



Welcome back to Hockliffe Lower School and welcome to 2025. We had a very busy autumn term and look forward to a busy spring term including sporting events, dance workshops and celebrating World Book Day. I look forward to sharing updates on these activities and more as we move through the term.

Thank you for the lovely books that we received from our Amazon Wish List. Receiving these books means that we can replace some of the older and tattier books in our library. The children have enjoyed reading them already.

Mrs Aoife Greaves

Headteacher

Pantomime

We had a great time at the Pantomime before we broke up. The children enjoyed the experience of attending a production at the theatre. A huge thank you to all of the adults who attended, without your help these events would not be able to take place.

Values

In December we recapped some of our previously visited values. In January we are looking at the value of Trust. Trust is the cement that keeps all relationships together. It is very important that we teach the children this and also speak about what to do if we don't trust somebody or what they're saying.

Christmas Jumpers

If you have any unwanted children's jumpers or t-shirts please donate them to school for use next year. They can be dropped off at the school office.

Forest School

As you will be aware, our Forest School was devastated when we were flooded in September. All of our resources had to be disposed of. We have been unable to use the area due to lack of resources and allowing it to dry out. We are very keen to start using it again. We need your help in order to do that. We would appreciate the following:

long and short branches suitable for den building

conifer branches for covering dens

tree trunks

wide logs suitable for children to sit on

small logs for craft and play

log slices

good quality child size gardening equipment

wooden construction materials e.g. pallets and planks

stones / rocks for construction

If you have any other resources you think we might be able to use please let us know

Pharmacy First

Think 'Pharmacy First' Earache (children aged 1-17) Sore throat (over 5s) Infected insect bites (over 1s) Impetigo (over 1s) GP practices are busy and it can be difficult to get a same-day GP appointment. When your child is off sick from school with any of the above conditions, by going straight to your local pharmacy you can have a consultation with a trained clinical professional and receive advice and even medication if it is needed, meaning they could be on the road to recovery and back at school as soon as possible.

For more information, speak with your local community pharmacy.

To find your nearest pharmacy, see: [Find a Pharmacy - NHS](#)

What should my child's lunchbox consist of?

NHS guidelines suggest that a balanced lunchbox will contain something from each of the following groups:

- a starchy food such as bread, pasta or rice
- a protein source such as meat, fish, egg or beans
- a source of calcium such as yoghurt, cheese or milk
- fresh vegetables or salad
- fruit (including fresh fruit juice and dried fruit).

<https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes/m>

Free school meals - are your children eligible?

If you're receiving a qualifying benefit, your child can get a free school meal every day that they are at school, studying in further education, or at a sixth form college.

The qualifying benefits for free school meals are:

- Universal Credit (if your annual net earned income is no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part IV of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (if you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and your annual gross income is no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)

If you're not getting a qualifying benefit, your child can still get a free school meal whilst they're in reception, year 1 and year 2. You don't need to apply for these.

[Find out more about free school meals.](#)

Parent Governor Election

Dear Parent/Carer

LOCAL GOVERNING BODY-ELECTION OF PARENT GOVERNOR FOR HOCKLIFFE LOWER SCHOOL

The school must have two parent governors on the Local Governing Body and we would like to relaunch the parent governor election and warmly welcome and encourage applications from parent/carers of our school community. The information and process previously shared is set out below.

The role of a school governor encompasses many aspects of strategic management such as personnel, health and safety, financial management, monitoring and evaluation, curriculum matters, pastoral and pupil well-being, as well as performance management.

Below is the process which has to be undertaken in order to fill this vacancy. Every local governing body needs a balance and diversity of knowledge, skills and experience. We are dedicated to fostering an inclusive local governing body and welcome applications from individuals of all backgrounds, experiences and perspectives.

No special qualifications are needed and the most important thing is to have a keen interest in the school and be prepared to play an active part in the local governing body's work. Training will be provided. The local governing body is supported by sub committees which focus on particular areas of the school's work and responsibilities. It is hoped that a parent governor joining the local governing body will be able to contribute to committee work too. The local governing body and committees meet regularly throughout the year. All meetings are held early evening in person. Regular attendance at these meetings is an important part of fulfilling the role.

The election is for a period of four years and those eligible to stand must be parents or carers of pupils who are currently at this school. A parent whose child leaves the school during his/her term of office may continue as a parent governor for the full period, if s/he so wishes.

There are circumstances in which individuals are disqualified from becoming a Governor, including where an individual has been barred from working with children and vulnerable adults, bankruptcy and criminal conviction. Should you require further information on disqualification clauses, please contact the school at please contact Julie Mason, Clerk to the Local Governing Body at julie.mason@ket.education.

