



## Parent Newsletter

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you're well and have a good week. On Wednesday I led a whole school assembly to explain the rebranding changes which will happen over the summer holidays. We are working extremely hard to ensure there are visible changes and a fresh new look to as many areas of the school as possible. All the classrooms will have new tables, chairs and blinds and as many as possible will be decorated. We have re-named each block and created zones, pupils were asked for their suggestions, and we've taken these into consideration. We are working with our wonderful PTA to plan a 'Danebury School Launch Evening' in late September, more details will follow next week, we hope you'll join us to mark the occasion.

As previously communicated to you, we have been working hard with Hampshire County Council and the bus companies to ensure your children arrive home earlier next year. This week we've had confirmation that HCC will support us with our proposal, this is positive news, fingers crossed!

We've had lots of visitors this week, on Thursday we welcomed Year 4&5 pupils from our cluster schools, they took part in a 'Festival of Languages'. It was lovely to see them all learn some Spanish, French and German. The MFL team and our Year 9 Student Ambassadors really enjoyed hosting the event and were overjoyed with the progress the children made.

On Thursday afternoon we welcomed Year 5 children and their families to a 'Taster' afternoon, it was lovely to see so many taking part in Science, Food, Drama and PE sessions. We received lots of positive feedback at the end, which is encouraging. We will be holding more events like this in the future for prospective pupils.

Today we've held a range of activities to celebrate the end of the year. A large number of pupils went to Paultons Park and Splashdown, much fun was had by all. In school we've had a community building project, a team of dedicated pupils have built an 'Oracy Circle' for groups to use outside with their teachers during whole class discussions and reading activities. In addition, they have built new benches for our Forest School, built a herb garden outside of the food room and planted lots of new vegetables in our allotment. They have also cleared the animal areas. To reward them for their hard work they made pancakes and cinnamon rolls on the campfire this afternoon. Many thanks to Mrs Vincent and Mr Atkins for all their hard work today, what a creative day it's been. We also had a range of sports on offer all day and an art project. Many thanks to all the staff who have made this possible today.

I've just waved off our Osmington Bay trip, there was lots of excitement within the group, I'm sure they'll have a great time over the next 4 days. Keep your eye on our socials for updates!

Year 10 begin their work experience next week, we look forward to visiting them and watching them in the world of work, good luck to them all.

If you follow our socials, you'll know that Mr Langdown has decided to retire after 33 years at Test Valley. We are all so sad about this, despite my best efforts I haven't been able to convince him to stay on another year. Mr Langdown has taught several generations over the years; he is one of the 'Heartbeats' of the school and an absolute legend. We want to mark this incredible length of service in many ways. The pupils

are busy creating farewell memorabilia, if you have any farewell messages or funny stories you'd like us to add to his 'This is your life book', please do email them into [lynnr@testvalley.hants.sch.uk](mailto:lynnr@testvalley.hants.sch.uk)

I hope you have a great weekend.

Warm Wishes  
Nicky

**Mrs N Goodridge**  
**Head of School**

More about all the activities occurring in and out of lessons at Test Valley School can be found on our Facebook page: Test Valley School, Twitter Feed: @testvalleysch and Instagram Account: testvalleyofficial. Reshares and likes are always appreciated!

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## Vacancies

Please see our website for current vacancies: [Test Valley School - Vacancies](#)

## Venue Hire

Do you require a room for a meeting or sports event? School facilities are available to hire outside of the school day. Please email [leisure@testvalley.hants.sch.uk](mailto:leisure@testvalley.hants.sch.uk) for all enquiries.

## Forthcoming Dates

w/c July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024 –

**Week 1**

All Week Year 10 Work Experience  
Osmington Bay Trip

## Attendance

**Appointment reminders:** Medical and Dental appointments should, where possible be made for outside of school hours. If your child has an appointment during school hours, please email us at [absence@testvalley.hants.sch.uk](mailto:absence@testvalley.hants.sch.uk) with the details and proof of the appointment giving at least 24 hours' notice where possible.

