



Hindon Primary School

'Where happy children learn'



Newsletter No 2 – October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of the first half-term, it is a pleasure to reflect on what has been a very positive and productive start to the new academic year.

I'm happy to report that all of our children have settled in quickly to their new classes and routines. Our new Reception children deserve a special mention – they have adapted wonderfully to school life and are doing very well. It's been lovely to see their confidence grow over these first few weeks.

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. From our older girls attending a football festival, to developing important life skills at the 'Woodlands Alive' event in Oysters Coppice, the children have embraced every opportunity.

I also want to say a huge thank you for the incredible support you showed our school during our Ofsted inspection. We're pleased to share that the inspection team gave us some lovely feedback and acknowledged how hard we are all working. We were especially pleased with the parent survey results, which reflected your positive views of the school. The inspectors also saw what we see every day – happy children who feel safe and well cared for at Hindon School. They agreed with the next steps we've already identified for our school's continued development and are already addressing. We will be able to share the final report with you shortly.

We have an INSET Day for teacher training on Monday 2nd November. School will be closed to pupils on this day. The first day back for children after half-term will be **Tuesday 3rd November**.

We hope you all have a restful and enjoyable half-term break, and we look forward to welcoming the children back next term.

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

Our new Reception children have been busy exploring the setting, making new friends and beginning their Phonics and Maths journey. Together with the Year 1 children, they have been learning 'All about me' this term, they used mirrors to draw their own self-portraits, learned about the names of different body parts and drew a picture of their families.

In science, the children have been learning about the differences between carnivores, herbivores and omnivores and sorting animals into those groups.



Our Art focus this term has been all about autumn colours and textures; the children have been learning to mix primary colours to make autumn colours, making clay leaves, doing leaf texture rubbings and making an autumn collage using leaves. We went on a lovely walk around Hindon looking for signs of Autumn, exploring the allotments and noticing red and brown leaves, apples, pears and berries.

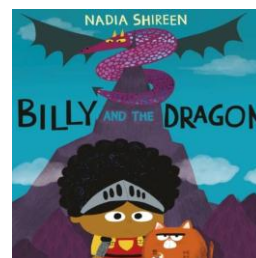
The children have been enjoying using some of the new resources that were purchased for the classroom by the Friends of Hindon School including our new water tray which has been a huge hit with the children! Thank you to the Friends.

Owls Class

Owls have been learning about Marvellous Monarchs, in science we learnt about metamorphic, sedimentary and igneous rocks, in geography we looked at where Anglo-Saxons decided to build their settlements and in history we have learnt why King Alfred was called The Great!

The children have looked at different types of rock and stone and thought about which type would be most suited to building a castle with and why.

In English we have been studying the book Billy and the Dragon and have produced some fantastic reports about our innovated character - a monster! Over the next couple of weeks we will be writing our own stories called 'Billy and the Monster'.



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Woodpeckers Class

This half term, Woodpeckers have really got stuck in with their new learning. So far, we have looked at 'Leon and the Place Between' and 'Little People, Big Dreams: Marcus Rashford' in English. Throughout these writing units, we have focused on a range of punctuation – including semi colons and ellipsis – to make our writing more interesting to read.

Woodpeckers have absolutely loved their topic 'Stone Age' this half term. We have had some fantastic outdoor learning in forest school (thank you Mrs Wilson!) that has allowed the children to practice their cave painting and pottery making skills. As well as this, in lessons we took to the forest to practice weaving and making our own wattle and daub walls out of card and natural resources. The children have been wholly engaged and continue this engagement into our geography topic on earthquakes and volcanoes.

We would all like to say a huge thank you to the Friends of Hindon, who have purchased new books for our 'Woodpeckers Only' class library. Children were involved in selecting and voting on their books (exercising the British Value of Democracy) and even combining their maths skills to work within our budget efficiently. The new reading area looks absolutely fantastic and pupils are excited to develop their joy of reading.

Forest School round-up



The Robins have had a wonderful first term at Forest School. We've started to learn about our beautiful wild area, the creatures we share it with, including hedgehogs, birds and bugs, and noticing the changes in the environment as the seasons turn.

The children have had the opportunity to make pine cone hedgehogs, clay creatures, apple bird feeders, nature tickets and wooden cookie badges. The Robins really enjoy playing with the woodland soft toys, our hammock and the basket pulley the older children have created in the area.

We've also started developing their skills - using simple tools such as the apple corer and cutlery knives and vegetable peelers.

