



School Update

Friday 17th October 2025

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@Hall_Orchard

www.hall-orchard.leics.sch.uk



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Farewell...Mrs Redfern—Spanish Queen!

After seven glorious years, we're sadly saying adiós to Mrs Redfern, who joined the school back in June 2017. From her very first "¡Hola!" she's been a wonderful member of the team — full of energy and humour. As a cover supervisor, she has taught every single child that has passed through Hall Orchard in those 7 years—an incredible achievement. So, as she sets off on her next adventure, we say: *gracias por todo*, Yvonne — and remember, you can leave the school, but you'll never escape our dodgy attempts at "*buenos días*." *¡Buena suerte y hasta luego!*

HOPS Parent Career & Skill Questionnaire

At HOPS, **COMMUNITY** is one of our core values - and we'd love to celebrate the wealth of skills and experiences within ours!

We've created a simple questionnaire to help connect parents and carers with learning in school. Whether you're creative, practical, or simply passionate about something, we'd love to hear from you.

Please take a moment to complete the short questionnaire linked below. Your input could help bring learning to life for our pupils!

<https://forms.office.com/e/jaPAu31DtJ>

Thanks in advance, Miss Hault



Autumn Term 2025

October 2025

Mon 20th-	Autumn half-term break
Fri 24th	Mr Hanford's Holiday Club
Wed 29th	EYFS Diwali Day
Fri 31st	Miss Hault—Class Assembly

November 2025

Sun 2nd	Junior Parkrun at Watermead Park
Thur 6th	Flu Vaccinations
Fri 7th	Mr Burdett—Class Assembly
Tues 11th	2026 EYFS Open Evening— 6pm
Fri 14th	Children in Need
Wed 19th	Year 3 trip to Beaumanor Hall
Fri 21st	Mr Hatley—Class Assembly
Fri 28th	Christmas Tree Festival in Church
Sat 29th	Barrow Light Switch on—Choir sing at 4pm

December 2025

Tues 2nd	KS1 Pantomime at school
Wed 3rd	KS2 Pantomime—Loughborough Town Hall
Fri 5th	Mrs Aldis/Mrs Bharmal Class Assembly
Fri 12th	EYFS Nativity in Church
Mon 15th	Choir at Emmanuel Church
Tues 16th	KS1 Christmas Performances
-Wed 17th	
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
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February 2026

Mon 16th-	Spring half term break
Fri 20th	

March 2026

Fri 27th	Last day of Spring Term
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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 **Belonging**—being valued and connected as a member of a group—like the HOPS Family. Our newest recruit, Mrs Long, has already made that connection with her class (2Mole) and celebrated by awarding the whole class an Award. Well done to all those children who received awards this week (and also those who didn't - your time will come!).



Our first groups of **Nature Explorers** completed their sessions this week and received certificates for their amazing efforts over in the Forest School area. Mrs Harrison and her team have been so impressed with the way that the children engaged in the outdoor activities in all weathers! Well done to all.



SCHOOL NOTICES & COMMUNITY NEWS



Our amazing children have been out and about representing the school at various sporting events again. Our footballers, table tennis team and around 70 Cross County runners (not photographed as couldn't fit them all on the stage!) have competed over the last two weeks. Not only have we turned up in force, but we have been competitive at all the events. Not only that, one of teams won the 'Spirit of the Games' Award recognising our commitment to living our values out of school (as well as in it!).

Mr Hanford was so proud of you all, as are we all!



