HILL FARM NEWS

CURRICULUM CHARACTER COMMUNITY

5 SEPTEMBER 2025

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE
VALUE OF THE HALF TERM – LIVE WITHOUT HARM
A VALUE IS A PRINCIPLE THAT GUIDES OUR THINKING AND BEHAVIOUR

Dear parent/carer,

Welcome back! I hope you had a restful and enjoyable summer break. It has been fantastic to see our pupils return, looking smart in their uniforms and eager to begin learning and catching up with friends. They have quickly settled into their new classes and I am confident this will be another wonderful year for everyone.

A warm welcome to all the new staff and pupils joining us this academic year, especially our new reception children who have thoroughly enjoyed their first few days at Hill Farm.

Please remember to read our fortnightly newsletters, which are filled with important information, photos celebrating pupil achievements, key dates, upcoming events and helpful advice on how you can support your child's learning and wellbeing.

Our first event is coming up next week – the annual Roald Dahl Dress-Up Day! For a small donation of 50p, pupils can come dressed as their favourite Roald Dahl character or wear his favourite colour, yellow. Mrs Nicholds, our school librarian, has also organised a visit from the 'Book Bus' on Thursday 11th September. Dressing up is entirely optional and we do not expect parents to purchase elaborate costumes. Homemade outfits are encouraged as they allow for creativity and fun. All donations will be sent to the Roald Dahl charity.

Please also note our 'Meet the Teacher' evening on Tuesday 9th September at 3:30 pm. This is a valuable opportunity to meet your child's class teacher, learn about daily routines and expectations and ask any questions you may have.

Next week, we will share details about the exciting after-school clubs available. As these clubs are very popular, please register your child's interest via Arbor promptly, as places are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Our Hill Farm Breakfast Club still has spaces and is free for pupils eligible for free school meals. Additionally, the After School Care Club runs from 3:20pm to 5pm at a cost of £5 per day and is now open to reception-aged children. For more information about either wraparound club, please contact the school office.



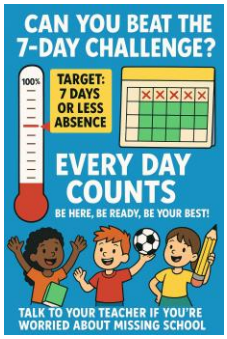
Finally, as the weather changes, please could you provide your child with a named pair of wellington boots to keep at school for lunchtime play. (If you have any old wellington boots that your children have grown out, please consider donating them to school 😊) Also, ensure your child has a warm, waterproof coat each day. We want our pupils to enjoy outdoor, creative play as much as possible, even in less favourable weather, so unless conditions are severe, they will still have the chance to play outside.

Thank you for your continued support,

Dawn Wilson - Headteacher

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

At Hill Farm, we know that excellent attendance is the key to success.



This year, our target for every pupil is to achieve **over 96% attendance**. To put this into perspective, over a typical school year of 190 days, this means children should **not miss more than 7 days in total**.

Good attendance helps children build strong learning habits, keep up with their classmates and make the very most of every school opportunity. If you are concerned that your child may be at risk of missing more than this, please speak to your child's class teacher or our Attendance Lead (Mrs Hammond) as soon as possible.

CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY TIMETABLE

Our Celebration assemblies for Years 1 to 6 are held in the **KS2 Hall** and start **at 9:00am**. We would love it if you could join us with your family and friends. If your child is due to be presented with a certificate or an award you will receive an invite to the assembly no later than the Wednesday of that week.

- **Friday 26th September - Years 5 & 6 Celebration Assembly**
- **Friday 3rd October - Years 1 & 2 Celebrtion Assembly**
- **Friday 10th October - Years 3 & 4 Celebration Assembly**
- **Friday 17th October – Year 3 Class Assembly**

TIME TO TALK

We offer weekly **'Time to Talk'** parent/carer appointments with **Miss Roper (SENCO).**

It is an opportunity to talk about any questions or concerns you might have or to discuss progress, additional needs or **SEN support** for your child. Appointments are available every **Wednesday** and can be made via the office.

'Time to Talk' appointments are available at **8:30am or 8:50am**.

If you would like to contact the **SENCo** via email, please send to: hfp-sendenquiries@castlephoenixtrust.org.uk

NEWSLETTER NATTER



Debate this week's Newsletter Natter at home with your family and friends to put your Oracy skills to the test.

