

NEWSLETTER



'Be kind, work hard and fly high'

Edition 1

Tuesday 8th September 2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this newsletter finds you well after a wonderful summer break. Whether you enjoyed exciting adventures, special family trips, or simply some well-earned time together at home, I hope the holidays provided many happy memories and opportunities to relax and recharge.

It has been a delight to welcome our children back to school and to begin another exciting academic year together. The school is already buzzing with enthusiasm, curiosity and positivity, and it has been wonderful to see so many smiling faces returning through our doors. We have an exciting year ahead, filled with opportunities for our children to learn, grow, achieve and thrive.

This weekly newsletter offers a glimpse into the life of our school community. Alongside important updates and key information, I will use it to celebrate our children's achievements, share memorable moments from school life and keep you informed about the many exciting events and opportunities taking place throughout the year.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. I look forward to working in partnership with you and your children as we make this another successful and memorable year at Flying High Academy.

Diary Dates – Including Holiday Dates 2026/2027

As we look ahead, we are populating our school calendar with an exciting array of events and key dates for the new academic year. We encourage you to keep a close eye on these updates, ensuring you remain fully informed and engaged in our vibrant school life.

Dates – Including Holiday Dates 2026 / 2027	
September	
Thursday 3 rd	First day of the autumn 1 term
Monday 14 th	5:00pm Learn, Launch and Look Ahead Meeting for Year 5/6 Parents
Tuesday 15 th	5:00pm Learn, Launch and Look Ahead Meeting for Year 1/2 Parents
Thursday 17 th	5:00pm Learn, Launch and Look Ahead Meeting for Year 3/4 Parents
Friday 18 th	Year 5 Sleepover (rescheduled date from summer)
Monday 21 st	5:00pm Learn, Launch and Look Ahead Meeting for F2 Parents
Wednesday 23 rd	5:00pm Learn, Launch and Look Ahead Meeting for Nursery Parents
Friday 25 th	Non-uniform day for MacMillan – bring a £1 donation
Friday 25 th	9:15am – 10:15am MacMillan Coffee Morning for parents / carers
Monday 28 th	INSET DAY – School Closed

October	
Friday 16 th	Break the Rules Day – School Fundraiser
Friday 16 th	Last day of the autumn 1 term
November	
Monday 2 nd	First day of the autumn 2 term
Tuesday 3 rd	School Photographs - Individual
Thursday 5 th	F2 Trip to Twycross Zoo
Tuesday 10 th	Parent Meetings: 3:30pm – 6:30pm
Wednesday 11 th	Parent Meetings: 3:30pm – 6:30pm
Monday 16 th	Anti-bullying Week – Odd Socks Day
Friday 20 th	Non-Uniform Day for Children in Need – Dress in Yellow
Wednesday 25 th	Flu immunisation for F2 – Year 6
Thursday 26 th	10:00 Year 1-6 at Mansfield Palace Theatre Panto - Cinderella
Friday 27 th	Non-Uniform Day – Bring sweets, chocolates and bottles for fair
December	
Tuesday 1 st	Non-Uniform Day – Bring £1 donation for the Christmas Fair
Tuesday 1 st	4:00pm – 6:00pm Christmas Fair
Tuesday 8 th	5:00pm Year 3/4 Christmas Carol Service
Thursday 10 th	Christmas Jumper Day
Thursday 10 th	1:00pm EYFS at Nottingham Playhouse – Cinderella Performance
Thursday 10 th	5:00pm Year 5/6 Christmas Carol Service
Tuesday 15 th	1:30pm Year 1/2 Christmas Performance
Tuesday 15 th	5:00pm Year 1/2 Christmas Performance
Wednesday 16 th	10:00am EYFS Performance
Wednesday 16 th	1:30pm EYFS Performance
Friday 18 th	Last day of the autumn 2 term
January	
Monday 4 th	First day of the spring 1 term
Wednesday 13 th	Young Voices Concert in Birmingham – School Choir
February	
Monday 1 st	Children's Mental Health Week
Thursday 4 th	F2 Trip to the National Space Centre - Leicester
Friday 12 th	Last day of the spring 1 term
Monday 22 nd	INSET DAY – School Closed
Tuesday 23 rd	First day of the spring 2 term
March	
Wednesday 3 rd	Year 5 depart for Hathersage residential
Thursday 4 th	World Book Day
Friday 5 th	Year 5 return from Hathersage residential
Tuesday 9 th	Parent Meetings: 3:30pm – 6:30pm

