



October is here, bringing with it the crisp air, vibrant colours, and a whole lot of autumn fun! We're so excited to dive into all the wonderful things this month has in store for us at Hockliffe Lower School.

Willow class will be starting Forest School later this month. All of the children are looking forward to our Spooky Cake Sale and Dance later in the month.

Thank you for being such a supportive and engaged part of our school community.

Mrs Aoife Greaves

Headteacher

Values

This month we are learning about the value of happiness. We will be learning what this word means and how we can apply it to our daily lives. We will think about how we can make others happy and the impacts of our own behaviours.

Open Morning and Evening

Again this year in Willow Class we are full. It is great to see the children working and learning together. We would like to continue this trend into the next academic year. We would like to extend an invitation to our Open Morning and Evening to those of you who have a child who is ready to start school and to your friends who have children who are ready to start school in September 2025.

Our Open morning and Evening will take place on Tuesday 11th November 9-10.30 and 6pm. Please call the school office to book a space.

Arbor Parent App - Enabling Notifications

Just to remind you that we no longer use Text Messaging to communicate with you and we now use In-App messaging on the Arbor App. Please ensure that you have enabled notifications on your mobile device so that you do not miss important messages from school.

Instructions on using the Arbor App (and enabling notifications) can be found [here](#).

First Aid Incident and Medication Administration Notifications

As you know, we try very hard to keep parents regularly informed about first aid incidents and medication administration at school. Sending paper notifications home can be rather “hit and miss” with notifications going astray along the way.

We are also increasingly aware of the substantial cost, time and environmental impact associated with the amount of paper involved in this.

To help make improvements in these areas, we have decided to use a service called Medical Tracker. Medical Tracker not only allows us to inform parents/carers of first aid incidents and medication administration by email but also allows us to analyse the data we record.

Medical Tracker will be beneficial to you because:

- We can record and track first aid incidents that involve your child
- We can record and track medication administration that involves your child
- You can be notified shortly after a first aid incident by email
- You can be notified shortly after medication has been administered by email

Please be assured that Medical Tracker is registered with the Data Protection Registrar and guarantees that all information you provide will be kept private and not passed on to any other organisation.

Important - When we start using Medical Tracker, email messages will be sent from donotreply@medicaltracker.co.uk. Please add this address to your email address books (or approved sender list) to prevent messages from being blocked by your spam/junk filters.

We aim to start using Medical Tracker on Monday 3rd November.

Family Art Project: Celebrate Your Favourite Artist! 🎨

We are inviting families to take part in a fun and creative art project at home!

Working together as a family—or individually if preferred—we’d love you to create a piece of artwork that shares factual information about your favourite artist. This could be a painting, a poster, a fact file with drawings, a mini display board, or anything else that celebrates and informs us about the artist you admire most.

All children in the family are welcome to collaborate on one piece, or they may choose to create their own individual projects.

Please bring your completed artwork to school by Tuesday 4th November so we can enjoy and share your creations.

Participation is entirely optional—but we can't wait to see what you come up with if you do decide to take part!

Happy creating! ✍️

Spare Clothes

Time for a clearout? We're often in need of spare clothes for children who have had a little accident or spill!

If you're tidying up and find any clean, gently used items below, we would be very grateful for a donation:

- Underwear (pants) and socks for younger children
- Trousers or jogging bottoms for older boys and girls

Please ensure all clothes are washed before you bring them to reception. Thank you for your support!

🚗 Parking Reminder for Parents & Carers 🚗

Hi everyone! A quick reminder to help keep our school community safe:

✅ Please park only in designated areas – do not stop or park across crossing zones. These areas must stay clear so children and families can cross safely.

✅ Be considerate of other road users – leave space for driveways and keep traffic flowing smoothly.

✅ Take an extra minute if needed – a short walk from a safe spot is much better than risking someone's safety.

✅ Be considerate of footpath users. Do not park on the pavement.

Your cooperation keeps all our kids safe and helps make drop-off and pick-up times calmer for everyone. Thank you for being respectful and setting a great example for our children!



