



*Make Every Minute
Meaningful*

Dear parents and carers,

What a fantastic start to the year! The children have settled brilliantly into their new year groups, embracing fresh expectations and re-focusing on their learning. We're proud of their enthusiasm and resilience.

A warm welcome also to the new families and staff who've joined our school community — we're glad you're here! Please keep a look out for correspondence over the year to keep you in the loop!

Best wishes,

Mrs Webb Mrs Harman-Box Mrs Houghton



October dates

Mon 29th Sept-Fri 4rd Oct: NSPCC Speak Out Stay Safe Week

Thursday 2nd: National Poetry Day

Monday 6th: After school clubs begin

Thursday 16th: Year 1 Milestones trip

Friday 17th: Year 2 Fort Nelson trip

Wednesday 22nd: Bring a cake donation for PTA cake sale

Thursday 23rd: Harvest Festival at the Methodist Church 9.20am

Thursday 23rd: Bring some cash for the PTA cake sale

Thursday 23rd: End of term

Friday 24th: **INSET day**

Monday 27th - Friday 31st: **Half-term**

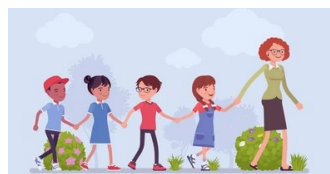
Monday 3rd November: **INSET day** Return to school **Tuesday 4th October**

2025 OCTOBER

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

On Thursday 23rd October we will make the short walk to the Methodist Church in North Camp for our Harvest Festival.

Please let your teacher know if you are able to join us for the walk leaving school at 9am. Your help is invaluable in ensuring the safety of all our pupils as we venture out into the community. We will be finished by 10am for the return journey.



We would like to make donations this year to the Farnborough Food Bank at our Harvest Festival and this message comes from their website -

YOUR GENEROSITY HAS BEEN OUTSTANDING, THANK YOU. OUR CURRENT NEEDS ARE:

- Top Item Needed: Semi-skimmed or Whole Milk 1 litre
- Top Item Needed: Fruit Juice 1 litre
- Top Item Needed: Tinned Tomatoes
- Tea, coffee, sugar
- Rice pouches—plain microwaveable
- Variety Packs of Cereals (i.e. Kellogg's)
- Tinned Meats: stew, chili and chicken in sauce etc
- Shampoo and Conditioner
- Washing Up Liquid
- Toothpaste, shower gel, shampoo & conditioner



Please bring donations to school in the week beginning 20th October, or to the Methodist Church on the 23rd October. Farnborough Foodbank will be collecting all of our donations from the Church after our celebration.

Thank you for your support.

Attendance Matters

Regular school attendance is vital for your child's learning and wellbeing. If your child is absent, please contact the school **by phone or email on the first day** by of absence as early as possible. If we do not receive any communication, a **home visit will be carried out** as part of our safeguarding procedures. In line with **Hampshire County Council's attendance guidance**, absences are **rarely authorised** unless there are exceptional circumstances. For full details, please refer to the *Attendance Guidance Poster*.

New attendance rules!

There are new rules for unauthorised absences, whether this is due to holiday, irregular attendance, or otherwise. Don't get caught out!

I'm a single parent of one child and I want to go on holiday for 5 days or more.

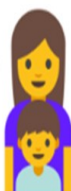
Let the school know before you book anything and make sure you use the absence request form. A holiday **will not** be authorised. If your child misses at least 5 school days, you'll be given a penalty notice fine. This fine is per child, per parent...



+£80



+£80



1 parent & 1 child = £80 if paid within 21 days

Increases to £160 if paid between 21 and 28 days

1 parent & 2 children = £160 if paid within 21 days

Increases to £320 if paid between 21 and 28 days

For a family of 2 parents & 2 children



+£80



+£80



+£80



+£80

£320 if paid within 21 days

Increases to £640 if paid between 21 and 28 days

What happens if school suspects children are actually on holiday?

Photos on Facebook? Foreign mobile dial tone? Home visit shows no-one at home? Amazing sun tan? Children talking about your holiday?



Please don't be offended if we ask these questions or ask for evidence - we're required to do this to ensure a fair system!

What about subsequent absences? Is it still the same penalty amount?

NO! If you have a second holiday in a rolling 3-year period you will receive a higher fine of £160 per child per parent. If you have a third holiday in a rolling 3-year period there is an immediate referral for prosecution

2nd TIME
2 parents and...
1 child = £320
2 children = £640
3 children = £960

No discount for early payment!

