

We are inclusive, confident, and enterprising learners who are brave, curious, optimistic, and kind. We are ready to embrace the future!



LEARNING
ACADEMIES TRUST

FRIDAY, 12TH DECEMBER 2025

CONTACT US ON



01752 225314



<http://hydepark-inf.plymouth.sch.uk/>

<http://www.hydeparkjuniorschool.co.uk>



office@hydeparkprimary.co.uk

Update from Mrs. Jones

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Carers,

The pride I feel for our school community is tremendous, especially as we see the incredible progress our children are making, particularly in their writing. I have been so proud to see how much dedicated writing the children have been doing across all year groups, and how proud they are to share their thoughtful and creative work.

Festive & Community Giving

As we move toward the end of term, the joy is building! Our traditional **Christmas Carolling and Tree Dressing** continue to be a beautiful highlight for us all.

- **PTFA Community Carolling:** Join us **this afternoon** for the PTFA Community Carolling to spread some festive cheer!
- **The Gift of Giving:** The PTFA and some incredibly generous families have kindly donated presents for children whose families may not be able to afford gifts this Christmas. If you would like to receive a present for your child, please speak with **Mrs. Burford confidentially**. There is still time to donate if you are able to help another family this season.

A Partnership in Learning: The Importance of Homework

We know family life is busy, but homework is a vital component of your child's learning journey. Completing homework at home reinforces the concepts taught in the classroom, helps develop independence, and teaches children the essential life skill of time management.

Please do encourage your children to dedicate time each week to their homework tasks. If you need support, we are here to help!

- **Homework Club** is available every **Friday** for children who need a quiet space or a little extra help to complete their assignments before the weekend.

A Heartfelt Farewell to Mrs. Degg

As we approach the final day of term, we share a bittersweet moment as we prepare to say farewell to our wonderful colleague, **Mrs. Degg**, who will be retiring after over **20 remarkable years dedicated to education**.

Mrs. Degg has been a guiding light for countless children and families over two decades. Her commitment, patience, and unwavering belief in every child's potential have left an indelible mark on our school community. We thank her profoundly for her incredible service, her warmth, and her commitment to the well-being of all our pupils.

We wish Mrs. Degg a long, happy, and well-deserved retirement filled with joy, relaxation, and new adventures! She will be greatly missed by pupils, parents, and colleagues alike.

Thank you for your continued partnership and commitment to your children's education.

Best wishes for the coming weeks and have a safe weekend.

KIND HANDS, KIND FEET, KIND WORDS, KIND ACTIONS



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Reception: Balancing, Coordination, and Book Buddies!

Our Reception children have been busy developing their physical skills in PE, focusing on control and coordination through balancing and exciting team games like 'Dinosaur Eggs'!

Equally wonderful is seeing our young learners foster a genuine love of books and book sharing with one another.

Tips for Supporting at Home:

1. **Balance Challenge:** Encourage your child to walk along a line (like a crack in the pavement or a painted line) or balance on one foot while counting to ten to boost coordination.
2. **Shared Story Time:** Encourage your child to read a picture book to you or a sibling, not just reading the words, but pointing out details and telling the story from the pictures.
3. **Simple Team Games:** Play 'fetch' or catch with a soft toy to practise the throwing and aiming skills they are developing in class.



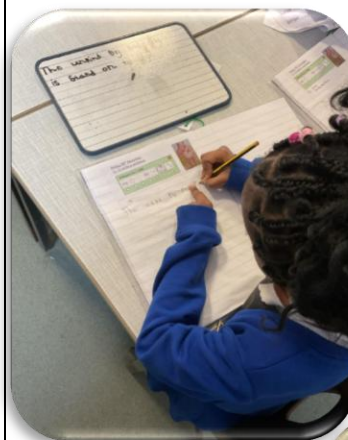
Year 1: Flipping the Script with Prefixes!

Year 1 has been captivated by **The Three Little Wolves and The Big Bad Pig**, a traditional fairytale with a clever twist!

In literacy, the children learned about the power of the prefix '**un-**', which makes a word mean the opposite. They successfully used this new knowledge to describe the villainous pig using fantastic vocabulary like *unkind*, *unhappy*, and *unfriendly*. Using all their writing resources, Year 1 produced amazing sentences packed with interesting adjectives and verbs. Well done!

Tips for Home Support:

1. **Prefix Hunt:** When reading together, point out words with 'un-' (like *unbutton* or *unlocked*) and ask your child what the word means without the prefix.
2. **Opposite Game:** Play a quick game where you say a word (like *tidy* or *zip*) and they add 'un-' to say the opposite!
3. **Adjective Spotlight:** Encourage them to describe everyday objects (e.g., "The cat is *sleepy*," "The apple is *crisp*") to practise using strong verbs and adjectives.



