

We are inclusive, confident, and enterprising learners who are brave, curious, optimistic, and kind. We are ready to embrace the future!



FRIDAY, 16TH MAY 2025

CONTACT US ON



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Update - Mrs. Jones

Dear Parents, Guardians, Carers,

As we move through this vibrant term, I continue to be inspired by the curiosity, creativity, and enthusiasm shown by our children across all year groups. Walking through our school, I witness moments of discovery and growth that remind us all why learning should be a joyful adventure.

Our Year 6 pupils deserve special recognition for their remarkable resilience during their recent SATs assessments. They approached each paper with determination and focus, qualities that will serve them well throughout life. I want each of you to remember that these tests capture just a snapshot of your capabilities - they don't measure your kindness when helping a classmate, your creativity when performing, or your courage when facing new challenges. You are so much more than a test result, and we are immensely proud of you all.

Throughout the school, hands-on experiences have brought learning to life. Our Reception children have been busy constructing houses and measuring their heights, developing important mathematical concepts through play. After a visit from medical professionals, they've shown tremendous empathy in their role-play, caring for one another with their medical kits - nurturing important social skills that form the foundation of all learning.

Year 1 embraced their "Experience Week" with tremendous enthusiasm, beginning with collaborative team-building challenges before exploring the rock pools at Mount Batten Beach with experts from the National Marine Aquarium. Back in the classroom, they created edible art inspired by their discoveries - a delicious way to consolidate their learning about marine habitats!

Year 3 demonstrated their growing independence during Design Technology, crafting cheese sandwiches with careful attention to detail. These practical skills support not just their technical abilities but also their confidence and self-reliance.

Year 5's artistic achievements have been particularly impressive this term. Their visit to The Box as part of the ProBleu project resulted in stunning feather-inspired sculptures - with some pieces selected for display at the museum for the rest of the month! They've also created beautiful Japanese-inspired origami birds using watercolour techniques, showcasing their artistic vision and precision.

These rich learning experiences are made possible by our dedicated team who work tirelessly to create meaningful opportunities that engage and inspire every child. Their commitment to nurturing both academic progress and personal development is what makes Hyde Park such a special place to learn and grow.

As we look ahead, we'll be supporting all transitions carefully - both for our Year 6 pupils moving to secondary school and for children moving between year groups who would benefit from enhanced transition support. Further information will be shared shortly about these important preparations.

Thank you for your continued partnership in your children's educational journey. Together, we're helping them develop the skills, confidence and curiosity that will serve them throughout life.

Have a safe weekend.

Exploring Colour & Creativity!

Recently, children in Reception have been diving into the wonderful world of colour mixing! They loved experimenting with paints to create their own unique shades, using them to bring a beloved story character to life. It was fantastic to see their creativity and curiosity shine as they discovered how colours blend and transform.

KIND HANDS, KIND FEET, KIND WORDS, KIND ACTIONS



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Year 1– Experience Week Highlights!

What an exciting and busy Experience Week our Year 1 children had! The children embraced teamwork, exploration, and creativity—take a look at what they've been up to:

Rock Pool Adventure with ProBleu!

As part of the ProBleu project, the children visited Mount Batten Beach to explore the fascinating rock pools with experts from the National Marine Aquarium. The children learned how to stay safe while observing sea creatures and discussed how to protect their habitats. They discovered crabs, limpets, and even a brittle starfish—how amazing! The children showed fantastic curiosity and care for marine life.

Creative Biscuit Decorating

Back in the classroom, the children brought their rockpool discoveries to life—with biscuits! The children decorated their own edible masterpieces, using blue icing for the sea and sweet decorations to craft jellyfish, starfish, and more. They looked almost too good to eat (but we're sure they tasted delicious!).

Team Building Fun!

To kick off the week, the children took part in team-building games and challenges, working together to solve problems, share ideas, and support each other. It was wonderful to see their teamwork and communication skills in action!

A huge well done to all our Year 1 explorers for such a fantastic week and to our colleagues and parent volunteers who made all this possible!



