Headteacher's Newsletter

9th October 2026 - Edition 39

Dear Parents/Carers and Families,

Welcome to our October newsletter. It has been a busy few weeks in school, with lots happening both in classrooms and beyond the school gates. As we head towards half term, there is plenty to celebrate, as well as a few important reminders for families.



Half Term Reminder

A reminder that we break up for half term on Friday 23rd October. School will then be closed for one week and pupils return on Monday 2nd November. We hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable half-term break.

Arriving and Collecting On Time

A reminder that school opens at 8:45am and the gates close at 8:55am. Children arriving after 8:55am will need to enter through the school office and be signed in as late. Arriving on time really matters, as it helps children settle properly and means they do not miss the start of lessons.

Please also collect children promptly at the end of the day. If you are delayed by more than 10 minutes, your child will be taken to our wraparound provision so that they can be safely supervised, and the early wraparound rate will be charged.

Bright for Sight

On Wednesday 7th October, we marked Bright for Sight Day, helping to raise awareness of visual impairment and the different ways people experience the world around them. This is particularly meaningful for us as a school community, as visual impairment affects some of our own pupils.
We also welcomed a visitor into school for a really engaging, interactive assembly. Children took part in activities designed to help them understand what it might be like to experience different types of sight loss. It was a practical and memorable way to build understanding, empathy and awareness, and to reinforce why accessibility and inclusion matter to all of us.



Harvest Festival

Today, our Key Stage 2 pupils visited St Paul's Church for our Harvest Festival. The children sang together and took time to think about Harvest and the importance of helping others in our community. A huge thank you to all of our parents and carers who sent in donations. These will be passed on to the local food bank, where they will help families who need a little extra support.





Festivals and Celebrations

Over the past few weeks, Jewish families in our school community have marked **Rosh Hashanah** and **Yom Kippur**. We hope all those who celebrated had a peaceful and meaningful time with family and friends.

Looking ahead, **Diwali, the Festival of Lights**, will be celebrated in October half term by many Hindu, Sikh and Jain families, as well as others within our school community who celebrate the festival.

We wish everyone celebrating a very happy Diwali and hope you enjoy this special time with family and friends.

Out and About at Long Lane Library

Our visits to Long Lane Library have continued this term, and we have been particularly proud to hear members of the public commenting on our pupils' excellent manners and respectful behaviour while they are out in the community. It is always lovely to hear our children being recognised for living out our school values beyond the school gates too. Well done to everyone who has represented Hurst Green so brilliantly.



Chess Club Gets Underway



Our new Year 5 and 6 Chess Club has got off to a great start at lunchtimes. The idea actually came from one of our pupils at the end of last year, so it has been particularly nice to see that suggestion turn into something the children are now enjoying each week.

Some of our more experienced players have already taken on a teaching role, helping others learn the rules, think a few moves ahead and develop their strategies. It has been great to see pupils learning from one another, showing patience, concentration and a healthy bit of competitiveness along the way.

Young Voices Choir

Our lunchtime choir is now up and running as we begin preparing for Young Voices 2027, when our pupils will perform as part of a huge choir of around 5,000 children. Mrs Webb, Mrs Fowler and I have already got everyone working through this year's varied set list, from Cry Freedom to an ABBA medley and even some David Bowie. There is certainly plenty to keep rehearsals interesting between now and February.

Vocal Lessons

Staying with singing, we will soon be offering peripatetic vocal lessons in school. These will be private lessons taking place during the school day. If your child would be interested, please contact the school office for more information.

Year 6 Secondary School Applications

A reminder to our Year 6 families that applications for a secondary school place for September 2027 must be submitted by **31st October 2026**. Applications should be made through your home local authority. For Dudley residents, this can be completed through the Dudley Council school admissions service. Please make sure applications are submitted by the deadline, as late applications can affect the allocation process.

Starting Reception in September 2027?