RELAUNCH DAY

Dear Parents/Carers

TT Rockstars and Robots Maths Day – Monday 20th October

On the last Monday of this half term, **Monday 20th October**, we will be holding a **Rockstar and Robots Day** to help relaunch Numbots and Times Tables Rockstars across the school.

On Monday 20th October, we are encouraging everyone to come into school dressed up as a **rockstar or a robot**. Throughout the day the children will get chance to take part in times tables, number bonds and number based activities as well as enjoy some rock music.

The staff at Hockliffe Lower School will vote on the best dressed children and prizes will be given out in our fashion show assembly. There will also be exciting new tournaments launching for the children to participate in.

Please ensure children wear trainers so they can take part in PE as normal.

Kind regards,

Mrs Scott

Maths Lead



Term Time Holidays

Taking a holiday during term time can be a tempting prospect, but it's important to consider the potential impact on your child's education. Missing even a few days of school can disrupt their learning, as they may fall behind on new concepts and miss out on valuable classroom discussions and activities. Catching up on missed work can also be a source of stress for both the student and the family.

Beyond the academic consequences, these absences can affect a child's social connections and sense of routine. School provides a consistent environment for building friendships and developing social skills. When a child is away, they miss out on these daily interactions and the sense of belonging that comes with being part of the classroom community.

We understand that these decisions are not always easy, and we encourage you to communicate with us if you're considering a term-time absence. Our goal is to work together to ensure your child's success and well-being, both in and out of the classroom. You also need to be aware that a fine may be issued for absences of 5 consecutive days.

Children in Need



Children in Need will take place on Friday 14th November. We will not be doing any specific fundraising in school, but if children wish to wear Pudsey Ears or accessories into school they can (they must still wear their school uniform.) If you wish to donate please go to <https://www.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk/donate/>

Change of date

Please note a change of date. The whole school Panto visit is now on Tuesday 16th December not Monday 15th December. It will take place within the school day. If your child usually has a hot dinner please note you will be required to order a sandwich option for the day of the Panto.

Hockliffe School Association (HSA) - Welcome Letter

To the Parents and Guardians of Hockliffe School,

We hope you and your children are settling well into the new academic year!

The Hockliffe School Association (HSA) is a vital part of our school community, and we are excited to introduce the dedicated parents who have stepped up to lead the core committee for the upcoming year:

- **Chair: Jade O'Shea**
- **Treasurer: Rachel Bermingham**
- **Secretary: Belinda Carelse**

They, along with the wider committee, are already busy working on a fun and enriching **schedule of events** designed to raise essential funds for school resources and create memorable experiences for the children.

Annual Contribution Request

To make participation easier and to ensure consistent fundraising, the HSA is endeavouring to make things simpler, to help with this we are requesting a one-off payment to cover the cost and entry for the majority of the year's events.

This contribution would cover your child's participation in the following events throughout the academic year:

1. Three non-uniform days
2. The Spooky Dance
3. Two cake sales
4. Donut sale
5. Ice lolly sale
6. Crazy hair day
7. The World Book Day Competition

We are requesting a **one-off payment for £20** for this. There will be other events throughout the year that will require payment. Money cannot be refunded for non-attendance.

This means your child won't need to bring in small amounts of cash for each of these individual activities. There are other activities that the HSA supports throughout the school year, including Valentine's Day and Easter treats and subsidising school trips.

How to Pay

Please pay the **£20 per child** contribution into the HSA bank account by Friday 17th October 2025.

Crucially, when making the payment, please use your child's full name as the payment reference. This is essential for the Treasurer, Rachel, to accurately track the contributions for each child.

Thank you in advance for your incredible support. Your contributions directly fund activities and resources that benefit every single student at Hockliffe School.

We look forward to a successful and fun year of fundraising.

