



Musdiffe Primary School May 2026 Newsletter



Forest School update

It was year 4's turn for some Forest School fun this half term, and what a lovely time we have had exploring, playing and learning in nature.

In week 1 they got stuck in straight away, making creatures, monsters and animals out of mud.

Next up was shelter building, where pupils used tarp, paracord, sticks and loose parts to build some great dens. We then tested to see if they were waterproof by chucking a bucket of water over them... most people managed to stay dry!

In the third week, we spoke about how different animals have homes which are specialised to help them survive. The children then used their imaginations to create some new habitats in the Forest School.



The next week was Sink or Float, so we tested different items to see what happened when you placed them in water. We discovered that limes sink but lemons float, because limes are denser than water! The children then had a challenge, to build a raft to float, but only using nature and a piece of string, some of them were so creative.



Forest School update

For tools week, the year 4's did some HapaZome, which involves pressing leaves/flowers into a piece of fabric, using a hammer. There are some beautiful examples shown below.



For the final week we will be marking sparks with a fire lighter and then roasting marshmallows around the campfire!

After school club children love free exploring; climbing trees, building dens and playing in the mud kitchen. They have had the opportunity to do fire lighting and some tool work, which included using hand drills to create necklaces and a watch!



Next half term it will be year 3 and year 6 taking part in Forest School sessions.



School: Muscliff Primary

During this club, children will develop their forest skills; shelter building, crafts, using tools, bug hunting, campfire cooking and have free exploring time. Each club is tailored to the children attending!

Day: Wednesday

Dates: 03/06/2026 - 08/07/2026

Time: 15.15 - 16.15

Club: Forest School

Year Group: YR - Y6

Cost Per Block: £30.00

All equipment will be provided.

10% Sibling Discount use **SIBLINGS in the voucher code box at the checkout**

BOOK ➡ <https://www.primary-forest-school.co.uk/bookings?tag=after-school-clubs&month=>

Please book via our website and not on your school's app (such as Arbor, ParentPay etc), places are only secured when booked and purchased through our website, please do not send your child to our club without receiving an order confirmation via email from orders@primary-forest-school.co.uk

Any issues with booking on our website or if you have further questions about the after-school club, please contact Rachel: admin@primary-forest-school.co.uk



EXPLORE LEARN GROW

What have we been up to this term?

RECEPTION

This half term in Rainbows we have been learning all about what it was like to be a knight and we have explored many other jobs that helped to run a castle.

The children have tried some knight training and explored painting outdoors in their let's explore time.

We really enjoyed inviting our parents in for a treasure hunt and loved performing our special bear hunt song to them too.

In math's we have been learning to recognise, count and order numbers up to and beyond 20 and have been learning to double numbers.

We have also begun to attend assembly on a Friday and have started to get our values certificates. Wow what a busy half term!



Year 1 have really enjoyed learning about the Little Gardener and the Extraordinary Gardener this half term. They have been exploring different types of common flowers and trees and learning the key parts, such as roots and buds.