Marine Life Fact:

"Did you know? Brittle stars can regrow their arms if they lose one—just like a superhero's power!"

"Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once we grow up." — Pablo Picasso

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Building, Measuring, and Caring

In Reception, our young learners have been enthusiastically engaged in hands-on activities that blend creativity, maths, and role-play.

The children have been constructing houses in our classroom environments, using measuring tools to compare heights and sizes—a wonderful way to explore early maths concepts through play.

Following our visit from the medical team, our classroom has transformed into a caring community. The children have been nurturing their social skills through medical role-play, taking turns to care for one another with our medical kits.

Key Learning Points:

Practical measuring activities develop early mathematical understanding

Role-play fosters empathy, communication, and social development

We're incredibly proud of how the children have embraced these learning opportunities with such enthusiasm and cooperation.

"Play is the highest form of research." - Albert Einstein



Year 3's Tasty Triumph in Design Technology!

This term, Year 3 embraced the art of cooking in their Design Technology lesson, where they crafted delicious cheese sandwiches with enthusiasm and care. The children began by carefully buttering their bread, then layering on fresh tomato slices and generous portions of cheese to create their edible masterpieces.

As they worked, they practised essential kitchen skills, from precise cutting to thoughtful assembly, all while learning the importance of safety and teamwork. The lesson culminated in a joyful tasting session, where the children proudly enjoyed their creations together—a perfect blend of learning and fun!

Well done to our budding Year 3 chefs!



"Good food is all about sharing creativity and care."

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Year 5's Inspiring Visit to The Box

Our Year 5 pupils embarked on an exciting visit to The Box as part of the Pro Bleu project, where they explored the fascinating world of local birdlife. The children drew inspiration from artists who incorporate feathers into their work, channelling their creativity into crafting their own stunning sculptures.

Working brilliantly in teams, the children demonstrated both collaboration and artistic flair, producing exceptional pieces—so impressive, in fact, that some will be displayed at The Box for the rest of the month!

A huge well done to our talented young artists for their hard work and creativity. Be sure to visit The Box to admire their work if you can!



"Art enables us to find ourselves and lose ourselves at the same time."— Thomas Merton

Year 5's Stunning Art Exhibition

This week marked the completion of Year 5's exquisite art projects, where traditional Japanese inspiration met modern creativity. The children masterfully transformed simple cartridge paper into vibrant canvases, using watercolours to create rich, textured effects on both sides of each sheet.

Their artistic journey continued as they folded these painted papers using authentic origami techniques, crafting delicate Japanese-inspired birds that showcase both precision and imagination. The resulting pieces are truly breathtaking - a testament to the children's focus, skill and artistic vision.

These beautiful works demonstrate how traditional techniques can be reinterpreted through young, creative minds. We're incredibly proud of what Year 5 has achieved and can't wait to share their creations with the school community.

Well done to our talented Year 5 artists!



"The artist's world is limitless. It can be found anywhere, far from where he lives or a few feet away." - Henry Moore



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Getting Ready for Reception: New School Readiness Initiative

Starting school is a big step, and a new national initiative is helping parents and carers prepare their little ones for Reception. Backed by the Education Secretary, the **School Readiness Skills Checklist** outlines key areas to support children before their first day—such as toilet training, using cutlery, sharing toys, recognising their name, and expressing emotions. This practical guide ensures all children have the best possible start, helping them feel confident, independent, and ready to learn! Read more about the checklist here:

[School Readiness - Reception](#)

Governors' update

As we near the end of the Spring Term, we reflect on the work we have carried out in support of Hyde Park Schools. The governors have carried out a number of visits this term including a safeguarding walk, observing Maths lessons and visiting Early Years. All visits have been very positive and it is wonderful to see how the hard work of the staff results in continuous improvements across the schools. I am always impressed with the children when they move politely around the school premises and a 'Good morning' or 'Good afternoon' makes my day. As a team, we have also continued with our own development through training, and are aware of the changes being proposed by Ofsted for the next academic year. We continue to work for the best possible outcomes for all of our children.

