

HODGE CLOUGH

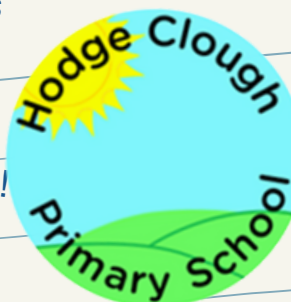
NEWSLETTER

12TH SEPTEMBER

Dear Parents and Carers,

This second week back in school has flown by! Once again, the school has been buzzing with activity: My week got off to a heartwarming start when a group of Nursery children flocked to me with books that they wanted me to read to them - they are clearly going to be tremendous pupils to have at Hodge Clough! Reception teachers have been equally pleased at how welcoming the children who moved up from our Nursery have been to the brand new children. Over in Year 1, I was treated to looking at their book reviews on *The Enormous Crocodile* and they eagerly told me all about the story! Over at Conduit Street, I spotted Year 2 learning about common and proper nouns and Year 3 writing some super sentences with adjectives and adverbs! Year 4 have started learning all about the digestive system and lucky Year 5 are studying my favourite science topic, *The Earth and Space*! Our oldest pupils in school have been busy using expanded noun phrases in their wonderful writing and also exploring the theme of Pilgrimage in RE.

Today, the week was rounded off with Roald Dahl Day - a nationwide event that celebrates this great author's birthday! At Hodge Clough, Years 1-6 enjoyed a a Starbooks Cafe where children had refreshments while listening to a Roald Dahl Book. They also engaged in activities around the author and his stories! What a great day!



Notices

Wilkes Street

We politely request that when parking on Wilkes St you consider two things, the yellow road markings which are there for our children's safety and our neighbours who always need access to their driveways.

It is illegal to park on the yellow zigzags outside of a school and Civil Enforcement Officers from the council will issue Penalty Charge Notices if they see cars parked on there. We hope that we can work together to ensure the safety of all our children.

Individual School Photographs

A reminder that the photographer will be in school on Tuesday 23rd September. Photographers will arrive at 7.30am, at each site. The photos will start at 8am for family groups. Parents and carers are invited to attend at this time to have their family groups which will include younger siblings that are not yet school age. We are happy to do extended family (cousins etc) if parents would like the photos for Christmas gifts.

Nut Allergy

Please can we remind parents to not send your child into school with any products containing nuts, as this can cause a serious reaction to a number of children within our school.

Nursery/Reception Places for September 2026

If you or anyone you know is wanting a Nursery or Reception place for next year, we are holding an Early Years Open Evening on Wednesday 15 October from 4.00pm until 6.00pm. There will be an opportunity to look around the classrooms and the meet staff.

Lunches

Please can we remind parents that if your child would like to change their meal pattern, packed lunch or school dinners, 2 weeks' notice must be given at the office.

Lost Property

If anybody has seen a black Smiggle PE bag (with an attached named keyring) containing pale blue Nike trainers, please inform the school office.

Awards

Parents will continue to be notified via Parent Mail if their child has won an award. Their names will then be celebrated in the newsletter published at the end of that week - in this way we can keep the element of surprise! If your child would benefit from being prepared for their award though, then of course you are able to tell them!

Applying for a Primary School Place for September 2026

Primary school applications for next year are open. The deadline to secure a future Reception place is 5pm on Thursday 15 January 2026. Apply at: www.oldham.gov.uk/admissions

Dinner Money and Nursery Fees

Please can we remind parents/carers that dinner monies and nursery fees are to be paid in advance each Monday using our new School Gateway system here: IOS

Devices: schoolgateway.co.uk/iosdownload Android Devices: schoolgateway.co.uk/androiddownload

Nursery – 30 Hours Childcare Place

Please remember to check that your details are up to date every 3 months. Please go to <http://www.gov.uk/childcareaccount>

Parent Workshops

On Wednesday 17th September there will be a Reading Workshop for parents of children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 (9.00 - 9.30) followed by a Nursery and Reception 'Tapestry' and 'Baseline' Meeting at Wilkes Street (9.30 - 10.00). The Reading session will be repeated at 4.30 - 5.00

Tapestry is a secure online learning journal used in Early Years Foundation Stage to record your child's development through photos, videos, and written observations from staff. Parents receive a unique login to view these entries, see their child's learning journey, and can also upload their own comments and media, creating a shared, digital record of the child's experiences and progress.

The Reception Baseline is a national assessment. It is a short (about 20 minutes), one-to-one set of simple activities with your child's teacher, covering early maths, language and communication.

Supervision on School Grounds

We would like to remind parents and carers of children at Conduit Street that they should not be left on the school grounds before 8.30 (when the school doors officially open) as staff are not available to provide supervision before this time. For your child's safety, please ensure they remain with you until the doors open and staff are ready to welcome them into school.

We appreciate your support in helping us to keep all children safe.

Breakfast Club

This will resume on Monday 15th September at 8.10am. Children must be accompanied by a parent or carer to the Main Entrance to school where they should press the buzzer to be let in. The final time for arrival will be 8.25am

Calendar Date Reminders

Week beginning 15/9/25

- Clubs start this week for 4 weeks -parent mail to go out
- Monday 15/9/25 TT Rockstars launch day for Years 2 - 6
- Wed 17/9/25 9-9.30 am Reading meeting at Wilkes St for Nursery, Reception, Y1 and Y2 parents followed by a Nursery and Reception 'Tapestry and Baseline meeting' until 10am.
- Wed 17/9/25 4.30-5pm further opportunity to attend a reading meeting for N, Rec, Y1 and Y2 at Wilkes St
- Thurs 18/9/25 at 9am-9.30am Behaviour Workshop 1 for Parents (external provider) Wilkes St

Week beginning /9/25

- Tuesday 23rd Individual photos Slattery's 8am for families – more details to follow
- Friday 26th Macmillan Coffee morning and afternoon for parents - AM Wilkes St 8.30-9.30am and PM Conduit St 2.15-3.15pm includes a meet and greet the new Headteacher, Mrs Hodgkinson. 29/9/25

Week beginning 29.9.25

- Friday 3/10/25 Sunshine Day - Values Day – Launching our school values
- 9am-9.30am Communication Workshop 2 for Parents (external provider) Wilkes St

Week beginning 6/10/25

- Harvest Festival for Derker Foodbank Monday 6/10/25 during assemblies – please can parents and carers send donations please.
- 8/10/25 SEND Coffee Morning for parents (invitation only)

Week beginning 13/10/25

- Wednesday 15th October open evening for Nursery and Reception 4-6pm (for parents of children starting in September 2026) at Wilkes St

Week beginning 20/10/25

- Scholastic Book fairs this week at both sites with Starbooks Cafe for parents and children at Conduit Street (the same event will run at Wilkes Street the first week back after half term)
- Mon 20th - Nursery parent meetings Reception parent meetings (Y2-6 parent meetings to be held first week after half term)
- Thursday 23rd Halloween discos Wilkes St 3-4pm (Y1 &2) Conduit St 3.15-4.15pm (Y3 &4) 4.30-5.30pm (Y5 &6) TBC with PTFA (EYFS in the afternoon in school time)
- Friday 24th Pumpkin competition

HODGE CLOUGH

NEWSLETTER

19TH SEPTEMBER

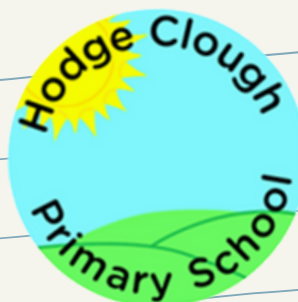
Dear Parents and Carers,
Welcome to this week's newsletter and as always our children have impressed us with their energy, creativity and enthusiasm for learning.

I once again ventured into Nursery to find them painting the happiest pictures, all in bright yellow! I couldn't be prouder of how well our youngest learners have explored different emotions through the story of The Colour Monster. Who knew monsters could be so helpful in teaching us about feelings?

In Reception, the children have been showing fantastic independence in provision, and their fine motor skills are really shining through. I suspect there are some more budding artists and surgeons in the making!

I thoroughly enjoyed a taste of Year 1 phonics this week too, where I was so proud to see how hard they were trying to blend phonemes. I know they also had an amazing PE lesson in Mrs Rattenbury's class and there was some joyful singing coming from Miss Wood's class where the children sang about their friends and favourite foods.

Over at Conduit Street, I have to give a special mention to our Times Tables Rockstars Day. Both children and staff threw themselves into the fun – there was plenty of mathematical magic, a lot of laughter, and just a little bit of friendly competition. Take a look at our Awards section below to see who our Times Table Battle Competitors and winners were. Also, do keep an eye out for your child climbing the Leader Board and earning their Rock Status awards by engaging with Times Tables Rockstars at home!



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19TH SEPTEMBER

Throughout the week, I have seen some wonderful examples of handwriting, especially in Years 2 and 3! Year 2 also had a great, first PE lesson and remembered to be very safe in the Hall and they have also been busy partitioning numbers to 100. Year 3 also impressed me with their knowledge of command sentences and they have thoroughly enjoyed learning about Rosa Parks too.

