

HALL ORCHARD



CE Primary School

School Update

Friday 9th January 2026

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



@Hall_Orchard

www.hall-orchard.leics.sch.uk



In this weeks update:

- Happy New Year!
- Memorial Garden
- Diary Dates
- Promoting Positive Parenting
- First Time Admissions
- Values Awards
- PTFA News
- School Travel Safety



Spring Term 2026

January 2026

Tues 6th School opens for Spring Term

Thur 15th Young Voices Concert, Birmingham

February 2026

Mon 16th-
Fri 20th Spring half term break

March 2026

Fri 13th Mrs Godwin/Mrs Fowler—Class Assembly

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

Happy New Year!

Christmas seems like so long ago now, but I hope you all enjoyed some quality time with your families over the festive period. Certainly the children have come back full of energy and raring to go!

The new term has coincided with some chilly, early Spring weather. This week we've experienced the coldest weather (including some snow!) we've had for a while and we would encourage the children to wear coats, hats and scarves to school, as we try to get them out at playtimes and lunchtimes in all but the wildest, wettest weather!

Don't forget that if you are struggling for uniform (t-shirts, jumpers, trousers, shoes and coats) we have a rail full of it in reception ready for reuse. If you have any to donate (especially warm coats), then please send them into the office. Many thanks.

Steve Dunn, Headteacher

Memorial Garden

You may have noticed that we have broken ground on our Memorial Garden at the front of school (thanks to Jack Bott Construction Ltd) and we are about to begin the building phase. If you are interested in helping out, have gardening/landscaping/building skills and can volunteer some time to help with the garden, then please contact Sarah Hutchinson (who is managing the project) by text on 07984987340 and she will be in touch.

'Promoting Positive Parenting' Workshop

The Pastoral and Wellbeing team would like to invite you to a parent workshop entitled: *'Promoting Positive Parenting.'* The 7-week programme will give you simple and practical strategies to help build strong, healthy relationships, confidently manage your child's behaviour and prevent problems developing. It is an opportunity for you to hear about strategies to support your children at home if they are displaying anxious behaviours.

We will be holding two separate workshops.

- **Tuesdays 1:30pm-3:00pm**, starting 27th January for 7 weeks.
- An evening session will be held every **Wednesday 6:30pm-8:00pm**, starting 28th January .

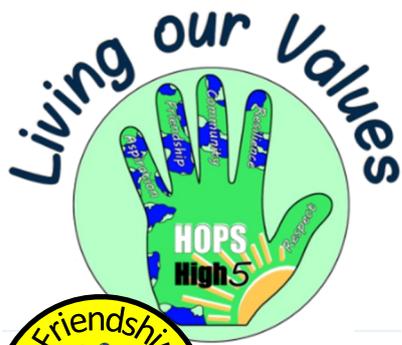
Parents/carers must be able to commit to all 7 sessions. Register your interest by emailing rharrison@hall-orchard.leics.sch.uk by 21st January 2026.

First-time Admissions: FINAL REMINDER

The closing date for applications for a school place in Autumn 2026 is Thursday 15th January 2026.

This is for parents of pupils new to the school (including those who already have siblings at Hall Orchard).

Parents are encouraged to apply online at <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/popular-now/apply-for-a-primary-school-place>



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 **Respect**. We defined it is as a feeling of deep admiration for someone or something because of their abilities, qualities, or achievements. This is perfectly illustrated by the efforts of our Values Awards winners this week who don't just demonstrate respect towards others, but also gain it from their teachers too. Huge congratulations to Abigail who this week received her RESPECT badge for consistently showing this value. Congrats also to our swimmers who competed so well in a Swimming Gala held in the run up to Christmas.

Well done to all those children who received awards this week (and also those who didn't - your time will come!).



PTFA NEWS

To celebrate the **National Year of Reading 2026**, we're excited to announce a school-wide **Sponsored Readathon** — helping to raise funds and support the school to continue developing a strong whole-school culture of reading for pleasure.

Non-Uniform Day – 30 January

The Readathon will launch on 30 January 2026. On this day, children are invited to come to school in non-uniform in exchange for donating a **pre-loved book**. All donated books will be used for the upcoming book sale, giving them a second life and helping to raise funds towards the project.



Book Sale – 6 February (during the school day)

During the school day, we will be holding a book sale. Children will also be given a sponsorship form on this day too.

- Prices will start from **25p**, ranging up to **£2**

We will accept **cash**, and for **older children and staff**, **card payments** will also be available

All funds raised from our reading activities will go towards a **TOP SECRET PROJECT** 🤫🐾

Don't forget there are still some easy ways you can help raise funds for the school at no extra cost to you!!

Support Us While You Shop

You can continue to raise money at no extra cost simply by doing your usual shopping (including booking holidays!) through **easyfundraising**. It's quick to set up, completely free, and every purchase helps the PTFA support school projects.

 <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/hall-orchard-ce-primary-school-ptfa> Don't forget to set up the donation reminder in your browser!

Free Bill Review with Utility Warehouse

You can also support the PTFA by booking a free, no-obligation bill review with **Lisa at Utility Warehouse** (based in the village). You could save money on your household bills while helping to generate funds for the school.

 <https://uw.co.uk/ref/connector/CN-JX0W>

Thank you for your ongoing support. The PTFA Team



School Travel Safety

With us having 575 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 or zig-zag 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.