

HODGE CLOUGH NEWSLETTER

13TH FEBRUARY 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been a jam-packed week at HodgeClough! We started off with an assembly at Conduit St on Children's Mental Health Week. The 2026 theme, "This is My Place," focuses on belonging — thinking about the places where we feel safe, valued and accepted for who we are.

In our assembly, we explored what makes somewhere feel like it truly belongs to us and shared children's ideas about inclusion, kindness and friendship

We discussed simple but powerful actions such as inviting someone to join a game, asking others how they are feeling, and speaking to a trusted adult if we need support. We also reflected on how online spaces can sometimes feel positive and connecting, but may also bring challenges.

Our key message to the children was clear: everyone deserves to feel that they belong, and we all have a



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part to play in helping others feel included and valued in our school community.

As you read through our Newsletter this week, you will see just how proud I am to lead our school and how lucky I feel to see the children involved in so many fun but meaningful events: Safer Internet Day and Chinese New Year all helped to make this a memorable week!

With half term now upon us, I want to take the opportunity to thank you all for the support you give and to wish everyone a happy and restful break - we will see you back in school on Monday 23rd February!

Take care

Mrs Hodkinson





Year 5 and 6 Girls Football Festival

On Wednesday, myself and Mrs Lawton were so incredibly proud to take a team of our Year 5 and 6 girls to the Oldham Athletic Football Festival at Saddleworth Pool and Leisure Centre. The girls did Hodge Clough proud with a brilliant score sheet of Won 3, Drew 2 and Lost 1. Although the event wasn't about crowning overall winners, I'm pretty sure they came out near the top of the six schools represented that day! Not only that, they were role models of sportsmanship, resilience and enthusiasm! Oldham Athletic contacted me after the event to say "The girls were a complete credit to your school, represented themselves very well and it was fantastic to see the smiles and joy on the faces of the girls playing." It really was a stunning performance and I can't wait for further opportunities for similar events!





This week has seen us hand out our first set of half termly Behaviour Awards!

These very special certificates recognise and celebrate the children who consistently do their very best to follow our school rules each and every day. They show that they are Ready, Respectful, Safe in their classrooms, around school and on the playground. By making positive choices and setting a wonderful example to others, they help our school to remain a happy, safe and welcoming place for everyone.

The Behaviour Award is about recognising those children who quietly and consistently “get it right” — who try their hardest, listen carefully, treat others with respect and take pride in being positive members of our school community.

A huge well done to this half term’s award winners. We are incredibly proud of you and were thrilled to present you with your certificates. You truly deserve this recognition — keep shining and leading the way!

CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS

The whole school enjoyed celebrating Chinese New Year today - The Year of the Horse!

Nursery and Reception children loved exploring a selection of stories and traditions linked to Chinese New Year. They listened carefully to traditional tales, learned about how families celebrate, and talked about special customs such as decorating with red and enjoying time together. The children were excited to share what they discovered about this colourful festival. Year 1 pupils continued the celebrations by making colourful concertina dragons and lanterns, as well as learning about the traditional story of the Great Race and how the animals each earned their place in the Chinese zodiac.

Over at Conduit St, Miss White filled our library area Chinese New Year decorations and the children created some amazing dragon and lantern crafts. In Year 2, I walked into a great collaborative art effort between Year 2 and Year 6! .

This was all topped off with a Chinese New Year Lunch which went down a storm with the children!



CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS



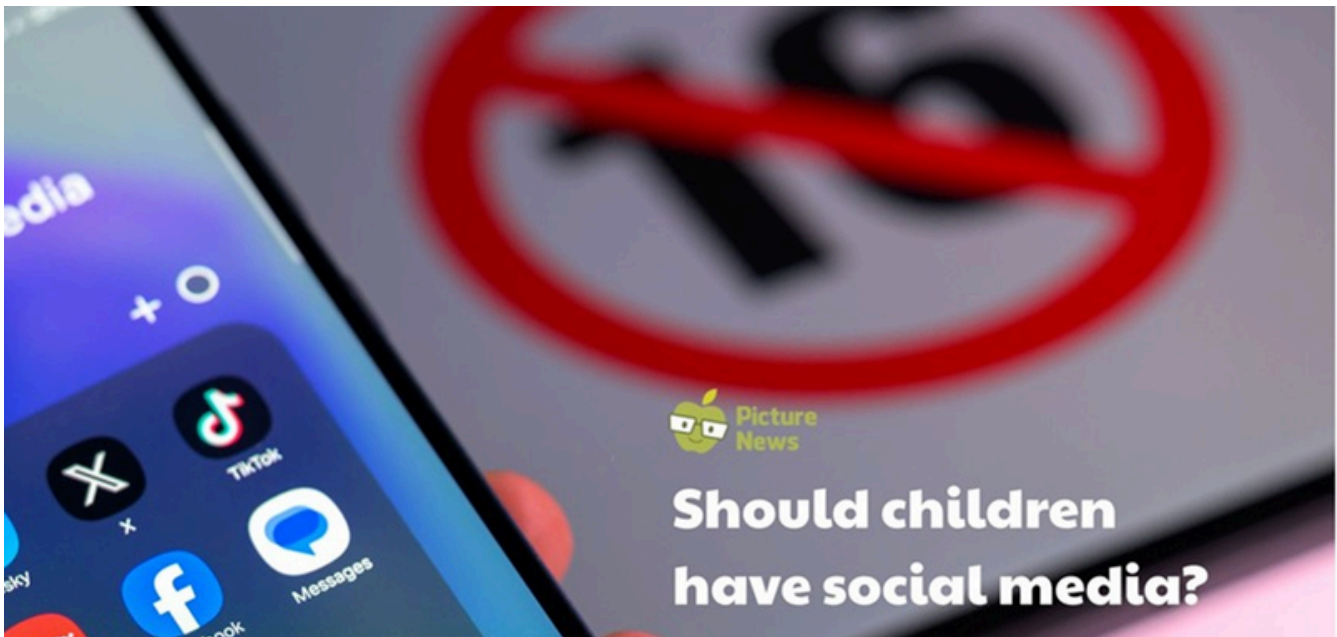
SAFER INTERNET DAY

All our pupils took part in Safer Internet Day this week. Even our Early Years children enjoyed learning about how to stay safe online through stories, discussions and activities. They talked about the importance of being kind when using the internet, including not sending nasty messages, and understanding that words can hurt even when shared online.

Year 1 children had thoughtful discussions about what AI is and how it impacts the world. They also designed their own Squibbles. Ask them to tell you what theirs looks like! The children also learned about keeping personal information private, such as their full name, address and school, and why it is important to tell a trusted adult if they are ever unsure or worried about something they see online. We are very proud of how thoughtfully the children shared their ideas about staying safe and being kind digital citizens!

