

Light Years News

Headteacher's Welcome

As we come to the end of another academic year at Light Years School, I am incredibly proud of how our children have embraced and demonstrated our core values of **Respect, Resilience, Aspiration, Kindness and Independence**. These values are woven throughout school life and are reflected in the progress our children have made, both in their learning and personal development. Throughout the year, we have seen children overcome challenges, support one another, take pride in their achievements and grow in confidence. It has been a privilege to witness these successes and to celebrate the unique journey of every child within our school community.

Our focus remains on ensuring that every child feels safe, supported and able to thrive. Through our personalised approach, therapeutic support and nurturing environment, we have continued to celebrate each child's individual successes and help them reach their full potential.

This year has been filled with memorable learning experiences beyond the classroom. Our Year 3 and 4 children enjoyed their visit to Wonder, while our Year 5 and 6 children brought their history learning to life through an engaging visit to Portsmouth Historic Dockyard. These experiences provide valuable opportunities for our children to develop their understanding of the world, build confidence and create lasting memories with their peers.



Our Citizenship Curriculum has continued to play an important role in school life. Through fundraising and charity events, children have developed their understanding of social responsibility and the importance of making a positive contribution to their community. I am particularly proud of the work of our Junior Leadership Team, who have helped organise school events, champion pupil voice and support fundraising initiatives throughout the year. Their enthusiasm, commitment and leadership have made a significant contribution to our school community.

Supporting children's wellbeing continues to be at the heart of everything we do. Our Wellbeing Wednesdays have provided opportunities for children to explore new interests, develop coping strategies and take part in activities that promote positive mental health and emotional wellbeing. It has been lovely to see the confidence and engagement these experiences have fostered.

I would like to thank our dedicated staff team for their unwavering commitment, care and expertise. Their passion for supporting our children each day is what makes Light Years such a special place to learn and grow. I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to our parents and carers for your ongoing support and partnership throughout the year.

At the same time, we are sad to be saying goodbye to Kate, who will be leaving us at the end of this academic year. We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks for her hard work, dedication and commitment during her time with us. Kate has made a significant contribution to school life, building strong relationships with children, families and colleagues. She will be missed by staff and pupils alike. We are extremely grateful for everything she has done and wish her every success and happiness in the next chapter of her career.

Finally, we say goodbye to our Year 6 children as they move on from Light Years School. We are incredibly proud of the progress they have made and the young people they have become. Their recent celebration trip to Paultons Park was a fitting way to mark the end of their journey with us. While they will be greatly missed, we wish them every success and happiness as they begin the next chapter of their education. They will always remain part of the Light Years family.

On behalf of everyone at Light Years School, thank you for being part of another fantastic year. I wish all our children, families and staff a happy, safe and relaxing summer break, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back in September.