If you have any queries or would like to volunteer, please email the HSA email address: thehsa@hockliffelowerschool.co.uk

Best wishes,

The Hockliffe School Association Committee

Bank Details

Account Name: Hockliffe School Association		
Account number: 72738481		
Sort Code: 40 33 33		
Reference:	PUPIL	NAME
Note: please do not pay for events until asked to do so by the HSA		

The 2025/2026 calendar of events

EVENT	DATE	COST
Spooky Bake off <i>(Donations welcome, more details to follow)</i>	Wednesday 22 nd October 3.15 in the playground	Included in annual fee

HSA non-uniform day & Spooky Dance	Friday 24 th October (during the school day)	Included in annual fee
Crazy hair day	Friday 14 th November	Included in annual fee
Elfridges	Thursday 4 th December (during the school day)	Cost to participate – details to follow closer to the time
HSA Christmas Raffle	Friday 12 th December (tickets pulled after the Carols in the Playground)	£5 per strip
HSA Valentines non-uniform	Friday 13 th February	Included in annual fee
World Book Day competition <i>(More details to follow)</i>	Friday 6 th March	Included in annual fee
HSA Carer's Event	Thursday 12 th March 2.00 and 2.30	£5 per child (one adult – mum, dad, aunt, uncle, gran, grandad per child)
HSA non-uniform day	Friday 22 nd May	Included in annual fee
HSA Carer's Event	Thursday 18 th June 8.30-9.00am	£5 per child (one adult – mum, dad, aunt, uncle, gran, grandad per child)
HSA End of year Disco	Thursday 16 th July 2.15 – 4.00pm	£5 per child Children to bring clothes to change into at school
Cake sale, donut sale, ice lolly sale	Dates to be confirmed	Included in annual fee



LEIGHTON UNITED FC

NEW U10 GIRLS TEAM!!!!!!

- ★ WE ARE LOOKING TO RECRUIT PLAYERS TO JOIN A BRAND NEW UNDER 10 GIRLS TEAM
- ★ TRAINING WEDNESDAY EVENINGS
- ★ MATCHES ON SATURDAY MORNINGS



PLEASE CONTACT
PAUL HEALY

07532 088808

105 Stanbridge Rd, Tilsworth,
Leighton Buzzard LU7 9PL

SAFEGUARDING: Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. If you see something that doesn't feel right, please contact lufcwag@gmail.com and one of our Club Welfare Officers will be in touch.

We only do positive.



ACCREDITED





LEIGHTON UNITED FC

BRAND NEW U7's TEAM!

- ★ WE ARE LOOKING TO RECRUIT PLAYERS TO JOIN OUR MIXED UNDER 7 TEAM FOR NEXT SEASON!
- ★ SCHOOL YEAR 2 / 5-A-SIDE
- ★ WEDNESDAY TRAINING 6-7PM
SUNDAY GAMES, BMS LEAGUE



PLEASE CONTACT
ROB SIMPKINS
07783 847318

105 Stanbridge Rd, Tilsworth,
Leighton Buzzard LU7 9PL

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We do only
positive. 😊



ACCREDITED





Upcoming and recent Cultural and Religious Celebrations

Diwali

Mon, 20 Oct 2025

Diwali is a five-day festival of lights, celebrated by millions of Hindus, Sikhs and Jains across the world. Diwali symbolizes the spiritual victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance. Lakshmi, the Hindu goddess of wealth, is worshipped as the bringer of blessings for the new year. The exact dates change each year and are determined by the position of the moon – but it usually falls between October and November. This year Diwali falls on Saturday 14 November. Rituals and preparations for Diwali begin days or weeks in advance, typically after the festival of Dusshera that precedes Diwali by about 20 days. During Diwali small earthenware lamps filled with oil are lit and placed in rows along the parapets of temples and houses and set adrift on rivers and streams. It is generally a time for visiting, exchanging gifts, cleaning and decorating houses, feasting, setting off fireworks displays, and wearing new clothes. Diwali is one of the most significant festivals in Indian culture and calls for a number of traditional dishes. There are many different things that might be eaten during Diwali, but it is most known for the sweets (mithai). Many of the treats are fried foods made from sugar, chickpea flour and condensed milk. It's customary for friends and family to give each other mithai in decorative boxes. Although Diwali is most celebrated in India, it has now become a global celebration. In the UK there are numerous events held from live music to dance shows with lots of Indian food to sample, usually culminating in a firework display.

