



30th January 2026

HIPPS Newsletter

CONGRATULATIONS
Well done
to everyone for taking
part in the Year 6
English Challenge 2026



Headteacher update

What an exciting week it has been in school this weekend and as a result it's a 'bumper newsletter'! Children in Year 6 have competed in both netball competitions and an English challenge, Key Stage 1 children have designed and made some stunning puppets and Reception have had two special visitors come to talk to them about the jobs that they do. In our staff meeting on Wednesday we looked at all our English books from across the school. We were all struck most by the fantastic progress that so many children have made in the 5 months that they have been in their current classes. Often writing is something children

find more difficult and it is testimony to their determination and aspiration that they are so keen to improve and do their very best.

As mentioned later in the newsletter, it is the National Year of Reading in 2026 and the school and wider trust are planning a number of events and initiatives to celebrate, so watch this space!

It would probably be a good time to also mention the brilliant job being done by our group of Year 4 librarians who are dedicated to making the library a great place for all the children to come and visit.

Thank you librarians!
Jonathan Newman



Meridian
Trust

2026 is the National Year of Reading.

Across the UK, children and young people are reading less than they used to & stories aren't getting the same space they once did - and when reading drops, confidence, imagination and learning take a hit as well.

This year, a national spotlight is being put on reading - watch this 90 second video to find out more.

To help kick start the 2026 National Year of Reading, we're inviting everyone in our school community and across our trust, to take 10mins each day to read something you enjoy.

Have a look at our Ten Ways to Take 10 poster to get inspired!

From our teachers to our TAs, our Year 2s to our Year 6s, and our families to our Finance teams, we want to make 2026 the year we #Take10ToRead and #GoAllIn with reading.

Let's get started...

10 Ways to Take 10...

1. Read something you enjoy - it's okay to stop and swap if it's not fun
2. Switch off devices and make reading a new routine
3. Swap out time on socials for 10 minutes reading
4. Record your reading streak via a reading diary or [online app](#)
5. Try different formats - comics, magazines, audiobooks or e-readers
6. Listen to audiobooks - on the way to school or out on a walk
7. Check out your school library or [local library](#).
8. Choose a quick read and enjoy an easy win
9. Read out loud - share the joy of reading with others
10. Keep a book within easy reach - in your school bag or next to bed

We are proudly taking part in the 2026 National Year Of Reading and invite all our young people, colleagues and families to take 10 minutes each day to read something you enjoy.

Watch this space for more ideas and upcoming events.

Join the movement to enjoy reading throughout 2026! #GoAllIn2026



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GO
ALL
IN.

National
Year of
Reading
2026

Year Group Updates

Reception

As part of their topic on 'People who help us' Classes 1 and 2 were lucky enough to have two visitors this week! On Monday they had Dr Miller visit them and on Thursday Mrs Wicken who is a vet came to talk to them about their jobs. The children asked some fantastic questions and found out lots of amazing facts. Thank you so much to our visitors.



Key Stage One

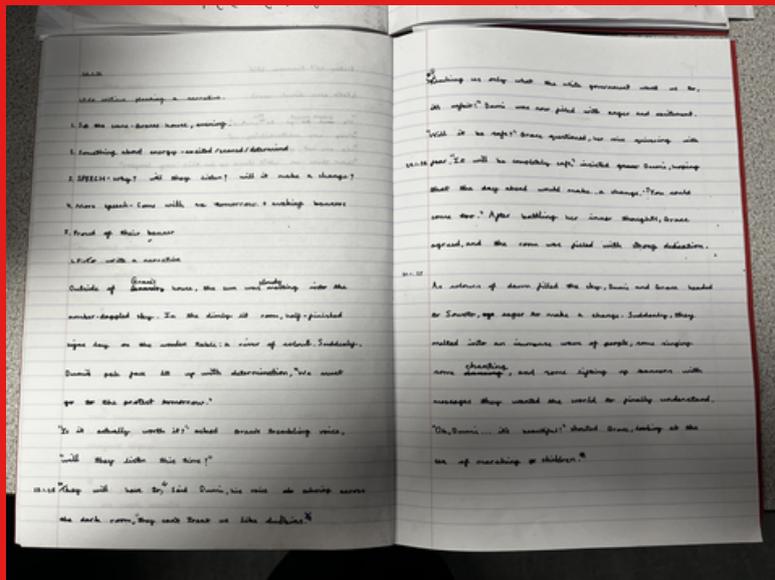
Year One and Two have started creating their hand puppets using recycled materials this week. The children designed, stitched and decorated their puppets using a running stitch. The adults were so impressed with their fantastic hard work and resilience. We were also lucky to have a number of parents come in to help with the stitching and decorating which was fantastic. Next week as a 'fabulous finish' to their puppet work they are going to have a visit from Andy from the brilliant 'Theatre of Widdershin' who is going to bring along some of his amazing puppets.