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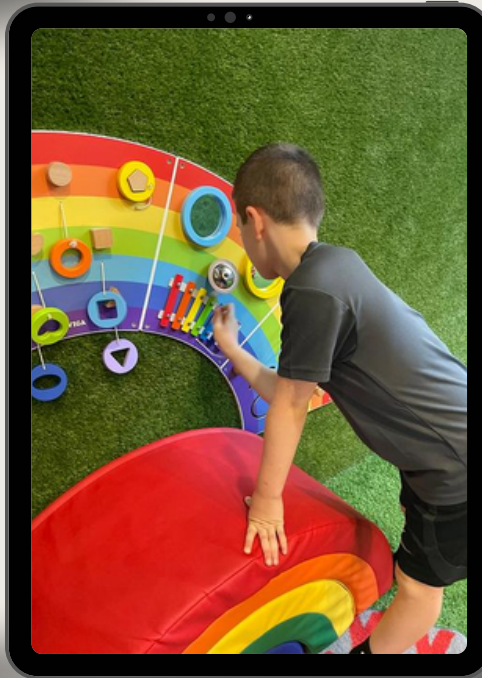
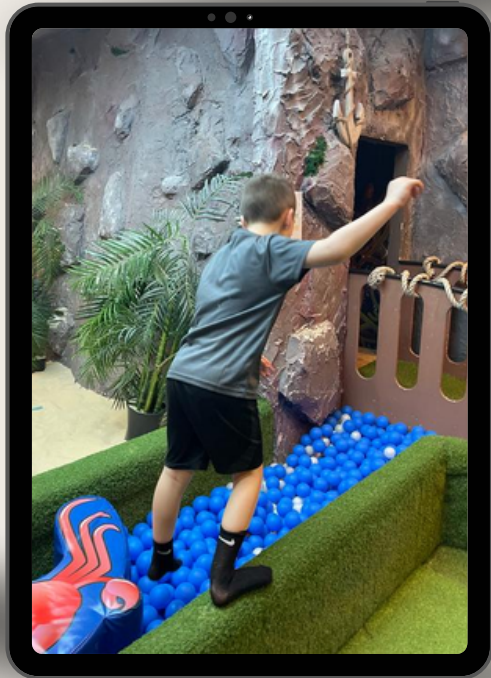
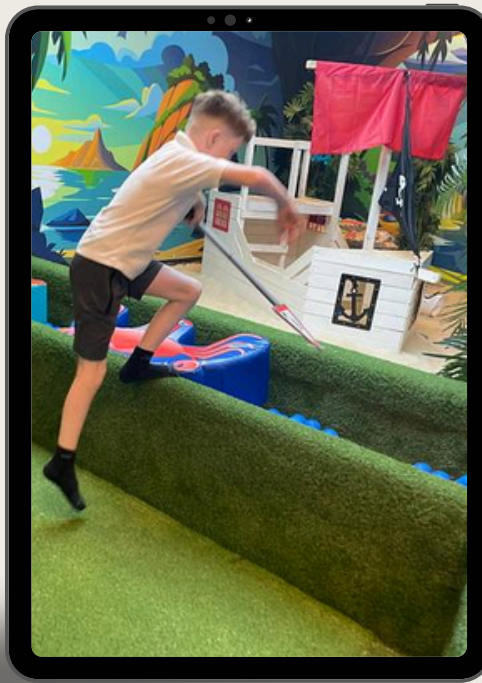
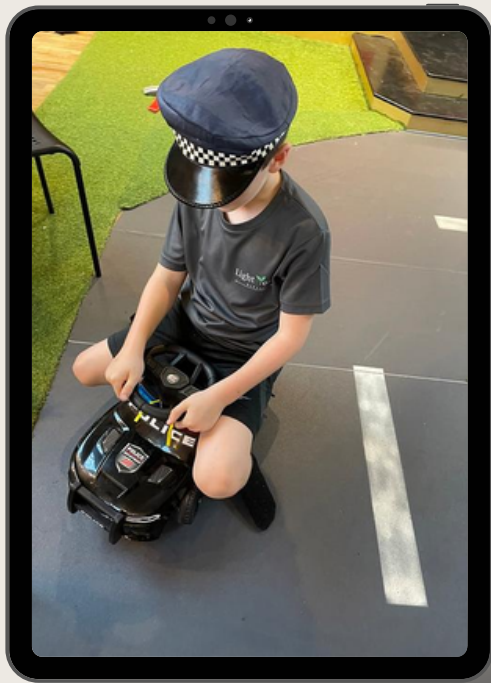
Sports Day 2026



Sports Day 2026 at Light Years School was a vibrant celebration of energy, teamwork and school spirit. A huge thank you to Jade for organising such a successful event and ensuring that the day ran smoothly. We were extremely proud of all the children for their fantastic participation, determination and encouragement of one another.

From races to team activities, every child showed great effort and enthusiasm. It was lovely to see families cheering the children on, and the morning ended beautifully with our family picnic. It was a joyful and memorable day for the whole school community.





Year 3 and 4 Trip to Wonder

Year 3 and Year 4 enjoyed a fantastic visit to Wonder in Fareham, where they took part in a range of interactive activities linked to our Personal Development curriculum. The experience encouraged pupils to build confidence, develop resilience and strengthen their communication and teamwork skills.

Through collaborative challenges and new experiences, the children explored the importance of cooperation, respect and problem-solving. They demonstrated excellent behaviour throughout the afternoon and embraced opportunities to step outside their comfort zones.

The visit supported pupils in developing independence and self-belief, while also creating positive memories with their peers. It was a valuable and enjoyable learning experience for everyone involved.

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Stay Connected with Us



Our school social media channels are a great way to stay connected and enjoy regular snapshots of life at Light Years School. Throughout the year, we share moments that celebrate children's learning, achievements, special events and everyday experiences.



From classroom activities and outdoor learning to school trips, assemblies and celebrations, our posts help families see the curiosity, creativity and enthusiasm of our children in action. They also provide an opportunity to recognise the hard work of staff and celebrate the wider school community.