The poster features a bright yellow background with colorful geometric patterns. On the left, two female runners are shown in motion. In the center, the text 'junior parkrun' is written in a light green, lowercase font. To the right, a yellow banner with a megaphone icon says 'REGISTER HERE'. Below this, the main headline reads 'We're proud to be a 2025-2026 parkrun primary!' in large, bold, pink letters. Underneath, a blue banner states 'Promoting a healthier and happier planet for everyone.' At the bottom, the event details are given: 'Join us at [Watermead Country Park](#) on Sunday November 2nd at 9am'. In the bottom right corner, there is a small illustration of a man in a green high-visibility vest interacting with children.

junior parkrun

REGISTER HERE

**We're proud to be a
2025-2026
parkrun primary!**

**Promoting a healthier and
happier planet for everyone.**

Join us at [Watermead Country Park](#) on
Sunday November 2nd at 9am

SCHOOL NOTICES & COMMUNITY NEWS

Young Writers Poetry Competition

We're thrilled to share that pupils at HOPS have been invited to take part in this year's Young Writers Poetry Competition! The themes for this year are:

- **KS1: Recipe Poems**
- **KS2: I Have a Dream**

Young Writers have kindly extended their deadline for us. All entries should be handed to class teachers by **Wednesday 5th November**, and Miss Hoult will submit them on behalf of the school.

Entry forms are available from your child's class teacher and may also be set as a creative half-term homework.

Further details have been sent in a follow-up email.

Let's celebrate our young poets and their fantastic imaginations!



HALF TERM CAMPS

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FULL WEEK DISCOUNT
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VOUCHERS**



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SPORTS Registered**

**FUN &
CREATIVE
INDOOR AND**



Annual General Meeting – Update

The PTFA Annual General Meeting took place on Monday 13th October. The AGM approved last year's report (which will be published shortly), reports from the Chair and Treasurer, elected Officers, Trustees and Ordinary Committee Members for 2025/26, and expressed thanks to Katie and Gemma for their hard work and contributions over recent years.

The PTFA Committee for 2025/26 is as follows:

- **Chair:** Vikki Meadows
- **Vice Chair:** Hayley Hodgson
- **Treasurer:** Claire Delaney
- **Secretary:** Kate Moffett-Ranson
- **Committee Members:** Nathan Blackwell, Hannah Hackett, Rachel Peck, Mrs Phillips (Teacher), Sam Rankin, Marie Spicer, and Roz Titchmarsh

Parents, teachers and friends of the school are welcome to join at any time throughout the year. Please do reach out—we don't bite! We often meet informally (at the pub!) and would love to welcome more members to help us support our wonderful school through fun and rewarding fundraising events.

Events 2025/26

At the AGM we also planned several exciting events for the coming year, with feedback from the children - thank you Mrs Phillips for sorting, starting with the following before Christmas:

31 October – Treat Day

21 November – Non-Uniform Day (in exchange for Christmas jumpers and festive books)

28 November – Christmas Shop & Treat Day Event

29 November – Village Light Switch-On [stall details to follow]

11 December – Event details to be confirmed

We will also have a tree at the Christmas Tree Festival again this year too.

If you can spare any time at all to help with these events, please get in touch via the PTFA website, our Facebook page, email, or simply chat with one of us in the playground at drop-off or pick-up. We're always happy to see new faces and extra helping hands!

[Easyfundraising](#) 🎄 Support Hall Orchard CE Primary School PTFA While You Shop! 🎄

Please remember to use [easyfundraising](#) when doing your Christmas online shopping this year! Over 8,000 retailers — including eBay, John Lewis & Partners, Argos, and M&S — will donate to Hall Orchard CE Primary School PTFA for FREE every time you shop through [easyfundraising](#). That

means you can raise valuable funds for our school just by buying the things you were planning to get anyway — from decorations and festive food to toys, jewellery, tech, experiences, and more! Every donation makes a difference, so please support us by starting your shopping via Hall Orchard [easyfundraising](#)

Thank you for helping us make a difference this Christmas! ❤️ #Makeitcount



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

WHATSAPP

AGE RESTRICTION
16+

in UK and Europe;
rest of the world 13+

With more than two billion active users exchanging texts, photos, videos and documents, as well as making voice and video calls, WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service. Its end-to-end encryption only allows messages to be viewed by the sender and any recipients: not even WhatsApp itself can read them. This privacy issue has been in the spotlight recently, as the UK's Online Safety Bill proposes to end such encryption on private messaging; WhatsApp is unwilling to do so and has reportedly considered withdrawing its service in the UK should this legislation go ahead.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