Top of the pops last week

Will	Weatherall	10CE
Oliver	Levy-Clinkard	10CE
Cain	Fenton	10GR
Samuel	Scard	10PH
Elliot	White	10PH

**Year 10 Andover College Taster Day**

What a wonderful opportunity our Year 10 students had today when they travelled to Andover college and tried out courses of their choice and get to see around a college.

The wide range of courses on offer to them was impressive and I'm sure all of them would have been happy with the level of choice.

Most importantly this brings to the forefront of their minds, following their Year 10 exams, that thinking seriously about their next steps begins now as it becomes apparent that applications for colleges need to be made in the autumn term of Year 11.

**Year 10 Food Mock Practical Exam**



### Are you looking for activities for your children over the Summer Holidays?

Hampshire Music Service are running a three-day course where attendees learn to compose, produce, record, and mix their own recordings. These recordings can be original songs, or a cover of an existing song of their choosing. Each day runs from 9.15am to 4.30pm and is split into four group sessions lasting 90 minutes each. By the end of the course, each group will have a recording that they have produced themselves, from start to finish.

Cost: £115 for all three days

Below is a video about Music Production.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-tsAZxDml9E>

Sign-up form

[Hampshire Music Service Recording and Production Enrichment - 19, 20 and 21 August 2024](#)

**Pop Up Ensemble** **FREE**

HAMPSHIRE  
**MUSIC**  
EDUCATION  
HUB

**Pop Up Ensemble**  
**Winton School, Andover**

JMST Theatre, London Road, Andover,  
Hampshire SP10 2PS  
Sunday 14 July 9.15 - 13.15

**Beginner to Grade 4**

**Back by Popular Demand!**

**Come and be part of a  
'from scratch' orchestra!**

Scan the QR code to register your place

### **GEOGRAPHY / DUKE OF EDINBURGH / PSHE / UCAS SUPPORT**

As we look ahead to the Summer, we are delighted to announce more FREE outdoor / practical sessions for local young people to explore the impact of climate change within their local communities through positive youth social action. The programme is part of the YouCAN youth for climate and nature scheme, in partnership with the New Forest National Park Authority, supported by National Lottery Community Funding.

Suitable for young people **aged 14-25 years old**, passionate about making a difference in their communities, the programme can also support skills development for Duke of Edinburgh qualifications / endorse personal statements for UCAS.

We will escort young people from Southampton on the train to some of the locations. This includes SEVEN interactive and site-specific sessions with climate scientists, marine biologists, park rangers and creative practitioners from May to September 2024. We will be using youth voices and findings around climate change in our local communities to inspire the creation of a brand-new theatre production - *Generation Anthropocene*.

### **CITY CENTRE - SOUTHAMPTON**

13th July

7th September

...with Southampton National Park City Project and Sholing valley study centre.

Working in the heart of Southampton City, in the National Park and surrounding areas, exploring air pollution, travel and the impact of City life on our environment.

**[SIGN UP HERE](#)**

## College Information

There is information on our website regarding forthcoming College open events, including dates and how to book a place.

**Salisbury 6<sup>th</sup> Form College:** [www.salisbury6c.ac.uk](http://www.salisbury6c.ac.uk)

**Peter Symonds College:** [www.psc.ac.uk](http://www.psc.ac.uk)

### Key dates for 2025:

16 September Applications open  
1 & 2 October Open Evenings  
9 December Application deadline  
Year 11 Welcome Days 26 & 27 June

**New course for 2025 which is History of Art which is standard entry requirements**

**Andover College:** [www.andover.ac.uk](http://www.andover.ac.uk)

Also, it is not too late to apply to Andover College as applications are still open and Year 11 students can still apply by visiting the Andover College website or by using [Apply - Full Time and Part Time courses - Andover College | Hampshire](#).

**Sparsholt College** – [www.sparsholt.ac.uk](http://www.sparsholt.ac.uk)

Also, it is not too late for year 11s to apply to Sparsholt College as applications are still open and students can apply by visiting the Sparsholt website or by using [How to Apply - Sparsholt College and University Centre Sparsholt](#).

