



Welcome back to a new term! We would like to thank all our families and community members for their continued support throughout the year—it truly makes a difference. As we begin this term together, we invite you to join us in creating a positive, supportive environment where every child can enjoy their learning and achieve success. We look forward to another exciting and rewarding term ahead, working in partnership to help our children thrive.

Thank you for the lovely gifts & books that we received from our Amazon Wish List, these have been distributed across the school and will enhance the children's experiences.

Mrs Aoife Greaves

Headteacher

## Donations

We are kindly asking for donations of spare clothing to support children in school who may have an accident during the school day. At present, we are especially in need of the following items:

- Socks for children aged 5 or 6
- Leggings or tracksuit bottoms for children aged 4, 5 or 6
- shoes, trainers or plimsolls in sizes 9,10,11,12

Any clean, good-condition donations would be greatly appreciated and will help ensure children can remain comfortable and confident throughout the school day.

Thank you for your continued support.

## 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.

## **School Car Park**

Reminder - parents should not be parking in the school car park at drop off and pick up unless there is a prior arrangement with the school.

## **Values**

This month's value is humility. Humility means being kind, respectful, and understanding that everyone is still learning. It is about listening to others, accepting help, and recognising that we all have strengths and areas to improve. By practising humility, we learn to treat others with care and to grow both as learners and as people.

## **Individual Needs and Inclusion**

In Hockliffe Lower school, we work very hard to ensure that the needs of all pupils are met so they can make strong academic progress and continue to develop important social skills. We recognise that every child is unique, and therefore the support they need may look different.

Fair isn't everybody getting the same thing or being treated in the same way. Fair is everybody getting what they need to be successful. For some pupils, this might mean additional support, adapted resources, or different approaches to learning. For others, it may mean greater challenge or opportunities to develop independence.

By responding to individual needs, we help every pupil feel valued, supported, and able to thrive.

## **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.

## **Community Safety**

The Community Safety Partnership, Safer Central, would like to hear your views on how safe you feel in your area. You can help shape the work of Safer Central by sharing your views and completing the [Safer Central Community Survey](#). We know that no one knows better what is happening locally, and with the information you can provide we can work together to make a difference, creating a safer environment for everyone.

Your opinions really do make a difference to help us focus our work where our residents want to see improvements.

Thank you

## **Wear Bright Shine Bright**

### **Children's Mental Health Week**

CHUMs' 2026 Shine Bright Wear Bright campaign, is taking place during **Children's Mental Health Week: 9–15 February 2026**. The theme for 2026 is **'This is my Place'** The week will focus on the power of belonging, recognising that our friendships, families, schools and communities play an important part in our mental health and wellbeing. Children's Mental Health Week 2026 will aim to support children and the systems around them so that all young people have inclusive, nurturing environments where they can truly say **'This is my Place'**

At school the children will take part in a number of activities across the week to support their mental health and sense of belonging. On Friday 13th February we invite the children to come to school wearing brightly coloured clothes for the HSA non uniform day.

If you wish to donate to this fantastic charity please click the link below to their donation page.

<https://chums.enthuse.com/chumscharity#!/>

**'What I wish my parents or carers knew...': A guide for parents and carers on managing children's digital lives**

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/resource/what-i-wish-my-parents-or-carers-knew-a-guide-for-parents-and-carers-on-managing-childrens-digital-lives/>

### **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>

### **Theatre Amongst the Bookshelves!**

For the National Year of Reading 2026, Central Bedfordshire Libraries have partnered with Theatre of Widdershins for a series of family friendly shows amongst the bookshelves!

Layered with gentle humour that appeals to all age groups, the family friendly shows offer a unique blend of puppetry and storytelling based on traditional tales. Suitable for children aged 4+ years. Tickets cost £5 for children & £5 for adults and are available to buy at the host library or online via Eventbrite (booking charge applies).

- Leighton Buzzard Library - Sat 31 Jan 11am
- Shefford Library - Fri 6 Feb 4pm
- Dunstable Library - Sat 7 March 11am
- Stotfold Library - Fri 13 March 4pm
- Barton Library - Tues 31 March 2pm
- Flitwick Library - Fri 10 April 2pm
- Toddington Library - Sat 9 May 2pm

## Travel to Hockliffe Lower School



Use this leaflet as a guide to help you keep your school congestion free. Walking, Scooting or Cycling not only helps the environment, but is a great way to keep your child(ren) fit and healthy. On the morning school run this will help get their brains active and ready for the days learning and on the way home, this gives them a perfect opportunity to tell you all about their day. This is only a guide, timings may vary.



## Pongal and Makar Sankranti

14 Jan 2026

While Makar Sankranti is most popular in West India, down south, the festival is known as Pongal and in the north, it is celebrated as Lohri. A harvest festival, Makar Sankranti marks the end of the winter solstice, the end of the long winter nights and the celebration at the coming of the long sunny days. It also signifies the happiness of the farmers at getting new crops. But nowadays the biggest attraction of Makar Sankranti is kite flying. Kids and adults alike from the entire neighbourhood bond together to fly kites. A festival that helps the community come together, enjoy and celebrate. Pongal comes with a tradition of thanksgiving and future prosperity. Tamil Nadu's most significant commemoration to the harvest Gods, Pongal is celebrated in mid January across the state. As the harvest season draws to close, the farming community reflects on how the season has graced them. The four-day festival reminds people to thank the Gods for bestowing fertility on the fields and to pray for their continued patronage for the coming year. Taking holy dip in rivers like Ganga, Yamuna, Krishna, Cauvery and Godavari is marked by this

day, believing that their sins will be washed away. The festival is considered a time of joy, peace, prosperity and happiness. Sweets made of gud such as chikkis and sesame ladoos are distributed in the hope of piece, harmony and togetherness. Happy Pongal and Makar Sankranti!