Following our channels is also a useful way to keep up to date with reminders, news and key events. We would love for families to follow, like and share our posts so that we can continue celebrating the many positive moments happening across school. Thank you for your continued support.



Attendance Update

Attendance remains a high priority at Light Years School. Our aim is to work in partnership with families to support positive attendance and punctuality, ensuring that every pupil has the opportunity to experience success and make the most of school life.

Please take time to familiarise yourself with the Light Years School Attendance Policy, which can be found on our school website. The policy provides guidance for parents and carers and sets out our expectations for all pupils.

If your child is absent from school, please contact us at the earliest opportunity so that we can support you and follow the appropriate procedures. We understand that families may face challenges, and we are here to help. If you have any concerns about your child's attendance, barriers to attending school, or punctuality, please contact the school to arrange a meeting with a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

Light Years News

Jupiter News



Jupiter Class has enjoyed a busy and creative half term. Despite the many transitions taking place as we prepare for the next school year, pupils have embraced every opportunity with enthusiasm, creativity and teamwork.

A particular highlight was a visit from local artist My Dog Sighs, who shared examples of his work and spoke to the class about the inspiration behind his distinctive street art. Pupils thoroughly enjoyed learning about his creative process and used this experience to develop their own street art-inspired pieces, showcasing their imagination and artistic skills.

The class also took the lead in planning and delivering their own charity fundraiser. They transformed the playground with colourful decorations and designed a chalk racetrack to encourage others to run as many laps as possible. Participants were rewarded with handmade medals and vibrant certificates, all thoughtfully created by the pupils themselves. It was excellent to see the class demonstrating creativity, organisation and community spirit while raising money for a good cause.

In Literacy, pupils became YouTube-style vloggers, researching and presenting information about the Seven Wonders of the World. They combined their communication skills with their growing knowledge of geography and history to create engaging content. Alongside this, they continued to apply and consolidate their mathematical learning from across the year, using problem-solving skills to tackle a range of practical challenges.

During Thrive sessions, pupils used their imaginations to set up and run a variety of role-play restaurants, developing their social communication, teamwork and creativity. In Science, they have been busy planting and caring for a wide range of seeds, learning about what plants need to grow and observing changes over time.

It has been a positive and memorable way to end the year, filled with creativity, collaboration and meaningful learning experiences. We are extremely proud of everything Jupiter Class has achieved and wish all pupils the very best as they move forward into their next exciting chapter.

Light Years News

Saturn News



Saturn Class has had a positive and rewarding end to the summer term, bringing another successful school year to a close. It has been fantastic to see the children grow in confidence, develop new skills and achieve so much throughout the year.

Our Wellbeing Wednesdays have continued to be a real highlight. This term, the children have enjoyed team games, board games, card games, making slime and creating playdough. A particularly popular activity was the Eurovision contest, where the children enjoyed listening to songs and taking on the role of judges.

As part of our Citizenship learning, the children planned and held a fundraising day, choosing to organise a Silly Dress-Up Day with all proceeds going to Autism Hampshire. They worked hard to research different charities before making their final choice and did a fantastic job spreading the word around school. It was a wonderful day and a great success for Team Saturn.

The class has also taken part in Social Detectives sessions, focusing on understanding that different people can have different perspectives and developing awareness of others' thoughts and feelings. The children demonstrated excellent listening skills and responded appropriately and respectfully to one another's opinions. They were also able to identify clues that could help them understand how someone may feel or think, and make thoughtful predictions about what might be happening in different situations.

In English and Geography, the children have been learning about the world, including the Seven New Wonders of the World, different climates and time zones. They have learnt fascinating facts about these magnificent places and created both a fact file about Rio de Janeiro and a vlog about a visit to one of the wonders. In English, the children have focused on sentence structure and worked hard to improve their writing using rich vocabulary.

As the school year draws to a close, Saturn Class has spent time focusing on change and preparing for transition. The children have talked about their feelings around change and explored strategies that may support them. They have shown maturity in sharing their thoughts and worries, and have supported one another with kindness and understanding.

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Earth News



As the term and school year come to an end, Earth Class has been reflecting on a year filled with progress, creativity and memorable experiences. This term, the children have enjoyed learning through the topics of Egyptians and Aliens, which have inspired a range of engaging activities.