ASSEMBLY WITH MARY BUTT

Earlier in the half term at Conduit St and this week at Wilkes Street, we were delighted to welcome Mary Butt from the Groundbreakers service to lead a special assembly for our pupils. Mary spoke about the importance of working together as a team, reminding us that we are stronger when we support and encourage one another. She also shared a powerful message about making the right choices, even when others around us may choose differently. Through engaging stories and thoughtful discussion, Mary inspired our children to show courage, kindness and integrity in their everyday actions. We are very grateful to her for such a meaningful and uplifting assembly.



In-line with Safer Internet Day, this weeks question in Picture News was: Should children have social media? Adults in the UK are talking about whether children under 16 should be allowed to use social media, as the government is considering new rules to help keep children safe online. Some people believe social media helps children stay connected, while others worry it can affect wellbeing and mental health. During Children's Mental Health Week, the story reminds us how important it is to look after our mental health both online and offline.

Things to talk about at home ...

- > What rules or agreements can help us feel safe when using technology at home?**
- > Can you think of ideas for families to help balance screen time and other activities?**
- > What are some of the activities that you do online? Do you do different things online to others at home?**

SEND AND INCLUSION COFFEE MORNING

We are pleased to invite parents and carers to our upcoming **SEND & Inclusion Coffee Morning on 4th March at Wilkes Street** . These sessions are **open to all families across school** who have an interest in learning more about how we support children's development.

As an inclusive school, we are committed to providing a strong Universal Offer that supports every child to thrive. Our Coffee Mornings are not just for parents of children on the SEND register — they are an opportunity for any parent who would like to learn more, share ideas and strengthen the partnership between home and school.

This session will focus on supporting children's speech, language and communication skills. We are delighted to welcome Jayne Lees from POINT (Parents of Oldham In Touch), who will deliver a short presentation offering practical advice and guidance. Jayne will also be available after the session to answer any general questions.

We hope you will join us for what promises to be an informative and supportive morning!



PTFA NEWS

Don't forget, our Pancake Flip-A-Thon is taking place after half term! Sponsor forms and details have gone out on Parent Mail and we hope this will be a great event to take part in whilst also raising funds for our school playgrounds! Let's see how many sponsors can be collected over half term! All donations can be made through our [JustGiving page](#) link, here.



A huge thank you to the PTFA for organising our Valentines and Friendship Doughnut Sale - parents were hard at work at school on Thursday night, packaging them all up and I'm sure they will bring a smile to the lucky people who receive them - even if that was yourself! I'm sure the PTFA will let us know how much was raised, soon!



WEEKLY 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 our Proud Assembly. Here are the children who have proudly received their awards this week:

	PROUD AWARD FOR PROGRESS	PROUD AWARD FOR ACHIEVEMENT	VALUES AWARD
Reception Red Pandas	Tommy-James	Pippa	Evie
Reception Meerkats	Isla	Olivia	Hughie
Y1 Monkeys	Luna-Mae	Salaar	Harper
Y1 Leopards	Minnie	Jack K	Maisie
Y2 TN	Grace	Evie	Henry-Jack
Y2JW	Pippa	Reggie	Amelia
Y3YG/DE	Maisie	Indie	Max
Y3SJH	Harlo	Hunter	Caleb
Y4AM	Elodie	Rex	Effy
Y4JR	Bethany	Thomas	Brooke
Y5MO	Lorena	Edith	Jude
Y5LM	Aliysha	Hasanah	Sheik-Al-Ziyan
Y6SC	Jessica	Teddy	Jacob
Y6LL	Patick	Peyton	Millie Mae



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CALENDAR DATES

Date	Event	Notes
Wk beg 23.2.26	Sponsored Pancake Flip-A-Thon	Fundraising event
2.3.26	Starbooks Cafe at Conduit St	8.45 - 9.45 - Come for refreshments and enjoy reading alongside your children. The Scholastic Book Fair will also be open. Nearer the time you will be able to book your place via a Google Form.
3.3.26	Starbooks Cafe at Wilkes St	8.30 - 9.30 - Come for refreshments and enjoy reading alongside your children. The Scholastic Book Fair will also be open. Book your place via Google Form.
2.3.26 - 6.3.26	Scholastic Book Fair at both sites	Open to parents and children, after school
5.3.26 and 6.3.26	World Book Day Events	Children will have opportunity to dress up as their favourite character from a book on one of these days (more details to follow) World Book Day activities Performances and Workshops by Susie Oldfield - Professional Storyteller. (Voluntary contributions to the cost with more details to follow).



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CALENDAR DATES

Date	Event	Notes
4.3.26	SEND Coffee Morning	Any parents, across school, who would like to know more about improving children's speech, language and communication skills, are welcome to join us. Presentation will be delivered by Jayne Lees from POINT (Parents of Oldham In Touch). Jayne will also be available after the presentation for any general queries.
Wk beg. 9.3.26	Assessment Week	End of term assessments in reading, maths, grammar and spelling
13.3.26	Y6 to Robinwood	
16.3.26	Science Share with parents at Wilkes St	Parents are invited to join their children in science work and experiments at Wilkes St.
17.3.26	Science Share with parents at Conduit St	Parents are invited to join their children in science work and experiments at Conduit St.
20.3.26	World Down Syndrome Day	We will mark the day by joining others in wearing brightly coloured, mismatched socks.
Wk beg. 23.3.26	Easter Activity Fun Day	In-school event for children. Date to be confirmed.
27.3.26	Easter Bonnet Parade	Parade and competition to show off your best Easter Bonnet creations!

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6TH FEBRUARY 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

This week has been another busy and memorable one across our school community!

On Wednesday, our School Council had the privilege of visiting the Mayor of Oldham, Eddie Moores, at his new offices in the beautifully restored old library building. In the Mayor's Parlour, the children were warmly welcomed by both the Mayor and the Mayoress of Oldham, who kindly served juice and biscuits (and tea for the adults!). After some informal conversation about the pupils' aspirations and the Mayor's background, the group made their way up to the Council Chambers, stopping to view fascinating memorabilia along the way—including a Victoria Cross medal. The School Councillors then took part in a professional and thoughtful Q&A session, learning all about the Mayor's role and how the council works.



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They truly looked the part seated around the chamber table. The visit ended with a brief look around the museum and new library space, giving the children a glimpse into the rich history of Oldham. The Mayor commented on how polite and well behaved the children were—something we are incredibly proud of! A big thank you to Miss Bano and Mr Sellars too for accompanying the children!

On Thursday, Conduit Street was buzzing with excitement as children took part in Times Tables Rock Stars Day. The day began with a thrilling times tables battle in assembly featuring one representative from each class - Jude from Year 6 was crowned our TT Rock Stars Champion! We also celebrated the dedication of several Year 4 pupils who achieved 'Going Green' status—an impressive milestone showing mastery of all facts up to 12×12 at speed. The assembly was topped off with some epic singing and staff rock-out! During the day, classrooms were full of times tables activities, and we hope the enthusiasm inspires everyone to keep practising at home!



