

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



FRIDAY, 2ND MAY 2025

CONTACT US ON



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Update - Mrs. Jones

Dear Parents, Guardians, Carers,

As we begin another exciting term at Hyde Park Schools, I'd like to warmly welcome all our families back. The **summer term** is always filled with opportunities for growth, celebration, and memorable learning—and it's already off to a fantastic start.

Across the school, pupils have quickly settled back into their learning. Year 1 have been developing their literacy skills through riddles, using adjectives and verbs creatively while working in pairs to solve clues about animals. They also enjoyed a fascinating visit to The Box, where they explored Plymouth's rich history and got hands-on with interactive exhibits.

In Reception, children have been out and about spotting signs of spring during a local park visit, using checklists to support their observations and build early science skills. Year 2 have begun their new science topic on states of matter, starting with an exploration of liquids—observing how they flow and change shape in different containers.

A special mention must go to Year 5, who visited The Box just yesterday. We received some wonderful feedback from the facilitators, who said:

"Just a note to say what a delight it was having Hyde Park on site yesterday. All the facilitators mentioned how curious and engaged the students were and their creations were fantastic. Please pass on our thanks to your team for making the day a success!"

This kind of praise is a testament to our pupils' enthusiasm for learning and the positive impression they make in the wider community.

These early highlights show the richness and variety of learning experiences we're committed to providing—nurturing curiosity, creativity, and confidence in every child.

As always, I'd like to thank our staff for their dedication, our families for your ongoing support, and our Governors and PTFA for continuing to help enrich school life in so many ways.

We look forward to all that this term holds—from curriculum projects and trips to community events and end-of-year celebrations. Thank you for being a valued part of the Hyde Park Schools community. Let's make this term one to remember!

We're Now an Associated European Blue School!

We are delighted to share that our school has officially been awarded the status of **Associated European Blue School** in recognition of our ProBleu project, *"Future Citizens of Plymouth – the Ocean City."* This prestigious accolade highlights our commitment to embedding marine education into the curriculum and nurturing a strong sense of environmental responsibility among our pupils. Through engaging lessons and innovative activities, the ProBleu project has not only enriched our teaching but also inspired our pupils to value and protect our oceans for the future.



KIND HANDS, KIND FEET, KIND WORDS, KIND ACTIONS



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Reception's Springtime Adventure!

Our Reception Classes had a wonderful time exploring the signs of spring during a visit to our local park! Armed with nature checklists, the children went on a seasonal scavenger hunt—spotting flowers in bloom, birds singing, and trees bursting into leaf. It was a joyful, hands-on way to learn about the changing seasons and connect with the natural world.



Exploring Language and Local History – Year 1 Highlights

This term, Year 1 began exploring the world of riddles! The children focused on how to use question marks correctly, and the children had great fun identifying adjectives and interesting verbs to make their riddles more exciting. Working in pairs, they read riddles aloud and tried to guess which animal was being described – a fun and engaging way to build their literacy skills.

As part of our Geography topic this term, Year 1 also enjoyed an exciting visit to The Box. The children explored artefacts from around the world, learned fascinating facts about famous Plymouthians – including Sir Francis Drake – and discovered more about the city's rich history as a port. A highlight of the visit was using the periscope and getting hands-on with the interactive displays!



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Year 2 Scientists Explore Liquids!

In Science this term, Year 2 have started investigating states of matter. Recently, the children focused on liquids, observing how they move and behave. The children explored how different liquids flow from one container to another and noticed how each liquid takes on the shape of its container. It was a hands-on, engaging session that sparked lots of curiosity and discussion!



Year 5 Explore Buddhism Through a Special Visit

This term, Year 5 were fortunate to receive a visit from members of the Buddhist community. Pupils had the opportunity to examine a Buddha statue and learn about the rich symbolism it represents. The visitors also introduced us to Buddhist prayer flags and helped us explore the two core Buddhist beliefs: compassion and wisdom. It was a thoughtful and enlightening experience that deepened the children's understanding of world religions.



