

# NEWSLETTER



'Be kind, work hard and fly high'

**Edition 24**

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2026

I begin this instalment of my newsletter by reflecting on the news shared a few weeks ago that, after seven and a half years, I will be moving on from my role as Headteacher of Hucknall Flying High Academy in January 2027 to take up a new position within the Flying High Partnership. Over the past year, I have had the privilege of supporting a number of schools across the trust in a school improvement capacity, and this new role builds naturally on that work.



It has been an absolute privilege to lead Hucknall Flying High Academy since its formation. I am incredibly proud of all that we have achieved together, most notably securing our *Outstanding* Ofsted judgement, as recognised in the Hucknall Flying High Academy Ofsted report. This is a testament to the relentless commitment of our staff, the enthusiasm of our pupils, and the unwavering support of our families and governors.

Our statutory assessment outcomes continue to reflect the high standards we have established as a school, with pupils achieving strongly and demonstrating both academic success and personal development. These outcomes, coupled with the richness of our exceptional wider curriculum, reflect the ambition we hold for every child.

Central to our success is the wonderful Hucknall community that we are so proud to serve. The strength of relationships between school, families and the wider community has been fundamental in creating a culture where children feel safe, valued and inspired to achieve their very best.

Looking ahead, I am pleased to confirm that Miss Morris, currently Deputy Headteacher, will take on the role of Acting Headteacher from January 2027. I'm proud that she continues her leadership journey at Hucknall, supporting the school in the next phase of development. She brings exceptional expertise, a deep understanding of our school and a strong commitment to maintaining the high standards that are now recognised locally and beyond. The Flying High Partnership will continue to provide strong support to ensure continuity and continued improvement.

While I will have opportunities to reflect further with you in the coming months, I would like to express my sincere thanks to you all for your ongoing support and challenge. It has been a privilege to work alongside you in shaping the success of our school. Hucknall Flying High Academy is a truly magical place.



## **Current Activity**

Last Friday, we had the pleasure of welcoming Nigel Minns, the DfE Regional Schools Director for the East Midlands, to experience our school community. He was highly impressed by the vibrant learning environment we have created at Hucknall Flying High Academy, as well as the excellent outcomes being achieved by our children. This was a wonderful recognition of the hard work and dedication shown by both staff and pupils. He met with our CEO Chris Wheatley as part of the visit and mentioned that our school is being recognised widely for the exceptional school that we have created.



Department  
for Education

Two weeks ago, it was with immense pride that we supported our Year 1 pupils through their Phonics Screening Check, alongside our Year 4 pupils undertaking their Multiplication Tables Check. Across both year groups, the children approached these assessments with great focus, resilience and positivity. Their efforts are a true reflection of their determination and growing confidence.



We extend our heartfelt thanks to all staff whose careful preparation, expertise and unwavering commitment ensured that our pupils were so well supported for these important milestones. These assessments play a vital role in recognising the strong progress being made in key literacy and numeracy skills, providing a secure foundation for future learning. The calm, purposeful atmosphere observed during these checks is a testament to the strength of our school community and the positive partnerships we share with families.

The Family Breakfast was a particularly special occasion, bringing together pupils, families and staff in a warm and welcoming environment. It was a lovely opportunity to celebrate our community spirit and the strong relationships that underpin our school.

As we continue through the academic year, we remain committed to building on these successes and further strengthening our connections with the wider community. We are very much looking forward to our upcoming Summer Fair, which promises to be another joyful opportunity for families and friends to come together and celebrate all that makes Hucknall Flying High Academy so special.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

## **Warm Weather**

With the continued warm weather, please make sure to send children to school with a sun hat and sun cream applied, this should be done at home to last for the whole day.



## **School Return – September 2026**

To inform family future planning, we would like to confirm that the school will reopen for pupils on **Thursday 3rd September 2026** following the summer break.

