

Friday 9th January 2026



Newsletter 3 - January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back, and Happy New Year! We hope all our families enjoyed a restful and enjoyable Christmas break filled with lots of special moments.



Before sharing some of the news for the next half term, I would like to tell you about our recent school trip to the pantomime. The children thoroughly enjoyed the performance and were captivated from beginning to end. It was wonderful to see the children relaxed, enthusiastically joining in and having so much fun. We attended the theatre alongside several other schools, and despite being the youngest children there, their behaviour was exceptional. I was incredibly proud of them all. I hope we can raise enough FOBHHS money through the year so we can take the children again because it was such a truly memorable experience. I do hope the children told you all about it when they got home.

We felt a little bit sad leaving our F1 children in school when we went to the theatre. However, the F1 team made sure that they had a lovely time too. They had a special viewing of Stickman in the hall which had been magically transformed into a woodland cinema.



National Year of Reading 2026



The National Year of Reading is a nationwide campaign designed to encourage more people to read, as research shows that fewer families are making time to read regularly at home. The *Go All In* campaign aims to promote a love of reading, support children's literacy development and highlights the important role reading plays in learning, wellbeing and future success. We will be taking part in this initiative.

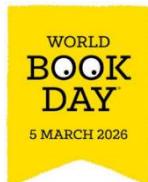
However, as you know, every year is a year of reading at Black Horse Hill Infants! That is why I encourage you to make reading with your child one of your New Year's resolutions for 2026. While reading every evening is ideal, we recommend our "Strive for 5" goal—five reading sessions a week. Every time your child reads at home, be sure to log it in their reading diary. Each entry earns them a ticket for our reading raffle at the end of the half-term! There is a notable difference between the progress children make in their reading if they read at home as well as at school.

If you'd like support or advice about reading with your child, please don't hesitate to reach out to their class teacher. This can be done by contacting the school office. Additionally, the link below provides helpful guidance and videos connected to the accredited phonics and reading scheme we use in school:

<https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>

Don't forget to check out our school website under the curriculum section to find out what learning will take place this term for your child.

World Book Day



As part of our reading curriculum, we also invite children to come dressed up on **Thursday 5th March** as their favourite book character for our annual World Book Day parade.

Online Safety

With many children receiving devices or games as gifts over the holidays, it's more important than ever to ensure their digital experiences are safe and age-appropriate. Limit screen time to support healthy communication skills and prevent technology from overshadowing valuable family moments. Set clear boundaries and only allow access to games designed for their age group. Games rated for older children often include inappropriate language and content that can confuse or even distress young minds. Occasionally children use swear words in school and parents are surprised by this. When explored, the use of these words can be traced back to games they are playing when using technology. Be proactive by enabling parental restrictions to block unsuitable content and frequently checking your child's online activities.



The following organisations/websites offer support for parents/carers on this subject.

<https://www.wirralsafeguarding.co.uk/online-safety-guidance-parents>

<https://www.internetmatters.org/>

<https://www.ceopeducation.co.uk/parents/>

The Children's Commissioner has also released this guide:

[What I wish my parents or carers knew: A guide for parents on managing children's digital lives](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-i-wish-my-parents-or-carers-knew-a-guide-for-parents-on-managing-childrens-digital-lives)

Forest School Training

One of our school improvement priorities this year is to develop and extend our outdoor provision for children across the school. Research clearly indicates that time spent outdoors has significant academic and emotional benefits for all children. On our Staff Development Day our staff were

trained in Forest School principles and we considered how we can teach more of our curriculum across all year groups outside. Our first step is to take more learning outside. After this we are looking to introduce Forest School opportunities into our provision.



Place2Be Children's Mental Health Week 9th-15th February

This year we will once again be participating in Children's Mental Health Week. This year's theme is This is My Place. It is all about children knowing that they belong and have spaces that they can feel happy.

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/>

On **Monday 9th February**, to begin the week, we invite all children to come to school dressed in something that makes them feel good. It may be an outfit in their favourite colour, a sports kit or a special accessory such as a hat.

We will also ask the children to draw and share the spaces/environments that they belong to and that are important to them. More details to follow.