If you have a child due to start Reception next September, we would be very pleased to welcome you to one of our Open Day sessions on **Tuesday 3rd November**. Sessions will take place at **9:30am, 1:30pm and 5:30pm**, giving families the chance to look around school, meet staff and find out more about Hurst Green.

Please email us or contact the school office to book onto one of the sessions.

Applications for Reception places for September 2027 are now open through Dudley Council. The closing date is 15th January 2027.

PTA Annual Genral Meeting

Our recent PTA AGM was really well attended, with our best turnout yet. It is great to see the PTA continuing to grow and more parents and carers getting involved in school life.

A new committee was elected:

- Chair: Sam Campbell-Whyte
- Vice Chair: Kirsty Collier
- Co-Treasurers: Dean O'Connell and Gurdeep Dhami
- Secretary: Mandeep Chadha
- Social Media/Communications: Samantha South

We also had lots of parents and carers offering to help at events without taking on a formal committee role, which is just as valuable.

If you would like to get involved, whether regularly or just by helping at the occasional event, please do. The more our PTA grows, the more events we can put on for the children and the more we can raise towards experiences, activities and resources across school.

New Parent Governor Elections

Thank you to everyone who put themselves forward in our recent parent governor elections. We had four nominations for three vacancies, and we are grateful to everyone who showed an interest and to all parents and carers who took the time to vote.

Grace Smyth and Raj Soni have been re-elected, and we are pleased to welcome Rupinder Mann as a new parent governor.

Thank you to all three for giving their time to support the school and represent our parent community.



A Quick Christmas Update

It may feel a little early to mention the C word, but we have already had a few questions about this year's Christmas arrangements.

You may have noticed that the Key Stage 2 carol event is not on the calendar this year. In previous years we have been very lucky with the weather. Last year, however, due to heavy rain, we needed a last-minute move into the sports hall, which was not ideal because space was very limited and the wet weather made getting large numbers of people in and out quite difficult.

As we have no easy wet weather back-up option, we have decided not to hold the Key Stage 2 carol event this year. That certainly does not mean Christmas will be disappearing from school. Reception will still perform their Nativity, Years 1 and 2 will hold a carol concert for parents, every class will have a Christmas party, and we will hold our usual carol service in school for pupils. Some year groups will also be out in the community singing at local events. Year 3, for example, will be singing at St John's Church and visiting a local nursing home, as they do each year.

There will still be plenty of singing, celebrations and festive activities across school. Unfortunately, with the size of the school, we cannot always accommodate parents at every event, but there will be lots of opportunities for the children to enjoy Christmas together both in school and within the wider community.

Healthy Snacks Only Please!

A quick reminder that snacks brought into school should be fruit or vegetables only. We are seeing increasing numbers of biscuits, cookies, crisps and other snack foods coming in, so please do not send these for break time.

Children should also bring water to drink during the school day. We do allow squash where a child is reluctant to drink water, but no other drinks should be brought into school. Energy drinks are not permitted.

Thank you for helping us keep this consistent across school.

50,000 Home Reads



We are excited to launch our 50,000 Home Reads Challenge to encourage our children to read more at home! Children from Reception to Year 6 will be working together to reach an incredible 50,000 home reads by the end of the school year.

Every read recorded at home will help us move closer to our target, with certificates and weekly class prizes along the way. If we reach 50,000, the whole school will unlock a very special secret reward!

Click here to see our school website for more information.

Keep reading, Hurst Green – every read counts!



Reflexions Parent Launch Meeting

We're excited to be partnering with Reflexions, Dudley's Mental Health Support Team, to provide additional emotional wellbeing support for our children and families. We'd love as many parents and carers as possible to join us for our **Reflexions Information Session and Coffee Morning on Tuesday 20th October at 8.50am.** Come along to meet the team, learn more about the support available and ask any questions in a friendly, informal setting. For more information, please see the email sent to parents and carers on 29th September regarding the Reflexions launch.



