

Nettlestone Primary School



"Changing lives for changing times"

01983 613171



News from Nettlestone Primary School

Executive Head teacher Miss K Howarth Head of School Mrs A Jacobs

10th January 2025

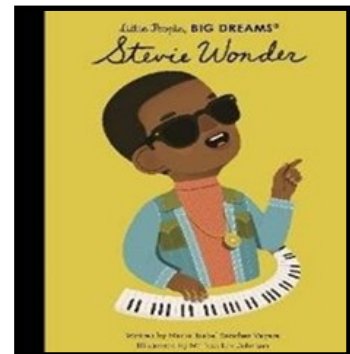
VALUE OF THE WEEK: Patience

WE CAN LIVE RESPECTFULLY - ASSEMBLY THIS WEEK



The theme of the next two weeks is Patience. With this in mind, Mrs Jacobs compared our school mission possible of resilience to patience and the children could see that to be resilient, we need patience! It is also World Braille day this week and so the children watched a short presentation on braille and particularly its use for blind musicians. The children identified that reading music with your hands while also trying to use your hands to play an instrument is a challenge and they recognised that these talented musicians would have to have patience and great resilience in order to become proficient.

Mrs Jacobs read the Little People Big Dreams story of Stevie Wonder to the children and together they listened to some of his songs. It was also shared with the children that they could revisit the text by viewing [here](#).



WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE—NEW TO YOU UNIFORM!

We have a large selection of very good quality 'new to you' uniform held with our Friends of Nettlestone Team. If your child is in need of a new jumper, cardigan, etc especially as the cold weather continues please do contact them on Facebook messenger—<https://www.facebook.com/fonsiow>—to see if we can help. We have a variety of sizes and only require a very small donation to school funds for most items.

We would like to 'make a difference' and encourage our families to embrace sustainable living and many of our items look like brand new!

Friends of Nettlestone (FONs) manage the stock - please contact them or hunt them out in the playground at pick up time!

Please can we also remind parents to ensure that items coming into school are clearly named. We know that some 'new to you' stock may be named incorrectly and it really does help reunite lost items if your child's name is really clear on the labels. Please check this weekend to make sure that your child's name remains clear on their uniform.



WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE—APPRECIATION



It was a lovely welcome back to receive this email from one of our families:

‘Thank you for all of your hard work, we hope you have a very Merry Christmas. We have bought a quarter of an acre of threatened rainforest habitat in the school’s name and have a certificate for the school to show that Nettlestone is ‘making a difference for the future as a thank you.’



Our work and influence is now spreading worldwide!

WE CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN—ARE YOU FREE TO HELP?



Mrs Feist needs the help of some of our school community to ‘make it happen’. Do we have any parents/grandparents who are paramedics, doctors, nurses, dentists, firefighters, police, in the forces, lawyers, judges, pharmacists, chefs or basically any other profession?

For the past 2 years we had some amazing members of our school community come into school and read to the children during our Story Telling/Reading Festival Week. We would love to do this again this year as the children loved having members of our community read to them. If you are able to help us please email the parents@nettlestoneprimaryschol.co.uk email address and Mrs Feist will contact you to explain what is needed.

If you are having a sort out of books over the next few weeks, we are asking for donations for our new to me book swap in February as part of our reading festival week which will take place in early February 2025. Mrs Feist will happily take donations of good used books for Preschool - Year 6 age groups. This event has always been popular with our children and we hope to create another fantastic event again in 2025.



Thank you in advance for your support.

WE CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN— KEY EVENTS NEXT WEEK!

MONDAY

Farm

TUESDAY



WEDNESDAY

Closing date for Primary School applications for Reception Class
Sept. 25

THURSDAY

Yr4 Teeth Workshop

FRIDAY

KS1 Celebration Assembly

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE—SCHOOL PLACE PLANNING UPDATE



Parents will be aware that the statutory consultation on school place planning has begun and is open until the **3rd February 2025**. The Local Authority urge and would welcome parents to have your say on the proposals to close Brading, Oakfield, Cowes, Arreton and Wroxall Primary Schools. More information about how to make a difference and submit your views can be found [here](#).

WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

We had some wonderful news over the holiday period that both Nettlestone and Newchurch Primary Schools have been recognised as having a GOLD standard of provision for supporting using a trauma informed approach. This is a new award and our Federation is the first of any schools on the Isle of Wight to achieve this very high accolade.

It goes without saying that we are all super proud that our hard work, training, provision, environment and ethos have been recognised at the highest level and staff are really keen to support other schools in their journey to supporting children in a more positive way. We have already hosted staff meetings for professionals on the Island and have taken further bookings from primary schools who want to come and see how we make it happen so that they can make a difference in their own schools.



'It's clear that the school's success is not just the result of hard work but also of thoughtful leadership and a deep commitment to the students and the community.'

'I left feeling inspired by the progress and heartened by the genuine atmosphere you've helped foster at the school.'

'I was totally blown away by the school. It has such a lovely, warm and calm atmosphere. The staff all seem so friendly, the aesthetic felt so calming and positive.'

INSET DAYS

When populating your new 2025 calendars please remember to note that the school will be closed to pupils on the following dates:

Monday 2nd June 2025

Monday 28th July 2025

Friday 20th June 2025

Tuesday 29th July 2025



WE CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN - ATTENDANCE UPDATES!

Over the Christmas break the DFE have continued to stress that it is vital for all children to attend school every day.

We have been asked to remind parents that **school attendance is mandatory**. The DFE have also asked schools to once again, sharpen their focus on recording attendance and following up absence. We are proud that our 5 Mission Possibles can be easily linked to improving attendance...



Make the healthy choice to...Book any holidays out of term time

Try to secure non-urgent appointments out of school hours



Promote resilience by...Sending your child to school every day

Adhering to daily routines that promote punctuality



Make a difference by...Appreciating that every day counts as adults in school teach the right kids, the right stuff, in the right way...every day!

Understanding that coming to school every day will seriously improve your child's attainment, progress and overall life chances.



Live respectfully by...Always being honest about any reasons for school absence and alerting the school as soon as possible with any reason for non-attendance.



Make it happen by...Doing all that you can to ensure you child is in school, ready to learn every day!

We have always aimed to have the very best attendance figures at Nettlestone Primary School and have been set a 96% target for 2025!

To sustain a high level of attendance it is important to remember that **holidays are not authorised** in term time and a leave of absence form is required to be completed for all absence requests.

Most of the community are aware that leave will only be granted in the most exceptional circumstances.

Our attendance this week has been 95.03%. Can we 'make it happen' and hit our target next week?

We had hoped to be able to send the resident parent a copy of their child's attendance certificate for the Autumn Term home today. Unfortunately we have been plagued with technical issues which has not made this possible to do today. We will however be sending these out next week instead. Please check it carefully. Any child that has attendance of 90% or below is classed as persistently absent and the team from Education and Inclusion will continue to monitor these children very carefully. Did you know—a child who is absent a day of school per week misses an equivalent of two years of their school life!

To find out more about how the IOW Council monitor school attendance please click [here](#).

KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE AT SCHOOL



In line with statutory regulations we are required to collect a minimum of two emergency contact numbers for every child in school. This will ensure that in the event of an emergency occurring we can easily and quickly contact immediate family or close family friends of the child involved. If you are unsure if you have provided two contacts please contact the school office as soon as possible where Mrs Knight will be happy to check.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Please be reminded that the **Designated Safeguarding Lead for the school is Miss Howarth** but that also Mrs Jacobs, Mrs Kelly and Mrs Martin are suitably trained to deal with any concerns regarding child safety or welfare that you may have. Please do not hesitate to contact the school at the earliest opportunity to raise any concerns or worries you may have and we will do our best to advise and assist.

All adults linked to school are constantly updated with the latest safeguarding training and we recognise that **within our Federation we will always...**

Make a difference to a child's life - we recognise that safeguarding is the responsibility of us all

Make it happen by noticing and reporting any concern no matter how small

Live respectfully by always modelling the behaviours and interactions that we expect of the children

Make the healthy choice to pass on concerns quickly and record concerns accurately.



