# HILL FARM NEWS

CURRICULUM CHARACTER COMMUNITY

**19 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,

Firstly, a warm welcome to our youngest pupils who joined our Hill Farm nursery class this week. Miss McShane and Miss Webb have been amazed at how quickly they have settled in.

Thank you to everyone that attended our 'Meet the Teacher' evening. I hope you found the information helpful and would remind you that if you have any queries, our staff are available every evening as you collect your children. Senior leaders are also available at the main gates both morning and evening.



Thank you to everyone that took part in the Roald Dahl dress up day, not only did pupils have lots of fun sharing their favourite characters and stories, they also raised £250 that we can spend on books for our school through visiting the 'Book Bus'. Luke, the owner of the company shared how impressed he was with the pupils, noting it was obviously a reading school! Helping your child to read is so important, even if it is just a few pages a day, it can make the world of difference to your child's ability in all subjects and success in later life. You can find more information here: https://www.booktrust.org.uk/resources/reading-benefits/

Hill Farm after school clubs have begun this week with pupils having the opportunity to experience a whole range of activities from nature rangers to rock stars! Some clubs still have spaces, if you would like your child to attend a club, please speak to the office.

More dates have been added on the school calendar including the Autumn (spooky) Disco on 23rd October. Please look out for more details shortly of this and other events and trips.

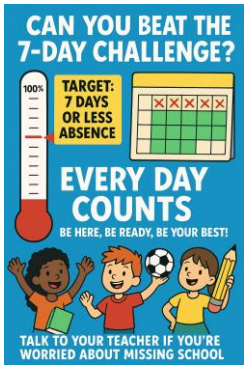
Finally, it can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child off school or nursery when they're unwell. The NHS have produced guidelines to help Parent/Carers make that decision and can be found on our school website or use this link https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/

In order to help explain how we monitor attendance and what support we can offer to help improve your child's attendance, we have created an Attendance Roadmap, which you will find at the end of this newsletter. It also explains the change in penalty notices (fines) for unauthorised absences. Support at Hill Farm will always be our first point of call so please do speak to us if you are experience any problems/barriers with getting your child into school.

Thank you for your continued support,

*Dawn Wilson - Headteacher*

## SCHOOL ATTENDANCE




At Hill Farm, we know that excellent attendance is the key to success.
Our current whole school attendance for the **first three weeks** of term is **95%** – thank you for your ongoing support! However, this means that across the school, we've already lost **over 350 days of learning** – nearly **1 day per pupil**. Every day in school counts, especially at the start of the year when routines and learning foundations are set.
If you have any Attendance concerns, 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.

- **How do you make new friends feel welcome in your class?**

# KEY DATES 2025 / 2026

| Date | Year Group | Event |
|---|---|---|
| Thursday 9th October 2025 | Whole School | School Photographs |
| Tuesday 14th October 2025 | Year 3 | Coventry Sights Trip |
| Thursday 16th October 2025 | Nursery & Reception | Little Dots Play Village in School |
| Friday 17th October 2025 | Whole School | Culture Day |
| Monday 20th October 2025 | Year 5 | Beaumanor Hall Trip |
| 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<br>2:15pm – Years 3 & 4 – Carols by Candlelight<br>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<br>2:15pm – EYFS Performance |
| Friday 19th December 2025 | Whole School | Pyjama (PJs) Day &<br>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 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!

## 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.




## CALUDON CASTLE – OPEN EVENING

Caludon Castle school is delighted to invite you to their Open Evening on **Tuesday 23 September** from 5.30pm – 7.30pm. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to explore the school, meet the staff and students, and gain a real sense of the vibrant community they are so proud of. Throughout the evening, you will be able to:

- Take a guided tour with enthusiastic Year 7 students and Student Leaders
- Visit all subject areas, where teachers and students will be showcasing learning activities, examples of work and exciting opportunities available in the curriculum
- Hear from the Headteacher at one of the two talks (6.15pm or 6.45pm).
- Explore superb facilities, including the pool, gym and arts spaces
- Sample refreshments from the catering team
- Discover how we use iPads to enhance learning for all students

## WARWICK LIVE LABS

University of Warwick scientists are leaving their labs to entertain, inspire and amaze audiences.

Bring your family and friends, pull on your festive jumper and join them for an evening of mind-boggling science and explosive experiments!

Resonate will be running Live Labs in the foyer spaces from **5.30pm** each night, so you can get up close and hands on with real-life Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths activities.

