



School Update

Friday 5th September 2025

01509 412188 reception@hall-orchard.leics.sch.uk



@Hall_Orchard

www.hall-orchard.leics.sch.uk



In this weeks update:

- Goodbye and thank you
- Diary Dates
- HOPS High 5
- School Travel Safety
- School Notices & News
- PTFA News



Goodbye and thankyou

This week we said goodbye to one of our amazing office team. After 10 years at Hall Orchard Mrs McLeod has decided to return to her roots and has got a job working in HR. We are extremely grateful for all her hard work and the care shown to our children during that time. We wish her all the very best in her new job.



Our revised arrangements for getting in and out of school have gone some way to making access easier but, due to the large numbers of people needing to access school, there is still congestion at certain entry points. We have alleviated this somewhat by allowing access through the 'new' Year 5/6 building (the big white one!) facilitating access from the top to the bottom end of school. I would encourage Year 5/6 children as well as those in Mr Hatley and Mrs Baines' class to also use this route if arriving from Melton Road. I would also encourage parents needing to drop off at the Victorian end of school and the KS1 end to also use this 'cut through' as it will avoid the pinch point at the Victorian top gate. We are also, now, advising parents with pushchairs and/or wheelchairs to use the side entrance (where Mrs Miles/Miss Ahmed's children enter school) to avoid the busy-ness of the Victorian top gate. As I said previously, we are monitoring the situation and seek to make improvements wherever we can to ensure a stress-free start to the day.

Kind regards
Steve Dunn, Headteacher

Autumn Term 2025

September 2025

Tues 16th	School Photos—individual
Thur 18th	School Photos—Siblings/mop-up
Fri 19th	Class Assembly—Mrs Baines
Mon 22nd	Welcome Evening—Key Stage 1 –6pm
Wed 24th	Welcome Evening—Key Stage 2 - 6pm
Mon 22nd- Fri 3rd Oct	Year 6 Swimming Lessons
Fri 26th	Class Assembly—Mrs Miles/Miss Ahmed

October 2025

Thur 2nd	Harvest Service in Church
w/c 13th	Parents Evenings—detail to follow
Fri 17th	Class Assembly—Mr Hatley
Mon 20th- Fri 24th	Autumn half-term break

November 2025

Thur 6th	Flu Vaccinations
Tues 11th	2026 EYFS Open Evening— 6pm
Fri 28th	Christmas Tree Festival in Church
Sat 29th	Barrow Light Switch on—Choir singing at 4pm

December 2025

Fri 12th	EYFS Nativity in Church
Tues 16th -Wed 17th	KS1 Christmas Performances
Thurs 18th	Christmas Dinner & Christmas Jumper Day
Fri 19th	KS2 Lessons and Carol Service in Church Last day of Autumn Term

Spring Term 2026

January 2026

Tues 6th	School opens for Spring Term
----------	------------------------------

February 2026

Mon 16th- Fri 20th	Spring half term break
-----------------------	------------------------

March 2026

Fri 27th	Last day of Spring Term
----------	-------------------------

Term dates for [2025-26](#) and [2026-27](#) can be found on the school website. Please avoid booking holidays during term time. Many thanks



HOPS High 5

This week our whole-school reward system called HOPS High 5—based on our 5 core values was again celebrated. We've linked our school rules to these values so the children are rewarded for living them through their positive behaviours. They earn value points each time they demonstrate one of these values, with the overall aim of achieving enough points to receive a values badge. Interim certificates will be issued at regular milestones and weekly **Values Awards** are given out to children showing their commitment to the **value of the week**.



We were delighted to award our **Values Awards** in Assembly this week, with children from across the school receiving them for showing our Core Values. This week our theme was **Compassion**—which we defined as feeling or showing sympathy and concern for others. We illustrated this through the story of the **Good Samaritan** and discussed ways in which we can look out for each other. Well done to all those children who received awards this week (and also those who didn't - your time will come!) for demonstrating our values in school!

We will be moving from Class Dojo to an alternative points scoring system in the coming weeks and so will restart giving out Point Certificates as the children reach their milestones. So many of our current Year 6 are incredibly close to achieving Bronze, Silver and even in a few cases Gold Awards. Can't wait to give out our first badges this year!

School Travel Safety



With us having **530 pupils** at Hall Orchard, getting to and from school safely continues to be a challenge.

The roads surrounding the school are not designed for the amount of vehicular traffic they receive immediately before and after school and consequently there is an increased risk of an accident taking place. I would ask parents to be vigilant in reminding the children to look both ways when crossing driveways and roads, whether walking or cycling/scooting.

I would also request that, whenever possible, the children should walk to school—the exercise would be an added benefit! If walking is out of the question, then could I suggest that parents park a little further away and walk the last part of the journey. Our friends at the Three Crowns (at the junction of Cotes Road/High Street) have said that parents can park in their car park whilst doing the school run. Car sharing is another great way of relieving congestion—and also a good way of sharing the dropping-off duties.

