

September 2026

Hungerford Primary School Newsletter



“Pupils are happy, feel safe, and thrive in our caring, ambitious school.” Ofsted March 2025

Our Values

Respect To show determination and perseverance

Resilience To show mutual respect, kindness and understanding of the world and everyone in it.

Responsibility To develop independence and make responsible, safe choices

Principal's Message

Welcome Back

What a lovely first few days we've had at Hungerford! It has been fantastic to welcome the children back and see the school buzzing with excitement once again. Classrooms have been full of smiles, enthusiasm and conversation as pupils have settled into their new classes, reconnected with friends and begun their learning for the year ahead.

I'd like to extend a particularly warm welcome to all the new children and families joining our school community this year. We hope you have enjoyed your first few days with us and are already beginning to feel part of the Hungerford family.

The start of a new school year always brings a sense of possibility, and we are looking forward to seeing all that our children achieve over the coming months. Thank you for your

continued support as we work together to ensure every child is happy, confident and able to thrive.

Here's to a fantastic year ahead!

Communication



School Communication

As we continue to review how we communicate with families, we wanted to let you know about some changes to the way we will share information from September. Over recent years, the way we communicate has evolved significantly.

We now use email regularly to share letters, updates and important information, allowing messages to reach families quickly and efficiently. In addition, our school Facebook page has become an important way of sharing news, celebrating achievements and providing reminders about upcoming events.

Many parents already use Facebook to keep up to date with what is happening in school, and we will continue to post regularly throughout the year. As a result, we will establish a half-termly newsletter. These newsletters will provide an overview of the half term, celebrate pupils' achievements and share key information about school life.

To ensure you do not miss important updates, we encourage all parents and carers to:

Check their emails regularly.

Follow our school Facebook page for news, reminders and celebrations.

Ensure the school office has up-to-date contact details.

We will continue to send paper copies of information where required, and will always ensure that important communications are accessible to all families. We believe this approach will provide clearer, more timely communication while allowing us to share more of the wonderful learning and experiences taking place across the school. Thank you for your continued support.

APPROVED HOLIDAYS ACADEMIC YEAR 2026-2027

HOLIDAY PERIOD	CLOSING DATE (AT THE END OF THE SCHOOL DAY 3.15PM UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED)	RE-OPENING DATE
INSET DAY Tuesday 1 st September		
SEPTEMBER 2026		Staff return on Tuesday 1 st September Pupils return on Wednesday 2 nd September
AUTUMN 2026 Half Term - 26 th October 2026 - 30 th October 2026	Friday 23 rd October	Staff return on Monday 2 nd November Pupils return on Tuesday 3 rd November
INSET DAY Monday 2 nd November		
CHRISTMAS 2026 21 st December 2026 - 1 st January 2027	Friday 18 th December	Staff return on Monday 4 th January Pupils return on Tuesday 5 th January
INSET DAY Monday 4 th January		
INSET DAY Friday 12 th February		
SPRING 2027 Half Term - 15 th February - 19 th February	Thursday 11 th February	Monday 22 nd February Staff & Pupils return on Monday 22 nd February
EASTER 2027 26 th March - 9 th April	Thursday 25 th March	Monday 12 th April Staff & Pupils return on Monday 12 th April
MAY DAY 2027 Monday 3 rd May	Friday 30 th April	Tuesday 4 th May Staff & Pupils return on Tuesday 4 th May
SUMMER 2027 Half Term - 31 st May – 4 th June	Friday 28 th May	Monday 7 th June Staff & Pupils return on Monday 7 th June
SUMMER 2027	Tuesday 20 th July	
INSET DAY Wednesday 21 st July		
INSET DAYS		
Please note that pupils will not attend school on these days:		
Tuesday 1 st September 2026		
Monday 2 nd November 2026		
Monday 4 th January 2027		
Friday 13 th February 2027		
Wednesday 21 st July 2027		

Autumn Diary dates

Here are our dates for the Autumn term we will ensure any additions to these are shared with you.