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Getting Ready for Reception: New School Readiness Initiative

Starting school is a big step, and a new national initiative is helping parents and carers prepare their little ones for Reception. Backed by the Education Secretary, the **School Readiness Skills Checklist** outlines key areas to support children before their first day—such as toilet training, using cutlery, sharing toys, recognising their name, and expressing emotions. This practical guide ensures all children have the best possible start, helping them feel confident, independent, and ready to learn! Read more about the checklist here:

[School Readiness - Reception](#)

Governors' update

As we near the end of the Spring Term, we reflect on the work we have carried out in support of Hyde Park Schools. The governors have carried out a number of visits this term including a safeguarding walk, observing Maths lessons and visiting Early Years. All visits have been very positive and it is wonderful to see how the hard work of the staff results in continuous improvements across the schools. I am always impressed with the children when they move politely around the school premises and a 'Good morning' or 'Good afternoon' makes my day. As a team, we have also continued with our own development through training, and are aware of the changes being proposed by Ofsted for the next academic year. We continue to work for the best possible outcomes for all of our children.

I wish you all a very enjoyable break and look forward to the Summer Term.

Rachel Mathis
Chair of Governors



Recen

Turing Club Tidy Up: Local Heroes in Action!

Recently, the children in Turing Club stepped up as community champions by heading out for a local litter pick. In under an hour, they collected an impressive amount of rubbish from nearby roads and parks. The children reflected on the harmful effects litter can have on wildlife and our oceans, and they're determined to keep making a difference. Well done, Turing Club, we're proud of your commitment to caring for our environment!



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Sporting Success

We celebrated phenomenal achievements in the **Devon Schools Virtual Gymnastics Competition**, where **16 of our KS2 pupils** competed with skill and determination. Against strong competition from across the county, our gymnasts delivered outstanding performances, earning top-three finishes in multiple categories, including:

- **Year 3/4 Silver:** Lola 3rd
- **Year 3/4 Gold:** Leo 1st, Anastasia 2nd, Emily 3rd
- **Year 3/4 Platinum:** Izzy 1st, Aria 2nd
- **Year 5/6 Gold:** Cotehele 2nd

A special thank you to the **PTFA** for their support in funding competition leotards—your contributions help our pupils shine on every stage.

Fun Facts from Our Gymnastics Stars!

- Gymnastics is one of the oldest Olympic sports, it was first introduced in Ancient Greece!
- Leotards were named after Jules Léotard, a 19th-century French acrobat!
- Flexibility and balance are just as important as strength in gymnastics.
- Practising just 15 minutes a day can help improve coordination and confidence.



Gate Opening Time Update

To further enhance our safeguarding procedures, we will be adjusting the opening times for the school gates. The gates will be opened 5 minutes before both arrival and dismissal times. This change is to ensure a safer and smoother process for all children. We kindly ask all adults dropping children off to walk with them to their designated area. Thank you for your cooperation in helping us maintain a secure environment.

PTFA Update

The PTFA have had another busy time of fundraising and spending and together we have raised £2,759!

This term we had our Masquerade Disco, our Sponsored Fun Run, our pre-loved uniform and of course our School Lottery to raise funds.

The sun shone for the children as they ran around Central Park and had they all had a real sense of achievement with their certificate and medal! The children in each year group who raised the most money received a certificate, Easter Egg and Jump ticket, awarded to them in assembly yesterday! Well done to all involved!

This term, we are also delighted to have contributed towards recreating the communal spaces of the school to be calm and inviting spaces for the children to pass through during the day. We have also provided a small amount of money towards requested items for the early years provision, and most recently we purchased several leotards for the school's gymnastics team! We've also provided an Easter Egg for every child and member of staff to enjoy as part of an end of term Easter Egg Hunt! We hope they all really enjoyed the activity!



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Reminder: Collection Arrangements

To help keep our office lines clear for urgent matters, we kindly remind parents that if someone who **regularly collects your child** or **knows the agreed password** is picking them up, there is **no need to call the admin team**.

We have noticed an increasing number of end-of-day calls that can be avoided, so we appreciate your support in keeping communication smooth. If there are **last-minute changes** to collection arrangements, please do let us know as early as possible.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping us ensure a safe and efficient pickup process!

Hyde Park Schools Join Turing Project!

We are thrilled to announce that LAT has successfully secured funding for the **Turing Project**, and Hyde Park Schools are excited to be a part of this wonderful initiative. This academic year, we will have the opportunity to take 10 pupils to Spain for an enriching cultural and educational experience.

As part of the funding, there will be exciting projects for the children to participate in, with strict guidelines in place for pupil selection to ensure a fair and rewarding process. Further details about the trip and the selection process will be shared in the weeks ahead. We look forward to this incredible opportunity for our pupils!

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.

Safeguarding: Our Top Priority

At Hyde Park Schools, the **safety and well-being of our pupils** is our highest priority. As we approach **half-term**, we want to share some important reminders and resources to help support children both **online and offline** during the break.

