



# HYLTON CASTLE PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

## Weekly newsletter 20 W/E 20th February 2026

**PLEASE NOTE: Car park gates are closed between 8.25am - 8.45am & 3.10pm - 3.35pm for safety**

### Dates for your Diary

**Monday 2nd March 26**  
Children return to school

**Tuesday 3rd March 26**  
Y1 trip - £12.50 per child  
To be paid by 27th Feb

**Thursday 5th March 26**  
World Book Day  
Dress as book character

**Friday 13th March 26**  
Y5 trip - £5.00 per child  
To be paid by 6th March

**W/B 16th March 26**  
Parental appointments

**Thursday 2nd April 26**  
Break up for Easter

**Monday 20th April 26**  
Children return to school

**W/B 11th May 26**  
KS2 SATS - all children have exams throughout May

**Friday 22nd May 256**  
Break up for half term

**Monday 1st June 26**  
Children return to school

**Wednesday 22nd July 26**  
Break up for Summer

**House Team Winner**  
Children have really enjoyed earning house tokens again this term. Because it is the end of the half term, we have counted the tokens and the winning house is:  
• Responsibility Ranger (Red)  
Well done to everyone in that team; we hope you enjoy your special treat bag.

### Compass

We're pleased to let you know that after February half term we will be moving to the Compass MIS system.

Compass is a modern school management platform that will make communication between school and home easier, faster and more convenient. Through Compass, parents and carers will be able to:

- Receive important school announcements
- Make payments and setup direct debit or payment plans
- View outstanding balances and payment history
- View attendance information
- Complete forms and provide permissions online

This move will help us streamline communication and reduce paperwork, while ensuring you have secure and easy access to key information about your child.

Over the coming weeks, we will share further details on how to access Compass, along with guidance to help you get started.

We're excited about this positive step forward and look forward to continuing to work closely with you to support our pupils.



### Heroes of the Week



Well done to the children who won this week:

- Archie Wilkinson
- Ollie Lonsdale
- Lenny Jones
- Lacey Parker
- Albi Wallace
- Skylar Welsh
- Lucy Jones
- Charlotte Cook
- Ollie Lonsdale

Every week, a 'Hero of the Week' is chosen from each class and they get to add 10 tokens to their house collection!

### Happy Birthday to the children who have Birthdays:

Jamie Gardner  
 Sebastian Leach  
 Scarlett Pezzone  
 Amari Butler  
 Ella-Rose Kennedy  
 Harper Burnicle  
 Lexi Britton  
 Alexandru Mihai



Jemaima Ayo-Ige  
 Lennon Summerside  
 Roman Horler  
 Kove Raine

### OPAL Hero

The OPAL Superstar award is awarded to someone who has showed a real commitment to OPAL and being a positive role models to others.

The winners for this week is:

- Miles Morse

A huge well done and keep it up.



### Attendance Awards

Congratulations to the following classes for the best attendance for week ending 20th February

KS1: Rec 98.28%  
 KS2: Y4 97.93%



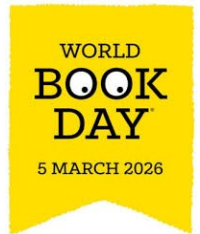
Like us on Facebook: [Hylton Castle Primary School Authorised Page](#)

WEBSITE: [www.hyltoncastleprimary.org.uk](http://www.hyltoncastleprimary.org.uk) Email: [info@hyltoncastleprimary.org.uk](mailto:info@hyltoncastleprimary.org.uk)

### World Book Day

To celebrate **World Book Day** this year, pupils are invited to come to school dressed as their favourite book character on Thursday 5th March.

We are also delighted to invite parents and carers to join their children in the classroom from **8:30–9:00 a.m.** to enjoy sharing a book together. Juice and a biscuit will be provided, and we look forward to celebrating a love of reading as a school community.



### REMINDER - Communication/Complaints

We always aim to work closely with parents and carers to resolve any concerns as quickly and effectively as possible.

If you have a concern or would like to pass on a message, your first port of call should be the staff on the door in the morning, who can arrange for the class teacher to call you.

If the issue remains unresolved, you're welcome to make an appointment to speak with the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher, who are also available on the main yard each morning.

For more serious concerns, please follow our Complaints Policy, which is available from the school office or on our website.

Thank you for helping us maintain open, respectful, and effective communication.

### Friendships and Growing Up

Friendships play a big role in children's school lives, and they don't always go smoothly. Falling out, feeling left out, or having disagreements can be upsetting, but these experiences are a normal part of growing up. Through them, children learn important skills such as empathy, communication, and problem-solving.

It's important for children to know that feeling sad, worried, or upset about friendships is okay. These emotions are not signs of failure, but opportunities for learning and growth. With support from trusted adults, children can learn how to talk about their feelings, repair friendships, and build resilience over time.

Schools support children to work through everyday friendship difficulties and may not contact parents or carers about every minor issue. However, families will always be informed if there are repeated concerns or a single significant incident. Working together helps ensure children feel safe, supported, and able to learn.

### When Children Don't Want to Come to School

At times, children may say they don't want to come to school. This can be linked to worries, tiredness, friendship challenges, or feeling overwhelmed. While these feelings should always be listened to and taken seriously, they are also a common part of children learning to manage emotions and cope with everyday challenges.

Alongside understanding and reassurance, firm and consistent boundaries are essential. Even when children feel unhappy about coming to school, clear routines and expectations help them feel safe and supported. Boundaries show children that adults are confident and in control, which can be reassuring — especially during times of worry.

By acknowledging children's feelings while maintaining consistent boundaries, we support them to build confidence, resilience, and a positive relationship with school.

