

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



LEARNING
ACADEMIES TRUST

FRIDAY, 21ST MARCH 2025

CONTACT US ON



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Updates - Mrs. Jones

Dear Parents, Guardians, Carers,

As we move closer to the end of term, I'm delighted to share some exciting highlights and updates from across our school community.

Celebrating Gymnastics Success!

A huge congratulations to **17 of our pupils** who have qualified for the finals of the **gymnastics competition!** This is a fantastic achievement and a reflection of their hard work, dedication, and skill. We're incredibly proud of them and wish them the very best in the finals! Massive thank you to Miss Bennette for working with the children.

Governor Day – Strategic Support in Action

This week, we welcomed members of our Governing Body for **Governor Day**—an important opportunity to reflect on school priorities and progress. Together, we discussed the current **Ofsted consultation**, the **curriculum review interim report**, and had in-depth conversations around our own curriculum, teaching and learning, and the progress of our pupils.

Governors play a vital role in shaping the **strategic direction** of the school. They provide support and challenge, ensuring that the decisions we make are always in the best interest of our children and aligned with long-term goals.

EYFS Governor Visit – A Glowing Review

Recently, our EYFS lead governor visited the **Early Years** and were full of praise. Their feedback highlighted the strength of our early years provision and the excellent progress children are making towards the **Early Learning Goals**. Thank you to our dedicated EYFS team for creating such a nurturing and engaging environment for our youngest learners.

Engaging in Conversations About Learning

We know that when parents take an active interest in their child's school day, it strengthens their confidence and motivation to learn. However, many parents are familiar with the all-too-common one-word responses when they ask, "*How was school today?*"

To get more engaging answers, try asking specific, open-ended questions related to their learning:

English & Reading:

What story did you read today? Can you tell me what happened so far? Who is your favourite character and why? If you could rewrite the ending of your book, how would it go? This helps children recall what they have read and develop their comprehension and storytelling skills. If your child is practising **spelling words or phonics**, ask them: *Can you teach me one of your spelling words in a fun way?*

When children **explain their thinking**, it deepens their understanding. Even if you're unsure of the method, letting them "be the teacher" can boost their confidence.

Asking **curious, open-ended questions** encourages children to think critically, recall their learning, and share their experiences with enthusiasm.

As always, thank you for your ongoing support. These moments of celebration and reflection remind us of what makes our school such a special place to grow and learn.

Have a safe and relaxed weekend.

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Reception's Week of Discovery: Doctors and Tadpoles!

Recently, children in Reception had an exciting week filled with hands-on learning and discovery! A group of university medical students visited and led a fascinating carousel of activities. The children explored the importance of handwashing, learned about bones and the heart, and even got a peek inside a real doctor's bag!

In class, the children have been diving into their spring topic on new life. They're thrilled to be observing the frog life cycle first-hand with their very own tadpole tank — complete with frogspawn and wriggly tadpoles. What an exciting time to be a young scientist!



Year 1 Measure Up!

Year 1 children have been busy developing their measuring skills in maths. Using rulers, they've learned how to accurately measure the length of various classroom objects in centimetres. They also practiced using comparison words like *longer* and *shorter* to describe and compare what they measured. A great hands-on way to bring maths to life!



Fun Maths Facts from Year 1 Measuring!

1. The word "centimetre" means "one hundredth of a metre" – there are 100 centimetres in every metre!
2. The world's longest pencil is over 300 metres long! That's longer than three football fields!
3. Rulers were first used over 4,000 years ago – ancient people used sticks and ropes to measure!
4. If you lined up 100 paperclips, they would measure about 1 metre long! Great way to measure without a ruler.
5. Giraffes can grow to be over 5 metres tall – that's 500 centimetres!
6. The shortest measurement on a standard ruler is 1 millimetre – that's ten times smaller than a centimetre!