Understanding Bullying vs. Friendship Issues

Recently, we have noticed that the term "**bullying**" is being used more frequently, sometimes in situations that do not meet the definition of bullying. It's important to remember that **bullying is repeated, intentional behaviour meant to hurt someone emotionally or physically**, whereas **friendship issues and disagreements** can be a normal part of growing up.

If your child experiences a conflict with a peer, we encourage open discussions at home about **resolving disagreements positively**. However, if there are persistent concerns about **bullying**, please do not hesitate to reach out so we can **address the situation appropriately**.

For further guidance, visit:

Anti-Bullying Alliance – <https://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk>

NSPCC - What is Bullying? – <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-bullying>

Online Safety

While the internet is a **fantastic resource for learning and entertainment**, it also comes with risks. We strongly encourage parents to **monitor online activity**, set **appropriate boundaries**, and **use parental controls** to ensure a safe digital environment.

Here are some key **online safety tips**:

- ✅ **Monitor screen time** – Set limits and encourage breaks from devices.
- ✅ **Enable parental controls** – Use filters to block inappropriate content on devices and apps.
- ✅ **Check privacy settings** – Ensure your child's accounts are set to **private** and they only connect with **trusted people**.
- ✅ **Talk about online behaviour** – Remind children that **being kind online** is just as important as in person.
- ✅ **Encourage safe gaming and social media use** – Be aware of who they are interacting with and what they are sharing.

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Useful Online Safety Resources for Parents

ThinkUKnow (Online Safety Advice & Games) –

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk>

Internet Matters (Parental Controls & Advice) –

<https://www.internetmatters.org>

NSPCC Online Safety Hub –

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

CEOP (Report Online Abuse or Concerns) –

<https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>

We appreciate your **continued support** in safeguarding our pupils. If you have any concerns or need further guidance, please do not hesitate to contact the school. **Together, we can ensure a safe and happy half-term for all our children.**

**Keeping
children safe
is everyone's
responsibility**



Suitable Water Bottles for School

We kindly ask that pupils bring **water bottles with a sip-top lid** rather than those with large openings. Bottles with wide openings often lead to unnecessary **spills in the classroom**, causing distractions and mess.

To help keep our learning environment **clean and safe**, we encourage you to choose **spill-proof, sip-top bottles** for your child. Thank you for your support in this matter!

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. Cecilia Harris our SENDCO**. Together, we can provide the right support for every child to succeed.



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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.

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!

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 children.

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.

Important Reminder: Spare Clothes for School

Please remember to send a set of **spare clothes** with your child to school. This is especially helpful in case of unexpected spills, or accidents during the day.

Kindly ensure the spare clothes are labeled with your child's name and placed in their bag. Thank you for your support in keeping our children comfortable and ready for learning!

Keep Children Safe Online: Information, Advice & Support

In today's digital world, keeping children safe online is more important than ever. **Internet Matters** provides expert advice, practical tips, and resources to help parents navigate online safety with confidence. From managing screen time to understanding social media risks, their guidance supports families in creating a safe and positive online experience for children.

Visit [Internet Matters](https://www.internetmatters.org/) for essential information on parental controls, cyberbullying prevention, privacy settings, and much more. Let's work together to ensure our children explore the online world safely and responsibly.

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Support for Our PTFA – We Need You!

Reminder that our **PTFA urgently needs your support**. As mentioned in our recent letter, we are at risk of not being able to continue organising the much-loved events that enrich our children's school experience. Whether you can help occasionally or take on a more active role, **every contribution makes a difference**.

How can you get involved?

- ✓ Volunteer at an event – even an hour of your time helps!
- ✓ Support existing initiatives
- ✓ Attend PTFA meetings to learn more and offer input

Please reach out to ptfa@hydeparkprimary.co.uk if you can help. Let's work together to keep these wonderful events running for our children!

Does your child love to perform?

There are spaces available in our

Junior Musical Theatre Club

Mondays 3:30pm-4:30pm
£55 for a minimum 10-week term.

Learn and perform songs and dances from popular films and shows!

Contact Vicki:
vickigreen2011@hotmail.co.uk



Recycling at Hyde Park Schools



At Hyde Park Schools we are passionate about our environment. Being a coastal city, it is important that we reduce the amount of plastic entering our oceans. The children have been thinking of ways to help recycle even more plastic.

