

July 2024

Start small, grow tall

# Light Years News



## A message from the Headteacher – Sarah Alden

As we come to the end of our first year I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all, parents, carers, children and staff. It has been wonderful to share the journey so far with you and I feel privileged to have had the opportunity to see all of the children flourish since joining us.

It has been a busy first year and the children have enjoyed some wonderful experiences with lots of firsts! There has been Light Years' first school trip which saw the children visit the Science Centre in Winchester. A number of visitors have been into school, including the local Police, Fire Service, Zoolab and a beekeeper! Theme days have been met with great excitement and have included MFL day, world book day and Euros day, to name a few. The children have excelled at their learning opportunities and as a staff we have celebrated many of their achievements over the year. We are all really proud of them all.

Our first Year 6 children will be leaving us next week and we wish them well as they continue to grow taller on their education journey, we are sure that they will continue to thrive as they leave Light Years School.

As you are aware we recently had our own visitors. OFSTED spent three days in our school looking closely at all we do for our children and I would like to say a big thank you for all of your kind messages of support and for all of your support in making our school community so special! I look forward to sharing the report with you when we have it. The process takes several weeks and as we are so close to the end of term we are not expecting this until September.

Finally I would like to wish you all a restful and safe summer holiday and we look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Tuesday 3rd September 2024.



Start Small, Grow Tall



# Light Years News

## Our first school trips!



On the 17th June, we had our first Light Years school trip which was a huge success. The children loved our visit to the Winchester Science Center and engaged well in a hands-on workshop. We are so proud of the children's behaviour, they represented the school brilliantly! Thank you to the adult volunteers who joined in on the fun!



To celebrate the end of a very successful time at Light Years, our Year 6 children went on a trip to Paulton's Park with their key adults!

The children (and adults!) had a brilliant day exploring the theme park. It was a brilliant way to round off a brilliant journey at Light Years School!

# Light Years News

## Our Staff Team is Growing Taller!



**MEET  
TAYLOR**



*Taylor will be teaching  
Jupiter Class.*



**MEET  
LUCY**



*Lucy will be teaching  
Saturn Class.*



**MEET  
VICKY**



*Vicky will be teaching  
Saturn Class.*



**MEET  
JUSTINE**



*Justine will be working  
with lots of children.*

# Light Years News

## Our Staff Team is Growing Taller!



**MEET KATE**




*Kate will be working with lots of children.*




**MEET LAUREN**



*Lauren will be working with lots of children.*











**MEET TEGAN**



*Tegan will be working with lots of children.*

 We  are so excited  to have  some  new,  friendly  faces  joining

 us  in  September!  We  have  sent  out  some more

 information  on  our  'meet the  team'  document  with  some  fun

 facts  about  our  new  adults!



Start Small, Grow Tall

# Light Years News

## Sports Day at Light Years School

On Thursday 18th July, we celebrated our first Sports Day at Light Years School. The children participated in sporting activities, with parents/ carers joining us for a picnic lunch afterwards. Well done to our sporting stars!



## Emergency Services Day

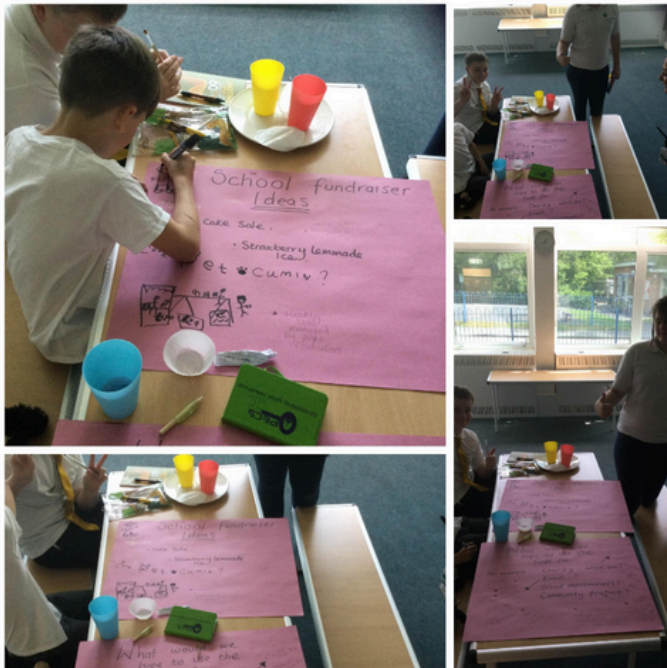
This term, we had a visit from both the local fire and police departments as part of our Personal Development curriculum. We recognise how important it is to teach our children how to keep safe, and planned this opportunity to share with the children how each service can help us.

