

Flying Bull Academy Newsletter
September 2025

Dear Families,

My name is Mrs Brown and I have had the pleasure of being Interim Headteacher at The Flying Bull Academy this term. I have lived in Portsmouth all my life and am passionate about ensuring that the children in our city achieve the very best education.

It has been an absolute pleasure spending time at The Flying Bull Academy and has been amazing getting to know the children and staff and seeing how proud they are of their school.

I have enjoyed spending time in all classes including Nursery and the HDIC Inclusion Unit. I have been delighted and impressed to see how well the children work together and show respect for their school and everyone in it.

Leading assemblies has been a privilege, and I have really enjoyed hearing the children's ideas about what makes Portsmouth amazing and the aspirations they have for the future.

As the term continues, I am looking forward to getting to know more children and families and continuing to work with you to ensure The Flying Bull Academy is the best it can be.

What did we get up to in September ...

In **Nursery**, we are very much looking forward to an Autumn term full of many varied learning adventures with lots of time outside having fun as we welcome the children back after the long summer break. An especially warm welcome goes out to those new families joining us this term. The children have enjoyed playing with their friends, making new friends and learning new routines.





The children in **Reception** have had a wonderful start to the term. They have enjoyed exploring our indoor and outdoor classroom spaces. They have loved using the climbing frame, playing with the water and sand. We have been practicing waiting our turn and sharing toys. Please encourage this as much as you can at home.

They have started to learn their initial sounds. We follow the Little Wandle Phonics scheme. Please ensure that you are completing their home learning that is sent home each day.

Reminders:

PE day- Tuesday

Please ensure your child comes to school in their PE kit. No earrings / earrings covered with plasters or earring tape.

Please make sure your child brings their book bag to school every day.

Please make sure your child's water bottle is named and comes to school every day.

Important dates:

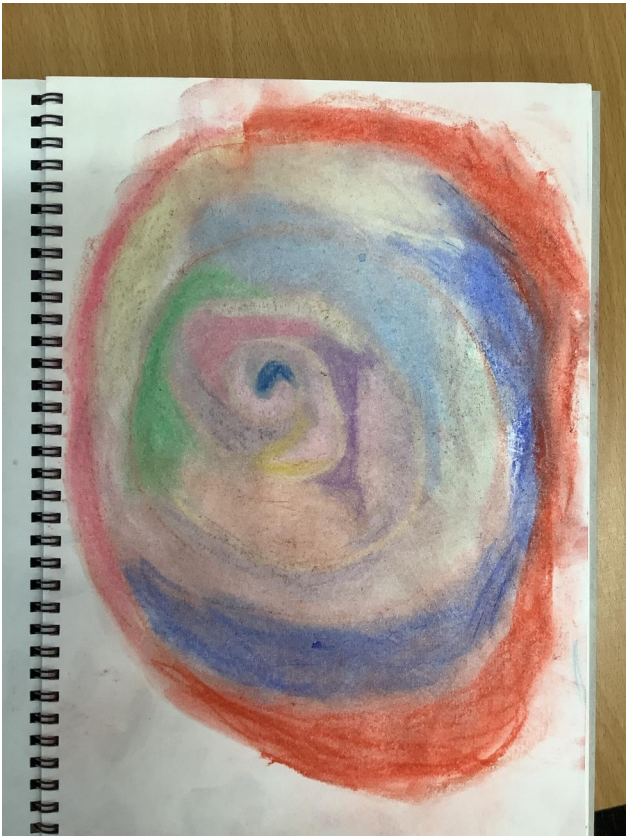
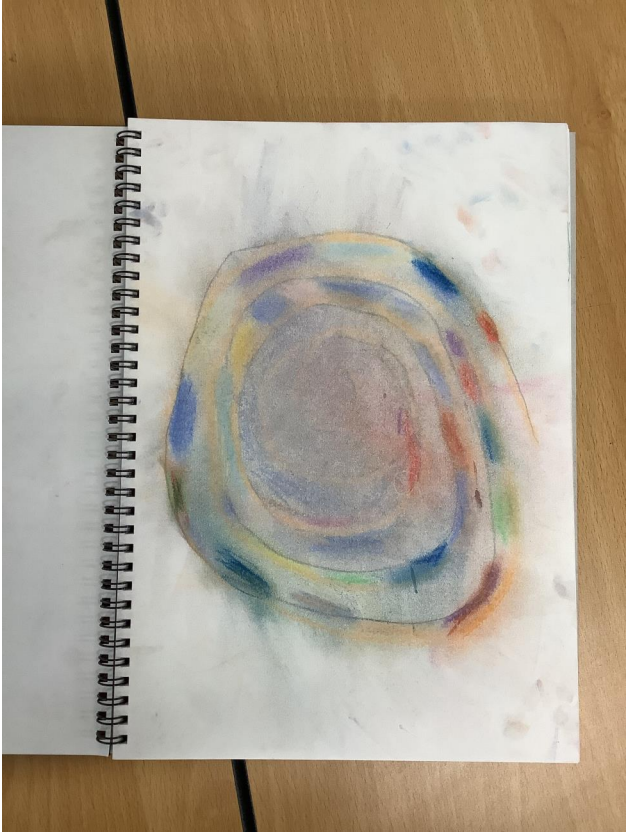
Thursday 16th October – Book and breakfast







