

Topics covered in newsletter:

Summer Holiday ideas

Books for starting school.

Messy play idea

Welcome to your latest newsletter.

Portage Newsletters are produced three times a year. We try to include any up-and-coming dates or events that are available across the county of Hampshire.

Summer Holiday activity ideas

Summer Holidays are expensive, here are some ideas to keep the costs down.

Did you know if your child has a disability and/or additional needs, Hampshire County council have a gateway card you can apply for and is free. A gateway card gives your child access to community activities, play schemes and buddy schemes through the short breaks programme. This card also can be used to get a carer in for free in some establishments that charge admission. For example, Marwell zoo, Finkley down farm, Wellington country park.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/childrenandfamilies/specialneeds/shortbreaks/gatewaycard>

Paultons Park use the Access card instead of the Gateway to get help with queue passes etc.

[Hampshire – Access Card](#)

<https://fish.hants.gov.uk/kb5/hampshire/directory/family.page?familychannel=6-6>

If your child has Autism, cinemas offer autism friendly screenings, to find out more at your local cinema please use the link:

<https://dimensions-uk.org/get-involved/campaigns/autism-friendly-cinema-screenings/>

Free places to visit (parking charges may apply)

<https://www.dinton-pastures.co.uk/>

<https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/eastropimprovements>

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/thingstodo/countryparks> (some places have admission charges; some are free but have parking charges)

[20 outdoor sensory play activities for young children + free printable – Active For Life](#)

Activities and games from Active for Life



Summer 2026

Parent Platform on the Family Information Services Hub (FISH)

Have you had a look on the parent platform?

This is an area set up for parents that will be continually updated with short films, resources, and useful information to help parents/carers while their child is on the Portage waiting list.

Please click the link below to access the parent platform

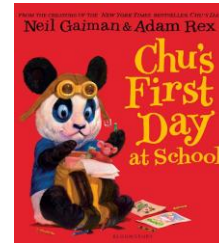
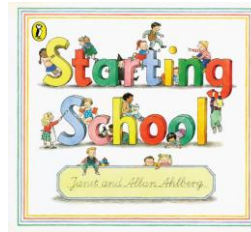
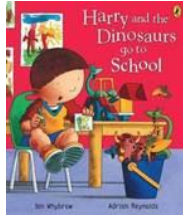
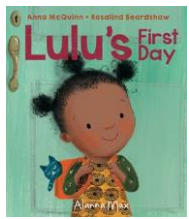
[Portage Parent Support Platform | Hampshire CTSH](#)



Services for Young Children

Starting School

Books are a great way to introduce children to the idea of starting school and there are some useful book lists available on both the BookTrust website [Starting School | BookTrust](#) and on Hampshire Libraries 'When A Book Might Help' [When a book might help: Starting school](#)

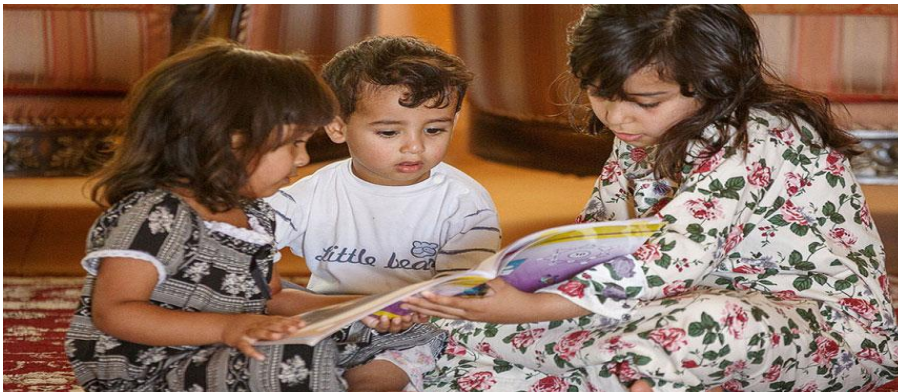


Summer reading

[Summer Reading Challenge](#)

Your local library will be able to help you to join the summer reading challenge.

It is a great way to introduce your child to a range of books to look at and share.



Messy play idea –

This activity from the busy toddler website is fun to prepare and use. All you need is a clean suitably sized container, rice, and white vinegar.

Good for wet day play or outside play and can be put away and cleaned up easily.

[How to Make a Rainbow Rice Sensory Bin - Busy Toddler](#)



Please always ensure supervision of your child and the ingredients are appropriate for your child.