A particular highlight was exploring Ancient Egypt through practical learning, including mummifying apples and taking part in a class activity linked to mummification. These experiences captured the children's interest and led to some excellent instruction writing.

Early morning PE on Wednesdays has also been a success, with a focus on personal development and team building. The children have enjoyed games such as Chicken or Hero, while developing leadership skills, teamwork and resilience when faced with challenge.

Outdoor learning and the silent disco have also provided memorable moments this term. The children have enjoyed exploring sand, water, mud, weaving, tents and time in nature, as well as sharing music and movement together during the silent disco. One child described it as, "the best day ever."

Across the year, Earth Class has made fantastic progress in understanding and managing feelings, developing friendships and building positive relationships with peers and staff. There has been clear growth in confidence, kindness, respect and sense of belonging. One child shared, "I am good at being part of a class now – I like being at Light Years."

We are incredibly proud of everything Earth Class has achieved this year and wish all children and families a happy and restful summer holiday.

Light Years News

Mars News



Mars Class has enjoyed a busy and engaging half term, with lots of practical learning opportunities across the curriculum. In Maths, the children have been learning about shape, exploring the differences between 2D and 3D shapes through games such as Guess the Shape. They have also used 2D shapes to create colourful patterns.

In Literacy, the children created their own aliens and used these as inspiration for writing information texts. Although this was challenging at times, the children showed great resilience, tried their best and took pride in their work.

Mars Class has also been reflecting on favourite memories from the year. The children recorded their memories inside a jar template and enjoyed talking about the experiences that have stood out to them. Many children shared that their favourite part of the year was making new friends, while Wonder was also a clear highlight.

The class has enjoyed a wide range of favourite toys and activities this year, including Pokémon, Lego, Action Man, Gabby's Dollhouse, drawing and slime. The overall favourite class topic was Work Like an Egyptian.

Throughout the year, Mars Class has shown increasing confidence, independence and enthusiasm for learning. The children have developed positive relationships with one another, taken pride in their achievements and continued to demonstrate the school values through their hard work, kindness and resilience. It has been lovely to see them celebrate their successes and support each other as they prepare for the next stage of their learning journey.

We are very proud of Mars Class for their hard work, creativity and resilience this year. We wish all children and families a happy and restful summer holiday.

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Inclusion Pathway



It has been a positive and successful summer term on the Inclusion Pathway. The children have enjoyed spending time outdoors, making the most of the sunny weather while taking part in a wide range of activities and meaningful social experiences.

Throughout the term, the children have worked hard during their sessions, making excellent progress in following routines, developing confidence and embracing new opportunities within their provision. Outdoor Learning has been a particular highlight, with the children enjoying opportunities to explore, learn and discover in nature.

There have been many memorable moments this term, including the children taking part in their first Light Years Sports Day. It was a pleasure to see them join in alongside peers from across the school, demonstrating enthusiasm, determination and enjoyment. Being part of this wider school event was a special moment for everyone involved.

Most importantly, each child has made their own unique and valuable progress this year. We are extremely proud of all they have achieved, including the confidence, resilience and friendships they have developed along the way.

We look forward to continuing to support the children's growth and celebrating their successes in the next academic year. In the meantime, we wish all children and families a happy, restful and enjoyable summer holiday.

Light Years News

Therapeutic Support Update

This term has been a positive and productive one for therapeutic support across Light Years School. Through Play Therapy, Speech and Language Therapy and ELSA sessions, children have continued to access safe, supportive and nurturing spaces to develop confidence, communication, emotional understanding and wellbeing.



Play Therapy

During the summer term, a small number of children have accessed non-directive Play Therapy as part of a student portfolio. Non-directive Play Therapy provides children with a safe, accepting and confidential space where they can express themselves freely through play, helping them to process thoughts, feelings and experiences at their own pace.

It has been a privilege to see the children engage with the therapeutic process and develop trusting relationships within the playroom. Each child's journey is unique, and it has been valuable to support children as they explore and express themselves in ways that feel comfortable and meaningful to them. We look forward to continuing this support with more children in September.

Speech and Language Therapy

This term has been another busy one for Speech and Language Therapy. At a universal level, staff training has taken place on Blank Level Questions, alongside continued support for classes in developing their communication-friendly environments.

The school also held its first No Pens Day, which successfully raised awareness of language and communication differences and encouraged children and staff to think about the many different ways we can communicate.