It's been a great start for all of us in **Year 1**. The children have settled in well and have got to grips with the new routines and different lessons. This month we have been taking a closer look at the seasons and how the weather affects us. The children worked in teams to produce their seasonal pictures (you can see a couple of these below). In art, the children have been exploring spirals. They used chalks and a spiral design to blend colours. The results looked amazing!









Welcome to **Year 2!** It has been great getting to know the children over the last few weeks and we have been so impressed with how well they have settled into the new year. We have begun looking at place value in maths and the children have loved using the dienes to help them break apart numbers into 10s and 1s. In art, we have been inspired by our environment and have used natural materials to make images to sketch. We were blown away by the children's creativity! A reminder to please make sure you are reading with your child 5x a week and please come and join us for ERIC on Thursdays.







We have had a fantastic start to **Year 3!** The children have explored some artefacts left behind by a mysterious visitor, who we figured out is from the Stone Age! We have begun learning

about the Prehistoric World as part of our history lessons. We have been reading picture books linked to this, including 'Stone Age Boy' and 'Ug: Bo Genius of the Stone Age'. The children have really enjoyed using our practical resources in maths, and have started to explore what hundreds are – we were able to figure out that one hundred is the same as ten tens, and the same as one hundred ones!





What a fabulous start to **Year 4** the children have had! They have been transported to Mount Olympus, home to the Ancient Greek gods and we have begun learning about Ancient Greece as part of our history topic. We have started our new class text in guided reading called 'Beasts of Olympus – Beast Keeper', by Lucy Coates. We can't wait to see what happens next in the story! The children have been working hard on their number bonds and 2, 5 and square times tables

and we have done some excellent learning in maths for place value. Keep reading and practicing your times tables at home, Year 4!



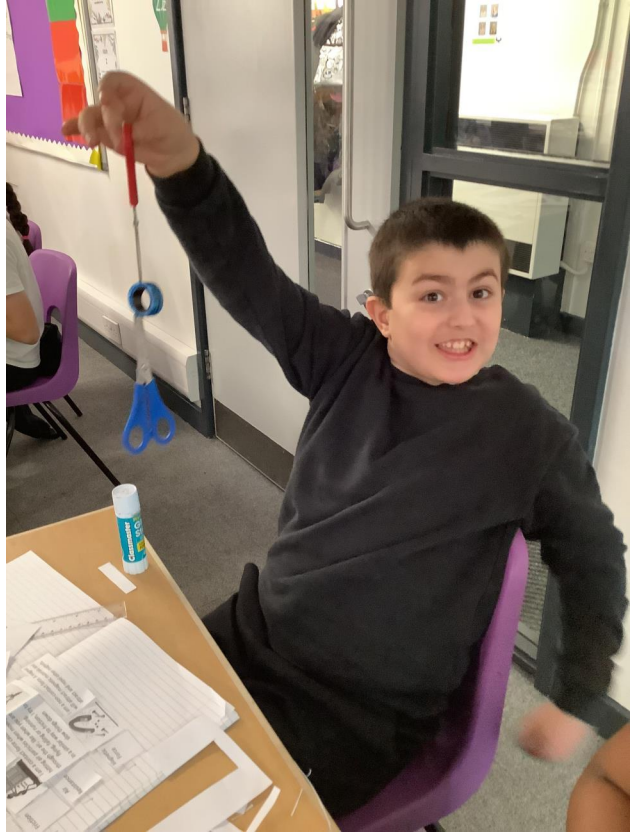
Welcome to **Year 5!** We have already had an exciting 3 weeks since being back from summer.