WE CAN BE RESILIENT – PROMOTING INDEPENDENCE IN THE EARLY YEARS

At Nettlestone we believe in fostering independence from an early age. By encouraging children to take on small responsibilities, we help them build confidence and develop essential life skills. As children in Reception Class have now been in school a term we would like to ask parents to help promote independence in our young learners by:

Walking In By Themselves We encourage children to walk into school by themselves each morning. This simple act helps them start the day with a sense of accomplishment and self-reliance. Parents can support this by giving their children a cheerful send-off at the school gate.

Accessing After School Clubs Our after-school clubs provide a fantastic opportunity for children to explore new interests and hobbies. This term children in Reception can access and we encourage students to take the initiative to join these clubs and participate actively. This not only helps them develop new skills but also fosters a sense of independence and responsibility as well as providing the opportunity to make new friends.

Carrying Their Own Bag and Belongings Carrying their own school bag and belongings teaches children to be responsible for their items. It also helps them develop organizational skills as they learn to pack and unpack their bags each day. Our backpacks are designed to help build core strength so please encourage your child to wear their bag to and from the classroom each day.

Toileting and Personal Care We encourage children to take increased responsibility for their personal care, including toileting and wiping themselves. Many of the class can now do this! This is an important step in their journey towards independence and self-care.

Celebrating Breakfast Club We celebrate the achievements of children who access the breakfast club by themselves. This shows their ability to manage their morning routine independently and start the day positively.

By promoting these small but significant steps towards independence, we aim to empower our young learners to become confident, capable, and self-reliant individuals.





KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE—HAVE YOU WATCHED SWIPED?

There has been a wholly positive response from a large group of our school community who watched the Channel 4 documentary 'Swiped: The School that Banned Smartphones' over the Christmas break. This two-part series follows a group of Year 8 students at Stanway School in Colchester as they embarked on a 21-day challenge to give up their smartphones. The results were eye-opening and offer valuable insights for all families.

Why Should You Watch "Swiped"?

Improved Focus and Academic Performance: The documentary highlights how students were able to concentrate better on their studies without the constant distraction of smartphones. This led to noticeable improvements in their academic performance

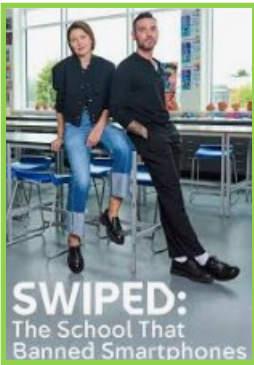
Enhanced Sleep Quality: Many students reported better sleep patterns once they were no longer tempted to stay up late using their phones. Quality sleep is crucial for children's overall health and well-being

Stronger Social Connections: Without smartphones, students engaged more in face-to-face interactions, leading to stronger friendships and a greater sense of community

Healthier Lifestyle: The absence of smartphones encouraged students to participate in more physical activities and hobbies, promoting a healthier lifestyle. It was also beneficial in supporting positive mental health.

We highly recommend all parents watch "Swiped" to see first-hand the positive changes that can occur when children take a break from their smartphones. It's an inspiring reminder of the benefits of reducing screen time and focusing on real-world interactions.

It is also a reminder of the 'murky' and dangerous world that children can sometimes encounter online and the need for parents to remain especially vigilant in their safeguarding.



You can find the documentary on Channel 4 streaming services.

POETRY CORNER

Beginning a new year is like opening a new book to its very first page. The poet Jackie Kay has a toast to us all at the start of the year....

Remember, the time of year

*When the future appear
Like a blank sheet of paper
A clean calendar, a new chance.
On thick white snow*

*You vow fresh footprints
Then watch them go
With the wind's hearty gust.
Fill your glass. Here's tae us. Promises
Made to be broken, made to last.*



WE CAN MAKE HEALTHY CHOICES—DON'T FORGET BREAKFAST CLUB

Booking is easy and flexible via your School Money account for statutory school aged children only: www.eduspot.co.uk

Please book in advance where possible. Thank you!



Nettlestone Primary School

This school has a fantastic

Monday-Friday open from 7.45am

Breakfast Club!

We pride ourselves on being a caring school and aim to ensure that we develop happy, supported and successful independent learners. To be inclusive and support children of all abilities and ages to play and learn together.



Socialise



Book your child's place via their SchoolMoney account
www.eduspot.co.uk

SO WHAT HAVE WE BEEN LEARNING THIS WEEK?