There are lots of practical resources for parents that can be found on the Place2Be website. The parenting tips have been written by child mental health experts.

Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE)

This half term, as part of our PSHE curriculum, the children will be setting learning and personal goals, exploring how we learn from our mistakes and recognising the importance of perseverance when things are challenging.

We will also be looking to the future by thinking about the jobs we might like to do when we are grown up and the skills we would need to develop for these roles. If any parent or carer would be willing to come in and talk about their job this would greatly enhance the children's understanding

of the wide range of careers available. Please contact school or speak to your child's teacher if you are willing to come in and speak to the children.

We will also be having a "Jobs Day" on **Thursday 12th February** and we would like children to dress up as the job they would like to do in the future. This could include wearing a costume, or bringing a piece of equipment or an accessory linked to their chosen job.

Staffing news

We are pleased to welcome a new caretaker to Black Horse Hill Infants. His name is Mr Bayley and he has been working alongside Mr Pritchard this week. Mr Pritchard will be leaving us at the end of the week to enjoy his retirement and he will be very much missed by our school community.

Attendance and Punctuality

Securing good school attendance for all children continues to be a priority for us as a school. You will have received your child's attendance certificate for the Autumn Term. As a Local Authority school we work closely with an attendance officer who monitors our whole school attendance and the attendance of individual children.

Absence can only be granted in exceptional circumstances and unfortunately some fines have had to be issued to parents/carers because of the new guidelines which we shared with you last term.

Here is a reminder of school opening and closing times.

Doors open **for all classes at 8:40am** (except F1 which is 8:45am). The doors will remain open until 8:55am and then the doors will be closed. Registers will be taken at 8:55am and any child arriving after 8:55am will be marked as late (L) in the register.

School finishes for all children at 3:10pm (F1 3pm). If you are going to be late collecting your child from school then please let us know so that we can provide reassurance to your child.

Learning does begin for children from 8:40am. If your child is in early they will receive more learning! Do try and get your children into school as early as possible so that they can benefit from our morning activities.

PE days for this half-term

Friday is PE day for everyone in school. On PE days children should come to school dressed in PE kit. Our school PE kit is a white, plain t-shirt, navy or black shorts/joggers/leggings and a dark coloured hoody/zip up or school sweatshirt. Football kits should not be worn.

Lost Property

Please continue to label all items of your children's clothing including any clothing worn for PE clearly with their name so if found then the item can be easily returned to the rightful owner. Please remind your child that they must take responsibility for their property too.

Trophies

In our weekly celebration assembly we give out trophies to children. Unfortunately, many of our trophies have not been returned and we are now missing lots of them. I would be grateful if you could check at home whether you have any of our trophies and return them to school as soon as possible so other children can experience the delight of receiving one.

Rainy Day bags

A rainy day bag is used in school when the weather is too bad to play outside. It contains a small

number of toys/resources that your child brings in from home that they can play with during playtimes. If your child hasn't got their own rainy day bag in school please can you send one in. Ask your child's class teacher if you are unsure about the contents. You may also want to ask your child to bring their bag home to replenish or replace some of the toys.

Diary dates

January

February

- w/c Monday 9th February - Children's Mental Health Week
- Monday 9th February - Non uniform - wear clothes that make you feel good.
- Wednesday 11th February – Year 1 trip to Liverpool
- Thursday 12th February – Jobs day (see above)
- Friday 13th February - Non Uniform Day (£1 donation to school fund)
Children finish for half-term
- Monday 23rd February - Children return to school
- Tuesday 24th February - Local Authority School visit
- Wednesday 25th - Liverpool Football Club foundation in school

March

- Thursday 5th March World Book Day (Children dress up as story book characters)
- w/c 23rd March Parent/Teacher Week
- Thursday 26th March Easter Bonnet Parade
- Friday 27th March - Children finish for Easter holidays - Non-Uniform Day (£1 donation to school fund)

April

- Monday 13th April - Children return to school after the Easter holidays

May

- Monday 4th May - Bank Holiday
- Friday 22nd May - Children finish for half term

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Julie Morris
Headteacher