



HARTFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL

HEAD'S WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

16th September 2026



Dear Parents, Carers, and Families

The school year is now well underway, and our school calendar is already looking busy! Swimming lessons have started for Deer Class (Year 5), and trips have been organised for pupils in Years 2 and 4. We also have some exciting visitors booked for Early Years and Year 3.

We're also already looking ahead to next year and are delighted to be holding the first of our open days for prospective Early Years 2027 parents tomorrow. It's always lovely to welcome prospective families into school and give them an opportunity to see our school in action.

There is plenty happening across school, so please read on for more details and further information about what's going on.

Year 2 Trip to Weaver Hall Museum – Tuesday 22nd September

A visit has been arranged for Year 2 to visit Weaver Hall Museum on Tuesday 22nd September. The visit will compliment the children's learning for their History topic – "The Great Fire of London." They will have the opportunity to hear first-hand accounts of The Great Fire, try out some 17th Century firefighting techniques and make a fire mark.

Year 4 Trip to The Deva Centre – Wednesday 7th October

A visit has been arranged for Year 4 to spend the day at The Deva Centre in Chester on Wednesday 7th October. Year 4's Autumn topic has focused on The Romans, and the visit will enrich the children's knowledge of Ancient Rome, the customs, way of life and what it was like to be in the Roman Army. It will also include a centre led workshop which is not available to the general public and a walking tour with a Roman Soldier.

Early Years and Year 3 – Indian Dance Workshop – Wednesday 4th November

To add to the children's learning about Hinduism and Diwali all children in Early Years and Year 3 are taking part in an Indian dance workshop where they will learn about significance of dance in Hinduism and Diwali celebrations. The children will have the opportunity to move to the vibrant beats of India.

I'm sure you'll agree that these are all fabulous opportunities for our children.

Spanish

You may recall I mentioned last week that Mr Pilcher is now teaching our Spanish curriculum to Years 3 – 6. He's asked me to share the following link with parents: <https://www.kidslingo.co.uk/games/spanish-games/>. Mr Pilcher will be introducing the children to this website this week and would like to give them the opportunity to use it at home to if they wish. The website has lots of different games and activities designed to help your child progress with their Spanish knowledge. The password to access the site is KL26Autumn.

School Games Platinum Award

I'm delighted to announce that Mr Cairns has left us with a lasting legacy as we've again been awarded the School Games Platinum Mark Award, this time for the 2025/26 academic year.

The School Games Mark is a Government-led award scheme launched in 2012, facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community, and we are delighted to have been recognised for our success.

We are extremely proud of our pupils for their dedication to all aspects of school sport. As part of our application, we were asked to fulfil criteria in the areas of participation, competition, workforce and clubs, and we are pleased that the hard work of everyone involved at our school has been rewarded this year.



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Attendance

Whole school attendance up until Friday 11th September was 97.5%, we had 29 children recorded as late last week.

This is a pleasing improvement in overall attendance but regrettably an increase in the number of children being late to school. A reminder that the school gates open at 8.45am and close promptly at 8.55am. If your child arrives at school after 8.55am you must bring them to the school office and sign them in. Children arriving after 8.55am and before 9.25am are recorded as late. Arrivals after 9.25am are recorded as an unauthorised absence as the register has closed.

I'd like to take the opportunity to reiterate the information I shared in my newsletter last week regarding attendance and authorised/unauthorised absences. I'm now able to include a link to CWAC's website which provides further information about Penalty Notices as well as details regarding the law when more than one Penalty Notice is issued in a three year period.

As a school we have a big focus on attendance – quite simply because good attendance underpins your child's success at school. If your child is unwell, please ring the absence line 01606 74164 option 1 and leave a message giving your child's name, class and their symptoms. Should your child need to attend a medical appointment (doctor/dentist/optician/hospital) during school time please let the office team know as soon as possible and provide confirmation details of the appointment. Absences for medical appointments will be recorded as authorized.

For absences for any other reason than already stated you must complete an application for absence form prior to the absence. These can be found on our website or are available to collect from the office. School attendance is mandatory for all children the term after they've turned five.