- **What has been the best part of settling back into school this autumn term?**

KEY DATES 2025 / 2026

Date	Year Group	Event
Tuesday 9th September 2025	Years 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6	Meet the Teacher Evening
Thursday 11th September 2025	Whole School	Roald Dahl Dress Up Day & The Big Book Bus
Thursday 9th October 2025	Whole School	School Photographs
Tuesday 14th October 2025	Year 3	Coventry Sights Trip
Friday 17th October 2025	Whole School	Culture Day
Thursday 23rd October 2025	Whole School	Spooky Disco (details to follow) & Break up for Holidays
Friday 24th October 2025	Whole School	Teacher Training Day
Monday 3rd November 2025	Whole School	School Re-opens – 8:30am
Thursday 6th November 2025	Reception to Year 6	Flu Immunisation
Monday 10th November 2025	Whole School	Parent Evenings all Week
Wednesday 19th November 2025	Year 2	Warwick Castle Trip
Friday 28th November 2025	Whole School	Non School Uniform Day – Bottle Donation
Wednesday 3rd December 2025	Year 6	Health Questionnaire – School Nurses
Thursday 4th December 2025	Whole School	Non School Uniform Day - Chocolate Donation
Friday 5th December 2025	Whole School	School Closed – Teacher Training Day
Monday 8th December 2025	Whole School	DT Showcase from 3:30pm
Wednesday 10th December 2025	Invited Parents	Rocksteady Concert – 9:00am
Friday 12th December 2025	Whole School	Christmas Fair at 2pm
Monday 15th December 2025	Whole School	Art Showcase from 3:30pm
Tuesday 16th December 2025	Years 1,2,3,4,5 & 6 Parents	9:15am – KS1 Performance 2:15pm – Years 3 & 4 – Carols by Candlelight 3:15pm – Year 5 & 6 – Carols by Candlelight
Wednesday 17th December 2025	Year 1 & 2 Parents	2:15pm – KS1 Performance
Thursday 18th December 2025	Nursery & Reception Parents	9:15am – EYFS Performance 2:15pm – EYFS Performance
Friday 19th December 2025	Whole School	Pyjama (PJs) Day & Break up for Holidays at 3:20pm
Monday 5th January 2026	Whole School	School Closed – Teacher Training Day
Tuesday 6th January 2026	Whole School	School Re-opens – 8:30am
Friday 13th February 2026	Whole School	Break up for Half Term – 3:20pm
Monday 23rd February 2026	Whole School	School Closed – Teacher Training Day
Tuesday 24th February 2026	Whole School	School Re-opens – 8:30am
Thursday 12th March 2026	Reception & Year 6	Height & Weight Check
Friday 27th March 2026	Whole School	Break up for Holidays – 3:20pm
Monday 13th April 2026	Whole School	School Closed – Teacher Training Day
Tuesday 14th April 2026	Whole School	School Re-opens – 8:30am
Monday 4th May 2026	Whole School	School Closed – Bank Holiday - May day
Tuesday 5th May 2026	Whole School	School Re-opens – 8:30am
Friday 22nd May 2026	Whole School	Break up for Half Term – 3:20pm
Monday 1st June 2026	Whole School	School Re-opens – 8:30am
Friday 26th June 2026	Whole School	School Closed – Teacher Training Day
Wednesday 1st July 2026	Whole School	Transition Day
Friday 17th July 2026	Whole School	Break up for Holidays – 3:20pm
Monday 20th July 2025	Whole School	School Closed - Teacher Training Day

OPAL RESOURCES

As the weather is now beginning to change, but we still want the children to access our OPAL resources, please would you send your child to school with either:

- A pair of Wellies (with their name in them)
- A pair of old shoes that you don't mind if they get wet



OPAL ADVENTURES ARE GROWING!

This term, there are lots of exciting things happening with Opal, and we'd love for you to be part of the fun!
We're on the hunt for **metal spoons** – any size, any shape – to add some magic to our outdoor play.

Our **KS1 Mud Kitchen** is bubbling away with new ideas, and we'd be thrilled with donations of **pots, pans, or kitchen bits and bobs** you no longer need.
Your amazing support helps us create outdoor spaces full of creativity, imagination, and joy for the children.
Thank you for helping us make playtime even more special!



THE BOOK BUS

We're thrilled to announce that **The Big Book Bus** will be visiting our school on **Thursday 11th September** – and it promises to be a truly special day!

ROALD DAHL DAY



To add even more excitement to next Thursday, we will also be celebrating **The Dahlicious Dress-Up Day!** Children are encouraged to come to school dressed as their **favourite Roald Dahl character** – whether it's Matilda, the BFG, Fantastic Mr Fox, or even an Oompa-Loompa. If dressing up isn't their thing, children are welcome to wear **something yellow** to celebrate Roald Dahl's favourite colour.
We'd also love for children to bring in their **favourite Roald Dahl book** to share with their class (if they can choose just one!).

GENTLE REMINDER

We kindly ask parents and carers to avoid swearing or using inappropriate language near the school gates. Our children quickly pick up on what they hear, and we want to set the best example for them. Thank you for helping us keep a positive and respectful atmosphere



FRESS SCHOOL MEALS – LINKED TO BENEFITS

Although all children in Reception, Year 1, and Year 2 are entitled to universal free school meals, this is different from eligibility for means-tested Free School Meals (FSM). We strongly encourage parents and carers of children in these year groups to check their eligibility for FSM by visiting the official government website
Free School Meals – Coventry City Council.

Being eligible for FSM not only provides free meals beyond Year 2 but can also offer additional benefits such as support with school trips and access to free places at our breakfast club. Checking eligibility is quick and could bring valuable support to your family.



LIBRARY CORNER

Welcome Back to YOUR School and Community Library!

Lots of children have visited the Library to show Mrs Nicholds their Summer Reading Challenge medals, and also their evidence of completing Hill Farm's Summer Reading Challenge. Please remember that if you completed either reading challenge then give your name to Mrs Nicholds, and you will get Dojo points and your name will go in a prize draw before the end of September!

On **Thursday 11th September** the school will be celebrating Roald Dahl Day and there will also be a bright red Book Bus at school all day! Children and parents can hop on the bus from 8:30am until 8:50am, and again after close of school day, from 3:20pm.

The children will all get the chance to climb aboard the bus during the day & there will be exciting activities going on in the Library! It will be a really fun day, celebrating Roald Dahl and books, books, books!

Finally, the Library Loyalty Card scheme will be relaunched in a few weeks' time, so watch this space!