

Headteacher's Newsletter



19th December 2025 - Edition 26



Dear Parents/Carers and Families,

We have reached the end of a lively, busy and very sparkly term. The children have worked hard, laughed a lot and supported each other through the darker mornings and long countdown to Christmas. Staff have poured heart and energy into making school a happy place to learn, and families have been there every step of the way. Thank you for everything you give to this community.



Reception Class 2026 - Reminder

Families with children born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022 need to submit a Reception application for September 2026 by 15 January. Applications go through the Dudley website using the link below. Please pass this on to local friends or neighbours who might need a nudge.

Link: www.dudley.gov.uk/residents/learning-and-school/school-information/school-admissions/primary-reception-intake/



Year 1 Reading Breakfast

Our first Reading Breakfast was a huge success! Thank you to all the family members who attended and supported their child with reading. It was wonderful to see so many children and adults sharing books together. A big thank you as well to our prefects for their support during the event.

We are now pleased to be rolling this out across the rest of KS1 and Year 3. The upcoming Reading Breakfast dates are as follows:

Year 2 Reading Breakfast - 27th January, 9:00am

Year 3 Reading Breakfast - 24th February, 9:00am

EYFS Reading Breakfast - 24th March, 9:00am

More details will follow shortly. We hope you will be able to join us.

Christmas Parties and Special Visitors

Class parties have taken over everything from classrooms to hall. Children danced, played games and enjoyed some treats. Reception and KS1 also welcomed some Christmas elves, who stopped in to say hello before their busiest week of the year.





Reception Class Nativity

Reception took to the stage with a level of confidence most adults would envy. The shepherds occasionally herded each other, one wise person forgot to deliver the gifts, and the amazing singing appeared to steal the show. It was charming, honest and full of character. The audience loved every second and so did the children. Thank you to the wonderful Reception staff, who are quietly recovering!

KS2 Carol Singalong

Last week's KS2 singalong came with a full dose of British weather. Wind, rain and all. Despite the soggy conditions, the children sang their hearts out and showed great humour and resilience. We are grateful to families and staff for their patience and flexibility, and especially proud of the children for taking it all in their stride. A proper team effort, wet feet included.

Goodbyes

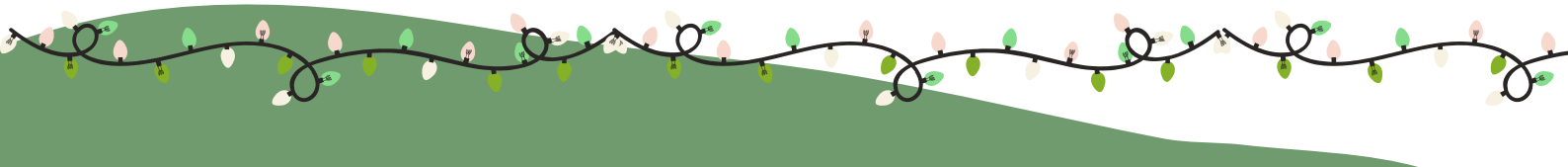
At the end of this term, we say goodbye to several colleagues who have each contributed a great deal to Hurst Green.

Mrs Blakeway retires from the office after seven years of warm, reliable support for families and staff. We wish her a retirement that brings rest, laughter and mornings without alarms.

Mrs Hughes is stepping away from her EYFS role to pursue new ventures, though children will still see her friendly face at Wrap Club.

Mrs Chappell is moving on to an exciting next step, leaving behind countless young learners who have thrived with her care and patience. We thank them all for the difference they have made to our school.

Mrs Lawley, a TA who helps support lunchtimes in the Orchard will also be leaving us to pursue a different role. We wish her all the best!



Welcomes (and Welcome Backs)

We welcome back **Mrs Jewkes**, who returns from maternity leave in January, and will be taking her position in Year 5, alongside Mrs Beard.

We also welcome **Mrs Verdi**, who takes over from Mrs Blakeway in the front office. I am sure she will make a great addition to our wonderful front office team.

Our EYFS team welcomes new TA, **Miss Ballard**, in January. Miss Bonness will also be moving into EYFS from UKS2. We look forward to appointing a new TA for UKS2 early in the new year!

Jonah and Charlie Help the Community

Two environmental champions from Reception and Y3 in our school spent time out and about collecting litter from Narrow Lane, Feldon Lane, Long Lane and Shell Corner, including the path by school. They filled four big bags and were full of pride. They wanted to make Hurst Green look better, and they did. We are so proud of their hard work for the community!



