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Headteacher: Miss Melanie Spark, BA (Hons), NPQH

Whole School Newsletter – October 2026

Message from Miss Spark

What a wonderful and busy half-term it has been across the school! It has been a real pleasure to see the children embracing their learning, enjoying new experiences and making such positive progress. I have been particularly impressed by how well the children have adapted to new routines and expectations. They have settled into the school year beautifully, demonstrating growing confidence, independence and enthusiasm in all aspects of school life.

There has been so much to celebrate across our year groups. From Year 3's exploration of the work of Stephen Wiltshire and their geographical discoveries, to Year 4's creative Cubist sculptures inspired by Picasso, the children have approached their learning with curiosity and imagination. Year 5 have truly reached for the stars with their exciting space topic, combining scientific investigation, artistic creativity and teamwork. Meanwhile, Year 6 have been immersed in their Victorian learning and have returned from their residential to the Isle of Wight with wonderful memories, having demonstrated resilience, independence and fantastic team spirit.

It is lovely to see such a rich variety of learning experiences taking place across the school. It has also been particularly exciting to welcome and show around prospective new families from Year 2 as they begin to prepare for their transition into Year 3 next year.

Another highlight has been seeing children from across the school enjoying our new library. It is wonderful to see the space being used so enthusiastically, with children exploring new books, sharing recommendations and finding quiet moments to enjoy reading. We hope it will continue to inspire a lifelong love of books and stories.

As always, I would like to thank our dedicated staff for the care, commitment and creativity they bring to school every day, and our parents and carers for their continued support and partnership. It was wonderful to see so many of you attending our recent Parents Evening. It is through working together that we create such positive opportunities for our children. I hope you all enjoy a restful and enjoyable break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back for another exciting half-term of learning, discovery and new experiences!

Freegrounds Junior School

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We are looking for donations to enhance our manipulative play areas and outdoor learning.

Our community can help make our school a better place with better opportunities for our children to play outside.
Outdoor learning is a key priority for us!

We are looking for:


Logs


Branches for den building


Tyres


Cable drums


Planks


Guttering


Tubing


Metal saucepans, frying pans and utensils for our mud kitchen


Hardwearing crates that can be stood on


Tarpaulin


Plastic or metal storage such as Keter storage containers or sheds


A new mud kitchen
(if you are able to build one)


A welly boot stand
(if you are able to build one)

All items must be in a good state of repair.

Together we can create an even better outdoor space for our children!

Thank you for your support!

Freegrounds Junior School

Aspire • Believe • Achieve

Freegrounds Junior School's Festive Fayre

Wednesday 16th December
3:30pm - 5:30pm



Games



Stalls



Refreshments



Storytime with Santa



Musical Performances

Free Entry

Freegrounds Junior School's Festive Fayre

We are excited to be hosting our festive fayre which we hope will provide an enjoyable event for our families and raise vital funds to enhance the experiences for all children who attend our school. The event can only be successful with your help. We understand that it is a busy and expensive time of year, but if you are able to donate one or more of the items below, we would be incredibly grateful, as every donation contributes to the event's success.

We Need Your Festive Fayre Donations!

Our School Festive Fayre

Wednesday 16th December

3:30 - 5:30

Donations will be collected on the playground on the mornings of the following dates:

4th November



Wrapped sweets
(including chew bars, small packs of Haribo and other wrapped treats)

18th November

All donations on this day are for the **TOMBOLA**

Year 3 & 4
Toiletries



Year 5 & 6
Packet or tinned food



2nd December



Bottle donations
(soft drinks or alcohol)

16th December



Cakes
(home made or bought)

(Home made cakes must have ingredient label and we are a nut free school)



Nut Free School



We would also appreciate donations of brand new, unused toys, games or books.

These can be bought in at any time before the Fayre.

SEND News: Working together to support your child



The SENCO at school is Mrs Robinson
The role of the SENCO is to oversee and coordinate provision across the school to ensure children with additional needs get the help they need.



SEND Register Update For parents and carers of children on our SEND register, a letter was sent home last week with an update on how we support your child in school. We hope you found this helpful and informative.

SENCO Appointments at Parents' Evenings Moving forward, there will be an opportunity at each parents' evening to book an appointment with our SENCO, **Mrs Robinson**.

We introduced these appointments for the first time last week, and it was lovely to meet with those of you who signed up. These conversations provided a valuable opportunity to discuss wider SEND-related questions and talk through any queries about your child's needs and support.