Happy Diwali

Calendar

Month & school events	
<p>Forest School Willow Weekly on a Wednesday in the autumn term start date to be confirmed by Mrs Carter. Maple & Rowan will have Forest school in the summer term. Which half of the term will be confirmed in the spring term. Children will be required to wear their Forest School clothes into school each week for the 6 week block. Please send a change of clothes on wet days.</p>	
<p>October 6th- 10th Walktober – families encouraged to walk (scoot or cycle) all or part of the way to school. 9th Reading Afternoon 2.30 – 3.10 (parents or grandparents) 20th TT Rockstars and Numbots Relaunch Day 20th – 24th Be Bright Be Seen (safety assembly in school for children) 22nd HSA Spooky cake sale (on playground 3.15 children attending After School Club will be brought across) 23rd Run 4 Fun KS1 & KS2 Astral Park (which group attends to be confirmed depending on numbers we are allowed to enter. An email will be sent with the relevant information) Approx 4.30 pick TBC 24th HSA non uniform and dance (during the school day) 24th Break up for half term</p>	<p>ADHD Awareness Month Black History Month Downs Syndrome Awareness Month 2nd Yom Kippur 2nd Gandhi Jayanti 3rd National Poetry Day 3rd World Smile Day 4th St Francis' Day 4th – 10th World Space Week 5th World Teacher day 6th World Cerebral Palsy Day 6th – 12th Dyslexia Awareness Week 7th – 13th Sukkot 9th World Sight Day 10th World Mental Health Day 14th Aida Lovelace Day 18th World Singing Day 20th Diwali 25th International Artist Day 31st Halloween</p>
<p>November 3rd SEND parent meetings week 5th Cluster Sports KS2 Brooklands Approx 4.30 pick TBC 6th Flu immunisations 12.30 pupils only 7th Dance workshop all children Indian Bollywood (during the school day no cost)</p>	<p>5th Guru Nanak Dev Ji Gurburab 9th – 16th Inter Faith Week 10th – 14th Anti-Bullying Week 11th Remembrance Day 13th kindness Day Uk 16th International Day of Tolerance 16th 22nd Road Safety Week 24th – 30th Uk Parliament Week</p>

<p>11th Open Morning & Open Evening for prospective parents starting school Sept 26</p> <p>24th – 6th Dec Santa Challenge A two-week virtual race to Lapland where pupils' active travel journeys count as miles within the race to Santa, recorded by school.</p>	
<p>December</p> <p>3rd Flu immunisations catch up 10.00 pupils only</p> <p>4th Elfridges (during school day price to be confirmed)</p> <p>12th Rocksteady Concert 2.30 TBC</p> <p>12th Carols on the playground 3.15 – 3.30 TBC</p> <p>12th HSA Christmas Raffle 3.15 TBC</p> <p>16th Panto (all children) 9.00 – 1.00</p> <p>18th Willow Christmas Production 2.30 – 3.00</p> <p>18th Spanish Club Ends</p> <p>19th Last day of term Early Close 1pm</p>	<p>3rd International Day of People with Disabilities</p> <p>10th Human Rights Day</p> <p>18th International Migrants Day</p> <p>14th - 22nd Hannukah</p> <p>25th Christmas</p>
<p>January</p> <p>6th Return to school</p> <p>8th Reading Afternoon 2.30 – 3.10 (parents or grandparents)</p> <p>16th Dance workshop all children Chinese Dance (during the school day no cost)</p>	<p>4th World Braille Day</p> <p>14th Pongal and Makar Sankranti</p> <p>18th World Religion Day</p> <p>20th Martin Luther King Day</p> <p>27th Holocaust Memorial Day</p>
<p>February</p> <p>2nd Rowan and Maple Parents Evening 1.30 – 5.30</p> <p>5th Willow Parents Evening 2.30 – 5.30</p> <p>11th February Maple Performance parents / grandparents invited 2.30 – 3.00</p> <p>13th HSA Valentines non-uniform</p> <p>13th Break up for half term</p> <p>23rd SEND parent meetings week</p> <p>24th Young Leaders Training Yr 4 am PE kit</p> <p>24th Little BASH Maple lunchtime PE kit</p>	<p>LGBT+ History Month</p> <p>9th – 15th Children's Mental health Week</p> <p>10th Safer Internet Day</p> <p>14th – 20th Random Acts of Kindness Week</p> <p>17th Chinese New Year</p> <p>17th Feb – 18th March expected dates for Ramadan</p> <p>21st International Mother Language Day</p>

