

# Headteacher's Newsletter



31st January 2025 - Edition 10

Dear Parents/Carers and Families,

Welcome to the latest edition of our fortnightly newsletter! I'm excited to share updates, upcoming events, school news, and practical tips to support your child's learning and development.

In this issue, we'll talk about the importance of good attendance, understanding the difference between conflict and bullying, and ways to support your child's mental well-being. I hope you find these insights helpful, and I'd love to hear your thoughts or any questions you may have.

Let's continue working together to create a positive and supportive learning environment for all our children!

## Children's Mental Health Week

From the 3rd - 9th of February, we will be celebrating Children's Mental Health Week. The theme this year is 'Know Yourself, Grow Yourself'. To kick this off, we are inviting children to come to school dressed up on Monday 3rd February. Please [click the link here](#) for further details.

## My Happy Mind App

If you haven't already, please sign up to our My Happy Mind Parent App and support our work in school on improving mental health and wellbeing. To sign up, please [click the following link](#), and use the code 103807



# Supporting Your Child's Mental Health

As a school community, we care deeply about the well-being of every child. Strong mental health supports both academic success and personal happiness, and as parents, you play a key role in nurturing your child's emotional well-being.

Here are a few ways to help:

## 1. Encourage Open Conversations

Let your child know their feelings—whether happy, sad, or frustrated—are always valid. Creating a space where they feel heard and supported can make a big difference. Simple check-ins or relaxed one-on-one chats can help build trust.

## 2. Model Healthy Coping Strategies

Children often take cues from how adults handle stress. Show them positive ways to navigate challenges, whether it's deep breathing, exercising, or talking things through. Sharing your own experiences can help them feel less alone.

## 3. Create Steady Routines

Consistency helps children feel secure. Regular sleep schedules, family meals, and a balance of schoolwork and downtime can provide much-needed stability.

## 4. Set Healthy Screen Boundaries

Too much screen time, especially social media, can impact mood and self-esteem. Encouraging tech-free moments—like during meals or before bed—can be a good reset.

## 5. Notice Changes

If your child seems more withdrawn, irritable, or has changes in sleep or appetite, it could be a sign they're struggling. If you're ever concerned, we're always here to listen, offer support, and help connect you with the right resources.

By working together, we can help children feel safe, supported, and ready to thrive.



# Conflict or Bullying?



*As children grow, they inevitably face disagreements and conflicts with their peers. While this is a normal part of social development, it's important to understand the difference between everyday conflict and bullying, as each requires a different approach.*

*Conflict is a natural part of relationships. It often arises when children have different opinions, interests, or needs. Conflict can be resolved through communication, empathy, and compromise. Children can usually work through conflicts with guidance from adults, and both parties have the opportunity to express their feelings and find a solution.*

*On the other hand, bullying involves a deliberate and repeated attempt to hurt, intimidate, or control another child. It often includes actions like name-calling, physical aggression, or social exclusion. Unlike conflict, bullying is not about resolving differences—it's about one child asserting power over another. Bullying can have a long-term emotional and psychological impact on children.*

*As parents, it's crucial to talk to your child about how to handle conflicts respectfully and encourage them to speak up if they feel they're being bullied.*

*Open communication and a supportive environment help children develop strong social skills and resilience.*

*Thank you for your ongoing support!*



## Dangerous Parking

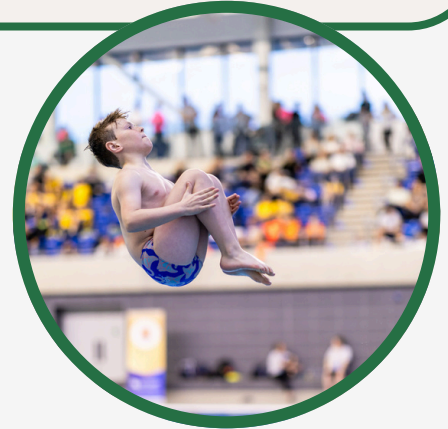
*We kindly ask all parents to be mindful when parking around the school, especially during drop-off and pick-up times. Unsafe parking—such as stopping in no-parking zones, blocking driveways, parking on the pavements, or double parking—creates hazards for children and other road users. It reduces visibility, increases congestion, and puts children and families at risk. Please use designated parking areas and follow traffic guidelines to ensure a safe environment for everyone. A few extra minutes of patience can make a big difference in keeping our school community safe. We advise parents to report persistent offenders to the police!*

# Ted is Making a Splash!

We love celebrating the extraordinary achievements of our children, and we are so proud to share Ted's incredible journey in diving, which began with a visit to the school back in January last year. Following that visit, he was invited to the second and third rounds of trials and was selected for the talent identification squad in May 2024. Remarkably, Ted had never even stepped onto a diving board before this!

