

Snowdrop Class Newsletter – April 2026

Dear Parents and carers,

Welcome back!

I hope you all had a relaxing Easter break. Although the weather is starting to look a little more warmer, April is notorious for showers and cold so please ensure children still bring a coat to school, even if it is just a lightweight waterproof. We will also be starting to do some PE lessons outside so children will need trainers or plimsolls and perhaps a black tracksuit for the slightly chillier days.

Reminders:

Home – Communication

For day-to-day issues, such as collection by a different adult, you can let us know on the door in the morning or contact the school office admin@hillmead.herts.sch.uk . For any other issues, email the office and we can arrange a meeting if necessary.

Uniform

Thank you for your support in ensuring that the children take pride in the way they dress for school. This does include no nail varnish or earrings. Long hair must be tied up without the use of large bows and accessories. Please see the school website for school uniform requirements, including school shoes.

PE uniform consists of a Hillmead red polo shirt and black shorts. If your child wears tights then they need socks in their PE bag to wear with their trainers.

Please, please name everything. I have had to put a lot of items in lost property this year as I have been unable to easily return things to their rightful owner.

Water bottles and snack

All children should have a named water bottle in school. We do give them opportunities to drink during the day and water bottles make this much simpler than issuing cups of water. The water bottles must only contain water.

The children are provided with fruit as part of the government's fruit for schools scheme. If you choose to send in a snack instead then this must only be a piece of fruit or vegetable, not flapjacks or fruit bars etc.

Homework

Whilst pupils are completing their tasks, please be mindful of their online activity and ensure appropriate measures are in place to keep your child safe online. Please support your child in accessing their homework, by providing them time and space to complete it. Daily reading is an essential part of your child's homework and should be recorded in the reading record by an adult at home. This will be closely monitored in school so please make sure you are recording when your child has read. Many children are completing their DoodleMaths and are keeping their efforts in the green zone. The children are really enjoying the rewards they can claim on a Friday afternoon. Those who are consistently not completing their homework will be asked to complete it on a Thursday lunchtime going forward as the gaps in learning for many of those students are becoming more apparent where they are not getting the opportunities to consolidate their learning at home. This then has a greater impact on the learning, understanding and self-esteem in the classroom as they are not as confident in activities that their peers have been rehearsing regularly.

Attendance and Punctuality

Absences from school can have a huge impact on your child's understanding. Some of you may have had communication about attendance. I know that 90% can sound quite misleading and a high rate, but to quantify, a 90% attendance rate equates to a 10% absence rate – the equivalent of one morning missed every week! Learning sequences often build on prior knowledge, which automatically puts pupils on the back foot with a lesson if they have missed part of it. There are some pupils who are consistently arriving at school as the bell rings. This means that over a course of the week they are missing nearly an hour compared to their peers that are arriving at 8:45. This time is used to rehearse the spellings for the week.

Please find a curriculum overview overleaf to see what we will be learning this half term.

Mrs Suttle

English:

We continue with The Goldilocks project – a unit that looks at alternative versions of familiar stories. We will develop our narrative writing whilst also focussing on embedding accurate use of capital letters and full stops, developing our writing stamina and fluency and exploring descriptive vocabulary through expanded noun phrases. Following this unit we will move onto a text by Roald Dahl – “The Minpins”, following the consequences of Little Billy’s actions when he does not listen to his mother’s advice.

In reading we will continue to develop fluency and comprehension through our guided reading sessions.

Spelling will continue to link to our phonics learning.

Maths:

We are focusing on multiplication and division initially, which will be followed by fractions. Some games to support maths learning as well as Doodlemaths include “Hit the Button” and “Topmarks – Telling the time in words” (this builds on the maths learning from last half term).

Science:

Living Things:
Microhabitats

**Year 2
Snowdrop Class**

**Summer 1
April 2026**

Computing

Being safe in a digital world: Managing Online Information

Coding

Art:

Sculpture and 3D Clay:
Houses

Geography:

Why is our world wonderful?

Music:

Improvisation

PE:

Jumping (and beginning sports day events) – Mrs Suttle
Hand control – Mr Webb

PSHE:

Mrs Gotham Relationships

RE:

Mrs Gotham
Judaism: The Covenant