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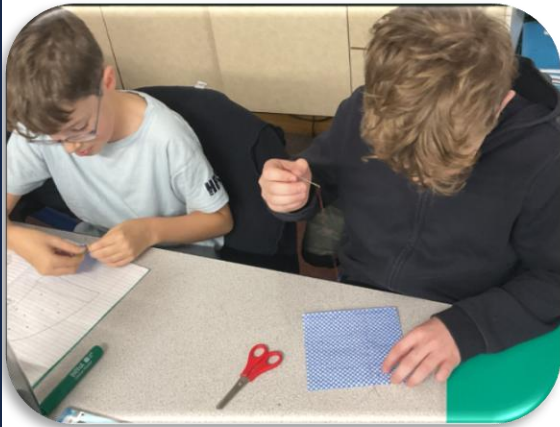


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Year 6 Mastering the Needle: Sewing Techniques!

Year 6 children recently polished their practical Design Technology skills by reviewing three essential sewing techniques: the running stitch, back stitch, and blanket stitch.

The children truly enjoyed exploring the differences between each method and gaining confidence as their accuracy and control improved. It was a great hands-on session that helped build both technical skill and creativity, ready for future textile projects!



Tips for Home Support (With Supervision):

1. **Practice on Paper:** If sewing fabric isn't an option, they can practice the running stitch by using a needle and thread (or even a hole-punch) on thick paper or card to perfect the rhythm and spacing.
2. **Simple Mending:** Give them a small, low-stakes mending task, like reattaching a slightly loose button or stitching a small tear in an old piece of clothing, to apply their new skills practically.
3. **Thread Control:** Provide them with different weights of thread (thick yarn vs. thin cotton) to help them understand how materials affect control and technique.

Reception: Crafting Candles and Parachute Fun!

The Reception children have been busy artists, exploring different materials to create special candles for a celebration display. This activity was very tactile, involving lots of tearing, ripping, and scrunching while talking about colours!

They also had a blast working as a team with the large parachute in the hall. They enjoyed collaborating to make both calm waves and a storm, which is fantastic for developing cooperative play and listening skills!



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Celebrating Our Pupil Achievements!

We would love to celebrate all the amazing activities our pupils get up to outside of school, not just sports! If your child is involved in any kind of hobby or activity, from football and gymnastics to playing a musical instrument, dancing, or even building with LEGO, please send a short description and a picture of them in action to the admin team.

This is a fantastic way to celebrate the children's hard work, passion, and dedication.

Please remember: We cannot publish any photos that include other children. If you send in a photo, please make sure only your child is visible.

Thank you for your help in celebrating all of our stars!

Help Us Create an Outdoor Reading Oasis!


We are currently working on developing an exciting new Outdoor Reading Area for all our children to access and enjoy during lunchtimes, and we are seeking your generous support!

To make this space a comfortable, engaging, and relaxing "reading oasis," we are looking for donations of the following items:

- **Reading Books:** Suitable for both infants and juniors, including both fiction and non-fiction titles.
- **Seating:** Waterproof-backed picnic blankets and outdoor / waterproof cushions and beanbags.

If you are able to support this wonderful project, please send any donations into the school for the attention of **Mrs. Foster**.

Thanking you all in advance for helping us bring this fantastic resource to life!



SCAN ME! 

PLYMOUTH FAMILY HUBS

Join Our Multicultural Play Group


A play group for families from culturally diverse backgrounds, where English may be an additional language. A space to build community whilst gaining fun ideas to support your child's learning. A Health Visitor is available for advice and to weigh your baby



When and Where? Greenbank Community Centre, Greenbank Road 930-11am

Additional info... FREE to attend! No need to book
Age 0-5 years

Plymouth Family Hubs working in partnership with...



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Safeguarding: Our Top Priority

At Hyde Park Schools, safeguarding is at the heart of everything we do. We are committed to ensuring the safety, well-being, and protection of all our pupils, creating a secure environment where every child can thrive. Our dedicated staff are trained to recognise and respond to any concerns, and we follow strict procedures to maintain a safe school community.

Parents play a vital role in supporting this effort. Here are some ways you can help:

Open communication: Encourage your child to talk about their day, and listen for any concerns they may share.

Online safety: Monitor your child's online activity and talk to them about how to stay safe when using the internet.

Know the signs: Be aware of changes in your child's behaviour, mood, or friendships that may indicate they need support.

