

Headteacher's Newsletter

11th September 2026 - Edition 38



Dear Parents/Carers and Families,



A very warm welcome back to Hurst Green and to the new school year. I hope everyone managed to enjoy the summer break, whatever that looked like in your household, and that the children have settled back into school life well.

It has been genuinely lovely to have the school full again. There is always something slightly strange about an empty primary school, and however productive the summer jobs might be, Hurst Green is much better when it is full of children, learning and activity, just as a school should be.

We have lots planned for the year ahead and, as always, our focus is on making Hurst Green a school where children are happy, safe, challenged and proud to belong.





A Special Welcome to Our New Families

A particular welcome to all the families joining Hurst Green for the first time, whether your child has started with us in Reception or joined us elsewhere in the school.

Starting somewhere new can feel like a big step for children and parents alike, so please give yourselves time to find your feet. There is a lot to learn, from which gate to use to remembering PE days, finding things on the website and working out who everyone is. It will very quickly become familiar.

For our new Reception families, you should now have received your activation link for Tapestry, our home-school communication platform for Early Years. Throughout the year, we will use Tapestry to share updates and photographs so that you can see some of what your child is learning, enjoying and getting up to during their first year at Hurst Green. If you haven't received your activation link, please speak to a member of the Reception team.

Please ask if you are unsure about anything. We would much rather you ask than spend three weeks wondering. We are very pleased to have you as part of the Hurst Green community.



Looking Smart

The children have come back looking incredibly smart, so thank you to families for helping us start the year with such high standards.

A quick reminder that our uniform expectations apply throughout the year, including our rules around jewellery. Only stud earrings are permitted. Hoops, dangling earrings and other jewellery should not be worn to school. Earrings must also be removed for PE, in line with our school policy, so children who wear them need to be able to remove them independently when required.

Our full Uniform Policy is available [here on the school website](#).

Please have a quick look if you are unsure about any aspect of uniform. Keeping things simple and consistent makes life much easier for children, families and staff.

If Something Isn't Right, Please Tell Us

School is a very busy place, with hundreds of children, families and staff all working together, and occasionally things will not go quite as they should. What matters is what we do about it.

There are very few problems that cannot be sorted out when school and families talk to each other openly and constructively. If something is worrying you, please tell us rather than letting it build up.

Your child's class teacher should normally be your first port of call. They know your child and what is happening in the classroom and are usually best placed to resolve things quickly. If you feel an issue has not been resolved, it can then be escalated to our Assistant and Deputy Headteachers and, if necessary, to me.

Our doors are always open. We will not necessarily be able to stop for a lengthy conversation at the school gate, particularly when staff are responsible for children, but we will always make time to talk to you.

Please don't sit at home worrying about something we may know nothing about. Tell us. We would much rather have the conversation and work it out together.

Working Together Respectfully

Alongside that open-door approach, I want to remind everyone about our [Parent Code of Conduct](#) and the standards we expect in communication with school staff.

It is absolutely reasonable to question something, disagree with a decision or tell us when you think we have got something wrong. What is not acceptable is aggression, intimidation, abusive language or disrespect.

If you have a concern or complaint, please bring it directly to us. Raising issues in WhatsApp groups or on social media cannot resolve them and can sometimes create unnecessary speculation and concern for other families.

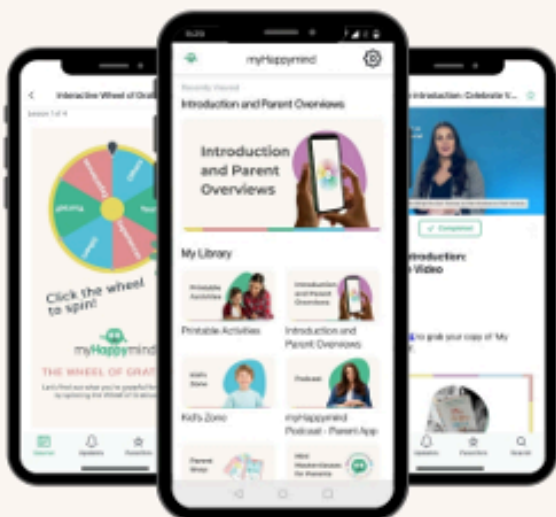
We want to solve problems, not amplify them. Talk to us directly and give us the opportunity to listen, look into what has happened and put things right where needed.

