REDWOOD PARK ACADEMY

We've embraced thrive in our Setting

SOLENT Academies Trust

Weekly Newsletter: Friday 1st May 2026

Redwood Park Academy's Vision

Our vision is that all pupils at Redwood Park Academy will be confident communicators, who are growing to be more independent, so that they are happy and healthy young adults who make positive contributions to their community.

Kindness | Communication | Ambition

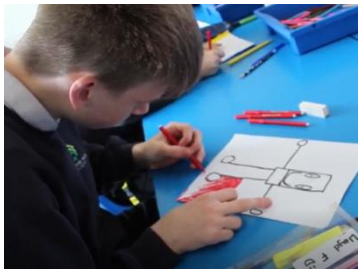
Subject of the week: Art

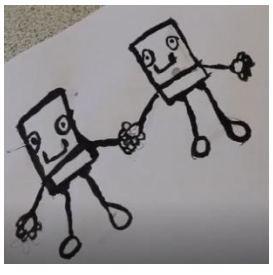
Redwood's Art Week celebrated Portsmouth100, marking 100 years of Portsmouth as a city. Each class explored the work of local artists such as My Dog Sighs, Fark, Louise Braithwaite, and Mark Kellett, creating a range of artwork inspired by their unique styles. Pupils also learned fascinating facts about well-known Portsmouth landmarks and produced stunning centrepieces based on these. Throughout the week, they experimented with a variety of artistic methods and materials, expressing their creativity in wonderful ways.

We were incredibly fortunate to welcome the outstanding local artist Paul Stone (My Dog Sighs) to Redwood. He created an iconic piece of artwork for our school community representing our Redwood values of Kindness, Communication and Ambition, as well as spending time meeting our pupils, answering their questions, and inspiring them with his creative journey.

Every pupil also had the opportunity to create their own "Everyman" artwork to display in our Art Exhibition. We hope you enjoyed seeing your young person's piece — they worked with great enthusiasm and took real pride in everything they learned and produced.

Art Week 2026 was a fantastic success for everyone involved.





Class of the week: Eastney class

This week Eastney class enjoyed a trip out to look at 'My Dog Sighs' and other street art around Portsmouth. We saw the real life Yomper statue at Eastney Barracks to compare it to our Arts Week model as well as enjoying an ice cream in the sunshine.

In English and Maths, we have been preparing for our upcoming exams by doing practise papers and role playing for speaking and listening.

In this week's STEM lesson, we learnt about gases and took part in a fun experiment where we made our own gas to inflate a balloon by mixing a solid and a liquid.

Eastney pupils who are taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh option are really looking forward to their expedition next week.

Other information:

As the summer weather approaches, if your young person would like to use a deodorant before or after their PE lessons, we would kindly ask that all deodorants are roll-ons and not aerosols. Please ensure they are named. Thank you for your continued support.

Signs of the week

Rain

Cloud

Value of the Week: Ambition

We are ambitious;
we do our best to be our best.

Cascades: Dexter F for creating a wonderful design for our class 3D lion and supporting others to follow the plan.

Castle: Ronnie C-H for making a conscious effort to improve his English and Maths and for taking pride in his work.

Clarence: Bev M for showing great ambition to complete the art projects for Clarence class.

D-Day: Alex M for being willing to try clay modelling independently and creating a wonderful cat sculpture.

D-Day: Jayden G for showing great ambition during arts week to create some brilliant artwork. Jayden completed all the pieces of artwork and did so with care and skill!

Dockyard: Alfie L-M for having clear ideas for our 3D sculpture during Arts week.

Eastney: Maisie G for doing really well in the community by being offsite for her PE lessons.

Fratton Park: Jude M for catching up on work he has missed and pushing himself to do more.

Guildhall: Sebastian for doing his best in all subjects and working hard to help his class create a 3D structure.

Gunwharf: Joel J-E for showing fantastic ambition during Arts week with his Gunwharf sculpture. He was creative and imaginative, adding his own shops, a sun, and other features.

Mountbatten: Coby for working so hard in Arts Week, including making an excellent individual piece and taking some brilliant nature photos on our visit to the park.

Museum: Jack W for knowing what he wants to do when he's older. And for working hard to make small steps towards his goal. Jack has been working hard to remember that mistakes are normal and help us to get better.

Nelson: Tristan for showing amazing ambition when completing his artwork during arts week!

Seaside: Riley R for pushing himself out of his comfort zone in Arts Week and giving everything a try.

Southsea: Tyler Bur for making more effort to attend his lessons.

Spinnaker: Oscar J for showing great enthusiasm towards arts week and producing some amazing pieces of art!

Warrior: Lucas W for being in class all week completing lots of work and sharing great ideas during Arts week!

Wedgewood: Charlie C for working extremely hard during Arts weeks and encouraging his peers.

The next value will be **Kindness**

Forthcoming events:

- Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May – Summer Half Term
- Monday 1st June – Whole School Inset Day
- Tuesday 2nd June – Return to School and the start of our new school menu

PIVOT FEST starts next week, taking place 8th –10th May at

ASPEX Portsmouth (Gunwharf Quays).

As Portsmouth's first learning disability arts festival, they are very excited to welcome audiences for a brilliant programme celebrating creativity, culture and community.

