

— October 2026 —

Orrell Holgate Academy

Newsletter



Learning For Life

CURRICULUM



INSIDE, WE ALSO TALK ABOUT:

Open Day

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Team

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dates

Welcome Back!

As we begin a new school year, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all of our families. It has been wonderful to see the children return after the summer break with such enthusiasm, confidence and positivity. I am delighted to say that every child has made a fantastic start in their new class. The effort and attitude towards learning have been excellent, and the pride the children are taking in their work is already clear to see. All children have settled quickly back into routines and expectations. I would like to say an individual well done to all of our Reception children who have hit the ground running at Holgate. You already make a positive difference to our school.

I have been incredibly impressed by the progress that has already been made in such a short time. Looking ahead, we have an exciting year planned, filled with enriching experiences, memorable events and engaging learning opportunities that will help every child thrive. I am very proud of the start our children have made and cannot wait to see what the rest of the year will bring.

James Lomax – Headteacher

Reception

As I previously mentioned, Reception class have made a superb start to Holgate. They have spent the first term with Mrs Condliff and now Mrs West on establishing routines, learning our school rules and expectations and making lots of new friends. We know that the transition from nursery to 'big school' can be daunting but all children have taken it in their stride and are making great progress as a result. We talk a lot in school about making mistakes being part of learning and building on them in the future. This has been a focus in Reception this term.

Reminder – closing date for Reception admissions for September 2027 is 15th January 2027.

Coffee Mornings

We are delighted to reintroduce our coffee morning for phonics and Y6. Coffee mornings are an opportunity to see how things work in school, meet class teachers, and help support your children at home. If you are unable to attend them as they are during the school day, we will send any information home so please don't worry.

School Captain Update

By Evie and Jack

We are your new School Captains as we have been selected by Mr Lomax and Mrs Condliff. This half term has been amazing as everyone is willing to learn with our new teachers. We have lots more exciting lessons to explore. As school captains, we have many jobs to help the school. We also collect house points which you get for excellent effort. This new school year has us excited for what's going to happen. We can't wait for the school trips!

Snacks

I would like to thank everyone for their support of the changes to snack across school. Children have really enjoyed talking about their healthy snacks with their friends and eating them at break time.

As always, if a child brings something in like chocolate or crisps, we will always try to find something they can have. We kindly ask that children do not share their snacks with other children as we have a number of children across school with a variety of allergies.

School Lunches

As you may have seen on the news recently, there are new food standards which have been released by the Government which all schools need to comply with. Mr Reynolds, has been working hard to put together a road map for school lunches to ensure that they continue to be high-quality and healthy, whilst still being a selling point of the school. Some subtle changes have already been made regarding ingredients (e.g. 50/50 bread is now available and mixed brown and white rice is used).

Mr Reynolds is in the process of refining the school menu. As part of this process, we will be speaking closely with the children across school to gather their thoughts and see what their favourites are. In the meantime, we will operate with the previous menu whilst the new menu is being trialled and created.

We still and will always continue to offer at least 2 hot options, jacket potatoes, sandwiches and the salad bar.



PSFA

The PSFA have been working hard planning and organising the fundraising events for this year. We are looking forward to discos, movie nights, sponsored walks, bingo and eventually the summer fair. All dates to follow.

Autumn 1 Recap

Reception

Reception have settled in wonderfully to school. They have made lots of new friends and have loved meeting their buddies.

Year 1

Year 1 have been making houses in their DT lessons as they have been reading The Three Little Pigs. They are very proud of their hard work and effort.

Year 2

Year 2 are enthralled learning about the Victorians in history. They have compared life in school back then to the modern day.

Year 3

Year 3 are flying through their swimming lessons. They have displayed resilience and courage and have made excellent progress already.

Year 4

Year 4 are musicians in the making. They are counting down the days to their first strings concert at Christmas. They have loved their sessions with Wigan Music Service.

Year 5

Year 5 have been learning all about space in science. Children have loved learning about the phases of the moon, the solar system and space exploration.