Year 3 and 4 children have been working on their narrative skills to support storytelling, while Year 5 and 6 children have focused on developing social awareness through class-based activities. Assessment, advice and targeted interventions have also continued, supporting children to develop specific skills and express their views. Planning is already underway for the next academic year.



ELSA Support

This summer term, ELSA sessions have continued to provide children with a safe and supportive space to explore their feelings, build confidence and develop strategies to help them manage a range of emotions and situations.

It has been wonderful to see the progress children have made throughout the term. They have shown increased confidence, resilience and a growing ability to talk about their emotions, solve problems and use the coping strategies they have been practising. We are extremely proud of their achievements and the positive attitudes they have shown.

Looking ahead to the autumn term, we are pleased to share that Tara will also begin supporting children with ELSA sessions from September. This will allow us to continue providing high-quality emotional support to more children who may benefit from it. We wish everyone a happy and restful summer break.



Light Years News

Fundraising for Sophie's Legacy



Over three weekends in June, members of staff from Light Years have been proud to volunteer alongside the wonderful charity Sophie's Legacy, supporting their pizza nights for children receiving care and their families at QA Hospital.

As a school community, we were delighted to raise £1,500 through our October 5K Run. This generous contribution has helped fund three hospital pizza nights, providing moments of comfort, kindness and joy for families during challenging times.

We are incredibly proud of the way our staff, pupils and wider school community have come together - not only to raise vital funds, but also to give their time in support of such a meaningful cause. It has been a privilege to play a small part in helping bring smiles to children and families who truly deserve them.

End of year ice cream treat!



To mark the end of term and celebrate the children's hard work, our Headteacher, Sarah, organised a very special visit from an ice cream van as a well-deserved treat for everyone.

On what was a particularly hot day, the arrival of the van brought lots of excitement and smiles across the school. Each child had the opportunity to line up, choose their treat and order it themselves, making the experience not only enjoyable but also a meaningful part of our personal development curriculum.

Key moments like these are important in helping children develop confidence, independence and social communication skills in real-life situations. The children practised waiting patiently, using their manners, making choices and speaking clearly when placing their orders. It was lovely to see them approach the van with such enthusiasm and pride.

Of course, it was also a much-needed sweet treat in the sunshine and a wonderful way to bring the school community together as we reached the end of another busy term.

A huge thank you to Honey from Jake's Flakes for visiting us and helping to make the day so special for the children. We are very grateful to Sarah for organising such a memorable end of term surprise.

Light Years News



at Light Years School



It has been lovely to see the children continue to explore, grow and develop their skills through Thrive sessions and class-based Thrive activities during the second half of the summer term.

The children have particularly enjoyed outdoor play, including water activities and sensory exploration, which have supported curiosity, creativity and confidence. Through these experiences, pupils have continued to build important skills such as problem-solving, recognising and expressing feelings, thinking skills, and understanding cause and effect.

A key focus has remained on ensuring that every child feels safe, valued and heard. Through expressive role play, painting, sensory experiences and activities linked to children's individual interests, pupils have had opportunities to build relationships, develop emotional resilience and express themselves in meaningful ways.

We are proud of the progress the children have made and look forward to continuing to support each child's Thrive journey in the autumn term. We wish all children and families a happy and restful summer break.

Light Years News

Young Carers Club

The children have continued to take part in our school's Young Carers Club, which provides opportunities to spend time together, build relationships and enjoy activities they may not always have regular access to outside of school. This term, the children have enjoyed playing games, taking part in creative activities and making a trust tree together.

One child shared he:

“Had a great time decorating the trust tree, getting messy and covering my hands in purple paint.”

As part of this year's celebrations, we have organised an outdoor picnic party where the children will enjoy snacks, games and time with peers and adults. We are excited to continue supporting our Young Carers next year and look forward to more enjoyable and meaningful activities together.



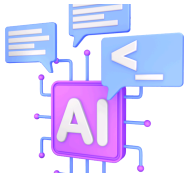
Outdoor Learning

This term has brought lots of creativity, exploration and problem-solving through Outdoor Learning. The children have enjoyed using the Nordic sling, wood cookies and cardboard disc braiding techniques, as well as further exploration through water play and the mud kitchen.

Obstacle courses have provided opportunities for balancing, teamwork and problem-solving, while the children have also been excited to see our first runner bean grow. It has been a positive and engaging term of outdoor discovery.



Light Years News



Top Tips for Parents: AI

AI technology is increasingly part of all our lives, so we are starting a conversation about how to use it safely and responsibly. Use these top tips to help keep you and your loved ones safe online.