Bobby's Football Success!

Huge congratulations to Bobby in Year 4. His amazing Halesowen Town U9 team won the Junior Premier League Midlands final with a 4-2 win over Aston Villa. They then went on to beat both Bristol and Devon Champions, and became Midlands and South West Champions.

The team now go to the national finals at St. George's Park in January. We will be cheering you on, Bobby!



Festive Thanks!

The Christmas tree in the hall has been admired by everyone over the past few weeks. Thank you to Mr Tonks for providing such a lovely centrepiece for our festivities.

Year 3 at St. John's

Year 3 took part in the Carol Service at St John's and represented our school beautifully. Staff from school and church commented on their singing and manners. They enjoyed performing in such a special place.

Elder Sing in the Community

Elder class visited a Allenbrook Nursing Home and sang Christmas songs with residents. There were smiles on every face and plenty of conversations afterwards. The children brought comfort and joy, and left feeling proud.



Standing Up for Respect

We take respectful language seriously. When children use homophobic words or phrases, it causes harm. This behaviour leads to an instant Red and the incident is logged and shared with governors. Staff follow up with the child involved so they understand exactly why the language is unacceptable. We talk regularly about differences, fairness and the right every person has to feel safe in school. **Our message is simple. Everyone deserves dignity, and words must reflect that.** Please support us with this message at home.

Front Gate Update

Repair work to the front gate begins in January. Funding is in place and the team has been booked. Please be assured that **site security has always remained in place throughout**, although we know the situation caused some concern for some families. We would never operate in any way that put children and staff at risk. Thank you to families for sticking with us while plans were sorted.

PINS Coffee Morning Information

Neurodiversity Parent and Child Workshop



Dudley Parent Carer Forum is working with Hurst Green to host a parent and child workshop. During the session you and your child will have the chance to create a picture which will help staff to better understand your child's needs. After the session there will be time for a coffee and a chat with school staff and PCF reps. We'd love to hear more about your experiences!

wednesday
21st
January
9am

Help staff
better
understand
your child's
needs



Work
together
with your
child

For more information contact us at
pinsdudleypcf@dudleyparentcarerforum.co.uk

Hampers

Thank you to all of our families for your donations, and for buying so many raffle tickets. We raffled 63 hampers in total. A huge thank you goes to Mrs Withers, our Chair of Governors, who created the majority of these. We raised over £1900 which we will use towards resources and experiences for our children.



Library Book Donations

Thank you to the families who have bought our library some books from the Book Fair or from our Amazon Wishlist!

If you would like to contribute, the link for the wishlist is here: [Amazon Wishlist](#)

It's great to be able to update our library with exciting new books, thanks to our community's generosity!

Finally...

As we reach the end of the calendar year, thank you for the kindness, patience and partnership you bring to school life. December is busy for everyone, yet families, children and staff have met it with warmth and generosity. We hope the break brings time to rest, laugh, eat well and forget what day it is for a while. We look forward to seeing everyone back in January, refreshed, recharged and ready for the year ahead.

Have a wonderful festive break!
Miss Wilson



Attendance 08.12.25 - 19.12.25



Apple - 90.7%



Cedar - 87.7%



Hawthorn - 95.09%



Pine - 91.75%



Apricot - 92.46%



Cherry - 91.75%



Hazel - 90.04%



Poplar - 94.39%



Beech - 86.67%



Elder - 95.08%



Larch - 96.32%



Lime - 87.02%



Birch - 94.82%



Elm - 92.36%



Well Done
Larch Class!

House Points



6750



6912



6614



6393

Mentions 10.12.25

Apple - Ronnie
 Apricot - Eliza
 Beech - Ethan
 Birch - Elsie
 Cedar - Ella
 Cherry - Myla
 Elder - Hallie
 Elm - Jack
 Hawthorn - Raees
 Hazel - Uzair
 Larch - Olivia
 Lime - Abiha
 Pine - Keon
 Poplar - Sophia

Special Mentions

Apple - Hari
 Apricot - Jagger
 Beech - Frankie
 Birch - Lawrence
 Cedar - Lucy
 Cherry - Jeevan
 Elder - Harleen
 Elm - Harry
 Hawthorn - Chloé
 Hazel - Gracie
 Larch - Isabelle
 Lime - George
 Pine - Evie
 Poplar - Esther