Key Stage 2

In Year 3 and 4 the children have loved studying the book Varjak Paw and Year 4 have started writing their own play scripts based on the book. Children are loving their Ancient Egypt topic and the children in Year 4 have been learning long division using the short method which class 9 have nicknamed the 'bus stop method!'.

In Year 5 and 6 the children have been looking at the story 'Journey to Jo'burg' and thinking about how best to write their own narratives based on the text. They are also busy planning their installation Art work which we hope to share with you over the next few weeks.



Well done to both Hazel and Kyran in Year 6 this week for being Mr Carminati's sports stars of the week. They have really impressed him (and me!) with their amazing hockey and netball skills respectively as well as demonstrated brilliant support for class and team mates.

A reminder to all parents/carers that there is a meeting of the Smartphone Free Childhood group at the Brook next Wednesday at 7:30pm. All parents are welcome and this is a campaign that the school supports.

Languages at HIPPS

Thank you so much to everyone who responded to our Languages in the School Community survey which we sent out recently. It is amazing to see how many different languages our children speak and are exposed to. We have 22 different languages so far!



Year 6 netball competition

Well done to our two year 6 netball teams who represented us so brilliantly earlier this week at Cottenham Village College against a number of other local schools. Our 'red' team played three games winning 2 and losing 1 whilst our 'blue' team won one game, drew two and narrowly lost their last game by 3 points to 2. The children will have the opportunity to play another set of matches in the same league in a few weeks time including the possibility that they will play against each other. Special mention to Lily and for some fantastic shooting and to Kyran and for brilliant support and encouragement of team mates. Miss Beith and Miss Peake were really impressed by some of their brilliant team work.



Year 6 English Challenge- write up by Izzy(Class 13)

The Year 6 English challenge heat was an amazing experience for me and the rest of our HIPPS team. We enjoyed challenges such as word puzzles and tests of our grammar technique. These puzzles were split into five rounds and a sheet of extra 'thinks'. This opportunity enabled us to demonstrate teamwork and pride in our school. We came third out of ten teams in our heat. It really helped that all the people we had involved in our team had a unique skillset.

Stir Fundraising

We have been approached by Stir Histon to work with them as part of a fundraising initiative which will run from 26th January until 8th March.

During this time, 10% of the cost of any purchases made at the Stir Histon branch by HIPPS parents/staff will go into the HIPPS fundraising pot. (Please note this is not a discount)

All that you need to do is save the picture below in your phone.

When you then go into the shop/cafe, before you make your purchase/before you sit down, show the card to the staff member.

Don't wait until you are paying at the end.

The team at Stir will then calculate the 10% of your spend to go into the pot.

This can also be used as part of their Click and Collect service, when at the checkout, please write in the notes sections "Histon and Impington Park PTFA".

Please note this fundraising only applies to purchases at the Stir Histon branch.

Thank you to Stir Cambridge for their support and we look forward to working with them.



Donations

Thank you so much for the Christmas jumpers and Children in Need jumpers that have already been donated – we really appreciate your generosity.

We would like to add water shoes to our donation list. When Year 6 visit Grafham, these are needed for water activities, and as they are often only worn a few times before children grow out of them, we would love to take some spare pairs with us this year. If you have any outgrown water shoes at home, we would be very grateful for your donations.

Thank you for your continued support!

