

NEWSLETTER

Friday 9th January 2026

A message from Mrs Cooper

Our SPOTLIGHT focus is History, led by Miss Hirst. Miss Hirst is an excellent class teacher and a passionate History Lead, who works hard to inspire curiosity and a love of learning about the past across our school.

History at our school is taught in line with the National Curriculum for England, ensuring pupils develop a strong understanding of Britain's past and the wider world, while building key skills such as enquiry, critical thinking and chronological awareness.

In the coming weeks, we look forward to welcoming parents to our teacher-parent consultations, where we can discuss your child's progress in more detail. We are also excited about our upcoming library launch, which will further support our curriculum and promote a love of reading and research for all pupils.

On 8th January, it marked two years since I joined Hanley St Luke's as the Principal. As I reflect on all that we have achieved together as a school community, I feel immensely proud.

Over the past two years, behaviour for learning has significantly improved, as has attendance. In particular, the attendance of our pupils with SEND is now stronger than that of many other schools. Mathematics is emerging as a real strength, alongside our growing provision in STEM, Forest School, pupil leadership, performance, the Early Years Foundation Stage, SEND provision, and our pupil mental health and wellbeing offer.

We have developed a strong and committed workforce, who are relentless in their pursuit of providing an excellent education for our children. I initially offered to support the school for two years, but Hanley St Luke's truly took my heart, and I was delighted to be successfully appointed as the school's permanent Principal last year.

I feel incredibly blessed to work with such dedicated staff, warm and friendly parents, and of course, the most important people of all — our children. They inspire me every single day.

Finally, following a challenging start to the year due to tricky weather conditions, I would like to thank you for your patience and continued support. I wish you all a safe and warm weekend.

Mrs Cooper



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In the spotlight History.....

Meet Our History Team

History at Hanley St. Luke's is led by Miss Hirst and Mrs Whalley, but it is brought to life every day by all of our fantastic teachers.

What We're Learning

In EYFS and Key Stage 1, pupils begin by learning about events and people within living memory, making their learning meaningful and relatable. They explore topics such as Toys, Explorers, and significant changes and advancements that have shaped daily life.

As pupils move into Key Stage 2, they broaden their understanding by studying eras and periods of history that are beyond living memory. They gain a wide overview of how life has evolved from the Stone Age through to the present day, developing a strong sense of chronology. Their learning includes both British History and World History, helping them build a rich, connected understanding of how civilisations, cultures, and societies have developed over time.

Why History Matters

History helps our pupils develop a sense of identity, understand the world around them, and learn from the past. Our History team works hard to make lessons engaging, meaningful, and full of curiosity.

Theme Days & Special Celebrations

We enrich our curriculum with engaging theme days that help bring history to life:

- Local History Day: Thursday 21st May 2026– A celebration of the heritage of Stoke-on-Trent, helping children develop a deep appreciation of where they come from and the history that has shaped the place they call home.
- Sir Stanley Matthews Day: Friday 30th January 2026 – Dedicated to honouring the achievements and values of Sir Stanley Matthews, a past pupil of Hanley St. Luke's. This day inspires pupils to reflect on his perseverance, humility, and remarkable contribution to sporting history.

These experiences, along with the trips and workshops that individual year groups book, help children build a meaningful connection to their ancestors and understand how the past has influenced the lives they lead today.

Encouraging Curiosity at Home

We encourage parents and carers to nurture their child's natural curiosity by asking about what they've been learning in History. Engaging in conversations, asking follow-up questions, and exploring historical ideas together at home can inspire deeper thinking and a stronger appreciation for the world and its past.





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Parent Consultation appointments are now available to book through Arbor. Please log in to your Arbor account to select a suitable time slot for your meeting. <https://login.arbor.sc/>

If you need any support accessing Arbor or booking your appointment, please contact the school office and we'll be happy to help.



Friday 6th Feb - Year 3
Monday 9th Feb - Year 4
Tuesday 10th Feb - Year 5
Tuesday 10th Feb - Reception
Wednesday 11th Feb - Year 6
Wednesday 11th Feb - Nursery
Thursday 12th Feb - Year 2
Friday 13th Feb - Year 1



📖 Library Launch Celebration – You're Invited! 📖

We are thrilled to announce the launch of our newly refurbished school library, and we would love our families to join us for this special event!

Wednesday 21st January 2026

🕒 4:00pm

Come along for the big reveal and be among the first to explore our beautifully upgraded library space. To make the afternoon even more special, we are excited to welcome some fantastic visitors who share our passion for reading:



- ☀️ Some of our special visitors include-
- Katie from the National Literacy Trust
 - Tilly Matthews – Illustrator & Author
 - Kathy Tallentire – Author



Dear Parents and Carers,

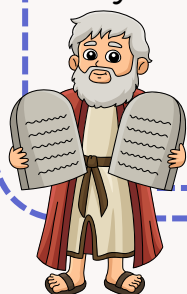
We would like to warmly invite you to join us for our Year 3 worship on The Ten Commandments. The children have been working hard and are excited to share their learning with you.

📅 Date: 15th January

🕒 Time: 9:00am

📍 Location: School Hall

We hope to see you there!



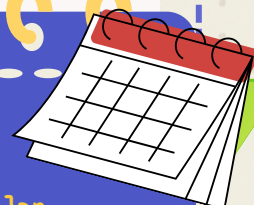
Key dates

Young Voices 15th Jan

Year 3 Class Worship 15th Jan

Holocaust Memorial Day 27th Jan

Sir Stanley Matthews Day 30th Jan





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Pupil Term Dates 2025-2026

Autumn Term 1

Inset Days

Monday 1st September 2025

Tuesday 2nd September 2025

School opens for pupils

Wednesday 3rd September 2025

School closes

Wednesday 22nd October 2025

Inset Days

Thursday 23rd October 2025

Friday 24th October 2025

Half Term Holiday

Monday 27th October – Friday 31st October 2025

School opens for pupils

Monday 3rd November 2025

Autumn Term 2

Friday 19th December 2025

Christmas Holidays

Monday 22nd December to Friday 2nd January 2026

Spring Term 1 2026

School opens for pupils

Monday 5th January 2026

School closes

Friday 13th February 2026

Half Term Holiday

Monday 16th to Friday 20th February 2026

Inset Day

Monday 23rd February 2026 Trust Training Day

Spring term 2

School opens for pupils

Tuesday 24th February 2026

School closes

Friday 27th March 2026

Easter Holidays

Monday 30th March to Friday 10th April 2026

Summer Term 1 2026

School opens

Monday 13th April 2026

Bank holiday

Monday 4th May 2026

School closes

Friday 22nd May 2026

Half Term Holiday

Monday 25th May to Friday 29th May 2026

Summer Term 2

School opens for pupils

Monday 1st June 2026

School closes

Friday 17th July 2026

Inset day

Monday 20th July 2026

Summer Holidays

Tuesday 21st July – Monday 31st August 2026

