



Working in partnership with our families, so every child thrives in school.



# NEWSLETTER

January 9th, 2026



Academic excellence



Positive relationships



Growth through grit

**Providing an exceptional education for every child.**

## Deputy Headteacher message

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we returned to Hodge Hill Primary after the winter break, I think it's fair to say the week did not unfold as we might have expected! It was wonderful to welcome children back after what I hope has been a restful and rejuvenating break. However, the weather had its own plans, with the school today resting under a quiet white blanket of snow. While disruption can be unsettling and a strain on our schedules, there is also something gently reassuring about the stillness the snow brings. It reminds us that pauses are sometimes necessary—that even the busiest places benefit from moments of calm, reflection and care. The snowfall feels like an invitation to begin again. Just as the playground has been softened and reshaped overnight, we too have the chance to start this term with fresh energy and clear intentions. When we return, we will do so with renewed warmth, ready to learn, reconnect, and make the most of the days ahead. Like footprints in fresh snow, the steps we take now will shape the path of the term to come, and we look forward to walking it together as a school community.

Thank you for your continued support

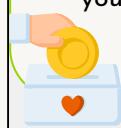
Mr Mills

## Friends of Hodge Hill

We are looking for different ways to make the most of the skills of our families to build upon the fantastic work we do in school.

If you are interested in joining a Friends of Hodge Hill fundraising group, please contact school using the enquiry email address. We are hoping to arrange several community events over the year.

We have lots of exciting plans this year, so your support will be very welcome!



**Unfortunately there will be NO celebration Assembly on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January.**



## Safeguarding news

We would like to remind parents and carers that if you have a safeguarding concerns, then you can raise it with school by emailing [safeguarding@hodgehill.create.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@hodgehill.create.org.uk) and we will aim to respond to you within 5 working days.

Alternatively if you are concerned about a child then you can contact CASS on 01213031888 or the police on 999.

Early Help- School can support and signpost families for support with parenting courses, financial advice, housing advice, food banks and much more, for further information please speak with our safeguarding team within school.

### Important Safeguarding Reminder

It has been brought to staff's attention that parents have used inappropriate language on the playground whilst dropping off and collecting their children. Please be mindful of this and all work together to continue to make the school site a safe and friendly place to be.



## SEND support



We know how challenging it can be for parents of our SEND children. To support you, Mrs O'Rourke holds a SEND Surgery every Wednesday 8:45 - 10:30.

If you prefer to email, please use the enquiry email and she will reply within 3 working days.



Inset day  
(School closed)  
**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February**

## Upcoming Events



SEND surgery  
**Wednesday 14th January**  
**8:45AM**



Baby Talk  
**Tuesday 13th January**  
**2PM**



Half term break  
**Thursday 12th February**



**Monday 2 February- Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February**  
**3:30pm**  
**KS1 Hall**

## Reception Application deadline

If you have or know anyone with a child born between 1st September 2021 and 31st August 2022, please remember to apply for their Reception school place before

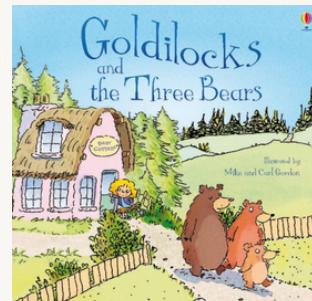
**15th January 2026**

Links to apply can be found here:  
[https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20119/school\\_admissions/1786/apply\\_for\\_reception\\_primary\\_school](https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20119/school_admissions/1786/apply_for_reception_primary_school)



## This week in class...

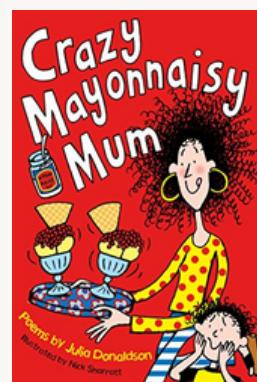
**This week in reception** we have been reading all about Goldilocks and the Three Bears. We spoke about the characters in the story and we have been using our phonics knowledge to label different objects from the story.



