

Nettlestone Primary School



"Changing lives for changing times"

01983 613171



News from Nettlestone Primary School

Executive Head teacher Miss K Howarth Head of School Mrs A Jacobs

2nd May 2025

VALUE OF THE WEEK: COURAGE

WE CAN LIVE RESPECTFULLY—ASSEMBLY THIS WEEK

Mrs Jacobs discussed our value of Courage with the children. The music that was illustrated to accompany our assembly was performed by Celine Dion, titled 'Courage'. Mrs Jacobs discussed the performers battle with illness and how she continues to be courageous in her approach to her 'love' of singing. The whole school listened very thoughtfully to her performance—[click here](#) Our book this week was shared 'Jazz age Josephine' and the children agreed that Jazz was very determined and courageous in her approach to life.

The story told of how Josephine Baker was a little girl who loved to dance! She grew up in a small home in St. Louis, where life was tough. But Josephine had big dreams. She twirled and leaped her way to Paris, where she became a star. People loved her fun and bold performances. Even when the world wasn't always kind, Josephine stayed strong, danced her heart out, and showed everyone that being yourself is the best thing of all.



THANK YOU FOR MAKING SUCH A DIFFERENCE MR DAY!

We are sad to share that Mr Day has made the difficult decision to resign from his role as Co-Chair of Governors in order to focus on his health and wellbeing at this time. Throughout his tenure, Mr Day has been an extraordinary pillar of support for both schools, working tirelessly to champion the very best for our school communities.

In partnership with Mr Watterson, Mr Day has led the governing body with unwavering confidence, kindness, and determination. His leadership was instrumental in the successes celebrated during our Ofsted inspections last year. He generously dedicated his own time to ensure that every member of

the governing body and senior leadership team felt well-prepared and supported during the inspection process and the lovely comments made by the OfSTED inspectors about the strength of the governing body reflected this wonderfully.

Though Mr Day steps down from this formal responsibility, we are delighted that he will remain a cherished part of our school community in his role as "Grandad." This will allow him to continue his involvement with the schools in a way that feels more manageable and less demanding. We are certain that it may be also be just a little bit more enjoyable than the many additional responsibilities that he has assumed on our behalf!



PARENT FORUM HEAR FROM EDUCATION AND INCLUSION

Last week, we had the pleasure of welcoming Tammy Vincent from Education & Inclusion to our Parent Forum meeting. Tammy gave an informative talk about why regular school attendance matters and how we can all work together—families, schools, and the local authority—to make a positive difference.

She shared how her job is all about building strong relationships with families, listening to your concerns, and understanding any barriers that might make attendance tricky. Tammy is here to help and support families in finding solutions that work. She also works with senior staff in schools to make sure that attendance records are accurate and legally sound.

During the session, parents heard about how missing school can impact not only children's learning but also their social and emotional well-being. There was a chance to ask questions, and naturally, the topic of term-time holidays came up. Tammy explained why these kinds of absences are very usually not authorised unless they're truly exceptional—and her insights helped everyone feel clearer about how these decisions are made.

We're so grateful to Tammy for joining us and for her support within our community which helps children and families thrive. If you have any further questions regarding attendance it may be worth discussing with your Parent Forum representative, looking at the minutes of the meeting on the school website or chatting directly with school staff.



To find out more about how the IOW Council manages school attendance please go to <https://www.iow.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-attendance/family-holidays-and-school-holidays/>

PLEASE DON'T FORGET THAT SCHOOL IS CLOSED TO PUPILS ON MONDAY 5TH MAY



Bank Holiday!



HAVE YOU SIGNED UP FOR THE NEWCHURCH NINE?

With only 2 weeks to go have you signed up yet for the Newchurch Nine?

This is the major fundraiser for our federated school Newchurch Primary School and we need your support to 'make it happen!' There is currently have lots of keen runners signed up to join in with either the 900m, 4.5km or the 9km run so if you or friends and family were inspired by the London Marathon last weekend please join in with our mass participation event too!

Last year we raised almost £2500 for resources that can be used across our Federation, can we top that this year?



The event is set to take place on **Sunday 18th May** and you can sign up via the link <https://www.eventrac.co.uk/e/the-newchurch-nine-2025-12826> or just search Newchurch Nine on [Eventrac.co.uk](https://www.eventrac.co.uk) Please note **online entries close before the event** although registration will be available on the morning of the event too!