**Basingstoke College of Technology** - [www.bcot.ac.uk](http://www.bcot.ac.uk)



**SPARSHOLT**  
CAMPUS

**OPEN EVENTS**

- Wednesday 13 June 2024
- Saturday 5 October 2024
- Saturday 9 November 2024
- Saturday 1 February 2025
- Saturday 1 March 2025
- Wednesday 30 April 2025
- Thursday 12 June 2025

Visit [sparsholt.ac.uk](http://sparsholt.ac.uk) to register or scan the QR code!





## Engineering Apprenticeships Vacancy Bulletin

*Vacancies live as at 1 July 2024*

All the vacancies listed can be found on the [SETA Apprenticeship Vacancy web page](#).  
Throughout the coming months more vacancies will go live. Make sure you visit our  
webpage regularly for the latest additions!

Employer	Vacancy	No. of positions	Level	Location	Duration (months)	Closing Date
<a href="#">TSI Turbo</a>	<a href="#">Engineering Fitter Apprentice</a>	2	3	Totton	42	8 Jul
<a href="#">Four-Tees Engineers Ltd</a>	<a href="#">Plate Welder Apprentice</a>	1	3	Fareham	42	8 Jul
<a href="#">Toomers Ltd</a>	<a href="#">Metal Fabricator Apprentice</a>	1	3	Downton	42	10 Jul
<a href="#">Toomers Ltd</a>	<a href="#">Plate Welder Apprentice</a>	1	3	Downton	42	10 Jul
<a href="#">IMI Thompson Valves</a>	<a href="#">Machinist Craft Apprentice</a>	3	3	Poole, Dorset	42	10 Jul
<a href="#">Williams Engineering Solutions Ltd</a>	<a href="#">Plate Welder Apprentice</a>	1	3	Hardley, nr Hythe	42	14 Jul



Scan the QR code to visit  
SETA's vacancy webpage



[www.setatraining.co.uk/apprenticeships/current\\_vacancies](http://www.setatraining.co.uk/apprenticeships/current_vacancies)



# SUMMER TIMETABLE

Talks are delivered online via zoom 7pm to 9pm £24 each  
 Book online at [facefamilyadvice.co.uk](http://facefamilyadvice.co.uk)

<b>2 FREE SESSIONS</b> <b>Cannabis &amp; Ketamine Awareness</b> <b>Supporting Kids with School Anxiety</b>	30 JUL 26 SEP
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	11 JUL, 8 AUG, 5 SEP
Understanding the Teenage Brain	15 JUL
Raising Self-Esteem	16 JUL
Supporting a Child with ADHD	18 JUL, 15 AUG, 24 SEP
Anxiety Explained	25 JUL, 22 AUG
Understanding Anger	29 JUL, 26 AUG, 23 SEP
Introduction to OCD	6 AUG
Improving Family Communication	12 AUG
Autism: Improving Communication	8 JUL, 5 AUG, 2 SEP
What is ACT?	9 JUL, 3 SEP
Decreasing Depression	23 JUL
Supporting Healthy Sleep	20 AUG
Today's Teens & Today's Drugs	27 AUG

[facefamilyadvice.co.uk](http://facefamilyadvice.co.uk)

[info@facefamilyadvice.co.uk](mailto:info@facefamilyadvice.co.uk)

# CELEBRATING NEURODIVERSITY

A TRAINING DAY FOR PARENT/ CARERS & PROFESSIONALS

19TH JUN 2024

**Celebrating Neurodiversity Training Day**

A day that focuses on learning skills and strategies for parents, carers and professionals who are supporting an autistic young person.

## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SCHOOL AVOIDANCE

Emotionally Based School Avoidance is a term used to refer to reduced attendance or non-attendance at school by a child or young person. It's often rooted in emotional, mental health or wellbeing issues. The rate of children who miss school more than 10% of the time in England has more than doubled since before the pandemic, rising from 10.9% in 2018-19, to 22.3% in 2022-23.

### UNDERSTANDING SCHOOL AVOIDANCE

#### REASONS FOR ABSENCE

School avoidance is sometimes underpinned by several factors rather than one single cause. This could include something going on for the child or young person within the home or at school, a child may have caring responsibilities at home, for example, a change in family dynamics, bullying and friendship difficulties at school, pressure to achieve in schoolwork and exams, or moving from primary school to secondary school.

