



Hillborough Infant and Nursery School

Newsletter – 22nd May 2026

Value of the month – our value of the month is **empowerment**.

Language of the month – Punjabi

Dear parents and guardians,

As we approach the half-term break, I would like to send a warm thank you to all of our families for your continued support, enthusiasm, and wonderful partnership in school life. This month, our whole-school value is empowerment—supporting our children to find their unique voices, make positive choices, and feel truly confident to lead their own learning. It has been incredibly rewarding to observe our pupils taking on small responsibilities with such pride and independence across the school. We are also continuing to celebrate Punjabi as our language of the month, and it is wonderful to see the children engaging so enthusiastically with new words, stories, and cultural learning across our school community.

Half term break - Please note that school will be closed next week for the half-term holiday. We hope that all of our families have a wonderful, restful, and safe break. We very much look forward to seeing everyone back at school on **Monday 1st June 2026 at 08:50**, ready for an exciting final half of the summer term.

Water Safety - With the warmer weather, arriving and the summer season fast approaching, we want to ensure that all our pupils stay safe around water. Whether you are visiting a local swimming pool, spending time at the beach, or enjoying a paddling pool in the garden at home, please remember that constant adult supervision is absolutely vital. Taking a few moments to talk through basic water safety rules with your child can make a significant difference in keeping everyone protected and happy in the sunshine.

Walk to school week - We are delighted to share information regarding 'Walk to School Week' in partnership with Living Streets. Choosing to walk to school brings exceptional benefits to our pupils, families, and local community. Some of the wonderful reasons to participate include:

- **Healthier bodies and happier minds:** Walking is an excellent way to support physical health and promote a positive, focused mindset for children before their school day starts.
- **Fewer cars at the school gates:** Reducing traffic directly outside the school creates a much safer environment for families during busy drop-off and collection times.
- **Less air pollution:** Swapping a car journey for a walk reduces local emissions, ensuring cleaner and fresher air around our school grounds.
- **Time to chat with family and friends:** The walk to school offers a beautiful opportunity to spend quality time talking, sharing stories, and connecting with your children and neighbours.

We encourage all our families to start experiencing these benefits today—let us swap our school rides for a school stride!

ParentMail – the school's preferred method of communication with all parents and carers. Please ensure that you are signed up to receive messages this way. Documents can easily be translated into a wide range of languages.

Mental Health Awareness Week – not just for the week, but every week. We wanted to share the links that we gave out a few weeks ago. If you'd like more information, or are looking for ways to support your child's wellbeing at home, the following UK websites offer practical tips and advice for families:

- [YoungMinds](#): Support and resources for children and parents about mental health.
- [Childline](#): Confidential advice and support for children and young people.
- [NHS Every Mind Matters](#): Ideas and guidance for families and young people on looking after their mental health.

- [MindEd for Families](#): Free, trusted advice to help families understand and support children's mental health.

Parentsafe – click the link for a wide range of advice and support around [‘keeping your children safe: online & beyond’](#).

Health and safety at home and on the road – a gentle reminder that small checks can make a big difference to family safety. For practical guidance, you may find these trusted UK resources helpful: [RoSPA home safety \(preventing accidents in the home\)](#), [GOV.UK child car seat rules](#) and [NHS guidance on choosing a baby car seat](#), plus [GOV.UK fire safety in the home](#) and [HSE carbon monoxide advice](#).

SEND – our SENDCo has asked us to share the following reminder for families: please check the Local Offer calendar for a range of events and support networks. [Luton Local Offer Calendar](#)

Book bags/school bags – school is unable to store the backpacks that some children bring in. Your child has a tray in their classroom, which comfortably fits a standard book bag. We ask that you **do not** send in backpacks. We also ask that you **do not attach charms or other items** to book bags, as they can be dangerous for some of our children, pose a choking hazard and may lead to envy or theft.

Updates from year groups:

- **Nursery & Reception** – they produce a wonderful weekly newsletter with exciting information about what they are working on and how you can best support your child during the week.
- **Year 1** – Year 1 has had a wonderful and busy fortnight! Here is a snapshot of what your children have been learning and experiencing across the curriculum: In English, we are reading the imaginative story [Chalk](#). The children have absolutely loved this book, which has no words, and they will soon be stepping into the role of authors to write their very own narrative for the story. We have also learnt about plurals and looked at how to use exclamation marks. To extend our learning, we took our education outdoors and used chalk to draw our own wonderful images on the playground. In another core subject, science has been very hands-on! We have planted cress seeds and are observing them closely as they grow, which is helping us learn about what plants need to thrive. The children have been measuring how much they have grown and inputting this data onto a graph. Alongside this, we have also been learning to identify common trees in the UK and within our local area.

With the rest of our foundation subjects - In art, we have been getting highly creative by making our very own clay vases. The children worked incredibly hard to mould and shape their vases, showing fantastic concentration and creativity. We are excited to announce that they have even painted them too! Our history lessons have been all about Mary Anning, the famous fossil hunter. The children have thoroughly enjoyed learning about her historic discoveries and exploring why she is such an important figure in history.

- **Year 2** – It has been an incredibly busy and productive couple of weeks for our Year 2 pupils as we head towards the end of this half term. Budding authors and environmentalists in English, we have been diving into the story of [Alba the 100 Year Old Fish](#) to learn about the impact of pollution on our oceans. The children have been exploring the reef through Alba's eyes, even taking part in "hot seating" to imagine how she felt getting stuck in a plastic bottle. We have also been busy writing non-chronological reports and booklets about how we can help the environment, focusing on using factual adjectives and different sentence types like questions and exclamations. Our mathematicians have been working hard on problem-solving using all four operations. We have been focusing on finding the most "efficient strategy" for calculations—whether that is using number bonds, rebalancing, or drawing arrays. The children have also become experts at using bar models to solve tricky worded problems involving fractions, such as finding $\frac{1}{4}$ or $\frac{3}{4}$ of an amount.

With our other foundation subjects – being explorers and scientists we've stepped back in time to follow the travels of Charles Darwin. Using atlases and Google Maps, the children tracked his journey from the UK to the Galapagos Islands and even recorded their own weather reports comparing the climates of the two locations. In science, we've introduced the concept of evolution, and the children had a lot of fun predicting

what humans might look like in another 2000 years! In our DT lessons, the children put their food hygiene and knife skills to the test. Using the ["Bridge and Claw"](#) methods, they chopped and prepared vegetables to make a healthy soup, which they then evaluated to see how they could make it even better next time. Finally, in computing, we have been using [Brush Ninja](#) to create fantastic animations based on the habitats we have been studying.

Ideas for the weekend and beyond – [Events, arts and culture in Luton](#) or [The Culture Trust Luton](#).

Hillborough Infant & Nursery School Team