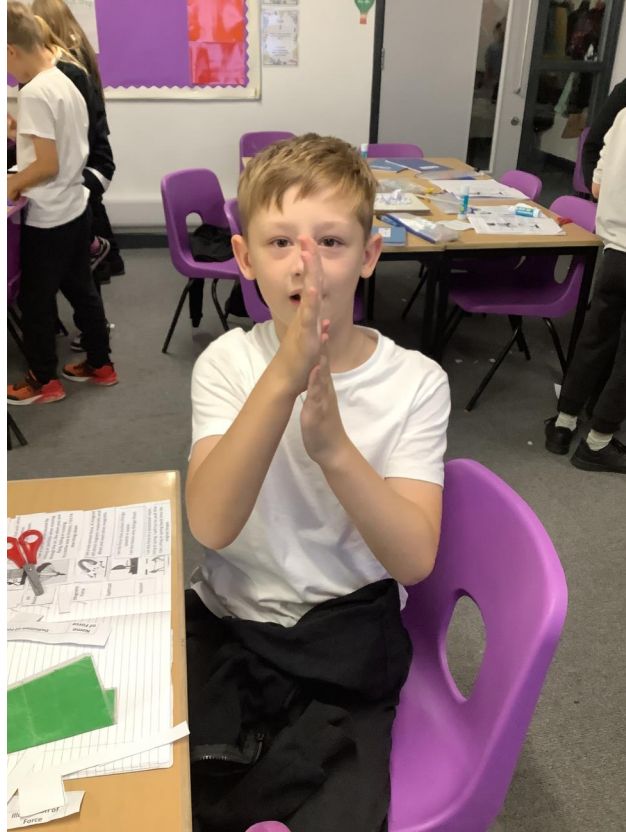
We launched our topic for this term which is the Anglo-Saxons ready for our upcoming school trip!

In Art, we have been discovering what typography is and the children have been creating their own unique fonts using random paper cuttings as well as natural and manmade objects.

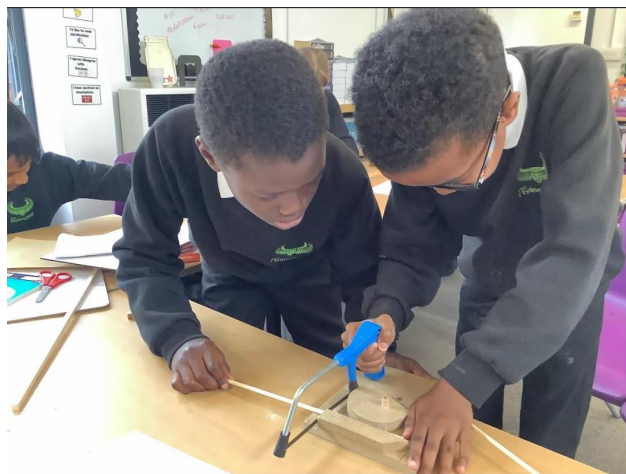
The children have loved going back to swimming and are already showing great progress in the pool!

Well done on such a great first month back Year 5, keep it up!





The children have settled in really well into **Year 6** and they have already done lots of fantastic learning. In Guided Reading, we have started reading 'Pig Heart Boy' by Malorie Blackman. We have had many insightful conversations about the text and the characters we have met so far. In DT, we are designing automata toys to go in a shop window display. The children have shown accurate measuring and cutting skills using saws to make the frames for their mechanisms. We have also begun our geography topic of Rivers and challenged ourselves in our PE bootcamp to boost our fitness and stamina!









HDIC have had a fantastic start to the school year. We are working hard to embed our routines, form relationships within our new classes and co-regulate with our adults.

We have kicked off our Traditional Tales topic, immersing ourselves in the 3 little pigs. We are using a story map to orally recite the story and will begin to make our own changes to the story.

We are using different ways to express ourselves in our morning check in sessions which has been really successful. The children are able to share through acting, Lego, play dough and circle time.



Above and Beyond Celebrations

Our next above and beyond celebration will be held on Thursday 9th October 2025. We look forward to celebrating with the children and their families.



Parent Governor vacancy

Would you like to help make our school the best it can be? We are looking for a new parent governor! As a parent governor, you would join a team that works together to make sure the school is developing in the right direction and is providing the best possible education for your children. We meet six times a year from 4-6pm, usually on a Tuesday or Thursday. I've included a short video here which tells you a little more about the role (it is from Brighton and Hove, but should be helpful for you) If you are interested, please contact the school. We would love to have you on board!





Ever thought of becoming a school governor?

Could you be a School Governor?

Want to make a difference in **your community** and develop your own professional skills?

Schools in your area are looking for governors with enthusiasm, time and flexibility to contribute effectively to the role. You do not need to be an expert in education - we would be delighted to hear from anyone who:

- Is interested in children's education
- Has energy for the role
- Has an enquiring mind and the confidence to debate issues that affect the school
- Can consider matters objectively and make informed judgements

Contact us to find out more!