We look forward to seeing as many of the Nettlestone community there as possible!

MAKIE IT HAPPEN ON THE WATER

Yr 5



Year 5 enjoyed their second week of sailing this week. Their first week was spent learning how to helm (steer) and crew a boat, whilst on land. The turn is called a 'tack' which all children were enthusiastic to learn, and did so successfully. They then enjoyed capsizing in the water. This week, we got straight on the water and the children put their learning to practice. They started with an instructor pulling their boats, giving them a chance to recap how to tack.

It wasn't long before every boat was sailing without an instructor, with minimal steering mishaps! The children all worked excellently in their groups and the instructors were impressed with how quickly they picked up the sailing technique. The weather was exceptional for April which added to a fantastic morning.

Well done everyone, we're already looking forward to next week!



KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE—NOROVIRUS

We want to keep our school community healthy and safe for everyone. This week we have been contacted by the Senior Public Health Practitioner to advise that there are very high levels of norovirus circulating in the community, with our local hospital restricting visiting in certain areas due to its impact.



We have been asked to remind parents about our protocols for sickness and diarrhoea. If your child has experienced vomiting **and** diarrhoea, they should not return to school until 48 hours after their symptoms have completely stopped and they are feeling better. This precaution is vital in preventing the spread of infection within the school.



If your child experiences one symptom only they may return after 24 hours after the last episode.

If you are unsure please call to speak to our school office team who will be happy to advise on the matter of school absence, however if you are worried about your child's health, please call NHS 111 or your GP. We have been asked to encourage parents to please avoid attending A&E for advice unless absolutely necessary, as this can contribute to the spread of the infection.

It is also important that all of our community help prevent the spread of norovirus by washing hands regularly with soap and warm water, especially after using the toilet, changing nappies, or before preparing and eating food

Additional guidance can be found at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/norovirus/>

Let's make the healthy choice to keep our school environment safe and healthy for all!





KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE— SUN SAFETY

As we have experienced unusually high temperatures this week, it is vital to remind all parents to think carefully and make healthy choices linked to sun safety!

Please ensure that your child has a named water bottle in school so that they can stay hydrated by drinking plenty of water throughout the day – please note that only water is permitted and not squash or sugary drinks.

Our summer uniform requirements can be found on the school website and promote lightweight, loose-fitting clothing but please don't forget sunhats for extra protection. In addition, it is important that parents apply sunscreen with a high SPF before school but please note that we are unable to reapply in school due to allergies etc. We welcome children bringing in a small named tube that they are able to apply independently.



Thank you for your support.



OUR KITCHEN LADIES MAKE IT HAPPEN!

We are absolutely thrilled to announce that our amazing kitchen team has been awarded the top **5 Food Hygiene Rating!**

A huge well done to **Laura and Bethan** for their hard work, dedication, and commitment to maintaining the highest standards in our school kitchen. Thanks to their efforts, our pupils continue to enjoy delicious, nutritious meals in a clean

and safe environment.

Thank you, Laura and Bethan—you are truly the stars behind the scenes, and we couldn't be prouder!



PLEASE MAKE THE HEALTHY CHOICE TO TAKE A PEEK ONCE A WEEK!

We know that dealing with headlice can be stressful and frustrating for parents especially when confronted with them for the first time.



This website has some further helpful information for parents about how to manage the problem and we would encourage you to take a peek.

<https://www.onceaweektakeapeek.com/>



KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE—AFTER SCHOOL ARRANGEMENTS

If there are any changes to your child's usual after-school arrangements, please let us know as soon as possible. This helps us ensure their safety and that they are in the right place at the end of the day.

Thank you for your cooperation!

KEY DATES FOR 2025

The statutory Key Stage 2 tests are scheduled from **Monday 12 May to Thursday 15 May 2025**. It is crucial for all parents of children in **Year 6** to take note of these dates and ensure that students are present for these important assessments. Please avoid scheduling holidays or other commitments during this time.



In addition, **Year 4** will be undertaking a statutory **Multiplication Tables Check** in the summer term. Schools must administer the multiplication tables check within the 2-week period starting on **Monday 2 June 2025**.

