

# Headteacher's Newsletter



18th October 2024 - Edition 4

Dear Parents/Carers and Families,

I hope this newsletter finds you well! This is my last fortnightly communication of this half term, and it's a long (but hopefully useful) one! It has been a really busy, but productive half term for us all, with lots of exciting changes, and challenges to meet. I know we will all be ready for a week off by the time we break up next week.

## Request for Help - Calling all DIYers

We are seeking a volunteer who is handy and experienced with DIY tasks to help us re-felt the roofs of two sheds in our playground. If you have the skills and time to assist, we would be incredibly grateful for your support.

We can either cover the cost of materials in advance if you let us know what's required, or we can reimburse you for any materials purchased.

We are also looking at potentially painting some of our classrooms and corridors on one of the school holidays so if you're handy with a paintbrush, get in touch.

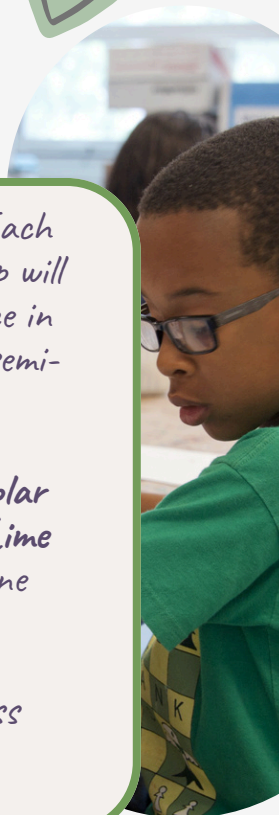
If either of these are something you think you might be able to help with, then please contact the school office.

## Times Tables Class Battles!

TTRS battles have commenced! Each week, classes from each year group will be battling it out to secure a place in the upcoming quarter finals and semi-finals.

Week one has concluded with **Poplar** being victorious. This week, it is **Lime** and **Larch** competing against one another.

By Christmas, our reigning class champions will be named!



# Retrieval Practice - Quizzes and Tests

Some parents have expressed concerns that children are being tested too often in school. Please let me reassure you that this isn't the case. What children are doing is called 'Retrieval Practice'.

## What is Retrieval Practice?

Retrieval practice is a powerful learning technique that helps children better remember and apply the information they have learned. It involves actively recalling information from memory, rather than just re-reading or re-studying the material.

## Why do we use Retrieval Practice?

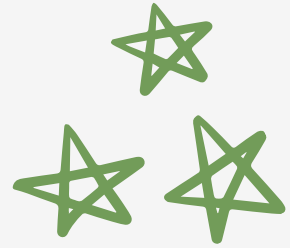
Research has shown that regularly practising retrieval of information can significantly improve long-term learning and understanding. When children actively recall what they have learned, it strengthens the neural pathways in their brains, making the information easier to remember and apply in the future.

Retrieval practice has been found to be more effective than other learning strategies, such as re-reading or highlighting, as it requires children to actively engage with the material, rather than passively reviewing it.

## How is Retrieval Practice be used at Hurst Green?

At Hurst Green, we are committed to providing our children with the best possible education, and we believe that incorporating retrieval practice into our teaching and learning strategies is hugely beneficial. You may notice your child being asked to recall information from previous lessons or units of work, either through low-stakes quizzes, discussions, or other activities. We encourage you to support your child's learning at home by engaging them in conversations about what they have been learning and asking them to recall key information. This will help to reinforce the concepts they have been studying and prepare them for future learning.

If you have any questions or would like to learn more about retrieval practice, please do not hesitate to contact me or your child's class teacher. We are here to support you and your child throughout their educational journey.



## Special Mentions Assembly

Next Wednesday 23rd October is the first of our Special Mentions Assemblies, where families are invited in to share our celebrations of children who have really stood out this term. They may be recognised for consistently good behaviour, or improvements over time. If your child has been chosen this time, you will have received an email inviting you. We look forward to celebrating with you!



## My Happy Mind - Sign Up

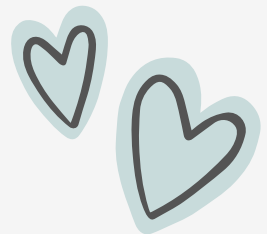
Please sign up to our *My Happy Mind Parent App* and support our work in school on improving mental health and wellbeing. Over 50 parents have already signed up, which is great.