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Meanwhile, over at Wilkes Street, children enjoyed Numbers Rock Stars Day, packed with number-based fun. I had the pleasure of leading assembly there and discovered we have many Queen fans who enthusiastically joined in with We Will Rock You! Children from across the school were keen to share what they had been learning —Reception wowed us with rhythm games, tapping the correct number of beats, while Year 1 confidently explained how they use NumberBots, part of the TT Rock Stars app designed for younger children. It was wonderful to see such confidence and enthusiasm!

On a sadder note, we must also share that at the end of next week, we will be saying goodbye to two much-loved members of staff. Mrs Coulton will be leaving us at half term after securing a promotion with Early Help. While this was a difficult decision, it is an opportunity she simply could not turn down in a field where she has so much to give. She has made a significant impact in her short time with us, and although we will miss her greatly,



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we wish her every success in her new role.

Over at Wilkes Street, we are also saying farewell to Mrs Ferguson, who has been part of the Hodge Clough family for 10 happy years. After many years of dedication, Mrs Ferguson has decided to work less days on supply and step back to have more time for herself. She has shared how “gutted” she is to be leaving and wants to thank all parents for their support over the years. She has seen so many families and siblings pass through HCP and has loved every moment. Mrs Ferguson is one of the most enthusiastic, caring and dedicated teaching assistants I have had the pleasure to work with, and at the first opportunity for her to do the odd day or two back with us, she will be welcomed with open arms!

As we head into the final week of the half term, we are looking forward to making it a great one, with the delivery of our Valentine’s and Friendship doughnuts on Friday, alongside our Chinese New Year celebrations!



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Thank you, as always, for your continued support —we look forward to ending the half term on a high!

Best wishes for a lovely weekend

Mrs Hodgkinson



The School Council's visit to the Mayor's Chambers!



TIMES TABLES ROCKSTARS DAY!



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PICTURE NEWS

This week in Picture News we asked: Does seeing yourself in a toy or story help you feel like you belong?

A toy company called Mattel has released a new Barbie doll designed to represent people who have autism. The doll was created with help from the autistic community, so more people can see themselves reflected in their toys.

TAKEHOME 2nd - 8th February



In the news this week

A toy company called Mattel has released a new Barbie doll designed to represent people who have autism, with features such as a fidget spinner and noise-cancelling headphones. The doll was created with help from the autistic community, so more people can see themselves reflected in their toys.

Things to talk about at home ...

- Do you think it's important for toys to show different kinds of people?
- How do you feel when you see a character or toy that is like you?
- Can you come up with other examples of books or toys that aim to help people feel included?
- How can we help other people feel included when they might feel different or left out?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

DONATIONS FOR OUR NURSERY & RECEPTION ROLE PLAY AREAS

We are currently looking to enhance the role play areas in our Nursery and Reception classes and would be very grateful for any donations you may be able to offer. We are particularly looking for baby-related items such as dolls/babies, cots, blankets, and baby clothes, all in good, clean condition.

These resources play an important role in supporting children's imaginative play, language development, and social skills. If you have any suitable items at home that you no longer need, we would love to give them a new home at school.

Please bring any donations to the school office. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

WEEKLY AWARDS

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	PROUD AWARD FOR PROGRESS	PROUD AWARD FOR ACHIEVEMENT	VALUES AWARD
Reception Red Pandas	Sofia C	Isaac	Lily
Reception Meerkats	Jaxxon	Theodore C	Zeyaan
Y1 Monkeys	Hallie	Dayah	Isabelle
Y1 Leopards	Lukas	Hassnain	Phoebe
Y2 TN	Emma	Oscar	N'Aray
Y2JW	Betsy	Matilda	Georgia
Y3YG/DE	Cally-Jo	Frankie	Michael
Y3SJH	Hussain	Isaac	Ezra
Y4AM	Azaan	Erin	Chloe
Y4JR	Ahad	Lincoln	Tyrese
Y5MO	Byron	Sophia	Jess
Y5LM	Harry	Sadie	Charlie
Y6SC	Autumn	Ava-Lyn	Olivia
Y6LL	Lewis	Jacob	Leila



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ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Hodge Clough has high expectations for all pupils' attendance and in line with National Guidelines, our expectation is that all children aim for at least 96% attendance. Regular attendance is extremely important for your child's wellbeing and progress and the impact of non-attendance at school and nursery significantly increases gaps in knowledge and understanding for children. Research has shown that this has a huge impact on their attainment, achievement and future life choices.

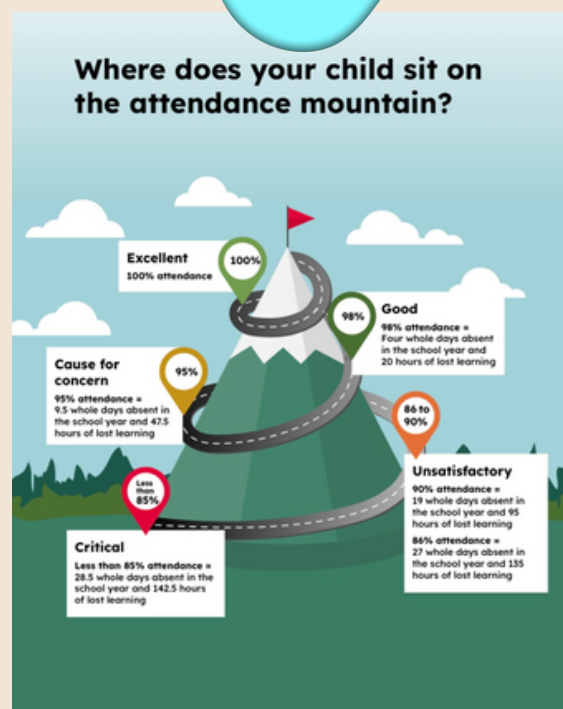
We have joint Attendance Trophy winners - Mrs Walker Year 2 & Mr Cresswell Year 6 both with 100% attendance!!!!

At Wilkes Street the Attendance Bear will spend the week in Mrs Mills Nursery class - they achieved 99.4% attendance

Overall attendance this week is 96.5%

Any class that achieves 96% or above will get ten minutes extra playtime: Next week, that will be:

- Nursery - Mrs Mills - 99.4%
- Year 1 - Mrs Rattenbury - 96%
- Year 2 - Mrs Walker - 100%
- Year 2 - Mr Nokes - 98.7%
- Year 3 - Miss Gheith - 98.6%
- Year 3 - Miss Hilton - 96.6%
- Year 4 - Mrs Marston - 97.9%
- Year 5 - Mrs Milnes - 98.7%
- Year 6 - Mrs Lilley - 97.3%
- Year 6 - Mr Cresswell - 100%





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CALENDAR DATES

A few more events have been added to last week's list!