We are going to be collecting **soft plastics at school** - that cannot be recycled in ordinary bins - (see the guide below) and turning them into eco bricks to create green spaces around the school grounds. We also need **CLEAN 2 and 4 litre milk bottles with lids!**

Thank you for supporting us to be Plastic Free Champions!



Green recycling bin **at home:**

- Glass – all glass bottles and jars can be recycled, whether they are clear, brown, green or blue
- Plastics – drink bottles, shampoo bottles, food trays, yoghurt pots, margarine tubs, ice cream tubs, fruit punnets, detergent bottles
- Paper and card – newspapers, magazines, office paper, directories, cereal packets, envelopes, junk mail and cards, catalogues, cardboard packaging, shredded paper
- metal – food and drinks cans, aerosols, aluminium food trays and containers, biscuit and cake tins, clean sheet cooking foil, metal lids, tops and caps.

Please give your pots, tubs, trays, bottles and jars a rinse to remove any food waste.

Soft plastics and milk bottles **at school:**

Just follow these three steps:

Clean it – First, rinse your packaging and bottles out.

Scrunch soft plastics – Now, scrunch it up tight - if it pings back, it's a useful indicator it's soft plastic.

Recycle it - Send it to school and your child can pop them in recycling bins in the school office.

Examples of soft plastics:

Bread bags
 and vegetable packaging
 packets
 Fruit
 Crisp
 Salad bags
 Baby and pet food pouches



Recycling at Hyde Park Schools



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Scrunch soft plastics – Now, scrunch it up tight - if it pings back, it's a useful indicator it's soft plastic.

Recycle it - Send it to school and your child can pop them in recycling bins in the school office.

YES PLEASE

Some of the most commonly recycled items include:



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April 21st to 25th 2025

Cedar	Luca
Ash	Otto
Beech	Whole Class
Poplar	Teyoni
Willow	McKinnon
Holly	Molly
Elm	Gui
Sycamore	Ezra
Keller	Cillian
Seacole	Houna
Barnardo	Barnaby
Attenborough	Rhoda
Curie	Arlo
Hawking	Aares
Gandhi	Freddie
King	Millie
Mandela	Olive
Pankhurst	Anderson
Douglass	Toby
Dickens	Harry Pe

Nominations for being an Inclusive Learner

Cedar	Imogen
Ash	Maha
Beech	Frank
Poplar	Penelope
Willow	Ometh
Holly	Jayden
Elm	Michelle
Sycamore	Enea
Keller	Finn H
Seacole	Teddy
Barnardo	Isla
Attenborough	Ester
Curie	Isaac W
Hawking	Jax
Gandhi	Una
King	Dotty
Mandela	Harry L
Pankhurst	Dilneet
Douglass	Chase
Dickens	Luca C

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April 28th - May 2nd, 2025

Cedar	Sheila
Ash	Mathew
Beech	Teddy N
Poplar	Milo
Willow	Flossy
Holly	Reuben
Elm	Isaac R
Sycamore	Damir
Keller	Molly
Seacole	Grace
Barnardo	Senara
Attenborough	Penny
Curie	Hazel
Hawking	Robert
Gandhi	Katherine
King	Olivia C
Mandela	Adam
Pankhurst	James
Douglass	Sonny N
Dickens	Logan W

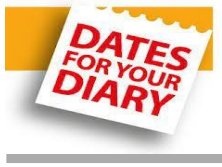
Nominations for being an Enterprising Learner

Cedar	Theo
Ash	Otis
Beech	Finley
Poplar	Johan
Willow	Evaan
Holly	Harlin
Elm	April
Sycamore	Joanna
Keller	Isla
Seacole	Edie
Barnardo	Claire
Attenborough	Arwa
Curie	Emmie
Hawking	Oscar
Gandhi	Freddie
King	King Class
Mandela	Theo
Pankhurst	Jack D
Douglass	Aaron
Dickens	Finn F

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May 2025

Week 3- 5th-9th May

Internal After School Clubs Begin

Monday 5th	Bank Holiday
Tuesday 6th	Year 4 Swimming @9am
Wednesday 7th	
Thursday 8th	Year 2 Swimming @12:30pm
Friday 9th	Holly Class Assembly @9:10am

Week 4- 12th- 16th May

SATS Week

EYFS Week of Experience

Mental Health Awareness Week

Monday 12th	
Tuesday 13th	Year 4 Swimming @9am
Wednesday 14th	
Thursday 15th	Year 2 Swimming @12:30
Friday 16th	Mandela Class Assembly @9:10am
	Willow Class Assembly @9:10am

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