

Hooke Court Last week saw the vast majority of Year 4, as well as a lot of staff, at Hooke Court Residential Centre in Dorset. They all had a marvellous time learning about life as a Roman, what it would have been like in the Roman army, making oil lamps, mosaics and learning how to wield a shield to protect each other when bombarded by tennis balls and beanbags! The children also built bridges, aqueducts and Roman catapults and enjoyed seeing the impact of these in action. It was a great 3-day adventure and I am very grateful to the staff team here for making it all possible. There are some updates and more photos on our website [HERE](#).



Parent Consultation Evenings Our Parent Consultation evenings are on Wednesday 26 and Thursday 27 February. These meetings are a good opportunity to review the first half of the year together and agree on targets for the rest of the year. On both evenings the meetings will take place in person at school and are bookable via Arbor. If your child is on the SEN register, class teachers will use the meeting as an opportunity to review current learning plans which will then be updated and shared with you via email. Parents of children in Year 6 will be invited to a Plan Do Review Meeting with the class teacher and Mrs Norton in late March. These meetings for Years 3,4 and 5 will be held in Summer 1.

Bookings will go live at 7pm on Thursday 6 February until Tuesday 25 February. For anyone unsure how to book via Arbor, please click this link to the [Arbor Help Guide](#). We look forward to seeing you after the half term break.



Safer Internet Day On Tuesday, 11th February 2025, we will be taking part in **Safer Internet Day**, an important event that promotes online safety. This year's theme is: **"Too good to be true? Protecting yourself and others from scams online."** To mark the occasion: **Miss Carter will lead an assembly on Monday, 10th February**, where we will discuss the challenges of staying safe online. Children will explore

topics such as appropriate ages for engaging online and the importance of speaking to a trusted adult if something doesn't seem right. In class, we will dedicate time to learning more about online scams and how to stay safe. We encourage you to continue these conversations at home and remind your child that they can always come to you with any concerns about their online experiences. Thank you for your support in keeping our children safe online.

INSET Dates for academic year 2025-2026 Together with Portway Infant School, we have agreed our Inset dates for next year. These are dates when the school will be closed to pupils for staff training. The dates are: Wednesday 3 September, Friday 24 October, Monday 3 November, Friday 27 February and Friday 26 June.

Dates for the Diary:

Staffing update It is with sadness I must share with you that, after 28 years working at Portway Junior, Mrs Cutler will be leaving us on February 14th. Mrs Cutler has had many roles at Portway and has worked as a TA in classrooms, in the Nurture Room with small groups of pupils when this ran and, most recently, as a HLTA teaching and supporting classes around the school. We have thoroughly enjoyed working with Mrs Cutler and will miss her very much. We wish her all the best in her new ventures.

Child and Family Support Worker I am pleased to tell you that, after an interview process, Mrs Clare Clarke has been appointed as the new Child and Family Support Worker at the junior school. Mrs Clarke has extensive experience as a Family Support Worker and has worked at our school for a number of years now supporting children pastorally. We are very pleased to appoint Mrs Clarke to her new role and know that both children and families will be very well supported by her. Mrs Clarke formally assumes her role after the half term break but will be getting to know some families before then.

Miss Windross

PTFA News

Our hardworking and wonderful PTFA have some exciting events planned for the spring term. Please keep a look out for them.

Their first announcement is that they will be running a 'Portway Tuck Shop' on the first Friday of every month and starting this Friday - 7th February at the end of the school day. All detail is later in the Press.

PTFA Meeting to plan our Summer Sizzler

The next meeting of the PTFA is **tomorrow 5:30pm** at the junior school. This is an important meeting to begin to plan our Summer Sizzler and we can't do that without your help.

We really value all the support we can get for the PTFA so please do come along!