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Wk Beg 9.2.26	Parent's Meetings	Booking via Google Form
Wk Beg 9.2.26	Children's Mental Health Week	Children's event, in school
10.2.26	Safer Internet Day	Children's event, in school
13.2.26	Chinese New Year lunch and activities.	Children who normally have packed lunches can book in for a dinner on this day.
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Dear Parents and Carers

It's been another great week at Hodge Clough! Our Values Assemblies this half term have focused on Respect, with this week's particular emphasis on showing respect for traditions. As part of this, children explored Scotland's national treasure, Robert Burns, and learned about Burns Night traditions. From poetry and storytelling to learning about the special food and celebrations, pupils enjoyed discovering how traditions help to bring people together and reflect shared values across generations.

On Thursday, we also celebrated our half-termly Starbooks Author Day, where the school was immersed in the power of poetry. This time, children delved into the inspiring work of Joseph Coelho, while also enjoying our Starbooks tradition of hot chocolate and biscuits!

Joseph Coelho is a British poet, playwright and children's author. He is particularly known for his performance poetry and for



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encouraging children to enjoy poetry aloud.

On the day, children learned about Joseph Coelho's life, the wide range of books he has written, and classes used his poetry and stories as inspiration for their own creative writing. It was great to see pupils experimenting with language, rhythm and performance, and developing their confidence as young poets and authors and we even got to hear some of them performed in Thursday's assembly!

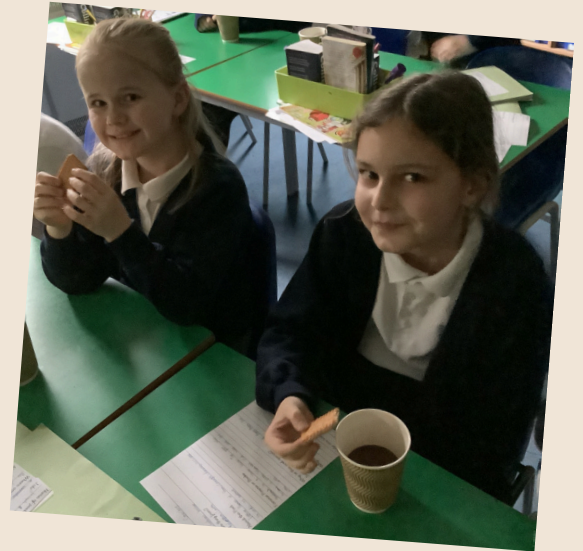
Over the next term, we are looking forward to inviting parents into school for a range of events, beginning with Parents' Evening in the week commencing 9th February - if you haven't yet booked a time with your child's class teacher, please login to parentmail to access the Google form . We will see everyone again on Monday - have a wonderful weekend!

Best wishes

Mrs Hodkinson



STARBOOKS AUTHOR DAY





Have you dusted off your Rock Star Outfits?

Thursday 5th February is Times Tables Rockstars Day at Conduit Street and
Numbers Rockstars Day at Wilkes Street

When it comes to times tables, speed AND accuracy are important – the more facts your child remembers, the easier it is for them to do harder calculations.

Every child in Year 4 takes the national Multiplication Tables Test in June and knowing times tables fluently is a key building block for success across many areas of maths. When children can recall multiplication facts quickly and confidently, it supports their learning in division, fractions, decimals, percentages... and so much more! By the time children are preparing for SATs in Year 6, this fluency means children can focus on problem-solving and reasoning rather than working out basic calculations.

PRACTICE THIS IMPORTANT SKILL AT HOME - LOG IN TO **TIMES TABLES ROCKSTARS!**

Times Table Rock Stars is a fun and challenging programme designed to help students master these times tables! All children in Years 2 - 6 can log into this fun learning platform at home, making their way up the Leader Board and earning bigger and better 'Rock Statuses' as they recall more and more multiplication facts!

To be a Times Table Rock Star you need to answer any multiplication fact up to 12×12 in less than 3 seconds!

Children at Wilkes Street will also be able to join in the dressing-up fun on Thursday, so get ready to rock those outfits! Pupils will be taking part in lots of number-related activities and games, all designed to make maths feel exciting, energetic and hands-on!





News From Our Community



SHARE A SUCCESS!

We are incredibly proud of our children and all that they achieve, both in school and beyond. To help us celebrate these successes, we love it when parents and carers share any achievements that they would like us to recognise.

This Week's Hodge Clough Star

This week Minnie in Year 1 performed with the cast of Annie from the West End at the AO Arena in the National Lottery's Big Night Of Musical's. It was filmed for the BBC and will be shown on TV (date to be confirmed).

Minnie attends Wild Things Performing Arts and was selected as one of the lucky children from there to be involved in this performance. She has been working extremely hard over the last 4 weeks to learn the song and dance to "It's a Hard Knock Life".

At the end of the performance last night, Minnie was interviewed live on stage by the host, Jason Manford, where she talked confidently in front of the 12,000 people in the arena!

Our Hodge Clough family, along with her actual family, are so proud of Minnie. Well done!

Please note, if you would like to share a success, but would prefer images not to be in the public domain, please do not send photographs — just written celebrations are always very welcome!



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PICTURE NEWS

Children at Wilkes St enjoyed their Picture News assembly where we asked: **Does how we behave matter as much as how well we play?** The Football Association (FA) has published a review looking at behaviour in football across England. It wants to ensure football practice and matches are safe, fair, and enjoyable for everyone, including players, referees, and fans. The review encourages all involved in the sport to play their part in supporting and following values of positive behaviour. Children at Conduit Street will catch up with this, next week!



In the news this week

The Football Association (FA) has published a review looking at behaviour in football across England. It wants to ensure football practice and matches are safe, fair, and enjoyable for everyone, including players, referees, and fans. The review encourages all involved in the sport to play their part in supporting and following values of positive behaviour.

Things to talk about at home ...

- Share your experiences of sporting or other competitive events with someone at home. Have you ever felt strong feelings when watching or taking part?
- Do you believe players and fans should have the same rules about respect?
- Discuss what you think might happen if winning becomes more important than respect.

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments



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PANCAKE FLIP-A -THON

We are excited to announce our upcoming Pancake Flip-A-Thon, taking place on **Friday 23rd February**, to help raise money for much-needed playground equipment. Children will be taking on the ultimate flipping challenge as they attempt to flip as many pancakes as possible – all in the name of fun and fundraising!

Please look out for the sponsorship form, which you can use to collect sponsors for your child. Sponsors can choose to donate either a fixed amount or an amount per pancake flip. After the event, we will let you know how many flips your child achieved.

Payments can then be made easily via our JustGiving page, using the QR code that will be shared on ParentMail. This will allow family and friends to donate from wherever they are.

Thank you for supporting this fantastic effort – every flip will help us build better playgrounds for our children!