## Calendar

Month & school events	
<p><b>Forest School</b>  <b>Maple &amp; Rowan</b> 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><b>January</b>            16<sup>th</sup> Dance workshop all children Chinese Dance (during the school day no cost)</p>	<p>4<sup>th</sup> World Braille Day            14<sup>th</sup> Pongal and Makar Sankranti            18<sup>th</sup> World Religion Day            20<sup>th</sup> Martin Luther King Day            27<sup>th</sup> Holocaust Memorial Day</p>
<p><b>February</b>            2<sup>nd</sup> Rowan and Maple Parents Evening 1.30 – 5.30            5<sup>th</sup> Willow Parents Evening 2.30 – 5.30            6<sup>th</sup> Glow in the Dark sport event for pupils in school - wear your PE with something that will Glow in the Dark.            9<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> Wear Bright Shine Bright CHUMS Children’s Mental Health Week            10<sup>th</sup> Safer Internet Day            10<sup>th</sup> February Maple Performance parents / grandparents invited 2.30 – 3.00 - please note change of date            13<sup>th</sup> HSA Valentines non-uniform - Wear Bright Shine Bright            13<sup>th</sup> Break up for half term            23<sup>rd</sup> SEND parent meetings week            24<sup>th</sup> Young Leaders Training Yr 4 am PE kit            24<sup>th</sup> Little BASH Maple lunchtime PE kit</p>	<p>LGBT+ History Month            9<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> Children’s Mental health Week            10<sup>th</sup> Safer Internet Day            14<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> Random Acts of Kindness Week            17<sup>th</sup> Chinese New Year            17<sup>th</sup> Feb – 18<sup>th</sup> March expected dates for Ramadan            21<sup>st</sup> International Mother Language Day</p>
<p><b>March</b>            3<sup>rd</sup> Young Leaders Training Yr 4 am PE kit            3<sup>rd</sup> Little BASH Maple lunchtime PE kit</p>	<p>2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> March Purim            3<sup>rd</sup> World Wildlife Day            4<sup>th</sup> Holi            8<sup>th</sup> international Women’s Day</p>

<p>10<sup>th</sup> Young Leaders Training Yr 4 am PE kit          10<sup>th</sup> Little BASH Maple lunchtime PE kit          12<sup>th</sup> HSA Carer's Event afternoon times TBC          20<sup>th</sup> Yr3/4 Joy of Movement Festival during school day          20<sup>th</sup> Rocksteady Concert 2.30 TBC          27<sup>th</sup> Last day of term Early Close 1pm</p>	<p>13<sup>th</sup> Young Carers Action Day          16<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> Sign Language Week          19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> Eid al-Fitr          21<sup>st</sup> International Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination</p>
<p><b>April</b>          17<sup>th</sup> Dance workshop all children USA street dance (during the school day no cost)          22<sup>nd</sup> Cluster Sports KS Brooklands approx. 4.30 pick up</p>	<p>Stress Awareness Month          1<sup>st</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> Passover          2<sup>nd</sup> World Autism Awareness Day          5<sup>th</sup> Easter          7<sup>th</sup> World Health Day          14<sup>th</sup> Vaisakhi          14<sup>th</sup> Sikh New Year          14<sup>th</sup> Bengali New Year          15<sup>th</sup> World Art Day</p>
<p><b>May</b>          14<sup>th</sup> 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.          17<sup>th</sup> HSA Summer Fete          22<sup>nd</sup> HSA Non Uniform          22<sup>nd</sup> Break up for half term</p>	<p>1<sup>st</sup> Vesak          4<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> Deaf Awareness Week          9<sup>th</sup> Fair trade Day          11<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> Mental Health Awareness Day          15<sup>th</sup> International Day of Families          18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> – Walk to School Week          21<sup>st</sup> World Day for Cultural Diversity</p>
<p><b>June</b>          1<sup>st</sup> SEND parent meetings week          8<sup>th</sup> Sports Day parents / grandparents invited from 1.30 – 3.00          9<sup>th</sup> Girls Active Rowan PE kit am          9<sup>th</sup> Boys 2 Move Rowan PE kit am          10<sup>th</sup> Cluster Sports KS1 (Brooklands) approx. 4.30 pick up TBC          16<sup>th</sup> Girls Active Rowan PE kit am          16<sup>th</sup> Boys 2 Move Rowan PE kit am          18<sup>th</sup> HSA Carer's Event (time to be confirmed)          23<sup>rd</sup> Girls Active Rowan PE kit am          23<sup>rd</sup> Boys 2 Move Rowan PE kit am          30<sup>th</sup> Girls Active Rowan PE kit am          30<sup>th</sup> Boys 2 Move Rowan PE kit am</p>	<p>Pride Month          5<sup>th</sup> World Environment day          14<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> World Refugee Week          21<sup>st</sup> World Music Day</p>

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

**HSA**

**Bank Details**

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

**The 2025/2026 calendar of events**

EVENT	DATE	COST
<p>HSA Valentines non-uniform -Wear Bright Shine Bright</p>	<p>Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February</p>	<p>Included in annual fee</p>

World Book Day competition <i>(More details to follow)</i>	Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	Included in annual fee
HSA Carer's Event	Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>nd</sup> May	Included in annual fee
HSA Carer's Event	Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> 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