I wish you all a very enjoyable break and look forward to the Summer Term.

Rachel Mathis
Chair of Governors



Recen

Turing Club Tidy Up: Local Heroes in Action!

Recently, the children in Turing Club stepped up as community champions by heading out for a local litter pick. In under an hour, they collected an impressive amount of rubbish from nearby roads and parks. The children reflected on the harmful effects litter can have on wildlife and our oceans, and they're determined to keep making a difference. Well done, Turing Club, we're proud of your commitment to caring for our environment!



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Sporting Success

We celebrated phenomenal achievements in the **Devon Schools Virtual Gymnastics Competition**, where **16 of our KS2 pupils** competed with skill and determination. Against strong competition from across the county, our gymnasts delivered outstanding performances, earning top-three finishes in multiple categories, including:

- **Year 3/4 Silver:** Lola 3rd
- **Year 3/4 Gold:** Leo 1st, Anastasia 2nd, Emily 3rd
- **Year 3/4 Platinum:** Izzy 1st, Aria 2nd
- **Year 5/6 Gold:** Cotehele 2nd

A special thank you to the **PTFA** for their support in funding competition leotards—your contributions help our pupils shine on every stage.

Fun Facts from Our Gymnastics Stars!

- Gymnastics is one of the oldest Olympic sports, it was first introduced in Ancient Greece!
- Leotards were named after Jules Léotard, a 19th-century French acrobat!
- Flexibility and balance are just as important as strength in gymnastics.
- Practising just 15 minutes a day can help improve coordination and confidence.



Gate Opening Time Update

To further enhance our safeguarding procedures, we will be adjusting the opening times for the school gates. The gates will be opened 5 minutes before both arrival and dismissal times. This change is to ensure a safer and smoother process for all children. We kindly ask all adults dropping children off to walk with them to their designated area. Thank you for your cooperation in helping us maintain a secure environment.

PTFA Update

The PTFA have had another busy time of fundraising and spending and together we have raised £2,759!

This term we had our Masquerade Disco, our Sponsored Fun Run, our pre-loved uniform and of course our School Lottery to raise funds.

The sun shone for the children as they ran around Central Park and had they all had a real sense of achievement with their certificate and medal! The children in each year group who raised the most money received a certificate, Easter Egg and Jump ticket, awarded to them in assembly yesterday! Well done to all involved!

This term, we are also delighted to have contributed towards recreating the communal spaces of the school to be calm and inviting spaces for the children to pass through during the day. We have also provided a small amount of money towards requested items for the early years provision, and most recently we purchased several leotards for the school's gymnastics team! We've also provided an Easter Egg for every child and member of staff to enjoy as part of an end of term Easter Egg Hunt! We hope they all really enjoyed the activity!



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Reminder: Collection Arrangements

To help keep our office lines clear for urgent matters, we kindly remind parents that if someone who **regularly collects your child** or **knows the agreed password** is picking them up, there is **no need to call the admin team**.

We have noticed an increasing number of end-of-day calls that can be avoided, so we appreciate your support in keeping communication smooth. If there are **last-minute changes** to collection arrangements, please do let us know as early as possible.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping us ensure a safe and efficient pickup process!

Hyde Park Schools Join Turing Project!

We are thrilled to announce that LAT has successfully secured funding for the **Turing Project**, and Hyde Park Schools are excited to be a part of this wonderful initiative. This academic year, we will have the opportunity to take 10 pupils to Spain for an enriching cultural and educational experience.

As part of the funding, there will be exciting projects for the children to participate in, with strict guidelines in place for pupil selection to ensure a fair and rewarding process. Further details about the trip and the selection process will be shared in the weeks ahead. We look forward to this incredible opportunity for our pupils!

A Reminder of Our School Values and Responsible Use of Social Media

At Hyde Park Schools, we prioritise fostering a positive and respectful environment that reflects our core values of **kindness, respect, and community**. As part of this, we want to remind parents about the impact of social media, including WhatsApp groups.