Pupils in **Year 1** are required to take part in a **Phonics Screening Check**. Schools must administer the phonics screening check within the 1-week period starting **Monday 9 June 2025**.

These assessments are a fantastic opportunity for the children to demonstrate their hard work and understanding. It's their chance to shine and show how much they've learned.

Please note that the school must adhere to statutory Department for Education (DfE) guidelines and cannot alter the schedule to accommodate individual circumstances. Your cooperation in ensuring your child's attendance on these dates is greatly appreciated.

**IMPORTANT
DATES**



POETRY CORNER

MAY

The weather is getting warmer,
The flowers are in bloom,
The butterflies flutter by
And the birds sing a chirpy tune.

The sun comes up much sooner,
To brighten up my day.
It goes to bed much later,
So I have more time to play!

Please remember that we would love to see your child performing our poems of the week on Seesaw.



NHS
Hampshire and
Isle of Wight Healthcare
NHS Foundation Trust

Occupational therapy Parent advice sessions

The NHS Occupational Therapy Team will be running monthly parent advice sessions. These sessions are open to any families which don't have an existing referral.

The sessions will be with an Occupational Therapist and an Assistant.

The team will be able to give advice, signpost to other services / charities and support with completing a full referral to Occupational Therapy if it is felt the needs discussed require a full assessment.

The team will be able to support with advice around:

- Self Care tasks - e.g. washing, dressing, using cutlery, toileting
- Fine motor skill development
- Play skills
- Preschool / school readiness



Session Dates for 2025

(more dates and locations may be added if required):

15 May, 19 June, 17 July, 18 September, 16 October, 20 November

Slots will be available at 9am, 10am and 11am.

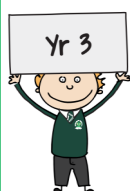
Appointments will last for 45mins.

To book, contact the department on **01983 534520** or via email to iownt.paediatric-ot-mailbox@nhs.net

Sessions will take place at the Children's Therapies Department,
St Mary's Hospital, Newport, Isle of Wight

MAKING IT HAPPEN AT ART CLUB!

What a fantastic start to the summer term! In their first session back, the young artists in Art Club explored the vibrant world of Vincent van Gogh's sunflowers. With pastels in hand, they took on a unique challenge—carefully cutting a sunflower picture in half, gluing one side to their canvas, and then bringing the missing half to life with their own artistic flair. The results were nothing short of stunning! Each piece captured the rich colours and swirling textures that make Van Gogh's work so iconic. It was wonderful to see the children experimenting, blending shades, and adding their personal touch to their sunflowers. Well done to all our budding artists—what a bright and beautiful way to kick off the term!

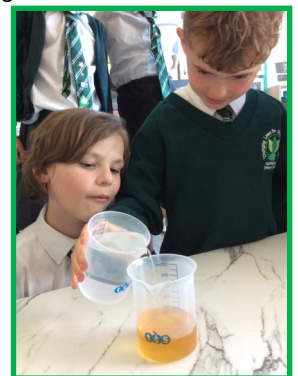


YEAR 3 MAKE IT HAPPEN IN SCIENCE!

Year 3 kicked off their learning on Solids, Liquids, and Gases with an exciting hands-on experiment! Putting their curiosity to the test, they carefully poured equal measures of honey, oil, and water into a beaker—only to discover something fascinating: instead of mixing together, the liquids settled into three distinct layers!

The budding scientists eagerly discussed why this might happen, using their growing knowledge of density. But the investigation didn't stop there! They took things further by adding different objects—a grape, a crumpled-up piece of paper, and a coin—and made thoughtful predictions about where each item might end up in the beaker.

Through careful observations and lots of discussion, Year 3 strengthened their scientific thinking, proving once again that when you ask big questions and think deeply, discoveries are just around the corner! Fantastic work, everyone!



WE CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN— KEY EVENTS NEXT WEEK!

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY



Year 4 Visit

Year 4 Residential

Year 4 Residential

Year 4 Residential

Year 5 Sailing

Year 5 Residential

Year 5 Residential

KS2 Celebration
Assembly

SO WHAT HAVE WE BEEN LEARNING THIS WEEK?

