



**We hope you have a lovely half term and look forward to welcoming all children back to school on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November**

#### PE Days – New for Autumn 2

**Nursery SG** - Friday AM  
**Rec GD** – Tuesday and Wednesday AM  
**Y1 TY** – Monday and Thursday  
**Y2 FN** – Monday and Wednesday  
**Y3 MLK** – Wednesday and Friday  
**Y4 FWD** - Tuesday and Thursday  
**Y5 BR** – Tuesday (swimming / PE for those not swimming) and Thursday  
**Y6 MY** – Tuesday and Friday



#### Children in Need

Friday the 13th of November is Children in Need. Each class will discuss the key themes throughout the day which this year are 'positive relationships and trusted adults.' Our school councillors have chatted together to decide the following:



**Children can come into school in either pyjamas OR something spotty with a donation for fundraising of either 20p, 50p or £1.00.**

#### After-School Clubs – This Term

We are pleased to share the after-school clubs running this term! There is a range of fun activities for children to enjoy.

-  **Tuesday – Arts and Crafts:** Year 1 and Year 6
-  **Wednesday – Pickle Palace:** Year 2 and Year 3
-  **Thursday – Basketball:** Year 4 and Year 5

Each club will run for **6 weeks** and costs **£3 per week, or £18 for the full 6-week block.**

Children should have come home with a flyer containing details of how to sign up. If you would like your child to take part, please complete the flyer and return it to the school office. Thank you

#### Message from the PTFA - 🎄 Design a Christmas Card Project

We are pleased to let parents know that the PTFA will once again be taking part in the Design a Christmas Card Project this year! The project will take place after half term, giving children the opportunity to create their own festive card designs in time for Christmas. Further information will be shared after half term, so please keep an eye out for updates. Thank you, as always, for your continued support of our PTFA! 🗣️

#### Harvest Collection – Thank You!

A huge thank you to all our families for your kind donations to our Harvest Collection. We are delighted to share that we have collected an amazing **172 items!**

All donations will be given to a local charity to help support those in our community who need it most. We are so grateful for your generosity and support in helping us make a difference. Thank you for helping us celebrate the spirit of harvest by giving to others. ❤️

#### Online Safety Newsletter – November

A reminder to all parents and carers to check our school website regularly for the latest news, updates and important information.

Our **November Online Safety Newsletter** has now been added and is available to read using the link below.

 [Read the November Online Safety Newsletter](#)

The newsletter contains useful advice and guidance to help keep children safe online. Please take a moment to have a read and stay up to date with the latest online safety information. Thank you for your continued support!

#### No Squishies

Not wishing to end the half-term with a grumble but could we please ask that after half-term children do not bring squishies into school. We have had a number of occasions where they have burst in school and caused no end of excitement. Should this cause problems for anyone, please come and speak to a member of staff.



#### Parent Appointments

Parent Appointments will be held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2026. You should have received your appointment time now, if you have not booked an appointment yet and would like too, please contact the school office.

#### Poppy Appeal 2026

We are pleased to let you know that Poppy Appeal items are now available to purchase from the school office.



**Year 1 – TY – Thomas Young – Mrs Halliday/Mrs Kelly**

Hello at home.

Thank you for an amazing first term in Year 1. We have said it before, but we will say it again, your children have been amazing. We are so proud of how they have settled into the year 1 routine and have given 100% effort. We hope you have a lovely half term, and we will see you in November!

Starting during week 2 of the term we will be welcoming Mrs Cowie back into Year 1. This means the children's routine will be as follows:

- Monday/Tuesday / Wednesday AM – Mrs Halliday
- Wednesday pm – alternative weeks Mrs Cowie /Mrs Halliday
- Thursday / Friday – Mrs Cowie.

Over the last few weeks of term, we have been focusing on kind and unkind hands, as well as kind and unkind behaviour. As a class, we have explored different scenarios and discussed how our actions and choices can make others feel. The children have also had opportunities to share their own experiences and feelings about the actions of their peers. These discussions have been really positive and have helped the children to develop a greater understanding of the impact their behaviour can have on others.

Over the holidays, please could you spend some time chatting with your child about what kind and unkind behaviour looks like, how our actions can make others feel, and the importance of making kind choices.

We will continue to revisit this theme throughout the next term, supporting the children to build positive relationships and treat one another with kindness, care and respect.

Thank you for your continued support!