## Key Dates

Dates – Including Holiday Dates 2026	
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Year 1 trip to White Post Farm
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Year 3 trip to Welbeck Estate
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 depart for Wales residential
July	
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Year 6 return from Wales residential
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	4:00pm Rebecca Lomas Drama Club Assembly to Parents
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup>	4:00pm – 6:00pm Summer Fair
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup>	6:15pm Year 4 Sleepover
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Year 1 at Hucknall Arc Cinema
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	3:15pm Art Showcase in the hall
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	2:30pm – Rocksteady Concert
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup>	School reports
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Nursery trip to Sheffield Butterfly House
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup>	5:00pm Year 5/6 Summer Production
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	5:00pm Year 5/6 Summer Production
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Transition Day
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup>	2:00pm Year 6 Leavers Assembly
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Last day of summer 2 term
September	
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	First day of the autumn 1 term



## Staffing Changes

### Staff Departures

I would like to acknowledge and celebrate some important transitions within our dedicated team.

Please join me in extending our heartfelt thanks and very best wishes to **Mrs Gerrard**. Mrs Gerrard has been an exceptional Assistant Headteacher and a truly foundational figure in our school community. From the

very beginning, she has played a pivotal role in establishing both the vision and the reality of our wonderful curriculum, ensuring that it reflects our values and meets the needs of every child.

Her leadership, commitment, and professionalism have been instrumental in supporting the successful set-up and continued development of the school. She has worked tirelessly to build strong foundations that will continue to benefit pupils and staff for many years to come.

We are incredibly proud to see Mrs Gerrard take on her next exciting challenge within the Flying High Partnership as Deputy Headteacher at Flying High Academy Ladybrook from September 2026. This is a

richly deserved next step in her leadership development; we know she will bring the same passion, expertise, and dedication that have meant so much to our school.

**Mrs Howard** will also be leaving us at the end of this academic year. We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks for the significant contribution she has made during her time with us. Over the past three years, she has shown a strong commitment to supporting our school curriculum, alongside a genuine dedication to our wider school community, supporting residential and wider opportunities in the field of music.

Her efforts have supported the continued growth and success of the school, and we are grateful for the positive impact she has made. We wish Mrs Howard every success and happiness as she moves on to her new role.

Whilst we will miss both members of staff, we thank them sincerely for their contributions and wish them every success and happiness in their new roles.

### **Staffing Additions**

Looking ahead with excitement, we warmly welcome **Mrs Maxey** to our school community. Mrs Maxey brings with her a wealth of experience, with over 20 years in education, and most recently having worked within another one of our Flying High Partnership schools.

Her depth of knowledge, expertise, and proven commitment to high-quality teaching will be a tremendous asset to our staff team. We are confident that she will make a significant contribution to the continued success and development of our school. We are delighted to have her joining us and look forward to the positive impact she will undoubtedly make.

We are also thrilled to welcome back **Miss Wilkinson** who will be rejoining us at the start of the next academic year. It is great to have Miss Wilkinson back in our staff team bringing her expertise. Her return strengthens our team and brings invaluable experience into our support staff model.

### **Classes for Next Year**

As we eagerly anticipate a new academic year, it brings me immense pleasure to share with you our refined staffing structure for 2026-27. This carefully considered framework ensures we continue to provide exceptional learning experiences for every child, building on the strong foundations we've established. As we look forward to September, I will be in post as Headteacher and Miss Morris will be in post Deputy Headteacher, with no class teaching responsibility as I support her transition to headship, ready for January 2027.

<b>Class</b>	<b>Teacher</b>	<b>Support (am)</b>	<b>Support (pm)</b>
<b>Nursery</b>	Miss Soar	Mrs Shaw	Mrs Shaw
<b>Foundation</b>	Miss Kenny / Mrs Hitchen	Miss Whitt / Miss Whysall	Miss Whitt / Miss Whysall
<b>Year 1</b>	Mrs Keen	Mrs Robinson	Mrs Robinson
<b>Year 2</b>	Miss Castledine	Miss Pouncey	Miss Pouncey
<b>Year 3</b>	Miss Cawley	Mrs Brown	Mr Chambers
<b>Year 4</b>	Mrs Maxey	Mrs Wilkinson	Mrs Curtis
<b>Year 5</b>	Mr Nightingale	Mr Chambers	Mrs Brown
<b>Year 6</b>	Miss Newton	Mrs Curtis	Mrs Wilkinson

A key part of our commitment to your child's continuous progress is ensuring a truly smooth and supportive transition to their next class. Over the coming weeks, the children will be involved in a **transition programme**, where the children will begin to spend short, engaging periods each afternoon with their new class teachers. This isn't just about familiarisation; it's a wonderful opportunity for them to build early connections, explore their new learning spaces, and get a gentle head start on the exciting journey ahead. This culminates in our dedicated **whole-school transition day on Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> July**, providing a comprehensive and joyful experience that will leave children feeling confident and prepared for the new academic year.

