Hackwood Primary Academy
Newsletter
2026/2027 – Autumn 1 – October 2026

Dear Parents / Carers,

As we come to the end of our first half term, I would like to take a moment to celebrate some of the wonderful learning experiences that have taken place across the academy.

During **Black History Month**, children throughout the academy have been learning about a range of significant individuals who have made important contributions to society. The children thoroughly enjoyed researching these inspirational figures and had the opportunity to share their learning and celebrate each other's work during a special assembly. We were incredibly impressed with the knowledge, confidence and enthusiasm they demonstrated.

We also recently celebrated **Global Schools Day**, which this year was inspired by the book *Lands of Belonging*. This provided a fantastic opportunity for children to explore themes of identity, culture, community and belonging. The children produced some thoughtful and creative work, reflecting on what makes them unique and how we can celebrate and respect the diversity within our academy and wider world.

We would like to extend a sincere **thank you to all the parents and carers who supported our assembly and took the time to come into school to view and celebrate their children's work.** It was wonderful to see so many families joining us and sharing in the children's achievements. Your support helps make these experiences even more meaningful and demonstrates the strong partnership we continue to build between home and school.

We are incredibly proud of all our pupils and the enthusiasm they have shown towards their learning this half term. We look forward to creating many more memorable opportunities as the year progresses.

Thank you for your continued support, and we wish you all a restful and enjoyable break.

Ms Reader
Principal

We believe in ourselves, to achieve our goals and succeed.

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Curriculum News

Nursery enjoyed a wonderful Dream Reads event this term. The classroom was filled with even more beautiful books, and parents were welcomed in to share the joy of reading with their children. Everywhere there were little pockets of children and adults snuggled together, lost in stories, sharing smiles and enjoying those precious moments that only a good book can bring. It was lovely to see the nursery classroom come alive with the wonder of stories and the simple joy of reading together. The event was a truly special celebration of books, imagination and the magic of reading.

In Reception, they have had such a busy start to school life. They have all been getting to know each other, through our topic 'I am special! I am me!' Talking about their families, their hobbies, interests and their favourite food. They have been on a local walk around Hackwood, looking at and discussing all the different types of houses they live in and the surrounding amenities. They have made a great start to school life.

In **Year 1**, the children have enjoyed exploring their local area on a walk linked to their learning. They were also delighted to welcome **Little City** into school, where they had the opportunity to engage in imaginative role-play and develop their communication and social skills through exciting real-life experiences.

Year 2 had a wonderful time during their visit to **White Post Farm.** The children were enthusiastic, inquisitive and thoroughly enjoyed learning about the animals. Their excellent behaviour and curiosity made them fantastic ambassadors for the academy.

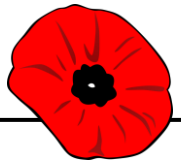


In **Year 3**, children put their practical skills to the test by creating delicious snack pots with a special dip. They enjoyed learning about healthy eating while developing important preparation and food-handling skills.

Year 4 have taken the first steps on their swimming journey this term. The children have shown great determination and resilience in the pool and are already making excellent progress in building their confidence and skills.

Year 5 have thoroughly enjoyed taking part in sessions led by **Derby County Community Trust.** These activities have encouraged teamwork, perseverance and healthy lifestyles, while providing the children with memorable and enjoyable experiences.

Finally, **Year 6** visited the **National Memorial Arboretum,** where they engaged thoughtfully with the history and significance of the site. They demonstrated maturity, respect and excellent behaviour throughout the day, making us exceptionally proud.



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A huge well done to all of our children for being **Attendance Heroes** this half term by being **Here, Everyday, Ready and On Time!**



Regular attendance plays a vital role in children's learning, confidence and wellbeing. We are delighted to share that our overall attendance has improved this half term and is currently **95.9%**. This is a fantastic achievement and reflects the commitment of our pupils and families.

We would like to say a heartfelt **thank you to all parents and carers** for your continued support in ensuring children attend school every day and arrive on time, ready to learn. Your support makes a significant difference and helps children gain the maximum benefit from their education.

As we move into **Autumn 2**, we would love to see this positive trend continue and improve even further. By working together, we can ensure that every child has the opportunity to achieve their very best.

Let's keep striving to be **Attendance Heroes – Here, Everyday, Ready and On Time!** We look forward to celebrating even more attendance success next half term.

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Hackwood Ambassadors



The children have been busy voting for who will represent each class as a Hackwood Ambassador. These Ambassadors will have an important role in making decisions in the academy this year. They will gather the views of their classmates and feed them back to Ms Reader and Mrs Yeomans in their fortnightly meetings. Their first task is based on how we can improve the outdoor areas of school.

We also have a Head Boy and Head Girl for the first time. They will be the role models of Hackwood: greeting visitors, leading meetings and setting an excellent example to others. Here is a little introduction to them:

Hi, I'm Freddie and I'm the Head Boy of Hackwood. I'm in Year 6 (Falcons Class). I joined Hackwood in Reception and I have really enjoyed school since I started. I wanted to be Head Boy because I want to make our school an even better place than it already is. I like how friendly our teachers are. I also really like our school trips! We have a joyful community and helpful teachers.

Hello, Hackwood. My name is Rebecca-Pearl and I am 10 years old and in Falcons Class, Year 6. I am honoured to have been elected as Head Girl. As I was chosen as Head Girl representative, I promise to achieve in everything I do and help others too. I sought this dream role because being the first Head Girl isn't just about kindness and being helpful: its responsibility. Full on responsibility. You have to have integrity all the time and that is exactly what I plan to do. We get to do lots of exciting and fun trips that help us understand our topics. I really enjoyed the flamenco dancing workshop in Year 5. I think the best thing about Hackwood is our teachers and what we get to learn

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Diary Dates – Autumn 2



Monday 2nd November – INSET day
Tuesday 3rd November – Children back to school
Tuesday 3rd November – Parents Evening 3.30pm-6pm
Wednesday 4th November – Parents Evening 3.30pm-6pm
Wednesday 4th November – Reception only – Bird on the hand visitor
Thursday 12th November – New to Hackwood – reception parents' session – 9am
Friday 13th November – Children in Need day (More details to follow)
w/b 16th November – Road safety week. This will include a special visitor into school.
Thursday 19th November – PTA EYFS & KS1 Film night 3:30-6pm
Friday 20th November – Book Bus in School
Friday 20th November – Catherine Atkinson MP visit for KS2
Tuesday 24th November – Flu immunisations
Thursday 26th November – PTA KS2 film night 3:30-6pm
Monday 30th November – Great Fire of London workshop – Year 1
Thursday 3rd December – Year 2 Space workshop
Thursday 10th December – Christmas Dinner Day
Thursday 10th December – Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day
Tuesday 15th December – Reception Nativity play 9.20 – 10.00am
Wednesday 16th December – KS1 Christmas performance at 9.30am
Wednesday 16th December – Nutcracker theatre performance
Thursday 17th December – KS2 Christmas performance at 9.30am
Thursday 17th December – INSPIRE open afternoon
Friday 18th December – School breaks up for the holidays
Monday 4th January 2027 – Back to School for Spring Term