If you must drive, then please consider the safety and wellbeing of other road users, our neighbours and most importantly, our pupils, by adhering to a few guidelines:

- * drive slowly along the surrounding roads
- * do not drive or park on the pavement or across driveways
- * do not park on the double yellow lines around school
- * switch off engines whilst parked up
- * do not drive into or reverse into the main school entrance
- * act with consideration for others at all times.



If you are concerned about a car being driven or parked without care or attention around school, then I would suggest that you report it to the Police, as the school has no power beyond the gates to do anything about it other than to ask respectfully for consideration for all users. We are engaging with the Parish Council and local Police to support us in our efforts.

A reminder also that the school car park is for the use of **staff only** and **those with disabled parking permits** and should not be used when dropping off at breakfast club first thing in the morning or at pick up at the end of the day. This is when many staff arrive and leave school and require access to the few parking places we have available in the cramped car park.

We spend a lot of time teaching our children about our values (including Community, Respect and Friendship) and we would hope that parents would share our ethos, even in the most testing of circumstances, such as at drop off and pick up after school!

The safety of our children is incredibly important and even if these strategies are only employed occasionally, it will make a great difference overall in improving the situation.

Many thanks for your support in this matter.

SCHOOL NOTICES & NEWS

Free school uniform

A reminder that we have a wide selection of clean, good quality pre-worn uniform available from the reception.



There is no charge for any of these items.

We have plenty of pairs of trousers, shirts/polo shirts and dresses at the moment but are short of school sweaters, cardigans and fleeces which bear our school logo. Additionally, if you have any old wellington boots, waterproofs or coats in decent condition and which your children have grown out of, please keep us in mind.

If you have any which you no longer need, then please send them into school and I'm sure we will find a new home for them.



At Hall Orchard, we are incredibly proud of our amazing **Mental Health Champions** - pupils who play a key role in supporting the wellbeing of their peers. Whether it's offering a listening ear on the playground, helping other's manage worries,

or promoting the importance of good mental health, these children make a real difference everyday.

One of our new Mental Health Champions had a brilliant idea: to share a weekly mental health top tip in our school newsletter. We're excited to launch this new feature - here's the first tip!

Try some breathing techniques. Put your hand on your chest and the other on your tummy and gently breathe in and out slowly. Focus on the rise and fall of your tummy as you breathe in and out. This is called **deep belly breathing** and it helps to calm and regulate breathing which can be helpful for managing stress or anxiety.

Thanks to Dotty for this week's tip!.

A reminder of our **school day timings:**

- Gates open at 8.35am when children in KS2 will be welcomed **straight into classrooms**; Reception and Y1 children will still line up outside the classroom doors.
- Registration will take place at **8:45am**
- School finishes at **3:15pm**

The children in **KS2** should be on the school grounds ready for the gates to open (8:35am) where they will **go straight in to their classrooms** so a prompt start can be made. They will not need to line up, but go straight in. Younger children will still wait outside their classrooms to be welcomed in by their teachers.

When waiting outside before the school gates open: please consider your safety and the safety of others by standing away from the road (Church Street) and instead wait further down the car park until the gates are opened.



NATURE EXPLORERS



The children in year 1 have enjoyed their first sessions this week as Nature Explorers. The children spent their sessions in our Forest School area in mostly good weather (!) and enjoyed bug hunting and creating their own stickmen. They really enjoyed their time out there and can't wait for their next session!

Hall Orchard PTFA Colour Fun Run and Obstacle Course

The much-loved **Colour Fun Run and Obstacle Course** is taking place in just over three weeks! Get ready for a fun-filled day of colour, energy and laughter as we come together for this fantastic event.

Event Details

- **Date:** Saturday 27th September 2025
- **Time:** timeslots 12.00 - 3.00pm (event closes 4.15)
- **Location:** Hall Orchard School Field

Cost: £5 per person

The event is open to **all ages** – including pre-schoolers – so the whole family can join in. Run, walk, dance or skip your way round the course and finish covered head to toe in a rainbow of colours.

To make this event possible, we need a **minimum of 200 participants** across the day. Please book early and encourage friends and family to come along too – the more the merrier! [Tickets are available via our website](#)

Weather Plan

As much as we hope for sunshine, this is the British weather we're talking about! If we need to reschedule due to the weather, a **back-up date will be arranged in the summer term** so no one misses out on the fun.

 We'll also need plenty of **volunteers on the day** to help with setting up, marshalling, throwing colour, and clearing away afterwards. If you can spare a little time, please get in touch – events like this only happen with your support <https://www.ptfa-hallorchard.org.uk/contact-us!!>



HALL ORCHARD CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

COLOUR FUN RUN AND OBSTACLE COURSE

IS BACK IN SEPTEMBER 2025

PERFECT FOR ALL AGES – RUN, WALK, DANCE, OR SKIP YOUR WAY AROUND THE COURSE AND FINISH COVERED HEAD TO TOE IN A RAINBOW OF COLOURS.

27 SEPTEMBER 2025
12.00-4.00PM
LOCATION: SCHOOL FIELD

BOOK YOUR TICKETS NOW

OBSTACLES PAINT STATIONS BAR AND BBQ
TUCK SHOP MUSIC

  

Let's make this year's event brighter, bolder, and better than ever! 