



**HODGE HILL  
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Dear Parents

Thank you for your support during our first half term and what a busy half term it has been. Just think Operation RAAC was a good 8 weeks ago 😊. We have been really pleased with the response to parents' evenings this week and with the feedback given to us.

Homework starts after half term, now that school has settled, and school life is well under way. Taking parental, pupil and staff feedback into consideration, we are not continuing with the CGP books. Feedback stated that the sequence of work in the books didn't always match with the sequence of teaching and as a result children were being asked to practise learning they hadn't met. This year we are going to concentrate on making sure each child secures the basics in literacy and numeracy. There may be a one-off project set by a year group to link with science, history, or geography.

### **Homework**

**Reading in Reception, Years 1 and 2** – sharing books come home on a Monday and should be returned every Thursday. A decodable reading book to practice with your child comes home on a Thursday to be returned every Monday.

Rocket words will be sent home weekly.

**Years 3,4,5 & 6** – Some children will continue with their phonics programme. A sharing book will come home on a Monday to be returned every Thursday. A decodable reading book to practice with your child comes home on a Thursday to be returned every Monday.

Pupils who have completed their phonics programme will bring a book home to share with you or read themselves which will be changed regularly.

### **Years 3,4,5&6 –**

Reading 5 times a week with reading diaries updated after every read.

Times Tables Rockstars should be played 5 times a week.

Musical instruments, once taken home should be practiced as often as possible.

This year we are focusing on vocabulary and in particular subject specific vocabulary. An activity will be sent home from Year 1- 6 every Tuesday to be returned for marking on Friday.

**Please can an adult at home sign the child's reading diary every time the child reads. This is invaluable support for the teacher and each child earns a dojo point for their House every time this happens.**

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## KEY DATES

Our key dates for the year are below. We are a busy school, so we are issuing these again.

Autumn term		
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> October 2023	Staff training End of Autumn term 1	School closed
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> October-Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2023	Half term holiday	School closed
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> November 2023	School reopens to all pupils	
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December 2023	End of Autumn term	
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> December 2023-5 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	School closed for end of term/Christmas holidays	School closed

Spring term		
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	Staff training	School closed
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	School reopens for all pupils	
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	Create Partnership Trust staff training	School closed
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> February 2024-Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	Half term holiday	School closed
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	School reopens for all pupils	
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	End of Spring term	
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> March 2024-Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	School closed for end of term/Easter holidays	School is closed

Summer term		
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	School reopens for all pupils	
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May 2024	Polling day	School closed
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2024	Staff training	School closed

Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> May-Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> May	KS2 SATs week	
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	End of Summer 1	
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> May 2024-Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2024	School closed for half term holiday	School is closed
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2024	School reopens to all pupils	
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> July 2024	Create Partnership Trust staff training	School closed
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2024	Staff training End of academic year	School closed
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July 2024-Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> August 2024	School closed for summer holidays	School closed
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September 2024	New academic year Staff training	School closed

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## Dates for Autumn 2

Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> November	School opens for ALL pupils
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> November – Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> November	Book Fair all week
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> November @10am and 1pm	Perspective parent meeting for new Reception children Sept 2024
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> November @2.30pm	3AM and 3IR assembly – Remembrance
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> November and all half term	Sampad Arts Foundation working with Year 2
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> November @2.30pm	3BM and 3AH assembly-Remembrance
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> November @2.30pm	Year 2 assembly – Diwali 2 classes
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> November	Sampad Diwali performance to Year 2
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> November @2.30pm	Year 2 assembly – Diwali 1 class
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 1 visit to Black Country Museum
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	Annual Pantomime performance
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> December @9am	Pop Up Museum for Parents to attend
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December @2pm	Nativity performed by Reception
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December @9.15am and 2pm	Nativity performed by Reception
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	Mini Reports to parents
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> and Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	Christmas parties
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	Autumn term finishes
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	School closed for staff training
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	School opens for children

## Curriculum meetings for parents

We are able to hold our curriculum meetings for parents to attend to learn more about our curriculum for November and December. During these meetings we will share our teaching within the relationships curriculum as we know some parents can become anxious about this piece of learning.

Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> November @ 9am	Reception
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> Nov @9am	Year 1
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> November @2.30pm	Year 2
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> November @ 9am	Year 3
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> November @2.30pm	Year 4
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> November @2.30pm	Year 5
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> November @9am	Year 6

## Parking around school premises

Please can drivers ensure that they are parking within the law as laid out within the Highway Code. Here is the link if you need to remind yourselves [The Highway Code - Guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-highway-code)

In particular the law about parking can be found here [The Highway Code - Waiting and parking \(238 to 252\) - Guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-highway-code-waiting-and-parking-238-to-252)

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While this isn't the whole of Rule 243, these are the illegal acts we see every day enacted by drivers using our school premises:

### **Rule 243**

**DO NOT** stop or park:

- near a school entrance
- opposite or within 10 metres (32 feet) of a junction, except in an authorised parking space
- where the kerb has been lowered to help wheelchair users and powered mobility vehicles
- in front of an entrance to a property
- on a bend

Every parent will expect road users to be considerate of your child therefore you must be considerate of other people's children too.

### **Looking for a place for your child starting school September 2024**

Please spread the word to neighbours, family and friends in the local area who are looking for a school place for their child starting Reception in September 2024. We are holding two events to introduce ourselves. These are on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November at 10am and at 1pm. Our Ofsted report can be found at [Hodge Hill Primary School - Open - Find an Inspection Report - Ofsted](#)

### **HALLOWEEN**

Halloween is approaching, 31<sup>st</sup> October please see below for advice from WM Fire Service  
Halloween is 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](#).

### **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](#).

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### If you have concerns about a child

**If you think a child or young person is at risk of immediate harm, please call the police.**

Sometimes you may have concerns about a child and don't know what to do. You can contact the NSPCC Helpline by calling [0808 800 5000](tel:08088005000) or emailing [help@NSPCC.org.uk](mailto:help@NSPCC.org.uk). Due to an increase in demand across our service, our voice Helpline is currently available 10am–8pm Monday to Friday. You can still email [help@NSPCC.org.uk](mailto:help@NSPCC.org.uk) at any time for free, and you don't have to say who you are. If you think a child is in immediate danger, please call the police on [999](tel:999) straight away.

Or you can contact Birmingham Local Authority's Children's Services who will be able to advise.

### Opening hours:

Monday to Thursday: 8:45am to 5:15pm

Friday: 8:45am to 4:15pm

Telephone: **0121 303 1888**

### Emergency out-of-hours:

Telephone: 0121 675 4806

### Childline

Childline offers free, confidential advice and support for children and young people under the age of 18. Whatever your worry and whenever you need help call [0800 1111](tel:08001111)

### Black History Art Competition

The theme of our Black History Art Competition this year is Trailblazing Black British Female. The children have been introduced to lots of different trailblazers from politics, art, music, sport, science, TV, film, and medicine. Such trailblazing British Black Females have included:

- Mary Seacole
- Dianne Abbott
- Nicola Adams
- Lilian Bader
- Margaret Busby
- Malorie Blackman
- Joan Armatrading
- Dr Shirley Thompson

to name just a view.

The children have been asked to produce a piece of artwork to celebrate their chosen Black British female and bring it into school on **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November**. There are some fantastic prizes to be won including a current Aston Villa shirt.

Why don't you have a go at entering over the half term holidays?

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS. SEE YOU ON MONDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER.**

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