We started our week with a special visit from Mars Bar and Snowy the Guinea Pigs. The children showed they could live respectfully when learning all about Guinea pigs and stroking them carefully. Our little learners have been enjoying our outdoor learning area. Running, balancing, climbing, swinging, negotiating their spatial awareness and taking safe risk is an important part of core development and self awareness. We have been continuing to take an interest in a variety of animals through different activities, books, stories, rhymes and information.



This week in Reception we had a very exciting arrival. Our caterpillars arrived! We have really enjoyed observing them this week, watching them move, eat and already start to grow! This is linked to our learning about minibeasts this term. We have been learning about their life cycle and how they transform into a butterfly. The Reception team were very impressed as to how much the class already knew about caterpillars. This week we have looked at art work from the artist Matisse. We specifically looked at his art piece called 'The snail'. We then had a go at making our own abstract snail pictures using square and rectangle pieces of paper. We have also written some amazing sentences about our caterpillars this week, using our word mats to support.

We have had a busy week in Year 1 exploring the different locations in our story. This week we learnt more about Venice, New York, Beijing and Sydney! We looked at them on a map, created their landmarks and described what it would be like to live there. All of this information is going to help us write our travel journals next week. In Maths we have been focusing on multiplication. We have been using songs to help us remember our 2s, 5s and 10s. The class had lots of socks that they had to pair and count how many we had altogether. As well as a 'high five' number line to help us learn our 5s. We have just started discussing equal groups. This week in Science we focused on the features of amphibians and how they survive. We watched the lifecycle of frogs and were able to make notes of the process.



This week in Year 2 we have been finding out why some words have the spellings 'kn' and 'gn' for /n/, and 'wr' for /r/. We have been ordering lengths and heights, solving problems. In our Science lessons we have been planning and carrying out an investigation where we had to observe how objects move down a slope. We have carried on exploring the Arctic by finding out about its climate. After finding out about the artist Henri Rousseau we have been using the skills and techniques that he used to create artwork. In our PSHE lessons we have been understanding and giving examples of things that we can choose to do ourselves and why sometimes things are chosen for us. In our computing session we have recapped on how to use the program ScratchJr.

We have had a very productive week this week. On Monday, we enjoyed a Science day, when we did lots of learning about different states of matter. We explored the properties of different states of matter and then used this to classify different materials. We displayed our answers in Venn diagrams. This enabled us to show some things that were made up from more than one state of matter. An example of this is a glass of orange juice. The glass is a solid and the orange juice is a liquid. We then thought about shaving foam. Miss Beale squirted shaving foam on the table and we discussed which state of matter it was. We eventually decided it was a liquid mixed with a gas. Knowing this helped us to decide that squirty cream is also a liquid mixed with a gas.



This week in Year 4 we have looked at subordinating clauses and relative clauses in English. We then spent time planning and writing our own narrative for the wordless picture book we have been working on 'Flood'. The children have produced some lovely narratives to go with the images in the book. Decimals has been our focus in Maths this week, we have looked at comparing decimals, ordering decimals, rounding to the nearest whole number and writing halves and quarters as decimals. We learnt all about pollination and fertilisation during Science this week, we looked at the process of pollination and how wind and insects are our main pollinators. On

Thursday afternoon we had an art afternoon where we learnt different joining techniques and created our own portrait from junk modelling materials.

This week in Year 5, we have been working on representing decimals on a place value grid in Maths. We then applied this understanding to help us compare and order decimals and fractions. In English, we explored the figurative language used in the poem 'The Highwayman.' We were fantastic at identifying similes, metaphors, personification and hyperbole. Afterwards, we had a go at rewriting the first stanza, including our own examples of figurative language. Excitingly, we have also entered a poetry competition, where we will be planning and writing our own poems inspired by VE Day.



This week in Year 6 we have continued with our revision in Maths and English. In Maths we focused on finding the percentage of an amount. In our English lessons we revisited some grammatical terminology such as prepositions, the passive and active voice and fronted adverbials. We also spent some time revisiting spelling rules and their exceptions. In our History lessons this week we carried out research into different aspects of life in Benin. We found out about the religion and beliefs of the people of Benin. We also considered how Benin was governed. In Science this week we recapped some of the terminology we researched last week (i.e. variation, evolution, genes). Some of us did very well during Miss Barnett's quiz! We then chose a research topic for our group presentations. We are looking forward to creating these and sharing them with the rest of Year 6!