*My Happy Mind* has a competition currently, with great prizes for the school that has the largest group of parent users! It's a great app with lots of resources to support your child's mental health and wellbeing. To sign up, please [click the following link](#), and use the code 103807

## Harvest Festival

Yesterday KS2 celebrated Harvest Festival in church, and EYFS/KS1 held their own mini harvest in the hall. Both events were lovely, filled with fabulous singing, interesting facts, and catchy poems. We hope the parents who joined us in church enjoyed themselves too.

Thank you for all of your donations... you managed to fill a van full of food which will go to the local food bank.



## Halloween Discos

Halloween disco tickets sales for Year 1-6 have now closed. The discos will be held next week on **Thursday 24th October 2024**. The timings are as follows:

Y1 and Y2 - 3.30pm - 4.15pm

Y3 and Y4 - 4.30pm - 5.15pm

Y5 and Y6 - 5.30pm - 6.15pm

As well as the snack packs purchased with tickets, cans of pop will be available on the night for £1 for Years 3-6. Children will need to bring cash for this.

All children must be collected. Please inform the school if someone who is not on your child's collection list will be picking up your child. Please make sure children do not bring mobile phones.

Y1 and Y2 children may come to school in their party clothes (as their disco is straight after school). Please make sure clothing is appropriate and that children are wearing sensible and safe shoes.


Children may wear fancy dress but please avoid masks or costumes that may be frightening - think PG Halloween!

Keep an eye out for posters around the school shortly.





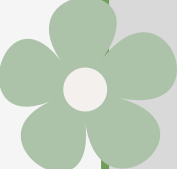
# Reading at Home Every Day



*I wanted to take a moment to emphasise the importance of daily reading and how it can have a profound impact on your child's academic and personal development.*


*At Hurst Green Primary, we believe that reading is the foundation upon which all other learning is built. Whether your child is just starting their reading journey or is a confident reader, the benefits of reading each day are immense. Here are a few reasons why daily reading is so crucial:*

- 1. Improved Academic Performance:** Reading regularly has been shown to improve literacy skills, vocabulary, comprehension, and overall academic achievement. The more your child reads, the more they are exposed to new words, ideas, and concepts that can be applied across the curriculum.*
- 2. Enhanced Cognitive Development:** Reading stimulates the brain and helps develop critical thinking, problem-solving, and analytical skills. As your child engages with stories and texts, they are exercising their imagination and expanding their understanding of the world around them.*
- 3. Stronger Emotional Intelligence:** Books can provide a window into the experiences and perspectives of others, fostering empathy, emotional awareness, and social-emotional learning. Reading together can also be a valuable bonding experience for families.*
- 4. Increased Concentration and Focus:** The act of reading requires sustained attention and concentration, which are essential skills for success in school and beyond. Regular reading practice can help your child develop these crucial abilities.*
- 5. Lifelong Love of Learning:** Instilling a love of reading from an early age can cultivate a passion for learning that will serve your child well throughout their educational journey and into adulthood.*



*We are committed to supporting you and your child in developing strong reading habits. We encourage you to set aside a dedicated time each day, even if it's just 10-15 minutes, to read together or encourage your child to read independently. This consistent practice will pay dividends in their academic and personal growth.*

*If you have any questions or need support in encouraging your child's reading, please don't hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher or our school team.*



# New Code of Conduct



## Hurst Green Primary School

### Our Code of Conduct

-   1. Keep your hands and feet to yourself.
-   2. Use appropriate language and kind words.
-   3. Listen carefully and follow instructions straight away.
-   4. Wear your uniform appropriately and with pride.
-   5. Move around the school calmly, quietly and safely.
-   6. Work hard in lessons and allow others to do so too.
-   7. Look after our school, our equipment and people's belongings.
-   8. Use technology safely and responsibly.
-   9. Make Hurst Green proud when out of school or online.





## New Code of Conduct - continued

At Hurst Green we have high expectations of behaviour from everyone. We know calm and positive behaviour is vital for children to be happy at school and to learn well. We have launched our new Code of Conduct, and you will see the signs (see above) appearing around school in the coming weeks.

The Senior Leadership Team are busy developing a new behaviour policy in school. The vast majority of behaviour at school is excellent, and we are keen to make sure we reward this in a way that motivates and inspires children. However, we still have too many incidents of unwanted behaviour. We need to make our expectations consistently clear, support children to meet these expectations, and have a fair and consistent system of consequences that help children take **responsibility** (which is one of our school values too).

Feedback from the parent voice survey showed a vast range of contrasting viewpoints on this topic. However, I am sure you will agree that we all want to develop outstanding behaviour at Hurst Green. We hope that you will support the school with promoting our high expectations, with recognising positive behaviour, and challenging the not so positive behaviour. You can do this by reiterating our Code of Conduct and encouraging your child to be responsible by accepting consequences.