To book free tickets for any event during the weekend (with a carer included),click here: **https://aspex.org.uk/event/pivotfest/**

FRIDAY

This New Ground Digital Drawing: Self-Portraits
11am – 12.30pm

A relaxed, artist-led workshop with This New Ground, exploring digital drawing using iPads and Procreate

Disco Neurotico (under 25s)
2pm – 3.30pm

Bop along to a silent disco, relax in the sensory area, and enjoy a club-style experience in a safe, relaxed, and welcoming space

Disco Neurotico (over 25s)
6pm – 7.30pm

Bop along to a silent disco, relax in the sensory area, and enjoy a club-style experience in a safe, relaxed, and welcoming space

PIVOT FEST

SATURDAY

Movement workshop with Head Over Wheels
11am – 12.30pm

A fun, inclusive movement and circus workshop exploring accessible movement with Head Over Wheels

Best of the Fest Oska Bright Film Screening
2pm – 3.30pm

Discover a series of films celebrating the voices and creativity of people with learning disabilities, created for Oska Bright Film Festival

Carousel
6pm – 7.30pm

An evening of acoustic music and comedy from Carousel artists, featuring surreal stand-up, pop-rock, psychedelic folk, and alt-rock

PIVOT FEST

SUNDAY

Guided Tours of the Inside Exhibition
11am-11:45am, 11:45am-12:30pm, 12:30pm-13.15pm

Led by artists who curated the show, the tours are friendly and accessible, with time for questions, conversation, and quiet reflection

Gel Printing Demonstration with Orlando Richardson
11:45am – 12.30pm

Orlando will showcase a variety of gel printing techniques and invite participants to experiment and try out the methods themselves.

Performance by Robyn Rocket
2pm – 3pm

Robyn Rocket performs live with her band, creating an improvised and playful music set using a space trumpet played through guitar pedals and loopers. You can also enjoy a short performance from artist Isaac Palm

Pivot Fest Celebration party
6pm - 8pm

A celebratory closing evening uniting artists and audiences, featuring dance, live soundscaping, and voices from the local learning disabled community

PIVOT FEST

School Menu May - July 26

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Week 1

4th May 1st June 22 June 13th July

	MAINS	SIDES	DESSERT
MON	**Option 1:** Ham & Cheese Pizza **Option 2:** Cheese and Pepper Pizza V	Sweetcorn VE Peas VE	Seasonal Fruit Crumble V
TUES	**Option 1:** Sweet & Sour Chicken **Option 2:** Sweet & Sour Quorn V	50/50 Rice VE Sweetcorn VE Cauliflower VE	Mandarin & Cinnamon Sponge V
WEDS	**Option 1:** Roast Chicken & Gravy **Option 2:** Roast Quorn Sausages & Gravy VE	Roasted Potatoes VE Baby Carrots VE Swede VE	Chocolate Cookie V
THURS	**Option 1:** Pork Sausages & Onion Gravy **Option 2:** Quorn Sausages & Onion Gravy V	Herby Potato Wedges VE Sliced Carrots VE Green Beans VE	Coconut Sponge V
FRI	**Option 1:** Fish Fingers **Option 2:** Veggie Goujons VE	Fries VE Baked Beans VE Peas VE	Fruity Flapjack V

Jacket Potato available daily with Cheese, Beans, or Tuna mayo

Week 2

11th May 8th June 29th June 20th July

	MAINS	SIDES	DESSERT
MON	**Option 1:** Pepperoni Pizza **Option 2:** Cheese & Pepper Pizza V	Sweetcorn VE Peas VE	Chocolate Orange Shortbread Ve
TUES	**Option 1:** Moroccan Lamb Pie **Option 2:** Macaroni Cheese V	Mashed Potatoes VE Swede VE Peas VE	Pear Pastry Puff VE
WEDS	**Option 1:** Roast Chicken & Gravy **Option 2:** Quorn Roast & Gravy V	Roast Potatoes VE Peas VE Cabbage or Spring Greens VE	Vanilla Cookie Ve
THURS	**Option 1:** Sausage Pasta Bake **Option 2:** Quorn SausagePasta Bake V	Broccoli VE Cauliflower VE	Banana Muffin V
FRI	**Option 1:** Fish Fingers **Option 2:** Veg Goujons VE	Chips VE Baked Beans VE Peas VE	Lemon Drizzle Cake V

Jacket Potato available daily with Cheese, Beans, or Tuna mayo

Week 3

18th May 15 June 6th July

	MAINS	SIDES	DESSERT
MON	**Option 1:** Ham & Cheese Pizza **Option 2:** Cheese & Pepper Pizza V	Sweetcorn VE Carrots VE	Blueberry Muffin V
TUES	**Option 1:** Chicken with BBQ Sauce **Option 2:** BBQ Quorn V	Herby Potato Wedges VE Cauliflower VE Cabbage or Spring Greens VE	Fruity Flapjack VE
WEDS	**Option 1:** Roast Sausages & Gravy **Option 2:** Roast Quorn Sausages & Gravy VE	Roast Potatoes VE Country Mixed Vegetables VE	Shortbread VE
THURS	**Option 1:** Beef Bolognese **Option 2:** Quorn Bolognese VE	Garlic or Herb Bread V Bakes Beans VE Broccoli VE	Cinnamon Buns V
FRI	**Option 1:** Fish Fingers **Option 2:** Veggie Goujons V	Fries VE Peas VE Baked Beans V	Chocolate Brownie V

Jacket Potato available daily with Cheese, Beans, or Tuna mayo

THE FOLLOWING IS AVAILABLE DAILY- FRESHLY BAKED BREAD V, WATER. DESSERT OPTIONS = FRESH FRUIT VE & FRUIT YOGHURT V

V VEGETARIAN VE VEGAN