YEAR 1

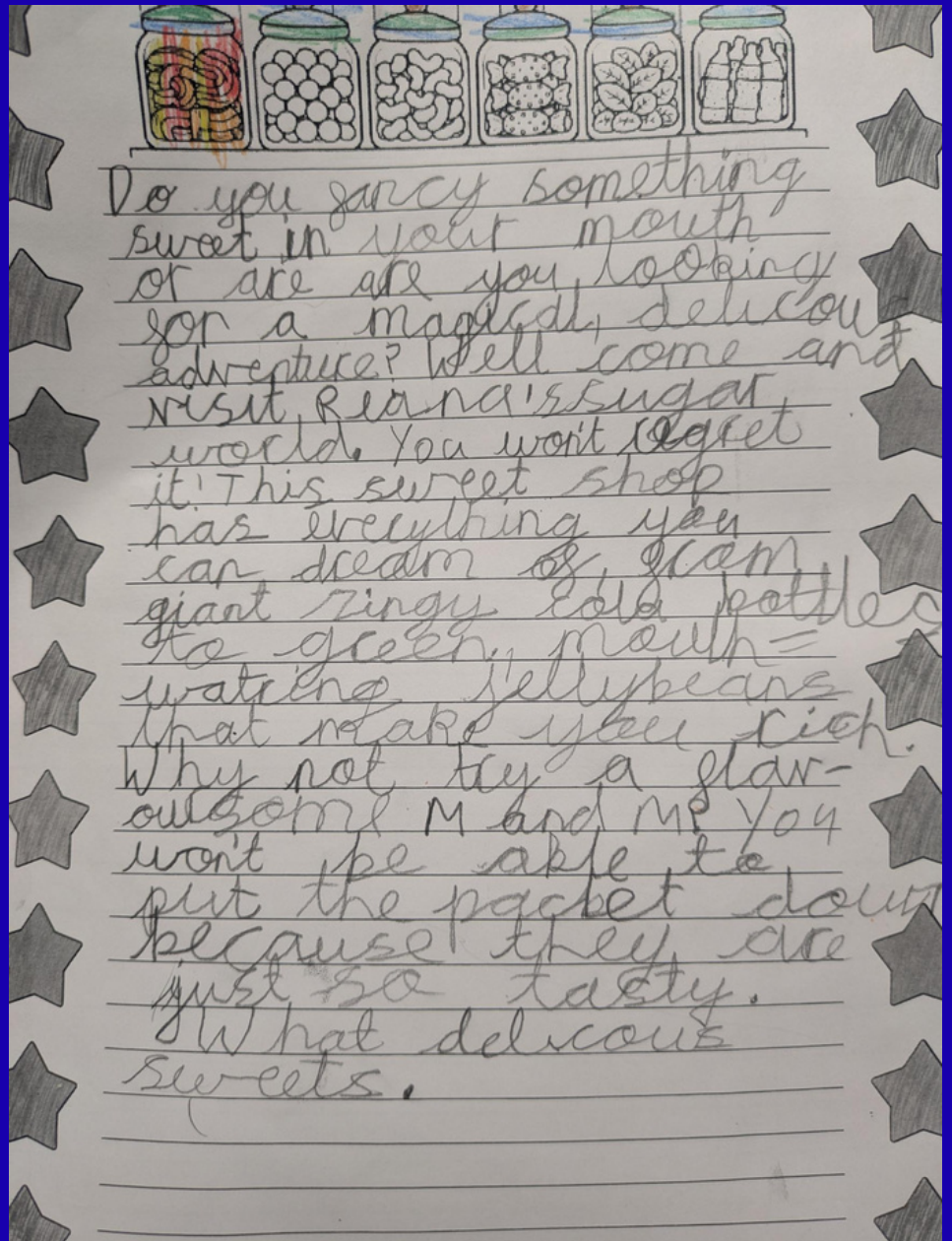
The children have been working hard on expanding their writing by using adjectives to add beautiful detail and even using 'and'. We were very lucky to have a visit from Urban Heath, where the children enjoyed making pongy potions, doing bark rubbings, making seed bombs and completing a scavenger hunt. We were so impressed by their listening skills and ability to follow directions - as were the visiting adults!



This half term, Year 2 children have thoroughly enjoyed exploring both traditional and twisted tales based on Jack and the Beanstalk, comparing characters, settings and story endings. The writing highlight came when children were tasked with persuading the reader to visit their sweet shop by using descriptive vocabulary and imaginative ideas. This was based on the story Jack and the JELLY Beanstalk!

YEAR 2

In the wider curriculum, children learnt about the history of the New Forest and discovered how it has changed over time whilst in science lessons, children explored plants and investigated what they need to grow and stay healthy.



In maths, the children have worked hard on new units including shape and fractions, developing their confidence in recognising shapes, finding fractions and explaining their mathematical thinking. We are very proud of all the children's hard work in what has been a very busy half term!

YEAR 3

Year 3 children have enjoyed being entrepreneurs using the lead text 'The accidental Billionaire'. This allowed them to develop their persuasive writing skills combine with their creativity to develop a marvellous machine that would make them millionaires.

The Author visit helped us to understand how to describe an invention so that it sounds exciting.

Fianlly, it was wonderful to get parents involved in our Dragon's Den pitch.



Year 4 have had a brilliant and busy half term filled with exciting opportunities to learn new skills and explore the world around them.

The children have really enjoyed starting their drumming lessons, where they have been practising keeping a steady rhythm, learning different patterns and beats and working together. It has been wonderful to see their confidence grow, although we apologise if you have noticed a few extra table tapping and leg slapping concerts happening at home too!

year 4



They have also loved taking part in Forest School sessions, making the most of the outdoors while learning in a hands on and engaging way. The children have enjoyed den building, safely using outdoor tools and collecting and identifying bugs and other natural treasures.