Requests for absence in term time are considered by myself, and are only authorised in exceptional circumstances. Holidays in term time will not be authorised, and if your child is absent for five days/ten sessions or more (a day is two sessions am/pm), a penalty notice may be requested to be issued by the Local Authority. The sessions do not need to be consecutive; it is ten sessions during a ten week period. The law stipulates that the current penalties payable by parents are £160 if paid within 28 days, reducing to £80 if paid within 21 days. The penalty is per parent/carer per child. Here is a link to a page on CWAC's website which will give you more information: [Penalty Notices \(PN\) | Cheshire West and Chester Council](#)

The Education (Penalty Notices) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2024 introduced a new National threshold of 2 penalty notices that can be issued to a parent for the same child within a rolling 3-year period. If a second penalty notice is issued to the same parent for the same child, within 3 years of the first penalty notice, the second penalty notice is charged at a flat rate of £160. If an unauthorised leave of absence is taken for a third time (or subsequent times) within 3 years of a first penalty notice being issued, prosecution or other attendance legal interventions will be considered.

Collection Arrangements

If your child is being collected by someone other than a parent or going home with a friend for a play date, please ensure you let us know by emailing or calling the office.

PTA News

We hope you have all settled into the school routine, and although we got to see some new Early Years parents at their coffee morning, we'd like to extend a big welcome again to any new parents at the school!

The PTA - parent and teachers association - is something all parents are part of, and we partner with the school to fundraise. Last year we raised an amazing £16k which went towards a variety of activities and resources across the school.

Believe it or not, we have already started planning some of our annual events - this includes our big Winter Wonderland fayre. More details will follow, but if you are interested in volunteering to help with organising events, or

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part of any organisation that can donate a raffle prize, do match funding, or you may want to have a stall (including food) just drop us a note at pta@hartfordprimary.cheshire.sch.uk and we will keep you informed!

We've scheduled our AGM for Monday 5th October; refreshments will be served at 9am with the meeting starting at 9.15am. All parents are welcome to come and hear what we did last and learn how to be involved this year, be it a small role or part of the actual committee.

Preloved Uniform - *Important update*

Due to storage we are unable to take any more donations at the moment.

Preloved uniform can be requested at any time using this email address:

preloveduniform@hartfordprimary.cheshire.sch.uk

Let us know your requirements and your child's name and class.

Dates For Your Diary

Thursday 17 th September	Early Years Phonics Meeting 5pm
Thursday 17 th September	Open Event for Prospective Early Years 2027 Parents
Tuesday 22 nd September	Year 2 Visit to Weaver Hall Museum
Friday 25 th September	Early Years Come Dine With Me
Monday 5 th October	PTA AGM 9am Main Hall
Wednesday 7 th October	Year 4 Visit to The Deva Centre
Monday 19 th October – Thursday 22 nd October	Parents' Evenings
Friday 23 rd October	School closes for Half Term
Wednesday 4 th November	Indian Dance Workshop – Early Years and Year 3

FACE Family Support

Please find attached flyers regarding support sessions being held in September for parents including details off an online talk about Masking Awareness on 24th September.

Hartford Parish Council News and Events

Energy support this Winter

With energy prices high, it can be difficult to manage bills and stay warm – however, there are many organisations that can help. Take a look at some of the local and national support services on offer. See [Energy support - Hartford Parish Council](#)

Let's Play - Sunday 20th September 2 - 4 pm

Calling all children in Hartford... want to make new friends and have fun? Come along with your parents or carers to Let's play! It takes place this Sunday on the Green Field in Hartford (near the allotments, behind the Chester Road shops). The event is free of charge and there is no need to book. It is run by Hartford NSPCC and supported by Hartford Parish Council.

There will be lots of activities on offer, like giant Jenga, chess, water-colour paints, balls, construction blocks and more. Play is unstructured - children use their imagination to have fun and connect with others. The event is outside but there is an indoor accessible toilet, and a kitchen should you need it. See [Lets play - Hartford Parish Council](#)

Have a good week everyone.

Warm regards

L Cade

Mrs L Cade
Head of School

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