### **Year 6 Leavers Assembly – 24<sup>th</sup> July at 2:00pm**



We are delighted to invite parents and carers to our **Year 6 Leavers Assembly**, which will take place on **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> July at 2:00pm**. Parents are welcome to arrive from **1:45pm** to allow time for seating. This is always a special occasion as we celebrate the achievements and memories of our Year 6 pupils as they prepare to move on to the next stage of their journey. We look forward to sharing this memorable moment with you.

### **Year 1 Phonics**

Two weeks ago, our Year 1 children tackled their Phonics screening tests! Miss Soar and Mrs Robinson have been working diligently with each child, creating a supportive and encouraging environment for them to showcase their growing phonics skills. We have been truly impressed by the remarkable progress the children have made in mastering these foundational literacy skills.



The Phonics screening tests play a crucial role in identifying areas where each child excels and where they may benefit from additional support. While we eagerly await the official results, we want to take this opportunity to celebrate the dedication and hard work demonstrated by both our children and staff. Seeing their confidence blossom as they tackle new challenges is truly rewarding.

We will be sure to share the finalised results with you as soon as they are available. In the meantime, please join us in acknowledging the fantastic achievements of our Year 1 students!

### **Year 4 Multiplication**

Also, a huge well done to our Year 4 children who have completed their multiplication checks last week. The purpose of these checks is to determine whether children can fluently recall their times tables up to 12, which is essential for future success in mathematics. All children have worked extremely hard to improve their fluency and rapid recall of facts and have done themselves, their teachers and you proud. Well done and thank you for your supporting your children with this work this year and a big thank you to the Year 4 team of Mrs Hitchen, Mrs Gerrard, Mr Chambers and Mrs Howard.



## Summer Fair – Dates for Your Diary

As we build towards our **School Summer Fair on Wednesday 8 July**, we would really appreciate your support with the following events:



### **Friday 3 July – Bottle & Chocolate/Sweets Donation Day**

Children are welcome to come to school in **non-uniform** on this day. If possible, we kindly ask that pupils bring:

- A donation of **chocolate or sweets** for our Chocolate & Sweets Raffle, and/or
- A **bottle donation** for our Bottle Raffle

### **Wednesday 8 July – Summer Fair Day**

Children may wear **non-uniform** and are invited to bring **£1** to contribute towards the fair activities. The Summer Fair is always a highlight of the year and plays an important role in supporting school projects and experiences for our children. Thank you, as always, for your generosity and continued support — we look forward to seeing you there!

## Trust Award Art Creators

We are extremely proud of our Trust Art Award creators, who designed and created a Culture Cube to represent Spain. Their creativity, dedication, and keen eye for detail are evident throughout this wonderful piece of artwork. The time and effort they invested resulted in a truly outstanding creation that celebrates culture in a meaningful and inspiring way. We are beyond proud of their commitment and hard work, and we want to celebrate them on this fantastic achievement. Well Done Kade and Nora.



## Safeguarding Tip of the Week

### **Safety in the Sun**

This week our safeguarding focus is on staying safe when out in the sun. The weather is warm and the sun is shining, it is important that we protect our skin and our health in general. Here are some top tips for being safe in the sun:



- Use a sunscreen with a minimum SPF 50 and at least 4 stars for UVA protection
- Reapply sunscreen if you have been in the water
- Wear sunglasses with UV protection
- Wear a sunhat and loose clothing made of breathable material
- Stay in the shade during the middle of the day when the sun is at its strongest
- Drink lots of water to stay hydrated

Best wishes, Mr K Clowery

