

# NEWSLETTER



Edition 14

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

The joy of learning has been shining across Hucknall Flying High Academy this term. It's been wonderful to see children taking pride in their achievements and embracing new challenges with enthusiasm and the start of this new calendar year. Their curiosity and effort reflect our school values of being kind and working hard, and it's something we will continue to nurture and celebrate together.

## *Key Priorities for This Term*

- Strengthen partnerships between staff, parents, and the wider community to support pupil well-being.
- Maintain a strong focus on safeguarding and online safety education.
- Promote positive behaviour and mutual respect through assemblies and classroom practice.
- Support pupil progress through targeted interventions and enrichment opportunities.

## Road Safety

PLEASE... park safely around our school – avoiding parking around school crossing points. Cars are causing a danger for our children and wider community. We don't want this to be a cause for a more serious incident. Please support us with considerate actions!

Dates – Including Holiday Dates 2026	
January	
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup>	Spitfires trip to National Space Centre
February	
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup>	5:00pm Year 5 Parent Meeting for Hathersage residential
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Last day of the spring 1 term
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	INSET DAY – School Closed
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup>	First day of the spring 2 term
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Year 4 trip to Bosworth Battlefield
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Year 1 trip to Beaumanor Hall
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 trip to the Holocaust Museum
March	
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Year 5 depart for Hathersage residential
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Year 5 return from Hathersage residential
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Parent Meetings: 3:30pm – 6:30pm

<b>Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	Parent Meetings: 3:30pm – 6:30pm
<b>Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	2:30pm – Rocksteady Concert
<b>Friday 27<sup>th</sup></b>	Last day of the spring 2 term
<b>April</b>	
<b>Monday 13<sup>th</sup></b>	First day of the summer 1 term
<b>Monday 13<sup>th</sup></b>	Year 3 trip to Creswell Crags
<b>Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup></b>	Year 4 trip to Leicester Museum & Art Gallery
<b>May</b>	
<b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>BANK HOLIDAY – School closed</b>
<b>Monday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	Key Stage 2 SATS Week
<b>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup></b>	Last day of the summer 1 term
<b>Friday 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>INSET DAY – School Closed</b>
<b>June</b>	
<b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup></b>	First day of the summer 2 term
<b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup></b>	Year 4 multiplication Check Week
<b>Monday 8<sup>th</sup></b>	Phonics Screen Week
<b>Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup></b>	Year 6 depart for Wales residential
<b>July</b>	
<b>Friday 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	Year 6 return from Wales residential
<b>Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup></b>	2:30pm – Rocksteady Concert
<b>Friday 17<sup>th</sup></b>	School reports
<b>Friday 24<sup>th</sup></b>	Last day of summer 2 term

### **Smartphone Free Childhood**

Nottinghamshire is a hub for the "[Smartphone Free Childhood](#)" movement, a parent-led campaign advocating for delayed smartphone access (until 14) due to concerns about harmful content, addiction, and mental health, with local WhatsApp groups and school support for alternatives like basic phones and no-phone policies.

The movement promotes a "Parent Pact" to delay devices, with Nottinghamshire having hundreds of local members joining the national effort to encourage government action and safer tech environments for kids. We had several families that attended the local meeting last week that informed parents of the campaign.

We're hearing more from parents across Nottinghamshire who feel uneasy about the growing role of smartphones in children's lives – especially as they enter the later years of primary and start secondary school. The reality is, these devices are becoming part of childhood far earlier than most of us expected.

While smartphones have their place, they were designed for adults – and there's now clear evidence they're not always good for children. From rising anxiety and sleep issues to online bullying and distraction, many families are questioning whether early smartphone use is really in children's best interests.



That's why we're supporting a simple but powerful idea: the **Parent Pact**, part of the **Smartphone Free Childhood** campaign. It's a growing national movement of families choosing to delay giving children smartphones until at least age 14, and social media until 16 – and doing it together, so no one feels like the only one holding out.

You can learn more and watch a [short video](#), and if it feels right for your family, [sign the Pact](#) here. It's already been signed by families at 45% of schools in the UK, and you can see live data for which schools have the most Pacts signed in our area.