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Owls

Owls have also had a wonderful start to the Forest School year - so much den building, slack lining and clay creature making! To link with this term's topic we've also looked at soil, including making seed bombs, rock types and of course, dragons! We've looked at different types of wings and had a go at creating dragon wings from paper and willow; compared different kinds of feathers; hunted for dragon eggs and thought about a forest food chain with a dragon in it.



The Owls have continued to develop their fire lighting and tool work, making apple bird feeders, elder bead necklaces and whittling. Most recently, we've started to look at knife sharpening too.

Woodpeckers:

A great return to forest school for the Woodpeckers. Their skills and knowledge are really showing. We've continued to develop our tool skills with lots of whittling and started to learn sharpening skills. To tie in with their Stone Age topic, we've looked at different wild edibles and tried some fire cooked venison with wild garlic butter. We've found a new appreciation for Stone Age painting and mark making, trying our hand at making paints with charcoal, chalk and clay and painted our back fence with hunting scenes. We've learnt about oils, fats and even blood as binders for pigments. We've also made some daub for wattle and daub/cob buildings and elder beads and blow pipes.



Den building and fire lighting remains a real favourite, as does tree climbing. The Woodpeckers are working on their skills at maintaining a fire now that they've really got to grips with lighting one - a further challenge and not as easy as it seems, especially in the rain!

This week, we're trying our hand at natural cordage and flint tools/pitches and we'll finish the term with s'mores.

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Oysters Coppice Trip



Years 3 & 4 spent the day at Oysters Coppice on the first week back in school; the children enjoyed a day of activities in the beautiful woodland, practicing fire lighting, slack lining, building dens and exploring the ancient woodland. As ever, our children were beautifully behaved and represented our school perfectly.

Invitation to Meet Our New SENCO

Re-arranged opportunity to Meet Miss Yeomans – Informal Drop-In Sessions

You are invited to meet Miss Yeomans at our informal drop-in session on:

Tuesday 20th October: 8:30am – 9:30am

Please feel free to come along to introduce yourself, ask questions, or discuss any aspect of SEND provision. Or if you require a longer, private meeting, book a future appointment.

We are enjoying working with Miss Yeomans who is supporting our pupils and families. If you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at the school office.

Harvest Festival

We are delighted to invite you to our Harvest Festival, which will be at Hindon Church at **2pm on Friday 23rd October.**

Rev'd Jo will lead a special service as we come together to give thanks for the Harvest

As part of the celebrations, we are collecting donations for Gillingham food bank. If you are able, please consider sending in a contribution to school by Tuesday 20th October, which we will deliver to the church in support of those in need. We welcome non-perishable items such as tins and packets.

Everyone is welcome to attend – we hope you can join us.

Parents in attendance can take their children straight home at the end of the service, staff will return to school

with the remaining children for normal end of day arrangements/taxi.



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Swimming for Reception

Swimming lessons for the whole school, including our Reception class, will resume on **Wednesday 4th November.**

Please ensure your child comes to school wearing their PE kit on Wednesdays, and also brings:

- Swimming costume
- Towel
- A separate bag for their swimming kit

Important medical and safety information:

If your child has any medical conditions that we need to be aware of during swimming (such as asthma, or allergies), please ensure we have up-to-date information on file. If there have been any changes to your child's medical needs since the start of term, please contact the school office as soon as possible.

Phonics Workshop for Parents

Wednesday 4th November, 3:00pm – 3:30pm

Please join us for a short session to learn how phonics is taught at Hindon school and how you can support your child's reading development at home.

This session is particularly aimed at **Reception and Year 1 parents**, but may also be useful for parents of older children.

A crèche will be provided while you attend the workshop.

We look forward to seeing you there!

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School Playground

You will have seen the lovely new painted basketball court and logo on the school playground which was completed a few weeks ago. Children across the school have been making full use of the markings, engaging in basketball games every day and playing on the line trail.

A huge thank you to the parents who worked hard to ensure that the playground was cleaned ready for painting and to the Friends of Hindon School and our wider parent community for supporting events such as the sponsored walk last year which contributed to covering the cost of the project.



A special mention also goes to Elsa's Grandmother who has given up her time on a regular basis this term to come and do some gardening in the school grounds; everything is looking lovely and we are very grateful to her.

Lunches and swimming next term

Bookings for lunches and swimming next term are now open on Scopay, please complete the bookings/ permissions etc by Monday 2nd November. Reception children start swimming after half-term so those parents also need to complete the permissions and payment on Scopay.

Attendance

Thank you so much for supporting the school in our drive to improve the rates of attendance. Whilst we know that attending school is often not in an individual pupil's control, we do know that to improve attendance takes a team effort.

