



# Hindon Primary School

'Where happy children learn'



## Newsletter No 1 September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been an excellent start to the term, and I'm delighted to see how quickly everyone has settled into the new academic year. The first few weeks have been full of energy and enthusiasm, with children across the school getting stuck into their learning and enjoying a range of activities.

Our younger children have been making great progress with their phonics, and it's wonderful to see their confidence growing each day. Across the whole school, swimming and forest school sessions have been a real highlight, giving children the chance to develop new skills and enjoy learning outside the classroom.

One of the best parts of my role so far has been getting to know the staff, children, and parents. Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to say hello at the gate in the mornings and after school—it's been lovely to meet so many of you.

Behind the scenes, there's lots going on to make our school even better. We're excited to announce that our updated website will be going live soon, making it easier for you to find information and stay up to date. Improving our communication with parents is a key priority, this newsletter will continue to be published monthly, on the last Friday of every month.

Looking ahead, I'm really looking forward to getting 'Teacher Tuesdays' started again following the summer break. These will take place on the first Tuesday of each month, with the first one on **Tuesday 7th October**. This is a great opportunity for you to come into school for your child to show you their work. Doors are open from 3pm until 3.30pm.

We're also planning an open afternoon for prospective parents on **Tuesday 14th October, from 1-3.30pm**. This is a chance for parents of three and four-year-olds to visit the school before joining us in September. We're working closely with Brambles Nursery to advertise this event, and we already have a number of parents signed up—but there are still a few spaces left. If you know anyone who might be interested, please do point them in our direction.

Thank you for your continued support. We have many more wonderful activities and events planned and we will share the dates with you as soon as they have been confirmed.

Best wishes,

Simon Watkins

Interim Head Teacher



**Interim Head Teacher: Mr S. Watkins      Chair of Governors: Mr R Bryson**

**Hindon Primary School, School Lane, Hindon, Salisbury, SP36EA**

**Tel: 01747 820260**

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## Robins Class

September is always a month of new beginnings in Robins; we welcomed our new children and their families to our school family. The children have settled in really well, happily exploring our setting, making new friends and getting to know Miss Gill & Mrs Johnson. They have had a busy couple of weeks, beginning their exciting phonics journey, exploring numbers, enjoying Forest School with Mrs Wilson and loving their first couple of swimming sessions.



Robin's topic is 'Tales from the harvest' this term and they are learning about the changes that happen to trees, plants and animals at this time of year. They are also exploring what we harvest and looking at how harvest was done in the past without modern machinery. Our Robins are enjoying learning all about farming, both in the past and today. They have also explored how food is grown, discovered the tools and machinery farmer's use, and thought about how life for farmers has changed over time.

## Owls Class

Our new Year 2 children moving up from Robins class made the transition into Owls Class at the start of term and have settled really well into their new classroom. Owls class topic this term is 'Helpful hands & kind hearts' and they are learning about the pioneering Nurse Florence Nightingale who is seen as the founder of modern nursing.

The children are investigating how medical care has changed over the years, and learning about all of the people that help us. The Owls are also writing a newspaper report about when Florence met Queen Victoria

In RE the children have been learning about the Jewish celebration of Shabbat, they each drew their own Shabbat table including all of the elements that are a key part of this celebration.

In PSHE we have been learning about how to be a good friend, based on the book 'Elephants guide to making friends' and writing our own friendship stories.



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## Woodpeckers Class

In History this term, Woodpeckers have been investigating Ancient Egypt. The children have been particularly interested in life and death of Tutankhamen and discovered that the main reason he is famous has nothing to do with his life, but because his tomb was one of the most well preserved ancient Egyptian tombs ever discovered.



Woodpeckers also took part in their own mummification task before writing about the gruesome reality behind it. They then spent some time learning about ancient pyramids and how historians believe these were made; this naturally involved making pyramids out of sugar cubes in their lesson.



Our new Year 4 children have been settling in well to their classroom and already it is as if they have been in Woodpeckers all along. We will be writing our first essay soon about the History of Ancient Egypt and the children will have the chance to get all of their knowledge onto paper. Mrs Wilson & Miss Hare will be teaching Woodpeckers class for the next few weeks whilst Mrs Muelchi recovers and spends time with her family.

## Forest School

This month has seen the change from Summer to Autumn and all the classes have really enjoyed noticing the difference in our Wild Area. We're thrilled to be offering Forest School to the whole school this term, which is fully learner led and allows us to respond to the children's interests and passions. All year groups love the den building equipment and we've had



some wonderful creations, which we've been testing for how waterproof they are and how durable! We've tried hogweed seed cookies, and identified the plant in the wild area. We've learnt about hawthorn berries and are looking forward to trying a batch of hawthorn ketchup when it's ready.



We've enjoyed watching the bees on the ivy flowers and the children are really honing their fire lighting skills, with almost everyone able to use a fire strike, and some developing their skill with flint and steel. A number of groups have expressed an interest in tool work, so we'll be building hedgehog shelters ready for the winter soon.