Stay informed: Engage with school updates and attend any safeguarding information sessions we offer to stay up to date on how we protect your children.

Together, we can ensure that our school remains a safe and nurturing environment for all pupils. If you ever have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Keeping
children safe
is everyone's
responsibility



The Graduated Approach and SEND Inclusion

At Hyde Park Schools, we are dedicated to ensuring that every child receives the support they need to thrive, regardless of their individual needs. Through our **graduated approach** to SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) and inclusion, we provide tailored support that is aligned with each child's unique requirements.

This approach follows a clear process of **assess, plan, do, and review**, ensuring that we consistently monitor and adjust the support provided to achieve the best possible outcomes for every pupil. We work closely with parents, carers, and external specialists to create personalised learning plans that enable children to reach their full potential.

Our policies and procedures are designed with inclusivity in mind, making sure that all pupils—whether they need additional learning support or specific interventions—feel valued and included in every aspect of school life.

Parents play a key role in this process, and we encourage open communication to ensure that your child's needs are met. If you have any concerns or feel your child may need extra support, please don't hesitate to contact **Mrs. Jennifer Hussey our SENDCO**. Together, we can provide the right support for every child to succeed.

SEND



all different - all together

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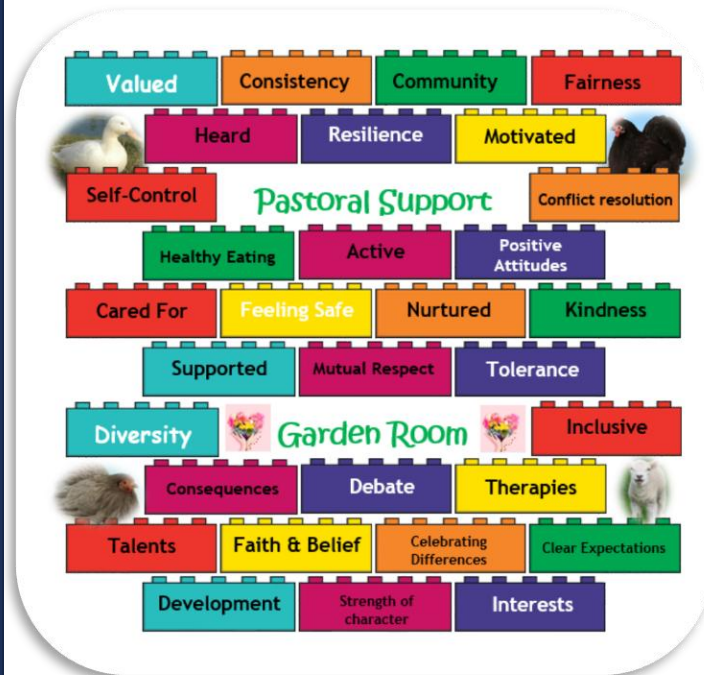
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Family Support Advisor

At Hyde Park Schools, we are fortunate to have a dedicated **Family Support Advisor** who is here to offer guidance and support to families. Our Family Support Advisor works closely with parents and carers, helping to address any challenges that may impact a child's well-being, learning, or development. Whether you need advice on parenting, assistance with routines at home, or help accessing external services, we are here to listen and offer practical solutions.

The goal is to build strong partnerships between school and home, ensuring that every child feels supported both in and outside of the classroom. If you ever have any concerns or need someone to talk to, our Family Support Worker **Mrs. Leisa Warne** is available to offer confidential support and advice tailored to your family's needs.

We encourage all families to reach out if they need assistance—together, we can work towards ensuring the best outcomes for your child.



A Reminder of Our School Values and Responsible Use of Social Media

At Hyde Park Schools, we prioritise fostering a positive and respectful environment that reflects our core values of **kindness, respect, and community**. As part of this, we want to remind parents about the impact of social media, including WhatsApp groups.

While these platforms can be helpful for staying connected, we kindly ask that any concerns or queries related to school matters be directed to your child's **class teacher** or the **Senior Leadership Team**, rather than discussed in group chats. This ensures that issues are addressed appropriately and in a timely manner, in line with our school's commitment to effective communication and the well-being of all pupils.

Healthy Snacks and Lunches at Hyde Park Schools

At Hyde Park Schools, we encourage healthy eating to support our pupils' well-being and concentration throughout the day. Nutritious snacks and balanced lunches provide the energy children need to stay focused and ready to learn.

Here are a few suggestions for healthy snacks and packed lunches:

Snacks: Fresh fruit, vegetable sticks (like carrots, cucumbers, or peppers), rice cakes, or wholegrain crackers.

