

# HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL report to Soberton & Newtown Parish Council – Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2019

## Key Stage 2 SAT Results

Hampshire's primary school children have again outperformed their peers nationally in their end of primary school assessments. Provisional Key Stage 2 results released by the Department for Education show that a higher percentage of the County's children taking the Year 6 test have met the expected standards, compared to their peers nationally. With more than 90 per cent of our schools rated good or outstanding by OFSTED, our children are in good hands and both pupils and teachers can be proud of their results – well done!



Overall, 68% per cent of Hampshire's primary school children met the required standards for reading, writing and mathematics, compared with 65 per cent nationally. As well as the overall score, the percentage of Hampshire children who achieved the expected level in individual subjects was higher than the national average:

- Reading: 76 per cent versus 73 per cent nationally;
- Writing: 81 per cent versus 78 per cent nationally;
- Mathematics: 80 per cent compared with 79 per cent nationally.

Further details on the provisional statistics are expected to be published by the Department for Education in September 2019.

## Short Breaks Activities

At my recent Decision Day I agreed grants in excess of £1.43 million for voluntary groups and charitable organisations across the County, to support them in providing activities for children with disabilities and/or additional needs. The County Council's Short Break activity grants are awarded to organisations providing activities outside school hours, for children and young people aged 0-17 years, who hold a Gateway Card and live in the Hampshire County Council local authority area. Grant funding for 1 October 2019 – 31 March 2021 was prioritised for three types of activity, in response to feedback from children and young people with disabilities and their families, namely holiday clubs; weekend clubs; and youth clubs. In addition, £35,000 funding was agreed, to support the Hampshire Parent Carer Network for the financial year (12 months) from 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021.

## Grant Funding to Community Projects

A festival, an outdoor gym, refurbishments of local halls and community art projects are just some of the ventures getting underway in Hampshire's local communities this year; thanks to nearly £82,700 in grant funding from Hampshire County Council. Our investment supports local organisations to provide community benefit and help local communities thrive.

The County Council's contributions also enable important improvements to be made to community buildings, equipment and facilities, which helps to ensure that the activities can take place in modern, fit for purpose and financially efficient buildings.

## Train as a Teacher Scheme

A new apprenticeship programme run by Hampshire County Council is giving school staff a chance to train as teachers while continuing in their paid jobs. Anyone who would like further information about teaching and other education based apprenticeships can contact [Claire.allen@hants.gov.uk](mailto:Claire.allen@hants.gov.uk) Development Manager School Apprenticeships at Hampshire County Council.

## Hampshire Day

The first ever 'Hampshire Day' took place on 15<sup>th</sup> July with the inaugural raising of a new Hampshire flag. The special ceremony took place in the Castle Yard of The Great Hall in Winchester and was hosted by HM Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire, Nigel Atkinson. The 15<sup>th</sup> July is now designated as "Hampshire Day" [also the feast day of St Swithin – the patron saint of Winchester Cathedral] and will provide an annual opportunity for people across the County to share in celebrating Hampshire's rich history, its traditions and the diverse culture of Hampshire communities today. The new Hampshire flag is not owned by any one

organisation but signifies the whole of Hampshire and, like the County Council's banner of arms, the Hampshire Flag comprises a bi-colour of yellow and red. Its design includes a Tudor rose and a Saxon crown in reference to Hampshire's ancient history, including the fact that Winchester was once the capital of England.

### **Join the Space Chase**

Hampshire County Council's Library Service is encouraging people aged 14 years and over to volunteer to support the Reading Agency's Summer Reading Challenge, from now to mid-September. This year's Summer Reading Challenge theme – Space Chase – will celebrate adventure and exploration. Typical volunteer tasks during the Summer Reading Challenge include helping sign children up, logging their progress and recommending their next book. Prospective volunteers can sign up by visiting [www.hants.gov.uk/librariesandarchives/library/aboutus/volunteering](http://www.hants.gov.uk/librariesandarchives/library/aboutus/volunteering) or by asking in a Branch Library. An induction session will take place before volunteers start.

### **Surface Dressing**

Now the weather is warmer and drier, you may have seen our highways teams carrying out surface dressing on Hampshire's roads. Like applying a lick of protective paint to a garden fence to prolong its life, surface dressing helps protect road surfaces against the elements. It provides a waterproof seal to help prevent the formation of potholes and restores any lost skid resistance.

As part of our major Operation Resilience programme, surface dressing is a very cost-effective means of proactive maintenance. It keeps roads in good condition for longer, and that means our resources can be directed to fully resurface the roads that need it most. It's also more sustainable, reducing demand upon non sustainable resources such as bitumen and aggregate and protects the road for around 10 years. Resurfacing involves replacing the structure of the road. This can be as much as 450mm deep, and full road resurfacing costs 12 times more per mile. Around 140 miles of roads and footways are treated this way every year. That's enough treatment to cover over 164 football pitches.

Surface dressing treatments can only be applied when the road is dry, which is mostly in the warmer months. When the rain falls the work has to stop. The thin layer of new stone chippings are essential to the success of the dressing. They improve skid resistance and also reduce the risk of aquaplaning and, therefore potential accidents. Advisory signs are put up to remind drivers to slow down to avoid damage to their cars (and to others) when a road has just been treated. Loose chippings are swept away as soon as possible after treatment before the road markings are repainted. If you have any issues that relate to our surface dressing operations please call our Customer Contact Centre on 0300 555 1388.

### **Repairs & Maintenance in the Home and Garden**

If you have some small repairs that need doing to your home you can find reliable local traders through **Hampshire Trading Standards Buy with Confidence** scheme – visit <https://www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk/>. All the businesses in this scheme have been vetted and approved by Trading Standards to ensure that they operate in a legal, honest and fair way. Or you may call 03454 04 05 06 for a free directory.

**Trust in Blue** connects you experienced and professional trades and handypeople who are all Enhanced DBS (CRB) Checked retired police officers. They can do jobs such as hanging pictures; mirrors; shelves; blinds; minor plumbing such as taps, washers, sinks. Minor carpentry, eg fixing cupboard doors, drawers, flat pack assembly; painting and decorating; wallpapers and minor electrical tasks. Disability adaptations such as indoor and outdoor grab rails, ramps, fence repairs and garden maintenance. Visit <https://www.trustinblue.com/> or telephone Freephone 0800 2550255.

Please note, you will have to pay for trades people you find through the above directories.

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