## All About Parenting Programme

I had a lovely conversation with a parent last week, who had a great tip to get your children talking about their day. She told me that she looks for connection and reassurance for her children instead of 'grilling' them about school. She had three brilliant questions she uses to get her children talking about their day (after a reassuring hug and a reminder that she loves them). These were:

- 1) What was the best game you played today with your friends?
- 2) What the most interesting/funniest thing the teacher said today?
- 3) What are you most proud of doing today?

I loved these as they build self-esteem and connection in a low-stakes way so wanted to share with you all. Thank you to the mum who shared with me!

For more information on the approach you can go to: [www.allaboutparenting.com](http://www.allaboutparenting.com)

## Pupil Premium - Extra Funding

We are reaching out to encourage all eligible families to apply for the Pupil Premium funding. This vital funding helps our school receive additional financial support, which we use to enhance the educational experience for all our pupils. By signing up, you enable us to provide targeted interventions, additional resources, and enriching activities that can significantly benefit your child's learning and development. If you think you might qualify, please don't hesitate to apply [by clicking on this link.](#)

## Persistent Absence Letters

We are committed to ensuring that every pupil has the opportunity to thrive through regular attendance. We are actively working to improve attendance rates and will be reaching out to parents of pupils who are close to becoming persistently absent or nearing the threshold for unauthorised absence (10 sessions in 10 weeks). If you receive a letter from us, we encourage you to contact us so that we can discuss your child's attendance or any other concerns you might have. Together, we can support our pupils in achieving their best and foster a positive learning environment for all. Thank you for your continued partnership in this important matter.

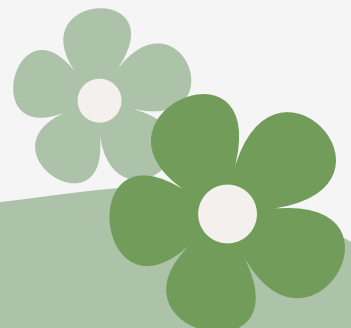


## Happy Half Term

Next Friday 25th October we break up for half term. Thank you to the staff and children who have worked so hard this term, and thoroughly deserve their break!
















If I don't see you before then, I would like to wish you all a safe and happy half term holiday. We look forward to welcoming you all back on Monday 4th November!

Have a wonderful weekend!  
Miss Wilson


















Find more info here:  
[www.hurstgreen-dudley.co.uk](http://www.hurstgreen-dudley.co.uk)

## Class Attendance - Week Beginning 07.10.24

 Apple - 93.67%	 Cedar - 92.26%	 Hawthorn - 95%	 Pine - 90.33%
 Apricot - 89.67%	 Cherry - 92.47%	 Hazel - 91.38%	 Poplar - 96%
 Beech - 98.28%	 Elder - 96%	 Larch - 96.77%	 <b>Well Done Beech Class!</b>
 Birch - 93.45%	 Elm - 96.56%	 Lime - 93.79%	

## Class Attendance - Week Beginning 14.10.24

 Apple - 91.67%	 Cedar - 99.35%	 Hawthorn - 98.33%	 Pine - 97.67%
 Apricot - 90.33%	 Cherry - 92.07%	 Hazel - 97.93%	 Poplar - 91%
 Beech - 95.17%	 Elder - 95%	 Larch - 98.06%	 <b>Well Done Cedar Class!</b>
 Birch - 91.03%	 Elm - 95%	 Lime - 91.38%	

Jupiter

336

Neptune

306

Saturn

328

Mercury

294

WELL DONE

### Mentions - Week One

Apricot - The whole class  
 Apple - The whole class  
 Beech - Frankie  
 Birch - Lily  
 Cedar - Tilly  
 Cherry - Hughie  
 Elder - Oliver  
 Elm - Idris  
 Hawthorn - Cole  
 Hazel - Isobel  
 Larch - Aadam  
 Lime - Albert  
 Pine - Aayan  
 Poplar - Joseph

### Mentions - Week Two

Apricot - Logan  
 Apple - Amy  
 Beech - Arlo  
 Birch - Dexter  
 Cedar - Harleen  
 Cherry - Ava  
 Elder - Gracie  
 Elm - Zachary  
 Hawthorn - Reegan  
 Hazel - Erin  
 Larch - Stanley  
 Lime - Ted  
 Pine - Lacey  
 Poplar - Amber

well done!