

NEWSLETTER

Friday 8th May 2026

A message from Mrs Cooper

Dear Parents and carers,

This week, our spotlight is on reading and phonics. Early reading, also known as phonics, is a vital part of your child's education. Without strong reading skills, children are unable to fully access any area of the curriculum – including maths.

At Hanley St Luke's, we place a strong emphasis on reading, teaching children the tools and strategies they need to understand texts, develop comprehension skills, and foster a lifelong love of books. This year, a key priority within our School Development Plan is English, with a particular focus on reading.

To support this, it is essential that we work in partnership with you as parents and carers. We kindly ask that you:

- Hear your child read regularly
- Share and enjoy books together
- Encourage positive reading habits at home



Behind the scenes, we are also busily preparing for the next academic year. In the week commencing 29th June, we will once again be celebrating and preparing for change through our Transition Week. During this week, your child will have the opportunity to spend time in their new class, and you will also have the chance to meet your child's class teacher.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. By working together, we can promote a love of reading and ensure every child feels confident and prepared for the next stage of their learning journey.

Finally, we are mindful that there have been a number of serious incidents within our local community recently. Whilst we wish to protect the dignity and privacy of those affected, we ask that you join us in holding them in your thoughts and prayers, and in wishing for their good health and happiness.

As a school, we are also taking an active role in leading positive community change, working to improve local spaces such as the park so that our children can grow up in a safer, more supportive community.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and partnership.

Mrs Cooper
Proud Principal

Hanley St Luke's C of E Academy



In the spotlight Reading.....

At Hanley St Luke's, reading is at the heart of our curriculum. We want every child to become a confident, fluent reader who enjoys books and understands what they read. This half term, we are shining a spotlight on reading comprehension, with a particular focus on retrieval skills and how families can support reading at home.

What is Reading Comprehension?

Reading comprehension is about understanding the text, not just reading the words. Children develop comprehension through:

- Talking about what they have read
- Answering questions about the text
- Explaining their ideas and opinions
- Making links between different parts of the story or text



Strong comprehension skills support children across all subjects, not just reading.

What is Retrieval?

Retrieval is a key comprehension skill. It means finding information directly from the text.

Retrieval questions might include:

- Who is the main character?
- Where does the story take place?
- What happened at the beginning / middle / end?
- What word or phrase tells you...?

Children must be able to go back to the text and locate the answer rather than guessing or relying on memory alone.

How You Can Support Reading at Home

Reading regularly at home makes a huge difference. Here are some simple ways to help:

✓ Read little and often

Aim for 10-15 minutes every day if possible.

✓ Ask retrieval questions

After a page or section, ask questions such as:

- Can you find the sentence that tells us...?
- What does the text say about...?
- Which word tells us...?

✓ Encourage "proof"

Ask your child to show you where they found the answer in the text.

✓ Talk about new words

Discuss the meaning of unfamiliar vocabulary and use it in sentences.

✓ Praise effort

Celebrate your child's attempts, not just correct answers.

Thank you for your continued support in helping our children become enthusiastic, confident readers.





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We are pleased to share the dates for our upcoming church visits this term parents welcome:

Wednesday 20th May - Year 6 and Year 2 - 11am

Wednesday 3rd June - Nursery 9.15am - Year 5 and 3 - 11am

Wednesday 10th June - Reception 9.15am - Year 2 - 11am

Wednesday 17th June - Year 1 - 9.15am - Year 2 - 11am

Wednesday 24th June - Nursery 9.15am - Year 3 and 6 - 11am

Wednesday 1st July - Reception 9.15am - Year 4 and 5 - 11am

Wednesday 8th July - Year 1 9.15am - Year 4 and 6 - 11am

Changes to Breakfast Club from 1st June

We'd like to let you know about some changes to our Breakfast Club.

Children who are booked in and arrive before 8:10am will be charged £1.50.

Children arriving from 8:10am onwards can attend free of charge, but they will still need to be booked in using the Hive link.

<https://hanleystlukes.hivelink.co.uk/>

Click the free button on Hive and select either the paid option of the Free. Please remember that all bookings must be made by the Thursday before the following week. Unfortunately, due to staffing and space, only children who have been booked in advance will be able to attend.