The children absolutely loved the visits and especially enjoyed trying on police and fire uniform! One child even invited PC Tom to his birthday party in August. PC Tom has shared that he will visit again in September or October, bringing the police wagon with him next time. We can't wait! Thank you for coming to visit us!



# Light Years News

## School Council at Light Years School



As usual, our school council have been very busy! In May, they attended a meeting to mind map fundraising ideas before sharing them with our Headteacher, Sarah in June. They then met to pick their chosen charity which was Harbour Cancer Support who offer practical and emotional support for anyone affected by cancer.

The first Light Years fundraising event was held on Friday 19th July, with the children all contributing by making key rings, sweet treats and running stalls. The day was a huge success!

We are so proud of our children for contributing to the wider community, raising money and thinking of others.

We managed to raise an amazing £82 for Harbour Cancer Support!



# Light Years News



## Euros Day at Light Years School



To celebrate the beginning of the European World Cup, we held a 'Euros Day' at Light Years where the children experienced many different activities such as decorating biscuits, creating their own trophies and role playing a football match. We even had our own Light Years sweepstake!

The children came to school in either football kits or athletic gear, ready to 'workout like a footballer' in PE!

We also discussed how important it is to encourage others. What a brilliant day!

## Attendance update...

Over the holidays, please revisit the Light Years School Attendance policy as this offers guidance to parents and carers and sets out our expectations for all pupils.

Our aim is to support families and pupils with achieving and maintaining positive attendance and punctuality to ensure that all pupils are given every opportunity to experience success, whilst getting the most out of school. There are 365 days in the year and 190 days in the school year. If we take the days in school away from the days in the year, we see that for 175 days children are at home with their parents. If a child takes leave of absence during term time, 10 school days, attendance starts to fall to only 180 days in school. If the child is then ill for 5 or more days in a year, they start to be at home more than they are in school.





# Light Years News

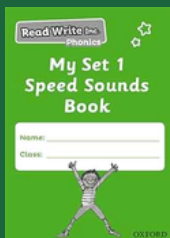
## Reading at Home over Summer



My name is Carrie Ann and I am the Librarian here at Light Years School! I monitor reading records and help the children change their books to make sure they have rich, engaging texts to share at home!

There are many ways to support your child's reading over the summer holidays. Our trusted scheme, Read-Write-Inc, call the holidays 'six weeks to make a difference'. Here are some suggestions:

### Phonics booklets



### E-book Library



### Visit your local library



### Read for pleasure



### Read to your child



### Watch virtual classroom films



# Light Years News

As we come to the end of our first year, I'd like to take this opportunity to reflect on the amazing journey the school community has been on together. It is amazing to think that this time last year, we were still busy finishing off the preparation ready for our first cohort of pupils, families and staff to join in September!

Welcoming pupils, parents, families and staff through the door for the first time ever was a privilege. It was a super exciting and daunting time for everyone involved. However, staff quickly settled into routine and the pupils started to feel safe, secure and nurtured in school again.

Since that moment, all of our pupils have made huge progress in their learning and their confidence. They have all achieved some amazing things this year. A highlight has been seeing their progress in reading. Pupils that couldn't read with confidence before, now read with pride in school and at home. Similarly, seeing pupil's resilience grow through our Personal Development provision has been brilliant. It has been wonderful to see pupils' trying new experiences and overcome previous barriers to learning.

