



# Hindon Primary School

'Where happy children learn'



## Newsletter No 2 October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of the first half-term, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on what has been a very positive and rewarding start to my time here at Hindon Primary School.

It has been a real pleasure getting to know the children — their energy, curiosity, and kindness is pleasure to see each day. I've also greatly appreciated the warm welcome from parents and carers. Building these relationships is so important, and I'm looking forward to strengthening them further as my time in the school progresses.

Our pupils have been working hard in their lessons, and it's been lovely to see their enthusiasm across all areas of the curriculum. Beyond the classroom, there have been some fantastic opportunities for wider learning and personal growth. From representing the school at a football tournament, to developing important life skills in our 'Walk Safe' road safety education sessions, the children have embraced every opportunity.

A particular highlight this term was the residential trip to Calshot Spit Activity Centre. The children took part in lots of exciting activities including kayaking, climbing and archery. Sliding down a dry ski slope on a rubber tube was a lot of fun too. The children thoroughly enjoyed their time away and it was an unforgettable experience for all involved.

We were delighted to see so many prospective families at our recent open afternoon. Families toured the school, chatted to our staff, explored our fabulous early-years space and dropped into a Forest School session. We were delighted to share our lovely village school, and we received lots of very positive feedback about the afternoon.

Behind the scenes, we've made good progress updating key policies and refining some of our procedures to help the school run even more smoothly. Of course, there is always more to do, but we are moving forward with purpose and clarity.

None of this would have been possible without the incredible hard work, dedication, and care shown by our wonderful staff. A huge thank you to all of them as it is their passion and commitment that bring our school to life and make these opportunities possible for the children.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable half-term break. We're already looking forward to next term, which promises to be another exciting and purposeful time at Hindon School.

Best wishes,  
Simon Watkins  
Interim Head Teacher



**Interim Head Teacher: Mr S. Watkins  
Bryson**

**Chair of Governors: Mr R**

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## Robins Class



The Robins have really enjoyed learning all about harvest time and farming through the ages this term. They explored how wheat is harvested, comparing modern machinery with the traditional methods used in the past, and discovered how windmills were once used to turn grain into flour. The children also learned how flour is made into bread and other foods.

In geography, the Robins have been finding out about how the seasons change and how these changes affect farming throughout the year, from planting seeds in spring to harvesting crops in autumn.

To celebrate this special time, the children invited their parents into school for a Harvest Banquet. The children went for a walk around Hindon looking for signs of Autumn, they harvested a pumpkin and some cooking apples on their walk, ready to prepare their harvest banquet. Parents were served delicious homemade pumpkin soup, apple muffins, and a cup of tea.



## Owls Class



Owls have focused on Geography where Florence Nightingale travelled in her life. We learnt that she was named after the city she was born in, in Italy. We have also made some lovely clay models of Florence.

We are hugely thankful to Dr Fiona Dawe from Hindon Surgery who took time out of her very busy day to come to school and talk to the Owls children about what it is like to be a doctor. She brought her doctors bag with her and showed the children some of the equipment that she uses on a daily basis when diagnosing and treating her patients. The children were so interested and also enjoyed telling Dr Fiona all about their topic work and shared their knowledge about Florence Nightingale.

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We've also been learning about Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur in RE. These important festivals include many different traditions and practices for Jewish people such as blowing in a ram's horn to start off the new-year and eating apples and honey!

In English we have had a chocolicious few weeks investigating the book 'Grendel: A Cautionary Tale About Chocolate!' The main message - be careful what you wish for! Maybe a world made of chocolate isn't as good as you'd think...!



## Woodpeckers Class

We are pleased to let you know that Mrs Muelchi will be returning to school after half-term and will now be known as **Mrs Cassel** following her recent marriage. Mrs Cassel will initially be working on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays and will gradually increase her working days over the course of the half-term as she settles back into school life. We're all very much looking forward to welcoming Mrs Cassel back to school and I know the children are excited about working with her again.

Our Woodpeckers have been learning about Ancient Egypt this term: in history, they have made a presentation about the process of mummification; built pyramids from sugar cubes and made cardboard pyramids complete with a sarcophagus inside.



In English, the children have been learning about information texts and have each made their own reference book about Ancient Egypt, complete with contents and glossary pages for the Year 4s, and Indexes for the older years. We have also enjoyed making a persuasive language poster each to convince Mr. Watkins that he should visit Egypt for his summer holiday!

Our Geography has focused on rivers, using the river Nile as our model. We have studied the Aswan Dam, the Nile seasons and features of rivers, including how Oxbow Lakes are formed. We finished off the term with our Spanish unit and have enjoyed learning to introduce ourselves and how to describe ourselves to old and new friends alike.

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## Forest School



This term has been all about the turn of the season and the children have noticed so much in the nature around them. We spotted some mystery scat (poo) on our field which inspired us to learn all about animal tracks and signs, including going on a scat identification hunt.

We set up a wildlife camera to see whose scat we had found and test our theory that it was a hedgehog. The children were delighted to be right and enjoyed watching some footage of a very healthy-looking hedgehog on a moonlit night.