1. Enjoy going online together and talk regularly about your family's online lives.

The internet is amazing and can help us all to access information and entertainment. Spend time online with your child to understand how they are using technology and talk together about the good and the bad parts of being online. Talk about your own experiences and find other opportunities to get the conversation started, like stories in the news. Make sure your child knows they can talk to you about anything that they see or experience online.

2. Understand where AI technology is being used and the impact it can have.

From summaries on search engines, to voice assistants and photo editing tools, AI powered features are being added to many of the apps and devices we use day-to-day. Look out for information and warnings notifying you where AI technology is in use or where content has been created using AI. Help your child to recognise these too. Remember, AI can make some tasks simpler but may also collect data about you and your family, or share unreliable information, so consider how to use it safely and responsibly.

3. Recognise what safe and responsible use of technology looks like.

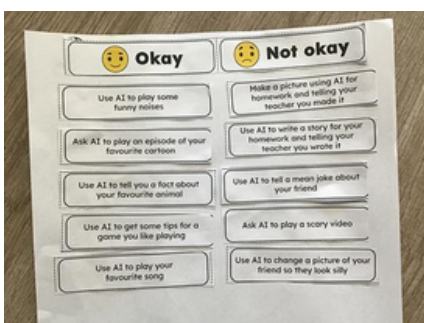
To use technology, including AI, safely and responsibly, it's important to reflect on the potential impact it can have on yourself and others. How does your use of technology make you feel? How can you use technology with kindness and respect for others? Does your use of technology benefit you or help you build skills? How might it affect you now, and in the future? Ask these questions of your own internet use, as well as your family's.

4. Stay informed with free resources.

Young people have told us about the incredible ways they're using AI, but also about their worries for what it means for the future. Issues such as the environmental impact of AI, what it means for job prospects, and the threat of deepfakes can seem scary but remember, you don't need to have all the answers. Stay informed using free resources like those produced for Safer Internet Day and talk to your child about their concerns about new technology – you can always work together to find more information.

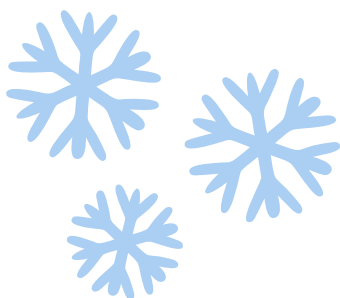
5. Know where to go for help if something goes wrong.

Like any technology, using AI comes with risks. Some AI tools, like ChatGPT, have built-in reporting features where you can raise issues such as inappropriate or harmful content. Many social media platforms also allow you to report content you suspect has been created with AI. Additionally, AI generated content can break the law. If you see illegal images that show child sexual abuse (including AI generated images), you should report these to the IWF and on the platform where they are being shared. If someone creates an image of you or your child using AI these can also be reported on the platform where they are being shared, and AI generated nude images can be reported to Stop NCII (for images of adults) and Report Remove or Take It Down (for images of under 18s).



Light Years News

2026-2027 Key Dates



Tuesday 1st September - INSET Day
Wednesday 2nd September - INSET Day
Thursday 3rd September - Children back to school
Friday 23rd October - Half term begins
Monday 2nd November - INSET Day
Tuesday 3rd November - Children back to school
Friday 18th December - Christmas Holiday begins

Monday 4th January - Children back to school
Thursday 11th February - Half term begins
Friday 12th February - INSET Day
Monday 22nd February - Children back to school
Thursday 25th March - Easter Holiday begins



Monday 12th April - Children back to school
Thursday 27th May - Half term begins
Friday 28th May - INSET Day
Monday 7th June - Children back to school
Tuesday 20th July - Summer Holiday begins
Wednesday 21st July - INSET Day

Staying Safe Online



As you will be aware, keeping children safe online is a key priority at Light Years School. We have a dedicated online safety curriculum, alongside regular planned discussions with pupils. Each term, we also share a Light Years online safety newsletter with families.

Please find the most recent online safety newsletters below.





Start Small, Grow Tall

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

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

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

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 (emails are answered between 09:00 – 19:00 Monday – Friday)

Family Lives Live Chat www.familylives.org.uk (Monday – Friday 10:30 – 21:00)

<https://www.familylives.org.uk/how-we-can-help>

Staying Safe

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

The Light Years Team