It has been fantastic to see our little learners settling back after the festive holiday, it has been lovely listening to them recall all the exciting things they have been doing. We have also welcomed new children to our pre school and getting to know them has been wonderful. This first week we have been supporting the children back to routines and spending time with their friends and making new friendships. The children have been engaging in lots of activities of interest including dinosaurs, building and construction, imaginative play, books and crafts.



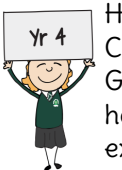
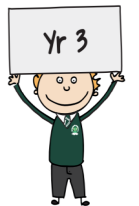
Reception have returned really well this week at the start of a new term. We have begun by revisiting some of our phonemes from last term and practising our blending. We have been applying our phonic skills to spell words and use this when we create words in Drawing Club. Our book this week has been *The Snow Thief*. We have enjoyed listening to the squirrel learn about winter and snow. We have also been learning about the different signs of winter and talking about what happens to the weather, plants and animals around us. In Maths we have been practising our subitising skills and recalling different patterns with numbers up to 5. We also learnt all about number 10 and had fun making number lines, using tens frames and using skittles to learn about numbers that make 10.

We have had a lovely first week back in Rosen Class. In English we read our new book 'Lost and Found'. We discussed each page and continued to predict what we thought was going to happen next. The class made good connections between penguins and where they usually come from. Which helped them in packing a suitcase as if they were going to the South Pole! In Maths this week we have been developing our understanding of numbers to 20. We have been introduced to place value and used vocabulary such as 'tens' and 'ones.' In PSHE we discussed the importance of sleep and recognised that routines before bed can help our bodies know when it is time to sleep. Well done on a super first week back Year 1!



A super start to our new half term in Year 2. We have been using the Mission Possible of 'I can make it happen' and 'I can be resilient' in our learning as we have been busy designing and making bookmarks. First, we looked at how fabric book marks can be made. Then we looked at different designs. Following this, we designed our own bookmarks. Next, we made templates by using our knowledge of shapes and measuring skills. We are now making these by using coloured felt and using our sewing skills. Once finished, our goal is to use these bookmarks to help us keep our places in the books that we read.

We have made a dynamic start to the new term. On Monday, we had fun experimenting with magnets. We designed and carried out a fair test to investigate whether all of the magnets in our classroom are equally powerful. As we were carrying out our fair tests we incidentally made other discoveries too, which made us think about further questions we can investigate next week. We are greatly improving our skills of recording our results in tables that we have drawn in our Science books ourselves. In our English lessons, we have been writing poems all about the things we like to do at Christmas time.



Happy New Year. We have had a fantastic first week back in Year 4. In English we have started our new text *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. We have looked at vocabulary to describe the characters of Charlie and Grandpa Joe and looked at pronouns and how to use these within our writing. We have learnt why we have teeth, how many teeth we have and the names and different roles of teeth during science. We also carried out an experiment to see which teeth help us to eat certain foods.

Year 5 have had an incredibly productive start to the term! In maths, we have been strengthening our understanding of fractions by learning how to convert improper fractions into mixed numbers and vice versa. We have also tackled comparing and ordering fractions, building the skills and confidence needed to solve more complex fraction problems. We began our new learning journey in English, that focuses on the book 'The Day the War Came.' During our initial discussions, we explored what we like and dislike about the story and identified questions the text leaves unanswered. This story provides a powerful platform for discussing important themes and we are excited to delve deeper into it in the coming weeks.



This week in Year 6 we focused on formal language and the use of persuasive features (i.e. emotive language, rhetorical questions) in preparation for writing a speech. The purpose of the speech is to persuade a community to treat someone (a pilot from the Luftwaffe) with compassion. There were some excellent points made during our class discussion about the rights and wrongs of a community helping/not helping an enemy combatant. In Maths we have been working with fractions. We have been multiplying fractions and comparing them. In our science lesson we focused on writing an effective conclusion for our investigation. We focused on challenging ourselves by thinking of further questions and predictions based on our completed investigation. We also thought about the need for formal and objective language in a scientific conclusion and its importance in convincing the reader to take the conclusion seriously. Our focus in Computing this term is spreadsheets. We looked at the purpose of a spreadsheet (i.e. to collect/sort data) and we tried to format a spreadsheet thinking about the type of data we were using.

