

# NEWSLETTER



Friday 27th February 2026



A message from Mrs Cooper

Dear parents and carers,

## Curriculum Spotlight: Geography and Outdoor Learning

This edition of our newsletter shines a light on our Geography curriculum, led by Mrs Whalley. As part of our provision, pupils from Year 1 through to Year 6 take part in Forest School learning, giving them hands-on opportunities to explore the natural world.

We are also delighted that all year groups have funded day visits to Stanley Head Outdoor Education Centre. These experiences enrich our programmes of study and allow children to develop key geographical knowledge and skills in real outdoor environments.

## Mother's Day Events

We are very pleased to invite you to our upcoming Mother's Day celebrations. I would like to apologise for the recent changes to dates and reassure you that steps are being taken to ensure this does not happen again. Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

## New Catering Provider and Menu

As part of Three Spires Trust, we now have a new catering provider and a refreshed school menu.

<https://www.hanleystlukes.com/parents/lunch-menus/our-menus>

Over the coming weeks, we will be gathering pupil voice on menu choices, with our School Council leading this important work. Their feedback will help shape a menu that reflects the tastes and needs of our children.

## Journeying Through Lent

As we enter the second week of Lent, I hope you are finding moments to pray or reflect. At this time of year, I try to make more space to pray for others, to give thanks for our wonderful children and community, and to spread as much joy as possible.

You all remain in my prayers and thoughts. God bless, Mrs Cooper

# Hanley St Luke's C of E Academy



## In the spotlight Geography.....

Hello. I am Mrs Whalley and I am currently teaching in our school Nursery. My responsibility at Hanley St Luke's is the Geography Subject Leader. I ensure that the Primary National Curriculum for Geography is delivered thoroughly at age appropriate levels to all of the children who attend HSL. Each Geography topic taught includes location and place knowledge, human and physical geography and many practical geographical skills and fieldwork. This year we have extended our fieldwork day trips to Stanley Head Outdoor Education Centre which now include Year 2 up to Year 6 children. The trips focus on essential mapping skills and applying them. Children explore a range of different maps which include keys and symbols. They use them to go on outdoor treasure hunts in small groups where they find clues for geography quizzes including local places, countries and flags of the world—all of which reinforce the children's general geographical knowledge in fun and exciting ways. Our oldest children take part in a river study and an exploratory walk around Bagnall village.

Also with the Winter Olympics being held in Italy this year, we have taken the opportunity to have a Geography theme day in school at the start of February. All classes learned about where Italy is in the world, looked at the Italian flag and other flags of the world and learned about the sports and competitors taking part. All activities were interesting, practical and exciting – the kitchen staff even made some lunchtime cupcakes topped with edible flags for the children to eat. We hope you enjoyed watching some of the Winter Olympics on the television too.

Please remember to take the opportunities of being a geographer when out and about in different environments or by showing your child maps and discovering places in the world that are mentioned in the news—your support will be invaluable to their geography learning.

Thank you.





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## 🌸 March – Mother's Day Events 🌸

We're excited to celebrate all the wonderful mothers and special adults in our school community. Please see the dates below for each year group's Mother's Day Breakfast or Afternoon Tea.

🌸 9th March Year 6 – Mother's Day Afternoon Tea 2pm

🌸 10th March Year 4 – Mother's Day Breakfast 9am

Year 3 – Mother's Day Afternoon Tea 2pm

🌸 11th March Year 5 – Mother's Day Breakfast 9am

🌸 12th March Reception – Mother's Day Breakfast 9am

Year 2 – Mother's Day Afternoon Tea 2pm

🌸 13<sup>th</sup> March Year 1 – Mother's Day Breakfast 9am

Nursery – Mother's Day Afternoon Tea 2pm

All Mother's Day Breakfasts and Afternoon Teas will follow the same format:  
Tea & coffee, Biscuits, Light snacks

If a child does not have a parent available to attend, they are very welcome to bring another special adult in their life – such as:  
an aunt, a grandparent, an older sibling or a close family friend  
We want every child to feel included and celebrated.

## Key dates

Year 1 Library Visit 3<sup>rd</sup> March

Year 2 Weaver Hall Museum 4<sup>th</sup> March

World book day 5<sup>th</sup> March

British Science week 16<sup>th</sup> March

3L Stanley Head 17<sup>th</sup> March

3S Stanley Head 18<sup>th</sup> March

Year 4 Viking day 18<sup>th</sup> March



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No need to book just turn up



## COFFEE MORNING



Parent Workshop on Sleep  
Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March at 9am  
at Hanley St Luke's

This coffee morning is a great chance for you to meet Emily, the trainee Education Mental Health Practitioner at your child's school. Come and learn about the Mental Health Support Team and see how they can support your child.

Open to parents and carers of all year groups!  
Tea and coffee provided.

You are warmly invited to join us for our upcoming Coffee Morning & Parent Workshop on Sleep.

Date: Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March

Time: 9:00am

Location: Dining Room



✨ World Book Day is Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March ✨

Get ready for one of our favourite days of the year — World Book Day! Join us as we celebrate stories, imagination, and the joy of reading.



- ☀️ Dress up as your favourite book character
- ☀️ OR wear your comfiest pyjamas!
- ☀️ Enjoy fun reading activities
- ☀️ Share your favourite stories with friends
- ☀️ Celebrate the magic of books all day long!



Whether you're in costume or cosy PJs, we can't wait to see everyone getting involved and having fun!

☀️ Entry Level 1 English Classes ☀️  
Stoke-on-Trent City Council is running friendly, welcoming Entry Level 1 English classes. If you'd like to join or want a bit more information, just send a message to Ms. V. Cartwright-Davies on Class Dojo — she'll be happy to help!

YOU ARE WARMLY INVITED TO THE  
**ENCOUNTER CAFE**  
@HANLEY ST.LUKES CHURCH HALL

**TUESDAYS 8:30-10:00**  
(TERM TIMES ONLY)

FREE DRINKS, SNACKS, CRAFT AND CONVERSATION



# NEWSLETTER



## Pupil Term Dates 2025-2026

### Autumn Term 1

Inset Days

Monday 1st September 2025

Tuesday 2nd September 2025

School opens for pupils

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2025

School closes

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2025

Inset Days

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2025

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2025

### Half Term Holiday

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025**

School opens for pupils

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2025

### Autumn Term 2

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025

### Christmas Holidays

**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> December to Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2026**

### Spring Term 1 2026

School opens for pupils

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026

School closes

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026

### Half Term Holiday

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> to Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

Inset Day

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026 Trust Training Day

### Spring term 2

School opens for pupils

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2026

School closes

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026

### Easter Holidays

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March to Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

### Summer Term 1 2026

School opens

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026

Bank holiday

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2026

School closes

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026

### Half Term Holiday

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

### Summer Term 2

School opens for pupils

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026

School closes

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2026

Inset day

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2026**

Summer Holidays

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July – Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2026**