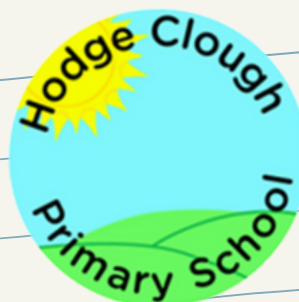
Year 4 teachers have been providing some very creative science lessons - ask your child about how they made the organs of the digestive system from play dough!

I saw Year 5 really getting into their class novel, Varjak Paw and they have also been learning all about different types of settlements.

Our oldest children in Year 6 looked to be having a very interactive art lesson yesterday, in which they were evaluating some examples of Graffiti Art! Mr Cresswell and Mrs Lilley tell me they are also developing their vocabulary through their class novel and are loving learning about the 6 major world biomes!

Thank you to all staff for creating such engaging opportunities for our children - and to the children themselves for reminding us every day why this is the best job in the world!

I hope everyone has a wonderful weekend, and we look forward to seeing everyone on Monday!



Notices

Fundraising

We are keen to build up our PTA team this year. The PTA plays such an important role in school life – not only by raising funds, but also by bringing our school community together through fun events. If you've ever thought about joining in, now is the perfect time!

One big focus for our fundraising this year will be updating our Reception playground. The children love their outdoor space, but it's ready for a refresh with some exciting new equipment. Every cake sale, raffle ticket, and sponsored challenge helps us take another step towards giving our little learners the play area they deserve.

Whether you've got lots of time to give or just a little, we'd love to have you involved. Together, we can make a huge difference – and have plenty of fun along the way!

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Friday 26th September - Wilkes Street 8.30-9.30am and Conduit St 2.15-3.15pm

We're delighted to be hosting a Macmillan Coffee Morning here at Hodge Clough – a chance to come together as a school community, share a cuppa (and perhaps a slice of cake or two!), and raise money for a truly important cause.

Alongside raising money, I'd also like to use the morning to gather some of your thoughts on what you feel should shape our school values at Hodge Clough. Every school has its own "personality," and I want ours to truly reflect the community it serves. Your insights will help us build a set of values that we can all stand behind – children, staff, and families alike.

So please do pop along, and together we can raise funds for Macmillan and begin shaping the future vision for Hodge Clough.

School Photos

A reminder that the photographer will be in school on Tuesday 23rd September. Photographers will arrive at 7.30am, at each site. The photos will start at 8am for family groups. Parents and carers are invited to attend at this time to have their family groups which will include younger siblings that are not yet school age. We are happy to do extended family (cousins etc) if parents would like the photos for gifts.

Please note that there will be no Parent Assembly at Wilkes Street this week to accommodate this.

Flu Immunisation Consent Forms

All forms are being collected on Thursday 25th September, so please can we ask for them all to be handed in by Wednesday 24th September.

Bus Strike

Bus operator industrial action is expected to take place next week Friday 19th – Monday 22th September inclusive by some operator staff in Greater Manchester. You can find out more information at www.beenetwork.com/bus-industrial-action

SEND Coffee Morning

On 8th October, 9am at the Wilkes Street site, come and join us for an informal and friendly coffee morning for parents and carers of children with Special Educational Needs. This is a relaxed opportunity to:

- Connect with other parents and carers
- Share experiences and ideas
- Learn more about SEND support at Hodge Clough and in Oldham
- Ask questions in a supportive environment
- Chat to guests such as CAMHS and other organisations linked to SEND support and wellbeing

A new Facebook page

I would like to take some time to share with you our thoughts on creating a new Facebook account that is 'open'. I am aware that this is causing some concern and hope to be able to give you some reassurances. Having an open Facebook is common practice across many schools. Here are some of the reasons:

- An open Facebook page allows us to share the brilliant things our children and staff are doing with the whole community.
- It means grandparents, relatives, and friends who may not have direct access to our other school systems can still enjoy updates and celebrations.
- It also gives us a positive online presence, showing prospective families what life at our school is like.

Safeguarding is always a priority at Hodge Clough, and like other schools with an open account we would take the following steps:

- The site would be configured by our technical support team who have advised on the most appropriate settings for a primary school
- Children will never be named and we will always follow safeguarding guidance. We will always honour parental permissions and not post images of children without these permissions.
- Only an approved team of account admin staff will post to the page. This means all content is checked before it goes online.
- Commenting will be switched off.

In short, the page is "open" so we can celebrate our school with the wider community, but it is run with safeguarding at its heart. By carefully managing content, we ensure children remain safe while we share all the wonderful things happening at school.

If you choose to not give permission for your child to be on Facebook, this does not mean you will miss out on seeing what they do in school. Class Dojo will become the equivalent of our closed Facebook group where only parents and carers of children at Hodge Clough can see what is posted. Everyday messages and reminders to parents will be posted on Dojo rather than Facebook and photos of what your children have been doing in school will still be posted here too.

I hope this information is helpful and helps to reassure you.

Awards

Each week, we give out awards to children in every class to recognise their hard work and fantastic achievements. These awards are given out in Parent Assembly. Here are the children who received awards this week:

STAR OF THE WEEK

Y1 Leopards – Miss Wood – Heidi
Y1 Monkeys – Mrs Rattenbury – Tobias
Y2 - Mr T Nokes – Grace
Y2 - Mrs J Walker – Toby
Y3 - Miss S Hilton – Elodie
Y3 - Miss Y Gheith/Mrs R Taylor – Max
Y4 - Mrs A Marston – Bobby
Y4 - Miss J Robinson - Ahad
Y5 - Mrs M Oakes – Edith
Y5 - Mrs L Milnes – Darcey
Y6 - Mr S Cresswell – Jaxon
Y6 - Mrs L Lilley – Elliot

WONDERFUL WORK

Y1 Leopards – Miss Wood – Niamh
Y1 Monkeys – Mrs Rattenbury – Amelia
Y2 - Mr T Nokes – Matilda
Y2 - Mrs J Walker – Sheik-Alyana
Y3 - Miss S Hilton – Roan
Y3 - Miss Y Gheith/Mrs R Taylor – Thea
Y4 - Mrs A Marston – Iman
Y4 - Miss J Robinson – Aria-Neave
Y5 - Mrs M Oakes – Austin
Y5 - Mrs L Milnes – Sheik-Al-zyan
Y6 - Mr S Cresswell - Violet
Y6 - Mrs L Lilley – Tia

MAGICAL MANNERS

Y1 Leopards – Miss Wood – Jack
Y1 Monkeys – Mrs Rattenbury – Harrison

DOJO AWARDS

Y1 Leopards – Miss Wood – Sullaman
Y1 Monkeys – Mrs Rattenbury – Tobias
Y2 - Mr T Nokes – Grace
Y2 - Mrs J Walker – Betsy
Y3 - Miss S Hilton – Ivy-Mae
Y3 - Miss Y Gheith/Mrs R Taylor - Mila
Y4 - Mrs A Marston – Iman
Y4 - Miss J Robinson – Lincoln
Y5 - Mrs M Oakes – Rose
Y5 - Mrs L Milnes – Archie
Y6 - Mr S Cresswell – Jaxon
Y6 - Mrs L Lilley – Isaac

Times Tables Rockstars Day - Times Tables Battles

The following children were selected to 'battle'

Year 2 - Ivy and David
Year 3 Oliver and Charlotte
Year 4 - Ayo
Year 5 - Pearl
Year 6 - Morayo and Isaac

After winning the Battle Round, Isaac and Morayo went head-to-head with Mr Cresswell. They took turns to answer times tables questions in under 3 seconds with Morayo claiming the final victory - well done!

