HILL FARM NEWS

CURRICULUM CHARACTER COMMUNITY

7 NOVEMBER 2025

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE
VALUE OF THE HALF TERM – EQUAL OPPORTUNITY
A VALUE IS A PRINCIPLE THAT GUIDES OUR THINKING AND BEHAVIOUR

Dear parent/carer,

Welcome back to a term crammed with learning, exciting trips and extra-curricular activities for our pupils to enjoy – not to mention the upcoming festive celebrations that will be here before we know it!

As part of Black History Month, our children have been learning about influential Black figures and proudly shared their knowledge in a special assembly. Pupils explored the lives and contributions of inspiring individuals such as Benjamin Zephaniah, Floella Benjamin, and Mary Seacole, among others.

Our Year 5 pupils had an exciting and immersive day at Beaumanor Hall as part of their history topic. They experienced first-hand what life was like during the Blitz, including taking part in a simulated air raid that brought history vividly to life. This hands-on visit helped deepen their understanding of this significant period in history in a memorable and meaningful way.



Well done to all the pupils who participated in the School Games Tournament at the Xcel Centre. As always, our pupils demonstrated outstanding sportsmanship and embodied our school values. Although they didn't win this time, their effort and resilience truly make them winners in our eyes. We are also excited to announce that Hill Farm will soon have its very own mini-bus, allowing us to attend many more events in the near future!

The spooky disco was a tremendous success, raising over **£500** for our school fund! These funds will be invested in additional lunchtime resources and equipment to support creative play as part of our OPAL play initiative. We warmly welcome donations of unwanted outdoor toys and equipment to help us expand our range of resources. For more information on how you can contribute, please refer to the special section of this newsletter.



As the weather changes, pupils will continue to enjoy the field. To help keep uniforms clean, please send your child with a named change of clothes and wellington boots.

We hope you are enjoying the new home reading scheme, which celebrates and rewards children for the time they spend reading at home. It has been wonderful to see so many pupils already on their way to achieving their Bronze award. The scheme is a fantastic way to encourage a love of reading, build confidence, and celebrate the dedication of our young readers. Keep up the great work.

Thank you for your support,

Dawn Wilson - Headteacher

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE



Our current whole school attendance stands at **95%**. While this is encouraging, our school target for every child is **96%,** which is the equivalent of a child missing **no more than 7 days of learning across the entire school year**. Regular attendance is essential for helping children make the most of every learning opportunity. Thank you for your continued support in ensuring your child attends school every day possible.

Should you have any attendance issues or need support, please contact Mrs Hammond on 02476 595 455.

CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY TIMETABLE

STUDENT RECOGNITION AWARDS

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 14th November – Years 1 & 2 Celebration Assembly**
- **Friday 21st November – Years 3 & 4 Celebration Assembly**
- **Friday 28th November – Year 5 Class Assembly**
- **Friday 12th December – Reception, Years 5 & 6 Celebration 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 are some of the good things about technology, and what dangers should we watch out for—especially with AI?**

OUTDOOR PLAY AND LEARNING (OPAL)

We're looking for a few more OPAL items to support our outdoor play and learning activities. In particular, we're hoping to find two old metal sinks that can be repurposed for water or messy play, as well as any Art and Craft materials you might no longer need.





If you have any of these items to spare, we'd be very grateful for your donations — they'll help us create more creative and engaging play opportunities for the children!

Your donations will help us expand the children's opportunities for creative, active, and collaborative play, making OPAL even richer and more exciting.

Also, as the weather is changing would you please ensure that children have coats, suitable footwear, hats and gloves in school every day for both Opal and Forest School.

FOREST SCHOOL

OPEN DAY - NEW TO RECEPTION IN 2026



If you have a child who will be new to Reception in 2026, then you're invited to our **Reception 2026 Open Day** on **Wednesday 19th November**.

The event will begin with a guided tour of the school, concluding in the Reception classroom where you'll have the opportunity to explore both the indoor and outdoor learning environments.

Your child is welcome to join you on the tour.

Please book an appointment time via the school office.

BOTTLE DONATIONS



On **Friday 28th November** we are having a Non-Uniform Day in exchange for Bottle Donations that will form part of our Christmas Fair tombola.

Please bring in any suitable bottles such as soft drinks, wine, sauces or toiletries. These need to be new, unopened and unused.

PARENTS EVENING



Just a reminder to go on to Arbor and book your Parents Evening appointment for next week.

If you have any problems give the office a ring and they will be happy to help you on 02476 595 455.

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

You should of received your child's school photograph this week.

If you have any issues, please contact Tempest direct on **01736 751 555**



RUNNING LATE



To help us manage collections more effectively going forward, we kindly ask that if parents or carers are running late, you please phone the school (02476 595 455) to inform us of the delay, estimated collection time and confirm who will be collecting your child. If parents are running **more than 15 minutes late,** we will move pupils to our after-school club provision, where they can be signed out by the authorised adult.

After school club costs £5.00 per evening.

ST FRANCIS CHURCH FOOD BANK



The Food bank at **St Francis church** in Radford were extremely grateful for all the donations from Hill Farm.

They would like to say thank you to all of the families that have been able to donate to their cause.

Altogether we collected almost 150 items for those in need.

Thank you to everyone who donated.

KEY DATES 2025 / 2026

Date	Year Group	Event
Monday 10th November 2025	Whole School	Parent Evenings all Week
Wednesday 19th November 2025	Year 2	Warwick Castle Trip
Friday 28th November 2025	Year 4	Black Country Museum 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	Year 1	Winter Wonderland Trip
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 3:30pm – 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

LIBRARY CORNER



Welcome back to the Library. It was lovely to welcome lots of new parents to the Library and to the Sharing Stories sessions. The next Sharing Stories sessions are **Monday 10th for 1LL, and Monday 17th November for 1OL**. The session starts after school drop off. Mrs Nicholds will collect parents from the KS1 playground. The session ends at **9:30am**. More Sharing Stories sessions will be arranged for later in the school year.

The Library is a space for grown-ups too! There is a **Book Swap shelf** where you can pick up your new favourite book! We welcome quality preloved donations of books for grown-ups, too.

In the next few weeks the children can help decorate the Library during lunchtimes and after school - **red poppies** for Remembrance Day on 11th November and later Christmas Stockings!