

HAMPTON DENE PRIMARY SCHOOL

One School, Cherishing All

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the Spring term, I hope everyone has had a restful and enjoyable break and that 2026 has started well.

The crisp frosty weather over the last few days have reminded us that Winter is well under way. There is snow in the forecast for the UK although unlikely for Herefordshire I would like to remind you of procedures in adverse weather conditions. Where possible school will try and remain open. Should we need to close you will receive an email from school notifying you and we will advertise this on our school website.

www.hamptondeneschool.co.uk . Notifications on the radio are often delayed.

If school is open it is up to individual families to decide whether their journey to school is safe. Often we will leave registers open as we would prefer children to arrive safely at a later time than not at all.

We already have lots planned for 2026, but we are very excited about the National Year of Reading which will see many activities for children to engage with.

I look forward to working with you all throughout the new year.

Best Wishes

Mrs E Kearns

Thank you to our Choir who sang at the Carol Service with BHBS during the final week of the Autumn Term in the Cathedral .



Term Dates for the school Year 2026 –2027

	Autumn term 2026	Spring term 2027	Summer term 2027
Term starts	Tues 1st September	Tues 5th January	Tues 13th April
Half-term	Mon 26th October– Fri 30th October	Mon 15th February-Fri 19th February	Mon 31st May—Fri 4th June
Term ends	Thurs 17th December	Thurs 25th March	Wed 21st July

INSET Days 2026 –2027, days when school is closed to pupils but open for staff training.

Friday 23rd October 2026, Monday 16th November 2026, Friday 18th December 2026

Monday 4th January 2027, Monday 12th April 2027

Thinking of booking a holiday?

We know this is the time of year when many families start planning trips- just a quick reminder: please make sure any holidays are booked within the school holidays. Government guidance is clear that term-time holidays can only be authorised in *exceptional circumstances*, and these need to be agreed with the school in advance in writing. Unauthorised absences can lead to fines, and more importantly, missing school can really impact your child’s learning and confidence. Before you confirm any bookings, please check our school term dates—it’s the easiest way to avoid stress later. If you think your situation might be exceptional, get in touch with us early so we can talk it through. For further information please see our *school attendance policy on our website* and the following government guide [parent guide to attendance](#).

School Uniform

As we start the new year here are some reminders about school uniform.

- ◆ Trainers are required for PE only they are not to be worn instead of school shoes. A sturdy black school shoe is suitable for both boys and girls. If you wish your child to wear boots to and from school then please ensure that they have shoes to change into indoors as boots are difficult when sitting cross legged on the floor.
- ◆ Hair accessories should be blue, grey, black or white and suitable for activities.
- ◆ Jewellery is not safe to wear in school, small studs in ears are permissible.
- ◆ Hair should be no shorter than a ‘2’ and extreme haircuts should be experimented out of term time.

Thank you for your cooperation with this.

Diary Dates

January

Weds 7th—Year 2 first swimming session

Thurs 8th—PTFA meeting
7pm all welcome

Mon 12th—Kites Class,
Young Voices Birmingham

Thurs 15th—Child Measurement Programme, Rec & Year 6

Thurs 22nd—Eagles Class
assembly 9am

Fri 23rd—Butterflies first Life Skills Cafe

Sun 25th—Park Run
(Details to follow)

Fri 30th— Butterflies, Life Skills Cafe (2)

February

Mon 2nd—Butterflies Class Trip

Thurs 5th—Yr5/6 football event

Fri 6th—PTFA Discos

Tues 10th—2pm SEND parent meeting

Thur 12th—2:30pm Caterpillars class assembly, Yr5/6 football event

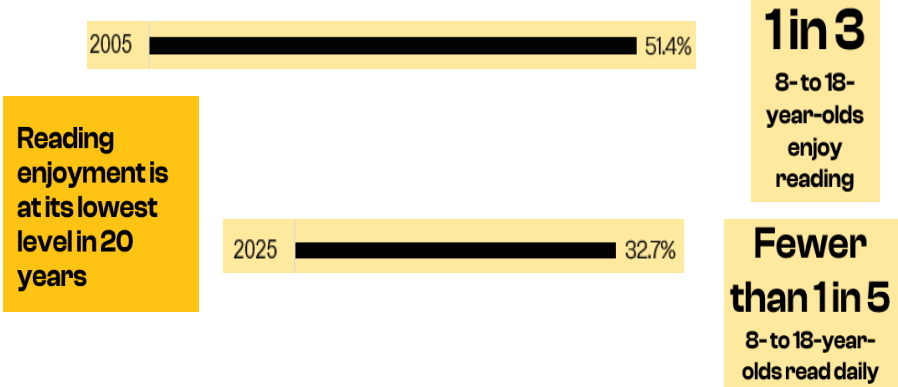
Monday 16th—Friday 20th

HALF-TERM

National Year of Reading

2026

The National Year of Reading 2026 is a UK-wide campaign designed to help more people rediscover the joy of reading. Reading expands minds, builds confidence and fuels creativity. Yet with more distractions and less time, reading for pleasure is in decline across many groups.



The National Year of Reading 2026 is here to change that, by reconnecting reading with everyday culture. It's not about guilt or obligation; it's about helping people see that stories, ideas and imagination belong everywhere.

The “Go All In” message encourages children and adults to lean into the things they already love, whether that is gaming, gardening, music, sport, family time or food, and to see reading as part of those interests rather than separate from them.

Each month, we will be hearing from different staff about their favourite books and why they love reading them.

January – Mrs Kearns

My favourite books are...

‘Call of the Wild’ by Jack London, a classic that stirs the imagination

‘Where the Wild things are’ by Maurice Sendak, Max’s journey reflects the emotional complexity of childhood

Challenge Time

How many books will you read throughout 2026? Will you set yourself a monthly target? Will you explore a range of genres?

Keep an eye out for key events coming up throughout the year and how you can help. If you have any questions about Reading, please contact Mrs Davies.

Autumn Term Reading Awards

Owls: Lauren B	
Ladybirds: Milo G	Hawks: Holly M
Caterpillars: Luca G-J	Kites: Rory B
Butterflies: George P	Eagles: Olivia W
Buzzards: Tommy M	Ospreys: Lincoln W
Kestrels: Joshua B	Bees: Elodie M

National Story-telling Week
Mon 2nd Feb – Sun 8th Feb