Week beginning /9/25

- Tuesday 23rd Individual photos Slattery's 8am for families – more details to follow
- Friday 26th Macmillan Coffee morning and afternoon for parents - AM Wilkes St 8.30-9.30am and PM Conduit St 2.15-3.15pm includes a meet and greet the new Headteacher, Mrs Hodgkinson. 29/9/25

Week beginning 29.9.25

- Friday 3/10/25 Sunshine Day - Values Day – Launching our school values
- 9am-9.30am Communication Workshop 2 for Parents (external provider) Wilkes St

Week beginning 6/10/25

- Harvest Festival for Derker Foodbank Monday 6/10/25 during assemblies – please can parents and carers send donations please.
- 8/10/25 SEND Coffee Morning for parents (invitation only)

Week beginning 13/10/25

- Wednesday 15th October open evening for Nursery and Reception 4-6pm (for parents of children starting in September 2026) at Wilkes St

Week beginning 20/10/25

- Scholastic Book fairs this week at both sites with Starbooks Cafe for parents and children at Conduit Street (the same event will run at Wilkes Street the first week back after half term)
- Mon 20th - Nursery parent meetings Reception parent meetings (Y2-6 parent meetings to be held first week after half term)
- Thursday 23rd Halloween discos Wilkes St 3-4pm (Y1 &2) Conduit St 3.15-4.15pm (Y3 &4) 4.30-5.30pm (Y5 &6) TBC with PTFA (EYFS in the afternoon in school time)
- Friday 24th Pumpkin competition

Calendar Date Reminders

Week beginning 22/9/25

- Tuesday 23rd Individual photos Slattery's 8am for families – more details to follow
- Friday 26th Macmillan Coffee morning and afternoon for parents - AM Wilkes St 8.30-9.30am and PM Conduit St 2.15-3.15pm includes a meet and greet the new Headteacher, Mrs Hodgkinson. 29/9/25

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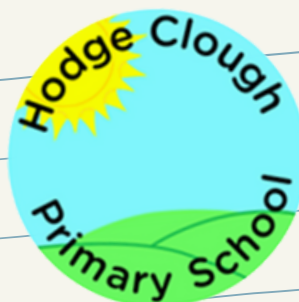
26TH SEPTEMBER

Dear Parents and Carers,

Friday has come around again so quickly and it's time once again for me to share some of the highlights from this week. When I visited Nursery on Monday, I was amazed to see that after only 4 weeks, they were sitting and listening so beautifully to a maths lesson on the concept of 'empty'. They were also enjoying using mirrors to create thoughtful self-portraits, helping them to identify different emotions and features. In Reception, the children were showing such excitement and imagination during Drawing Club - a storytelling-based literacy and writing program they use in Early Years to enrich their language, fine motor skills, and imagination - Year 1 children have been working very hard in phonics again, their creativity and storytelling skills were definitely shining! Our Year 1 children have been working very hard in phonics again, showing great determination to remember their 'special friends' (combinations of two or three letters that represent a single sound) and spotting them in words. Not only that, they have been impressing us with their mapping skills, carefully exploring and learning about our own school grounds.

I have spent some time looking at Science books this week with our science co-ordinator, Mrs Oakes. I was particularly impressed with Year 2's knowledge of what animals, including humans, need to survive, Year 3 have been doing some brilliant investigative science which they have written up onto Investigation Boards whilst Year 4 have continued their journey around the digestive system! Lucky Year 5 have started to learn how to prepare and cook vegetable soup - this week was all about slicing, dicing and grating techniques! Finally, Year 6 were putting Mr Cresswell through his paces today in their tennis lesson - next stop Wimbledon?!

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us at both our Conduit Street and Wilkes Street sites for our Macmillan Coffee Morning and Afternoon. Not only did we raise valuable funds for such an important cause, it was also a



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26TH SEPTEMBER

wonderful opportunity to welcome more parents into school, share a cuppa, and strengthen our school community. Your generosity and support really do make a difference - thank you so much!

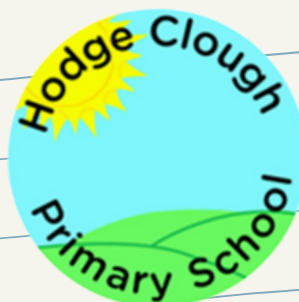
Finally, I am incredibly proud of Mr Nokes and our school netball team, who yesterday competed at Waterhead Academy against other Oldham schools for the very first time. With every match they played, their skill and confidence visibly grew, and by the end of the tournament they had found their stride—securing convincing wins in their final two games. The resilience, teamwork, and determination they displayed were outstanding. They truly did our school proud! Well done to Pearl (Y5) Edith (Y5) Rose (Y5) Sophia (Y5) Ava (Y6) Ayva(Y6) and Isla (Y6)!

Thank you, as always, for your continued support in your child's learning journey. We are so proud of all the children's achievements and the positive attitudes they bring to school each day.

Have a great weekend, everyone!

Warm wishes

Mrs Hodkinson





Notices



TIMES TABLES ROCKSTARS

Last week we launched Times Tables Rockstars for Years 2-6 - please keep rocking at home!

Quick, regular practice makes a huge difference to children's confidence in maths. Please encourage your child to spend 5–10 minutes on Times Tables Rock Stars at home, 3–4 times a week. Little and often is best!

How you can help at home

- Log in via the TTRS app or website using your child's school login (ask the class teacher if you need it).
- Aim for Garage or Jamming to build fluency, then try Studio for a challenge.
- Celebrate small wins — we'll share certificates when your child earns a new Rock Status.
- Keep sessions short and positive

We're tracking class participation and improvements each week. Thank you for your support. Please find more information here:

<https://youtu.be/S1OZJHbM90> and <https://ttrackstars.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/TTRS-Parent-Guide.pdf>



SEND COFFEE MORNING



On 8th October at 9am, we are holding an SEND Coffee Morning to provide support to **any** families navigating their Special Educational Needs journey. No invitation or booking required, anyone can just pop into Wilkes Street and join us for an informal and friendly coffee morning for parents and carers of children with Special Educational Needs. This is a relaxed opportunity to:

- Connect with other parents and carers
- Share experiences and ideas
- Learn more about SEND support at Hodge Clough and in Oldham
- Ask questions in a supportive environment
- Chat to guests such as CAMHS and other organisations linked to SEND support and wellbeing.



Notices



UNIFORM EXPECTATIONS

We are very proud of how smart our pupils look and the sense of belonging that our school uniform creates. As part of maintaining these high expectations, staff may occasionally send a reminder slip home if an item of uniform is missing or not in line with our policy.

Please know that these slips are not meant as criticism, but simply as a quick and respectful way to communicate directly with parents, rather than passing messages through children. Thank you for your support in helping us keep our school standards high.



BEHAVIOUR WORKSHOP

A great big thank you to all the parents that attended the Behaviour Workshop last week. It was great to see so many of you there. The second session, focusing on Communication takes place on Thursday 2nd October at the Wilkes Street site at 9am. There is no need to book a place just turn up. These workshops are really good opportunities to share strategies and listen and talk to others. We really hope you can make it.

SCHOOL COUNCIL 2025-2026

We are delighted to announce the results of this year's School Council elections! After some very thoughtful speeches and impressive campaigns, the children voted for the representatives they felt would best share their views and ideas. Our new School Council members are:

YEAR 2 - Matilda and Ivy

YEAR 3 - Indie and Elodie

YEAR 4 - Rex and Lewis

YEAR 5 - Annie and Pearl

YEAR 6 - Skyler and Alice

We are so proud of everyone who put themselves forward—it takes real courage to stand in front of your peers and present your ideas. Even if you weren't elected this time, your voice is still important and we encourage you to continue sharing your suggestions with your class councillors. We're excited to see the positive changes and initiatives our new council will bring this year, and we know they will do a brilliant job representing their classmates.





Notices



APPLYING FOR A RECEPTION PLACE FOR SEPTEMBER 2026

A reminder for parents of our current Nursery children who wish to apply for a place in our Reception class for September 2026. The application period is open from 01 September 2025 to 15 January 2026. You must apply online at https://www.oldham.gov.uk/info/200327/apply_for_a_school_place/3289/submit_an_application_for_a_school_place

A reminder that a place in our nursery does not, unfortunately, guarantee a place in our Reception class.

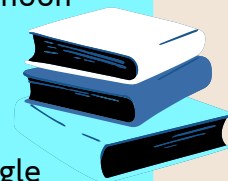
TOGETHER, LET'S SHAPE THE VALUES THAT GUIDE OUR CHILDREN



As your new Headteacher, I am very excited about the journey we are beginning together. One of my first priorities is to work with our whole school community to shape the future of our school by agreeing on a clear set of values that will guide everything we do.

School values are important because they set out what we stand for. They help children understand the kind of people we want them to grow into, and they provide a shared sense of direction for staff, families, and pupils alike.

I have already gathered some wonderful ideas from staff and children, and today I had the pleasure of speaking to many parents at our Macmillan Coffee Morning and Afternoon to hear your thoughts too. Thank you to everyone who shared your views—it is so important that our values reflect the voices of our whole community.



To make sure everyone has the chance to contribute, I will be sending out a Google Form soon where you can share your ideas about the key values you believe our school should stand for. I look forward to hearing from as many of you as possible as, together, we create a set of values that truly represent who we are and who we want to be. Your voice really matters in shaping the future of our school—thank you for being part of this exciting journey!

Awards

Each week, we give out awards to children in every class to recognise their hard work and fantastic achievements. These awards are given out in Parent Assembly. Here are the children who received awards this week:

	Star of the Week	Wonderful Work	Magical Manners	Dojo Award
Y2 TN	Henry-Jack	Layla		Georgia
Y2 JW	Lola	Rio		Amelia
Y3 SH	Jax-Lee	Ezra		Elodie
Y3 YG/RT	Florence	Jasper		Isabelle
Y4 AM	Jake	Erin		Erin
Y4 JR	Harler	Lincoln		Ahad
Y5MO	Pearl	Noah		Sophia
Y5LM	Adam	Charlie		Thea
Y6SC	Divine	Esme		Adila
Y6 LL	Isla	James		Annabel

BOOK REVIEW

At our school, we believe that reading is one of the most powerful skills a child can develop. Reading not only helps children learn and achieve in every subject, but it also sparks imagination, builds empathy, and opens doors to new worlds and ideas. Developing a love of books is something we want for every child, and we know that the joy of reading is something that lasts a lifetime.