If you would like to stand for election, please complete the nomination form which was distributed via email last week and return it via email to julie.mason@ket.education no later than midday on Monday, 27th January 2025. Alternatively, you may hand your completed nomination form into the school office in a sealed envelope marked for the attention of Julie Mason, Clerk to the Local Governing Body. You may include a short personal statement to support your nomination, which should be no longer than 250 words. Self-nominations will be accepted, but if you are nominating another parent please seek their prior consent.

If there is only one parent nominated, they will be elected unopposed but if there are two or more candidates for the vacancy, a ballot will be held. If this is necessary, a further letter about the arrangements will be sent to you. All parents whose child/children attend this school will be entitled to vote in the ballot and voting will be on the basis of one vote per parent/carer.

If it proves impossible to fill this vacancy, the Board of the Kingsbridge Educational Trust has the right to appoint governors in order to fill the required number of parent governor places on the governing body.

Yours sincerely,

Kate Banville

Chair of Governors

Parent Puzzle Course Leighton Buzzard Children's Centre

Do you have a child aged between 2-10 years. Would you like to attend a FREE five-week course?

The course focuses on strategies for managing children's behaviour with positive parenting, leading to good emotional wellbeing within the family.

The course starts on Wednesday 16th January at 12.45pm-2.45pm.

To book a space please call 0300 300 8880 or send us a message via our Facebook page.

Leighton Buzzard Mental Health Support Team

Central Bedfordshire Community Access Service (CAS) - East London NHS Foundation Trust

<https://padlet.com/camhsmhstdunstable/parent-carer-resources-dx1w6k6bad09zeda>

Academic Calendar 2025-2026

Please find below a copy of Hockliffe Lower School Academic Calendar 2025-2026 which can also be found on our [website](#)

Hockliffe Lower School Academic Calendar Academic Calendar 2025-26

Central Bedfordshire

School Holiday



Bank Holiday



Pupil Day



Training Day



September 2025							October 2025							November 2025							December 2025						
Mon	1	8	15	22	29		Mon		6	13	20	27		Mon	3	10	17	24		Mon	1	8	15	22	29		
Tue	2	9	16	23	30		Tue		7	14	21	28		Tue	4	11	18	25		Tue	2	9	16	23	30		
Wed	3	10	17	24			Wed	1	8	15	22	29		Wed	5	12	19	26		Wed	3	10	17	24	31		
Thu	4	11	18	25			Thu	2	9	16	23	30		Thu	6	13	20	27		Thu	4	11	18	25			
Fri	5	12	19	26			Fri	3	10	17	24	31		Fri	7	14	21	28		Fri	5	12	19	26			
Sat	6	13	20	27			Sat	4	11	18	25		Sat	1	8	15	22	29		Sat	6	13	20	27			
Sun	7	14	21	28			Sun	5	12	19	26		Sun	2	9	16	23	30		Sun	7	14	21	28			

January 2026							February 2026							March 2026							April 2026						
Mon		5	12	19	26		Mon		2	9	16	23		Mon		2	9	16	23	30	Mon		6	13	20	27	
Tue		6	13	20	27		Tue		3	10	17	24		Tue		3	10	17	24	31	Tue		7	14	21	28	
Wed		7	14	21	28		Wed		4	11	18	25		Wed		4	11	18	25		Wed	1	8	15	22	29	
Thu	1	8	15	22	29		Thu		5	12	19	26		Thu		5	12	19	26		Thu	2	9	16	23	30	
Fri	2	9	16	23	30		Fri		6	13	20	27		Fri		6	13	20	27		Fri	3	10	17	24		
Sat	3	10	17	24	31		Sat		7	14	21	28		Sat		7	14	21	28		Sat	4	11	18	25		
Sun	4	11	18	25			Sun	1	8	15	22		Sun	1	8	15	22	29		Sun	5	12	19	26			

May 2026							June 2026							July 2026							August 2026						
Mon		4	11	18	25		Mon	1	8	15	22	29		Mon		6	13	20	27		Mon		3	10	17	24	31
Tue		5	12	19	26		Tue	2	9	16	23	30		Tue		7	14	21	28		Tue		4	11	18	25	
Wed		6	13	20	27		Wed	3	10	17	24		Wed	1	8	15	22	29		Wed		5	12	19	26		
Thu		7	14	21	28		Thu	4	11	18	25		Thu	2	9	16	23	30		Thu		6	13	20	27		
Fri	1	8	15	22	29		Fri	5	12	19	26		Fri	3	10	17	24	31		Fri		7	14	21	28		
Sat	2	9	16	23	30		Sat	6	13	20	27		Sat	4	11	18	25		Sat	1	8	15	22	29			
Sun	3	10	17	24	31		Sun	7	14	21	28		Sun	5	12	19	26		Sun	2	9	16	23	30			

