

# Headteacher's Newsletter

23rd January 2026 - Edition 27



Dear Parents/Carers and Families,

Welcome back and happy new year to all our families. We hope you had a wonderful Christmas holiday and a restful break with time to share with loved ones, and to recharge. It has been a pleasure to welcome the children back to school over the last few weeks and to see them settle quickly into routines, friendships, and learning.

## Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti

We wish a happy birthday of Guru Gobind Singh to all families who celebrated this important festival earlier in January. We recognise the significance of this day for many in our community and hope you had a meaningful and joyful celebration.

## Value of the Half Term

This half-term's focus is on our value of **Aspiration**. Through assemblies and class discussions, children will be encouraged to think about their hopes for the future, the goals they want to work towards, and the steps they can take to keep improving. We have been sharing a series of assemblies focused on inspiring individuals and stories, helping children see what is possible through effort, resilience, and belief in themselves. We have already been learning about David Attenborough, Serena Williams and Malala Yousafzai.





# Big Breakfast Bash

Wraparound Club's next **Big Breakfast Bash** will take place on **Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January**. Places are strictly limited and are filling up fast, so if your child would like to attend, please book in using ScoPay or contact the office.

## Considerate Parking

We have received several complaints from local residents about cars blocking driveways and using neighbours' driveways to reverse or turn around. This causes frustration and, at times, safety concerns for residents. We ask all families to park with care and consideration, avoiding driveways and being mindful of our local community. Thank you for helping us maintain positive relationships with our neighbours.

## Jewellery Reminder

For health and safety reasons, jewellery such as hoop earrings are not permitted in school. These can easily catch during play, PE, and normal classroom activities, increasing the risk of injury. Please ensure children do not wear hoop earrings to school. Small stud earrings are acceptable. Thank you for helping us keep everyone safe.

## Clothing donations for Reception


We are currently running very low in spare clothing for our Reception classes. These items are essential for supporting children during the school day, particularly for accidents, outdoor learning, and wet or muddy weather.

If you have any school clothing that your child has grown out of, we would be very grateful for your donations.

### We are in need of:

- Tights
- Socks
- Trousers
- Joggers
- Wellies
- Shoes
- Trainers
- Winter coats

If you have any of these items (in small sizes - age 3-6 years) please drop off at Reception class or the school office.





## Children's Mental Health Week

During the last week of this half term, we are delighted to be once again marking **Children's Mental Health Week**, a national awareness week focused on supporting children's emotional wellbeing.


This year's theme is **"This Is My Place"**, which explores how feeling a sense of belonging (to ourselves, our friendships, our school, and our wider community) plays a vital role in children's mental health. This links closely with our whole-school attendance message of **"We Belong"**, and combines our **Safer Internet Day**, where children will explore belonging and safety through appropriate-technology/ online spaces.

The week will begin with a whole-school launch assembly, followed by a range of class-based activities designed to help children reflect on what helps them feel safe, valued, and included at school. Some of this work will contribute towards a whole-school display celebrating their belonging.

To mark the end of the week, we will be holding a **"Come As Yourself" Day on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February** (the children's final day of this half term before school is closed for our staff INSET day on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February). On this day, children are invited to wear something that makes them feel comfortable, confident, and truly themselves. This might be cosy clothes, cultural dress, favourite colours, or something special to them. There is no pressure to buy anything new; the focus is on celebrating individuality and belonging from what families already have.

## Safer Internet Day

Safer Internet Day takes place on **Tuesday 10th February** and will be marked across school with activities focused on staying safe, respectful, and confident online. Children will explore how to manage online friendships, recognise risks, and make good choices when using technology. This links closely with Children's Mental Health Week and our wider work on wellbeing and belonging.



## Smartphone Free Childhood – Parent Presentation

As part of **Safer Internet Day** and during **Children's Mental Health Week**, we will be hosting a **Smartphone Free Childhood** parent presentation on **Tuesday 10th February at 2:30pm** in the school hall. The session will explore how families can support children's wellbeing, sleep, attention, and online safety by thinking carefully about smartphone use. This is an opportunity to hear about the Parent Pact approach, ask questions, and join a growing conversation with other families. We hope this will encourage helpful playground discussions and give parents a chance to reflect on what works best for their own children.

## Year 2 Reading Breakfast

**Year 2** families are warmly invited to our Reading Breakfast next **Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January** from 9:00–9:30ish in the hall. Parents and carers are welcome to come along, share a range of our lovely library books with their children, and enjoy some light refreshments. These mornings are a great way to support reading for pleasure and see how we build positive reading habits in school.

## PINs Coffee Morning

Hurst Green is proud to be part of the **PINS project (Partnerships for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools)** this year, building further on our strong relationships with parents.

On Wednesday 21st January, we held our latest parent session, 'Dear Teacher'. Over 50 parents and their children, from EYFS to Year 6, worked together to reflect on what they would like their teachers to understand about their experiences in school. This valuable feedback will help us ensure that pupils continue to feel supported and listened to, even if some suggestions may not be possible to implement (for example, one-hour playtimes!).

Although this was the final planned session, we are hoping to continue with coffee mornings going forward, watch this space. Please also look out for an email from school sharing the resources used, so you can try the activity at home with your child if you wish.