To celebrate this, each week we will be sharing a Book Review of the Week in our newsletter. This will give children and staff the chance to recommend their favourite stories, inspire others to try new books, and help keep reading at the heart of our school.

I think this week's review is inspired by our exciting Roald Dahl 'Starbooks' Author Day!

James and the Giant Peach, by Roald Dahl

A children's fiction book

This story is about a boy called James who has to live with his horrible aunties on top of a hill. They make him do all the work and chores. But then he grows a giant peach! The main character is James and he is my favourite character because he is kind, helpful and caring.

The key message in this story is to never let somebody control who you are and remember, you can do amazing things!

I think that children who enjoy adventure would enjoy this book and I would recommend this book because it is a lovely, fun and energetic story.

By Matilda, Year 6

HODGE CLOUGH

NEWSLETTER

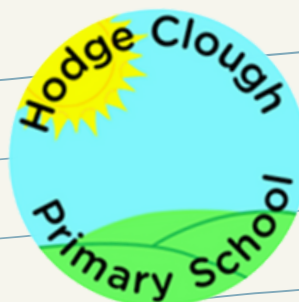
3RD OCTOBER

Dear Parents and Carers,
We began the week on a positive note with an assembly at both sites focusing on Growth Mindset. Put simply, this is the belief that our brains are like muscles – the more we use them, the stronger they get. Children with a growth mindset know that mistakes aren't something to be feared; they are stepping stones to success. By encouraging our children to see challenges as opportunities, we help them to build resilience, stay motivated and take pride in the progress they make every day!

Across the school this week, there have been so many moments worth celebrating. In Nursery, we were especially proud of how confidently the children are managing their transitions from one carpet space to another. What might sound like a small step is actually a big milestone – moving with enthusiasm and purpose sets the tone for the day, and it's been wonderful to see such excitement for learning shining through even in these little routines.

In Reception, the outdoor area has been a hive of activity. Mrs McGarry was delighted to see children hunting for minibeasts with great enthusiasm! Meanwhile, over in Mrs Pollitt's class, the children have been putting their fingers to work with fine motor activities. From threading to pinching and shaping, the sheer joy on their faces showed that developing strong hands for writing doesn't have to be dull – in fact, it can be great fun!

Year 1 had their sights firmly set on the future this week. Their writing and drawing captured dreams of becoming firefighters, vets, policemen, teachers, doctors and even ballerinas! The range of ambitions was as wide as their imaginations, and we can't wait to see where their journeys take them!



HODGE CLOUGH

NEWSLETTER

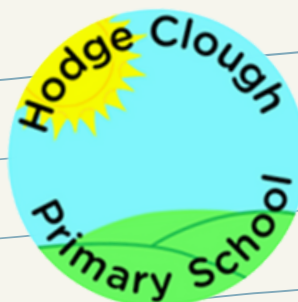
3RD OCTOBER

In Year 2, curiosity was the order of the day as children explored lifecycles. From tiny eggs to caterpillars, and from tadpoles to frogs, they have been amazed by the magic of transformation in the natural world.

Moving up to Year 3, geography skills were dusted off as children recapped the countries and seas of the UK before taking their first steps into the world of counties. Who knew that maps could hold quite so many fascinating facts?

Year 4 took a musical turn, discovering that you don't always need instruments to create a rhythm. By clapping, stamping and clicking, the children became their own percussion section – and if you happened to hear an unusual soundtrack at home, you now know why!

Year 5 channeled their energy into writing on the very real issue of plastic pollution in the oceans. Using fronted adverbials and expanded noun phrases, they gave their sentences real power – ensuring that their words not only painted a vivid picture but also carried a strong message about protecting our planet.



HODGE CLOUGH

NEWSLETTER

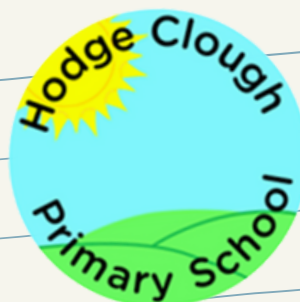
3RD OCTOBER

And finally, Year 6 have been working with determination to boost their arithmetic scores. Their teachers are extremely proud of their efforts, and the children themselves have embraced the challenge with real positivity. The online platform Learning By Questions has been a big hit, with pupils enjoying the instant feedback it provides – a little competitive spirit certainly helps the numbers stick!

It has been another busy and rewarding week, full of learning and those little moments that remind us how special our school community is.

Wishing you all a restful weekend,

Mrs Hodgkinson





Notices



ALEXANDRA PARK RUN

What is the Alexandra Junior Park Run? A free, fun, and friendly weekly 2k event for juniors (4 to 14 year olds). It is held every Sunday at 9:00am in Alexandra Park, Kings Road, Oldham, OL8 2BH.

<https://www.parkrun.org.uk/alexandra-juniors/>

DINNER MONEY AND NURSERY FEES

Please can we remind parents/carers that dinner monies and Nursery fees are to be paid in advance each Monday using our School Gateway system here:

IOS Devices: schoolgateway.co.uk/iosdownload

Android Devices: schoolgateway.co.uk/androiddownload

Nursery – 30 Hours Childcare Place

Please remember to check that your details are up to date every 3 months. Please go to www.gov.uk/childcareaccount



SEND COFFEE MORNING



Just a reminder that on 8th October, we are holding a SEND Coffee Morning to provide support to **any** families navigating their Special Educational Needs journey.

No invitation or booking required, anyone can just pop into Wilkes Street and join us for an informal and friendly coffee morning for parents and carers of children with Special Educational Needs.

This is a relaxed opportunity to:

- Connect with other parents and carers
- Share experiences and ideas
- Learn more about SEND support at Hodge Clough and in Oldham
- Ask questions in a supportive environment
- Chat to guests such as CAMHS and other organisations linked to SEND support and wellbeing.

We're starting at 9, but if you're dropping off earlier just come on in for a brew and a biscuit!



Notices



APPLYING FOR A RECEPTION PLACE FOR SEPTEMBER 2026

A reminder for parents of our current Nursery children who wish to apply for a place in our Reception class for September 2026. The application period is open from 01 September 2025 to 15 January 2026. You must apply online at https://www.oldham.gov.uk/info/200327/apply_for_a_school_place/3289/submit_an_application_for_a_school_place

A reminder that a place in our Nursery does not, unfortunately, guarantee a place in our Reception class.

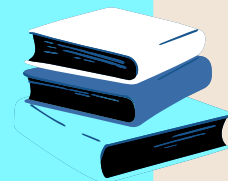
ECO COUNCIL 2025-26



Hot on the heels of our new School Councillors will be our brand new group of Eco Councillors, led by Mrs Taylor!

Eco Councillors play a vital role in school life. They are the voice of their classmates on issues such as recycling, saving energy, reducing waste, and looking after our school grounds. They will work together to plan eco-friendly projects, raise awareness about environmental issues, and encourage everyone to take small steps that make a big difference.

By being part of the Eco Council, pupils not only learn about sustainability but also develop leadership, teamwork, and communication skills. Most importantly, they help us all to take responsibility for caring for our world—both now and for the future.



Watch this space to find out who our new Eco Councillors will be!

Awards

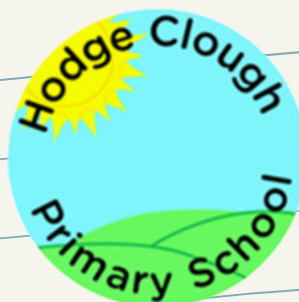
Each week, we give out awards to children in every class to recognise their hard work and fantastic achievements. Parents will be notified These awards are given out in Parent Assembly. Here are the children who received awards this week:

	Star of the Week	Wonderful Work	Magical Manners	Dojo Award
Reception Red Pandas	Isaac	Pippa	Sofia	Lottie
Reception Meerkats	Nahla	Theodore	Olivia	Frankie
Y1 Leopards	Isla	Sheik-Ariyana	Sophie	Isla
Y1 Monkeys	Lily	Harper	Tommy	Dayah
Y2 TN	Amelia	Reggie	Brianna	Dylan
Y2 JW	Savannah	Myla	Chloe	Oscar
Y3 SH	Caleb	Esmae -	Hussain	Muhammed
Y3 YG/RT	Olivia	Ellis	Maisie	Jasper
Y4 AM	Tula	Azaan	Charlie	Iman
Y4 JR	Esme	Arisia	Xavier	Harper
Y5MO	Sophia	Rose	Beatrice	Phoebe
Y5LM	Brooklyn	Luci	Jack	Maisie
Y6SC	Rhys	Olivia	Alice	Alice
Y6 LL	Isaac	Lucas	Millie-Mae	Isaac

HODGE CLOUGH NEWSLETTER

10TH OCTOBER

Dear Parents and Carers,



HODGE CLOUGH

NEWSLETTER

10TH OCTOBER

Dear Parents and Carers

There has been lots to celebrate in Hodge Clough this week! In Nursery, the children have been exploring a range of 2D shapes and using them to create their own imaginative pictures — it has been lovely to see their confidence and creativity grow!