AUTUMN 2026

September

01.09.26

INSET school closed for children

02.09.26

School opens

03.09.26 - 11.09.26

Meet the teacher sessions

15.9.26

Megabounce activity day

17.09.26

Year 6 swimming starts

22.09.26 - 24.09.26

SBMAT Spelling Challenge

22.9.26

Movie Night – Years 1, 2 and 3

24.9.26

Movie Night – Years 4, 5 and 6

25.9.26

Charity event: Wear Blue for St Luke's Hospice

Week begin 28.9.25

Clubs start this week

October

05.10.26

Year 5 Class Assembly 2:45 pm – parents invited

19.10.26

Harvest Festival – food collection for St Pauls Pantry

20.10.26 and 21.10.26

Parent consultations in person - times tbc

23.10.26

School closes

November

02.11.26

INSET school closed for children

03.11.26

School opens for children

16.11.26

Year 4 Class Assembly 2:45pm – parents invited

24.11.26

Year 1 Learn to Ride activity

27.11.26

Last day for Clubs

December

04.12.26

Christmas Fair

07.12.26

KS1 Nativity at 2.30pm

08.12.26

KS1 Nativity at 2.30pm

09.12.26

Preschool & Reception Nativity at 2.30pm

10.12.26

Preschool & Reception Nativity at 2.30pm

10.12.26

Year 6 swimming last session

11.12.26

Year 3 /4 Christmas service St Peters morning time tbc

11.12.26

Year 5/ 6 Christmas service St Peters afternoon time tbc

14.12.26

KS1 Christmas Disco

15.12.26

Christmas KS2 disco

16.12.26

Christmas dinner day - wear Christmas jumpers

16.12.26

End of term report to parents

18.12.26

School closes for Christmas Holiday

[Stay Connected with Hungerford!](#)



Don't forget to follow us on Facebook to keep up to date with everything that's happening across the academy. From celebrating pupils' achievements and sharing exciting learning opportunities to showcasing trips, sporting events and special moments from school life, our Facebook page offers a wonderful window into the vibrant Hungerford community.

We are sharing more updates, photos and celebrations than ever before and would love for you to join us on the journey

Inclusion and Pastoral Teams

Inclusion and Pastoral Teams

At Hungerford Primary Academy, we are always looking for ways to strengthen the support we provide for children and families. This year, we have established both an **Inclusion Team** and a **Pastoral Team** to ensure that every child receives the support they need to thrive.

Our **Pastoral Team** focuses on wellbeing, attendance, safeguarding, family support and support for disadvantaged pupils, whilst our **Inclusion Team** focuses on SEND, EAL, additional learning needs and ensuring all children can access the curriculum successfully.

By working closely together, these teams will help us identify needs early, remove barriers to learning and ensure that every child feels safe, valued and supported. This joined-up approach reflects our commitment to helping every child at Hungerford **learn to love and love to learn**.

Free School meal changes

FREE SCHOOL MEALS ARE CHANGING FROM SEPTEMBER 2026

Until August 2026 Families receiving Universal Credit usually qualify for income-based Free School Meals only if their annual earned household income is £7,400 or less, excluding benefits.

1. WHAT'S CHANGING?

From September 2026 All children living in households that receive Universal Credit will be eligible for Free School Meals, regardless of household earnings.

2. WHICH TYPE OF FREE SCHOOL MEALS WILL MY CHILD RECEIVE?

Targeted Free School Meals

For families who:

- Receive Universal Credit and have an annual earned household income of £7,400 or less, excluding benefits. OR
- Receive other qualifying benefits, including:
 - Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
 - Pension Credit (Guarantee Credit)
 - Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

Targeted FSM can also generate additional Pupil Premium funding for the school.

Universal Free School Meals

For children who:

- Live in a household receiving Universal Credit
- Do not meet the criteria for Targeted FSM

This new category provides eligible children with a free school meal from September 2026.

3. WHY SHOULD I APPLY?

A Free School Meal

Your child can receive a free meal during the school day.

Help The School

Children eligible for Targeted FSM may also attract additional Pupil Premium funding to support their education.

Save 2 Pupils A Month From

If you receive Universal Credit, please apply even if your child already receives a free meal through Universal Infant Free School Meals.

4. WHEN CAN I APPLY?

1 August 2026

Parents and carers can apply for FSM for the 2026/27 academic year.

5. HOW CAN I APPLY?

Online Application

The application takes around 10 minutes, and you will need your National Insurance Number to hand.

SCAN ME

Questions?
Please contact the school office if you need help completing your application.

01276 902 057

School Meals





As we begin a new academic year, we would like to remind all families of the importance of pre-ordering school meals through ParentPay.

Booking meals in advance helps our catering team prepare the correct number of meals each day and ensures that children are more likely to receive their preferred menu choice. This applies to all pupils, including those who receive Universal Infant Free School Meals or Free School Meals, as meals still need to be selected even when no payment is required.

We would be grateful for your support in ensuring meal choices are booked in advance wherever possible, as this helps the school and catering staff plan effectively and reduce food waste.

If you experience any difficulties accessing ParentPay or booking meals, please contact the school office and we will be happy to help.

Thank you for your cooperation and support as we start the new school year.

Uniform

Uniform Expectations

As we begin another exciting school year, we would like to thank parents and carers for your continued support in helping our pupils look smart, feel part of our school community, and arrive ready to learn each day.