#### PATTERNS OF ABSENCE

You may notice patterns in regular absences or children regularly expressing that they don't want to attend school (particularly during school holidays or on school days). It's a child or young person's behaviour. There is some evidence to suggest there are more reports of school life which can cause distress such as changes in the environment, changes of routine and sensory stimuli.

#### COMPLAINTS ABOUT PHYSICAL SYMPTOMS

There may be an increase in a child or young person's complaints about physical symptoms, particularly on school days or the evening before school. These could include complaining of aching aches, headaches, or waking the bed when there doesn't appear to be a medical cause. Always check with the GP first to rule out medical causes or illness.

### IMPACT OF SCHOOL AVOIDANCE

#### LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

School avoidance can negatively impact a young person's learning and development. Absence from school can impact on the child's social, emotional and mental health and the growth of children and young people as citizens.

#### LONG-TERM OUTCOMES

The difficulties associated with school non-attendance can be long-lasting and may have long-term impacts on long-term educational attainment. For example, lead to reduced future opportunities, limited academic progress and restricted employment opportunities.

#### CYCLE OF ABSENCE

Consistent absences may contribute to a continued school avoidance over time. As a result, the longer a child is out of education, the more likely it is that there is a risk to their ongoing need to avoid the activity which is making them anxious - increasing their desire to stay at home.

### Advice for Parents & Educators

#### WORK TOGETHER

If there's a concern about a child's absence and emotional wellbeing, it's important that there is clear communication and a consistent approach between the child's parents and the school, so you can take a child-centred approach together towards a plan of support or reintegration. This ensures a consistency of approach from both home and school, creating better outcomes for the child.

#### FOLLOW REGULAR ROUTINES

Children can benefit from a regular and consistent routine. This could be a morning routine, from waking up and having breakfast through to getting dressed, packing their bag and leaving the house. A consistent evening routine which is calm and limited time on screens can also give children much needed predictability and consistency. Schools can help create a timetable routine for the child's school day required.

#### MANAGING OVERWHELMING FEELINGS

While there may be times you feel frustrated or angry, try to stay calm, acknowledge the child's worries, listen and discuss a range of coping strategies together to help them face the discomfort and overwhelming feelings. These could include mindfulness, deep breathing or going for a walk and practice the strategies in less overwhelming situations first.

#### REDUCE STIMULATING ACTIVITIES AT HOME

If a child is avoiding school, reduce their access to more stimulating activities (such as watching television, playing games and spending time with friends) during school hours, where possible. This reduces the potential for the child having rewarding experiences at home, which could be interpreted as a positive aspect of avoiding school.

**Meet Our Expert**

With 30 years experience as a teacher, trainer, consultant and interim executive board member, Anna Barman has a superb understanding of what works in practice, school improvement and leadership. She has also advised the Department for Education on their mental health green paper.

Source: See full reference list on guide page at [thenationalcollege.com/guide/school-avoidance](https://thenationalcollege.com/guide/school-avoidance)

[@wake\\_up\\_weds](#)
[/www.thenationalcollege](#)
[@wake.up.wednesday](#)
[@wake.up.weds](#)

Hampshire Parent Carer Network (HPCN) in partnership with Hampshire CAMHS are delivering monthly meetings across the County. For more dates and venues click here.

## FUTURE IN MIND PARENT PEER SUPPORT

# PARENTS & CARERS MEETINGS

31ST MAY  
2024

## Community

Please find our Raring2go! Summer magazine link below. It's full of things to do for families during the summer break,





# The Travelling Pantry

## What is it?

The Travelling Pantry provides a helping hand to make everyone's budget go further by providing a selection of fresh and packaged food.

## How does it work?

Food in the mobile pantry is either grown, surplus, donated or purchased food through funding.

This food is then sorted and placed into the Pantry for families and individuals to select for a small cost of £5 for up to twelve items.