I would like to thank all pupils, parents and families for all their hard work, support and kind words during this first year of opening. You really are the foundation of our school community.

Furthermore, I would like to thank all the staff who work at Light Years School for their efforts in making pupils feel safe in education again. For all their hard work in building a curriculum that has already transformed the lives of the children who attend Light Years.

Have a great holiday and please stay safe over the summer. I am already looking forward to welcoming you all back in September!

**A message from the Founder & CEO of Light Years Education - Dan Tresman**



## We have introduced sensory tuff trays!

We know our children love anything sensory! As always, we have listened to the children's pupil voice and have introduced sensory tuff trays that are set up on a daily basis. We would like to say a huge thank you to Carrie Ann who has come up with some incredible ideas for our sensory play. The children have loved having a calming, sensory option during break and lunch times.





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# SIGNPOSTING SUPPORT

# LIGHT YEARS SCHOOL

**AUTISM HAMPSHIRE**




Information and advice for adults, young people and children on the autism spectrum. Free of charge.  
Call 02380 766162 or  
[information.advice@autismhampshire.org.uk](mailto:information.advice@autismhampshire.org.uk)  
[www.autismhampshire.org.uk](http://www.autismhampshire.org.uk)

**HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT SUPPORT FOR NEURODIVERSE FAMILIES**



Tier 2 CAMHS service which provides skills building programmes for parent/carers who have children aged 3 - 17 years.  
Contact Call 01489 799178 or email [neurodiversefamilies@barnardos.co.uk](mailto:neurodiversefamilies@barnardos.co.uk)

**SHOUT**



Confidential 24/7 crisis text support for times when someone is feeling anxious, stressed or overwhelmed. Contact Text 'SHOUT' to 85258 (free 24/7 text service) [www.giveusashout.org](http://www.giveusashout.org)

**FAMILY LIVES**



Description - Free, confidential and non-judgemental emotional support, advice, information and guidance on any aspect of parenting and family life to all family members.  
Contact Family Lives Helpline 0808 800 2222 (Monday - Friday 09:00 - 21:00 and Saturday - Sunday 10:00 - 15:00) Family Lives email [askus@familylives.org.uk](mailto:askus@familylives.org.uk) (emails are answered between 09:00 - 19:00 Monday - Friday)  
Family Lives Live Chat [www.familylives.org.uk](http://www.familylives.org.uk) (Monday - Friday 10:30 - 21:00)  
<https://www.familylives.org.uk/how-we-can-help>

# STAYING SAFE OVER THE HOLIDAYS

Above, you will find some helpful agencies to contact if you are in need of any additional support over the summer holidays. You will find other helpful information on our school website.

**The Light Years Team**

July 2024

Start small, grow tall

# Our Term Gallery



Thank you to all the children, parents and carers and wider community for another fantastic term at Light Years. We have had the most amazing first year of operation and would like to thank you for your continued support. We can't wait to welcome you back in September.

# Summer Term Dates

## Key dates:

### Autumn Term

Monday 2nd September - **INSET Day**

Tuesday 3rd September - **Children are welcomed back**

Monday 7th October - **INSET Day**

Thursday 17th October - **Parents Consultations**

Friday 25th October - **Last day of term**

Monday 4th November - **Children are welcomed back**

Friday 20th December - **Last day of term**

### Spring Term

Monday 6th January - **Children are welcomed back**

Friday 14th February - **Last day of term**

Monday 24th February - **Children are welcomed back**

Thursday 3rd April - **Mentoring Day**

Friday 4th April - **Last day of term**

### Summer Term

Tuesday 22nd April - **Children are welcomed back**

Friday 24th May - **Last day of term**

Monday 2nd June - **Children are welcomed back**

Monday 16th June - **INSET day**

Friday 18th July - **Last day of term**

Monday 21st July - **INSET Day**

Tuesday 22nd July - **INSET day**