**Happy New Year to all year one students and parents.** This week we have started reading Little Red Riding Hood. Discuss this story with your child and have them write a few sentences describing the characters in the story.



**Year 2 have made a great start to the new year**, this week we looked at sorting 2D and 3D shapes, we wrote letters to Mr Moss on how to look after our school environment and protect the local wildlife. In Science we started our new topic 'Materials' and in reading we performed a poem by Julia Donaldson called 'Crazy Mayonnaise Mum'!



**It has been lovely to see the Year 3 children back** this week after the Christmas holidays, and they have jumped straight back into their learning with lots of enthusiasm. In writing, we have been exploring the features of a report and the children are looking forward to starting their own report writing over the next few weeks. We have also begun a new class book, The Stolen Spear, which follows the exciting adventures of a young Stone Age boy named Wolf as he tries to recover a sacred spear stolen from his tribe.





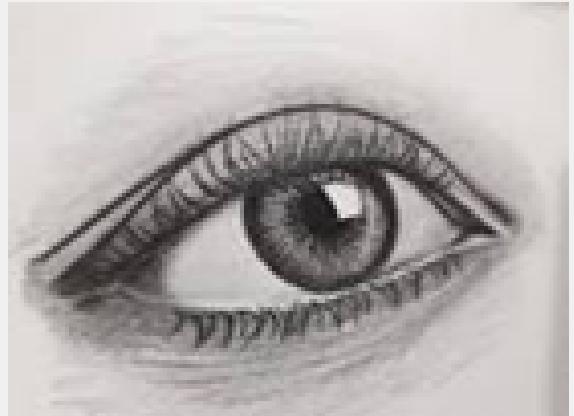
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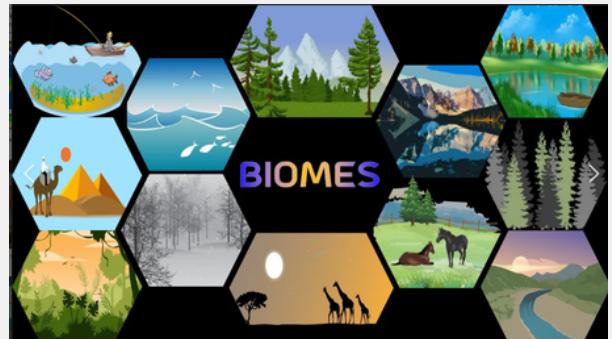
**HODGE HILL  
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

## This week in class...

**This week in Year 4**, we've had a cold start to the term but the children have settled back in brilliantly. In art, they have enjoyed sketching the features of a face and using tone and shading to bring their drawings to life. In reading, we've begun our new story, *The Mummy Ate My Homework*, which has already sparked lots of excitement. In writing, we have started planning and drafting their new report all about mountains..



**In Year 5 this week**, we have had a great start to the spring term. We consolidated our learning on fractions, preparing us to move on to multiplication and division, and began our new geography topic by discovering what biomes are and where they are found around the world. To top it all off, some of the children even enjoyed a little bit of 'snow play', making it a memorable week all round.



### **Snowy smiles all round in Year 6 this week!**

The children enjoyed playing in the snow on Monday before settling back into class to continue their work on fractions. In writing lessons, children have sharpened their skills in writing direct speech. A week full of laughter, learning, and winter magic.





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# Star of the Week

(Winners from 10/12/2025)

## Reception

R1 Hayaat  
R2 Amaal  
R3 Aayat Mahmood

## Year 4

4A Mahnas  
4M umme- Aiman & Sophia  
4S Saira

## Year 1

1J Matthias  
1R Duaa  
1T Yousaf  
1Q

## Year 5

5A Aneesa  
5F Sumayyah  
5E  
5R Hasan

## Year 2

2A  
2NK Yunus  
2SK Aaminah

## Year 6

6H Esha  
6I Ume- Fatimah  
6Q Subhaan

## Year 3

3F Emaan  
3W  
3Z Fatima

Pastoral:  
Humaidah  
Duaa





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## Hot Chocolate Friday Winners (Winners from 10/12/2025)