Key Dates

Thur 6 Feb 5:30	PTFA Committee meeting
Thur 13 Feb 3:30	Info eve for Y6 parents for end of KS2 tests
Thurs 13 Feb 3:30	Year 3 Museum event
Mon 17-Fri 21 Feb	Spring half term holiday
Wed 26 Feb	Parent Consultations
Thurs 27 Feb	Parent Consultations
Fri 28 Feb	Inset day school closed for training
Mon 7 - Mon 21 April	Easter holidays (pupils return to school Tues 22 April)
Mon 12-Thurs 15 May	SATS Week for Year 6
Week of 26 May	Summer half term holiday
Mon 2 June	Inset day school closed for training (pupils return to school Tues 3rd June)
Tue 22 July	Last day of term for the summer holidays

Office telephone: 01262 352060

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Office Hours: 8:30-4:30 (4:00 on Fridays)

Messages can be left on the answerphone outside of these times (or at any time during the day)

2025 - 2026 Inset dates

Wednesday 3 September
Friday 24 October
Monday 3 November
Friday 27 February
Friday 26 June

Athletics Competition

On January 21 a group of children were selected to go to Harrow Way Secondary School. When we arrived, we were greeted by the students who took us to the sports hall. There were lots of activities that we enjoyed, such as: standing jumps, sprints, skipping and lots more. We were all really proud of our achievements and really enjoyed the event!

Squad: Year 4 - Toby, George, Josh, Albert, Reagan, Izzy, Zoe, Lily-May, Olivia, Lily.

Year 5 - Hugo, Max, Leo, Jake, Mac, Molly, Emie, Neevah, Sara, Annie.



Year 5 at the Science Museum and Planetarium

On 24 January Year 5 went on a trip to Winchester Science Centre. When we got there, there were so many things to do, it was like stepping into science ...



Part way through the day, we went into a light workshop where we put some special glasses on that helped us to see the rainbow patterns in the light source. We also enjoyed the upstairs exhibition which was all about what you can see, hear, taste and smell. There was a machine where you could test the shape of bubbles and we found out that there was an oil that made stronger bubbles. Also upstairs was a cool listening experience where you could hear whale calls - they were all so different.



The Planetarium was AMAZING! There were lots of things to see. The big dome ceiling looming over looks like it goes on forever. When the show started, we could see so many stars and we were asked to see if we could spot a 'frying pan' which was the Plough constellation and was pointing to the North Star. We then looked at all of the planets in turn, finding out lots of facts and it was all incredible!

In the downstairs space exhibition there were lots of things to do and see. One of the rooms was called big and small because it changed the perspective of what you could see. There was also a spacesuit - that was a bit sweaty - that you could go in. The interesting fact we learnt was that people can survive for 90 seconds in space without the special suit!



It was a fantastic day and we are very glad we had the opportunity to go.



PORTWAY POP IN

number of health related issues.

10 Feb	Keeping Children Safe Online – Safer Internet Day is 11 February 2025	Support and advice around managing screen time and keeping children safe in the digital world
HALF TERM		
24 Feb	Just Pop-In	For any questions, queries or just a cuppa!
3 Mar	Battling Bedtimes?	Support and advice around bedtime routines and the importance of sleep.
10 Mar	Just Pop-In	For any questions, queries or just a cuppa!
17 Mar	Just Pop-In	For any questions, queries or just a cuppa!
24 Mar	Coffee & Craft - Mother's Day	Take some time for you and make a little something for a special Mum
31 Mar	Coffee & Craft – Easter Special	Pick up some ideas for the Easter holidays and stay to try easy to make Easter themed craft

Open to all Parents & Carers. There's no obligation to take part if you'd rather just stop in for a drink. Toddlers welcome too.

Positivity

Resilience

Integrity

Dedication

Encouragement

Portway's Tuck Shop!

1st Friday of every month

Starting Friday 7th February outside the junior reception area



Prices Starting from 50p

A range of items available including:

Fruit pouches

Crisps

Drinks

Sweets

plus many more

cash and card payments accepted

(£1 minimum spend for card payments)

for allergy information please check the packaging



7th March

4th April

2nd May

6th June

4th July



we hope to see you all there love from the PTFA