## Year 6 SATs Meeting

Thank you to those of you who were able to attend the Year 6 SATs information meeting this week, led by the Year 6 staff team. We greatly appreciate you taking the time to join us and for your continued support as we work together to help the children feel confident and prepared for the upcoming assessments.

We understand that some parents and carers were unable to attend due to work and childcare commitments. To ensure everyone has access to the information shared, the presentation slides are available to view via the Year 6 SATs presentation using the link below:

[SATs presentation](#)

If you have any further questions after reviewing the presentation, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Year 6 team, who will be happy to help.

## EYFS Maths Workshop

Thank you to all parents and carers who attended our EYFS Maths Workshop. It was great to see such a good turnout. The session, led by Mr Rees and Mrs Yeomans, explored how maths is taught in Reception and across the school using the White Rose Maths programme. Resources from the session are available on the school website - [Parent Workshops](#)

## Maths Challenges

We are pleased to introduce our monthly online maths challenge for both KS1 and KS2 pupils. Children are encouraged to complete the challenge at home and hand in their solutions to Mr Rees or a Maths Ambassador.

All correct entries will be placed into a draw, which will be announced during a key Stage assembly at the end of each month. One lucky winner from each key stage will receive 5 Track-It points for Aspiration.

The [maths page on the school website](#) has also been updated with a range of online games and resources for children to enjoy and practise their maths skills at homes well as showcasing some examples of marvellous maths work from across school.



# Dudley Healthy Schools Update

Dudley Healthy Schools has shared its latest update for children and families, with information on health, wellbeing, and local support available across the borough. The update includes useful advice, services, and opportunities that families may find helpful. We encourage parents and carers to take a look if you would like to explore additional support beyond school.

You can view the full update by [clicking here](#).

## Reading at Home – Small Habits, Big Impact

We know family life is busy, but even a short daily reading routine makes a real difference. Research shows that **5 minutes of reading a day exposes children to around 400,000 words a year**, while **20 minutes a day can expose them to over 1.8 million words**. Over time, this gap has a direct impact on vocabulary, comprehension, and confidence.

I have to be honest, **too many of our children are not regularly reading at home**. We are finding that children who do not read regularly at home are often falling behind their peers across the curriculum, simply because they encounter far fewer words.

Five to ten minutes a day helps prevent small gaps becoming bigger ones.

Simple ways to help:

- Listen to your child read, even for a few minutes
- Talk about what is happening in the story
- Read to your child as well as hearing them read
- Keep books visible and within easy reach
- Build reading into a regular routine, such as before bed

**These small habits add up and have a direct impact on progress in school.**





## School Council Appeal: Amelia's Birthday

The School Council would like to share a very special appeal for a local girl called Amelia who attends a school close by. Amelia will be 8 years old on 3rd March and is currently receiving palliative care after being diagnosed with stage 4 neuroblastoma in 2022.

Amelia's dream is to beat the record and receive 8,000 birthday cards for her birthday. We would love our pupils and families to help make this happen by bringing in as many birthday cards as possible for Amelia. Cards can be bought or pupils are very welcome to make their own handmade cards at home if they wish. We are sure Amelia would love receiving cards that pupils have created themselves.

We would appreciate it if children can complete birthday cards at home and bring them into school throughout February. The School Council will deliver them to Amelia's school at the end of February.

For parents who would like to read more about Amelia's story, you can also view this BBC News article by [clicking here](#). Thank you for your kindness and support in helping to make Amelia's birthday extra special ❤️

## KS2 STEM Workshop

We are pleased to confirm that **all KS2 pupils** will be taking part in a **STEM workshop** on **Friday 6th February**, delivered by Hyatt Education. This is an exciting opportunity for children to take part in hands-on learning linked to science, technology, engineering, and maths.

During their session, pupils will work in the sports hall to build and programme a robot, developing problem-solving, teamwork, and computing skills. Each KS2 year group will take part in a dedicated session during the day. We are grateful to Hyatt Education for providing this valuable experience for our pupils.

Have a wonderful weekend!  
Miss Wilson



## Attendance 12.01.26 - 23.01.26



Apple - 97.19%



Cedar - 98.67%



Hawthorn - 93.5%



Pine - 95.5%



Apricot - 92.17%



Cherry - 93.67%



Hazel - 95.33%



Poplar - 96.17%



Beech - 98.83%



Elder - 96.83%



Larch - 95%



Well Done  
Beech Class!



Birch - 97.5%



Elm - 96.83%



Lime - 95.83%

## House Points



7937



7232



7631



7549

### Mentions Week 1

Apple - George  
 Apricot - Aila  
 Beech - Kai  
 Birch - Riya  
 Cedar - Elijah  
 Cherry - Rocco  
 Elder - Rayan  
 Elm - Ava  
 Hawthorn - Zack  
 Hazel - Tyler  
 Larch - Camille  
 Lime - Hannah  
 Pine - Harmony  
 Poplar - Eadie

### Mentions Week 2

Apple - Ellie  
 Apricot - Raghad  
 Beech - Grace  
 Birch - Abdul  
 Cedar - Billy  
 Cherry - Roman  
 Elder - Harry  
 Elm - Muhammed  
 Hawthorn - Henry  
 Hazel - Oliver  
 Larch - Harriet  
 Lime - Shane  
 Pine - Archie  
 Poplar - Lochlan