**Reception- Amaal**

**Year 1- Elione**

**Year 2- Aaminah**

**Year 3- Fatima**

**Year 4- Hadiya**

**Year 5- Aneesa**

**Year 6- Samara & Ume Fatima**





## STAY AND PLAY PROJECT.

**NOVEMBER 2025| WEEKLY 45 MINUTE .  
EVERY TUESDAY AT 2PM**

**HODGE HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Join us for our Stay and Play project every Tuesday afternoon. An activity-led program. This 45-minute weekly session is perfect for parents of babies and toddlers and allows you to connect with other parents, share experiences, and learn from one another in a relaxed and friendly environment. Enjoy interactive play sessions for children, informative discussions on early language development, and a variety of engaging activities aimed at nurturing your child's growth.

For more information or to sign up, please contact us at:

Email: [enquiry@hodgehill.create.org.uk](mailto:enquiry@hodgehill.create.org.uk)

Phone: 0121 464 2189

We look forward to seeing you there!

Mr. Clayton. Senior Learning Mentor.



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# Medical Reminders:



## A Friendly Reminder for Parents and Carers

If your child has had an injury that affects how they move or causes discomfort (such as a broken arm in a cast), please let us know before they return to school. On their first day back, we'll need to complete a medical risk assessment together. This helps us understand your child's needs and make any necessary adjustments so they can stay safe and comfortable in school.

We've had a few situations where children have come back with injuries without prior notice, which makes it harder for us to support them properly. By working together, we can make sure your child has the best possible experience.

### What to do:

Contact the school before your child returns.

Bring them in for a quick risk assessment on their first day back.

Thank you for helping us keep every child safe and happy!

## Is Your Child Returning to School After Major Trauma?

If your child is returning to school after a serious injury (such as a broken bone), they **must enter through the school office** on their first day back. This allows us to carry out a full **risk assessment** to ensure your child's safety while in school.

School will follow National Health Service Guidance when ensuring the safe return to school of children who have experienced Major Trauma, such as the guidance below;

### Safely Returning to School: Key Considerations, the 3 R's

#### RETURN TO SCHOOL READINESS:

**1**

- Medical Fitness: Is the child or young person (CYP) ready to return to school?
- Rest Period: Determine any necessary time off before resuming school activities.
- Return Plan: Decide between a phased or full-time return.



#### NECESSARY RESTRICTIONS:

**2**

##### Avoidances:

- Identify activities to avoid, such as:
  - Specific physical activities (e.g., weight bearing on an injured foot)
  - Crowded spaces like corridors, canteens, or playgrounds
  - Activities with a risk of head injury, including PE and sports



##### Duration:

Set a timeline for these restrictions or plan a clinic review.

**3**

#### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A SMOOTH TRANSITION:



- Pain Management: Ensure access to pain relief or adjust medication as needed.
- Facilities Access: Provide access to a rest area or hub.
- Passes and Systems: Implement hall, corridor, toilet, or lift passes, and consider a buddy system.
- Timetable Adjustments: Allow flexibility in start and finish times, and permit leaving classes early.
- Uniform and Exam Adaptations: Make necessary adjustments for comfort and performance.
- Symptom Monitoring: Regularly check for issues like headaches, reduced concentration, and evolving behaviour concerns.
- Transport: How is the child getting to and from school, is public transport safe, do parents have transport?

Ensuring a safe and supportive return to school requires careful planning and ongoing communication with parents, medical professionals and school staff.

Thanks to the internet, there are now many ways for your children to watch TV, both the old fashioned way on a big screen and via the internet with on-demand programming. Restricting and controlling what your kids can watch is harder than ever, but with our help you can make TV safer for your kids and limit the amount that they can watch.

# How to manage what your children **WATCH ON**

## TRADITIONAL TV

Traditional TV covers programmes broadcast directly to your TV without having to use the internet. This is the standard way that most of us watch television programmes.

### BROADCAST TV

Free-to-air broadcast television is delivered via an aerial or satellite to your TV directly or through a PVR that also handles recordings. Most modern TVs and PVRs sold in the last few years will have parental controls, which restrict the content available, requiring a PIN for unsuitable programmes. The exact settings vary by manufacturer, so check your TV or PVR's manual for full details. Parental locks work by checking the rating of a programme as it's broadcast. If a show is unrated or has an incorrect rating, some content may not be blocked.