Wednesday 10th	Parent Meetings: 3:30pm – 6:30pm
Thursday 11th	(1:00pm – 3:00pm) Family High Tea
Friday 12th	(1:00pm – 3:00pm) Family High Tea
Monday 22nd	9:00 – 10:00 Year 1/2 Easter Breakfast Event
Tuesday 23rd	9:15am EYFS Easter 'Eggs'travaganza 2025
Wednesday 24th	9:00 – 10:00 Year 3/4 Easter Breakfast Event
Thursday 25th	Last day of the spring 2 term
Friday 26th	BANK HOLIDAY – School closed for Good Friday
April	
Monday 12th	First day of the summer 1 term
May	
Monday 3rd	BANK HOLIDAY – School closed
Monday 10th	Key Stage 2 SATS Week
Wednesday 26th	Sports Day 2026
Thursday 27th	Last day of the summer 1 term
Friday 28th	INSET DAY – School Closed
June	
Monday 7th	First day of the summer 2 term
Monday 7th	Year 4 multiplication Check Week
Monday 14th	Phonics Screen Week
Thursday 10th	Pupil Awards at Royal Concert Hall
Friday 18th	7:30am Family Breakfast event
July	
Friday 9th	6:30pm Year 4 Sleepover
Monday 12th	5:00pm Year 5/6 Summer Production
Tuesday 13th	5:00pm Year 5/6 Summer Production
Monday 19th	School reports to parents
Tuesday 20th	Year 6 Depart for Residential
Friday 23rd	Year 6 Return from Residential
Wednesday 28th	Last day of summer 2 term

Staffing Updates

As we look to the new term, I want to share a few staffing updates that have taken place over the summer break.

We say a fond farewell to Mr Shacklock, our Office Administrator, who has decided to explore new opportunities over the summer period. We are incredibly grateful for the positive impact he had on our school community and the valuable contributions he made during his time working at Hucknall Flying High Academy. His dedication and kindness were appreciated, and we wish him every success and happiness in this next chapter.

Looking ahead, we are currently in the process of recruiting a new Administrative Assistant. This is a vital role, and we are committed to finding the right candidate to lead our administrative operations at Hucknall Flying High Academy. In the interim, we are very fortunate to have Mrs Bingham help us out in the school office for the next few weeks. Those of you who have been with us for a few years will remember Mrs Bingham as a valuable member of our school community.

Additionally, we're thrilled to introduce two new faces to our team this term. A big welcome to Mrs Maxey, who joins our school as our new Year 4 teacher. We also extend a warm welcome to Miss Chambers, who will be working as a teaching assistant in our EYFS classes. We know both will be fantastic additions to our school family.

2026 Changes to FSM Eligibility - Register for free school meals

We want every child to have the support they need to learn and do well at school. Healthy school meals can help children develop good eating habits and be ready to learn.



Your child may be able to get free school meals if you receive certain benefits or financial support. If your child qualifies, the school may also receive extra funding (Pupil Premium). This funding can help pay for things such as:

- Extra teaching or tuition
- Additional staff support
- After-school activities

Eligibility for Free School Meals (FSM) will be expanded to benefit more families:

- Targeted FSM – Income capped at £7400
- **NEW** Extended FSM – Families over the cap, but in receipt of Universal Credit

Who is Eligible

Targeted Free School Meals (FSM)

Families in receipt of Universal Credit, whose income doesn't exceed £7400. These pupils will also be eligible for Pupil Premium and other schemes such as free HAF holiday clubs.

Families in receipt of support under Part VI of The Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 will also be eligible for targeted FSM.

Extended Free School Meals (FSM)

Families who receive Universal Credit, but whose income exceed the £7400 cap. Households in receipt of Income-related Employment and Support Allowance, the guaranteed element of Pension Credit or households with families with no recourse to public funds (NRPF) may also be eligible for targeted FSM. Please see link to apply for Free School Meals:

[Free school meals and milk | Nottinghamshire County Council](#)

Learn, Launch and Look Ahead Meeting Sessions



Over the next few weeks there will be opportunity to attend a 'Learn, Launch and Look Ahead' meeting, for you to see your child's class teacher and meet with those involved in your child's year group. The dates and times for these sessions are listed below:

Monday 14th	5:00pm Learn, Launch and Look Ahead Meeting for Year 5/6 Parents
Tuesday 15th	5:00pm Learn, Launch and Look Ahead Meeting for Year 1/2 Parents
Thursday 17th	5:00pm Learn, Launch and Look Ahead Meeting for Year 3/4 Parents
Monday 21st	5:00pm Learn, Launch and Look Ahead Meeting for F2 Parents
Wednesday 23rd	5:00pm Learn, Launch and Look Ahead Meeting for Nursery Parents

What to Expect: During these sessions, we will share **key information for the year ahead** and provide an **insight into the curriculum** for your child's new year group. We look forward to seeing you there.

Uniform

Wearing a school uniform creates pride, creates an identity for a school and it also portrays the school's ethos and shared positive values. It is also important for children to wear the correct clothing for physical activities. For PE, children are required to wear the correct PE Kit.



The wearing of a school uniform creates a sense of a collective and individual pride in our school community as well as giving our students a sense of belonging. Security around the school is also significantly enhanced as our children can be readily identified as belonging to Hucknall Flying High Academy.

Additionally, equality is fostered by a uniform policy common to all students. Compulsory uniforms assist in eliminating peer group pressure to wear less appropriate clothing, reduces competition amongst children and removes pressure on families to provide fashionable items for daily wear.



We have a smart uniform that all children are expected to wear.