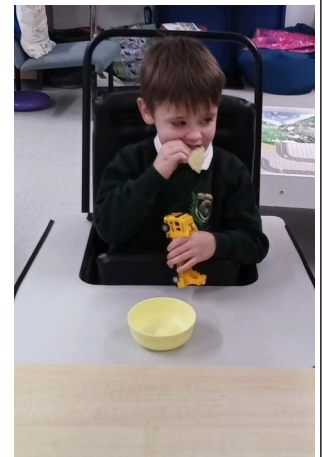
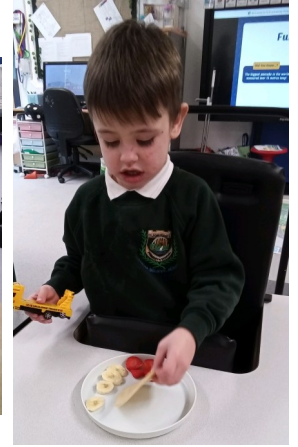
### Year 6

Year 6 are learning about the circulatory system so we completed a demonstration of how this works to help our understanding. We had to change colours to show when the oxygen and nutrients had been used and the blood needed to return to the heart. The 'heart' had to work very hard to pass the blood to lungs but also out to the rest of the body too!



### Rainbow Room

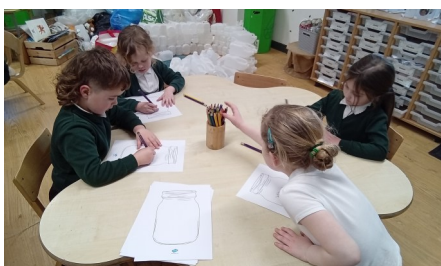
For Pancake Day, the children had a wonderful time making their own pancakes! They carefully added all the ingredients into the bowl, taking turns to pour, scoop and crack the eggs before we mixed everything together to make our delicious batter. There was lots of excitement as everyone helped, and we talked about how the ingredients change when they are stirred together. We then tasted our pancakes with our favourite toppings, and they were delicious!



### Reception

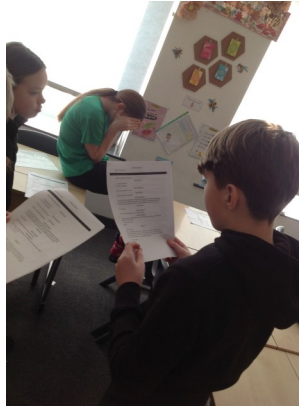
This week, Reception celebrated Shrove Tuesday by making pancakes! We wrote a shopping list, using our amazing blending skills, then we used all of the ingredients to make delicious pancakes. We added syrup to the top make them even tastier! Our snack time was awesome!

Reception have also been learning about the meaning of Lent and all of the children made a kindness jar to show ways in which they could be kind and helpful towards others during this Lenten period.



### Year 5

Year 5 have had an amazing opportunity to take part in a special writing project with the Sunderland Empire inspired by Matilda The Musical. Over the past few weeks, we have been learning all about script writing, staging and characterisation, developing our skills as young playwrights. We were even lucky enough to visit the theatre to watch Matilda performed live on stage. After working incredibly hard to create our own additional scene for the show, three Year 5 pupils had the honour of seeing their work performed this afternoon by an actor from the Royal Shakespeare Company. We are so proud of their creativity and dedication—well done, Year 5!



### Nursery

Nursery children made pancakes! Together we explored the ingredients and talked about where they came from before mixing them together to create our pancake batter. The children were fantastic at counting the eggs one at a time.

Once everything was combined, we poured the batter onto the hotplate and carefully watched as it began to change. The children observed how the mixture turned from runny batter into solid pancakes that were ready to flip. There was lots of excitement as we turned them over! When the pancakes were ready, the children chose from a selection of delicious toppings including sugar, chocolate spread, different syrups and fresh fruit. They tried really hard to use a knife and fork independently to eat their pancakes.

Well done everyone for your fantastic teamwork and super counting skills!



### Year 4—Trip

On Monday, Year 4 went on an exciting trip to Jarrow Hall. In the morning, we visited the Anglo-Saxon farm and explored the Anglo-Saxon houses, where we saw what homes were like a long time ago. We learned more about how people cooked, slept, and worked in the past. We also had a fire in the house and heard the story of Beowulf. In the afternoon, we discovered more about Anglo-Saxon burials, religion, and battles. We found out how they honoured their dead, what they believed in, and how they fought to protect their kingdoms. We got to hold some real armour and try it on; it was very heavy! It was a fun and interesting day, and we learned lots more about life in Anglo-Saxon times. The instructors were so impressed with our knowledge recall about the Anglo-Saxon's and were amazed we knew so much about Sutton Hoo! Miss Tomys is so proud of how much they had remembered, their subject specific questions and their behaviour whilst being on this trip. They have represented our school brilliantly.



### Year 6 - Trip

Year 6 had a fantastic trip to the Victoria Tunnel in Newcastle. They learned lots about their history topic of WW2 and got to experience what it felt like taking shelter underground during an air raid.



### Year 4

This term, year 4 have been learning about Oliver Twist and Victorian workhouses in English as well as the Victorians in History. We have thoroughly enjoyed these topics but wondered what life was like in this time. We watched the 1968 film 'Oliver!' to see what London looked like in Victorian times, what the workhouses looked like and the difference in life how the rich and poor. The children made notes on what they could see, what they didn't expect to see and completed a page profile for Oliver. They were disgusted with the look of gruel! We completed some Oliver Twist related activities and then a movie review of the film. We are excited to continue our Victorian topic next half term and have a better understanding of what life looked like in the Victorian times.