Please email Sarah Speller, Trust Governance and Compliance Manager:

unicat@chi.ac.uk

or visit:

www.chimat.uk/become-a-local-governor

Proud to be part of the UNIVERSITY OF CHICHESTER ACADEMY TRUST

School uniform

At the end of last year, we conducted our parent/carer survey. You said you wanted a more consistent and robust approach to children wearing school uniform. Many of you shared that this would make things easier at home and help foster a sense of pride in the children's appearance. We agree, and staff have also noted that when children wear their school uniform, they engage better in their learning and there are fewer behaviour-related issues.

We would like to thank all parents and carers who have worked hard to ensure their children are coming to school in the correct uniform. Your support is greatly appreciated.

To help everyone stay on the same page, here is a reminder of our school uniform expectations:

School uniform

White T-Shirt

Black jumper or cardigan

Black trousers, shorts or skirt

Plain socks or tights

Black shoes or trainers

Green gingham dresses can be worn in the summer months.

PE kit

White T-Shirt

Black PE shorts, cycling shorts or joggers

Black jumper

Plain socks

Trainers or plimsoles

If your child arrives at school not wearing the correct uniform, we will take the following steps to address the issue:

- The class teacher will remind you of the correct uniform at drop-off/pick-up.
- A member of the LAPS team may phone you if you are not available at drop off/pick up or if your child is consistently not in uniform.
- If needed, a spare jumper or T-shirt will be available in class, and your child will be expected to wear it for the day.

If you need help with school uniform, please speak to your child's class teacher or contact a member of the LAPS team, who will be happy to help.

We offer a range of uniform items for sale. Please contact the office for more information.

Children are not permitted to wear smartwatches during the day; they will be kept safely in a locked cupboard in the classroom.





Attendance



Ensuring that your child is in school, on time, every day is the most important commitment we ask of all parents and carers. As a school we are aiming for at least 96% attendance and as of this week our total for this current year is **94%**. Thank you to everyone working hard to get to school on time every day.

Current Attendance

Year R 99%

Year 1 95%

Year 2 94%

Year 3 93%

Year 4 90%

Year 5 95%

Year 6 94%

Children arriving late

Just a reminder to parents if your child has arrived late for school, we ask parents/carers to form a queue and register late arrivals with **Mrs. Beauchamp**, who will be positioned at the back of the reception area. Mrs. Beauchamp will also be happy to assist with any concerns you may have about your child's punctuality. This system will be in place until **9:10 am** each morning. After this time, any child arriving will receive an unauthorised late mark, which, under the new penalty system, will count as one unauthorised session. Please be aware that 10 unauthorised sessions in a ten-week period could result in a fine.

Absences

Please be mindful when your child is absent from school during term time that this will be classed as unauthorised. Absences cannot be authorised during term time without exceptional circumstances. Unauthorised absences are automatically reported to the local authority and you could be considered for a fixed penalty notice.

We are here to help

If you need support with persistent absence or lateness, please contact Amanda Beauchamp (Attendance Officer) in the school office.

Respect to all staff



Our staff work incredibly hard to support the children and families of Flying Bull. When you are interacting or speaking with staff members, please remember to use kindness and respect.

Don't miss out- check us out...

Follow us on Facebook for updates and information about news and events, by searching The Flying Bull Academy. Don't forget, you can also keep up to date with our school website <https://www.fbacademy.co.uk/>



Dates for your diary...



- **Thursday 9th October** - Above and Beyond Celebration
- **Monday 20th October - Friday 31st October** - Half Term
- **Friday 21st November** - TRUST Inset Day
- **Monday 22nd December - Friday 2nd January** - Half Term
- **Monday 5th January** - Inset Day



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Cams Hill School, Fareham on Sunday 5 October

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events@icklepickles.org
www.icklepickles.org/event/bubble-rush-2025



CHRISTMAS RAFFLE



Last year we were able to donate over 3500 Christmas presents across Hampshire and Berkshire to children who are referred to us from schools and social workers and we hope to be able to do the same again this year.

To help us on our way, we are launching our Christmas raffle to raise money for this Christmas Toy Appeal. Tickets are £3 each.
JUST SCAN THE QR CODE TO PURCHASE TICKETS






OVER 30 PRIZES INCLUDING

A four night caravan break to Somerset, A family trip to 4 Kingdoms christmas Experience, Tickets to a number of our activities including Ninja Warrior, Donutting and more.