My Happy Mind Parent App



Download your FREE myHappymind Parent App

...An online resource to support you and your family to learn more about how you can use myHappymind to support your child.



myHappymind for Parents

Exclusively for parents with children at a myHappymind School or Nursery.



Learn all about what your children are learning in school



YOU WILL NEED THIS AUTHENTICATION CODE TO SIGN UP

103807

We're a Silver myHappymind School!

We are delighted to share that Hurst Green has now achieved Silver accreditation as a myHappymind school. This recognises the work taking place across school to support children's wellbeing, resilience and understanding of their emotions. A lovely achievement for our whole school community.



Mobile Phones: Our Phone-Free School

Before the summer, we shared a summary of our updated [Mobile Phone and Smart Device Policy](#), following new Department for Education statutory guidance. Hurst Green was already largely operating in line with these expectations, so for most children very little has changed. We have simply tightened up a few areas and made our expectations consistent across the whole school site.

Children may still bring a mobile phone to school **where this is necessary**, for example if they travel to or from school independently. However, phones **must be switched off before children enter the school site**, including the playground, and handed to the class teacher for secure storage at the start of the day. As has always been our rule, **phones must not be kept in bags, pockets or with children during the school day**. They will be returned at home time and should not be switched on again until the child has left the school site.

Communication-enabled **smartwatches**, such as Apple Watches, are treated in the same way as mobile phones and **should not be worn in school**. Simple digital watches and fitness or step trackers without communication or connectivity features are still permitted. If a child comes to school wearing a connected device, they will be asked to remove it.

We fully support the move towards phone-free schools. We want children focused on learning, friendships, play and everything else that makes up their school day, without the additional distraction of phones, messages and notifications.

We would really appreciate parents helping us with this too. While pupils are present, we ask adults to support our phone-free environment by keeping phones away where possible when on the school site, particularly on the playground at the beginning and end of the day. I won't, of course, be confiscating parents' phones at the gate(!), but modelling the same expectations we are asking of our children really does help! Phones can still be used in school to take photographs of your own child at designated events such as assemblies, performances and sports days, unless we advise otherwise.

The full Mobile Phone and Smart Device Policy is linked above or available on our website under **Key Information > Policies**.

Attendance and Being on Time

One of the simplest ways to give your child the best possible chance at school is to make sure they are here, every day they can be, and on time. We know that children get ill and there will always be genuine reasons why a child cannot be in school. Our approach to attendance is not about expecting children to attend when they are genuinely unwell. It is about making every school day count when they can be here.

Our message remains: We're Here, We Belong.

Punctuality matters too. Arriving late is not simply about a mark in the register. Children arriving after everyone else may miss important teaching, have to walk into a lesson that is already underway and can begin their day feeling as though they are already trying to catch up. It can also disrupt the learning of others.

A calm, punctual start makes a real difference to a child's day. Thank you for helping us make sure children are here, on time and ready to learn whenever they can be.



Could You Be Part of Our PTA?

We would really like to grow our PTA this year, and that needs parents. We will shortly be announcing the date of our PTA Annual General Meeting, and we would love to see some new faces there. Coming to an AGM does not mean you have accidentally signed yourself up to run every school disco until your child leaves Year 6.

You can be involved as much or as little as works for you. Some parents may want to join the committee, while others might help at an event, offer an idea, source something we need or give an hour of their time occasionally.

A thriving PTA can make a genuine difference to what we are able to provide for children, from events and experiences to additional resources for school. But it cannot grow without people getting involved.

