HILL FARM NEWS

CURRICULUM CHARACTER COMMUNITY

13 MARCH 2026

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

Dear parent / carer,

What a busy and exciting few weeks we've had at Hill Farm!

We began with a whole week dedicated to celebrating reading. The week launched with a special assembly all about the joy of books and the importance of reading for pleasure. We were also incredibly fortunate to welcome Coventry's Poet Laureate, Andrea Mbarushimana, who led two inspiring assemblies and workshops. She helped children craft their own poems and explore culture and diversity through storytelling and poetry.



Friday marked our wonderful World Book Day celebrations, with children and staff dressing up as their favourite book characters. The school was bursting with colour and creativity - every corridor filled with Harry Potters, Matildas, Wimpy Kids, Gruffalos and superheroes of every kind. Classes spent the day enjoying book-themed activities, sharing stories and talking about why reading matters.

This week, we have thrown ourselves wholeheartedly into Coventry's Primary Aspiration Week, part of National Careers Week. Children learned in assembly what "aspiration" means and why it's important to dream big and believe in their futures. Throughout the week, a range of professionals and Warwick University students visited school to share their educational and career journeys. Some of our pupils had the exciting opportunity to visit Warwick University Medical School to learn about careers in Health whilst others visited the Coventry Building Society offices to explore roles in Finance and Banking.





Across the school, classes joined a variety of virtual sessions - from farming, to careers in technology with Tech She Can. We also welcomed Jaguar Land Rover, who talked to the children about how cars are designed and manufactured. They even brought along two fantastic vehicles for children to explore!

Our Year 4 children enjoyed a brilliant trip to Caludon Castle School, where they took part in an exciting golf event and learned a whole range of new skills. The session introduced them to putting, chipping and aiming techniques, with lots of fun challenges that encouraged teamwork, patience and accuracy.

Today, we celebrated the wonderful mothers and special people in our EYFS and KS1 children's lives with a wonderful assembly. The children sang beautifully, shared pictures and proudly presented the cards they had made together.



We also have lots to look forward to over the next couple of weeks, including our Decorate a Boiled Egg Competition, Easter Bonnet Parade and the school disco. Please check the back of the newsletter for all upcoming dates and details.

Finally, after 14 years as a much-loved member of Hill Farm, we want to share that Mrs Harridence will be moving on to a new role as a Head of a School in Staffordshire. This is a moment that brings mixed emotions for all of us. Mrs Harridence has been such a highly regarded and trusted presence in our school that it's hard to imagine Hill Farm without her. She has supported so many children and families over the years and her dedication and commitment will have a lasting impact on staff and pupils alike.

Although we will miss her deeply, we are also proud to see her take this next step. We know she will bring the same heart, dedication and care to her new school. She leaves with our heartfelt thanks, our admiration and warmest wishes for the future.

Thank you for your support.

Dawn Wilson – Headteacher

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

March Attendance Matters!

We're thrilled to share that **406** certificates were awarded last week to pupils who achieved a full five days of attendance—a fantastic effort from our school community. Let's see if we can top that number over the next two weeks as we continue marching through the term. Parents, keep an eye out for our upcoming top tips to help your child stay motivated, energised and ready to step into school every day.

As we look ahead to the rest of the year, please take a moment to **check the school calendar before booking any holidays or special events**. We want to make sure every child has the best chance to shine, and term-time leave can't be authorised. Planning ahead helps keep attendance strong and learning on track for everyone.

CELEBRATION / VALUES 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 20 March - Nursery, Reception, Years 1 & 2 Values Assembly
Friday 27 March - Nursery & Reception Easter Bonnet 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

CASTLE PHOENIX TRUST CURRENT VACANCIES

Thinking About a New Job?
Explore Our Vacancies!

Castle Phoenix Trust has a variety of exciting opportunities available across our **8 schools** in Coventry and Warwickshire. We are looking for passionate and dedicated individuals who share our commitment to supporting students and enriching our school communities. We encourage parents, carers and local community members to explore the roles currently available and consider joining us in making a positive difference. View all current vacancies and apply via our Careers Site: https://www.eteach.com/careers/castlephoenixtrust/

OUTDOOR PLAY AND LEARNING (OPAL)



