HUNTINGTON COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newsletter | Thursday 17 September 2026 | Issue 2, Autumn Term 2026–27

"Learn to Live, Live to Learn"

Welcome to this issue of our newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome to this issue of our newsletter. It's been wonderful to see the children so settled into the new term — walking around school, I continue to be struck by their enthusiasm, their good manners, and how ready they are to get stuck into their learning. Thank you, as ever, for the part you play in that at home.

In this issue, our Curriculum Spotlight introduces some of the new approaches we've brought in this year to strengthen how your child learns maths, reading, writing and spelling — I hope it gives you a clear, honest picture of what's changing and why, and some simple ways to support it at home. As with anything new, it will take a little time to fully bed in, and I'd ask for your patience and encouragement as staff and children get used to these new ways of working.

You'll also find a reminder about the Chester Mini Marathon — Huntington has a proud record at this event, and I'd love to see as many of our children taking part as possible this year.

Thank you for your continued support — together, we really do help our children learn to live, and live to learn.

With very best wishes,

David Erne
Headteacher, Huntington Community Primary School

Curriculum Spotlight

New maths, reading, writing and spelling schemes at Huntington this year

This year we've introduced new schemes to strengthen how your child learns maths, reading, writing and spelling: Power Maths, and Ready Steady Write, Ready Steady Read Together and Ready Steady Spell. Here's a plain-English introduction to each — what they are, why we've chosen them, and how you can help at home.

Maths: Power Maths

WHAT IT IS

Power Maths is a whole-class mastery approach to teaching maths, published by Pearson and recommended by the Department for Education. It's used across Reception to Year 6.

WHY WE'VE CHOSEN IT

Power Maths is built on the belief that every child can succeed in maths — there's no such thing as a 'maths person' and a 'non-maths person'. Rather than moving quickly through topics, children build deep understanding in small, carefully sequenced steps, using objects and pictures alongside numbers and symbols before moving to abstract methods (the 'concrete – pictorial – abstract' approach). The whole class learns together, with extra support for children who need it and extra challenge for those ready to go further, so no one is left behind or held back.

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WHAT YOU'LL SEE IN THE CLASSROOM

- Short, focused daily maths lessons with a consistent structure children come to know well
- Use of practical resources (counters, blocks, bar models) alongside written calculations
- Time spent talking through reasoning, not just getting to the answer
- The same models and methods used consistently as children move up through the school

How you can help at home

- Talk about maths positively — avoid saying things like 'I was never good at maths either', which can pass on maths anxiety
- Look for everyday maths: telling the time, handling money, measuring while cooking, reading timetables
- If you're supporting homework, ask your child to show you how they've been taught to work something out, rather than a method from your own school days
- Not sure how a topic is being taught? Just ask your child's class teacher — we're always happy to explain

Reading & Writing: Ready Steady Write and Ready Steady Read Together

WHAT IT IS

Ready Steady Write and Ready Steady Read Together are companion programmes from Literacy Counts, a team of English education specialists. Ready Steady Write covers writing from Reception to Year 6; Ready Steady Read Together is our new whole-class shared reading programme for Years 2 to 6. Phonics and early reading will continue to be taught through Little Wandle, which is not changing.

WHY WE'VE CHOSEN IT

Both programmes are built around high-quality, carefully chosen texts — fiction, non-fiction and poetry — rather than generic worksheets. In writing, children immerse themselves in a text, analyse how it's written, and plan before they write, so every piece of writing has a real model and purpose behind it. In shared reading, the whole class explores a text together, with reading skills such as inference, vocabulary and fluency taught explicitly and revisited regularly, rather than left to chance.

WHAT YOU'LL SEE IN THE CLASSROOM

- Writing built around a high-quality class text, following the same immerse – analyse – plan – write sequence in every year group
- A strong focus on vocabulary, grammar and model writing before children write independently
- Whole-class reading lessons at least 3 times per week (Years 3–6) using rich extracts and explicit teaching of comprehension skills
- Phonics continuing as normal through Little Wandle

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How you can help at home

- Keep reading aloud together, even once children can read independently — it builds vocabulary and a love of stories
- Talk about what you've read: ask what a character might be thinking, or what might happen next
- Encourage your child to talk through their writing ideas with you before they write them down
- Visit the library or share books from home together — variety matters more than difficulty

Spelling: Ready Steady Spell

WHAT IT IS

Ready Steady Spell is also from Literacy Counts, and is our new progressive spelling programme for Years 2 to 6, picking up once children move beyond the phonics-based spelling taught through Little Wandle.

WHY WE'VE CHOSEN IT

As children get older, spelling relies on more than just sounding words out — they need to learn spelling rules, patterns and exceptions, and practise them enough times for them to stick. Ready Steady Spell teaches the full set of National Curriculum spelling rules through consistent routines and regular, planned revisits, rather than a one-off spelling list each week, so learning is more likely to be remembered long-term.

WHAT YOU'LL SEE IN THE CLASSROOM

- Short, regular spelling sessions teaching a specific rule or pattern, not just a weekly word list
- Songs and visual prompts to help children remember tricky rules
- Rules and patterns revisited over time, rather than taught once and left behind
- Extra practice sessions for children who need more time to embed a rule

How you can help at home

- Ask your child what spelling rule or pattern they're learning that week, rather than just testing the word list
- Notice examples of the rule together in books or signs you see out and about
- Keep practice short and frequent — little and often beats one long session
- Praise the attempt, not just a correct spelling — confidence to have a go matters

As with any new approach, it will take time to fully embed — we'd ask for your patience and support as staff and children get used to these new ways of working. If you have any questions about any of these schemes, please speak to your child's class teacher.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Learn to Live, Live to Learn

Book Your Place: Chester Mini Marathon

Sunday 11 October 2026 — Chester Racecourse

Huntington has a brilliant record at the Chester Mini Marathon — we've won the trophy for the most entries from any school for the last few years running. With the event just a few weeks away, this is a reminder for parents to book your child's place and help us make it another year to remember.

Date	Sunday 11 October 2026
Location	Chester Racecourse
Distance	1 mile fun run — open to all ages and abilities, aimed primarily at children
What's included	Medal, t-shirt, race number, drink and a treat at the finish
How to book	Online at activeleisureevents.co.uk — link below

Can we make it another winning year? Every entry counts towards Huntington's total.

Book your child's place here: **activeleisureevents.co.uk/marathon/mini-marathon**
Please make sure entries are made directly with Active Leisure Events — the school does not process bookings or payments for this event.

Key Dates

Date	Event
Wednesday 23 September	Y6 Stockport Air Raid Shelter Trip
Thursday 24 September	Y2 and Y6 Dance Workshop
Thursday 15 October	Y3/4 Deva Roman Experience Trip
Friday 16 October	Y6 Bikeability starts
Monday 19 October	Parent/Carer Evening
Wednesday 21 October	Parent/Carer Evening
Monday 26 October	Half term