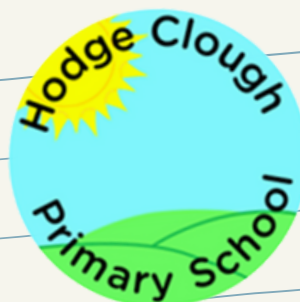
Over in Reception, the children have been developing their early number skills and can now subitise confidently up to three. They have been spotting different amounts around the classroom and explaining clearly how many they can see — fantastic work! Alongside this, the children have been singing their Harvest song “Cauliflowers Fluffy” so beautifully! Their enthusiasm and joyful voices have filled the classroom and set a wonderful tone for the season.

In Mrs Rattenbury’s class, the children have been exploring Google Maps to find Moorside and even created routes from the Infant site to the Junior site. This activity has really helped them develop their geographical understanding of the local area. Finally, in Mrs Wood’s class, the children have been working very hard on their handwriting. They have been spotting curly caterpillar letters throughout the day and taking great pride in improving their presentation — well done, everyone at Wilkes Street!

It has also been a busy and exciting week at our Conduit Street site, filled with curiosity and creativity across all year groups.

In Year 2, the children have been learning all about how we grow. I happened to walk in at just the right moment to take part in a fascinating experiment — testing whether our hands get bigger as we get older! The children’s enthusiasm, questioning, and eagerness to record their findings were wonderful to see.

Over in Year 3, I was treated to a lively discussion about the human body, with the children confidently identifying and naming a range of bones. Their scientific vocabulary was truly impressive.



HODGE CLOUGH

NEWSLETTER

10TH OCTOBER

There was even more investigative science taking place in Year 4, where both classes have been exploring the effects of different drinks on our teeth. To test this, the children used eggs to represent teeth, leaving them in a range of liquids before observing and recording the results over time. There was great excitement when the results were revealed — and to everyone's surprise, it was fresh orange juice that had the worst effect! The children showed excellent curiosity and scientific thinking throughout the experiment.

Our Year 5, pupils have been exploring natural resources and learning about renewable and non-renewable energy. They have shown great awareness of how we can look after our planet and use energy responsibly.

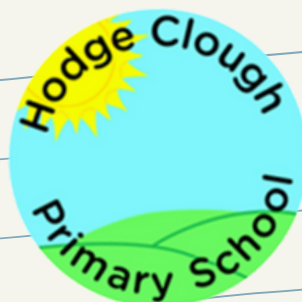
Finally, in Year 6, I was blown away by their incredible artwork. The children have been creating wall mural designs inspired by school values, reflecting deeply on what these mean to them. The creativity, teamwork, and pride they demonstrated were outstanding.

It's been a joy to see so much learning, engagement, and enthusiasm shining through across Conduit Street this week!

Oldham Foodbank: Supporting Our Community

Oldham Foodbank continues to provide vital support to local families and individuals in need, offering emergency food parcels and a friendly, caring service. Thanks to generous donations from schools, businesses, and residents, the foodbank helps ensure that no one in our community goes hungry. They also offer advice and guidance to help people through difficult times.

If you, or someone you know, needs support, food vouchers can be obtained through local agencies such as Citizens Advice, housing associations, or schools. Hodge Clough has applied to become a registered referrer for the food bank and we should be able to provide this service shortly. Once you have a voucher, you can visit one of Oldham Foodbank's distribution centres across



HODGE CLOUGH

NEWSLETTER

10TH OCTOBER

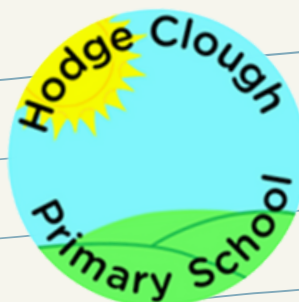
the borough to collect a food parcel. For full details, including opening times and locations, visit www.oldham.foodbank.org.uk. Donations of non-perishable food or financial contributions are always welcome — together, we can make a real difference in the lives of others.

Join us for our Early Years Open Evening

If you or anyone you know is looking to start Nursery or Reception in September 2026 we're excited to invite them to our Early Years Open Evening on Wednesday 15th October, from 4:00pm to 6:00pm. Come along to meet our dedicated staff, explore our learning spaces, and discover how we support every child to grow, learn, and thrive. It's a great opportunity to ask questions and see what makes our Early Years setting such a special place to begin your child's educational journey. We look forward to welcoming you!

Wishing everyone a great weekend!

Mrs Hodkinson





Notices



POPPY APPEAL

As in previous years we are again selling items in aid of the Poppy Appeal by the Royal British Legion. Poppies can now be bought from both sites for a donation.

There are also the following items available:

Zip pulls (50p)

Reflectors (50p)

Wristbands (£1)

Snap bands (£1.50)

STREAMLINING PARENT COMMUNICATION

Due to there being a number of ways in which we communicate between home and school, the potential for missing messages is high and there is a need to streamline communications.

To clarify, Class Dojo will now be used purely to send class-specific information and photos from **school to home**, only.

If you have a concern or wish to ask a question about your child, their class teacher should always be the first contact, as they know them best. You can contact the class teachers at the info@hodgecloughprimary.oldham.sch.uk account. Please ensure in the subject box you write the name of the teacher you would like it forwarding to, for example 'For the attention of Mr / Mrs...'

All messages relating to absence or medical appointments should have the subject 'For the attention of the school office', as this is where such matters will be dealt with most effectively.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. All emails will be dealt with as quickly as possible, but please remember that staff will not be able to respond immediately.



SETTING OUR NEW SCHOOL VALUES

As mentioned in last week's newsletter, one of my first priorities is to work with our whole school community to shape the future of our school by agreeing on a clear set of values that will guide everything we do. Please follow this link to contribute your ideas: <https://forms.office.com/e/MD6SGEDzR1>



Notices



**PLEASE SEE UPDATED INFORMATION
FROM OLDHAM COUNCIL ON ISSUING
FINES DUE TO NON-ATTENDANCE**



Penalty Notice Fines for School Attendance have changed from 19th August 2024

With the introduction of the new National Framework for Penalty Notices issued by the DfE, the following changes have come into force for School Penalty Notice Fines issued after 19th August 2024.

National Threshold

There will be a single consistent national threshold for when a penalty notice must be considered by all schools in England of 10 sessions (usually equivalent to 5 school days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10 school week period.

These sessions do not have to be consecutive and can be made up of a combination of any type of unauthorised absence.

The 10-school week period can span different terms or school years.

Please note: The DfE does not consider a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation to be an exceptional circumstance.

First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for unauthorised absence the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.

Reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.



Second Offence (within 3 years)

The Second time a Penalty Notice is issued for unauthorised absence the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.



Third Offence and Any Further Offences (within 3 years)

The third time an offence is committed a Penalty Notice will not be issued and the case could be presented straight to the Magistrate's Court. Prosecution can result in Criminal records and fines of up to £2,500

Cases found guilty in Magistrates' Court may show on the parent's future DBS certificate due to 'failure to safeguard a child's education'.

Per Parent*, Per Child

Penalty Notice Fines are issued to each parent*, for each child that was absent.

For example: 3 siblings absent for term time leave, would result in each parent receiving 3 separate fines.

***Parent**

Section 576 of the Education Act 1996 defines "parent" as:

- All natural (biological) parents, whether they are married or not.
- Any person who, although not a natural parent, has parental responsibility for a child or young person.
- Any person who, although not a natural parent, has care of a child or young person.



Notices



FLU VACCINATION FORM

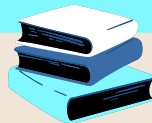
If you still have a flu vaccination form, please can this be handed in on Monday 13th October for a last collection service.

ECO COUNCIL 2025-26

Mrs Taylor is proud to announce the children who have become our Hodge Clough Eco Warriors! Well done to the following children who were voted in by their peers:

Year 2 - Henry- Jack and Reggie
Year 3 - Isabelle and Inaya
Year 4 - Ahad and Estee
Year 5 - Sadie, Charlie and Sophia
Year 6 - Millie-Mae and Jessica

I know Mrs Taylor has been bursting with brilliant ideas for our Eco Warriors this term, so there's plenty to get excited about! The team can't wait to put these ideas into action and make our school an even greener, cleaner place to learn and play. Watch this space for updates on their next eco project!



APPLYING FOR A RECEPTION PLACE FOR SEPTEMBER 2026

A reminder for parents of our current Nursery children who wish to apply for a place in our Reception class for September 2026. The application period is open from 01 September 2025 to 15 January 2026. You must apply online at https://www.oldham.gov.uk/info/200327/apply_for_a_school_place/3289/submit_an_application_for_a_school_place

A reminder that a place in our nursery does not, unfortunately, guarantee a place in our Reception class.