- Navy blue sweatshirt or cardigan with school logo
- White polo shirt
- Girls - Grey tailored trousers / skirt / pinafore – (Gingham dresses may be worn in summer months)
- Boys – Grey tailored trousers – (Grey tailored shorts may be worn in summer months)
- Plain black shoes



Attendance



Hucknall FHA is committed to working together with parents and carers to ensure the highest possible attendance, which will in turn support the progress of our children, enabling them to achieve the best outcomes and access the best opportunities possible. You can support the school, and your child, to achieve attendance targets by:

- Making sure your child attends school regularly and on time.
- Contacting school on the first day of any absence
- Informing school of any problems that may impact your child's attendance, punctuality, and learning.
- Arrange routine medical appointments **outside of school time**. If this is not possible, please bring your child in prior to their appointment and ensure they return to school afterwards.
- Ensuring children are ready for school by having good morning and bedtime routines.
- Ensure that you do not book holidays in term time.
- If you feel your child is too ill to come to school, please try to provide medical evidence. This can be prescription medication, an appointment card, or a prescription.

Attendance	Impact
Above 97%	Less than 6 days absence a year. Excellent attendance. Pupils with this attendance should have access to most of the taught curriculum.
95%	10 days absence in a year. Attendance has room for improvement. Pupils with this attendance are likely to access most of the curriculum. But may miss out on important educational experiences.
90%	19 days absence over the year. Pupils with this absence are missing 1 month of school per year and will miss key curriculum areas. It will be difficult for them to achieve their best.
85%	29 days absence in a year. These pupils are missing 6 weeks of school per year, equivalent to a half term. It will be very difficult for them to access the curriculum and achieve.
80% or below	Pupils with this attendance are missing the equivalent of 1 day for every week of school. It will be almost impossible to access all the curriculum.

Class Dojo

Using ClassDojo – Working Together Positively

ClassDojo is an important communication tool that helps us stay connected and share key information. To ensure it works well for everyone — and to support staff wellbeing — we ask parents and carers to keep the following in mind:



- Access to ClassDojo is provided to parents/carers or legal guardians only, usually for up to two adults per child.

- Parents are welcome to message their child's teacher with questions or to share information. If something needs more time, teachers will arrange a phone call or meeting.
- For urgent matters (such as absences, sickness, collection changes, complaints, or safeguarding concerns), please contact the **school office directly via phone or email**, as ClassDojo is not monitored urgently.
- Teachers will not respond immediately in most cases. Messages will be replied to within **48 hours during the working week – as per the Class Dojo Policy**, as staff are teaching and working directly with children, throughout the school day.
- Messages sent outside of working hours, including evenings and weekends, will be read and responded to during school time.
- We ask that all communication remains polite and respectful. This helps maintain positive relationships and ensures ClassDojo remains a supportive space.
- ClassDojo should not be used to discuss a child's academic progress in detail, but it can be used to arrange a meeting if you have questions.
- To protect staff wellbeing and work-life balance, we kindly ask parents to respect "quiet hours" and understand that teachers will respond when they are next working.

Thank you for your understanding and for working with us to ensure ClassDojo remains a positive, effective tool for communication that supports both children and staff.



Government Guidance: Digital Use for Children Under 5

The government during the summer updated its guidance on screen use and digital exposure for children under the age of five. The guidance recognises that technology is now part of everyday life but emphasises that **how** and **how often** young children use screens is crucial to their development and wellbeing.

Key messages from the guidance include:

- Screen use for young children should be **limited, purposeful, and adult-led**
- Time spent talking, playing, reading, and interacting with others is far more important for early language, social, and emotional development
- Screens should not replace sleep, physical play, or face-to-face interaction
- Where screens are used, content should be **age-appropriate**, and adults should engage alongside children, talking about what they are seeing

In school, our Early Years provision reflects this guidance. We prioritise **active play, high-quality adult interaction, storytelling, exploration, and real-world experiences**. Technology is used sparingly and intentionally, always to support learning rather than distract from it.

We encourage families to consider this guidance at home too, particularly around routines, mealtimes, and bedtime. Even small changes — such as turning screens off earlier in the evening or sharing a book instead — can have a significant positive impact.

By working together, we can help ensure that our youngest children develop strong communication skills, emotional wellbeing, and healthy habits that will support them well as they grow.

MacMillan Cancer Support Coffee Morning

We are supporting MacMillan again this year and will be doing a fund-raising day on Friday 25th September.



- We are collecting pennies for MacMillan – any loose change in the house – bag it up and send to school for the event – every penny counts!
- Non – Uniform day for £1 donation.
- Coffee Morning in school – 9:15am -10:00am. All friends and family invited.
- Cake Sale after school (if there are enough donations)
- All donations of cake really appreciated on the day – let's make a difference for MacMillan!

Parking

As we begin this school year, let's work together to park safely and respectfully around school. Please avoid parking on double yellow lines, zig-zags, corners, or in front of residents' driveways. Also, remember to turn off your engine when your car is stationary.

Following these guidelines keeps our children safe and helps us maintain a positive relationship with our neighbours. Thank you for your cooperation.

Let's look forward to an exciting year ahead!

Best wishes, Mr K Clowery