So, when the AGM date comes out, please consider coming along. No lifetime contract required!

Future Headteacher Newsletters

From this term, my Headteacher newsletters will be monthly, allowing us to focus each edition on the information that is most useful and relevant to families. In between newsletters, we will be making much more use of the Latest News section within News and Events on our school website, where we will share updates from across school, including trips, visits, events and some of the lovely things happening day to day.

Dates, Dates, Dates

We know family diaries fill up frighteningly quickly, [so please keep an eye on our school calendar](#) (Upcoming Events Page) which we are currently populating with dates for the year ahead.

You can find it on our website and, importantly, you can subscribe to the calendar (by clicking 'subscribe'), which means school dates can appear directly in your own calendar.

We will highlight some key dates in newsletters and messages, but the school calendar is the place to find the full and most up-to-date picture. There will inevitably be dates added, and occasionally changed, as the year progresses, so please keep checking it.



Reading at Home

Reading at home plays an important part in helping every child become a confident and enthusiastic reader. We encourage children to read at home at least three times each week. Staff will check reading diaries weekly and celebrate every 25 home reads with a special certificate.

Our new Reading Bears will soon be visiting children from EYFS to Year 3 for special reading sleepovers, giving families another opportunity to enjoy books together.

Classes will also be inviting parents, carers and grandparents to become Mystery Readers and surprise the children by sharing a favourite story. Our Year 5 and Year 1 children will become Reading Buddies, regularly sharing books and enjoying reading together.

We are also delighted that our new Key Stage Two Reading Nook is now open! This welcoming space gives children a special place to choose a book, enjoy reading and share their love of stories with others.

Thank you to all our families for supporting reading at home. Every read counts!

Our Library Is Reopening

Our school library will be opening again shortly and children will once again be able to choose library books to bring home.

We want children to read widely, find authors and subjects they love and, importantly, see reading as something that belongs outside a reading lesson too. A library book does not need to be the most challenging book your child could possibly read. Sometimes choosing something because it looks interesting, funny, strange or simply because they fancy it is exactly the point.

Please help us by looking after books that come home and returning them so that other children can enjoy them too. More information about library arrangements will follow from classes.



Spelling Shed is Coming!

Our staff have been busy training on Spelling Shed, our new whole-school approach to spelling, giving children a structured and consistent way to learn and practise spelling patterns.

Children will shortly receive their own login to access games, activities and homework at home. We will also run computer clubs during the school day for anyone who has difficulty getting online at home.

Please keep an eye out for login details coming home soon

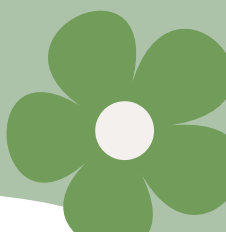
Here's to the Year Ahead

There is a lot happening at Hurst Green this year, and I am looking forward to seeing what our children achieve.

Thank you, as always, for working with us, supporting the expectations we set and trusting us with your children. The relationship between home and school matters enormously, and when we communicate well and work together, children feel the benefit.

Here's to a happy, busy and successful year at Hurst Green

Have a wonderful weekend!
Miss Wilson



Attendance 03/09/26 - 11/09/26



Apple - 99.06%



Cedar - 98.33%



Hawthorn - 98.57%



Pine - 99.11%



Apricot - 98.93%



Cherry - 98.81%



Hazel - 98.57%



Poplar - 99.54%



Beech - 98.28%



Elder - 98.77%



Larch - 100%



Birch - 98.77%



Elm - 98.03%



Lime - 97.52%



Well Done
Larch Class!

House Points



588



574



666



582

Mentions

Apple - N/A
 Apricot - N/A
 Beech - Toby
 Birch - Sehaj
 Cedar - Primrose
 Cherry - Abdul
 Elder - Eliza-Rose
 Elm - Walter
 Hawthorn - Savannah
 Hazel - Elise
 Larch - Carter
 Lime - Zakk
 Pine - Felix
 Poplar - Evie