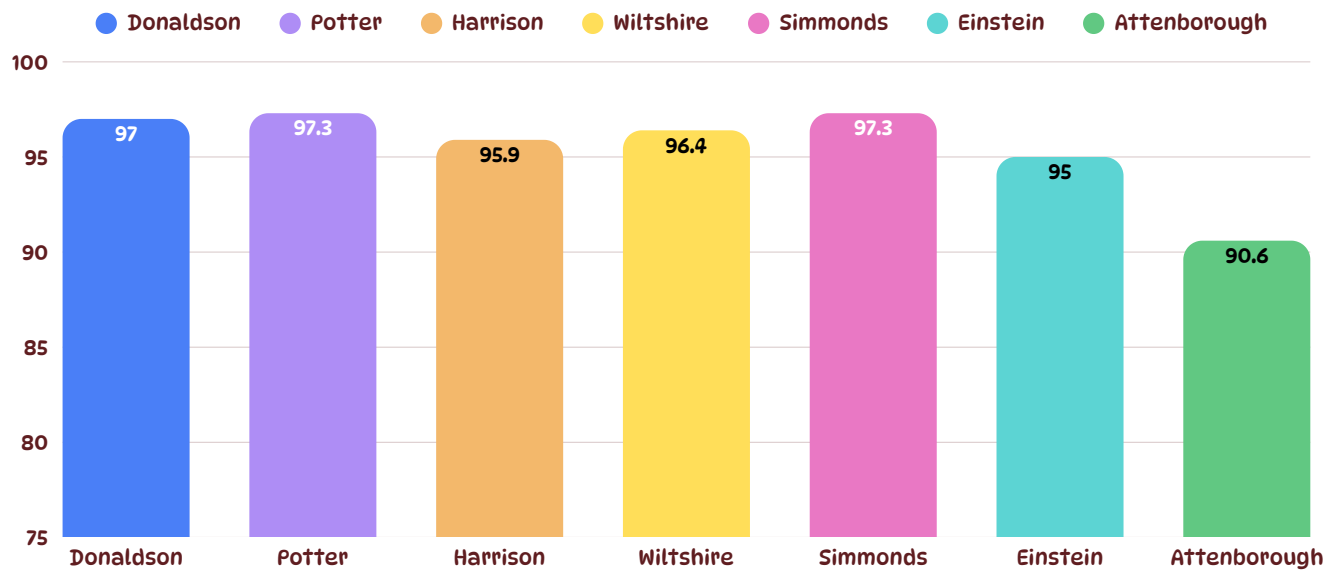
"I thought it was interesting because I leant that petals have veins on them to help pollinators find the nectar" – Clara

"My favourite parts were the palm house and the Princess of Wales Conservatory" – Jacob



# ATTENDANCE MATTERS




## The Importance of Good Attendance

At Holyport, we place great importance on good school attendance. Being in school every day helps children make steady progress, build confidence, and stay connected with their friends and teachers.

We understand that children can become unwell from time to time, and in those cases they should of course stay at home. However, even one or two days of absence each term can quickly add up and may affect learning.

## How Parents Can Help Improve Attendance

Here are a few simple ways families can support strong attendance:

- Establish a good morning routine: Preparing bags and uniforms the night before helps mornings run more smoothly.
- Aim for early bedtimes: Well-rested children find it easier to get up and be ready for school.
- Arrive on time: Being punctual helps children feel settled and ready to learn from the start of the day.

Please be aware that the school or local authority can fine parents for the unauthorised absence of their child from school, where the child is of compulsory school age. The decision on whether or not to issue a penalty notice may take into account:

- The number of unauthorised absences occurring within a rolling academic year
- One-off instances of irregular attendance, such as holidays taken in term time without permission

We understand that there can be tricky times and we offer our full support with any attendance issue... keeping us in the loop is the key. If there are problems, we will do everything that we can to make attending school as simple as possible whilst ensuring your child is happy and reaches their full potential. If there are ever any problems, please talk with Mrs Featherstone at the earliest opportunity and we will do everything that we can to help and support.

# LOCAL EVENTS



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BERKSHIRE MUSIC TRUST
Making music for everyone

SPACE TO THRIVE
COMMUNITY MUSIC CENTRE
A BERKSHIRE MUSIC TRUST AND SLOUGH MUSIC SERVICE PARTNERSHIP

## Come to Recorder Rookies!

A friendly Saturday morning ensemble for complete beginner recorder players!

- Ages: Reception, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3
- When: Saturday mornings 11:05-11:35
- Where: Space to Thrive Music Centre, Newlands Girls School, Farm Road, Maidenhead
- Fee: £70 per term

SCAN HERE

All About Fees

### Free Trial Session

Come along and try a session for free to see if you like it!

Register Now

### Need more information?

If you have any questions, just let us know – we're always happy to help.

Email admissions@berksmusictrust.org.uk

You'll also find answers to many common queries on our website's FAQ page.

View FAQs



www.berksmusictrust.org.uk 0118 901 2370 admissions@berksmusictrust.org.uk