PTA Halloween Event

On Thursday 22nd October, our PTA will be holding a Halloween/fun-themed non-uniform day. Children can take part for £1, and Halloween goody bags will also be available to buy at the end of the school day. A flyer with all the details will be emailed out shortly.

To keep the day practical and suitable for everyone, no costumes, masks or face paint, please. Children are very welcome to wear Halloween-themed or coloured clothes, spooky prints or other fun festive outfits instead.

As always, children still need to be comfortable enough to learn, play outside and take part in the normal school day.

Non-Uniform Days for Chirstmas Hampers and Secret Santa Shop

We're very happy to be bringing back our Christmas Hamper Raffle again this year. It is always popular, and the money raised goes straight back into school to help fund resources and experiences for our children.
To help us fill the hampers, we'll be holding three non-uniform donation days:

- **Friday 6th November**

EYFS and Key Stage 1: Christmas sweet treats, such as chocolates, sweets, mince pies, biscuits or Yule logs.
Key Stage 2: Christmas savoury treats, such as crackers, crisps, chutneys or other festive snacks.

- **Thursday 12th November**

EYFS and Key Stage 1: Bottles for the hampers, for example wine, soft drinks, cordials, sauces or other suitable bottled items.
Key Stage 2: Christmas bits and bobs, such as candles, decorations, mugs, toiletries, stationery or other small festive items.

- **Friday 20th November**

All children: Gifts and bits and bobs for our Secret Santa Shop, which will run in December. These could include unopened gift sets, toiletries, candles, mugs, stationery, small toys, books, puzzles or other items that would make a suitable present.

For the **Secret Santa Shop**, we are looking for **new/unused items only**. This is a good opportunity to pass on any unopened gifts or gift sets that are lovely but perhaps not quite right for you, rather than anything already used.

Thank you, as always, for supporting us. These donations help us create some lovely Christmas activities for the children while also raising money for things they benefit from throughout the year.

Have a wonderful weekend!
Miss Wilson

Attendance 07/09/26 - 09/10/26

Apple - 97.16%
Apricot - 95.55%
Beech - 95.31%
Birch - 96.76%
Cedar - 99.39%
Cherry - 97.35%
Elder - 95.78%
Elm - 98.24%
Hawthorn - 97.82%
Hazel - 97.01%
Larch - 98.55%
Lime - 94.13%
Pine - 95.28%
Poplar - 97.30%

Well Done Cedar Class!

House Points

PANKHURST P WELL DONE — 2493

SEACOLE S — 2283

HAWKING H — 2474

ZEPHANIAH Z — 2414

Mentions Week 1

Apple - N/A
Apricot - N/A
Beech - Amira
Birch - Eli
Cedar - Frankie
Cherry - Eliana
Elder - Dexter
Elm - Musa
Hawthorn - Avery
Hazel - Layla
Larch - Uzair
Lime - Chloé
Pine - Alana
Poplar -Callum

Mentions Week 2

Apple - N/A
Apricot - N/A
Beech - Lottie
Birch - Jacob
Cedar - Joe
Cherry - Farrah
Elder - Hania
Elm - Ravina
Hawthorn - Theo
Hazel - Orei
Larch - Joel
Lime - Harriet
Pine - Hana
Poplar - Will & Kayden

Mentions Week 3

Apple - N/A
Apricot - N/A
Beech - Eliza
Birch - Vasiljana
Cedar - Poppy
Cherry - Theo
Elder - Ava
Elm - Olivia
Hawthorn - Muhammad
Hazel - Tristan
Larch - Heidi
Lime - Dylan
Pine - Lamees
Poplar - Emily

Mentions Week 4

Apple - N/A
Apricot - N/A
Beech - Safa
Birch - Jonah
Cedar - Brodie
Cherry - Amy
Elder - Tate
Elm - Hela
Hawthorn - Malia
Hazel - Charlie
Larch - Kayan
Lime - Henry
Pine - Jenson
Poplar - Olivia