Key dates

Please remember that children are required to wear the correct school uniform. For a reminder of our uniform policy, please see the link below:

<https://hanleystluke.ovw9.devwebsite.co.uk/parents/school-uniform>

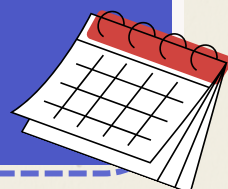
Uniform can be purchased at the following stores

Welcome to the National Schoolwear Centres

Hanley website

HANLEY ST LUKES CE AIDED PRIMARY - Smart School Uniforms (smartuniform.co.uk)

3L Library Visit - 12th May
Year 6 SAT's 11th May - 14th May
Year 5 Stanley Head parent meeting - 14th May 3.30pm
Wear something Green day - 15th May
Year 6 Leavers Photos - 18th May
No Pens Day - 20th May
Year 3 Chester Museum - 4th June
Year 1 Peak Wildlife - 16th June
Year 4 Liverpool Museum - 23rd June
Year 5 Maths Parent Workshop - 23rd June
Year 2 Class worship assembly - 25th June
TTRS Rockstar Day - 10th July
Year 6 Cinebowl - 14th July
Leavers assembly - 16th July
Year 6 Prom - 16th July 6pm - 8pm





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Smart watches

Just as mobile phones are not allowed to be carried or used by the children in school, please can we advise that the same is for Smart Watches. We have an increasing number of children wearing these and being distracted by the features and games on them. The children only need access to a watch displaying the time. Other features, apps, connections are not permitted in school.

This is to keep all of our children safe.



♥ Wear Something Green Day ♥

Mental Health Awareness Week – Action Day

Friday 15th May is all about showing support, starting conversations, and taking action for mental health. By wearing something green, we're standing together to raise awareness and remind everyone that they are not alone.

Whether it's a green top, socks, ribbon, or accessory – every little bit helps spark a conversation that could make a difference.

Let's use today as a chance to check in with ourselves and each other. A simple "How are you?" can go a long way.



Talk

Support

Take action



Together, we can create a more open and supportive environment for mental wellbeing.

On Friday 15th May, children will be completing activities in class re mental health awareness.

Wear something green- either with uniform

e.g. green socks, green bobbles, t-shirt, bracelet, hat, sunglasses etc or non uniform green dress, trousers, pyjamas, shorts etc.

🏆 Sports Day Arrangements

We are pleased to share the arrangements for our upcoming Sports Days. Please see the details below for each year group:

 Thursday 4th June  at the school

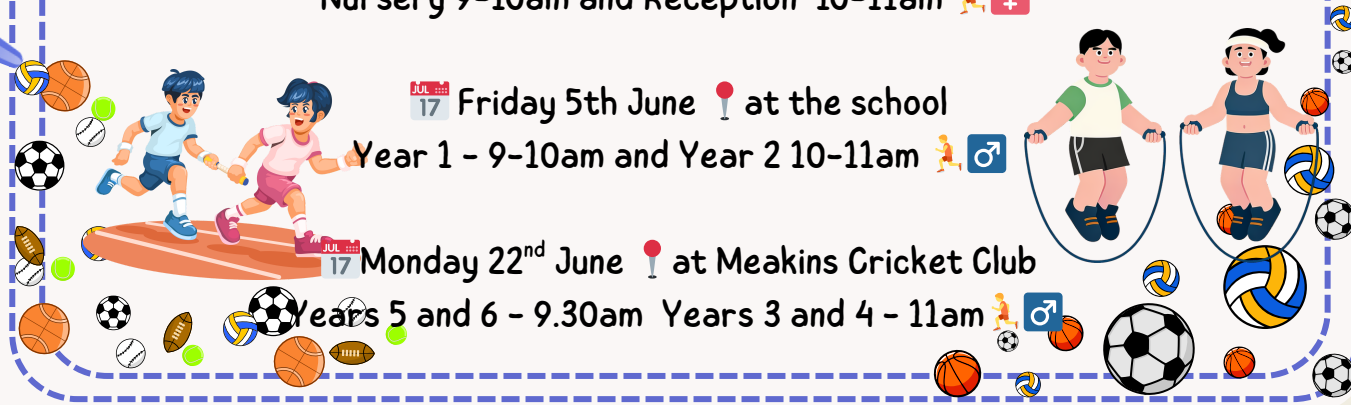
Nursery 9-10am and Reception 10-11am  

 Friday 5th June  at the school

Year 1 - 9-10am and Year 2 10-11am  

 Monday 22nd June  at Meakins Cricket Club

Years 5 and 6 - 9.30am Years 3 and 4 - 11am  





NEWSLETTER



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