Lunches: Wholegrain sandwiches or wraps with lean protein (such as chicken, turkey, or hummus), salads, yoghurts, and water or milk to drink.

We kindly ask parents to avoid sending sugary snacks or fizzy drinks, and instead opt for healthier choices that contribute to the children's overall health and energy levels.

Thank you for helping us promote a healthy and positive learning environment!

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KS2 Safeguarding Reminder

We are delighted with how quickly the Year 3 children have settled into their new routines. To continue ensuring the safety and security of our pupils, we kindly ask that Year 3 children enter the school through the **Junior gate on Hermitage Road** or around the side of the building from the infant playground. This helps us secure the site effectively in the mornings.

Now that the children are familiar with where to go, we ask parents to say goodbye at the **Hermitage Road gate or Infant Playground**. There will be staff at the gate to support any children who may need a little assistance walking into school.

Thank you to everyone for working with us at the end of the day in implementing the one way system. For parents with buggies, you can walk from the Infant playground to the side of KS2 and leave the buggy neatly at the side of the walkway and enter from there.

For any queries or concerns, please contact teachers via **Class Dojo** or the **school office**. Please remember that adults without an entrance pass in the building contravene our safeguarding procedures, which are in place to protect your children. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Thank you for your continued support in upholding our school values both online and within our school community.

Uniform Expectations at Hyde Park Schools

We would like to remind parents and pupils of the importance of adhering to our **uniform expectations** at all times. Maintaining a smart appearance is part of our school ethos and helps promote a sense of pride and unity among pupils.

Uniform: Pupils should wear the full school uniform as outlined in our guidelines.

Hair accessories: Hair accessories should be kept simple and in **school colours**.

Braids: Any braids should be **natural to hair colour**.

Earrings: For safety reasons, only **small stud earrings** are permitted.

Thank you for your continued cooperation in ensuring that our uniform standards are upheld throughout the school year.

Military Children Support Assistant



My name is Holly Smallridge, and I'm excited to introduce myself as the new Military Children Support Assistant here at the Learning Academy Trust. I'm really looking forward to getting to know the children and families connected to the military across our school communities.

Supporting service children is something I feel passionate about. I understand that military life can bring unique challenges, and I'm here to offer a friendly, consistent presence to help children feel supported, understood, and confident throughout their school journey.

I look forward to getting to meet and work with more of the children in the coming weeks!

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December 1st -5th 2025

Keller	Mia
Nightingale	Margot
Potter	Rory
Rosen	Joseph
Astor	Susan
Coleman	Isobel
Pankhurst	Olive
Scott	Harlin
Attenborough	Raiyan
Curie	Teddy
Turing	Flora
Hawking	Freddie
Gandhi	Jackson
Anning	Gene
Mandela	Bailey
Tubman	Alexander H
Douglass	Harry
King	Andre
Seacole	Lucky-Mae

Nominations for being an Optimistic Learner

Keller	Mollie
Nightingale	Teddy N
Potter	Evelyn
Rosen	Rose
Astor	Maisie
Coleman	Teddy
Pankhurst	Milo
Scott	Lottie
Attenborough	Bella
Curie	Rafe
Turing	Grace
Hawking	Mer
Gandhi	Jax
Anning	Alvia
Mandela	Mia
Tubman	Arlo
Douglass	Owen
King	Lauren
Seacole	Evie

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December 8th - 12th 2025

Keller	Victoria
Nightingale	Reggie
Potter	Talia
Rosen	Theo
Astor	Lily
Coleman	Blossom
Pankhurst	Gizele
Scott	Alexander
Attenborough	Caben
Curie	Dakota
Turing	Lucy
Hawking	Grace
Gandhi	Clara
Anning	Jessie
Mandela	Erin
Tubman	Robert
Douglass	Poppy
King	Eva
Seacole	Violet

Nominations for being an Inclusive Learner

Keller	Evan
Nightingale	Jayla
Potter	Nova
Rosen	Imogen
Astor	Fern
Coleman	Finley
Pankhurst	Arlo
Scott	Bodhi
Attenborough	Emily
Curie	Forrest
Turing	Sonny
Hawking	Ivan
Gandhi	Lola
Anning	Leo
Mandela	Luca
Tubman	Max
Douglass	Mia
King	Mia

Ple

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December 2025

Week 7 15th- 19th December

Thursday, 18 th	International Migrants Day
Friday, 19 th	Last Day of Term
Christmas Holidays	
Tuesday 6 th January	Children Return to School

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