There has been plenty of mud, teamwork, laughter and a few very enthusiastic bug hunters along the way! These sessions have encouraged curiosity, resilience, and a deeper appreciation of nature, while giving everyone the chance to work collaboratively and have fun outside.

This half term, Year 5 have thrown themselves enthusiastically into lots of exciting new learning opportunities across the curriculum. In English, we began reading our new class text, *Wonder*, which follows the story of August as he joins a new school. The book has encouraged thoughtful discussions around kindness, individuality and embracing differences. We have also explored the importance of empathy and understanding that everyone may be facing challenges we cannot always see. The children have shown great maturity in their reflections and have really connected with the themes throughout the story.

YEAR 5

Across the curriculum, we have been learning about significant figures in American history, including Rosa Parks and Barack Obama, and how their actions helped shape the future of the country. The children were especially inspired when Mr Barton shared that he is related to the famous pilot Bessie Coleman. We were very lucky to welcome his nan into school, where she delivered a fascinating talk about Bessie's life, the obstacles she overcame and her determination to achieve her dreams. This sparked great curiosity and enthusiasm amongst the children.



In Art, we have been exploring Pop Art, focusing on the work of Andy Warhol. The children loved studying his bold style, use of colour blocking and printing techniques. Inspired by his artwork, the children designed and printed their own famous images onto pencil cases, which they were very excited to take home.

It has been another fantastic half term in Year 5, and we cannot believe how quickly it has flown by!

Although not the only thing we have accomplished this half term, it would be remiss not to start our newsletter contribution by singing the praises of our cohort to all who will listen! The children truly have embodied our Muscliff Values, and we have been beyond proud of the determination and resilience they have shown, particularly when tackling two tests in one day. We have been awed by their maturity and tenacity.

YEAR 6



Art has brought us delightful creative relief as we have constructed, modrok'd and decorated our contrasting Hansel and Gretel cottages: half is gothic, dark and scary; the other, lightness, hope and fairy tales. Wonderful imaginative work 😊

Geography has been interesting as we have been studying global trade, fair trade and all that's in between – a super use of our time as we gear up for our famous Year 6 Fiver Challenge coming up after half term!

Coupled with our computing work on spreadsheets... watch out business world, Year 6 are unstoppable!



Do look out for a curriculum overview coming home soon and more information about the Fiver Challenge, where Lord Sugar himself would be a keen investor in our Summer Fayre stalls!

Many thanks for all the support you have given the children this half term, particularly in the run up to SATs week and as we enter your child's final half term in primary school, know that we have so many fun and exciting events coming up, not least, the residential! Bring on the summer of fun!

Sports News

We wanted to share Mia and her football team Generations Elite's success for the 2025/2026 Dorset League Season.

They have fought like little lionesses throughout the season and won the Cup final yesterday. Mia has not conceded a single goal in her league and cup matches as a goalie this season.

Mia's parents are extremely proud of her and her team.



YEAR 4-6 CAN DO TENNIS EVENT – THURSDAY 21ST MAY

What a glorious afternoon we had in the sunshine at the Year 4-6 Can Do Tennis event! The children took part in a range of tennis skills and activities, working together as a team and showing what brilliant sportsmen and sportswomen they truly are.

Their hard work, encouragement of one another, and fantastic teamwork paid off – they came 1st out of all the schools that attended! An absolutely outstanding achievement!

I am incredibly proud of Bailey, Josh, Cairo, Layann, Lorna, Jamie, Lishanth, Maya and Milli-Mae for their effort, determination and sportsmanship throughout the afternoon.

We also received wonderful feedback from the providers at Southbourne Tennis Club, who commented on how impeccably behaved and polite the children were – the best session they have run so far!

Well done to the whole team! 🏡☀️



Year 2 MultiSkills Festival

On Friday 15th May, our Year 2 pupils travelled to Dean Park Cricket Ground for the annual MultiSkills Festival, wonderfully hosted by The Park School.

Despite a forecast of heavy rain, we were very lucky with the weather—only one brief downpour, which passed quickly. The children took part in ten different activity stations, including baton tag, hockey, beanbag toss and netball, all designed to help them build and strengthen their sporting skills.

The whole team had a fantastic afternoon. They demonstrated brilliant teamwork, determination and enthusiasm throughout the festival, earning them an impressive 5th place overall—a fantastic achievement!

