Hanley St Luke's C of E Academy

NEWSLETTER

Friday 6th November 2026



A message from Mrs Cooper

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a fantastic week at Hanley St Luke's, with children taking part in Financial Literacy Week and developing important skills around budgeting, saving and making sensible spending choices.

Over the coming weeks, we look forward to welcoming families into school for Nursery Rhyme Sessions, Family Reading Workshops and Guided Reading lessons. These are wonderful opportunities to see your child's learning in action.



Please remember:

- Odd Socks Day - 9th November
- School Photos - 12th November (Y1-Y6) and 19th November (Nursery & Reception)
- Children in Need Own Clothes Day - 20th November
- Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 Maths Workshops later this month.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to sharing many exciting learning experiences with our children and families this term.



Mrs Zoe Cooper
Principal

Parent Invitation to Reading and Nursery Rhyme Sessions

We would like to warmly invite parents and carers to attend the following sessions with their children. These events provide a wonderful opportunity to see learning in action and support your child's development.



🎵 Nursery Rhyme Sessions

Nursery Classes Tuesday 10th November 2:30pm - 3:00pm 📍 Nursery

Reception Classes Wednesday 11th November 9:15am - 9:45am 📍 Dining Room



📚 Family Reading Workshop(In the Dining Room with your child)

Year 5 and Year 6 Wednesday 18th November 2:00pm

Year 3 and Year 4 Thursday 19th November 2:00pm

📖 KS2 Guided Reading – Watch Me Learn Join us in class and see our guided reading lessons in action.



Year 3 Wednesday 2nd December 9:30am - 10:00am

Year 4 Thursday 3rd December 9:30am - 10:00am

Year 6 Friday 4th December 9:30am - 10:00am

Year 5 Tuesday 8th December 9:30am - 10:00am

We look forward to welcoming you into school and sharing these special learning experiences with you and your child. 😊

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In the spotlight this week....

My name is Miss Hirst, and I am the History Lead at Hanley St Luke's. I am delighted to share some of the exciting History learning taking place across our school! 🏛️⏳

At Hanley St Luke's, we believe History is much more than learning dates and famous names. History helps children understand who they are, where they come from and how the world around them has been shaped. We want every child to develop curiosity about the past and a fascination with the people, events and civilisations that have shaped our world.

This year, we are placing a particular emphasis on historical skills and hands-on learning. Children will become historians themselves by investigating artefacts and sources, asking questions, making inferences, exploring cause and consequence, identifying change and continuity, and using evidence to form their own conclusions.

🏠 Knowing Our Local Story

Local history is a golden thread running throughout our curriculum. We want our children to develop a deep understanding of Hanley and Stoke-on-Trent and feel a genuine sense of pride in the place they call home.

Across the school, children explore the industries, people and events that shaped our community, including pottery, coal mining, iron and steel, transport and significant local figures.

We are particularly excited to introduce our whole-school Local History Week this summer! Children will have opportunities to explore our local heritage through visits, walks, museum experiences and hands-on investigations. 🏭

⭐ Special History Experiences

We are also looking forward to another Sir Stan Day, celebrating the achievements of former pupil Sir Stanley Matthews. This has been a huge success in previous years, and we can't wait for children to discover more about his life and legacy. ⚽

Alongside our local studies, children explore British and world history, including Ancient Egypt, Ancient Greece and Ancient Islamic Civilisation, developing an appreciation of different cultures, faiths and perspectives. 🌍

🏡 Get Historical at Home!

Why not try some of these questions around the dinner table?







📸 What can an old photograph tell us about the past?

👵 What was school like when you were my age?

🏠 What might our local area have looked like 100 years ago?

⚖️ Was life better in the past? Why?

🕰️ If you could visit any period in history, where would you go and why?

Let's inspire our children to be curious about the past, proud of their local heritage and excited to discover the stories that have shaped our world. 🏛️🔎🌍

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Children in Need - Own Clothes Day

On 20th November, we will be supporting Children in Need with an Own Clothes Day. Children are invited to come to school wearing their own clothes instead of their school uniform. Donations are welcome and will go towards supporting the fantastic work of Children in Need.

Thank you for your support. 💛🐻

Wear Odd Socks Day – 9th November

This fun event encourages everyone to celebrate individuality, kindness, and respect for one another. Pupils are invited to come to school wearing their favourite pair of odd socks with their usual school uniform.



School Photo Day is coming!

We are pleased to let you know that School Photos will be taking place on

12th November - Year 1 to Year 6

19th November - Nursery & Reception

Please ensure your child comes to school in their full school uniform and is ready for their photograph.

Wednesday 9th December

- Year 2 Nativity – 9:30am
- Year 1 Sing-Along – 2:00pm

Thursday 10th December

- Reception Nativity – 9:30am
- Nursery Sing-Along – 2:30pm



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We would like to invite parents and carers to our Maths Workshops, where you will have the opportunity to find out more about how maths is taught in school and learn ways to support your child at home.

Reception Tuesday 24th November
2pm

Year 1 Wednesday 25th November
2pm

Year 2 Thursday 26th November
2pm

Key Dates

Odd Socks Day – 9th Nov
Pudsey visit – 12th Nov
6L Wellbeing Watch Me Learn –12th Nov 2pm
Early Years open Evening 12th Nov 5pm – 6pm
Year 4 Harper Adams University – 16th Nov
Flu vaccinations –16th Nov
Year 5 Library visit – 17th Nov
Year 4 Cineworld Bad Guys – 18th Nov
6S Wellbeing Watch Me Learn – 19th Nov 2pm
Children in Need (own clothes) – 20th Nov
Year 5 Library Visit – 24th Nov
Year 3 Cineworld Paddington 2 – 25th Nov
Year 2 Cineworld – 27th Nov
4L Library Visit – 1st Dec
Choir singing at Royal Stoke – 1st Dec
Year 4 Harry Potter Day – 2nd Dec

Financial Literacy

What a fantastic Financial Literacy Week we have had! We began with a whole school assembly before children explored money through engaging, practical maths lessons over the week. A key focus has been understanding the difference between needs and wants, recognising that essentials such as food and a home must come before things we would like, such as toys and treats.

Children have explored how to plan a budget, save towards a goal, make thoughtful spending choices and share with others. Across Years N–6, our long-term plan builds from recognising money and understanding how it is earned to learning about borrowing, digital payments, keeping money safe and recognising financial risks. Children also consider how money can help charities and communities, and why we should respect people's different financial circumstances.

They have loved applying their maths to real-life situations, sharing ideas and explaining their decisions while developing these valuable skills for the future. Look out on our social media and school website for more information and photos of their brilliant financial learning!

Safeguarding

We are pleased to be taking part again in the NSPCC's Speak out. Stay safe. programme this term. Designed for children aged 5–11, this child friendly, age appropriate programme helps children recognise different types of abuse and understand that they can speak to a safe adult or Childline if they are worried.

Through a short film and classroom activities, reviewed by school staff and aligned with the curriculum, children will explore these important messages with the help of the NSPCC mascot, Buddy. Every class will soon have their own Buddy too! Year 2 children will also take part in face-to-face workshops led by NSPCC volunteers. Please speak confidentially to your child's teacher or a member of our safeguarding team if any past or current experiences mean you or your child may need extra support. We are here to help.

NSPCC
Speak out. Stay safe.