



**HODGE HILL
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Monday 16th October 2023

Dear Parents

School life is certainly in full swing now as we work hard to overcome our difficult start to the year. Our newest pupils in reception have all joined us and are settling well. Its lovely to see children from families we know already and to welcome new families to our school. Our educational visits are underway with our Year 6 pupils having enjoyed their stay away at Whitemoor Lakes and our Year 5 pupils having visited the Living Rainforest. Year 3 will be visiting Dovedale as part of their learning in geography.

Next week sees us host our Autumn term Parent Teacher meetings. These are very important as they give you and staff the opportunity to meet formally for the first time. Bookings for these meetings are available via .

IMPORTANT DATES

Year 3 to Dovedale

Parent and Teacher meetings

School closed for staff training

Half term holiday – no holiday provision

Autumn term starts

Book Fair all week

Perspective parent meeting for Sept 2024

3AM and 3IR assembly – Remembrance

Sampad Arts Foundation working with Year 2

3BM and 3AH assembly-Remembrance

Year 2 assembly – Diwali

Sampad Diwali performance to Year 2

Year 2 assembly – Diwali

Year 1 visit to Black Country Museum

Annual Pantomime performance

Nativity performed by Reception

Autumn term finishes

School closed for staff training

School opens for children

Wednesday 18th and Thursday 19th October

Wednesday 25th and Thursday 26th October

Friday 27th October

Monday 30th October – Friday 3rd November

Monday 6th November

Monday 6th November – Thursday 9th November

Tuesday 7th November @10am and 1pm

Wednesday 8th November @2.30pm

Thursday 9th November and all half term

Friday 10th November @2.30pm

2 classes Wednesday 15th November @2.30pm

Thursday 14th November

1 class Friday 17th November @2.30pm

Friday 17th November

Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th December

Tuesday 19th December @2pm

Wednesday 20th December @9.15am and 2pm

Friday 22nd December

Monday 8th January 2024

Tuesday 9th January 2024

HALLOWEEN

Halloween is approaching, 31st October please see below for advice from WM Fire Service
Halloween is nearly here!

If you or someone you know is planning some spooky fun, please take extra care with candles in pumpkin lanterns. Battery-operated LED lights are much safer!

Never leave candles unattended when lit and keep them away from flammable materials like curtains. Check that children's costumes are fire retardant.

Read more about candle safety [on our website](#).



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FIRE SAFETY

Advice from WM Fire Service

Clearing up the garden for winter?

If you burn your rubbish, do it well away from bushes, fences and property that can easily catch fire.

If you're being bothered by garden fires and smoke, [visit our website](#) to find out how to report them.

Planning a fireworks party? We strongly recommend going to an organised event. But if you still want to have your own Bonfire Night celebration, check out our [safety advice](#).

PE KITS

Thank you to parents for your support with children wearing their uniform. Just a reminder that only Year 6 can wear their PE kits to school on the day of their lesson and these should be our uniform. Football tops even the mighty Aston Villa are not allowed.

MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS

We understand that sometimes medical appointments are given during the school day, but we do expect our pupils to attend school both before and after the appointment. If this isn't possible absence will be marked as unauthorised.

ATTENDANCE

Thank you to everyone for your support so far this term. Our attendance is now reaching consistently 95% on a daily basis; however, our school target is 97%. We are here to support and ask Parents to take every available precaution as we enter the winter months.

HOMEWORK

Due to the disruptive start to the year, we have delayed our Homework offer until next week. We wanted to make sure that our pupils settled into their new routines and didn't become overawed. The Homework offer will be explained during next week's parent teacher meetings and then will start immediately.

FAMILY HUBS

Family Hubs, along with 'Best Start for Life' (extra support for 0-2-year-olds) brings a range of organisations and professionals together in one place, to offer services, advice, guidance and support on a wide range of family and parenting issues. The Hubs will be both buildings across Birmingham and a website, so that families can access the right help locally at the right time in a whole family approach.

A further 9 Family Hubs will be opened across the city before the end of 2025. These will be in the 9 remaining localities of, Ladywood, Yardley, Erdington, Edgbaston, Selly Oak, Northfield, Sutton Coldfield, Hall Green and Perry Barr.

For more information in the meantime please email familyhubs@birmingham.gov.uk or check out the 'Best Start for Life' website, which is packed with information, advice and support for families with children 0-2 years old.

HAPPY RETIREMENT

At the end of this half term, we will be saying goodbye to Mrs Bell from our Catering Team. Mrs Bell is an invaluable member of our school and is very popular with our pupils. We wish her all the best in her retirement and thank her for all of her hard work and amusement over the years. We shall miss you lots!