We've learnt about some of the uses for common Autumn nature finds, including gathering hawthorn berries from our Wild Area trees to make Hawthorn ketchup. We've been smashing conkers to make natural soap, which the children have been testing in school alongside our usual soap, and played a few rounds of 'conkers' too. We've learnt to spot hogweed seeds and tried hogweed seed and honey cookies.

The children continue to delight in improving their fire striking skills, with some of them progressing on to flint and steel methods. We finished the term with our now traditional end of term treat - s'mores on the campfire.

Seeing our children continue to deepen their knowledge, understanding and respect for the natural environment is such a privilege.



## PE



Our Under 11s football team travelled to Gillingham School to take part in an exciting tournament involving teams from the local area. The team played a total of five matches, showing great enthusiasm, teamwork and determination.

We started the tournament strongly, winning our first two matches thanks to some excellent passing and solid defending. Spirits were high as we moved into the remaining fixtures. Despite our strong start, the final three matches proved more challenging. Although the team continued to work

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hard and never gave up, we were narrowly beaten in each of the last three games. The players showed great resilience and sportsmanship throughout, supporting one another and staying positive.

In the end, our efforts saw us finish 4th out of 6 teams – a respectable result and one the team can be proud of! We look forward to attending again next year, well done to everyone involved.

Hockey skills have continued to improve throughout the term culminating in mini matches which the children really enjoyed.

## Wellbeing Focus



Mrs Johnsons wellbeing area has now moved from the school hall to a more welcoming, comfortable and private space in the conservatory where children that need a little time away from the classroom can feel relaxed and at ease.

As her ELSA training progresses, Mrs Johnson is working with Mrs Down, our SENDCo and is compiling a list of children who will be a priority for ELSA sessions once they start in January. Parents of those children will receive a letter in December to let them know. More information will be provided to all parents about what ELSA is and how it supports children in early 2026.

We rounded off wellbeing sessions this term by talking about our brains; our wonderful and complex brains are thought machines, they produce thoughts all day, which are sometimes positive and sometimes negative. Those thoughts can't be controlled or stopped, but we can choose how we respond to those thoughts, and we can notice whether the thoughts are real, or un-true, as is sometimes the case. Choosing not to engage with all of our thoughts can help to reduce worries.

## Waterproofs for winter

Now the weather is colder and wetter please can all children have a coat, waterproof trousers and wellies in school at all times. They will not be able to do forest school, or some playtimes without them, thank-you.

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## Thank-you

It was lovely to see so many parents at our Harvest Festival today at Hindon Church, thanks to the kind generosity of you all, we were able to make a substantial donation of items to the Gillingham Foodbank.



## Thank you to the Friends of Hindon School

A huge thank you to the Friends of Hindon School for their support and fundraising this term. The harvest disco was a huge hit with the children, and it was lovely to have teas and coffees for parents at the church following the Harvest Festival.

## Parents Evening Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November

Ten-minute slots will be available from 3.30pm to 6.50pm. They will be available for booking on SCOPAY at 8.30am on 4<sup>th</sup> November, bookings close at 2.00pm on 10<sup>th</sup> November. We can support with child care in the school hall whilst you are in the meeting if required. However, if you are not able to make this date, please contact the school office and we will endeavour to arrange a meeting on a more suitable date.

## Children in Need Day – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November

We will be fundraising for Children in Need on this day; children can come to school in home clothes, yellow or spots is encouraged and bring a £1 donation. Please note that Woodpeckers class do have Forest School on Fridays so anything they wear should also be practical and warm for forest school with covered legs and arms.



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## Poppy Appeal



Our school will be supporting the 2025 Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. When we return after half-term there will be a selection of poppies, keyrings and wristbands available for a small donation.

## Christmas Box Appeal

We are supporting the Christmas Box Appeal this year, this charity sends Christmas presents to families in need in South East Europe. Your child will be sent home with a leaflet explaining all about it, with guidance on what to fill your box with. Choose whether you would like to buy a present for a boy, girl or adult, fill a shoebox with goodies, wrap it in Christmas paper and send it back into school by Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November. We hope many families will enjoy putting a present together for another person.

## Social Media

Thank you to parents for completing the updated photo permissions. We will now be starting to show some of those consented children's faces on our social media channels and will be able to produce some lovely videos that showcase our school.

We have a main school Facebook page and an Instagram page for each of our three classes. If you haven't already done so we would love you to follow us!



@hindonprimaryschool



Instagram

@hindonrobinsclass

@owlclass\_at\_hindon\_primary

@hindon\_primary\_ks2

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## **Dates for your diary**

### **November**

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

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November – No Teacher Tuesday as we have a parents evening the following week

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> November – Swimming at Riversmeet starts again

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

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November - Parents evening 3.30pm – 7.00pm (see note in newsletter about how to book slots)

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

### **December**

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December – Teacher Tuesday 3-3.30pm

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December – Y 4 & 5 to the Larmer Tree Winter Pageant - more details to follow

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> – Last swimming session of the term

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)

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December – Welly walk followed by Christmas lunch in school

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December – Last day of term, disco & party food

### **January**

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

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

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January – Swimming at Riversmeet starts again

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January – School photographer

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