CONVERSATION STARTERS!

Want to know what your children have been learning this week? Here are some conversation starters that may help you talk to them about what they have been up to in class!

PRE-SCHOOL

Talk to me about...what's your favourite animal and why do you like it?

Words to use...fur, feathers, scales, fins, shell, tusk, tail, horn, wings.

Tips for the week...please remember in hot weather to put a named sun hat in your child's bag.

We have been reading...Poo in the Zoo by Steve Smallman.

YEAR 1

Talk to me about...Emma Jane's Aeroplane!

Words to use...London, Paris, Venice, New York, Beijing, Sydney.

Tips for the week...what can you use outside to make equal groups?

We have been reading... Dirty Bertie 'Rubbish' story.

YEAR 3

Talk to me about... states of matter.

Words to use... states of matter, solids, liquids, gases.

Tips for the week...we have been learning about the properties that enable us to classify materials as different states of matter. Ask your child about them.

We have been reading...The Tin Forest by Helen Ward.

YEAR 5

Talk to me about...representing decimals on a place value grid.

Words to use...tenths, hundredths, thousandths, decimal point.

Tips for the week...when identifying a simile, remember they make a comparison using 'like' or 'as'.

We have been reading...poetry inspired by VE Day.

YEAR R

Talk to me about...caterpillars!

Words to use... transform, metamorphosis, life cycle.

Tips for the week... our doubles up to double 5.

We have been reading... Mad about Minibeasts by Giles Andreae.

YEAR 2

Talk to me about... choices that I can make and choices that are made for me.

Words to use..... choose, choices, healthy, unhealthy.

Tips for the week How long an object is, is known as the length of an object. How tall an object is, is known as the height of an object. How wide an object is, is known as the width of an object.

We have been reading...The Night Gardener by The Fan Bother and The Enchanted Wood by Enid Blyton.

YEAR 4

Talk to me about... ordering decimals, comparing decimals, relative clauses, subordinating clauses, London boroughs, pollination and fertilisation.

Words to use... borough, inner, outer, London, Relative clause, Subordinating clause, pollination, fertilisation, choices and decimals.

Tips for the week... learn your times tables and common exception words.

We have been reading... The case of the vanishing granny by Alexander McCall Smith.

YEAR 6

Talk to me about... Benin and the Obas who ruled the country.

Words to use...passive, active, fronted adverbials, prepositions.

Tips for the week... remember to bring your homework into school so we can work together if you are unsure of a question.

We have been reading... *Jake Atlas and the Quest for the Crystal Mountain* by Rob Lloyd Jones

Celebration Assembly



Zenobia, Darcy D, Hugo, Sztazi, Khloe, Dolly, Margaux.
WE ARE SO PROUD OF EACH ANDEVERYONE OF YOU!



MAKING THE HEALTHY CHOICE TO HAVE FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Please can we remind all families that **children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are eligible for a yummy free meal every single day**. To date only around half of our community are taking up this **free offer** and it would be great to see more families doing so. We are really lucky to have a fabulous chef on site and the menu is always published for parent's information in the newsletter to help you decide whether you want a **free meal everyday** or just on selected days.



For children in Key Stage 2 and any parent that has a change in personal circumstances the eligibility criteria for free school meals can be found at apply for [free school meals](#).

We would encourage any parent who has faced a change in personal circumstances to consider the criteria and apply if they are eligible.

If the application is approved eligibility can open a gateway to a host of additional benefits for your child including supporting the purchase of school uniform, funding for school trips and additional in-class support. It really is worth applying.

Lunchtime Menu — from Chartwells

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Main	Cheese & Tomato Pizza	Sausage Hot Dog with Potato Wedges	Roast Chicken, Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Oat Crusted Chicken with Rice	Fish Finger & Chips
Vegetarian	Chilli No Carne with Crispy Tortilla Served with Rice	Veggie Sausage Hot Dog with Potato Wedges	Roast Quorn, Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Meatless Shepherds Pie	Quorn Dippers Chips
Dessert	Flapjack	Peach and Ginger Pudding	Oat Cookie & Fruit	Vanilla Ice Cream	Crunchy Chocolate Mousse



Please don't forget to order your meals on School Money before you come to school on Monday!