3rd TIME
A penalty notice fine will **not** be given. Instead, your case will be taken to court. A magistrate can fine each parent £2,500 for each child.

1 parent & 2 children = £5,000
2 parents and 2 children = £10,000

What about irregular attendance? Could I get a penalty notice?

YES! If your child is absent for 10 or more sessions in 10 weeks, and their absences are unauthorised, then the school is required to consider penalty notices / prosecution.



So, half a day here and day there could all add up to 10 sessions in 10 weeks. If unauthorised, then it would be a penalty notice. Remember, 1 day is 2 sessions (morning and afternoon).

What are typical reasons given that **won't** be authorised?

Examples of unauthorised absences

A family member's birthday
Shopping for uniforms
Inadequate clothing for school
Child being used as a carer
Problems with transport
Family holidays
Sickness of parent or sibling
Sibling's school closed
Refusing to attend, but able to
Poor family organisation
No absence request completed

Where attendance is irregular, or historically poor, sickness absences may be unauthorised unless medical confirmation by a GP surgery is given.



EVERY DAY COUNTS – ATTEND TODAY, ACHIEVE TOMORROW



Look out for more information coming your way about an exciting competition for you to enter with your children. We will hold a special assembly this week to tell the children all about this opportunity and then send you an email so you can continue the challenge at home!

MAKING A REAL DIFFERENCE IN PEOPLE'S LIVES

Discounted days out to Merlin Theme Parks to make special memories

Mental healthcare "Pick Me Up" packs

Free and low cost activities including bowling, laser tag, swimming, ninja warrior and fun days out

Peer and parenting support

£5 per person per year.

Register Here →

SCARLETT'S SMILES

- Young carers – to give respite from their daily 'duties'
- Children who have a terminal illness or long-term medical condition, or their siblings or parents do
- Children experiencing loss or separation
- Children in care
- Children affected by domestic abuse
- Armed forces families with a parent serving abroad
- FREE SCHOOL MEALS CHILDREN

Visit our website: www.spotlightuk.org
 Get in touch: 07804 880072 | scarlettsmiles@spotlightuk.org

Discounted Family Fun upto half price off

Ninja Warrior

Flip Out

Donutting

Airhop Trampoline Park

Cinema trips

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.

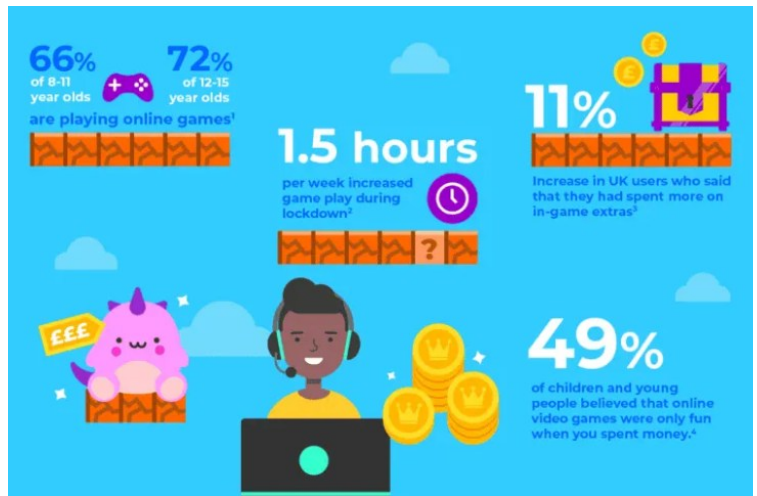
For more details please visit our website
www.spotlightuk.org or email activities@spotlightuk.org

Online Safety

Many popular online games that children enjoy are advertised as free to play. However, they often include optional in-game purchases that can quickly add up. These might offer new levels, character upgrades, outfits (known as "skins"), or ways to speed up gameplay.

While most games do provide free alternatives—such as waiting for a timer to run out—children may feel pressure to make purchases in order to keep up with their friends or stay competitive. These purchases can be made using real money, and some games also collect value through players' time, attention, or personal data.

As a parent, staying informed about the games your child is playing can help you better understand the financial and privacy risks involved. Regular conversations about in-game spending and setting appropriate boundaries can go a long way in promoting healthy gaming habits. For more information, please visit the following website: <https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/by-activity/>





**HAMPSHIRE
PARENT CARER
NETWORK**
enabling voices to be heard

Join Hampshire Parent Carer Network as a Representative!

What is the purpose of a forum?