Autumn Term - 75 days

Spring Term - 55 days

Summer Term 65 days = 195 days

Pupil contact will amount to 190 of the 195 days. Schools will be closed on five of the 195 days to enable teacher training to take place in accordance with Teachers' Conditions of Service. Training days set as follows: Monday 1 September - Tuesday 2 September 2025 (2 days), Monday 5th January 2026 (1 day), Monday 13 April 2026 (1 day) and Monday 20th July 2026 (1 day).

The law requires that a parent ensures that their child receives a full and efficient education. If you enrol your child at a school, then you must ensure that they attend regularly. Regular school attendance is defined as being 'in accordance with the rules prescribed by the school' and means that if the school is open for 190 days, then this is what your child is expected to attend.



Spring Term Workshops 2025

Special Educational Needs (SEN) Support Workshop - Monday 13 January.

10:00 - 12:00

Is your child or young person struggling in school, college or their early years setting or newly diagnosed? Are they struggling to access/attend lessons/their educational setting? Are you struggling to get the support they need?

This workshop is for parent carers with a child or young person in mainstream education on first level Special Educational Provision and about The Graduated Approach: Assess, Plan, Do, Review.

Education, Health, Care and Needs Assessment Workshop -

Thursday 16 January, 18:30 - 20:30

Is your child or young person struggling to access/attend lessons/their educational setting even with a SEN Support Plan in place? Do you think they need an Education Health and Care Plan but don't know how to apply for one and want to know more?

This workshop is for parent carers with a child or young person in mainstream education who want to learn about the Education Health and Care Needs Assessment Process.

Drafting and Finalising an EHCP Workshop - Monday 20 January.

10:00 - 12:00

Have the LA agreed to issue an Education, Health and Care Plan for your CYP? Do you want to know more about what their EHC Plan should contain, what makes a good plan and what to do if you aren't happy with it? This workshop is for parent carers with a child or young person who has been issued an EHC Plan but who want to know more about the drafting and finalising process, and what it involves.

Making SEND Meetings Matter Workshop - Monday 27 January.

18:30 - 20:30

Do you have an important meeting to attend for your SEND child or young person? Do you want the best for your child or young person but do not feel confident or heard in meetings with their education setting or other professionals involved in their support? Do you want to feel more empowered and in control in challenging situations and know when to escalate your concerns?

This workshop is for parent carers with a SEND child or young person who want to feel more confident when advocating for them and contains lots of hints, tips and strategies to help them get the most out of those crucial meetings.



Central
Bedfordshire

Do you have a view on support for children and young people?

Our Children and Young People's plan outlines the steps we'll take to make sure they get the help, opportunities, and resources they need to do well.

Find out more at
www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/consultations



<p>January</p> <p>6th Return to school</p> <p>13th Week Beg SEND Parent Meetings</p> <p>24th Dance workshop (pupils only, they can wear trainers)</p>	<p>4th World Braille Day</p> <p>6th Epiphany</p> <p>13th -19th Energy Saving Week</p> <p>16th World religion Day</p> <p>29th Chinese New Year</p> <p>29th – 12th Feb Lunar New Year</p>
<p>February</p> <p>11th Safer Internet Day</p> <p>11th International Day of Women & girls in Science</p> <p>14th Break up for half term (HSA Mufti pay into HSA bank account £2)</p> <p>24th Maple & Rowan Parent Evening 1.30 start</p> <p>27th Willow Parent Evening 2.00 start</p> <p>25th BASH Yr 1 & 2 9.30 – 11.30 PE kit</p> <p>25th Top Up Young Leader Yr 4 lunchtime PE kit</p>	<p>29th Jan – 12th Lunar New Year</p> <p>3rd – 10th Children's Mental Health Week</p> <p>11th Safer Internet Day</p> <p>11th International Day of Women & girls in Science</p>