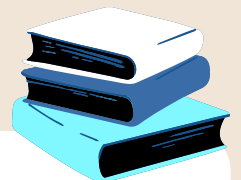
Notices



SEND COFFEE MORNING SUCCESS

Thank you to everyone who came along to our SEND Coffee Morning on Wednesday. At the event were CAMHS, Early Help, the Delivering Better Values Team and POINT. We had so many positive comments about how informative and supportive parents found it. These events will be held regularly and we do hope that more and more parents and carers will come along!

POINT have also provided us with a link to share with our community - they have compiled the most recent developments affecting SEND services, which you can explore via their Padlet. To access the Padlet click [here](#)



On Monday 20th October we are looking forward to enjoying a Diwali day in school — a wonderful opportunity for our children to learn about and appreciate one of the world's festivals. At Hodge Clough, we like children to develop an understanding of different cultures, faiths, and traditions, promoting respect and inclusion within our school community. The day will be a chance to explore the values of light, kindness, and new beginnings, which are central to the festival. Days like this not only enrich our curriculum but also help our children grow as compassionate, curious, and globally-minded learners.

As part of the day, the Kitchen have kindly offered to serve some traditional Diwali food at lunch time. This will consist of vegetable curry, rice, naan bread, vegetable samosas and onion bhaji (there will also be the option of pasta bake that day). If your child has a packed lunch, a Google Form will have been sent out to give you the option of including children in this special lunch.



Notices

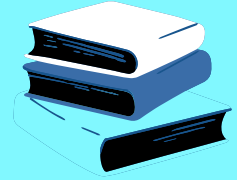


DINNER MONEY AND NURSERY FEES

Please can we remind parents/carers that dinner monies and nursery fees are to be paid in advance each Monday using our new School Gateway system here:

IOS Devices: schoolgateway.co.uk/iosdownload

Android Devices: schoolgateway.co.uk/androiddownload



NURSERY - 30 HOURS CHILDCARE PLACES

Please remember to check that your details are up to date every 3 months. Please go to:

<http://www.gov.uk/childcareaccount>

SECONDARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS

Parents can apply online for pupils starting Year 7 in September 2026

School Admissions Website: www.oldham.gov.uk/admissions

Closing date: Friday 31 October 2025

Awards

Each week, we give out awards to children in every class to recognise their hard work and fantastic achievements. Parents will be notified These awards are given out in Parent Assembly. Here are the children who received awards this week:

	Star of the Week	Wonderful Work	Magical Manners	Dojo Award
Reception Red Pandas	Arlo	Nico	Ibrahim	Daisy
Reception Meerkats	Harry	Hughie	Elsie	Inaays
Y1 Leopards	Maisie	Carson	Minnie	Charlie
Y1 Monkeys	Isabelle	Saad	Luna-Mae	Amelia
Y2 TN	Amelia	Reggie	Brianna	Dylan
Y2 JW	Savannah	Myla	Chloe	Oscar
Y3 SH	Caleb	Esmae-Robyn -	Hussain	Muhammad
Y3 YG/RT	Olivia	Ellis	Maisie	Jasper
Y4 AM	Tula	Azaan	Charlie	Iman
Y4 JR	Esme	Arisia	Xavier	Harper
Y5MO	Sophia	Rose	Beatrice	Phoebe
Y5LM	Brooklyn	Luci	Jack	Maisie
Y6SC	Rhys	Olivia	Alice	Alice
Y6 LL	Isaac	Lucas	Millie-Mae	Isaac

HODGE CLOUGH

NEWSLETTER

17TH OCTOBER

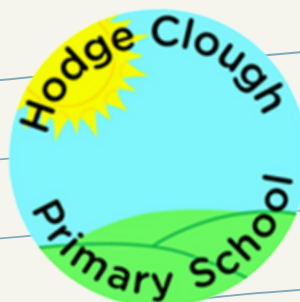
Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been another wonderfully busy week at Hodge Clough – the sort where you blink on Monday and suddenly it's Friday afternoon! There's been a lot happening over both sites!

Firstly, a huge thank you to all the families who joined us for our Nursery and Reception Open Event. It was such a pleasure to meet so many new faces – and a few familiar ones too – as we showcased the brilliant learning and warm atmosphere that make our school so special. If you're hoping for your child to join us at Hodge Clough next September, please don't forget to apply before the deadline on 15th January 2026. You can submit your application through the Oldham Council website by clicking here. https://www.oldham.gov.uk/info/200327/apply_for_a_school_place/3289/submit_an_application_for_a_sch...

We were also delighted to welcome the new vicar from St Thomas' this week. Reverend Catherine Walker led a lovely Harvest service at both sites that reminded us all why this festival is so important, celebrating gratitude, community and compassion. It was wonderful to see how thoughtfully our children reflected on these themes.

Meanwhile, children at Wilkes Street were thrilled to see one of their favourite visitors – the ever-popular Mary Butt – in assembly. Conduit Street children will be equally lucky, as she'll be visiting them next week too.



HODGE CLOUGH

NEWSLETTER

17TH OCTOBER

Speaking of Conduit Street, I've had the pleasure of seeing some wonderfully happy and creative lessons this week! I arrived in Year 2 just in time to join in a drumming lesson. Sadly, I was a few minutes too late to sample the delicious Spanish cooking in Year 6, where pupils were tasting some authentic cuisine as part of their language learning. Year 5 have been busy creating some stunning printed artwork, and in Year 3 I saw children deepening their understanding of the UK, confidently locating towns and cities on maps. Over in Year 4, there was a real buzz (and plenty of debate!) in PSHE as they explored the topic of fake news – very topical and very impressive.

Back at Wilkes Street, our youngest children have been equally busy. Nursery staff have been so impressed with how well the children are reflecting on their Jigsaw Jennie sessions, showing real kindness and mindfulness towards each other as they play and explore. Reception have been embracing their creative side too, producing some beautiful observational drawings of pumpkins – paying close attention to shape and colour. They've also been showing off their growing confidence in spotting circles and triangles in the world around them.

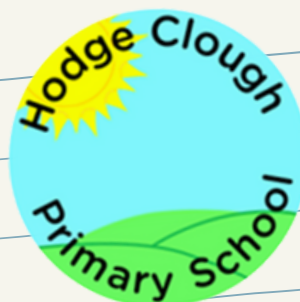
In Year 1, our budding geographers, have been making their own compasses and in science they've been enthusiastically testing materials to find out which ones are waterproof. It's been lovely to see such excitement and curiosity for learning shining through in every classroom.

As ever, I am so proud of our children, staff and families for everything you do to make Hodge Clough the wonderful community it is.

Have a restful weekend – you've all earned it!

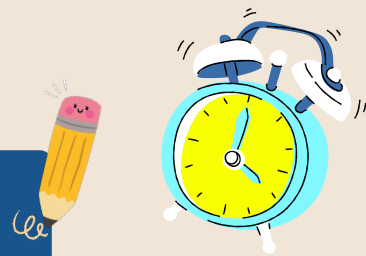
Best wishes

Mrs Hodkinson





Notices



PTFA – HALLOWEEN DISCO ON THURSDAY 23RD OCTOBER 2025

Years 1 & 2 Wilkes Street 3pm-4pm
Years 3 & 4 Conduit Street 3.15pm - 4.15pm
Years 5 & 6 Conduit Street 4.30pm - 5.30pm

Entrance to the Discos is **strictly by ticket only** - due to adult:child ratios, numbers have to be restricted to safe limits but will be available on a first-come-first served basis on ParentPay for £3.

During the school day, children must wear their **school uniform**. Children in Years 1-4 may **bring their costumes in a named bag** in order to get changed for the disco. It would greatly aid our staff if costumes were kept simple! Years 5 and 6 will be expected to get changed at home.

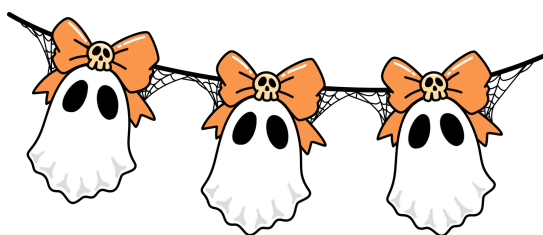
We are excited to see the children dressed up at the discos and join in the spooky fun! We do ask, however, that costumes aren't too scary — please avoid anything overly gory or frightening. Think “fun spooky” rather than “terrifying!”

As always, safeguarding must remain a priority. Children in Years 1-4 must be collected by an adult. If you are planning to send anyone different to pick up who doesn't normally collect, then you will need to email the [info@ mailbox](mailto:info@mailbox) with this information.

Although we still encourage children in Years 5 and 6 to be collected by an adult, parents and carers must have emailed the info@mailbox if you wish them to walk home by themselves.

Only children who are walking home should bring mobile phones to the discos, however (as is the case in school time) these will need to be handed in at the door, and will be returned at the end of the event.

Thank you for your support in making our discos fun and safe events!





Notices



SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

At Hodge Clough, we are passionate about fostering a lifelong love of reading. Please join us at our Scholastic Book Fair **after school** - the perfect opportunity to buy any books or early presents for Christmas! These are often at a price that you won't find in the shops!