EVOLVING SCAMS

WhatsApp's popularity makes it a lucrative hunting ground for scammers. Recent examples include posing as the target's child, requesting a money transfer because of a spurious 'emergency'. Plus a scam where fraudsters trigger a verification message by attempting to log in to your account, then (posing as WhatsApp) call or text to ask you to repeat the code back to them, giving them access.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

To start a chat, someone only needs the mobile number of the WhatsApp user that they want to message. If your child has ever given their number out to someone they don't know, that person could then contact them via WhatsApp. It's also possible that your child might be added to a group chat (by one of their friends, for example) containing other people that they don't know.

FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp's connectivity and ease of use allows news to be shared rapidly – whether it's true or not. To combat the spread of misinformation, messages forwarded more than five times on the app now display a "Forwarded many times" label and a double arrow icon. This makes users aware that the message they've just received is far from an original ... and might not be entirely factual, either.

'VIEW ONCE' CONTENT

The facility to send images or messages that can only be viewed once has led to some WhatsApp users sharing inappropriate images or abusive texts, knowing that the recipient can't re-open them later to use as evidence of misconduct. People used to be able to screenshot this 'disappearing' content – but a recently added WhatsApp feature now blocks this, citing increased privacy.

CHAT LOCK

Another new option allows users to store certain messages or chats in a separate 'locked chats' folder, saved behind a passcode, fingerprint or face ID authentication. The risk here is that this function creates the potential for young people to hide conversations and content that they suspect their parents wouldn't approve of (such as age-inappropriate material).

VISIBLE LOCATION

WhatsApp's 'live location' feature lets users share their current whereabouts, which can be helpful for friends meeting up or parents checking that their child's safely on the way home, for example. However, anyone in your child's contacts list or in a mutual group chat can also track their location – potentially letting strangers identify a child's home address or journeys that they make regularly.

Advice for Parents & Carers

EMPHASISE CAUTION

Encourage your child to treat unexpected messages with caution: get them to consider, for example, whether the message sounds like something a friend or relative would really send them. Make sure they know never to share personal details over WhatsApp, and to be wary of clicking on any links in messages. Setting up two-step verification adds a further layer of protection to their WhatsApp account.

ADJUST THE SETTINGS

It's wise to change your child's WhatsApp settings (go to 'Privacy', then 'Groups') to specify which of their contacts can add them to group chats without needing approval: you can give permission to 'My Contacts' or 'My Contacts Except ...'. Additionally, if your child needs to use 'live location', emphasise that they should enable this function for only as long as they need – and then turn it off.

THINKING BEFORE SHARING

Help your child to understand why it's important to stop and think before posting or forwarding something on WhatsApp. It's easy – and all too common – for content to then be shared more widely (even publicly on social media). Encourage your child to consider how an ill-judged message might damage their reputation or upset a friend who sent something to them in confidence.

CHAT ABOUT PRIVACY

Some parents like to check in with their child about how they're using WhatsApp, explaining that it will help to keep them safe. If you spot a 'Locked Chats' folder, you might want to talk about the sort of chats that are in there, who they're with and why your child wants to keep them hidden. Also, if your child has sent any 'view once' content, you could discuss their reasons for using this feature.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



...HEY OSCAR...



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

Source: <https://blog.whatsapp.com/an-open-letter> | <https://faq.whatsapp.com/1077018839582332> | https://faq.whatsapp.com/361005896189245/?helpref=hc_fnav | <https://www.whatsapp.com/security> | <https://blog.whatsapp.com/chat-lock-making-your-most-intimate-conversations-even-more-private> | <https://www.aura.com/learn/whatsapp-scams>