As a school community, we're lending our support to this movement – not because we believe there's one right way to do things, but because we think this is an important conversation for all of us. We know that every family's situation is different, and many of you may already have devices in your household – for your child or their siblings. It's never too late to reset boundaries, build healthier screen habits, or take small steps toward a more balanced digital life. If you're interested, we're also sharing some helpful tips from [Dr Rangan Chatterjee](#) on how families can navigate this together.

But we also know that together, we can reset that expectation that kids have smartphones – and give children at this school more time to grow up without the pressure of constant connectivity.

We're aware that many families want to be able to contact their children, especially as they begin walking to school alone. There are some great alternatives to smartphones that offer calls and texts, without internet access or social media. If you're looking for ideas, have a look at this [child-friendly phones guide](#) for some simple phones designed with kids in mind.

With our priority of online safety education, this is something that we'll continue to visit.

### **Parking Around School**

#### **Important Reminder: Parking Around School & Children's Safety**

Please can we remind you of the importance of parking legally and safely around school and in particular showing courtesy to our neighbours and each other. Unfortunately, this remains a constant source of frustration for all in our school community.



Please can we therefore ask you to be considerate when dropping off and picking up your children from school. Please be mindful when parking on Spitfire Way, Hurricane Road, Shepherd Street and Pennington Way. Parking on these roads can cause hazards for children entering and leaving the school grounds. Please also be mindful not to park across driveways. Clear visibility and safe access is essential to keep everyone safe, not just the children but other drivers and the general public.

Please also take extra care when children are crossing roads and walking between parked cars at the beginning and end of the day. Your cooperation helps us to maintain a safe environment for everyone.

## 2026 – The National Year of Reading



We are delighted to share that 2026 has been designated as the national *Year of Reading*.

Reading is at the heart of everything we do, and this national focus gives us a wonderful opportunity to further celebrate the power of books, stories, and language to inspire, challenge, and open doors for our children. Throughout the year, we will be planning a range of exciting activities and events designed to foster a love of reading, support reading for pleasure, and strengthen reading skills across all age groups.

We look forward to sharing more details with you soon — **watch this space** as we bring the Year of Reading to life in school.

## The Importance of School Attendance

Working in partnership with families is key to fostering a positive learning environment, and one area where we can collectively make a real difference is punctuality. Consistent attendance and timely arrival at school are crucial for a child's success. To support families in this effort, Mrs. Dempsey, our Family Support Worker, has prepared an informative leaflet.

## PE Kit

Just a reminder that on PE days children should have the correct PE kit for their session.

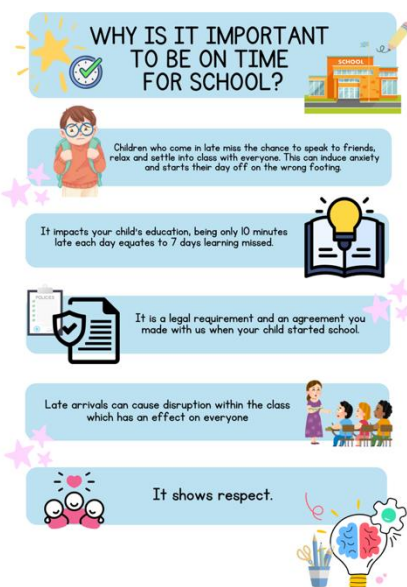
We have noticed lots of different colours creeping into the PE kit and children are wearing items that are not strictly in our PE uniform list.

Please see the following as a reminder:

- Plain white t shirt
- Plain navy shorts
- Plain navy jogging bottoms and sweat top
- Trainers or plimsolls

Please note that football shirts and brightly coloured leggings should not be worn for PE.

If your child wears earrings, they should remove them for the PE lesson. If this is not possible, please provide your child with a plaster to cover the ear lobe during PE. Children should be able to apply this themselves.





### **Pupil Contact Details**

Have you recently moved house or changed your telephone number? Please let the school office know so we have all your up-to-date information in case of an emergency.

Many thanks.

Best wishes,

Mr K Clowery