Week commencing 20th October the Book Fair will be at the Wilkes Street site from 3.00pm - 3.45pm, Monday - Thursday

Week commencing 3rd November it will be at Conduit Street - 3.15pm - 4pm, Monday - Thursday

The Book Fair will also be available at Parents Meetings!

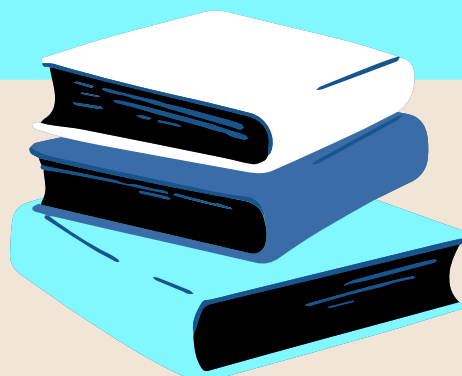
As an additional reading treat, we're excited to also invite parents and carers to our very own Starbooks Café - a special event taking place alongside our Scholastic Book Fair!

The 'StarBooks' themed café is an opportunity to come and cosy up with a book, with your child, whilst enjoying a coffee (or tea!) and a biscuit. Juice will be provided for children. We know that when children see the adults around them enjoying books, it helps to build positive reading habits and a deeper enthusiasm for stories! Please join us on the following days:

- Wednesday 5th November, 8.30 - 9.30am at the Wilkes Street site
- Thursday 6th November, 8.45-9.45am at the Conduit St site

The Scholastic Book fair will also be open again then, too!

If you would like to attend the Starbooks Cafe with your child, a Google form has been sent out for you to fill in. We look forward to welcoming you for a cosy, book-filled experience — where great stories and warm smiles are always on the menu!





Notices



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Due to there being a number of ways in which we communicate between home and school, the potential for missing messages is high and there is a need to streamline communications.

To clarify, Class Dojo will now be used purely to send class-specific information and photos from **school to home**, only.

If you have a concern or wish to ask a question about your child, their class teacher should always be the first contact, as they know them best. You can contact the class teachers at the info@hodgecloughprimary.oldham.sch.uk account. Please ensure in the subject box you write the name of the teacher you would like it forwarding to, for example 'For the attention of Mr / Mrs...'

All messages relating to absence or medical appointments should have the subject 'For the attention of the school office', as this is where such matters will be dealt with most effectively.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. All emails will be dealt with as quickly as possible, but please remember that staff will not be able to respond immediately.



SETTING OUR NEW SCHOOL VALUES

We are continuing to take parents contributions on what our new set of School Values will be. We have set up a Google Form as this may be more accessible. Click the link to share your ideas: <https://forms.gle/rBSVknDvsBArrhQ47>



Notices



**PLEASE SEE UPDATED INFORMATION FROM
OLDHAM COUNCIL ON ISSUING FINES DUE TO
NON-ATTENDANCE**



Penalty Notice Fines for School Attendance have changed from 19th August 2024

With the introduction of the new National Framework for Penalty Notices issued by the DfE, the following changes have come into force for School Penalty Notice Fines issued after 19th August 2024.

National Threshold

There will be a single consistent national threshold for when a penalty notice must be considered by all schools in England of 10 sessions (usually equivalent to 5 school days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10 school week period.

These sessions do not have to be consecutive and can be made up of a combination of any type of unauthorised absence.

The 10-school week period can span different terms or school years.

Please note: The DfE does not consider a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation to be an exceptional circumstance.

First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for unauthorised absence the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.

Reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.



Second Offence (within 3 years)

The Second time a Penalty Notice is issued for unauthorised absence the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.



Third Offence and Any Further Offences (within 3 years)

The third time an offence is committed a Penalty Notice will not be issued and the case could be presented straight to the Magistrate's Court. Prosecution can result in Criminal records and fines of up to £2,500

Cases found guilty in Magistrates' Court may show on the parent's future DBS certificate due to 'failure to safeguard a child's education'.

Per Parent*, Per Child

Penalty Notice Fines are issued to each parent*, for each child that was absent.

For example: 3 siblings absent for term time leave, would result in each parent receiving 3 separate fines.

***Parent**

Section 576 of the Education Act 1996 defines "parent" as:

- All natural (biological) parents, whether they are married or not.
- Any person who, although not a natural parent, has parental responsibility for a child or young person.
- Any person who, although not a natural parent, has care of a child or young person.



Notices

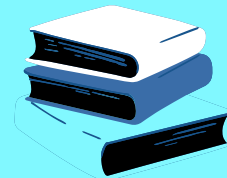


DINNER MONEY AND NURSERY FEES

Please can we remind parents/carers that dinner monies and nursery fees are to be paid in advance each Monday using our new School Gateway system here:

IOS Devices: schoolgateway.co.uk/iosdownload

Android Devices: schoolgateway.co.uk/androiddownload



NURSERY - 30 HOURS CHILDCARE PLACES

Please remember to check that your details are up to date every 3 months. Please go to:

<http://www.gov.uk/childcareaccount>

SECONDARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS

Parents can apply online for pupils starting Year 7 in September 2026

School Admissions Website: www.oldham.gov.uk/admissions

Closing date: Friday 31 October 2025

CHRISTMAS FAIR PREPARATION

Christmas will soon be upon us and we are starting to prepare for our Christmas Fair on 5th December!

To help us gather items needed for the stalls, we will have a series of collection days in school:

Friday 14/11/25- a crazy hair day, in return for a £1 donation or chocolate for the Chocolate Tombola.

Friday 21/11/25 - non-uniform day, in return for a £1 donation or unwanted gifts for the Tombola

Friday 28/11/25- a crazy socks day, in return for a £1 donation or bottles for the stall.

Friday 5/12/25 - a non-uniform day in return for a £1 donation or cakes to sell that evening.



Notices



DIWALI DAY REMINDER

Don't forget, Monday 20th October will be Diwali day in school — a wonderful opportunity for our children to learn about and appreciate one of the world's festivals!

As part of the day, the Kitchen have kindly offered to serve some traditional Diwali food at lunch time. This will consist of vegetable curry, rice, naan bread, vegetable samosas and onion bhaji (there will also be the option of pasta bake that day).

PUMPKIN COMPETITION

Get ready to show off your spooky creativity!

Our annual Halloween Pumpkin Decorating Competition is just around the corner! All children across school are invited to take part by bringing in a decorated pumpkin to school on Friday 24th October.

Guidelines:

- Pumpkins can be carved or decorated (paint, stickers, fabric—be creative!).
- Please label your pumpkin with your name and class.
- All entries must be brought in on Friday 24th October.

Judging will take place on this day, and winners from each class will be chosen. Prizes will be awarded for the most creative, funniest, and spookiest pumpkins!

We can't wait to see your terrifying talents!

Awards

Each week, we give out awards to children in every class to recognise their hard work and fantastic achievements. Parents will be notified These awards are given out in Parent Assembly. Here are the children who received awards this week:

	Star of the Week	Wonderful Work	Magical Manners	Dojo Award
Reception Red Pandas	TJ	Lincoln	Dalilah	Nico
Reception Meerkats	Grace	Hallie	Mia	Jaxxon
Y1 Leopards	Mia	Jack F	Ruben	Sophie & Jack K
Y1 Monkeys	Poppy	Hallie	Milani	Ava-Grace
Y2 TN	Millie	Luana	Raees	N'Ahray
Y2 JW	Amelia	Oscar	Ivy	Sheik-Aliyana
Y3 SH	Aida	Archie -	Robert	Aida
Y3 YG/RT	Isabelle	Hallie	Indie	Frankie
Y4 AM	Isla	Ollie	Isla	Elora
Y4 JR	Layla	Esme	Bethany	Esme
Y5MO	Lorena	Amber	Logan	Rose
Y5LM	Teddie	Mohammed	Maisie	Aliysha
Y6SC	Ariane	Jessica	Morayo	Ava-Lynn
Y6 LL	Bronte	Patrick	Luciana	Bronte

HODGE CLOUGH

NEWSLETTER

24TH OCTOBER

Dear Parents and Carers,

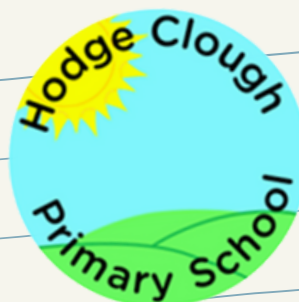
What a wonderful way to end the half term! This week has been filled with colour, celebration and community spirit — everything that makes Hodge Clough so special.

Our Diwali Day was a huge success. I even had the pleasure of sampling the Diwali lunch — it was absolutely delicious! The children immersed themselves in learning about this vibrant festival through art, music and storytelling, and the day culminated in a fantastic assembly where they proudly showcased their work and shared their knowledge with confidence and enthusiasm. A special thank you goes to Year 2 who sang us into assembly with their special Diwali song and lit the way into the Hall with Diwas!