We look forward to continuing these conversations throughout the year.

Parent SEND Support and EHCP Information Sessions We have arranged two information sessions to help parents and carers learn more about SEND support in our school. Our first session took place on Wednesday 21st October and provided an opportunity to explore what SEND support looks like in a mainstream junior school.

Our next session, after half term, is aimed at parents and carers of children with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). We will discuss the support you can expect for your child and provide an opportunity to ask questions.

EHCP Parent Information Session If you haven't booked your place yet, please use the link below:

- EHCP Parent Session - Tuesday 3rd November, 9:00–9:45am
  https://forms.gle/pkPCDPrbACTdMEBy8

SENCO Parent/Carer Surgery From next half term, we will be offering a SENCO surgery once every half term, giving parents and carers the opportunity to book a slot with Mrs Robinson to discuss any concerns or questions about their child.

These appointments are open to families of children already on the SEND register, as well as those who may be noticing new or emerging difficulties.

You might find a meeting helpful if you would like to:

- Find out more about the support and services available to families in Hampshire
- Discuss any referrals or assessments that are underway.
- Talk through new concerns about your child's learning, communication or emotional wellbeing.

As always, please speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance. They know your child best and can work with you to identify any concerns. These will be recorded on an early monitoring form or your child's SEND plan, where appropriate.

Booking information for the SENCO surgery will be shared soon.

SEND Plans – Edukey Provision Maps Parents and carers who attended parents' evening last week should have received a copy of their child's SEND plan.

We will also be emailing a letter with individual login details so that you can access your child's plan online through **Edukey Provision Map**. This online system allows us to record, monitor and review the support in place for children with SEND, helping us to keep track of their progress and ensure their needs are being met.

Family Support Coordinator – Michelle Brightwell



Our SENCO and Family Support Coordinator, Michelle Brightwell, work closely together to support children and their families. They can share information; help you explore the support available and signpost you to relevant services across Hampshire.

If you feel your family would benefit from some additional help or guidance, please don't hesitate to speak to Michelle. We are always happy to help you find the right support.

Useful SEND Websites:

Hampshire Local Offer: Hampshire SEND Local Offer | Health and social care | Hampshire County Council

Hampshire SENDIASS: Hampshire SENDIASS - Special Educational Needs Support

Hampshire Parent Carer Network (HPCN): Hampshire Parent and Carer Network | about-us

Freegrounds Junior School: Freegrounds Junior School - SEND

Freegrounds Junior School - Family Support Coordinator

Hampshire CAMHS: Home :: Hampshire CAMHS

Friends of Freegrounds Junior School (FoFJS)

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Our PTA, Friends of Freegrounds Junior School, are holding their AGM on Tuesday 3rd November 2026, at 7:00pm. This will be an online event, and further details with the online link will be sent out nearer the time. The meeting will include a review of the past year, discussion about upcoming plans and the election of new committee members. We would like to welcome new faces and encourage everyone to attend.

Rotary shoebox appeal

Thank you to everyone who donated a shoe box gift to the Wessex Rotary Shoe box appeal. We are delighted to have sent 14 shoe box packages to children who need them.



Harvest Donations

Thank you so much to everybody who kindly donated to the food bank as part of our harvest celebrations. They were thrilled with the amount of donations. Well done to Winston who collected The most as part of our inter-house competition.

TESCO Community Grant

There is still time to support the school during your visit to any of the following TESCO stores:

2156 Burseldon Towers Extra SO31 8GN
5141 Hedge End Tanhouse Lane Express SO30 0UG
5618 Hedge End Express SO30 2US

Don't forget to ask for a blue token and pop it in the box to vote for our Outdoor Learning Project.



Voting closes at the end of November 2026.

Thank you for your support!



Year 3

This month in **Art**, we explored the work of **Stephen Wiltshire**. Working in teams, the children took part in a memory challenge where they carefully observed a landscape image, memorised key features and then recreated it together on large sheets of paper outside.





In **Geography**, we learnt about the four countries of the United Kingdom and discovered key facts about England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. We explored the major ports of the UK and created our own boats, placing them on a large map to show where goods and people travel around the country. We also investigated the national parks of the United Kingdom and designed informative posters to share what we had learnt about these special landscapes.

In **RE**, we were fortunate to welcome **Rev Phil** into school. He taught us all about the Bible, including how it is divided into the **Old Testament** and the **New Testament**. The children were fascinated to learn that parts of the Bible were originally written in **Hebrew**, and they enjoyed asking questions and deepening their understanding of this important sacred text.