Discounted Family Fun upto half price off

Ninja Warrior Flip Out Donutting
 Soft Play Glo Golf

Laser Tag Bowling
 Ice Skating Paddle Boarding

**Days Out including Chessington, Legoland
4 Kingdoms and more**
AND MORE...

Gold membership is £7.50 per person per year which gives activities
 at upto 50% off and then our charity funds the difference.
 For more details please visit our website
www.spotlightuk.org or email activities@spotlightuk.org

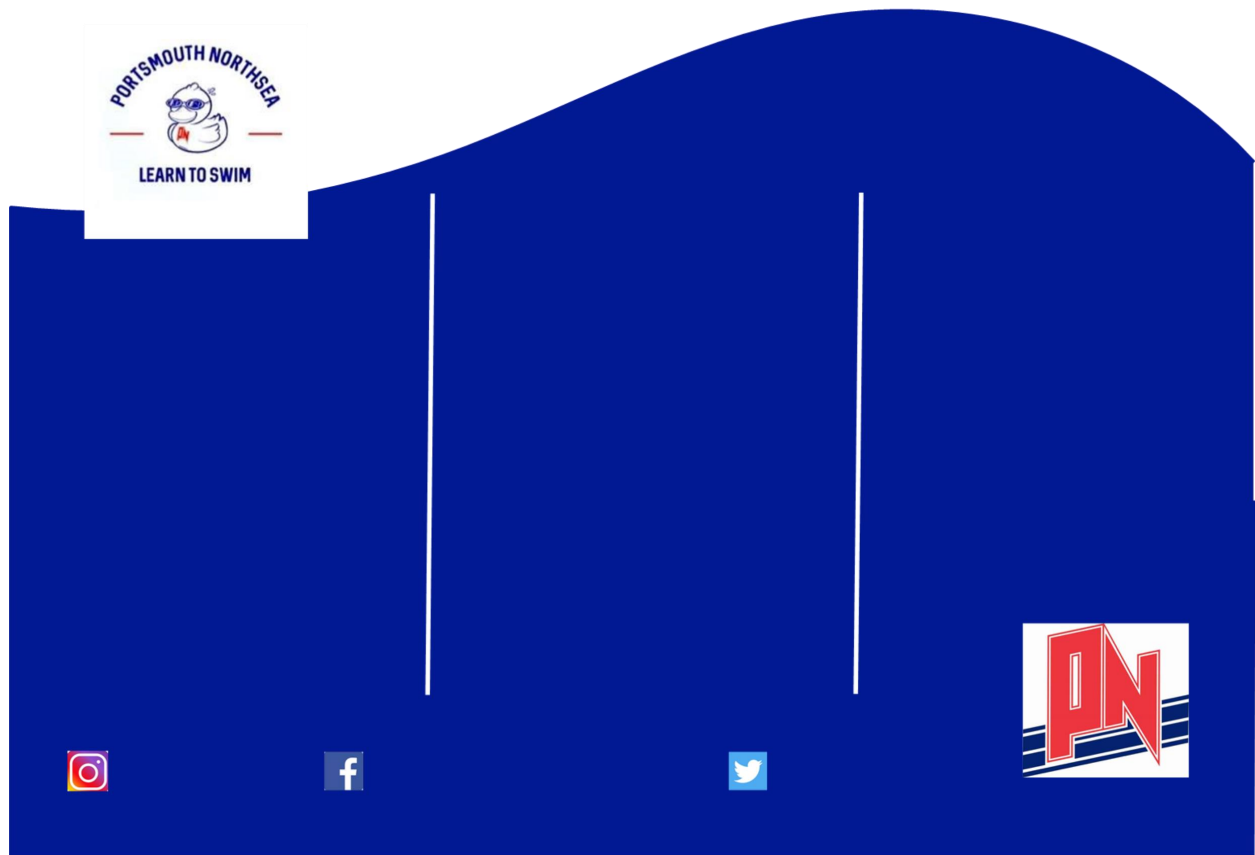
Would you like to join Portsmouth's leading swimming club?

**To book a trial with us contact: admin@pnsc.org.uk For more information visit:
www.pnsc.org.uk**

Learn to Swim

For children of 3 years and up, we offer a fun filled Learn to Swim pro- gramme, giving children the right skills to be fit, healthy and safe in the water. Developing the confidence to fly through the water.

Competitive Squads



Starting with our Academy squads (Stage 6+), moving all the way through junior competitive squads to Senior Performance and the National squad. We cater to a wide range of abilities supporting the swimmers to reach their greatest potential, taking them to the top.

PNSC SWIMMING CLUB TRIALS



Development

Squads

Our development pathway is our non- competitive pathway. Providing swimmers with good quality coached training for fitness.

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