HILL FARM NEWS

CURRICULUM CHARACTER COMMUNITY

9 JANUARY 2026

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

Dear parent/carer,

A Warm Welcome Back!

I hope you all enjoyed a wonderful Christmas and New Year. It was fantastic to see the children return full of smiles and excitement for the new term.

While many might expect the first week back to be a quiet one, Hill Farm never stands still – not even the weather could slow us down! Our teachers have planned lots of immersive learning experiences to launch new topics, and there are even more exciting trips and activities lined up to enrich pupils' learning in the months ahead.

As we start the year positively, we'd love to see more children take on the challenge of joining a club as a New Year's resolution. Keep a look out for the letter coming home. If your child would like to take part, please log on to Arbor and assign your child to their chosen club. All clubs will begin next week.

Attendance remains a key priority for us. Please ensure children only stay home if they are genuinely unwell, and wherever possible, book appointments outside school hours. Holidays during term time should be avoided. To encourage excellent attendance, we've launched **Jumpstart January**, where classes can win non-uniform days for achieving 100% attendance!

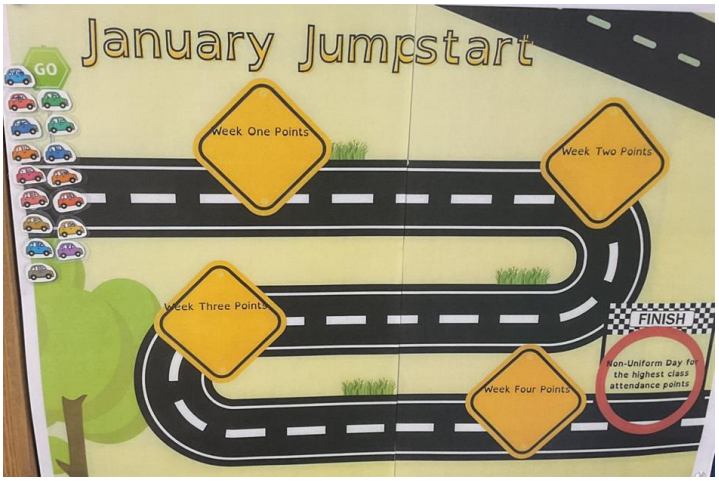
We are soon to launch **The Hive**, a new welcoming and supportive space for parents and carers of children with SEND. See more details on the back of the newsletter and look out for promotional posters and flyers, soon.

Finally, a reminder that the closing date for Reception applications is 15th January 2026. If you know anyone seeking a school place for Nursery or Reception next September, please share this information with them.

Thank you for your continued support.

Dawn Wilson - Headteacher

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE



Get Set Go… January Jumpstart Attendance!

This January, classes will take part in an attendance challenge, earning points each week based on attendance, with bonus points for improvement. The class with the highest score will win a **non-uniform day in the first week of February**.

Let's start the new year strong and make every day count!

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 16 January – Years 1 & 2 Celebration Assembly
Friday 23 January – Nursery & Reception Celebration Assembly
Friday 30 January – Years 5 & 6 Celebration Assembly
Friday 6 February – Years 3 & 4 Celebration Assembly
Friday 13 February – Year 2 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 new things are you hoping to learn this term?**

YOUNG MARKETEERS PROJECT



We are thrilled to be launching our **Young Marketeers project** again, giving children hands-on opportunities to grow, create and learn.

To help bring this project to life, we would love donations of gardening tools and seeds you may have tucked away at home.

We are also building up our **OPAL** resources to supercharge playtimes, so if you have any old toys, looking for a new home, we would be delighted to give them a new lease of life.

Thank you for helping us kickstart 2026 to make it a year to remember!

CHILDREN'S COMMISSIONER

The Children's Commissioner job role is to promote and protect the rights of children, especially the most vulnerable, and stand up for their views and interests.

The Children's Commissioner has recently published a new guide: What I wish my parents or carers knew: A guide for parents on managing children's digital lives.

Supporting children's safety is a shared responsibility between families, schools and the wider community.

For parents and carers, this responsibility has become increasingly complex as children's lives are now deeply intertwined with the digital world.

Many parents face difficult decisions about how to balance protecting children from online harm with enabling access to spaces that are now central to learning, socialising and play.

