



Photos: Year 6s luggage labels writing, based on the plight of refugees

Welcome back to the last half term of the school year. Lots of events this term, listed on the diary dates with more to be added as the weeks progress. Of course, as the term progresses you will start to think about next academic year and that inevitably brings a few staffing changes. Firstly, congratulations to Miss Fradley in Squirrels class who is pregnant and will start her maternity leave in the Autumn, around early October. We will soon be saying goodbye to Mrs White who will be leaving us to undertake a different job in the NHS. She has been such a key member of staff for many years, working across the school and we will miss her very much but now is not really the time to reflect properly on her contribution. We will say goodbye just before the holidays.

**Road Closure – next Thursday**  
I received a letter yesterday notifying another road closure of Upham Street but this is short lived – only planned for one day – **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June – for 6 hours, though I do not have timings.** The closure will be towards Lower Upham so you will not be able to access school from the Winchester Road Direction. Timings are not very clear but I suggest you plan for the worst scenario and expect to need extra time.

**Transitions Already Started**  
This is the half term where thoughts start to turn to transition to new classes but whilst the children tend to think about this in July the reality is we've started to prepare them without them even knowing, particularly our youngest children. Year R have experienced wet playtimes in Squirrels Class all year to help them feel familiar with the class and also Year 1 children in particular. This week Mrs Sothcott, who will continue to work on Mondays in September in Squirrels Class, went into Year R to read them a story, just to start to build familiarity. Mrs Ford will do the same soon too. A number of these sorts of moments will happen over the coming weeks.

**Beautiful Words!**  
Year 6 children have been producing some amazing writing this week in the form of a prayer or poem on a luggage label, in preparation for the Cathedral Leavers Service. It was based around the plight of refugees with Paddington, as an example.

**A Welcome Back!**  
You will remember a few weeks ago I explained that our cook, Emma Pawling, left Chartwells Catering. Well, she returned this week! I often say Upham is a hard place to leave and this would seem to prove this!

**Year 6 Leavers Service**  
We would like to confirm when the Year 6 Leavers Service at Blessed Mary Church will be. On the diary dates published a year ago we followed the pattern from the last year and listed this on the last day of term but we feel it would work better on the penultimate day; we hope to use Tuesday 21 July 2026 at 9am. This will mean the last day itself won't have any pressure of events and can just be enjoyed by the children. I hope this change doesn't cause anybody any inconvenience or difficulty.

- Dates for your Diary:**
- Tues 16 June**– NSPCC workshops delivered to Year 2 and Badgers Class
  - Thurs 18 June** – Badgers Trip to Marwell
  - Fri 19 June** – FUS Quiz night
  - Tues 23 June** – Sept 26 YrR Stay and Play Visits
  - Thurs 25 June** – pm Sports Day (timings tbc)
  - Sat 27 June** – Upham Church Fete
  - Wed 1 July** – 1-2pm Yr6 Leavers service Portsmouth Cathedral
  - Thurs 2 July** – Reserve Sports Day
  - Thurs 2 July** – 10-11.30am YrR Sept 26 Morning Visit
  - Thurs 9 July** – 11-12 New YrR Sept 26 and current YrR & parents gathering
  - Fri 17 July** – 3.30pm Festival (details will follow)
  - Tues 21 July** – 9am Year 6 Leavers Service at Blessed Mary
  - Wed 22 July** – Year 6 Bell ringing at 3.30pm Last Day
  - Thurs 23 July** – Summer Holidays Start

- Check you haven't missed these communications this week:**
- **Tues** – Email to Badgers (Y5&6) re trip on 18<sup>th</sup> June
  - **Fri** – FUS order forms for Quiz Night & ice lollies

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