**Year 2 - FN – Florence Nightingale- Mrs Cowie and Mrs Lawson**

You may may well have seen a glimpse of Mrs Coates at pick up on Thursday. We were delighted to see her back in school, meeting with staff and children. We are keeping staffing arrangements as they are during the first week back after half term, this will allow Mrs Coates some time to work with small groups, catch up with all the hard graft Y2 have been doing during Autumn 1 and rev up to hit the ground running from w/b 9<sup>th</sup> November.

**Year 3 – MLK Martin Luther King – Miss Murray**

A quick message to say that I am so proud of the amazing effort your children have put in to their first half term in Y3! They have worked really hard on classroom routines, shown confidence with their learning, developed their oracy skills and have absolutely shown the High Spen spirit of 'looking out for each other' the whole half term. I hope they enjoy their well earned rest next week. Thank you for all of your support from home with reading and homework too. Have a lovely week and I will see you all soon for parents meetings.

Miss Murray 😊

**Year 5 – BR – Bobby Robson – Mr Cradock**

Hi everyone 😊

It's been a fab, full, fantastic first half term in Y5. Thank you for your support. It's been lovely getting to know you as well as your wonderful children!

We hope that you've been enjoying the Cressida Cowell books at home. They are quite chunky but whenever your child has finished one, they can bring the book back in to swap for another!

As you will have seen from the letter that went home, we will be visiting Chopwell on the first Thursday back to meet Billy Monger, ex-F3 driver, TV personality and author who knows a thing or two about resilience and making the most of life. It should be an inspiring morning. See you all after the break!

**Year 6 – MY – Malala Yousafzai – Mrs Heron/Mrs Lawson**

Eight weeks down and what a jam packed half-term it has been. Settling into being the oldest class in school as well as attending Robinwood and then finishing with the mammoth DT project this week. Y6 – you have smashed it! A huge shout out to adults from home who were able to come in and join us for the DT project this week. We really couldn't have done it without you! Here's to lots of family fun and rest over half-term ready for another busy half-term in the lead up to Christmas.

## Dates for the Diary

| Date                                        | Event                                            |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> October            | Halloween Disco                                  |
| Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October           | Early Years open Evening 4pm-5pm                 |
| Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October             | Last day of Autumn Term 1                        |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> – 30 <sup>th</sup> October | Half Term                                        |
| Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November             | First day of Autumn term 2                       |
| Tues 10th, Wed 11th and Thurs 12th Nov      | Parent Appointments                              |
| Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> November         | Remembrance                                      |
| Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> November            | Children in Need                                 |
| Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> November          | Flu Nasal spray                                  |
| Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> December          | Y1 – Y6 Panto Visit                              |
| Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> December          | Christmas jumper, dinner and bring a bottle day  |
| Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> December            | Christmas fair                                   |
| Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> December            | EY Dress rehearsal AM                            |
| Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> December            | KS1 & KS2 Dress rehearsal PM                     |
| Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> December           | EY Nativity AM                                   |
| Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> December           | KS1 & KS2 Nativity and songs PM                  |
| Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December         | EY Nativity AM                                   |
| Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December         | KS1 & KS2 Nativity and songs PM                  |
| Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> December          | EY Xmas Party AM                                 |
| Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> December          | KS2 Xmas Party AM                                |
| Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> December          | KS1 Xmas Party PM                                |
| Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December            | Christingle Service 10am                         |
| Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December            | Head Teachers Award 1pm                          |
| Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December            | Last day of Autumn term 2 – School closes 1:30pm |

### Autumn term

| Start of term            | Half term             | Last day of term        |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Tuesday 1 September 2026 | 26 to 30 October 2026 | Friday 18 December 2026 |

### Spring term

| Start of term         | Half term              | Last day of term       |
|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Monday 4 January 2027 | 15 to 19 February 2027 | Thursday 25 March 2027 |

### Summer term

| Start of term        | Half term                              | Last day of term    |
|----------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Monday 12 April 2027 | 1 to 4 June 2027 (Bank holiday 31 May) | Friday 16 July 2027 |

All dates are inclusive. In addition to the above dates, schools will be closed to pupils on **Monday 3 May 2026 (Bank Holiday)**. Two days within the above terms are to be used for professional development for staff. These dates for **High Spen Primary** are proposed as **Tuesday 01.09.26 and Monday 21.06.27**, we do have one less Inset/Professional development day than usual this year but we do get 7 weeks summer holidays as the proposed return date is Monday 6 September 2027.