



# The Herald

9th January 2026

Welcome back to the new school year. It has been lovely to see all the children and to hear about their holiday.

Hopefully we have seen the last of the very cold weather for the time being. If we ever need to close due to the weather or other circumstances, we will send out an e-mail to families. We will also put a message on the front page of the website and post it on the Hampshire School Closures page - <https://www.hants.gov.uk/schoolclosures>. We would always aim to do this as early as possible.

Recently we have had a few children move away from the area. We are currently full in Years R and 2, but have a couple of spaces in Year 1. If you know anyone looking for a school place in Year 1, please get them to give the office a call.

Have a lovely weekend

Mrs Fitz

## Class Stars of the Week



Lottie  
Elodie  
Murari  
Harry  
Emony  
Leon



## Mrs Fitz's Star of the Week



Tony



## Early Years

Welcome back and a Happy New Year to you all.

We have had a lovely first week back, including our Historical Person days and starting our new project 'The Magic Ride'. For the Historical Persons days, the children learnt all about Mary Anning, famous for fossil hunting and Michael Bond, the Author of Paddington Bear. The children thoroughly enjoyed their historical days, exploring new activities such as making marmalade sandwiches and making clay fossils.

The children arrived into school on Wednesday to find a lost suitcase, with a journal inside, binoculars and warm winter wear. They soon discovered the luggage belonged to a lady called Emily Snow. The children have been set a challenge to help return Emily Snow's luggage to her and to find out lots of

information about The Arctic, Antarctica and China. They have been so excited so far and they are already finding out lots of facts about the Arctic.

We all managed to have some fun and play time in the snow, this week. The children were exploring the snow by making snowballs, snowmen and showing curiosity about the ice.

In maths we have been learning all about zero, where this comes in a number sequence, what it looks like and what this means.

In phonics we have been reviewing the sounds we have already learnt. The children are becoming more confident with the sounds and blending. Please do continue practising their sounds at home and listening to them read their books.

Next week, in maths we will be learning about measuring using weighing scales. In our project lessons we will continue to explore the arctic, using our senses and imagination.

### Reminders

As the weather is unpredictable at the moment, please make sure your child has appropriate labelled clothing. We are encouraging the children to become more independent by putting on their coats and being able to zip/button them up.

Time to Talk homework has been sent home along with our new Project overview. If you have any questions, please do speak to a member of the Early Years Team.

Thank you for your continued support and have a lovely weekend!

Early Years Team

### Year 1

We've had a lovely first week back in Year 1! We have welcomed Mrs Fitz into Rowan class who is very excited to be the new the class teacher!

For the Historical Person days we focused on David Attenborough by finding out lots of facts about him and becoming environmentalists to create posters of endangered animals. We became documentarians and presented our posters of our selected animals to the class over a video. We also focused on Lowry, looking into his artwork and discovering more about him. The children then created their own artwork in his style.

The children were also introduced to our new project 'Showtime'! Miss Tripp and Mrs Fulbrook put on a puppet show of the Three Billy Goats Gruff story but it all went wrong! The children thought of ideas to improve their performance and have started to learn the story to prepare for their own puppet show. Please find more information about the project, including details of the project outcome, in the parent overviews sent out this week.

In maths this week we have started looking at numbers between 10-20. The children have made a great start recognising these numbers and placing them into the correct order. We will be continuing to focus on teen numbers for the next couple of weeks so please support your child at home by practising writing and recognising them if you can!

Next week we will be starting Rainbow Maths. Children will be given 10 minutes in class to complete as many maths problems as they can and have the opportunity to move up through different colours and stages. We will be sending home the colour and stage your child is on for them to practise at home. If you have any queries about this, please speak to your class teacher.

From next week reading books will be continue to be sent home as we have been organising new groups and books.

Our new P.E days are **Tuesday** and **Friday**.

Thank you for your support and have a lovely weekend,

The Year 1 Team

## Year 2

We hope you have had a wonderful Christmas break. Both classes enjoyed Historical Person day looking at Isambard Brunel and Floella Benjamin. The children learnt how to design and make bridges as well as writing mini stories.

This week, in maths, we have started a new unit on money. Please could you discuss the different coins at home. We will have looked at 1p, 2p, 5p, 10p, 20p, 50p.

Next week we will be looking at counting £1, £2, £5, £10 and £20. The children will be counting in mixed note and coin, for example, £5 and 32p.

This week, we will have started our brand-new project 'Iceberg Ahead!'. Mr Whistler found an old suitcase. When we opened it, we found lots of objects related to the famous ship 'Titanic'. The children were very excited to see the contents of the suitcase and generate their own questions.

Next week, the children will be learning to sketch as well as learning about the launch of the ship.

**Next Wednesday is our trip to the SeaCity museum in Southampton!** Ensure your child is on time in the morning as we will be leaving promptly at 9am.

The children will then be writing a recount of what happened on our trip. For example, First, we got onto the coach. Next, we arrived at the museum and put our coats away.

Due to changes in the school timetable, our P.E days are now **Monday** and **Thursday**. Please ensure your children have clothes for colder weather as we tend to go outside most of the time.

The children have had fun watching the snow and ice this week and we had some time to play it in outside!

Thank you for your continued support and have a lovely weekend,

The Year 2 Team

## Castle Hill Friends

❄️ Welcome Back, Everyone! ❄️

We hope you've all had a wonderful start to the new term and are keeping cosy during this snowy week. It's been lovely seeing the children settle back in so beautifully—they've brought such great energy back into the school★

As we look ahead, the PTA is beginning to plan our Valentine's Day activities for next month, and we'd love to bring a team of volunteers together to help make it extra special for the children❤️

If you're able to lend a hand—big or small—please let us know. Your support truly makes these events possible, and we're so grateful for our amazing school community! Please contact us on our Facebook page or your year group rep👥

Here's to a great term ahead🍀 Have a good weekend and thank you for always supporting the PTA💙

## Office Notices

### INSET Days

**2025/2026**

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026  
Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026  
Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2026

### **Thought of the Week**

Next week in school we will focus on our school value of self-esteem. With this value we are looking to develop the skills of feeling good about themselves. We are particularly thinking about:

**I believe in myself**

This is part of our 'we feel good about ourselves'

Sparkle the  
Self-esteem Dragon



We feel good about ourselves

### **Diary Dates**

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January – Year 2 Titanic Museum School trip  
Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January – Early Years Handwriting workshop for parents – 9:00am  
Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January – Open door – 3:15 – 5:00pm