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Year 2 Explores Microhabitats at the Park

This week, Year 2 children had an exciting outdoor learning experience as part of their learning on microhabitats. The children visited the local park where they identified different microhabitats, such as under rocks, in tree bark, and within the soil. The children were keen observers, searching for organisms or any evidence that living creatures might call these areas home. This allowed the children to deepen their understanding of how different organisms thrive in their specific environments.



Year 4: Exciting STEM Fun in the Classroom!

Our brilliant Year 4 engineers have been diving into the world of **levers and linkages**! Using cardboard, split pins, and card, they designed and created their very own moving mechanisms. Along the way, they discovered how different types of levers help objects move—just like in real-life tools, toys, and machines. A fantastic hands-on way to bring STEM learning to life!



Year 5 Cook Up a Storm!

This week, our Year 5 chefs rolled up their sleeves to make a delicious tomato-based sauce! After tasting their creations, they shared their thoughts and explored how flavours come together. Alongside their cooking, they learned important kitchen safety tips and how to prevent contamination when preparing food. With this tasty foundation, they're ready to move on to more complex sauces. Yum indeed!



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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](#)

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!

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.

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 During Half-Term

With more free time over the break, children may be spending increased time online. 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** for half-term:

- ✔ **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.**



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.

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.

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.

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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](#) 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.

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!

 March 10th to 14th, 2025	
Cedar	Theo
Ash	Florence
Beech	Teddy RD
Poplar	Gizele
Willow	Adam R
Holly	Bodhi
Elm	Harry P
Sycamore	Wonderful
Keller	Vihaan
Seacole	Mahfuj
Barnardo	Whole class
Attenborough	Theo
Curie	Alexander
Hawking	Aeron
Gandhi	Lila
King	Alexander
Mandela	Owen
Pankhurst	James
Douglass	Fareedah
Dickens	Alfie M

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Nominations for being a Brave Learner

Cedar	Harryn
Ash	Evelyn
Beech	Jacob
Poplar	Milo
Willow	Fern
Holly	Kenny
Elm	Roman
Sycamore	Mila
Keller	Jenson
Seacole	Harriet
Barnardo	Mithra
Attenborough	Isabella
Curie	Emmie
Hawking	Luna
Gandhi	Immy
King	Aliyyah
Mandela	Harmony
Pankhurst	Lois
Douglass	Evelyn
Dickens	Navin M

STAR OF THE WEEK

March 17th to 21st, 2025

Cedar	Imogen
Ash	George
Beech	Marvelous
Poplar	Aidan
Willow	Jack
Holly	Raff
Elm	Nara
Sycamore	Alvia
Keller	Isla
Seacole	Whole class
Barnardo	Isla
Attenborough	Coco
Curie	Angela
Hawking	Annabelle
Gandhi	Ruby
King	Arthur
Mandela	Cassius
Pankhurst	Niamh
Douglass	Amy
Dickens	Sophia

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Nominations for being a Curious Learner

Cedar	Talia
Ash	Jonas
Beech	Isobel
Poplar	Piran
Willow	Adam R
Holly	Eli C
Elm	Mark
Sycamore	Finlay
Keller	Jad
Seacole	Sonny
Barnardo	Charlie
Attenborough	Felix
Curie	Joshua P
Hawking	Nathan I
Gandhi	Leo
King	Eleanor
Mandela	Muhammad K
Pankhurst	Oscar
Douglass	Izzah
Dickens	Cohen M

 <h2 style="text-align: right;">March/April 2025</h2>	
24th- 28th March	
Tuesday 25 th	Year 6 Swimming @9am
Thursday 27 th	Year 5 Swimming @9am
Friday 28 th	National Wear a Hat Day
	Keller Class Assembly @9:10am- Junior Hall
	PTFA Masquerade Disco from 3:45pm
31st March- 4th April	
Stress Awareness Month	
Monday 31 st	Mufti Day for Turing Project *New Date*
Tuesday 1 st	World Autism Awareness Day
Friday 4 th	Elm Class Assembly @9:10am
	Last day of Term- School finishes @1:15pm

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