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Y4JR	Aisha	Tristan	Xavier
Y5MO	Patrick	Beatrice	Rose
Y5LM	Kyle	Alfie	Archie
Y6SC	Harrison	Divine	Alice
Y6LL	Skyler	Grace	Savannah



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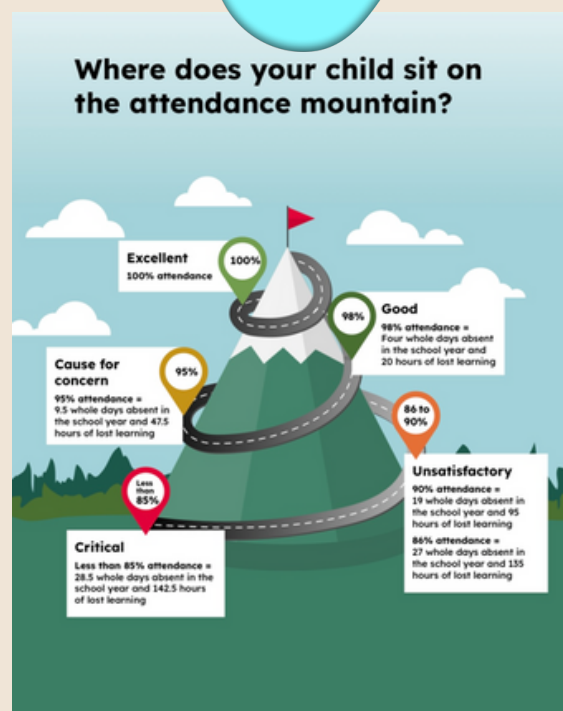
**This week's
Attendance Trophy winners
at Conduit Street are Mrs
Walker's class with 98%**

**At Wilkes Street the
Attendance Bear will spend
the week in Mrs
Broadhurst's Reception class -
they achieved
97% attendance**

**Overall
attendance this
week is
95%**

Any class that achieves 96% or above will get ten minutes extra playtime: Next week, that will be:

Reception - Mrs Broadhurst - 97%
Year 1 - Mrs Rattenbury - 96%
Year 2 - Mrs Walker - 98%
Year 3 - Miss Gheith - 96.4%
Year 4 - Mrs Marston - 96.6%
Year 4 - Miss Robinson - 97.3%
Year 5 - Mrs Milnes - 97.4%





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CALENDAR DATES

A few more events have been added to last week's list!

Date	Event	Notes
5.2.26	Times Tables Rock Stars Day	Times Tables Rock Stars Day is a fun celebration of maths where children take part in exciting challenges using the Times Tables Rock Stars app. Pupils are invited to come to school dressed as rock stars, and children at Wilkes Street , even though they are not yet learning times tables, can still join in by becoming Numbers Rock Stars for the day!
Wk Beg 9.2.26	Parent's Meetings	Booking via Google Form
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Notices



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HODGE CLOUGH NEWSLETTER

23RD JANUARY 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's hard to believe that we are already at the end of Week 3, with this half term flying by! As you can see by the calendar, there is going to be a lot more going on over this Spring Term:

Our popular half-termly Author Day is coming up on the 29th January and don't forget, on 5th February, children can unleash their inner rock star by dressing up for our second Times Tables Rock Stars Day at Conduit Street and Numbers Rock Stars Day at Wilkes Street!

This week, I have been working closely alongside our wonderful PTA to develop some exciting fundraising ideas for this term. I would like to share how the money raised will be used, with all funds going directly towards improving play times across our school through new equipment and playground developments.

A key priority is our Reception playground, which is in urgent need of updating. We are keen to



HODGE CLOUGH NEWSLETTER

23RD JANUARY 2026

make a real difference here so that our youngest pupils have a high-quality outdoor space that supports play, development and learning, helping them get off to the very best start at Hodge Clough. On the pages below you will see some items that have already been purchased and Reception's next big wish will be to replace the old plastic play houses with some nice wooden ones,

In addition, the equipment in the Year 1 playground was unfortunately condemned and has had to be removed. With the PTA's support, we are hoping to replace the trim trails and add some much-needed sparkle back into this area.

At Conduit Street, we are also looking to improve play times by updating sports and outdoor equipment. Our ideas include multi-sport nets for activities such as volleyball and tennis, large-scale outdoor construction and games, and tables for children who prefer quieter activities during break times.

A longer-term ambition, may be to introduce a trim trail or climbing structure here too. Equipment of this nature is extremely expensive though, so this type



HODGE CLOUGH NEWSLETTER

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of equipment is likely to be a longer-term project. However, if any parents have contacts or expertise that could help us move these plans forward, we would be very grateful!

To achieve all these goals, you will already have heard about the first of our fundraisers - the Valentine's and Friendship Doughnuts Sale, which is now taking place in school - please see ParentMail for details! In addition, although Shrove Tuesday falls during half term this year, we will still be using it as inspiration for our first sponsored event of the year – a Pancake Flip-A-Thon! Children will be invited to take part in a fun pancake-flipping challenge - more details will follow shortly on ParentMail.

We are also planning a Mother's Day Stall, where children will have the opportunity to choose and purchase a small gift in school. This will be a chance for them to keep their gift a surprise and celebrate a mum, carer, or any special lady in their life.



HODGE CLOUGH

NEWSLETTER

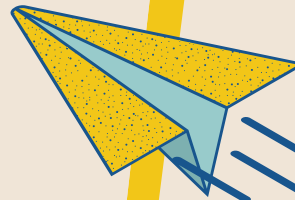
23RD JANUARY 2026

Here is a selection of some of the resources already purchased from PTA funds for the Reception playground.



HODGE CLOUGH NEWSLETTER

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HODGE CLOUGH

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We are very mindful that there are quite a lot of fundraising requests, so whether through participation, ideas, contacts or simply spreading the word—participation is always appreciated, but never expected.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and have a wonderful weekend!

Best wishes

Mrs Hodgkinson.





News From Our Community



SHARE A SUCCESS!

We are incredibly proud of our children and all that they achieve, both in school and beyond. To help us celebrate these successes, we love it when parents and carers share any achievements that they would like us to recognise.

This Week's Hodge Clough Stars

Georgia-Leigh, Rosie, Matilda and Teddy took part in the panto production of Robin Hood with Spotlight Theatre Group. We are told that although all four children are generally quiet in nature, they seem to switch to loud on stage! I'm sure you will all join the families in praising their hard work after months of rehearsals and commitment to their show. Well done!



Please note, if you would like to share a success, but would prefer images not to be in the public domain, please do not send photographs — just written celebrations are always very welcome!



Notices



PICTURE NEWS

This week in Picture News, we asked: Can awards encourage people to help others and care for the world?

Recently, a new award, called the Jane Goodall Earth Medal, has been created to celebrate people who work to help others and care for the world. It is named after Dr Jane Goodall, who spent her life protecting animals and encouraging people to look after nature. The award recognises kind and caring actions that make a positive difference, even when people are not looking for praise.

