



## Headteacher's Weekly Update: Friday 17th October

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy Friday! I hope you have had a good week.

### **Encouraged and Inspired: Flying High Together:**

Here are a few of my highlights of the school week that have encouraged and inspired me...

**1) Flying High in Phonics:** One of our Governors came in on Wednesday to look at phonics teaching and learning with me. We were both very impressed with the children's enthusiasm for reading and how attentive and engaged they are in learning and using those phonics skills. It is great to see children becoming confident readers and happy learners.

**2) Calm and Respectful Lunchtimes:** I was pleased to see and also be told by our dinner supervisors in the hall that the children have made a real effort in ensuring the hall is a calm and friendly place whilst everyone eats their lunch. Year 3 have particularly stood out for their manners and example so they are this week's winners of the behaviour role model trophy.

**School Dinner Menus:** After half term we make the switch from HC3S to Gateway Trust as our catering provider. We are really excited about this change and the benefits this will offer. Please see the attached menu information so that your children can start thinking about what they might choose on different days. The food will still be cooked on site in our kitchen by our same lovely team of cooks. We will be interested to hear your feedback about the new menu and how the children are finding it when we step into November.

**Individual School Photographs:** The photographer is in on Tuesday for the individual school photographs so smartest uniforms and super smiles ready for Tuesday.

**Jewellery:** The only jewellery permitted in school are stud earrings. There should be no bracelets, necklaces or earrings that are not studs. This is primarily for pupils' safety and also to ensure precious items are not lost in school. All children need to be following this policy.

**Secondary School Applications:** Year 6 parents please make sure you have submitted your secondary school applications before the end of October as the deadline is 31st October 2025. Details of the application process can be found here: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/admissions/applicationprocess/year7>

**Christians Against Poverty (CAP) Life Skills Group:** Please read the below information about a really helpful Life Skills group run by CAP (Christians Against Poverty).

*We know life can be challenging when living on a low income. It impacts what we can or can't afford, our relationships, what we eat, our health and wellbeing and much more. Your **FREE local CAP Life Skills group** is a friendly place where you'll gain practical skills and discover new ways to live for a brighter future.*

*CAP Life Skills is designed to be a fun and relaxed place where you can meet together with others, learn top tips for dealing with life's pressures, along with enjoying tea/coffee and cake!*

*How do I know CAP Life Skills is for me? If you want to stay on top of your household bills, see your money go further, eat well on a budget, grow in self-confidence or improve your relationships, then CAP Life Skills is for you! Alongside like-*



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*minded people, you'll discover ways to save time, money and hassle in your day-to-day life and learn practical skills from our trained coaches.*

*CAP Life Skills is a ten-session course including a mix of practical activities and informal discussion. We'll stop for a Christmas break, as well as enjoy a Christmas special together.*

**Venue:** Elim Church, 10 Middlebridge St, Romsey SO51 8HL.

**Dates:** Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2025 - 27<sup>th</sup> January 2026 (excluding Christmas school holidays)

**Time:** 10.30am – 12.15pm

To book use: <https://freedomchurchuk.churchsuite.com/events/plj5fow1>

or contact Pat Christian on [patchristian@caplifeskills.org](mailto:patchristian@caplifeskills.org) , tel: 07542 340562

**Mrs Bogalski:** We are sad to be saying goodbye to Mrs Bogalski at the end of next week. She has been a fantastic Teaching Assistant with us over the past years and we are all very grateful for the support and care she has given to the children of our school across that time. She is moving on to extend her experience and opportunities within the world of education and we wish her the very best as she does so.

**Mrs White** will be joining our staff team after half term; she is an experienced, skilled and extremely friendly teaching assistant who we are looking forward to working with.

**Admin Staff:** Mrs Lailey's time with us also draws to an end at half term. Mrs Lailey has been absolutely brilliant in helping us following Mrs Hutchings retirement in the Summer. Mrs Rachel McCubbin will be joining our admin team from Monday and working alongside Mrs Lailey for the start of the week as she settles into the role. A big thank you to Mrs Lailey and a warm welcome to Mrs McCubbin.

**Being Good Stewards, Manuela:** Long time friend of the school and local goodwill campaigner, Manuela, is joining us on Monday afternoon to speak to Year 1 and Year 2 about being good stewards and living with an attitude of gratitude. She is bringing with her a number of dignitaries from Romsey and Test Valley Councils including the Mayor. She will return on Friday to speak to Year R as well about how to be a good steward and make a difference.

**500 Word Story Competition:** The entries continue to come in and I know lots of children are working hard on these at home. There is still lots of time for children to complete their stories as the closing date is the start of November. Children's stories need to be typed to be submitted and we recommend they do this on Google Docs and submit to their teacher through Google Classroom. More information on the competition can be found at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/500-words>

**Dates for your Diary:** Please see the all important Dates for your Diary. Dates will be added throughout the term and we will highlight new dates in yellow so you can see what is a new addition. [https://docs.google.com/document/d/10-Qaqv3rcTOhIIGpgLuw5Jpz\\_roi8-UQP-67qL45jBc/edit?tab=t.0](https://docs.google.com/document/d/10-Qaqv3rcTOhIIGpgLuw5Jpz_roi8-UQP-67qL45jBc/edit?tab=t.0)

**Prayer:** I'll finish with a prayer which you are very welcome to join me in praying:  
*Dear God,*

*We pray that your light would shine upon us as a school community, bringing your love, your grace and your peace to help us flourish and live well together. Give us courage to be forgiving and the humility to recognise when we've got it wrong. We pray for a blessed weekend for us all.*

*Amen*

Have a wonderful weekend everybody and we'll see you on Monday.

Mr Harris

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**"Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus with Love, Trust and Forgiveness"**