Hampton Dene Primary School

Newsletter

November 2026

One School Cherishing All

Dear Parents and Carers,

The term is absolutely flying by. The children are now well and truly settled in their classes, and we have enjoyed several trips and visits as well as a spectacular Harvest festival. Thank you to everyone for your generous donations which have all made their way to Herefordshire food bank.
The first silent disco, organized by the PTFA, was a huge success, thank you to all those who helped to make this happen.
We have another busy half term ahead this includes some football and netball events, ice hockey trip, class visits and of course a wealth of Christmas celebrations. Please look carefully at the diary dates and use the calendar on the school website for any last-minute changes or additions.

Diary dates – November

Wednesday 4th – Year 3&4 BHBS music workshop
Thursday 5th – Year 5/6 Boys football, Year 3/4 Netball competition,
Friday 6th – Ice Hockey trip to see Cardiff Devils years 5&6
Monday 9th – Fox Class Trip
Wednesday 11th – Parent Carer meeting with WEST 2-3pm in school
Thursday 12th 9am – Owl Class assembly, school hall
Monday 16th – Staff INSET school is closed to pupils
Thursday 19th – Viking Experience Kingfisher class, Year 5/6 Girls football competition, Chestnut Class Royal Mail visitor
Friday 20th – Non-Uniform Day– bottle donations
Friday 27th – Non-Uniform Day Christmas jumpers and chocolate donations, Kingfisher Class River Walk, 3:30pm PTFA Christmas Fayre
Monday 30th – KS1 and Rec Nativity Dress rehearsal

December

Tuesday 1st – 5:30pm KS1 and Reception Nativity
Wednesday 2nd – 2pm KS1 and Reception Nativity
Tuesday 8th – Ladybird class Panto trip
Wednesday 9th – Christmas lunch day, Bluebell class Panto trip, Choir visit Hampton Park Church
Thursday 10th – Class trip for Fox, Otter, Snowdrop and Hedgehog classes, Butterfly class Panto trip, Owl and Kingfisher classes Panto trip
Friday 11th – Oak, Ash, Otter and Chestnut classes Panto trip
Monday 14th – KS2 Dress rehearsal, KS1 Christmas fun afternoon
Tuesday 15th 5:30pm KS2 Christmas Concert
Wednesday 16th – 1:30pm and 5:30 pm KS2 Christmas concert
Thursday 17th – Last Day of term, Choir attending carol service with BHBS
Friday 18th – Staff INSET day school is closed to pupils
Monday 21st December – Monday 4th January 2027, Christmas holidays
Spring term starts on Tuesday 5th January 2027



Owl Class had a fantastic day out at the Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre. They took part in a range of activities including spear throwing, cave painting and using fire bows as well as exploring the museum and visiting the shop!





Butterflies Class Step Back into 1666!

On Monday 19th October, we walked into town for our exciting history visit, 'London's Burning and Trail Blazers Clue Trail', to learn more about the Great Fire of London.

We split into two groups to enjoy an immersive workshop and a clue trail. The workshop brought 1666 to life as the children dressed in period clothing, discovered what everyday life might have been like and searched through sand to uncover and identify objects linked to the fire. They also learned about the plague through role play.

During the clue trail, the children used laminated maps and a series of clues to find their way around the city, discovering fascinating facts along the way. Their successful navigation was rewarded with a certificate scroll at the Town Hall.

After a busy day of discovery, we walked back to school. It was a wonderful journey into the past, and the children were brilliant from start to finish!

~Mrs Price, Butterfly Class Teacher



National Year of Reading 2026

Each month we hear from different staff about their favourite books and why they love reading them.

November – Miss L Jones

The English writer, Enid Blyton, was my favourite author as a child and definitely sparked my love for reading. I was completely captivated by her stories (The Famous Five) and loved being transported into a world of carefree adventures, mysteries, excitement and friendship. I loved reading about the friendships, fun, mischief and everyday life of the schoolgirls in her school stories too (Mallory Towers, St Clare's and The Naughtiest Girl).
As an adult, I have recently enjoyed reading the work of another English author, Claire Douglas. I was given the 'The Wrong Sister' as a present and I was hooked. Her novels are psychological thrillers, totally addictive and full of twisty suspense! Some common themes throughout are: family secrets, deception and complex female relationships. I am currently reading her latest novel 'The Family Friend' which certainly does not disappoint!

Autumn Term 1 has flown by and we have enjoyed sharing various stories in our classes. We have been busy getting stuck into Phonics, developing our Phase 1 skills and learning new sounds across the school in Phase , 3 and 5. Thank you to those parents who were able to attend our Phonics Evening earlier in October. We have also explored some spelling rules and taken part in activities to strengthen our understanding of different word classes.

Kingfisher Class took part in the National Year of Reading Online Comic Workshop, ran by 'The Never Ending Comic Company'. In the session, the children learnt about speech bubbles and thought bubbles, and designed their own 'evil' and 'hero' characters. After this, the children created a short comic sequence based on their own ideas!

During the past two weeks of term, some of our classes were lucky enough to be joined by English Language Students from Hereford Sixth Form College. We hope you found this insight into Early Reading useful. We enjoyed having you volunteer in our classes; the children particularly loved sharing books with you!

In November, Ladybirds will be taking part in a virtual event Puffin Schools where we will be introduced to the new 'You Choose, Party Time' book. We are also looking forward to World Nursery Rhyme week between 9th-13th November.