To celebrate our learning, we held a fantastic **Fab Finish** event where we invited parents and carers into school. The children proudly shared their artwork and geography projects before enjoying a selection of traditional snacks from across the UK, including Welsh cakes from Wales, scones from England, shortbread from Scotland and cheese and onion crisps from Northern Ireland.





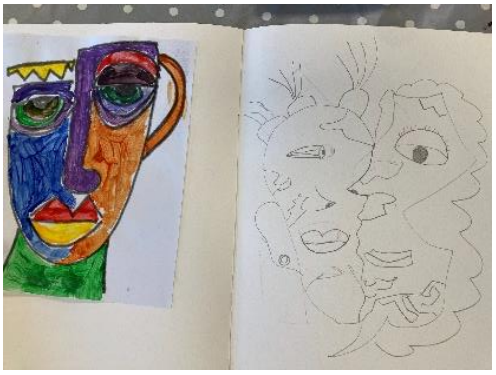
Year 4

Year 4 have been exploring the work of the famous artist Pablo Picasso and learning about the Cubism art movement. They discovered how Picasso used shapes, lines and different viewpoints to represent faces in unusual and creative ways. Inspired by his work, the children designed and created their own 3D Cubist faces, experimenting with shape, colour and form to bring their artwork to life. The children showed fantastic creativity and imagination, producing unique sculptures inspired by Picasso's distinctive style.













Pine Class had a fantastic time making their own pizzas earlier this week! The children enjoyed preparing and chopping a variety of ingredients before adding their favourite toppings to create their delicious pizzas. The excitement continued as they proudly shared their creations with the adults at the fabulous finish. It was a wonderful opportunity to develop practical skills, build confidence and enjoy spending time together. Beech class are looking forward to making their own pizzas later this week!

In Geography, the children have been busy researching a river of their choice and preparing to present their findings in a documentary style. They have been developing their research and presentation skills while learning fascinating facts about their chosen European rivers, including their features, locations and importance. We look forward to seeing them bring their learning to life as they share their knowledge and become confident young geographers.

Year 5

Year 5 continued to enjoy our ‘Out of this world topic’. In Science, we worked well as a team to build our own heliocentric models, carefully ordering the planets according to their distance from the Sun. We also researched each planet and created fact cards to share what we had learnt. We went on to explore the eight phases of the Moon, discover what causes day and night, and investigate how gravitational force keeps the planets in orbit around the Sun.





In Art, we have created fantastic compositions of planets, using chalk to give them a 3D effect. We previously completed our astronaut line drawings against a galaxy background. We produced some brilliant finished pieces, which will be displayed around the school.





During PE, we developed our golf skills by practising our grip and swing, as well as learning how to perform different types of shots, including chips and putts.





In Maths, we have covered a range of topics, including place value, addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. In English, we have finished publishing our ghost poetry and have now moved on to writing our own ghost stories. We are using our five senses and ambitious vocabulary to create an eerie, suspenseful atmosphere that will keep our readers on the edge of their seats!

Finally, in Computing, we put our coding skills to the test by creating interactive quizzes on Scratch. We used coding options such as if/else blocks to make our quizzes respond to different answers, letting players know whether they were correct or incorrect. Once completed, we enjoyed testing our quizzes with our peers and evaluating how well they worked!

We are looking forward to continue learning next half-term, all about our new topic ‘Rivers’!