### SKY TV

The version of Sky that you have defines the options available to you. If you have a Sky+ HD box, you'll need to press the Services button and select Parental Control & PIN. From here, you can turn on the Family Setting, which gives you the option to remove Adult Channels and content, and requires a PIN to be entered to buy anything or for pre-watershed playback. More granular control allows you to block specific channels, either completely or only after 8pm, requiring a PIN to watch. You can also block programmes based on ratings, although this feature only works for programmes with correct ratings, so some shows may slip through. Sky Q owners have the more powerful Kids Safe Mode, which locks the system to show only kid-safe material. This includes locking the list of viewable channels and filtering recordings to only those suitable for children. Kids Safe Mode can be enabled either on the main box or on the Sky Q Mini boxes that you might have elsewhere in your home.

## INTERNET TV

There are plenty of ways to watch TV online, whether that's via the likes of iPlayer or with streaming video services, such as Netflix and Amazon Prime Instant Video. Here, we'll show you how to control each.

### AMAZON PRIME VIDEO

Amazon Prime Video has Parental Controls available in the Settings section of the Prime Video website. The settings let you set the age range of content that can be watched without entering a PIN: U, PG, 12, 15 and 18. Settings apply to all devices (bar the Xbox 360, Wii U and Fire TV, which have their own settings), but you can opt-out devices of your choosing in the settings. For example, you may not want to have any restrictions on your iPad, which only you use. PINs can also be used to block purchases.

### NETFLIX

Netflix lets you create profiles for everyone in your house. On the Netflix home screen, if you select Manage Profiles, you can change each one to show different content, defined by age group. Children should be encouraged to use their profiles only, particularly as there's no way to PIN protect adult profiles. However, you can PIN-protect content globally, so if a child does use your profile, they're blocked from watching inappropriate content. Go to Netflix, select Account from the drop-down menu by your name and select Parental Controls. You'll be prompted to enter a PIN, but then can select which content is PIN protected by age range: Toddlers, Older Children, Teens and Adults. You can also PIN protect specific programmes by typing their name in, which could be handy if you feel a programme is unsuitable or a child has been watching it too much.

### ON-DEMAND PLAYERS

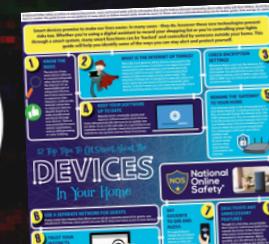
If your children are watching content from on-demand services, such as BBC iPlayer or All 4, you can turn on parental controls for each via the main websites. Controls work across all devices signed into your account. Controls vary by platform. With BBC iPlayer, the parental lock requires a PIN for anything marked as requiring Guidance by the BBC. ITV Hub parental controls let you PIN protect for content with a G-rating (a guidance rating). For All 4, you can choose to protect programmes rated 16+ or 18+. If you use My5, you can set up a PIN to protect against anyone watching G-rated content. For UKTV Play, you can add a PIN to restrict content selecting one of two levels: all content that's rated 15+ or all content that's rated 18+.

## HOW CAN PARENTS MANAGE THEIR CHILDREN'S TV TIME?

Particularly with on-demand content, it can be hard to restrict how much viewing time a child has. However, you can restrict internet time with parental control software, restricting how much time a child can spend online, whether they're using the internet or watching TV shows. Parental control software will generally only work on laptops, computer, tablets and phones. However, if you have parental control software that runs on the router, you can manage other devices, such as a child's smart TV and games console, and restrict time usage on these, too.

### Meet our expert

This guide has been written by David Ludlow. David has been a technology journalist for more than 20 years, covering everything from internet security to the latest computing trends and the smart home. A father of two (a nine-year-old and a six-year-old), he's had to control and manage how his children access online services and use apps.



You may also be interested in our smart home devices guide!



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# Hodge Hill Primary's SNOW DAY



**Thank you for sending in your snow day pictures!**