Our key uniform expectations are:

- Black shoes or plain black trainers
- Navy sweatshirt or cardigan (with or without the school logo)
- Sky blue polo shirt (with or without the school logo)
- Dark grey trousers, skirts or pinafores
- No hoodies or branded sweatshirts
- PE kit: white or sky blue T-shirt, navy or black shorts, pumps for indoor PE and trainers for outdoor PE

- Jewellery should not be worn, with the exception of small stud earrings where permitted
- **Hairstyles should be appropriate for a primary school setting, with no shaved patterns, extreme styles or unnatural hair colours**

A smart and consistent uniform helps to promote a sense of belonging and pride in our school. We appreciate your support in ensuring children arrive each day dressed appropriately for both learning and physical activity.

We understand that occasional difficulties can arise. If there is a temporary issue with uniform, please let your child's class teacher know. If you are experiencing challenges sourcing uniform items, please contact the school office. We have a range of good-quality, nearly-new uniform available and will always do our best to support families.

Thank you for your continued partnership in helping our children make a positive start to the year and in maintaining the high standards that make Hungerford Primary Academy such a special place to learn and grow.

Daily reporting of absences

If your child is unable to attend school, please ensure that you inform the school office as soon as possible on the morning of their absence. You can do this by calling the school and selecting **option 1** to leave a message on our dedicated absence line.

To help us safeguard all pupils and maintain accurate attendance records, it is important that **every absence is reported to the office each day that your child is absent.**

Thank you for your support in helping us keep our children safe and accounted for

Attendance



Good attendance is one of the most important factors in helping children achieve their full potential. Every day in school provides valuable learning opportunities, helps children build friendships and routines, and supports their overall wellbeing.

We encourage all pupils to aim for the highest attendance possible. Even a small amount of missed learning can quickly add up, making it more difficult for children to keep pace with the curriculum and feel confident in their learning.

Thank you to all of our families who work hard to ensure their children attend school regularly and arrive on time each day. If you are experiencing any difficulties or have concerns about your child's attendance, please contact the school office. We are here to work in partnership with you and provide support wherever we can.

Every day counts, and together we can help every child make the most of their education.

Did you know...?

- **A child who is 10 minutes late misses 32 hours a year of education.**
- **A child who misses 1 day a week loses 2 months a year of education.**
- **Half a day a week missed throughout school life equates to 1 full year of lost education.**

Penalty Notice Fines for School

Penalty Notices may be issued for:

Term time Leave: Penalty Notice fines may be issued for term time leave of 5 or more days (10 sessions) in a 10-week period.

10 Sessions of Unauthorised absence in a rolling 10 week period: A Penalty Notices may be considered when there have been 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10-week period.

However, school retain the discretion to request a Penalty Notice before the threshold is met. For example, where parents/carers are deliberately avoiding the national threshold by taking several term time holidays below the threshold.

Per Parent/Per Child:

Penalty Notice fines will continue to be issued per parent/carer per child. For example: 3 siblings absent for term time leave, would result in each parent/carer receiving 3 separate fines.

First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for term time leave or irregular school attendance the fine will be charged at:

£160 per parent/carer, per child if paid within 28 days of the issue, reducing to £80 per parent/carer, per child if paid within 21 days.

(Unpaid penalty notices may result in a parental prosecution)

Second Offence

Where it is deemed appropriate to issue a second penalty notice to the same parent/carer for the same pupil within 3 years of the first penalty notice, for either term time leave or irregular attendance the second penalty notice will be charged at:

£160 if paid within 28 days. (Unpaid penalty notices may result in a parental prosecution)

Third Offence

On the third time that an offence is committed within 3 years of the first penalty notice for either a term time leave or irregular attendance a penalty notice will not be issued.

The Local Authority may place the matter before the court. The Magistrates may impose a fine up to £2500.

The case may proceed to Parental Prosecution under the Single Justice Procedure. If found guilty of the offence of 'Failure to send a child to school' the Magistrates can impose a fine up to £1000 or legal proceedings under Section 444 (1a) can include a fine of up to £2500.

Safeguarding

At Hungerford Primary Academy, the safety and wellbeing of our children is at the heart of everything we do. We are committed to ensuring that every child feels safe, supported and valued, and we encourage parents and carers to contact us if they have any concerns about a child's welfare or wellbeing.

If you would like to speak to a member of our Safeguarding Team, please contact the school office on **01270 902057**. Our safeguarding leads are:

- **Mrs Wheaver** and **Mrs Carman** – Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs)
- **Mrs Blackburn** and **Miss Tomley** – Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads (DDSLs)

You can also email **hungerfordoffice@sbmat.org**, and our Admin Team will ensure that your message is passed promptly to the most appropriate member of staff.

We believe that strong partnerships between home and school are essential in keeping children safe, happy and able to thrive. If you are worried about a child, no matter how small the concern may seem, please do get in touch. We are here to listen and help.

[learn to love and love to learn](#)