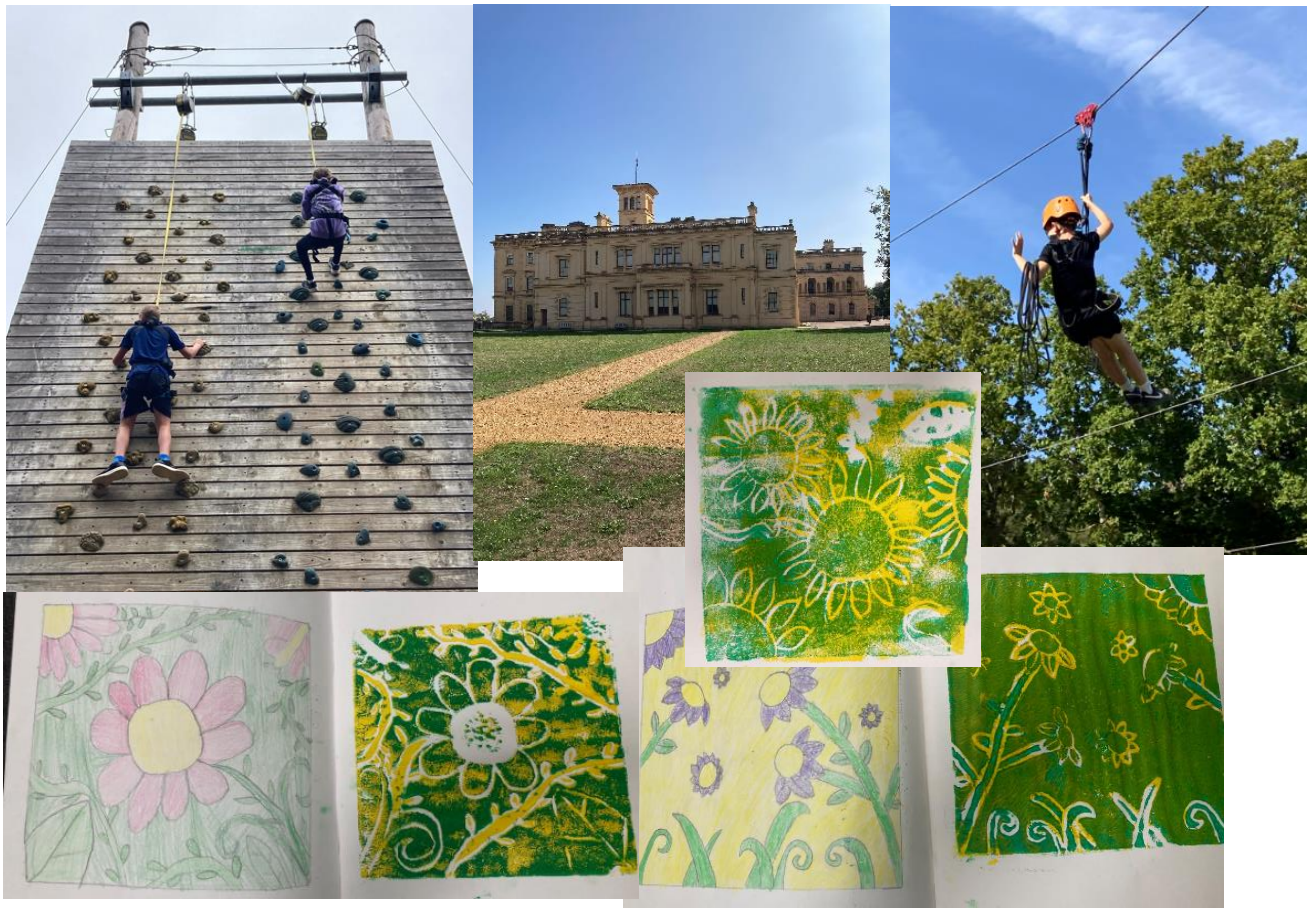
Year 6

Year 6 have had a very busy half term learning about the Victorians, writing fantastic stories about escaped creatures, applying their mathematical skills to larger numbers and of course their amazing residential to the Isle of Wight.

We have enjoyed combining our Art and History learning about William Morris to make some fantastic multi-layer prints. We have been so impressed with the results, that we are planning a Christmas surprise in the same printing style.

In History, we have learnt all about the Industrial revolution and considered how the legacy of the inventions made during this time are still evident today. The children concluded their learning by holding a debate and writing a paragraph answer to the question - Why is the Industrial Revolution a turning point in British history? We were really impressed with how the children were able to see both points of view in terms of the positives of modernisation and efficiency of new machinery compared to the negatives of increased crime rates, working conditions and pollution of the environment.

Our residential to the Isle of Wight began with a visit to Osborne house, home to Queen Victoria, where the children asked insightful questions to members of staff, looked at items in the museum with respect and curiosity and walked the grounds exploring the ancient woodlands. Once at the Little Canada site, the children demonstrated resilience, team work and independence in abundance. Highlights of the visit included all children donning wetsuits and taking to the water in kayaks, dragon boat racing against each other and our night time muddy adventures in the sensory trail. Staff and children had a fantastic time and came home with not only lots of dirty washing but great memories.