Housepoint Totals

	 EARTH	 WATER	 FIRE	 AIR
Totals for this week	63	66	59	61
Total for the term	216	208	194	200

Well done to Water House for winning this week. Earth house are still in the lead overall but Water have narrowed the gap.

Entering School

Please can parents/carers ensure that children arrive at school **no earlier than 8:30am**. We have a number of children here before then; we are not able to supervise them and you will be aware that there is only very limited waiting space outside the gates. The gates open at 8:40am and ideally children should arrive on site between 8:40 and 8:45a.m.

PE Kit

Please can you ensure your child always has a full PE kit in school every day as PE days can change. At the moment all of the children in Key Stage 2 are doing hockey and require shinpads. If you have any old spare pairs of shinpads that you can donate to the school we would be very grateful. **Children must bring a change of shoes for PE.**

Children must not wear earrings for PE. Ears cannot be taped to cover earrings, so earrings must be removed. If children cannot do this themselves, parents should remove at home. If ears are newly pierced and earrings cannot be removed, children will have to observe PE lessons as they cannot join in due to Health and Safety guidance.



**SMARTPHONE
FREE CHILDHOOD**

Histon & Impington

Parent Talk: Raising Kids in the Smartphone Era

Practical ideas and friendly conversation about helping kids thrive in the age of smartphones. We'll look at what's working for families right now and hear about the approach being taken by our local schools, including IVC. No judgement, just real talk.

Where

📍 Histon &
Impington Brook
Primary School

When

📅 Weds 4th
February 2026
🕒 7.30-8.30pm

✉️ No need to RSVP...just come along!

We will be joined by Amy Ruffell, Regional SFC Lead and Chris Gee, Assistant Principal at Impington Village College



Key Dates (new dates in black)

Monday 2nd February 2026	All Day	Ancient Egyptian Day Year 3/4
Monday 2nd February 2026	2.45pm	Year 4 Showcase Assembly and Open Classrooms
Wednesday 4th February	am	Year 5 Library Visits
Wednesday 4th February	7.30pm-8.30pm	SmartPhone Meeting at HIPBS
Thursday 5th February	am	Theatre of Widdershins Puppet Show in for Reception and KS1
Wednesday 11th February	am	Reception Library Visits
Thursday 12th February	am	IVC Head of House visit to Year 6 regarding transition
Friday 13th February		Last day of half term
Monday 16th February-Friday 20th February		Half Term
Monday 23rd February		Back to School
Tuesday 24th February	all day	Year 4 Trip to Fitzwilliam Museum
Wednesday 25th February	all day	Year 3 Trip to Fitzwilliam

Thursday 5th March	All Day	World Book Day
Thursday 5th March–Tuesday 10th March	3.30–4pm	Book Fair in School
Wednesday 11th March	am	Year 4 Library Visits
Wednesday 11th March/Thursday 12th March		Parents Consultations
Wednesday 18th March	am	Year 3 Library Visits
Friday 20th March	pm	PTFA Quiz
Wednesday 25th March	9.15am	Reception Showcase Assembly
Wednesday 25th March	All day	Year 5 Lion King Theatre Trip
Wednesday 15th April	am	Year 2 Library Visit
Wednesday 22nd April	am	Year 1 Library Visit

Monday 27th April	2.45pm	Year 3 Showcase Assembly and Open Classroom
Tuesday 5th May		Class Photos
Monday 11th May–Thursday 14th May	9.15–11.00	Year 6 SATS Week
Tuesday 19th May	9.15–11.00	Reception/Key Stage One Sports Day
Tuesday 19th May	1.30–3.15	Key Stage Two Sports Day
Thursday 21st May	All day	Reception Trip to Wicken Fen
Monday 1st June–Wednesday 3rd June		Year 6 Residential
Monday 1st June–Friday 12th June		Year 4 Multiplication Check
Monday 8th June–Friday 12th June		Year 1 Phonics Screening Week
Monday 15th June	2.45pm	Year 2 Showcase Assembly and Open Classroom
Monday 15th June	After school	Year 1 Open Classroom
Monday 22nd June/ Tuesday 23rd June	All Day	Year 6 IVC Transition Days
Friday 26th June	After School	Summer Fair



Looking Ahead!