We explored the impact that the Jane Goodall Earth medal could have



In the news this week

Recently, a new award, called the Jane Goodall Earth Medal, has been created to celebrate people who work to help others and care for the world. It is named after Dr Jane Goodall, who spent her life protecting animals and encouraging people to look after nature. The award recognises kind and caring actions that make a positive difference, even when people are not looking for praise.

Things to talk about at home ...

- What do you think about the new award? Share with someone at home. Do you believe it's important to recognise kind actions?
- Can you think of someone you know who helps others or cares for the world in everyday ways?
- Can you come up with other ways that people can be recognised for their actions?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

WEEKLY 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 our Proud Assembly. Here are the children who have proudly received their awards this week:

	PROUD AWARD FOR PROGRESS	PROUD AWARD FOR ACHIEVEMENT	VALUES AWARD
Reception Red Pandas	Lottie	Lincoln	Nico
Reception Meerkats	Elsie	Theodore N	Nahla
Y1 Monkeys	Saad	Freddie	Ava-Grace
Y1 Leopards	Ruben	Eddie	Sheik-Ariyana
Y2 TN	Layla	Reggie	Benjamin
Y2JW	Rosie	Chloe	Annie
Y3SH	Luca	Noel	Elodie
Y3YG/DE	Mila	Junior	Oliver
Y4JR	Wyatt	Maria	Edward
Y4AM	Noah	Dylan	Eliza
Y5MO	Wyatt	Maria	Edward
Y5LM	Maisie	Teddie	Devinia
Y6SC	Violet	Ava	Matilda
Y6LL	Libby	Esme	Skyler



Notices



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

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**This week's
Attendance Trophy winners
at Conduit Street are Year 3
Mrs Gheith class with 98.6%**

**At Wilkes Street the
Attendance Bear will spend
the week in Mrs
Rattenburys class - they
achieved
96.8% attendance**

**Overall
attendance this
week is
94.7%**

Any class that achieves 96% or above will get ten minutes extra playtime: Next week, that will be:

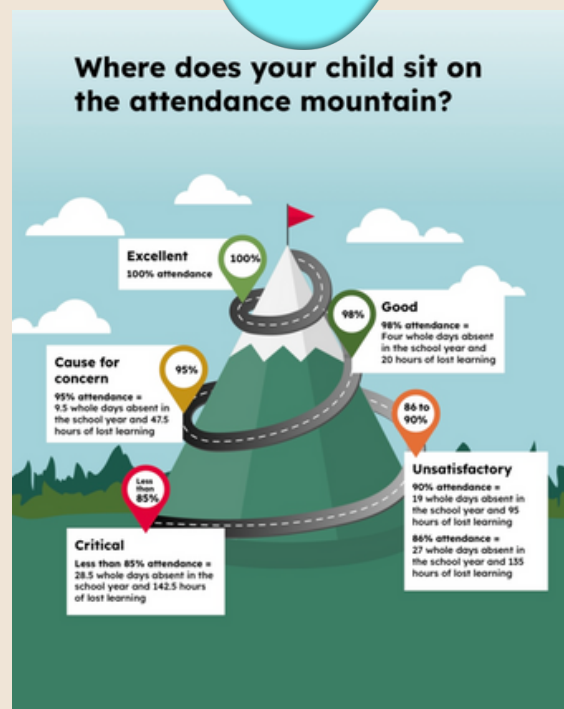
Year 1 - Mrs Rattenbury - 96.8%

Year 2- Mrs Walker - 97.3%

Year 2 - Mr Nokes - 96%

Year 3 - Miss Gheith - 98.6

Year 4 - Mrs Marston - 97.2%





Notices



CALENDAR DATES

A few more events have been added to last week's list!

Date	Event	Notes
29.1.26	Starbooks Author Day - Joseph Coelho	Children's event in school
5.2.26	Times Tables Rock Stars Day	Times Tables Rock Stars Day is a fun celebration of maths where children take part in exciting challenges using the Times Tables Rock Stars app. Pupils are invited to come to school dressed as rock stars, and children at Wilkes Street , even though they are not yet learning times tables, can still join in by becoming Numbers Rock Stars for the day!
Wk Beg 9.2.26	Parent's Meetings	Booking via Google Form
Wk Beg 9.2.26	Children's mental Health Week	Children's event, in school
10.2.26	Safer Internet Day	Children's event, in school
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HODGE CLOUGH

NEWSLETTER

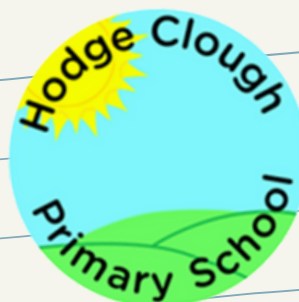
16TH JANUARY 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,
As we settle back into the rhythm of school life, we've been very thankful to avoid battling snow and icy mornings this week! I've really enjoyed finding out about all the exciting learning that has been taking place — here are a few highlights...

Nursery children have had a wonderfully busy week exploring the traditional tale of The Three Little Pigs. They enjoyed making houses using straw, sticks and pretend bricks – and I believe they still finding pieces of straw all over the Nursery! The children also created lunch boxes for each of the pigs! These hands-on activities have helped to develop their imagination, creativity and fine motor skills, while also deepening their understanding of stories and characters.

Reception children have been equally busy, immersing themselves in the traditional tale, Little Red Riding Hood. They explored the version called 'Little Red' by Bethan Woolvin through discussion and a range of creative activities, including designing their own "Wanted" posters for the Big Bad Wolf - keep your eyes out for him!

Year 1 have started their new topic in Geography: the children have been learning about the constituent parts of the UK, developing their knowledge of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. This is helping them to begin understanding where they live in the wider world and to build important early geographical awareness. The children also worked together to build the flag of the United Kingdom – ask them if they can remember what each colour represents!



HODGE CLOUGH NEWSLETTER

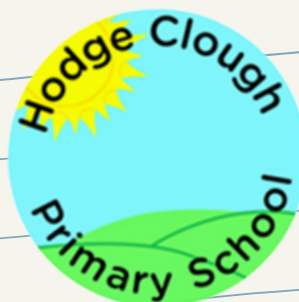
16TH JANUARY 2026

Year 2 have been full of enthusiasm this week, and when asked about their favourite lesson, many of the children proudly said maths! Mr Nokes and Mrs Walker have clearly made their lessons on shape and symmetry both engaging and enjoyable, with the children showing great enthusiasm and confidence as they explored these important concepts.

Year 3 children have been captivated by their new focus text, Rhythm of the Rain. The book features beautiful illustrations of breath-taking settings, including a vibrant rainbow bridge and a stunning waterfall, which have sparked lots of excitement and discussion. Inspired by these imaginative landscapes, the children have begun creating their own settings, using rich detail and creative ideas. These will form the basis of their own written pieces over the coming weeks.