A huge well done to Riana, Kayla, Sophia, Avalon, Annabelle, Aidan, George, Parth, Henry and Dylan. We are very proud of you all!



Term dates

May Half Term break Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May 2026

Summer Term 2 2026 Tuesday 2nd June – Wednesday 22nd July 2026 **(1.30pm finish)**

Monday 1st June - INSET day (school closed)

Friday 3rd July - INSET day (school closed)

Summer Holiday begins Thursday 23rd July 2026- start of the summer holiday

Inset days: Monday 1st June 2026 and Friday 3rd July 2026: the school is closed to children for staff training.

Term dates 2026/27

Please note the following term dates in your diaries to ensure you book holidays out of term time. Thank you.

Autumn term 2026:

Wed 2nd Sept* – Fri 23rd Oct

Half term: Mon 26th Oct - Fri 30th Oct

Mon 2nd Nov *– Fri 18th Dec (1.30pm finish)

Spring term 2027:

Tues 5th Jan* – Fri 12th Feb

Half term: Mon 15th Feb - Fri 19th Feb

Mon 22nd Feb – Thurs 25th March (1.30pm finish)

Summer term 2027:

Mon 12th Apr – Fri 28th May

Half term: Mon 31st May - Fri 4th June

Tues 8th June** – Wed 21st July (1.30pm finish)

*INSET dates

Tues 1st Sept 2026

Fri 20th Nov 2026

Mon 4th Jan 2027

Mon 7th June 2027

Fri 2nd July 2027

Summer 2 half term dates

Monday 1st June: INSET (staff only)

Tuesday 2nd June 6.30pm Friends meeting

Wednesdays 3rd June: Forest Schools Y3 am, Y6 pm (more information to follow)

Wednesday 10th - Friday 12th :Y6 residential to Ferny Croft

Thursday 18th June: Y4 trip to Durlston Country Park

Friday 19th June: Y1 trip to Farmer Palmers

Friday 19th June: Reception sports afternoon (1.50pm gates open)

Monday 22nd June: 5.30pm New Reception parents information evening

Tuesday 23rd June: Class & group photos

Tuesday 23rd June: 6.30pm Friends meeting

Thursday 25th June: Reception trip to Moors Valley

Thursday 25th June: Y6 Secondary transition TBoWA only

Thursday 25th June: 9.30-11.30am Y3/4 sports morning (9.20am gates open)

Friday 26th June: Y6 Secondary transition day (all children)

Friday 26th June: Transition session/ meet your new teacher (*there will also be two other planned transition sessions for the children in the coming weeks*)

Monday 29th June: 9.30-11am Y1/2 sports morning (9.20am gates open)

Tuesday 30th June: 9.30-11.30am Y5/6 sports morning (9.20am gates open)

Tuesday 30th June: 3.30-4pm New Reception stay & play session

Thursday 2nd July: Non uniform day in exchange for Summer Fayre donations

Thursday 2nd July 5-7.30pm Friends Summer Fayre (set up from 8.30am)

During Fayre - Year group performance times: 5.30pm – Rec, 5.45pm – Y1, 6pm – Y2, 6.15pm – Y3, 6.25pm – Y4, 6.35pm – Y5 (Children to meet 5mins before)

Friday 3rd July: INSET (staff only)

Monday 6th - Wednesday 8th July: Y6 Bikeability

Monday 6th July: Y1/2 sports morning back up date

Tuesday 7th July: Y5/6 sports morning back up date

Tuesday 7th July: 3.30-4pm New Reception stay & play session

Wednesday 8th July, 3.30-4.15pm Open evening (time to meet new class teachers)

Thursday 9th July: Y3/4 sports morning back up date

Tuesday 14th July: Annual Reports home to parents

Thursday 16th & Friday 17th July: Y5 Leeson House trip (45 children each day)

Thursday 16th July: Reception children disco 2pm (supported by Friends)

Monday 20th July: 2pm Y6 Leavers assembly

Tuesday 21st July: Y6 party day

Wednesday 22nd 1.30pm: End of school year

PE days for Summer 1

Reception - Monday and Friday

Year 1 - Monday and Friday

Year 2 - Monday and Wednesday

Year 3 - Tuesday, Wednesday* and Thursday

Year 4 - Tuesday and Thursday

Year 5 - Wednesday and Friday

Year 6 - Tuesday and Thursday

**Forest school day - Y3 please wear PE kit and bring in spare outdoor clothes (long sleeved)*

Y6 are also doing Forest school for 2 afternoons each & will need spare outdoor clothing:

6HC 3rd June & 1st July

6RD 17th June & 8th July

6RW 24th June & 15th July

Friends Update



Thank you for your support for Friends - The sponsored event has been very much enjoyed by the children; we hope it also raises lots of money towards our new library, and continuing Forest School provision. Please can we ask for sponsor forms and monies to be sent in by Friday 12th June.