## LOCATIONS & TIMES

**Lockerly Memorial Hall,**  
SO51 0JG  
**Tuesdays 11am- 12pm**

**Kings Somborne Hall, SO20 6PP**  
**Wednesdays 9:30am - 11:30am**

**Stockbridge Primary School**  
SO20 6EJ (no parking at school)  
**Fridays 9:30am - 11:30am**

## CONTACT US:

☎ 03304 004 116

✉ [info@unityonline.org.uk](mailto:info@unityonline.org.uk)

Bus Station, West Street,  
Andover SP10 1QP

**[www.unityonline.org.uk](http://www.unityonline.org.uk)**

Registered Charity no: 1061655



# FREE Family Fun Day



## BULA FESTIVAL

Join us for a day of free family orientated fun, Saturday 3rd August. There will be live rugby, local food and drink vendors, stalls and many other offerings to create a truly vibrant festival atmosphere.

Learn more about your Army and how you can get involved as well as the opportunities available.

**03 August 10 AM - 9 PM**

Queens Avenue  
playing field  
Aldershot, GU11 2JN

### Activities:

- Rugby
- Live music
- Amusements
- Hang tough
- Helicopter
- Plus more



Scan here to learn more about the Army

Get your **FREE** Tickets here:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/bula-festival-uk-24-tickets-929058588247>



Summer Reading Challenge 2024  
Delivered in partnership with libraries



Hampshire  
County Council

Library Service

# Marvellous Makers



This summer we need volunteers in  
our libraries to help us run the  
Summer Reading Challenge!

It's great fun and very rewarding – if you're aged 14+  
please speak to a member of staff or scan the code to  
find out more and apply:



THE  
READING  
AGENCY

Celebrating  
creativity

CREATE  
ARTS PROGRAM

Illustrations by Natelle Quek and logo artwork by Lizzie Everard. All © The Reading Agency 2024



@hantslibraries

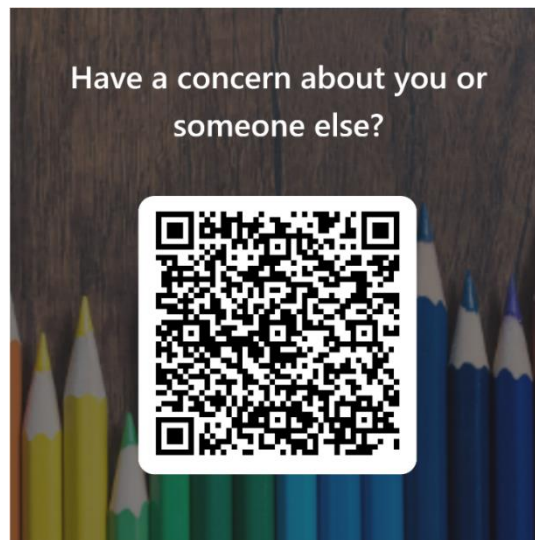
[hants.gov.uk/library](https://hants.gov.uk/library)

## Other Events

### Annual "Trout n About" street festival in Stockbridge

This year it'll be held on **Sunday August 4th**. The whole of the High St will be filled with artisan food, drink, crafts etc. And there is a Festival Field which has music, children's activities, circus skills, face painters etc food trucks and a picnic area.

## Pupil Anonymous Reporting Function



***At Test Valley we are committed to building an engaging inclusive environment where success and excellence is experienced by all. We will achieve this by ensuring:***

### **KINDNESS**

We always show care, respect and consideration for each other. Test Valley is a warm, welcoming and safe place for all.

### **RESILIENCE**

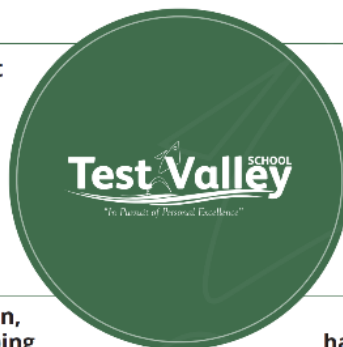
We show courage by not giving in, challenging ourselves, stepping out of our comfort zones and not fearing failure.

### **EXCELLENCE**

We are relentlessly determined to strive for the best in all we do; developing excellent learning habits which help us to grow.

### **EMPOWERMENT**

We help pupils to evolve into happy, independent, knowledge rich citizens who have the skills to make a real difference in our ever changing world.



***In pursuit of personal excellence you must dream big work hard and make it happen.***