Year 4 have been diving into the world's biomes! They can now describe what a biome is and confidently give examples. Using atlases, pupils have been busy locating the Amazon Rainforest, sharpening their geography skills along the way. They've also explored photographs and maps to identify and list the key features of the Amazon, building a vivid picture of this incredible environment.

Year 5 have been making waves in Geography! They have been exploring the mighty oceans and can now describe the ocean's vital role in the water cycle. Pupils have also learned why the ocean is so important to life on Earth, from regulating climate to supporting ecosystems. To bring this learning to life, they've used maps to track real examples of ocean trade routes, discovering how oceans connect countries and support global trade.



HODGE CLOUGH NEWSLETTER

16TH JANUARY 2026

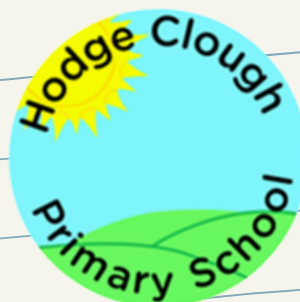
Meanwhile in Year 6, they have kicked off their exciting new science topic on the circulatory system! Throughout this unit, pupils will explore how this vital system keeps our bodies working, learning how oxygen is transported around the body and why this is so important for staying alive and active. They will discover how the heart works as a powerful muscle, investigate heart rate, and take part in activities to see how exercise and movement affect it.

This week, we are sad to say goodbye to Mrs Wray, who has been a truly inspiring presence in Year 3. She has made a wonderful impact on the children through her dedication, care, and enthusiasm, and she will be greatly missed by pupils and staff alike. At the same time, we are delighted to welcome Mrs Edwards to our team. She brings a great deal of experience and enthusiasm for teaching with her and will be a fantastic asset to the school community. We look forward to the exciting contribution she will make in the weeks ahead.

As our Conduit Street parents will know, Miss Shabiha Shayla Lili has been very ably supporting the school office while we waited for our newly appointed Business Support Officer to take up post. She has done a superb job during this time! We are sure you will all join us in giving Mrs Katie Appleton a very warm welcome when she joins us next week. Until then, I wish everyone a very well-deserved and happy weekend!

Best wishes

Mrs Hodkinson





Notices



PICTURE NEWS

This week in Picture News, children learned about Mr Beast and the 1 Billion Follower Summit, exploring how people with large online platforms can use their influence for positive change. They discussed the '1 Billion Acts' campaign, which aims to inspire one billion acts of kindness around the world, and reflected on how small actions by lots of people can make a big difference. Pupils shared thoughtful ideas about kindness, responsibility, and how they themselves can contribute to positive change in their own communities



PE KIT REMINDER

We would like to thank parents for supporting our approach of children coming to school already dressed in their PE kits. This has proved very successful, saving valuable time and allowing for longer, more active PE lessons.

We kindly ask that children continue to maintain their usual Hodge Clough smart appearance by wearing the correct PE kit:

- unbranded plain black or navy tracksuit bottoms
- our royal blue PE t-shirt
- trainers
- a plain, unbranded navy or black sweatshirt or zip-up top to keep warm.

Thank you for your continued support.

WEEKLY 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 our Proud Assembly. Here are the children who have proudly received their awards this week:

	PROUD AWARD FOR PROGRESS	PROUD AWARD FOR ACHIEVEMENT	VALUES AWARD
Reception Red Pandas	Noah	Arlo	Ivy
Reception Meerkats	Frankie	Sunday	Lilith
Y1 Monkeys	Lily	Amelia	Isla
Y1 Leopards	Aria	Nancy	Harrison
Y2 TN	Georgia	Filip	Grace
Y2JW	Rio	Samuel	Savannah
Y3SH	Roan	Robert	Esmae-Robyn
Y3YG/DE	Winnie	Oliver	Hattie
Y4JR	Arisia	Amelia	Esme
Y4AM	Isla	Estee	Jake
Y5MO	Oscar	Edith	Phoebe
Y5LM	Theo	Skylar	Thea
Y6SC	Billy	Jayden	Esme
Y6LL	Elliot	Logan	Jude



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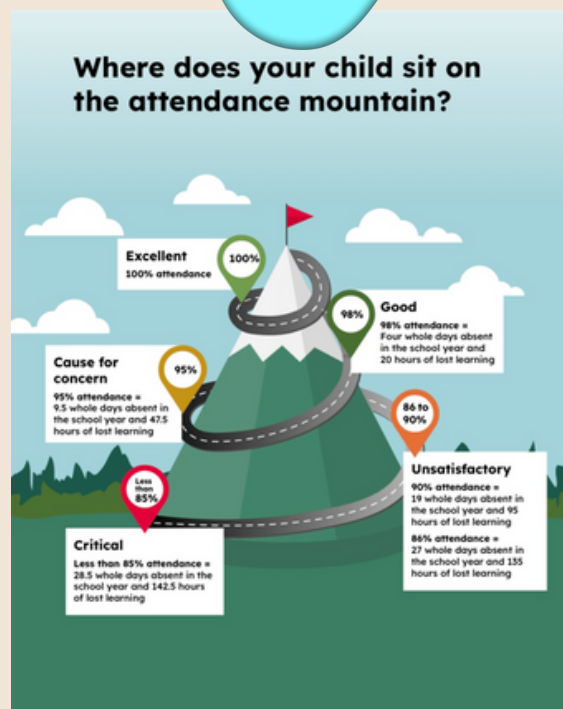
**This week's
Attendance Trophy winners
at Conduit Street are Year 5
Mrs Milnes class with 100% !!**

**At Wilkes Street the
Attendance Bear will spend
the week in Mrs
Broadhurst's class - they
stood at
97.8% attendance -
well done!**

**Overall
attendance
96.7%, which is
brilliant!**

Any class that achieves 96% or above will get ten minutes extra playtime: Next week, that will be:

Nursery Mrs Mills, Reception Mrs Pollitt, Reception Mrs Broadhurst, Year 1 Mrs Rattenbury, Year 2 Mrs Walker, Year 3 Miss Gheith, Year 3 Miss Hilton, Year 4 Mrs Marston, Year 4 Miss Robinson, Year 5 Mrs Milnes and Year 6 Mr Creswell - Wow!





Notices



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As well as the Diary Dates, our PTFA are also raring to go and have some brilliant ideas for fundraising events - more information to follow! We are currently looking to improve the Reception outdoor area and our PTFA have already donated generous amounts towards this. To ensure all our children can make the most of break times, outdoor equipment for other year groups, at both sites, will also be the focus for our fundraising. Hodge Clough is an amazing community so if parents have any fun, fundraising ideas, I'm sure the PTFA would love to hear from you!