CONVERSATION STARTERS!

Want to know what your children have been learning this week? Here are some conversation starters that may help you talk to them about what they have been up to in class!

PRE-SCHOOL

Talk to me about... what have I been doing in preschool this week.

Words to use... explore, friends, play, join in, fun.

Tips for the week... in the cold weather please remember hats & gloves.

We have been reading... What food will you choose? by Claire Potters.

YEAR 1

Talk to me about... Lost and Found.

Words to use... penguin, boy, boat, South Pole, iceberg, umbrella.

Tips for the week... Can you take pictures of different plants?

We have been reading... Superkid by Claire Freedman.

YEAR 3

Talk to me about... my experiment to compare the strength of magnets within our classroom.

Words to use... magnet, attract, fair test.

Tips for the week... as well as being able to attract, magnets can also repel. We will be investigating this next week!

We have been reading... Joseph Coelho Poetry Prompts.

YEAR 5

Talk to me about... Fractions.

Words to use... improper fractions, mixed numbers, denominator, numerator, equivalent, less than,

Tips for the week... If the numerators are the same – compare the denominators. The smaller denominator is the greater fraction.

If the denominators are the same – compare the numerators. The greater numerator is the greater fraction.

If neither the numerator or the denominator are the same – find a common denominator. Whatever you do to the denominator, you have to do to the numerator. Then compare the numerators and the greater numerator is the greater fraction.

We have been reading... Lightning Mary by Anthea Simmons.

YEAR R

Talk to me about... number 10.

Words to use... winter, hibernation, nocturnal, frost.

Tips for the week... to practise blending and reading words.

We have been reading... The Snow Thief by C.J.Carver

YEAR 2

Talk to me about... I can be resilient.

Words to use... sewing, thread, needles, patience, problem solving, tangled, eye of a needle, knots, fabric.

Tips for the week.... When changing a verb to the past tense remember to swap the y for an i when you added. Such as carry becomes carried. The rule breaker is when the words end in the digraphs: ay, oy, ey, then you just add -ed such as play becomes played.

We have been reading... Queen Victoria's Bathing Machine by Gloria Wheelan and You're a Bad Man Mr Gum by

YEAR 4

Talk to me about... factor pairs, pronouns, different types of teeth and their roles, our science investigation and who were the Romans and when in history they are placed.

Words to use... factor pairs, product, pronouns, incisors, canines, molars, premolars, grinding, chewing, ripping, tearing and Romans.

Tips for the week... continue to practice your times tables and common exception words.

We have been reading... The Lost Whale by Hannah Gold.

YEAR 6

Talk to me about my speech from our English lessons. What did I try to persuade the residents of Budmouth Point to do?

Words to use: persuade, persuasive, emotive, rhetorical question, formal language, objective, data, spreadsheet, format.

Tips for the week: keep track of your reading on Boomreader. We will be giving out stickers at the end of the week.

Celebration Assembly

Rose, Everely, Felix, Joshua, Jasper and Darci.



WE ARE SO PROUD OF EACH AND EVERYONE
OF YOU!



MAKE THE HEALTHY CHOICE FOR A FREE SCHOOL MEAL!



School meals are **FREE** for all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2!

Looking at our numbers over 30 families are not benefitting from this scheme at present and we would like to remind parents that the menu is

published each week in the newsletter and ordering your child's meal is super easy on School Money.

Why not make the healthy choice to try a **FREE** meal next week?



Lunchtime Menu – from Chartwells

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Main	Cheese and Tomato Pizza & Potato Wedges	Pork Sausages & Mash	Roast Chicken & Roast Potatoes	Chicken & Vegetable Korma & Rice	Fish Fingers & Chips
Vegetarian	BBQ Quorn Fillet	Quorn Sausages & Mash	Roasted Vegetable & Cranberry Slice	Tomato & Sweetcorn Pasta	Cheese & Sweetcorn Omelette
Dessert	Chocolate Brownie with Orange Slices	Bread & Butter Pudding with Custard	Oat Cookie with Fruit	Lemon Shortbread	Vanilla Ice Cream

Please don't forget to order your meals on School Money before you come to school on Monday!