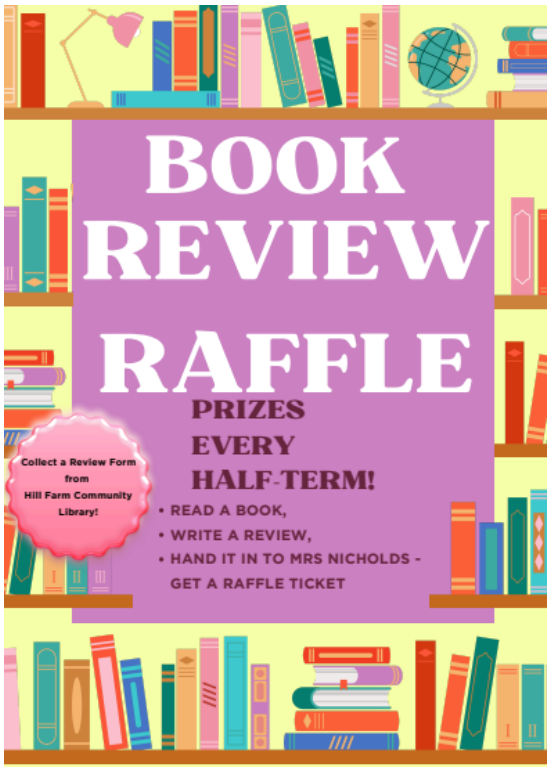
As we get ready for lots more outdoor fun through our OPAL play provision this spring, we'd love your help topping up our collection of children's wellies. If your child has a pair they've recently outgrown, we'd be delighted to give them a new home. All donated wellies will help our pupils jump, explore, and adventure their way through playtime. Thank you for helping keep the magic of OPAL going.

Also, we have raised enough money to have a fabulous mud kitchen and two stages to be built over the Easter holidays.

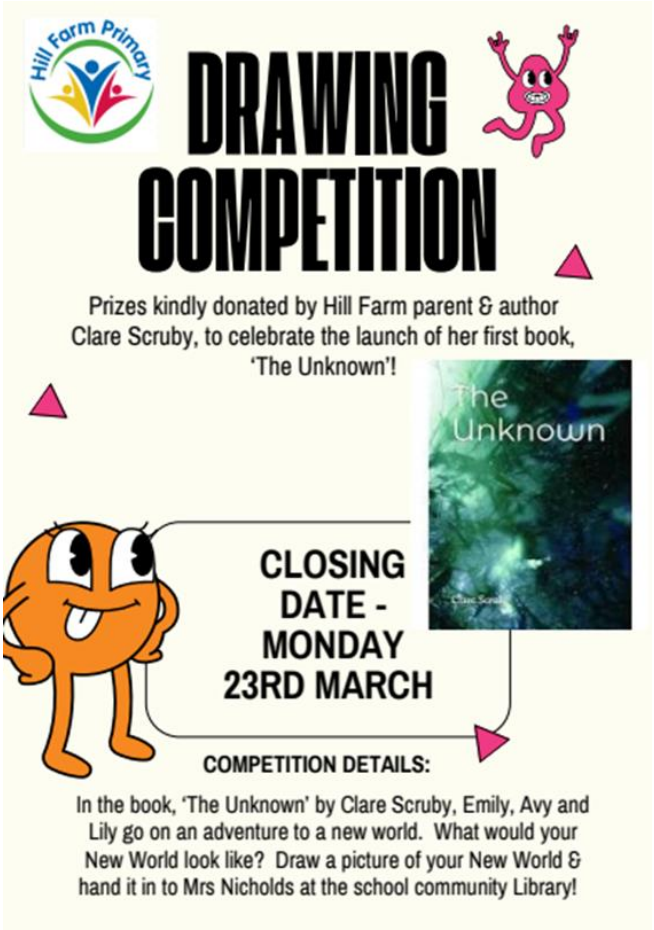
If you have any old pots, pans, kitchen utensils or props that you could donate, to make the children's experiences even better, we would be very grateful.



BOOK REVIEW RAFFLE



LIBRARY CORNER



The author of "The Unknown", Clare Scruby, has kindly donated four prizes for the drawing competition:

- Nursery & Reception
- Years 1 & 2
- Years 3 & 4
- Years 5 & 6



BOOK FAIR



The Scholastic Book Fair will be here from **Wednesday 29 April** and will be here for one week.

The book fair has put together a range that:

- brings together the newest and best children's books
- offers over 200 titles suitable for all ages and abilities
- has prices starting from only £2.99

ROCKSTEADY CONCERT

There is a Rocksteady concert on **Wednesday 25th March** for invited guests, to watch their child perform a musical medley of what they have been learning in their music sessions.