Attending Live Labs is **free** and will run from 5:30pm - 7:00pm on
**Wednesday 26 November 2025, and**
**Wednesday 10 December 2025**

Warwick Arts Centre
Coventry CV4 7AL

**This event is aimed at ages 7+**

## FOXFORD – OPEN EVENING




## COMMUNITY AUTISM SUPPORT SERVICE (CASS)

Clear and timely support across Coventry and Warwickshire

CASS is for Coventry and Warwickshire residents, and is a partnership between Coventry and Warwickshire Mind, Act for Autism and Autism West Midlands. CASS offers clear and timely support for autistic individuals and their supporters.

Follow the link below to see what CASS has to offer over the coming months.

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/community-autism-support-service-cass-62721567983

## COVENTRY SCHOOL NURSING TEAM

Coventry School Nursing team service takes over from the Health Visiting service. They provide a named school nurse in each mainstream school in Coventry to help children and young people (from school entry to age 19) take responsibility for their own health and adopt a healthy lifestyle.

They also assess the health needs of the school community, planning and implementing programmes that promote and protect public health. they work in partnership with other agencies to address wider threats to, and inequalities, in health.

They offer support for a variety of issues, including;

- Toileting
- Sleep
- Challenges with eating and diet
- Managing behaviour
- Healthy weight and physical activity
- Emotional health and wellbeing
- Physical Development
- Hygiene
- Relationships

Follow the link below: or ring: 01926 495321 extension 7494

Coventry School Nursing Service - Parenting support – Coventry City Council

## SHARING STORIES - LIBRARY SESSIONS



We are once again having **Sharing Stories** sessions in the Library - from **9-9:30am on Mondays.** Parents will be collected from the KS1 playground by Mrs Nicholds, our school Librarian.

- 22 September = 2JD
- 29 September = 2JF
- 06 October = Foxes
- 13 October = Hedgehogs
- 10 November = 1LL
- 17 November = 1OL

We think sharing stories is so important as It helps to develop children's communication and language, builds their listening and attention skills and boosts their cognitive abilities, preparing them for learning in KS2 and beyond.

## BIG RED BOOK BUS



A massive **Thank you** to everyone who came out and supported the Book Bus Fair, especially in during hailstorm later in the afternoon. Thanks to you all braving the elements we were able to buy lots of new books for the school library! Look out for them on the shelves over the next few weeks!

## LIBRARY SERVICES



The Library is open
**Monday - Friday**
**3:15-4pm**.
You are all welcome to visit. As well as books to borrow, there is colouring in, sometimes competitions, and an Own Books shelf outside the Library in the Lounge Space.
There is also a Book Swap shelf for adults.
So, Mum & Dad can share the joy of reading too!