In just 9 months, Ted has made significant progress, diving in competitions in Sheffield and Dublin, and representing the West Midlands at the ESSA championships in Sandwell. Ted now trains with the club for two hours, four times per week, and his passion for the sport continues to grow.

Sandwell Diving Club, which is a new club, is thriving, and Ted is a shining example of its potential. As a school, we are so proud of everything Ted has achieved, the hard work he puts into every session, and his determination to keep going, no matter the challenges. We're excited for Ted's next big competition in Manchester in March and look forward to hearing all about it.



## Advance Notice of INSET Days

Our final two INSET days of this academic year will be on:

- Friday 11th April 2025
- Monday 21st July 2025

On these days, school will be closed to children.

I will update you on the INSET days for the next academic year as soon as they are approved by the Governing Body.



## Upcoming Dates:

11th February - Reception Class (Apple and Apricot) End of Term Celebration Assembly - Fairy Tale Fun

10th February - Y5 trip to Symphony Hall

13th February - Elder Class Assembly

14th February - School breaks up today for half term.

Please remember that I do not always share diary dates in my newsletter. The only way to make sure you get all of the dates is by using the [calendar on our school website](#). You can subscribe to this calendar by clicking the above link, and clicking 'Subscribe'.

## Attendance Matters!

At Hurst Green Primary School, we believe that attending school every day is crucial for our pupils' academic success and overall wellbeing. Mrs. Webb has been actively meeting with families to address concerns regarding persistent absenteeism (below 90% attendance) and is closely monitoring attendance patterns across the school. If your child is at risk of persistent absence, you will soon receive a letter outlining the situation and may be invited to a supportive meeting to discuss how we can work together to improve attendance. We appreciate your cooperation in ensuring that every pupil has the opportunity to get the most out of their learning.
















## Conduct/Track-It Lights

We have been delighted with our new behaviour system and the positive impact we are already seeing, so thank you for all of your feedback and support. Already, in just four school weeks, the children have collectively accumulated almost 7000 reward points, showing that they are stepping up to our higher expectations and being rewarded for doing so! Even though the system helps us to monitor negative behaviour, over 92% of entries on our system are for positive reasons!

Have a wonderful weekend!  
Miss Wilson



## Fortnightly Class Attendance: 20.1.25 - 31.1.25

 Apple - 95.67%	 Cedar - 94.19%	 Hawthorn - 93.50%	 Pine - 91.09%
 Apricot - 95.17%	 Cherry - 93.97%	 Hazel - 98%	 Poplar - 95.67%
 Beech - 96.38%	 Elder - 96.17%	 Larch - 93%	 <i>Well Done Birch Class!</i>
 Birch - 98.23%	 Elm - 96.25%	 Lime - 95.50%	

## Fortnightly House Points: 20.1.25 - 31.1.25



1766



1694



1843



1729

### Mentions - Week One (20.1.25)

Apricot - Cruz  
 Apple - Poppy  
 Beech - Miracle  
 Birch - Tate  
 Cedar - Jack  
 Cherry - Alyza  
 Elder - Aizah  
 Elm - Mahyoub  
 Hawthorn - Caleasi  
 Hazel - Evie  
 Larch - Sam  
 Lime - Evie  
 Pine - Shaan  
 Poplar - Darcie

### Mentions - Week Two (27.1.25)

Apricot - Bobbie-Lei  
 Apple - Ayana  
 Beech - Olivia  
 Birch - Hana  
 Cedar - Amy  
 Cherry - Emi-Rae  
 Elder - Otis  
 Elm - Amber  
 Hawthorn - Willow  
 Hazel - Will  
 Larch - Anam  
 Lime - Esther  
 Pine - Emmie  
 Poplar - Yusuf

*well done!*