While these platforms can be helpful for staying connected, we kindly ask that any concerns or queries related to school matters be directed to your child's **class teacher** or the **Senior Leadership Team**, rather than discussed in group chats. This ensures that issues are addressed appropriately and in a timely manner, in line with our school's commitment to effective communication and the well-being of all pupils.

Safeguarding: Our Top Priority

At Hyde Park Schools, the **safety and well-being of our pupils** is our highest priority. As we approach **half-term**, we want to share some important reminders and resources to help support children both **online and offline** during the break.

Understanding Bullying vs. Friendship Issues

Recently, we have noticed that the term **"bullying"** is being used more frequently, sometimes in situations that do not meet the definition of bullying. It's important to remember that **bullying is repeated, intentional behaviour meant to hurt someone emotionally or physically**, whereas **friendship issues and disagreements** can be a normal part of growing up.

If your child experiences a conflict with a peer, we encourage open discussions at home about **resolving disagreements positively**. However, if there are persistent concerns about **bullying**, please do not hesitate to reach out so we can **address the situation appropriately**.

For further guidance, visit:

Anti-Bullying Alliance – <https://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk>

NSPCC - What is Bullying? – <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-bullying>

Online Safety

While the internet is a **fantastic resource for learning and entertainment**, it also comes with risks. We strongly encourage parents to **monitor online activity**, set **appropriate boundaries**, and **use parental controls** to ensure a safe digital environment.

Here are some key **online safety tips**:

- ✅ **Monitor screen time** – Set limits and encourage breaks from devices.
- ✅ **Enable parental controls** – Use filters to block inappropriate content on devices and apps.
- ✅ **Check privacy settings** – Ensure your child's accounts are set to **private** and they only connect with **trusted people**.
- ✅ **Talk about online behaviour** – Remind children that **being kind online** is just as important as in person.
- ✅ **Encourage safe gaming and social media use** – Be aware of who they are interacting with and what they are sharing.

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Useful Online Safety Resources for Parents

ThinkUKnow (Online Safety Advice & Games) –

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk>

Internet Matters (Parental Controls & Advice) –

<https://www.internetmatters.org>

NSPCC Online Safety Hub –

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

CEOP (Report Online Abuse or Concerns) –

<https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>

We appreciate your **continued support** in safeguarding our pupils. If you have any concerns or need further guidance, please do not hesitate to contact the school. **Together, we can ensure a safe and happy half-term for all our children.**

**Keeping
children safe
is everyone's
responsibility**



Suitable Water Bottles for School

We kindly ask that pupils bring **water bottles with a sip-top lid** rather than those with large openings. Bottles with wide openings often lead to unnecessary **spills in the classroom**, causing distractions and mess.

To help keep our learning environment **clean and safe**, we encourage you to choose **spill-proof, sip-top bottles** for your child. Thank you for your support in this matter!

The Graduated Approach and SEND Inclusion

At Hyde Park Schools, we are dedicated to ensuring that every child receives the support they need to thrive, regardless of their individual needs. Through our **graduated approach** to SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) and inclusion, we provide tailored support that is aligned with each child's unique requirements.

This approach follows a clear process of **assess, plan, do, and review**, ensuring that we consistently monitor and adjust the support provided to achieve the best possible outcomes for every pupil. We work closely with parents, carers, and external specialists to create personalised learning plans that enable children to reach their full potential.

Our policies and procedures are designed with inclusivity in mind, making sure that all pupils—whether they need additional learning support or specific interventions—feel valued and included in every aspect of school life.

Parents play a key role in this process, and we encourage open communication to ensure that your child's needs are met. If you have any concerns or feel your child may need extra support, please don't hesitate to contact **Mrs. Cecilia Harris our SENDCO**. Together, we can provide the right support for every child to succeed.



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Family Support Advisor

At Hyde Park Schools, we are fortunate to have a dedicated **Family Support Advisor** who is here to offer guidance and support to families. Our Family Support Advisor works closely with parents and carers, helping to address any challenges that may impact a child's well-being, learning, or development. Whether you need advice on parenting, assistance with routines at home, or help accessing external services, we are here to listen and offer practical solutions.