## NEW READING CHALLENGE

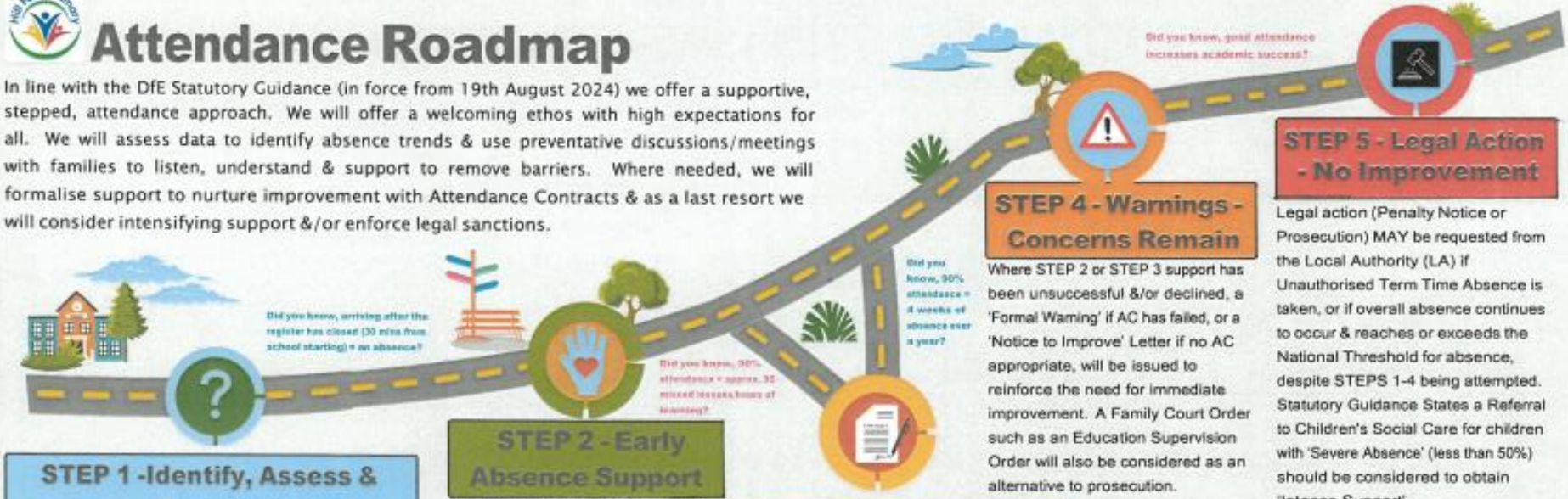


This year we are replacing reading records with an exciting new **Reading Challenge**. Children are encouraged to read **36 books across the year** – that's one book each week, **plus one library book per half term.**
Each week, teachers will have a short check-in to see if children have understood their story. When they show their knowledge, they'll earn their weekly **reading tick**.
Children will earn badges each half term to show how many books they have read.
We encourage all children to **read at home at least three times a week** to build confidence, fluency, and a love of books.
Let's make this year a brilliant year of reading!

ATTENDANCE ROADMAP

# Attendance Roadmap

In line with the DfE Statutory Guidance (in force from 19th August 2024) we offer a supportive, stepped, attendance approach. We will offer a welcoming ethos with high expectations for all. We will assess data to identify absence trends & use preventative discussions/meetings with families to listen, understand & support to remove barriers. Where needed, we will formalise support to nurture improvement with Attendance Contracts & as a last resort we will consider intensifying support &/or enforce legal sanctions.




## STEP 1 -Identify, Assess & Prevent

Our daily actions & processes aim to promote relationship building with children & families to prevent absence. This involves monitoring data trends & absence patterns to inform our conversations with you (& your child where age allows). The trigger for conversations is where absence is at risk of reaching the new National Threshold ***(10 sessions (10 half days/5 days) within a 10 week rolling period)***. Other daily actions involve promoting attendance positively, using praise & incentives, swift absence follow up, email &/or letter communication to raise your awareness of emerging concerns, processing requested or unrequested 'Term Time Exceptional Absence' & doing Home Visits to meet our safeguarding duties as required.

## STEP 2 - Early Absence Support

We move to this step if the National Threshold for absence is met (authorised or unauthorised) to prevent further absence occurring. Discussions & meetings will be offered to identify if early support or reasonable adjustments are needed. This will be done using discussions &/or meetings to create a supportive action plan. An Early Help Assessment (EHA) may be required for some support to be accessed along with a Team Around the Family (TAF) Meeting Process

## STEP 3 - Formalised Support

Where absence continues & initial support needs to be increased an Attendance Contract (AC) will be offered to formalise support. This is a 3-6 month nurturing plan of improvement to prevent further escalation. Achievable & individual targets will be set & reviewed regularly. Medical &/or other information will be actively sought at this point if required to work collaboratively with you & other agencies. An AC can run alongside other meetings e.g., TAF meeting.

## STEP 4 - Warnings - Concerns Remain

Where STEP 2 or STEP 3 support has been unsuccessful &/or declined, a 'Formal Warning' if AC has failed, or a 'Notice to Improve' Letter if no AC appropriate, will be issued to reinforce the need for immediate improvement. A Family Court Order such as an Education Supervision Order will also be considered as an alternative to prosecution.

## STEP 5 - Legal Action - No Improvement

Legal action (Penalty Notice or Prosecution) MAY be requested from the Local Authority (LA) if Unauthorised Term Time Absence is taken, or if overall absence continues to occur & reaches or exceeds the National Threshold for absence, despite STEPS 1-4 being attempted. Statutory Guidance States a Referral to Children's Social Care for children with 'Severe Absence' (less than 50%) should be considered to obtain 'Intense Support'.

## PENALTY NOTICES & LEGAL ACTION

**1st Offence** (after 19th August 2024) of Term Time Leave &/or Irregular Attendance (10 sessions of Unauthorised Absence or more) = Fine of £160 per parent, per child if paid within 28 days. If paid within 21 days fine is reduced to £80 per parent, per child.
**2nd Offence** within 3 years (from 19th August 2024) = Fine of £160 per parent, per child payable within 28 days, no reduction available.
**3rd Offence** within 3 years (from 19th August 2024) NO PENALTY NOTICE considered. The case will be presented to **Magistrates' Court** under s444(1) or (1a) of the Education Act. If found guilty, a fine of up to £2500 per parent, per child can be issued. Convictions for s444(1a) offences will show on DBS record.

Please talk to us about how we can support you &/or your child at any time.

PLEASE FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK X.COM @hillfarmprimary OR VIA FIREFLY