HIGH HESKET C of E SCHOOL (VC)
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Monday 2nd November 2026

Dear Parents & Carers,

Welcome back to the second half of the Autumn term! We thoroughly enjoyed our Harvest Festival on the last day of term and are looking forward to our upcoming events and activities in the run up to Christmas. We would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone who supported our PTA 'Day off Day' as we raised a fabulous £1073.06!

PTA Christmas Cards
You should have received a card with your child's Christmas card design on at the end of last half term. The deadline for purchasing items has been extended and the closing date for orders is **Monday 9th November 2026**.

Christmas trips to the theatre (Reception – Year 6)
We are delighted to be able to return to our tradition of taking the children to see a Christmas performance at either the Sands Centre, Carlisle (Reception – Year 2) or the Theatre by the Lake, Keswick (Years 3-6). This is a lovely, festive way to end the term and the PTA very kindly cover the cost of the transport involved. In order to fund the trip, we do ask for a contribution towards the cost of the tickets and this can be paid on School Money from Monday 2nd November. The dates and costs are listed below and further details will be provided nearer the time.
Tuesday 15th December 2026 Year 3 -6 trip to Theatre by the Lake performance 'A Christmas Carol' (£12 per child)
Wednesday 16th December 2026 – Reception – Year 2 trip to the Sands Centre Pantomime 'Sleeping Beauty' (£12 per child)
If you do not wish your child to attend the above trips, please notify the school office by Friday 6th November 2026 so as we can finalise numbers.

Nursery Christmas Pyjama Drama workshop – Wednesday 16th December 2026
Our Nursery pupils do not usually attend the theatre trips and so we have planned an alternative Christmas experience for them to enjoy in school on Wednesday 16th December. They will be participating in a Pyjama Drama Christmas themed workshop which will be the opportunity for them to get active and have lots of fun! Children who do not normally attend Nursery on this day are welcome to join us for the morning and can be collected at lunchtime, we just ask that you let us know in advance if you would like this to be the case. We are asking of a contribution of £3 per child towards the cost of the session which can be paid on School Money.

British Legion Poppy Appeal / Remembrance Service
A reminder that we will be selling a selection of items to raise money for the British Legion poppy appeal until Tuesday 10th November 2026 (whilst stocks last). The items include: fabric wrist bands, poppy reflectors, pencils and snap bands and we recommend a donation of £1 per item. As there is limited stock of each item, they will be on a first come, first served basis and we also have a small number of traditional poppies which can be purchased for a donation of your choice. The children will also be participating in a whole school service at St Mary's Church on Wednesday 11th November with Reverend Allison where we will be planting our recycled plastic poppies at the front of the church.

Y5&6 wheelchair rugby and basketball sessions – Wednesday 4th November 2026
This Wednesday, Year 5 and Year 6 will be participating in their wheelchair basketball (Y5) and wheelchair rugby (Y6) coaching session. Children will need to be wearing their PE kits on this day please.

International Outdoor Classroom Day – Thursday 5th November 2026
On Thursday, each class will be celebrating International Outdoor Classroom day which will involve a range of activities around the school grounds. A reminder that it would be very much appreciated if the children could have warm, waterproofs coats and a change of footwear (wellies are ideal). Non-uniform is also welcome on this day and clothing should be suitable for getting wet and/or muddy due to the nature of the day.

School photographs – Wednesday 11th November 2026
As mentioned previously, our school photographer, Heidi, will be on site during the morning of Wednesday 11th November 2026 to take individual and family group photographs. If there are any siblings who are not yet of school age who would like to be included in family group photographs, please let us know and we can arrange for you to have these taken prior to the main session at 8.45 by arriving at the external school hall door.

Scholastic Book Fair – Tuesday 10th November - Friday 13th November 2026
From Tuesday 10th November 2026 to Friday 13th November 2026, we will be hosting a Scholastic Book Fair in the hall each day after school from 3pm until 3.30pm. There will be a wide selection of fiction and non-fiction books on sale and there are always some great bargains! At the end of the book fair, school does receive a proportion of the takings to purchase books for the school library so we are very grateful for any sales!

Children in Need – Friday 20th November 2026
We will be fundraising for Children in Need by having a non-uniform day on Friday 20th November. Children are welcome to wear non-uniform on this day and donations are welcome (suggested donation £1).

Absence notification
A reminder to let us know as early as possible if your child is expected to be absent and, ideally, no later than 9.30am. You can do this by sending an email, leaving an answer phone message or completing the 'report an absence' form on the school website. We do have procedures that have to be followed if we have not been notified of an absence which escalate as the time progresses so early notification is helpful.

Dates for the diary:
Wednesday 4th November 2026 – Wheelchair basketball (Y5) and wheelchair rugby (Y6) sessions
Thursday 5th November 2026 – Outdoor Classroom Day (non uniform)
Tuesday 10th and Wednesday 11th November 2026 – Parent's evenings
Tuesday 10th – Friday 13th November 2026 – Scholastic book fair
Wednesday 11th November 2026 – School photographs
Wednesday 11th November 2026 – Remembrance service at St Mary's Church (pupils only)
Monday 16th November 2026 – Anti bullying week
Friday 20th November 2026 – Children in Need (non-uniform)
Tuesday 8th December 2026 – Year 3&4 Christmas performance at 2pm
Wednesday 9th December 2026 – EYFS Christmas performance at 9.15am
Wednesday 9th December 2026 - Year 1&2 Christmas performance at 2pm
Thursday 10th December 2026 – Year 1&2 Christmas performance at 9.15am
Thursday 10th December 2026 – Year 3&4 Christmas performance at 2pm
Tuesday 15th December 2026 – Year 3-6 trip to Theatre by the Lake
Wednesday 16th December 2026 – Reception-Y2 trip to the Sands Centre
Wednesday 16th December 2026 – Nursery Pyjama Drama Workshop
Thursday 17th December 2026 – Christmas lunch and parties
Friday 18th December 2026 – Toy Day
Friday 18th December 2026 – Year 5&6 Carol Service for whole school (families of Year 5&6 welcome to attend)
Friday 18th December 2026 – School closes for Christmas holiday (no After School Club)
Tuesday 5th January 2027 – School reopens for Spring term

Yours sincerely,
Mrs A Harvey, Headteacher