<p>March 3rd Young Leaders Training Yr 4 am PE kit 3rd Little BASH Maple lunchtime PE kit 10th Young Leaders Training Yr 4 am PE kit 10th Little BASH Maple lunchtime PE kit 12th HSA Carer's Event afternoon times TBC 20th Yr3/4 Joy of Movement Festival during school day 20th Rocksteady Concert 2.30 TBC 27th Last day of term Early Close 1pm</p>	<p>2nd – 3rd March Purim 3rd World Wildlife Day 4th Holi 8th international Women's Day 13th Young Carers Action Day 16th – 22nd Sign Language Week 19th – 20th Eid al-Fitr 21st International Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination</p>
<p>April 17th Dance workshop all children USA street dance (during the school day no cost) 22nd Cluster Sports KS Brooklands approx. 4.30 pick up</p>	<p>Stress Awareness Month 1st – 9th Passover 2nd World Autism Awareness Day 5th Easter 7th World Health Day 14th Vaisakhi 14th Sikh New Year 14th Bengali New Year 15th World Art day</p>
<p>May 14th Enterprise Day children only £1 needed in change e.g. 10 x 10p or 6 x 10p + 2 x 20p (avoid £1 coin) Each class will devise some games / activities. The children will have the opportunity to try each other's game / activity. Within the school day. 22nd HSA Non Uniform 22nd Break up for half term</p>	<p>1st Vesak 4th – 10th Deaf Awareness Week 9th Fair trade Day 11th – 17th Mental Health Awareness Day 15th international day of Families 18th – 22nd – Walk to School Week 21st World Day for Cultural Diversity</p>
<p>June 1st SEND parent meetings week 8th Sports Day parents / grandparents invited from 1.30 – 3.00 9th Girls Active Rowan PE kit am 9th Boys 2 Move Rowan PE kit am 10th Cluster Sports KS1 (Brooklands) approx. 4.30 pick up TBC 16th Girls Active Rowan PE kit am 16th Boys 2 Move Rowan PE kit am</p>	<p>Pride Month 5th World Environment day 14th – 20th World Refugee Week 21st World music Day</p>

<p>18th HSA Carer's Event (time to be confirmed) 23rd Girls Active Rowan PE kit am 23rd Boys 2 Move Rowan PE kit am 30th Girls Active Rowan PE kit am 30th Boys 2 Move Rowan PE kit am</p>	
<p>July 1st Year 4 Transfer Day (TBC) 2nd Year 4 Transfer Day (TBC) 2nd Internal Move Up Day 7th Girls Active Rowan PE kit am 7th Boys 2 Move Rowan PE kit am 9th Parent teacher report meeting (only if required to discuss report) 3.15 – 5 10th Rowan Activity Day during the school day 15th Rowan End of year graduation celebration for yr 4 parents all Rowan invited 2.30 – 3.10 (subject to change) 16th HSA Disco 2.15 – 4.00 all children invited, price to be confirmed. Children can bring in clothes to change into at lunchtime. 17th Last day of term Early Close 1pm</p>	<p>30th international Day of Friendship</p>
<p>September 2026</p>	