HARD BOILED EGG DECORATING COMPETITION



We are holding a "Decorate the Hard-Boiled Egg" Competition week beginning **Monday 23rd March**.
The winners will be chosen by our Head boy & girl on **Wednesday 25th March**, so please send your child's entry in by that day.

NEWSLETTER NATTER



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

- **What helps you get ready for learning in the morning?**
- **What helps you wind down at night?**

EASTER DISCO



On **Thursday 26th March**, we are having an Easter Disco

- **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

Tickets for Years 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 will go on sale, from the office, on **Monday 23rd March**. **£1** a ticket (Nursery & Reception - **Free**)

EASTER BONNET PARADE



Our Nursery and Reception children are invited to take part in our Easter Bonnet Parade on **Friday 27th March at 9am in KS2 Hall**.
Please help your child create a bonnet at home using any materials you like. Parents are welcome to attend.
We encourage creativity and recycled materials.
The winners will receive a prize!

PARENT WORKSHOPS - RWI

Read Write Inc. Phonics

Read Write Inc (RWI) Phonics is a proven programme that ensures early success in reading, writing and spelling and we are hosting workshops for Parents to enable you to help with your child's learning.

Please come and join us on the following days at **9:00am**:

- Reception RWI Parent Workshop - **Thursday 19 March**

PARENTS EVENING CONSULTATIONS



Parents' Evening consultations will take place during the week commencing **Monday 16th March**. This is a valuable opportunity to discuss your child's progress and development with their class teacher. Appointments can be booked via **Arbor** and we encourage all parents and carers to secure a time slot as soon as you can.
If you require any assistance with booking, please contact the school office, who will be happy to help.

Monday 16 March - 15:30 to 18:00 - Nursery, Y1, Y2 and Y4
Tuesday 17 March - 15:30 to 18:00 - Y3 & Y5
Wednesday 18 March - 15:30 to 18:00 - Reception, Y6 (& Willows)

PRE-LOVED SCHOOL UNIFORM



Just a reminder that we have a selection of pre-loved school uniform items available for purchase at the **school office**.

DOLCE PRICE INCREASE



You should have received a letter regarding a price increase, by Dolce, for their school meals, from **28th March 2026**.

- Nursery meals are increasing to **£2.79**
- Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 are increasing to **£3.00**

OFSTED REPORT – URN 139681

Ofsted

Read our report

THE HIVE - SEND PARENT COMMUNITY SUPPORT GROUP

The Hive was a huge success again on Monday 2nd March, we welcomed lots of parents in to enjoy a craft activity with their children. The parents also had an opportunity to engage in support from our EP service, SENCO and Safeguarding lead. It was a great opportunity to spend special time with their children in a relaxed and welcoming environment, with a cup of tea and a biscuit!



Please join us for our next Hive session on

Monday 27th April 3:30pm – 4:30pm in the Create & Learn Lab






KEY DATES 2026

Date	Year Group	Event
Monday 16th - Wednesday 18th 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 KS2 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
Wednesday 29th April - Tuesday 5th May 2026	Whole School	Scholastic Book Fair 3:20pm daily in the Library
Monday 4th May 2026	Whole School	School Closed – Bank Holiday - May day
Tuesday 5th May 2026	Whole School	School Re-opens – 8:30am
Thursday 7th May 2026	Reception	All Things Wild Trip
Monday 11th May – Friday 15th May 2026	Year 6	SATS
Wednesday 20th May 2026	Year 6	Trip to Cadbury World
Thursday 21st May 2026	Year 1	Exotic Animal Encounter in school
Friday 22nd May 2026	Whole School	Break up for Half Term – 3:20pm
Monday 1st June 2026	Whole School	School Re-opens – 8:30am
Monday 15th June 2026	Years 3, 4, 5 & 6	Sports Day – Details to follow
Tuesday 16th June 2026	Years 1 & 2	Sports Day – Details to follow
Wednesday 17th June 2026	Nursery & Reception	Sports Day – Details to follow
Tuesday 23rd June 2026	Year 3	Lunt Roman Fort Trip – Details to follow
Thursday 25th June 2026	Years 1 & 2	Beach trip – Details to follow
Friday 26th June 2026	Whole School	School Closed – Teacher Training Day
Wednesday 1st July 2026	Whole School	Transition Day
Friday 3rd July 2026	Whole School	Summer Fair – 2:00pm
Monday 6th July 2026	Year 4	Trip to the Think Tank
Friday 17th July 2026	Whole School	Break up for Holidays – 3:20pm
Monday 20th July 2026	Whole School	School Closed - Teacher Training Day