Year 6

Year 6 have taken to the responsibilities of Y6 seamlessly. They have particularly enjoyed getting to grips with their wider school roles including Reception buddies.

Reminder – dogs are not permitted on school grounds, even when they are being held. Please wait with dogs outside the school gates.

Well done! During our first ever ten-pin bowling inter-school event, we came 1st out of 25 schools. Good luck in the Grand Final!

Reminder – please ensure children have the correct PE kit in school. During winter, children are more than welcome to wear jogging bottoms.

Important Information

Reception Admission – September 2026

The closing date for Reception admissions 2027 is on Friday 15th January. If you know anyone who is applying, can you pass on the reminder of the closing date. Thank you.

Open Day/Headteacher Tours

We are looking forward to welcoming prospective parents to our open evening this week. We are excited to showcase the wonderful work we do. If you know anyone looking for a school place, please point them in our direction. We also have Headteacher tours available. These are great as parents get to see school in action. I always say that I want parents to see our children working, not just empty classrooms.

High School Application

Reminder – high school applications have to be completed by 31st October.

Mobile Phones

We have seen an increase in the number of children bringing mobile phones into school. Children are welcome to bring a phone into school if they walk home alone. Mobile phones should be turned off on arrival at school and handed in to the office immediately. They should then be collected when children have left the classroom door at 3:30pm.

Intra-school Competitions

During Autumn 1, children took part in the first intra-school competition of the year. It was a cross-country event. It was wonderful to see so many children put themselves forward and have a go. The winning house was the Thistles! Next half term, we have a TT Rockstars competition. We can't wait to see which house wins.

Parking

Please be considerate when parking in a morning and at the end of the school day. Please don't block resident's driveway, double park, or park in front of the school gates near the 'do not park' police men. This is to ensure all our children move to and from school safely. Also, please only use disabled parking bays if you have a blue badge or prior permission from school.

Visits and Visitors

We have already had visitors in school giving children lots of extra-curricula experiences. Classes have had road safety sessions with Wigan Council. Local high schools have also been in speaking with upper KS2 about life at high school and transition. We have many more visits and visitors planned for the academic year.

Attendance

Attendance is currently at 97.2% which is excellent. Our target for this year is 97%.

Important Dates and Events

Event	Class	Date/time
Reception 2027 – Open Evening	Prospective parents	Wednesday 21 st October 6pm start
Disco	Whole school	Thursday 22 nd October
Half term	Whole school	Monday 26 th October – Sunday 1 st November
Trip to Liverpool Museum	Year 5	Wednesday 4 th November
Nomad Rangers	Year 1 and Year 2	Thursday 5 th November
Phonics coffee morning	Year 1	Wednesday 11 th November
Nomad Rangers	Year 3 and Year 4	Friday 13 th November
Mental Health – Odd Socks Day	Whole school	Monday 16 th November
Parent's Evening	Whole school	Wednesday 18 th November
Nomad Rangers	Year 5 and Year 6	Thursday 19 th November
Nomad Rangers	Reception	Friday 20 th November
Trip to Liverpool Museum	Year 6	Wednesday 25 th November
Phonics coffee morning	Year 2	Wednesday 25 th November
SATs coffee morning	Year 6	Thursday 26 th November

Important Dates and Events

Event	Class	Date/time
Strings concert for parents	Year 4	Wednesday 2 nd December
Movie Night	Whole school	Wednesday 9 th December
KS1 Nativity	KS1	Monday 7 th December – 2:15pm
KS1 Nativity	KS1	Tuesday 8 th December – 2:15pm
KS1 Nativity	KS1	Wednesday 9 th December – 9:30am
KS2 Christmas performance	KS2	Tuesday 15 th December – 2:15pm
KS2 Christmas performance	KS2	Wednesday 16 th December – 2:15pm
KS2 Christmas performance	KS2	Thursday 17 th December – 9:30am
End of autumn term	Whole School	Friday 18 th December