The goal is to build strong partnerships between school and home, ensuring that every child feels supported both in and outside of the classroom. If you ever have any concerns or need someone to talk to, our Family Support Worker **Mrs. Leisa Warne** is available to offer confidential support and advice tailored to your family's needs.

We encourage all families to reach out if they need assistance—together, we can work towards ensuring the best outcomes for your child.

Healthy Snacks and Lunches at Hyde Park Schools

At Hyde Park Schools, we encourage healthy eating to support our pupils' well-being and concentration throughout the day. Nutritious snacks and balanced lunches provide the energy children need to stay focused and ready to learn.

Here are a few suggestions for healthy snacks and packed lunches:

Snacks: Fresh fruit, vegetable sticks (like carrots, cucumbers, or peppers), rice cakes, or wholegrain crackers.

Lunches: Wholegrain sandwiches or wraps with lean protein (such as chicken, turkey, or hummus), salads, yoghurts, and water or milk to drink.

We kindly ask parents to avoid sending sugary snacks or fizzy drinks, and instead opt for healthier choices that contribute to the children's overall health and energy levels.

Thank you for helping us promote a healthy and positive learning environment!

Uniform Expectations at Hyde Park Schools

We would like to remind parents and pupils of the importance of adhering to our **uniform expectations** at all times. Maintaining a smart appearance is part of our school ethos and helps promote a sense of pride and unity among children.

Uniform: Pupils should wear the full school uniform as outlined in our guidelines.

Hair accessories: Hair accessories should be kept simple and in **school colours**.

Braids: Any braids should be **natural to hair colour**.

Earrings: For safety reasons, only **small stud earrings** are permitted.

Thank you for your continued cooperation in ensuring that our uniform standards are upheld throughout the school year.

Important Reminder: Spare Clothes for School

Please remember to send a set of **spare clothes** with your child to school. This is especially helpful in case of unexpected spills, or accidents during the day.

Kindly ensure the spare clothes are labeled with your child's name and placed in their bag. Thank you for your support in keeping our children comfortable and ready for learning!

Keep Children Safe Online: Information, Advice & Support

In today's digital world, keeping children safe online is more important than ever. **Internet Matters** provides expert advice, practical tips, and resources to help parents navigate online safety with confidence. From managing screen time to understanding social media risks, their guidance supports families in creating a safe and positive online experience for children.

Visit [Internet Matters](https://www.internetmatters.org/) for essential information on parental controls, cyberbullying prevention, privacy settings, and much more. Let's work together to ensure our children explore the online world safely and responsibly.

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Support for Our PTFA – We Need You!

Reminder that our **PTFA urgently needs your support**. As mentioned in our recent letter, we are at risk of not being able to continue organising the much-loved events that enrich our children's school experience. Whether you can help occasionally or take on a more active role, **every contribution makes a difference**.

How can you get involved?

- ✓ Volunteer at an event – even an hour of your time helps!
- ✓ Support existing initiatives
- ✓ Attend PTFA meetings to learn more and offer input

Please reach out to ptfa@hydeparkprimary.co.uk if you can help. Let's work together to keep these wonderful events running for our children!

Does your child love to perform?

There are spaces available in our

Junior Musical Theatre Club

Mondays 3:30pm-4:30pm

£55 for a minimum 10-week term.

Learn and perform songs and dances from popular films and shows!

Contact Vicki:
vickigreen2011@hotmail.co.uk



Recycling at Hyde Park Schools



At Hyde Park Schools we are passionate about our environment. Being a coastal city, it is important that we reduce the amount of plastic entering our oceans. The children have been thinking of ways to help recycle even more plastic.

We are going to be collecting soft plastics at school - that cannot be recycled in ordinary bins - (see the guide below) and turning them into eco bricks to create green spaces around the school grounds. We also need CLEAN 2 and 4 litre milk bottles with lids!