Freegrounds Junior School
Christmas Dates

TUESDAY 1st DECEMBER	6pm – Carol Service at St John's Church, Hedge End
WEDNESDAY 2nd DECEMBER	Elfridges PTA Christmas Shopping event
WEDNESDAY 9th DECEMBER	9:15am – Year 3 and 4 Christmas Performance
THURSDAY 10th DECEMBER	(Times TBC) – Rock 2 the Beat concerts
FRIDAY 11th DECEMBER	2:00pm – Year 3 and 4 Christmas Performance
MONDAY 14th DECEMBER	2:00pm – Year 5 and 6 Christmas Performance
TUESDAY 15th DECEMBER	9:15am – Year 5 and 6 Christmas Performance
WEDNESDAY 16th DECEMBER	3:30pm – Freegrounds Junior School's Festive Fayre
THURSDAY 17th DECEMBER	Christmas Jumper Day (£2 donation to Cash4Kids South Coast) & Christmas Lunch Day
FRIDAY 18th DECEMBER	Christmas PJ Day

Festive Fayre Donation Dates

4th NOVEMBER
Wrapped sweets

18th NOVEMBER
Toiletry items and tinned/packet food

2nd DECEMBER
Bottles
(soft drink or alcohol)

16th DECEMBER
Cakes
(shop bought or homemade)

Thank you!

A magical Christmas together at Freegrounds Junior School

Diary Dates

Friday 23rd October – **INSET DAY**

Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October- **HALF TERM**

Monday 2nd November- **BACK TO SCHOOL**

Monday 2nd November-Wednesday 4th November- Year 6 Bikeability

Tuesday 3rd November- Year 3 trip to Butser Ancient Farm

Thursday 5th November- Year 5 Larch Class Beaulieu river trip

Friday 6th November- Pupil Voice trip to the Houses of Parliament (invite only)

Monday 9th November- Year 5 Willow Class Beaulieu river trip

Thursday 12th November- Year 5 Wessex River Trust visiting school

Friday 13th November- Year 5 Cedar Class Beaulieu river trip

Friday 13th November- FoFJS School Disco (Years 3/4- 4:30pm-5:40pm)
(Years 5/6- 5:50pm-7:00pm)

Tuesday 24th November- Year 4 trip to Winchester Museum and Great Hall

Friday 27th November- **INSET DAY**

Wednesday 2nd December- FoFJS Elfridges Christmas Shopping event

Wednesday 9th December- Year 3 & 4 Christmas Performance 9:15am-10:15am

Thursday 10th December- Rock 2 the Beat concerts (Times TBC)

Friday 11th December- Year 3 & 4 Christmas Performance 2:00pm-3:00pm

Monday 14th December- Year 5 & 6 Christmas Performance 2:00pm-3:00pm

Tuesday 15th December- Year 5 & 6 Christmas Performance 9:15am-10:15am

Wednesday 16th December- Freegrounds' Festive Fayre 3:30pm-5:30pm

Thursday 17th December- Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas Lunch
(£2 cash donation to Cash4Kids South Coast)



Friday 18th December- Festive PJ Day (Children invited to wear festive PJ's to school)

LAST DAY OF TERM

Monday 21st December – Friday 1st January- **CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS**

Monday 4th January- **INSET DAY**

Tuesday 5th January- **BACK TO SCHOOL- SPRING TERM**

Friday 22nd January- Year 6 height and weight check (school nursing team)

Tuesday 2nd February- Young Voices at the o2

ICON Holiday Camp



University of Southampton

Explore human experience

Arts and Humanities Day

Saturday 14th November 2026

→ 10:30 – 16:30

→ Southampton Cultural Quarter

Free activities, workshops, talks, exhibitions, and live performances.

