Headteacher's Newsletter

13th November 2026 - Edition 40

Dear Parents/Carers and Families,

I hope everyone enjoyed the half-term break and that the children had an opportunity to relax and recharge. It has been lovely to welcome everyone back for the second half of the autumn term, and we are now looking ahead to the final weeks before Christmas.

Ofsted Inspection

As you will be aware, we welcomed Ofsted into school this week. I couldn't be prouder of our children, who were absolutely wonderful, and our staff, who have worked incredibly hard, not just during the inspection but over the past two years to bring about significant improvements across the school.

A heartfelt thank you also to our parents and carers for your overwhelming support, particularly those who completed the questionnaire or took the time to speak with inspectors. Your kind words and encouragement have meant so much to us. I would also like to thank our governors for their unwavering support, encouragement and commitment to our school's improvement.

Although we cannot share the outcome until the report is published, we were pleased that inspectors recognised the rapid improvements made at Hurst Green, the many strengths we have to celebrate and our clear understanding of the areas where we still need to improve.

We expect the report to be published within approximately 30 working days and will share it with you as soon as it becomes available. I am immensely proud of how far we have come and our commitment to making Hurst Green the very best it can be for our children remains unchanged.

Congratulations to Our New Prefects!

A huge congratulations to our newly appointed prefects, who have already made a fantastic start to their new responsibilities.

Their first official task was to help welcome prospective parents during our recent open days, including leading tours of the school. They did an absolutely wonderful job! Our visitors were so impressed by how confident, articulate and knowledgeable the children were, and by the pride they clearly take in their school.

We could not have asked for better ambassadors for Hurst Green. Well done to all our prefects!

A Fantastic Experience for Callum!

Back in October, Callum had the exciting opportunity to be a mascot for West Bromwich Albion during their 3-2 victory over Blackburn Rovers!

Callum enjoyed some time on the pitch with the players before kick-off, before walking out of the tunnel alongside them at the start of the match. To make the day even more special, he took home a football signed by the entire first-team squad!

What a fantastic experience and some wonderful memories for Callum. We are delighted he had such a brilliant day!



An Amazing Turnout at Our Open Days

Our recent open days were incredibly busy, and it was wonderful to see so much interest from families considering Hurst Green for their children.
We were delighted to welcome so many prospective parents into school, giving them the opportunity to see our classrooms, meet our staff and, most importantly, see the children learning.
A huge thank you to everyone involved in making the events such a success!

Reception Applications for September 2027

A reminder that applications for Reception places for September 2027 are now open. The closing date is **Friday 15th January 2027**. Applications must be made through your home local authority.

You can find further information and apply through the Dudley Council school admissions website.

Secondary School Applications

Another reminder to our Year 6 parents that the deadline for secondary school applications **was 31st October 2026**. If you have not yet submitted your child's application, please do so as soon as possible. Applications received after the deadline are classed as late and will be considered after those submitted on time, which may affect your chances of securing a place at your preferred school.
Further information is available on the Dudley Council school admissions website.

Festivals and Celebrations

I hope all our families who celebrated Diwali and Bandi Chhor Divas last week had a wonderful time with family and friends.

Later this month, our Sikh families will also celebrate Guru Nanak Gurpurab, marking the birthday of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, the founder of Sikhism. We wish everyone celebrating a very happy and peaceful occasion!

Fundraising and Supporting Our School

I wanted to take this opportunity to explain a little more about fundraising at Hurst Green, particularly as we recognise that the additional costs associated with school activities can place pressure on family finances.

The money we raise through fundraising makes a genuine difference to what we can offer our children. With school budgets increasingly stretched, fundraising enables us to provide resources and experiences that we would otherwise struggle to afford.

This includes additional curriculum resources, educational visits, specialist coaches and enrichment opportunities. It also helps us cover the cost of events that children enjoy, such as our Christmas parties, which will be funded through our Christmas fundraising activities. By using fundraising in this way, we can offer more opportunities without having to ask parents for a separate contribution every time.

However, **I want to reassure families that participation in fundraising activities is always voluntary**. We fully appreciate that not everyone is in a position to contribute, and **no child will ever be excluded** from activities such as non-uniform days because their family is unable to make a donation.

The same applies to educational visits. If you are struggling to afford the cost of a trip, please contact us. We will always do our best to help and can discuss payment arrangements or other support where needed. No child will be excluded simply because their family cannot afford to contribute. At the same time, many educational visits depend on sufficient voluntary contributions from families. Unfortunately, the school cannot cover the full cost of every visit, and if contributions are too low, some activities may not be financially viable.

Thank you to everyone who supports our fundraising efforts, whether through donations, attending events or helping in other ways. Your support really does make a difference to the opportunities we can provide for our children.

Halloween Treats

A big thank you to our PTA for organising the Halloween goodie bags before half term. They proved even more popular than anticipated, and it was lovely to see such an enthusiastic response from families.
We are very grateful to the volunteers who give up their time to organise these little extras for our children. The goodie bags were such a success that we are planning to offer them again next year, with plenty more available to meet demand!

Healthy Snacks at Break time

A reminder that children should be bringing fruit or vegetables only for their morning snack.
We have noticed an increasing number of children bringing chocolate bars, chocolate-covered cereal bars and other sugary snacks into school. Although some of these products are marketed as cereal or breakfast bars, many contain high levels of sugar and offer limited nutritional value.
We want to encourage healthy eating habits and ensure that children have a nutritious snack to keep them going until lunchtime. Please support us by ensuring that your child brings fruit or vegetables rather than chocolate, biscuits or cereal bars.
Thank you for your cooperation.