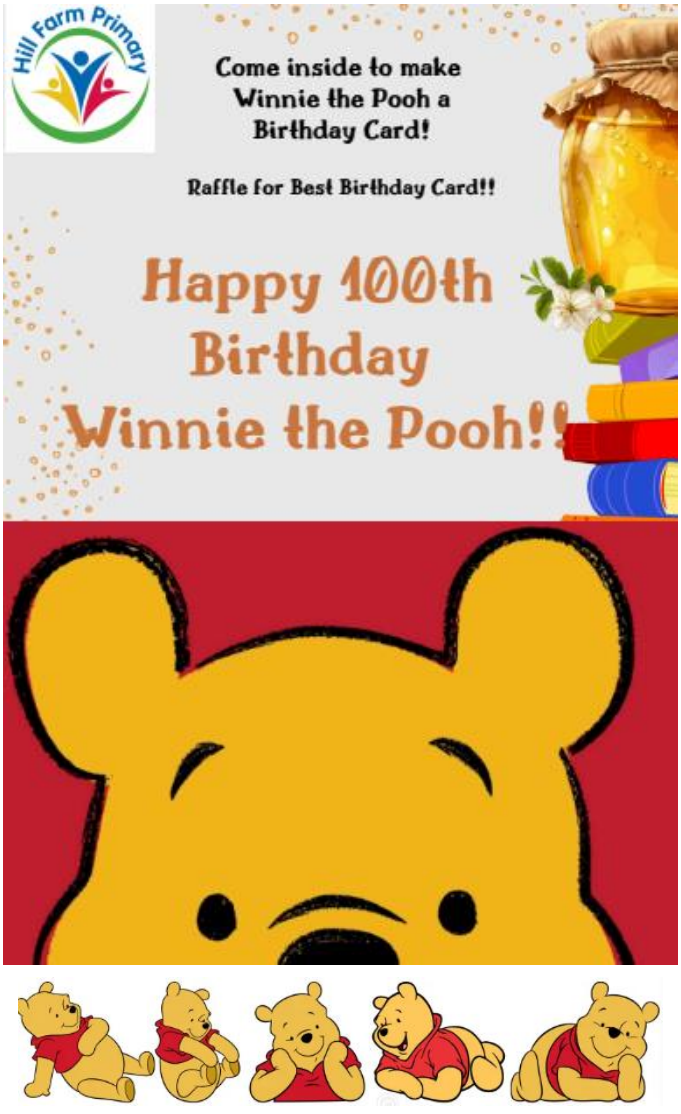
This guide aims to help make conversations easier and help you to support your child with confidence.

DOLCE FESTIVE LUNCH

On **Thursday 15th January** Dolce are having a themed day based on an American Diner. If you would like you child to try a meal, just ask at the office for a SchoolGrid login.



LIBRARY CORNER



LIBRARY CORNER



UNIFORM & PE KIT

Please ensure that children have returned to school this new year wearing the correct uniform and with their full PE kit.



Boys

- Royal blue sweatshirt or cardigan with or without the school logo
- White polo shirt (with soft collar) or white school shirt (plain or with school logo)
- Black or grey trousers or tailored shorts
- Black or grey socks
- Black shoes



Girls

- Royal blue sweatshirt or cardigan with or without the school logo
- White polo shirt (with soft collar) or white school shirt (plain or with school logo)
- Black or grey skirt/pinafore dress/trousers or blue and white checked school dress
- Black, grey or white socks/tights
- Black shoes (without a heel and with a fastening)

P.E Kit (all children)

- Plain white T-shirt (available with the school logo if you wish)
- Plain black shorts
- Black pumps



Also, as the weather is turning colder, please make sure your children are wearing a warm coat, gloves, scarf and appropriate footwear to keep them wrapped up from the cold.

SHARING STORIES





Let's Make Storytime Extra Special!

Do you speak another language at home? We'd love to celebrate it! Come and join us for a magical story time where you read a favourite tale in your home language, and our librarian will share it in English. It's a fun way for children to hear stories in different languages and learn about the wonderful cultures in our community!

If you're interested, please speak to Mrs Nicholds in the library.



HALF TERM DISCO



On **Tuesday 10 February** we will be holding an end of half term Disco for the whole school.

Nursery & Reception
2pm – 3pm KS1 Hall

Years 1, 2 & 3
3:30pm – 4:30pm KS1 Hall

Years 4, 5 & 6
3:30pm – 4:30pm KS2 Hall

Letter to follow, next week, with more details



KEY DATES 2025 / 2026

Date	Year Group	Event
Monday 5th January 2026	Whole School	School Closed – Teacher Training Day
Tuesday 6th January 2026	Whole School	School Re-opens – 8:30am
Thursday 15th January 2026	Reception Classes	9:15am – 10:45am - Visit to St Francis Church
Monday 19th January 2026	Class 1OL Parents	9:00am – 9:30am Sharing Stories in the Library
Monday 19th January 2026	Year 4	First Aid Course in School
Monday 26th January 2026	Class 1LL Parents	9:00am – 9:30am Sharing Stories in the Library
Monday 2nd February 2026	Foxes - Parents	Sharing Stories in the Library
Monday 9th February 2026	Hedgehogs - Parents	Sharing Stories in the Library
Tuesday 10th February 2026	Whole School	Valentine's Disco – Details to Follow
Wednesday 11th February 2026	Whole School	9:00am – 10:00am in the Library Parents Workshop – Digital Talk for Oracy
Thursday 12th February 2026	Year 2	Selly Manor Trip
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 13th March 2026	EYFS & KS1 Parents	Mother's Day Assembly – 9:00am KS1 Hall
Monday 16th - Friday 20th March 2026	Whole School	Parents Evening Consultations
Monday 23rd March 2026	Years 1,2, 3, 4, 5 & 6	Hard Boiled Egg Decorating Competition Starts
Wednesday 25th March 2026	Invited Guests	Rocksteady Concert – 9:00am KS2 Hall
Thursday 26th March 2026	Whole School	Easter Disco – Details to Follow
Friday 27th March 2026	EYFS Parents	Easter Bonnet Parade – 9:00am KS1 Hall
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 2026	Whole School	School Closed - Teacher Training Day

NEW - THE HIVE – SEND PARENT COMMUNITY SUPPORT GROUP

Join ***The Hive,*** a **new** welcoming and supportive space for parents and carers of children with SEND

Come along to:

- Connect with other parents and carers
- Learn new skills and share experiences
- Build friendships in a safe, understanding environment
- Stay-and-play activities for children
- Enjoy refreshments while you chat



Where: The Library **When:** First Monday of every month

Everyone is welcome — whether you want support, conversation, or simply a relaxed place to be with others who understand

Look out for Promotional Posters & Flyers Coming Soon