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## **Swimming**

Our children were excited to get back into the pool at the start of the term; the swim teachers carried out short assessments at the start of the first session as often children's swimming abilities change over the summer break, especially if they have done lots of swimming over holidays. The groups were then structured based on ability and safety in different parts of the pool, some children moved up to the next group and some children stayed in the same group, as they need just a little more time to be fully competent, confident and safe in their current group before moving up.

## **PE**

In PE the children are learning hockey skills this term, learning how to hold the stick correctly, how to stop the ball effectively, and how to do a push pass. They will further develop their skills throughout the term.

## **Music with Mr Grundy**

Our fantastic new music teacher Mr Grundy comes into school every Wednesday afternoon and the children enjoy a music lesson with him. They children have been learning about tempo and pitch in their lessons. The school has been filled with the fantastic sounds of the Ukulele and the Glockenspiel which the children have picked up really quickly. They will be refining their skills over the coming weeks and there are lots of very smiley faces during each lesson.



## **Harvest Festival - Donations needed**

Parents are invited to attend our Harvest Festival service on **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October at 10.00am** at Hindon Church. In the week leading up to the service we ask that parents who are able to, please send into school a small donation for the Gillingham Food Bank, items should be non-perishable so tins, packets etc.



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## **SEND Spotlight**

We recognise that coming back to school can be a difficult for some children. The following website has some useful advice around getting children to school and managing anxiety. [School Anxiety and Refusal | Parent Guide to Support | YoungMinds](#)

There is lots of jargon in schools, I thought that it might be helpful for parents to highlight the key acronyms used in schools regarding SEND:

**SEND** – Special educational needs and disabilities. "A pupil has SEND where their learning difficulty or disability calls for special educational provision, namely provision different from or additional to that normally available to pupils of the same age" (SEND Code of Practice 0-25Years).

**EHCNA** – Education, health care needs assessment – This is the initial document submitted in the process which is then reviewed by a panel who look at the evidence to decide whether they agree to assess for an EHCP. The EHCNA asks for evidence from the setting, family and any other professionals involved.

**EHCP** – This is a legal document between parents and the local authority. It sets out the special educational needs and provision a pupil may need. They can be in place until the age of 25 and are reviewed annually.

**SALT** – Speech and language therapist

**OT** – Occupational Therapy

**ASD** – Autistic spectrum disorder

**ADHD** – Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder

**SLCN** – Speech language and communication needs

**SEMH** – Social, emotional, mental health

It has been lovely to meet some of you over the last few months. If you would like a meeting with me to discuss your child's SEND needs, then please feel free to email me.

Bethan Down – SENCo – (Hindon working day Wednesday)

[senco@hindonce.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:senco@hindonce.wilts.sch.uk)

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## Wellbeing Focus

Our wellbeing focus this half-term is on feelings and emotions. Some of the children have been working in small groups with Mrs Johnson exploring the many different feelings and emotions that are normal human responses. The children have been looking at the difference between feelings and emotions, and thinking about strategies to manage those emotions and feelings which can feel a little overwhelming sometimes. The whole school will learn about this wellbeing topic in a whole school assembly, and Mrs Johnson is also be continuing her 1:1 work with those children who may need a little more support in school.



Mrs Johnson started her ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) training this month which involves 6 face to face training days with an educational psychologist. Once fully qualified in December she will be hosting an information session for any parents who may be interested to learn more about how an ELSA practitioner supports children with their emotional literacy and mental health in school... more details to follow.

*Wellbeing Tip – Breathing focus is a great tool to reduce anxiety and worries for adults and children; our breath is always available to us in moments where the feeling of overwhelm might take over. You don't need to breathe in a particular way, just sit or stand in a quiet place, close your eyes if it feels comfortable, bring your attention and focus to your breathing, notice how your breath feels, how it sounds, notice where you feel it most in your body, just focus on the natural rhythm of your breathing for a couple of minutes, or count your breaths in your mind.*

## Uniform Reminder



A gentle reminder that as the seasons change and the weather becomes a little less predictable, all children need a pair of wellies and a set of named waterproofs that are kept at school and should also bring a named coat and water bottle every day. Even if it is sunny first thing in the morning, heavy showers can start at a moments notice so having the right uniform every day means that the children can enjoy break time and lunchtime outside, and smart uniforms don't get wet and muddy.

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## **Dates for your diary**

### **October**

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October – Gillingham School Leadership Academy Day Year 5 & 6 more details to follow

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October – Larmer Tree Creative Arts Project Years 4 & 5 more details to follow

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October – Teacher Tuesday 3.00 – 3.30pm

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October – Under 11's Football – more details to follow

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October – Prospective Parents open afternoon 1.00- 3.30pm

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October- Flu vaccines in school

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October –Girls Football at Gillingham School – more details to follow

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October – Harvest Festival – Hindon Church 10.00am parents welcome

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October – Last day of term 3pm finish

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October – Half-term week

### **November**

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November – First day of term

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November – Remembrance day –Year 5 & 6 to remembrance service in Hindon

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November – Children in Need Day – wear something yellow or spotty

### **December**

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December – Pantomime in Salisbury – Jack & The Beanstalk – more details to follow

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December – Nativity (timings and venue TBC)

Last day of term – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> 1pm finish

### **January**

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January – TD Day (Children not in school)

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January – First Day of term

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