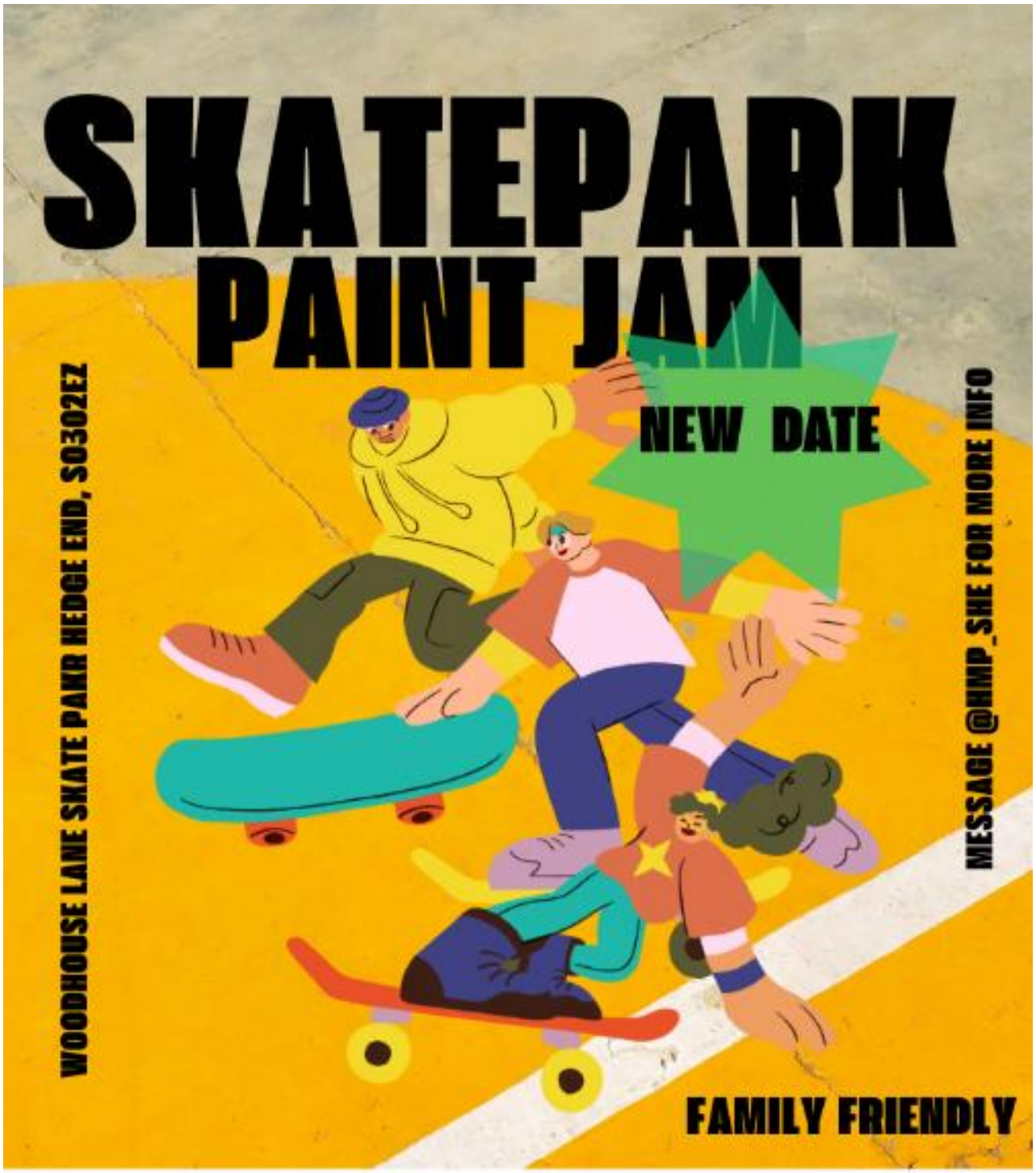


Book your free tickets

www.southamptonartshumfest.co.uk

#UoSArtsHumFest

SKATEPARK PAINT JAM



THE PUBLIC ARE INVITED TO WATCH THE SKATE PARK PAINT JAM

25.10.26 10AM-4PM

SUPPORTED BY

HEDGE·END TOWN COUNCIL

LOOKUP

A PLACE FOR PERFORMERS OF ALL AGES

NV PERFORMANCE UK

Be Seen. Be Heard. Be You.

CONFIDENCE CREATIVITY OPPORTUNITY BELONGING



NORTH STONEHAM

PERFORMANCE CLASSES

ACTING | VOCAL | MOVEMENT | CONFIDENCE | FRIENDSHIPS | OPPORTUNITIES

JUNIORS
(7–12)

6:30 – 7:30 PM

- Build Confidence
- Acting, Vocal & Movement
- Make New Friends
- Performance Opportunities

TEENS
(13–18)

7:45 – 8:45 PM

- Develop Skills
- Performance Training
- Creative Expression
- Boost Confidence
- Opportunities

ADULTS
(18+)

LAUNCHING JANUARY 2027

- Reignite Your Passion
- Build Confidence
- Develop Performance Skills
- Be Part of a Supportive Community
- All Abilities Welcome

FRIDAY
20TH NOVEMBER 2026
INTRODUCTORY SESSION

£15 PP

YMCA, NORTH STONEHAM
Whieldon Wy, Eastleigh SO50 9SB, UK

nvperformanceuk@gmail.com | 07443 433875

★ CONFIDENCE | ★ CREATIVITY | ★ OPPORTUNITY | ★ BELONGING