Every day in school matters, and regular attendance plays a vital role in a child's learning, wellbeing and sense of belonging. We believe that regular attendance is the key to enabling children to maximise the educational opportunities available to them.

We are proud of our attendance record and understand that occasional absences are sometimes unavoidable but these do seem to be dropping. This is an indication that our welcoming and caring environment is helping and we are always happy to work with parents and carers to support your child if they are a little under the weather.

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Please do not allow children to bring toys to school

We have recently noticed an increase in the number of children bringing toys into school. While we understand the comfort that some items may bring, we ask for your support in **not allowing your child to bring any toys into school.**



Why is this important?

- Toys can be a distraction during learning time.
- Personal items can get lost or damaged, which can cause upset.
- Some toys, such as '**squishy stress balls**', have recently burst in school, with their contents spilling onto pupils. Since we cannot guarantee the safety of the materials inside these toys, we are **explicitly prohibiting 'squishy stress balls' and similar items** from being brought into school.

If your child needs a concentration aid or fidget toy, the school will provide suitable resources as needed. Please speak to us if you feel your child requires additional support in this area. **Thank you for your cooperation** Your support helps us to maintain a safe and focused learning environment for all children.

Safeguarding & Child Protection

Our Designated Safeguarding Lead is Miss Hall.

Our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads are Mr. Watkins and Mrs Johnson

Contact us if you have any concerns: safeguarding@hindonce.wilts.sch.uk

The updated Child Protection and Safeguarding policy can be found on the school website:

<https://www.hindonce.co.uk/>

Thank you to the Friends of Hindon School

We are incredibly grateful to the Friends of Hindon School for their generous donation to our school. Thanks to their support, we've been able to purchase new resources that are already making a real difference in classrooms. Thank you for investing in our children's education and wellbeing.

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Stop press- Ofsted Feedback

We now have the final report and can therefore invite you to a special meeting where we will share the findings from our recent Ofsted inspection.

This will be your first opportunity to see quotes from the report and hear directly from us about the feedback we received. We want to share this important information with you as part of our school community before it becomes publicly available.

Please choose ONE of the following sessions to attend:

- Tuesday 20th October at 2:30pm
- Wednesday 21st October at 8:45am

Both sessions will cover the same information, so please select whichever time works best for you.

The meeting will be held in the school hall and will last approximately 20 minutes.

We look forward to sharing this news with you and discussing our next steps as a school community.

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Dates for your diary

October		
Monday 19 th October	Last day of the Book Fair	3.00 School Hall
Wednesday 21 st October	Flu Immunisations in school	
Friday 23 rd October	Harvest Festival	2pm at Hindon Church
Friday 23 rd October	Last day of term	
November		
Monday 2 nd November	TD Day, no children in school	
Tuesday 3 rd November	First day of term	
Wednesday 4 th November	Swimming recommences	Including Reception
Wednesday 4 th November	Parent Phonics session	3-3.30(childcare provided)
Wednesday 11 th November	Year 5&6 Remembrance event in Hindon	Church memorial
Friday 20 th November	School Photos AM	School hall
December		
Tuesday 1 st December	Teacher Tuesday	3-3.30pm
Saturday 5 th December	Hindon Church Christmas Fair	
Wednesday 9 th December	Last swim of the year	
Thursday 10 th December	Pantomime in school	
Tuesday 15 th December	Nativity at East Knoyle Village Hall	Details to follow
Wednesday 16 th December	Christmas Lunch in school	No Swimming
Friday 18 th December	Last Day of Term	Disco in school
January 2027		
Monday 4 th Jan	TD Day for staff	No children in school
Tuesday 5 th Jan	Children back to school today	
February		
Friday 12 th February	Last day of term	
Monday 22 nd February	First day of term	
March		
Thursday 25 th March	Last day of term	
April		
Monday 12 th April	First Day of term	
May		
Friday 28 th May	Sport Day at Fonthill Cricket Club	
Friday 28 th May	Last Day of term	
June		
Monday 7 th June	First day of term	
July 2027		
Tuesday 20 th July	Last day of term	
Wed 21 st July	TD Day for staff	

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	Dorset School Term Dates - Academic Year 2026 - 2027 Programme of school term and holiday dates for county and controlled schools for the academic year 2026/2027																																																																																																																																																																										
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The pattern of school terms and holidays will vary slightly from school to school since 5 of the 195 days are to be used for staff development. It is therefore advisable to contact schools direct for confirmation of their term dates.																																																																																																																																																																											

Interim Head Teacher: Mr S. Watkins

Chair of Governors: Mr R. Bryson

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

Tel: 01747 820260

E-mail: admin@hindonce.wilts.sch.uk