Save the date for the PTFA quiz.
Friday 20th March is the date for your diaries!
Start gathering your team—more information to follow!



Meridian Trust News

Visit our Trust Website to read about what has been happening at Meridian!

[Read more here](#)



Work with us

We are currently recruiting for teaching assistants. Please find the link to the advert using the link below:

<https://mynewterm.com/jobs/139086/EDV-2026-HAIPPS-18086>

[Find out more](#)

Connect with us at Histon & Impington Park Primary School



10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

ELECTRICAL SAFETY AND DEVICES

Electrical safety is a vital topic for parents and educators, especially with the growing use of devices like smartphones, laptops, and power banks. Electrical fires are a major risk and are the cause of many deaths and injuries each year. There are reportedly nearly 20,000 accidental fires of electrical origin each year in the UK. This guide offers practical advice to help families and schools prevent electrical hazards, and promote safety when using everyday devices.

1 CHECK FOR OVERHEATING

Devices such as laptops, tablets, and smartphones can overheat if used for long periods or when charging. Ensure that children don't use devices on soft surfaces like beds or sofas, which can block ventilation. If a device becomes unusually hot, turn it off and unplug it. Overheating can lead to fire hazards if left unchecked.

2 INSTALL RESIDUAL CURRENT DEVICES

Ensure that homes and schools are equipped with Residual Current Devices (RCDs). These devices cut off the power if an electrical fault occurs, preventing electric shocks and reducing the risk of fires. RCDs should be tested regularly to ensure they are working properly. More information about RCDs is available from Electrical Safety First.

3 AVOID OVERLOADING SOCKETS

Plugging too many devices into one socket can overload the electrical system and cause a fire. In schools and homes, ensure extension leads are not overloaded and never 'daisy chain' multiple extension cords together. Educate children on the dangers of connecting too many devices to a single outlet.

4 POWER BANKS: SAFE USE

Power banks are a handy way to charge devices, but they can also pose a risk if misused. Ensure power banks are of high quality and comply with UK safety standards. Teach children never to leave power banks charging unattended, and to avoid placing them under pillows or bedding where they may overheat.

5 REGULAR DEVICE INSPECTIONS

Regularly check devices for signs of wear and tear. Frayed charging cables, cracked device casings, or devices that are slow to charge may indicate electrical problems. If any issues are noticed, stop using the device until it can be repaired or replaced by a qualified technician. This proactive approach helps prevent fires caused by faulty devices.

6 UNPLUG DEVICES WHEN NOT IN USE

Encourage children and pupils to unplug devices when not in use, particularly overnight. Devices left plugged in unnecessarily can overheat or become fire hazards, especially if left charging unattended for long periods. Simple habits like unplugging can prevent serious incidents.

7 USE GENUINE CHARGERS

Always use chargers supplied by the manufacturer or from a reputable retailer. Faulty or counterfeit chargers can cause devices to overheat, short-circuit, or even catch fire. Teach children the importance of avoiding poor-quality chargers, and regularly inspect charging cables for signs of wear or damage. More tips on safe charging can be found at Electrical Safety First.

8 WATER & ELECTRICITY DON'T MIX

Teach children that water and electricity are a dangerous combination. Devices should never be used near sinks, bathtubs, or swimming pools. Parents and educators should ensure that any electrical appliances near water sources have proper waterproof casings and are plugged into RCD-protected outlets.

9 KEEP DEVICES VENTILATED

Devices need proper ventilation to avoid overheating. Avoid stacking items on top of plugged-in devices like laptops or gaming consoles, and make sure there is enough space around devices to allow for airflow. Proper ventilation helps prevent dangerous heat build-up, reducing the risk of fires.

10 SUPERVISE YOUNG CHILDREN

Younger children may not understand the dangers of electricity, so it's important to supervise them when they are using devices. Keep electrical cords out of reach and always remind children never to put objects into electrical outlets.

Meet Our Expert

James Whelan is an experienced health and safety expert who is a Chartered Member of the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health. He provides services to educational settings as well as many other industries to help them maintain a safe working environment.



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