Upcoming events:

Frozen Fridays Ice pops available after school on Fridays starting from 5 June! Bring your 50ps and grab yourself an ice pop for the way home. Available in the main playground and outside the Tower

Summer Fayre Thursday 2 July * 5 - 7.30 * Hawaiian Theme
Children's performances - Food - Games - Tombolas - External stalls - Face painting - The Falcons Crest bird display and photo opportunity

We will need volunteers in half an hour sessions to help run the stalls and make sure that the afternoon/evening goes really smoothly. If you are able to volunteer any time at all for this event please do email in to friends@muscliffprimary.co.uk

Next meeting: Tues 2nd June 6.30pm - All welcome

News from the local community

Please click on the image below to view the Library Newsletter

Please find attached our May newsletter for parents and carers. It contains details of lots of free activities for families during May half term.

If you are able to send it out electronically to your families, we'd be really grateful.

Book your Summer Reading Challenge assembly!

We're excited to announce that this year's Summer Reading Challenge theme is...



READ to the BEAT



We visited nearly 70 schools last summer and we'd love to come back this year to tell you all about this year's Summer Reading Challenge.

Assemblies will start from Monday 29th June and will run through until the end of term. If you'd like to book one, please email Rowena and Sarah.

libraryliteracyofficers@bcpcouncil.gov.uk

LIBRARY LEGENDS



Our Library Legends challenge is still running and the Explorer quest incorporates the Summer Reading Challenge. Please encourage your families to join in, or to come back and collect their stickers and cards if they've started. It will run until the end of 2026.



HIGHCLIFFE
CASTLE



BE
CREATIVE

May Half Term

24 - 31 May 2026

INDOOR ACTIVITIES

Unleash your creativity at the Castle this May half term with an interactive trail and activities for all ages.

INDOOR CRAFTS

Theatre mask crafts available on Tuesday and Thursday 10am-3pm.

Included in Castle admission, free for members

50% OFF FAMILY DAY

50% off admission to Highcliffe Castle on Wednesday 27 May.



Become a Highcliffe Castle Member

- Entry to the Castle for a year*
- 10% discount in the Castle Shop
- 10% discount in the Castle Pantry
- School Holiday activities
- Discount on selected events
- Castle e-newsletter updates

**Family
Membership
£50**

Up to two adults &
three under 15s

Highcliffe Castle is open Sunday-Thursday 10am-4pm
For more information, please visit: highcliffecastle.co.uk



Public paddling pools are set to reopen for the summer. These much loved spaces have been a favourite for generations, offering free, family friendly fun and the perfect way for children to cool off and play in the sunshine.

☀️ **Redhill Park & Hamworthy Park- reopening Saturday 23rd May**

☀️ **Quomps Splash Park, Christchurch- set to reopen late May**

☀️ **Littledown Park - the paddling pool will also reopen in May, with exciting updates coming soon.**

<https://www.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/news-hub/news-articles/make-a-splash-bcp-paddling-pools-set-to-reopen-for-summer-fun>

Please click the photo to access the information



And finally a message from Mrs Fenby....

Dear Parents and Carers,

Another busy half term has gone by! We have ended this half term with parent craft sessions in Reception, Y1 and Y3, a wonderful 'Live and Inspired' drumming performance to the whole school and two days of the Sponsored '26 for 26' event. A massive thank you to Mr White and the Sports leaders for supporting with this event. We also had several Y10 work experience students with us this week whose support over the last two days has been amazing!

Next half term we look forward to school trips, sports days, the summer fayre and transition activities, as well as all the exciting learning we will be doing!

Today we say goodbye & good luck to Miss Blanch who leaves us to join a local secondary school after the half term break. They are very lucky to have her! We will miss her enthusiasm, energy and kindness, as well as her knowledge and skills as SEND & Attendance admin.

We also wish her a very wonderful wedding day next week! I am sure the sun will shine on the new Mr and Mrs Rogers!

I hope you all enjoy a lovely half term break, and look forward to seeing you on Tuesday 2nd June.

Mrs Fenby