It was also a pleasure to welcome back Mary Butt — a firm favourite with the children and a highly respected primary school teacher with over 30 years of experience, specialising in Religious Education (RE) and collective worship in local primary schools. As always, she delivered one of her wonderful assemblies, which the children thoroughly enjoyed.

The Halloween discos were also a big hit, with lots of spooky fun, great costumes and even better dance moves!

However, the highlight of the week was undoubtedly today's retirement celebrations for Mr Charlesworth. A number of Hodge Clough traditions came out to mark the occasion for our much-loved and dedicated site manager. The celebrations began with an epic staff video — a brilliant reworking of Bohemian Rhapsody by his favourite band, Queen — which certainly brought a big smile to his face. We then presented Mr Charlesworth with his leaving gifts and shared just how much he has meant to both staff and children over his many years of service.



HODGE CLOUGH

NEWSLETTER

24TH OCTOBER

Here are a few snippets from the heartfelt speech that Miss Hilton delivered — and I can assure you, there wasn't a dry eye in the house!

"It's hard to believe that after 27 years, we're saying goodbye to the man who's practically welded into Hodge Clough itself — our one and only Mr Charlesworth.

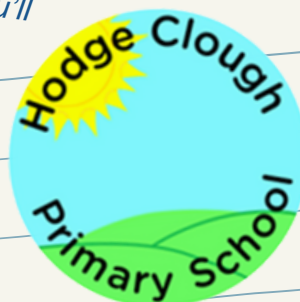
You've been here longer than most of the furniture — in most cases, you built the furniture! Always in your trademark hi-viz and those famous shorts — rain, snow, or gale-force winds, there you were.

You've never been happier than when there's a skip or two in the car park, a roof to fix, or a lawnmower to push and your DIY skills are the stuff of legend. And let's be honest — when the snow hits Moorside this winter, we're all going to panic. Who's going to clear the drive? Who's going to grit the paths? And more importantly, who's going to remind us all- in no uncertain terms- how to drive properly in the snow? Without you, we might just end up crying, "Don't stop me now" as we skid into the car park!

Lunchtimes will never sound the same again without that great booming cry of "Oggy Oggy Oggy!" echoing across the playground — and the children yelling "Oy Oy Oy!" right back. You've made countless wet playtimes fun, heads down thumbs up is the law on a rainy day, you've turned chaos into laughter and sometimes vice versa, and somehow kept the place running through every storm, leak, and unexpected "surprise" the building has thrown at us. You've seen hundreds of children — and now their children — walk through these doors, and you've cared for this school as if it were your own.

So, thank you — for your hard work, your humour, and your heart. You've left your mark, and you'll be missed more than you'll ever know by staff, pupils and parents alike. Drop off and pick-ups won't be the same, but, "the show must go on."

The day ended perfectly, in true Hodge Clough tradition, with our famous Guard of Honour for Mr Charlesworth's final gate opening.



HODGE CLOUGH

NEWSLETTER

24TH OCTOBER

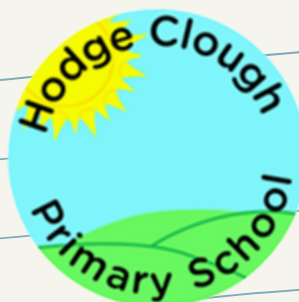
Mr Charlesworth is truly one of the most committed, passionate and loved members of staff I have ever known. True to form, he used his farewell not to speak about himself, but to thank the children and parents for the privilege of spending almost 30 years with them. We wish him every happiness in his well-earned retirement!

Finally, I want to take this opportunity to thank all the children, staff and parents for making me feel so welcome in my first half term at Hodge Clough. It has been a joy to see such warmth, creativity and community spirit throughout the school. I'm already looking forward to seeing what next half term will bring!

Have a restful and enjoyable half-term break, everyone!

Best wishes

Mrs Hodkinson



Awards

Each week, we give out awards to children in every class to recognise their hard work and fantastic achievements. Parents will be notified These awards are given out in Parent Assembly. Here are the children who received awards this week:

	Star of the Week	Wonderful Work	Magical Manners	Dojo Award
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Y2 JW	Amelia	Oscar	Ivy	Sheik-Aliyana
Y3 SH	Aida	Archie	Robert	Aida
Y3 YG/RT	Isabelle	Hallie	Indie	Frankie
Y4 AM	Isla	Ollie	Isla	Elora
Y4 JR	Layla	Esme	Bethany	Esme
Y5MO	Lorena	Amber	Logan	Rose
Y5LM	Teddie	Mohammed	Maisie	Aliysha
Y6SC	Ariane	Jessica	Morayo	Ava-Lynn
Y6 LL	Bronte	Patrick	Luciana	Bronte



Notices



CALENDAR DATES

3.11.25 - Staff INSET Day. School closed for children

4.11.25 - School re-opens for children

5.11.25 - Starbooks Cafe for parents and children at Wilkes Street

6.11.25 - Starbooks Cafe for parents and children at Conduit Street

14.11.25 - Crazy Hair Day in return for a £1 donation or chocolate for the Chocolate Tombola.

Today is also Children in Need so everyone is also invited to wear something spotty in return for a donation to this charity!

18.11.25 - Year 3 trip to Tatton Park to enhance their learning about the Stone Age

18.11.25 - 24.11.25 is Parliament Week during which children will be engaging in activities linked to British Values and Democracy

21/11/25 - non-uniform day, in return for a £1 donation or unwanted gifts for the Tombola

28/11/25 - a crazy socks day, in return for a £1 donation or bottles for the stall.

5/12/25 - a non-uniform day in return for a £1 donation or cakes to sell that evening

5.12.25 - PTFA Christmas Fair after school

Further Christmas dates to be confirmed after half term





Notices



SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR AND STARBOOKS CAFE

At Hodge Clough, we are passionate about fostering a lifelong love of reading. Please join us at our Scholastic Book Fair **after school** - the perfect opportunity to buy any books or early presents for Christmas! These are often at a price that you won't find in the shops!

Week commencing **3rd November** it will be at Conduit Street - 3.15pm - 4pm, Tuesday - Thursday

The Book Fair will also be available at Parents Meetings!

As an additional reading treat, we're excited to also invite parents and carers to our very own **Starbooks Café**, - a special event taking place alongside our Scholastic Book Fair!

The 'StarBooks' themed café is an opportunity to come and cosy up with a book, with your child, whilst enjoying a coffee (or tea!) and a biscuit. Juice will be provided for children. We know that when children see the adults around them enjoying books, it helps to build positive reading habits and a deeper **enthusiasm for stories!** Please join us on the following days:

- **Wednesday 5th November, 8.30 - 9.30am at the Wilkes Street site**
- **Thursday 6th November, 8.45-9.45am at the Conduit St site**

The Scholastic Book fair will also be open again then, too!

If you have children at both sites, you may wish to attend all together! If this is the case, please attend the Wilkes Street site event: a Google Form has been sent out so you can let us know which siblings are attending. Registers will remain open for these children but please note that parents will need to take them up to Conduit Street site, after the event. Please note that **bookings will close on Tuesday 4th November at 8.30**

We look forward to welcoming you for a cosy, book-filled experience — where great stories and warm smiles are always on the menu!





Notices



PHOTOGRAPHS

This is a reminder to Parents and Carers that all photograph orders need to be completed by Friday 31st October, please.



CHRISTMAS FAIR PREPARATION

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CHRISTMAS DINNER

School Christmas Dinner will be on Tuesday 16th December at Wilkes Street and Wednesday 17th at Conduit Street. If your child is usually on packed lunches, they can still join in the festive feast! Please refer to the ParentMails sent out earlier this week where you can access a Google Form to book your child's place. This needs to be completed by Friday 21st November, please.

SETTING OUR NEW SCHOOL VALUES

This is your last chance to give your parental opinion on what our new set of School Values will be. We have set up a Google Form:
<https://forms.gle/rBSVknDvsBArrhQ47> and this will close on Monday 27th October



Notices



NEW SCHOOL MEAL MENU AND MEAL BOOKING SYSTEM

Just a reminder that a ParentMail has been sent out, announcing that we are in the process of arranging a Meal Manager on SchoolComms where you can pre-book your child/children's meals and cancel or amend any meal booking up to three weeks in advance.

In order to prepare for this, parents can download the Meal Manger app. Please refer to the ParentMail sent on 23/10/25 for further guidance on how to use this system. If you should still have any difficulties, please contact the school office.

MOBILE PHONES

We recognise that some children who walk home from school may wish to bring a mobile phone with them for safety reasons. Please note that this should only be done after a consent form has been completed. Consent forms are available from the school office.

All mobile phones must be handed in to the school office at the start of the day and can be collected at home time.

Thank you for your support in helping us to keep everyone safe and focused on learning.

POPPY APPEAL

We have received our Poppies from the RBL and these will be on sale from 4th November

Notices

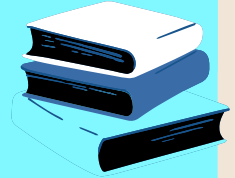


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