Parent Carer Forums are an organised group of parents and carers from a local area, with children and young people aged 0-25 with a disability or any additional needs including mental Health.

Their aim is to work in a solution focused way to make sure that services in their area meet the needs of children with disabilities and their families.

Forums provide the opportunity to tell the Local Authority, Health and other services, what life is really like based on real lived experiences.

Using in-person get-togethers, surveys and online support we work to gather views - Together we are enabling voices to be heard.

Legislation and why we do what we do

As part of the Children and Families Act 2014 part 3, and sections 1, 3 and 4 of the SEND Code of Practice – Parent Carer Forums work with services to ensure that the voices and experiences of children, young people and their parents are not only heard, but are listened to and considered when services are being planned, designed, implemented and reviewed



The role of parent representatives

- To help inform decision makers about the experiences of parent carers
- To ensure that parents' views are fed into decisions about children's services at a strategic level.
- Aim to reach a common understanding between professionals and parents about how effective local services are for children with disabilities.
- The hope is the combined information and perspectives can result in joint planning and co production opportunities that can help lead to more effective services.

What it may involve to be a parent rep:

- Attend meetings or events which relate to your specific topic, with another member of Hampshire Parent Carer Network, if possible
- Providing and circulating written feedback from those meetings you attend, within a 2 week period
- Respond to requests for our input, where they relate specifically to your topic
- Helping out generally when Hampshire Parent Carer Network are running an event
- Training, where relevant
- Promoting the organisation to help us raise our profile

Hampshire Parent Carer Network will

- Support you in this role, with advice and practical help
- Pay your expenses for the work that you do, your mileage to attend meetings, parking and/or transport costs.
- Provide training and personal development

Can you help?

In terms of time commitment, it's entirely dependent on what you are able to offer. We know many of you will be juggling caring responsibilities alongside other commitments. So even if it's one hour a month, that would make a difference. Participation training and support will be provided



CROOKHAM ROVERS FC

MINI KICKERS

For Year R & Year 1

FA trained coaches, training sessions for fun and involvement.

AGES 4-7, SUNDAYS @ 10AM, CODY SPORTS, GU14 OLP

FREE TASTER SESSION, NO COMMITMENT, £5 PER WEEK



STARTS SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 7TH

Contact minis@crookham-rovers.org.uk for more details

Safe from choking

“ I always thought choking would have been more obvious. But the silence and the panic in his eyes will stay with me forever. ”

A child who's choking can't breathe, so there's no sound to alert you.

As scary as this sounds, you can stop this happening. It takes some simple steps.

Why do children choke?

- ✋ Children can choke at any age. Young children are at greater risk.
- ✋ Their narrow airways are more easily blocked.
- ✋ Anything smaller than a 2p can choke them.

Small objects

Babies and toddlers put things in their mouths. It's how they explore. So they can choke on small objects in their reach:

- ✋ Cheap toys can have small parts that come off. Check them over first.
- ✋ Use older children's toys in a specific area and check the floor afterwards. Use a tray underneath to catch small parts, like Lego.
- ✋ Don't let young children blow up balloons and clear away broken pieces.

Baby bottles

Never use a self-feeding baby pillow or prop your baby's bottle up to feed. They need an adult to help them feed.

First aid

1. Give up to five back blows between the shoulder blades – it can force the object out.
2. Give up to five abdominal thrusts squeezing above the belly button from behind – it forces air out of the lungs to clear the object.
3. If 1 & 2 don't work call 999 and keep trying until help arrives.

Food

- ✋ Choking on food isn't just about young children not chewing properly. It takes time to learn to breathe, chew and swallow in harmony.
- ✋ Until then, they need you to cut up or avoid anything that could block their airway. And to teach them to sit still to eat.

Size and shape matter

- ✋ Cut lengthways and quarters – grapes, blueberries, strawberries, cherries and small tomatoes.
- ✋ Remove skin, pips or stones from fruits or vegetables.
- ✋ Cut thin strips – sausages, cheese, vegetables and large fruit like melon, apple, carrot, cucumber and mango.
- ✋ Steam, mash or grate foods to soften them – carrots, chickpeas, butter beans.
- ✋ Cut strips and remove bones, skin or fat – meat and fish.
- ✋ Toast bread – to stop doughy balls. Cut all bread into narrow strips.

Save for later

- ✋ Round hard sweets, including mini eggs and lollipops
- ✋ Whole grapes and nuts
- ✋ Globs of peanut butter
- ✋ Popcorn
- ✋ Marshmallows
- ✋ Jelly cubes

