

Snowdrop Class Newsletter – July 2026

Dear Parents and carers,

Welcome back!

Our last half term is upon us and I cannot believe how quickly this year has gone. I stood back and watched the class working independently earlier this week and took some time to reflect on just how much your children have matured and developed this year. Sometimes we miss that when looking at them day to day, but looking back at their work in September shows how far their learning journey has come this year. Coming up this half term we have many exciting events to look forward to, including Sports Day (18th June), our concert at the South Mill Arts Centre (23rd June), and our trip to Cammas Hall (24th June). We will also complete a transition session with our new teacher as well as other transition activities to ensure we are fully ready for Year 3.

The government has dropped the requirement for Year 2 to complete statutory tests. We will still have assessments, (as we have throughout the year) and these will help to inform overall teacher assessment judgements which will be shared on end of year reports. Year 2 data is no longer reported nationally. Those pupils who did not meet the expected level in the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check will be retaking this – if you have had words to rehearse reading, please support your children with these. (They are not words they need to learn to read, it is the act of sounding them out and then blending).

Clothing Update for events:

- You will have received an email about t-shirts for Sport's Day – the children all know the colour and name of their team as they regularly receive house points, but if anyone is unsure, please ask.
- South Mill Arts – Full uniform.
- Cammas Hall have requested trainers or boots, regardless of the weather. They also suggest long trousers and sleeves to protect from any scratches from bushes etc. A school jumper counts as long sleeves and we can take these off when we are in the open areas if it is a hot day. You may want to consider tights for girls and trousers for boys if you think they will be fussed about bramble scratches – if it is REALLY hot, they could always pack school shorts for the afternoon – we will keep an eye on the weather and update nearer the time.

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. Please also be aware that when your child moves to Year 3 there are slightly different uniform requirements for KS2 children (namely a white collared shirt and Hillmead tie).

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. This will stop in Year 3 and snack will need to be provided from home.

Homework

Well done to those of you who have shown a more positive attitude to your homework last half term. 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. Those who are consistently not completing their homework will be asked to complete handwritten equivalent activities during Golden Time 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. 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.

This next few weeks are going to fly by, I would like to take the opportunity to thank you all for the support you have given to your children with their learning this year and I look forward to seeing you at the many events taking place before the end of term.

Mrs Suttle

English:

We are beginning the half term by completing our unit on 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. We will be doing this by planning, writing, editing and publishing our own longer stories based on this text, writing an extended section each day for the first week and then editing and publishing the next week. We are hoping to use our published stories in the corridor displays for people to look at and read next year.

We will then move onto our final English unit of the year, “The Great Fire of London”.

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 working well on our fractions units, and have learned about halves, quarters, thirds and three-quarters of shapes and amounts as well as counting in continuous fractions (your children were FABULOUS at this!). We will then move onto Geometry (2d shapes, 3d shapes, symmetry and rotation) before reviewing the four operations and telling the time to 5 minutes.

Science:

Living Things: Plants

History:

What is a Monarch

**Year 2
Snowdrop Class**

**Summer 1
April 2026**

Computing

Being safe in a digital world: Privacy, Copyright and ownership.

Questioning, Presenting Ideas, Making Music.
(3 shorter units)

DT:

Healthy Salads

Geography:

Mrs Gotham
What is it like to live by the coast?

Music:

Music Concert preparation.

PE:

Rackets, Bats and Balls
(and Sports Day events) – Mr Webb
Creating Games – Mrs Suttle

PSHE:

Changing Me

RE:

Mrs Gotham
Judaism: Rights of Passage and Good Works