Our 50,000 Home Reads Challenge

We are continuing to work towards our ambitious target of 50,000 home reads, and it is time for another update on our progress! **Our total of home reads (up to November 1st) is 6986!**

Thank you to everyone who continues to support reading at home. Regular reading makes such a difference to children's fluency, confidence and enjoyment of books. Every read counts, and we are looking forward to seeing how much closer we can get to our target before Christmas.



Communication and Raising Concerns

I wanted to reassure parents following some questions last week about the presence of PCSOs around school. They were carrying out work relating to traffic and parking in the local area, and there was no security incident at school.

This is a good example of how information shared through parent WhatsApp groups or social media can sometimes cause unnecessary worry and upset. Similarly, when incidents involving children are discussed between parents, details can become confused or inaccurate before we have had the opportunity to establish what actually happened.

We completely understand that parents want to know what is happening, particularly when it concerns their children. However, we would always encourage you to contact us directly with any questions or concerns. This gives us the opportunity to investigate properly, provide accurate information and respect the privacy of everyone involved. If there is ever a situation at school that parents need to know about, we will communicate with you directly.

Whilst on the subject of communication, I would also like to remind everyone that our staff deserve to be treated with courtesy and respect. We will always listen to concerns and understand that emotions can sometimes run high, but aggressive behaviour, abusive or threatening language towards staff are not acceptable.

These expectations are set out in our **Parent Code of Conduct, which is available on the school website.** I would encourage all parents and carers to take a moment to familiarise themselves with it.

Cross Country

Last month, oour Year 5 and 6 boys and girls competed brilliantly at the Halesowen Cross Country event at Newfield Park! A huge shout-out to Ben for an amazing **2nd-place finish** and to our boys' team for securing **3rd place overall**. Well done to everyone who took part!





Christmas Performances

With December approaching, I wanted to remind families of our Christmas plans. As explained previously, we will not be holding our outdoor Key Stage 2 sing-along this year. We have been fortunate with the weather in previous years, but last year our luck ran out! The uncertainty of outdoor events makes planning difficult, particularly for parents who need to arrange time off work.

There will still be plenty of opportunities for children to enjoy Christmas performances and celebrations throughout their time at Hurst Green. Here are the arrangements for this year's performances:

Tuesday 8th December, 2.30pm - Reception Nativity | Parents invited
Wednesday 9th December, 9.30am - Reception Nativity | Parents invited
Thursday 10th December, 9.30am (Year 1 Parents) and 2:30pm (Year 2 Parents) - KS1 Carol Concert (Years 1 and 2) | Parents invited
Dates to be confirmed - Year 3 Community Carol Events | Parent attendance to be confirmed
Friday 18th December - Whole-School Christmas Service | Children only (due to space restrictions).

These are just our Christmas performances. Please check the school calendar on our website for details of other festive activities, including Christmas Jumper Day, class parties and other upcoming events.

Parent Phonics Meeting

Thank you to everyone who attended our phonics information sessions this week. It was lovely to welcome parents into school and share how we teach early reading at Hurst Green, along with some practical ways you can support your child's phonics and reading at home.

We know how important the partnership between home and school is in helping children become confident, fluent readers, so thank you for your continued support. We will upload the slides on our Parent Workshops area of our website shortly.

Our Pupil Librarians Enjoy an Inspiring Day!

On Monday 9th November, a group of our Year 5 and 6 pupil librarians had the exciting opportunity to attend the Pupil Librarian Conference in Birmingham, organised by the National Literacy Trust as part of the Libraries for Primaries programme.

The children enjoyed a fantastic day celebrating books, reading and the important role that pupil librarians play in developing a love of reading across schools.

Throughout the day, they took part in creative workshops, explored exciting ideas for library displays and listened to inspiring talks, including a special session with children's author Adam Kay and illustrator Henry Paker.

Our pupil librarians returned to school full of enthusiasm and new ideas to help make our school library and Reading Nook even better!

We are incredibly proud of the children for representing Hurst Green so well and look forward to seeing them put their ideas into action as we continue to develop our reading culture across the school.



Have a wonderful weekend!
Miss Wilson

Attendance 02/11/26 - 13/11/26

Apple - 96%
Apricot - 96.5%
Beech - 94%
Birch - 95.67%
Cedar - 98.5%
Cherry - 95%
Elder - 95.17%
Elm - 97.67%
Hawthorn - 98.17%
Hazel - 96.33%
Larch - 95.67%
Lime - 93.13%
Pine - 92.66%
Poplar - 96.29%

Well Done Cedar Class!

House Points

PANKHURST P WELL DONE — 4517

SEACOLE S — 4143

HAWKING H — 4456

ZEPHANIAH Z — 4325

Mentions Week 1

Apple - Arlo
Apricot - Joshua
Beech - Zahaan
Birch - Erin
Cedar - Daniel
Cherry - Muhamad
Elder - Raja
Elm - Eden
Hawthorn -Oscar
Hazel - Thomas
Larch - Emily
Lime - Nancy
Pine - Noah
Poplar -Margarita

Mentions Week 2

Apple - Wren
Apricot - Arla
Beech - Delaney
Birch - Isla
Cedar - Theo
Cherry - Axel
Elder - Ali
Elm - Myla
Hawthorn -Lucy
Hazel - Amy
Larch - Gracie
Lime - Elsie
Pine - Sophie
Poplar -Zachary