<p>March</p> <p>4th BASH Yr 1 & 2 PE kit</p> <p>4th Top Up Young Leader Yr 4 lunchtime PE kit</p> <p>6th Reading Afternoon 2.30 - 3.05 Parents invited</p> <p>7th Celebration of World Book Day & Poetry Workshop children only</p> <p>7th-16th British Science Week</p> <p>11th BASH Yr 1 & 2 PE kit</p> <p>11th Sports Leader Festival Yr 4 lunchtime PE kit</p> <p>19th Maple Shuttleworth visit (packed lunch required children only)</p> <p>20th Parent and child maths time parents invited 8.55 - 9.30</p> <p>20th Enterprise Afternoon children only £1 in change required</p> <p>21st Sports Festival (Middle School children run event for Hockliffe Lower onsite children only) PE kit required</p> <p>25th Rowan Stockwood Park visit (packed lunch required children only)</p> <p>25th maple Class Production (Maple parents only 2.30 - 3.00)</p> <p>28th Rocksteady Concert 2.30 - 3.00 Parents of Rocksteady children invited</p> <p>24th March - 4th April Sustrans Big Walk & Wheel</p>	<p>Women's History Month</p> <p>1st St David's Day</p> <p>4th Shrove Tuesday</p> <p>5th Ash Wednesday</p> <p>8th International Women's Day</p> <p>14th & 15th Holi Festival</p> <p>17th St Patrick's Day</p> <p>Shakespeare Week 24th-30th March</p> <p>30th Mother's Day</p>
---	---

<p>April</p> <p>Spring Term Rowan Trip to Discovery Centre (TBC)</p> <p>24th March - 4th April Sustrans Big Walk & Wheel</p> <p>4th Break up for Easter – Early close</p> <p>22nd April Return to school</p> <p>Ukulele Rowan class Tuesday mornings</p> <p>28th Week beg SEND Parent Meetings</p>	<p>Mathematics Awareness Month</p> <p>22nd Earth Day</p> <p>23rd St George's Day</p> <p>29th International Dance Day</p>
<p>May</p> <p>Ukulele Rowan Class Tuesday 9am</p> <p>5th Bank Holiday</p> <p>11th HSA Colour Run am Parents and Children invited 10am - 12pm</p> <p>23rd Dance Workshop (pupils only)</p> <p>23rd Break up for half term (HSA mufti pay into HSA bank account £2)</p>	<p>8th VE Day</p> <p>12th – 19th Mental Health Awareness week</p> <p>21st World Day for Cultural Diversity</p>
<p>June</p> <p>Rowan Gurdwara and Hazard Ally (TBC)</p> <p>10th Girls Active & Boys to Move Rowan PE kit</p> <p>17th Girls Active & Boys to Move Rowan PE kit</p> <p>19th June Dance workshop (pupils only)</p> <p>24th Girls Active & Boys to Move Rowan PE Kit</p>	<p>5th World Environment Day</p> <p>6th D Day</p> <p>8th World Oceans Day</p> <p>16th Father's Day</p> <p>21st Summer Solstice</p> <p>21st World Music Day</p>

<p>26th Willow & Maple trip to Forest Centre (packed lunch required, children only)</p> <p>27th Rowan Activity Day (PE Kit required, children only)</p>	
<p>July</p> <p>1st Girls Active & Boys to Move Rowan PE kit</p> <p>7th Sports Day 1.15 - 3.00 parents welcome (as long as it is not raining)</p> <p>8th Girls Active & Boys to Move Rowan PE kit</p> <p>10th Parent Consultation re reports 3.30 – 5.00 (if you wish to discuss your child's report)</p> <p>9th Leavers Assembly - Rowan class parents invited 2.30 - 3.00</p> <p>10th Little City in school visit Willow & Maple (children only)</p> <p>11th Rocksteady Concert 2.30 - 3.00 Parents of Rocksteady children invited</p> <p>18th Break up for summer – Early close</p>	
<p>September</p> <p>1st Professional Development Day - staff only</p> <p>2nd Professional Development Day - staff only</p> <p>Week beginning 15th September - New Parents Evening time and specific dates TBC</p>	

HSA Events 2024 2025

Account Name	Hockliffe School Association	
Account number	72738481	
Sort Code	403333	
Reference	EVENT NAME e.g. Elfridges	
Do not pay for events until asked to do so by the HSA		
Event	Date	Cost
Valentines Roses	Friday 14 th February	£2
HSA Non Uniform	Friday 14 th Feb	£2
Carer’s Afternoon	Thursday 27 th March Willow & Rowan 2 – 2.30 Maple 2.35 – 3.05	£5 per family
HSA Colour Run	Sunday 11th May 10 - 12	TBC
HSA Non Uniform	Friday 23 rd May	£2
Carer’s Afternoon	Thursday 12 th June (PM) Maple 2.00 – 2.30 Willow & Rowan 2.35 – 3.05	£5 per family
Disco	Thursday 3 rd July (timings to be confirmed)	£5 per child