HODGE CLOUGH NEWSLETTER

9TH JANUARY 2026

Dear Families,

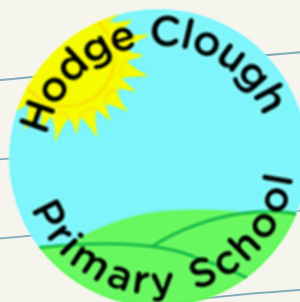
Happy New Year and welcome back to a brand-new term at Hodge Clough! I hope you all enjoyed a restful and happy break and were able to spend some precious time together over the holidays.

Our first week back has certainly been a memorable one, with the snow giving us a proper Moorside welcome into the new year! Despite the challenging conditions, the school community has pulled together brilliantly. I would like to extend a huge thank you to Mr Fitton and Mr Kirk, who have done a sterling job clearing snow throughout the week to ensure our site remained safe for everyone. Their hard work has been hugely appreciated.

I would also like to offer a very warm welcome back to Mrs Ferguson at Wilkes Street. It has been absolutely wonderful to see her back, and her presence has already had such a positive impact. She has been warmly welcomed by staff and children alike, and we are delighted to have her back as part of the Hodge Clough team.

Last term gave me the opportunity to stand back and really reflect on everything that makes Hodge Clough such a special place. It has been a privilege to observe the strengths of our school, our staff, and our children, and to begin thinking carefully about how we can build on these foundations. I am very much looking forward to using these observations to embed new initiatives and introduce further exciting developments that will continue to drive the success of Hodge Clough forward.

We have started this term with a strong focus on behaviour, ensuring that



HODGE CLOUGH

NEWSLETTER

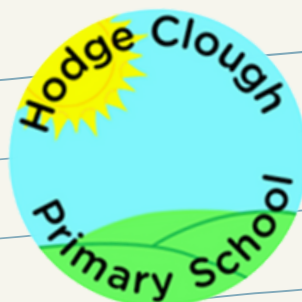
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'expectations are clearly understood by everyone. Children have taken part in a recap of our bespoke Behaviour Curriculum, alongside learning about our new and updated reward systems. You may notice your child bringing new Dojo Awards. Children's Dojo points will now accumulate across the whole year, allowing them to work towards six milestones: Bronze, Silver, Gold, Ruby, Emerald, and Diamond. Children will receive certificates for achieving the first four levels. Reaching Emerald will also include a special dip into The Proud Box, while children who achieve the coveted Diamond Award will be rewarded with a Book Token.

In addition to this, children who consistently demonstrate our school values will receive Proud Postcards, and every half term, those who have reliably followed our rules of being Ready, Respectful, and Safe will receive a Behaviour Award in recognition of their determination to be model Hodge Clough pupils!

I have also been incredibly excited to see children getting stuck into our new approach to Writing. Already, it has been wonderful to see the enthusiasm this has generated across school. One highlight for me was visiting Year 2 and seeing their fantastic "hook" lesson, where their teachers created a miniature environment for their very own Bog Babies, inspired by the book of the same name. The creativity, teamwork, and excitement in the room were a joy to see.

Our new Writing approach is designed to help all children become confident, independent, and successful writers. Learning is carefully structured so that skills are built step by step, using high-quality, engaging texts to inspire children and bring writing to life. Children follow a clear sequence of Immerse, Analyse, Plan, and Write, which helps them understand how good writing works before having a go themselves. Grammar, spelling, and punctuation are taught as part of daily lessons rather than in isolation, and children are supported with model texts, images, word banks, and



HODGE CLOUGH

NEWSLETTER

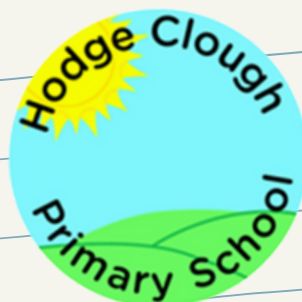
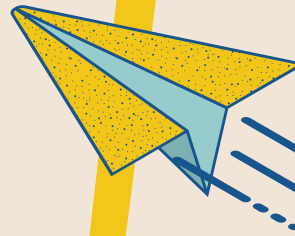
9TH JANUARY 2026

clear planning guidance. This consistent whole-school approach ensures strong progression, supports all learners and helps children feel more confident and successful in their writing.

Thank you, as always, for your support this week. I am very much looking forward to an exciting and successful term ahead!

Warm regards,

Mrs Hodkinson





Notices

NEW SYSTEM FOR PE DAYS



Don't forget that from the start of this term, on the day when your child has PE, they must come to school wearing their PE kit **for the whole day**. This includes:

- the usual blue t-shirt
- navy blue shorts
- non-branded trainers for outdoor PE

However, for the winter months, children must wear the following:

- plain black or navy tracksuit bottoms
- the usual blue t-shirt
- black PE pumps for indoor PE / unbranded trainers for outdoor PE
- a plain navy or black sweatshirt / zip-up sweatshirt to keep warm.

Please ensure that no branded items or football shirts are worn as part of the PE kit. It is still important that children look smart and part of the Hodge Clough family.

Having children arrive in their PE kits helps to save valuable learning time that would otherwise be spent changing and allows us to maximise the time available for the PE lesson itself. Thank you for your continued support in helping PE lessons run smoothly and effectively.





Notices



PARENT ASSEMBLIES

In recognition of one of our core values, you will notice a small rebrand to our parent assemblies. These will now be referred to as Proud Assemblies.

These assemblies celebrate our children's successes and are where certificates are awarded for Progress, Achievement, and for consistently demonstrating our school values.

As advised earlier last term, Conduit Street Proud Assemblies will now take place on Wednesday morning, with parents invited into school from 9:00am.

We look forward to welcoming you in to celebrate your children's achievements with us.





Notices

As you may already know, all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are currently entitled to Universal Infant Free School Meals. This means your child can enjoy a free, nutritious meal in school each day, without the need for applications. However, we would like to encourage all eligible families to also complete an application for Free School Meals (FSM).

You may be wondering why this is important if meals are already free. The answer is that registering for Free School Meals provides significant benefits both for families and for us at school including:

- additional funding for our school – for every child registered, the school receives extra funding known as Pupil Premium. This funding helps us to enhance learning opportunities, provide extra support, purchase resources, and improve the environment for all pupils.
- Holiday food vouchers – families who qualify for Free School Meals may receive supermarket vouchers over school holidays, helping with food costs when school meals are not available.
- Continued support beyond Year 2 – Free School Meals entitlement carries on into Key Stage 2, meaning your child can continue to receive free meals in later years.

Even if your child already receives a universal free meal, simply completing an application could make a real difference to us. The process is quick, confidential, and can help us provide the best support and opportunities for every child. Please use the link here to apply

https://www.oldham.gov.uk/info/200231/grants_and_allowances/161/school_meals

If you think you may be eligible, or if you would like any help with the form, please don't hesitate to contact us — we are more than happy to assist.
Thank you for your continued support.