

Hugglescote Newsletter

28TH AUGUST 2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been wonderful to welcome the children back into school and to see the building come to life again after the summer break. I hope you all enjoyed a restful and enjoyable holiday, with plenty of opportunities to make the most of the lovely weather. The children have settled quickly into their new classes and routines, and it has been a pleasure to see them return with such positivity.

As we reach the end of our first week, I would like to share a few key messages with you. Below you will find important information regarding:

- School Uniform
- Snacks in school
- Home-school communication
- Attendance
- Reading

We are delighted to welcome several new members of staff this term. Miss Lovett (1BL) joins our Year One teaching team, while Miss Sleight and Mr Sharp join our learning support team. We also welcome Miss Jobburn and Mrs Sadhu, who are completing teacher training placements with us this term. We wish them all the very best as they begin their journey with us.

A warm welcome also goes to all the families who have joined our school community recently. We are very pleased to have you with us and hope that you and your children will be very happy as part of the Hugglescote family.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our Premises Team — Mr Milton, Mrs Boot and our cleaning staff — who worked tirelessly throughout the summer to ensure the school was ready for the children's return. Several areas of the school have been transformed, and the improvements are already making a positive difference.

We also send our congratulations to Mrs Reynolds-Moore (formerly Miss Reynolds) and Mrs Barnes (formerly Miss Storer), who both celebrated their weddings during the holiday. Congratulations as well to Miss Heward and her partner on the birth of baby Billy. Finally, we are delighted to welcome Mrs Binns back following her maternity leave.

As we begin this new academic year, we look forward to working closely with you to ensure the very best for all of our children.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Paul Driver

School Uniform

Detailed information about our school uniform is available on our school website [Uniform](#) |

We expect all of our pupils to adhere to the school uniform policy at all times.

A few points to note:

BAGS AND COATS

Children can use a book bag with the school logo on. We recommend that all children in EYFS and KS1 use these.

All other bags should be suitably sized. We recommend rucksack/ backpack styles. Bags are stored on pegs and oversized bags can take up too much room and are hard for children to manage.

Coats should be brought to school for most days of the year. A simple raincoat should be provided in the warmer months where rain is forecast, since children play outside on all days except for particularly bad weather.

All items of uniform, PE kit, bags and coats etc must be named and regularly checked by parents/carers that the name is clearly visible.

WELLIES

All children will need to bring in a named pair of wellies to be able to access OPAL zones on the school fields during wetter months.

HAIR

Hair should be of a natural colour that a child could be born with. Hair should not be dyed a non-natural colour and hair braiding should not include colours that can be woven into the hair.

We recommend that all hair that is long enough to be tied up is tied up for school. All hair must be tied up for PE. Small hair accessories may be worn i.e. hair clips and small bows. These should be white, blue, grey or black. If a headband is worn it should be soft and small. Any headband that sits off the head or could be dangerous are not permitted e.g. metal cats ear style

JEWELLERY

Children should not wear jewellery to school. The exceptions are:

Small plain studs worn in the ears.

Small wrist watch or fitness band

Other items of religious significance (requests should be made to Mr Driver or Miss Walker)

All jewellery is expected to be removed for PE and swimming. Staff are not allowed to remove earrings so these should be removed by the children themselves or not worn on PE days. A child may wear microfibre plasters over any new piercings.

Breaktime Snacks and Food in School

Our policy states that children should only bring a piece of fruit or a plain biscuit as a breaktime snack. Pupils in EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 are provided with fruit by the school each day.

Recently, we have noticed some children taking items from their lunchboxes at playtime, such as chocolate bars, pepperoni sticks and other unsuitable snacks. We will be monitoring this closely to ensure it does not continue. Please remind your child of our breaktime snack expectations.

A gentle reminder that no sweets or fizzy drinks are allowed in school at any time. Please also remember that we are a nut-free school, and no products containing nuts should be brought onto the premises.

Thank you for your support in helping us keep all children safe and healthy.

Home – School Communication

We pride ourselves on maintaining strong and effective communication with all of our families. Most messages and notices are shared through Weduc, so please ensure you have downloaded the app and are confident in how to navigate it. If you experience any difficulties, our school office staff will be happy to help.

We are also very pleased to share that our brand-new school website will be launching in the coming weeks. The website will continue to be a key place to find important information, updates and resources.

If you need to contact your child's class teacher, you can do so by calling the school office to arrange an appointment at the end of the school day. Alternatively, you may send a Weduc message to the school office; this will be forwarded to the class teacher, who will respond as soon as possible between 8am and 5pm, Monday to Friday.

Reading

Reading is at the heart of all we do and is a priority at our school.

All children should read a minimum of four times a week at home. This should be recorded in your child's reading record. You will notice that we have bought all children brand new reading records.

Reading with your child is one of the simplest and most effective ways to support their learning. Just a few minutes each day helps build confidence, strengthens vocabulary and improves understanding across all subjects.

Sharing books also helps children develop a love of reading, which is one of the strongest predictors of future success. Most importantly, it creates a positive routine and a special moment of connection.

Thank you for continuing to read with your child. Your support makes a real difference to their progress.

Attendance Matters

We know that good attendance is important. One aspect attendance impacts is pupil outcomes. We decided to look for ourselves at what our school data showed. During the summer we looked at 66 Year 6 pupils and compared their attendance over the last four years with their results at the end of Year 6.

Attendance Over Time

Average attendance for this group has slowly dropped:

- 2022/23: 96.1%
- 2023/24: 95.8%
- 2024/25: 95.8%
- 2025/26: 94.3%

This means pupils have gradually been missing more school time each year.

How Attendance Links to Learning

We checked whether pupils who attend more regularly achieve higher results. The answer is yes — but the strength of the link varies by subject.

Reading

There is a small positive link: pupils with better attendance tend to score slightly higher.

Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling (GPS)

A clearer link: pupils with higher attendance usually achieve noticeably better results.

Maths

This is where attendance makes the biggest difference. Pupils who attend more regularly score significantly higher.

Writing

Attendance has the smallest impact here, but pupils with better attendance still do slightly better overall.

High Attendance vs Lower Attendance

We compared pupils with **97%+ attendance** to those with **below 93% attendance**.

Subject Higher Attendance Lower Attendance Difference

Reading	104.6	101.9	+2.7
GPS	105.8	101.9	+3.9
Maths	106.6	101.7	+4.9
Writing	100.2	98.3	+1.9

Maths and GPS show the biggest gaps, meaning pupils who attend more regularly tend to achieve better results.

Key Messages

- **Attendance matters.** Pupils who attend school regularly achieve better results in every subject.
- **Maths and GPS are most affected** by missed learning time.
- **Writing is least affected**, but still shows a small difference.
- Attendance has dropped over the last four years, which may be affecting some pupils' progress.
- Attendance is **not the only factor**, but it is an important one.