Thank you for supporting us to be Plastic Free Champions!



Green recycling bin at home:

- Glass – all glass bottles and jars can be recycled, whether they are clear, brown, green or blue
- Plastics – drink bottles, shampoo bottles, food trays, yoghurt pots, margarine tubs, ice cream tubs, fruit punnets, detergent bottles
- Paper and card – newspapers, magazines, office paper, directories, cereal packets, envelopes, junk mail and cards, catalogues, cardboard packaging, shredded paper
- metal – food and drinks cans, aerosols, aluminium food trays and containers, biscuit and cake tins, clean sheet cooking foil, metal lids, tops and caps.

Please give your pots, tubs, trays, bottles and jars a rinse to remove any food waste.

Soft plastics and milk bottles at school:

Just follow these three steps:

Clean it – First, rinse your packaging and bottles out.

Scrunch soft plastics – Now, scrunch it up tight - if it pings back, it's a useful indicator it's soft plastic.

Recycle it - Send it to school and your child can pop them in recycling bins in the school office.

Examples of soft plastics:

Bread bags
and vegetable packaging
packets
Baby and pet food pouches

Fruit
Crisp
Salad bags



Recycling at Hyde Park Schools



Soft plastics and milk bottles at school:

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YES PLEASE

Some of the most commonly recycled items include:



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May 5th -9th 2025

Cedar	Mary
Ash	Tommy
Beech	Ivy
Poplar	Oliver
Willow	Margot
Holly	Iris
Elm	Caben
Sycamore	Leo
Keller	Finlay
Seacole	Sonny
Barnardo	Louiza
Attenborough	Isaac H
Curie	Isaac H
Hawking	Naomi
Gandhi	Katherine
King	Aliyyah
Mandela	Gen
Pankhurst	Flo
Douglass	Delight
Dickens	Bodhi

Nominations for being a Kind Learner

Cedar	Aurelius
Ash	Willow
Beech	Blossom
Poplar	Clem
Willow	Iris
Holly	Ruby
Elm	Bella
Sycamore	Tom
Keller	Emily
Seacole	Bea
Barnardo	Billy
Attenborough	Izzy
Curie	Ellie
Hawking	Daniel
Gandhi	Sharon
King	Logan
Mandela	Romilly
Pankhurst	Lois
Douglass	Izzah
Dickens	Laurel

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May 12th -19th , 2025

Cedar	Taha
Ash	Aleeha
Beech	Savana
Poplar	Daisy
Willow	Bethany
Holly	Evan
Elm	Nara
Sycamore	Max
Keller	Arlo
Seacole	Ibrahim
Barnardo	Whole class
Attenborough	Charlotte
Curie	Josh B
Hawking	Maeliss
Gandhi	Royal
King	Cotehele
Mandela	Ava
Pankhurst	Whole Class
Douglass	Whole Class
Dickens	Whole Class

Nominations for being a Brave Learner

Cedar	Antonia and Naomi A
Ash	Zayd
Beech	Delon
Poplar	Arlo
Willow	Lily
Holly	Eli C
Elm	Edith
Sycamore	Sam
Keller	Penelope
Seacole	Eleanor
Barnardo	Frank
Attenborough	Isaac A
Curie	Coco
Hawking	Queen
Gandhi	Aria
King	Nelly
Mandela	Archie
Pankhurst	Jack
Douglass	Mahwa
Dickens	Poppy

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May 2025

Week 5- 19th- 23rd May

Year 6 Week of Experience

National Vegetarian Week

Walk to School Week

Monday 19th

Tuesday 20th

Year 4 Swimming @9am

Wednesday 21st

Thursday 22nd

Year 2 Swimming @12:30pm

Friday 23rd

Non- Pupil Day

Half term 26th- 30th May

Week 1- 2nd- 6th June

Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check

Year 5 Week of Experience

Volunteers Week

Monday 2nd

Children return to school

Tuesday 3rd

Year 4 Swimming @9am

Wednesday 4th

Thursday 5th

Year 2 Swimming @12:30

Friday 6th

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