

NEWS LETTER

5TH MARCH 2026



The Hinckley
SCHOOL



This week has been a wonderful celebration of reading here at The Hinckley School, filled with events that strengthened our reading culture and highlighted the power of the written word.

We were delighted to welcome back author Jo Cotterill to speak to our Year 7 and 8 students about her creative process and host writing workshops that gave a unique insight into her career and inspiration. Our literary celebrations continued as Year 7 students visited The Making of Harry Potter at the Warner Bros. Studio Tour, where they explored how stories travel from page to screen and discovered the creative careers that help bring books to life.

This unique week of celebration culminated on Thursday with World Book Day, bringing the whole school together through dressing up, competitions, and reading themed activities. The enthusiasm across the school made it a truly heart-warming community event. Thank you to everyone who helped make this week such a special celebration of imagination, creativity, and the joy of reading.

Kate Grocock | Head of School

Author Visit Inspires Our Students

We had a fantastic day on Monday as we welcomed author Jo Cotterill back to The Hinckley School! Jo, who has visited us before, was once again a brilliant source of inspiration for our students.

Our Year 7s loved meeting the author behind 'Looking at the Stars' and 'A Library of Lemons'. They worked with Jo to create their own story ideas, explore how characters and plots take shape, and gained a fascinating insight into her writing process. Students also enjoyed a special book-signing session in The Bridge, making the morning even more memorable.

The creativity and inspiration continued throughout the day as Jo led her workshops with Year 8. This year group were equally engaged and enthusiastic during the sessions.

Thank you, Jo, for sharing your time, imagination, and expertise with our students once again!





World Book Day Celebrations

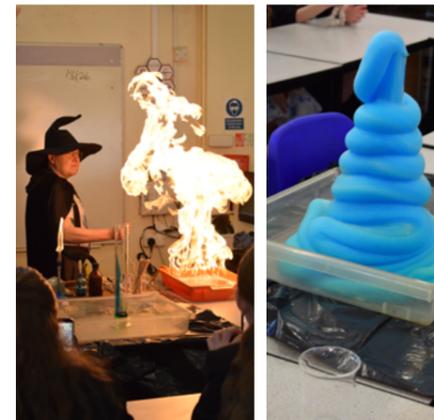
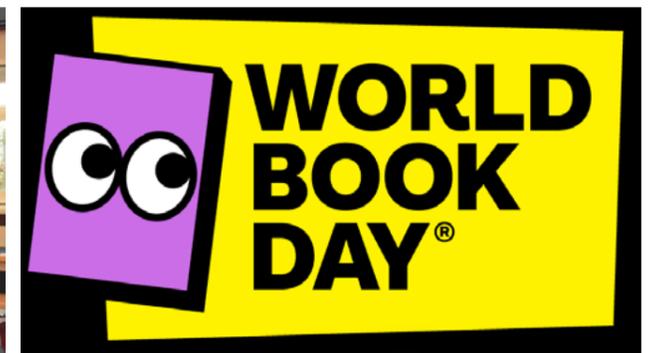
World Book Day was once again a fantastic celebration at The Hinckley School, as our community came together to share our love of reading and highlight the importance of reading for pleasure.

Our Year 7 students embraced the spirit of the day by dressing up as their favourite book characters, bringing colour, creativity, and plenty of literary magic to the school. Staff also joined in, with costumes inspired by classics, best-sellers, and everything in between—making the day even more memorable.

Themed lessons took centre stage, including Harry Potter inspired experiments in Science with Dr Newbold. To add to the fun, we ran a range of whole-school activities and competitions, including a “Read in the Weirdest Place” photo challenge, which sparked some brilliantly imaginative entries and a Library Escape Room. Students also took part in our “decorate-a-potato” competition in The Bridge, which led to some truly impressive submissions!

The excitement, enthusiasm, and imagination shown by students truly reflected what World Book Day is all about—celebrating stories, encouraging a love of reading, and reminding us all that books can take us anywhere.

Thank you to everyone involved for making it such a truly unforgettable day.



A Magical Trip to Warner Bros Studio Tour

This week, our Year 7 students enjoyed an exciting visit to the Warner Bros. Studio Tour – The Making of Harry Potter, where they explored careers within the film industry and discovered how the beloved novels were brought to life on the big screen.

To make sure everyone had the chance to experience the magic, half of the year group visited on Tuesday, with the remaining students attending on Wednesday. Across both days, students gained a behind-the-scenes look at set design, costumes, special effects, and the huge range of creative and technical roles involved in film-making.

It was a fantastic opportunity for students to see how imagination becomes reality through teamwork, craftsmanship, and innovation. A truly inspiring trip for our budding storytellers, designers, and film enthusiasts!



Introducing our Attendance Ambassadors...

We are proud to introduce our new Attendance Ambassadors, a team of student leaders helping us champion the message that Attendance Matters! Attendance at The Hinckley School has improved significantly compared to this point last year, and we are determined to build on that success. By introducing Attendance Ambassadors, we are placing student leadership at the centre of our attendance strategy. Our ambassadors have been selected from Years 7-10 for their positive attitude, reliability and commitment to school life. They understand that regular attendance supports achievement, well-being and future opportunities – and they are ready to help others see that too.

Our Attendance Ambassadors 2025 are:

- Year 7: Harveer and Edith**
- Year 8: Kayleigh and Lilly**
- Year 9: Emily and Mason**
- Year 10: Thomas and Gracie**

What Will They Do?

- Promote positive attendance across their year groups
- Support and encourage peers
- Help shape rewards and celebrations
- Act as role models for punctuality and commitment

Attendance is more than a statistic - it is the foundation of opportunity. We are incredibly proud of our new ambassadors and look forward to the positive impact they will have across our school community.

Attendance Matters - and every day counts.



Building Brighter Futures



THE HINCKLEY 100 CLUB

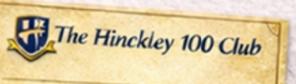
Every Lesson. Every Day. Getting it Right.

Final 3 Weeks of Term Before Easter

WEEK 1
WEEK 2
WEEK 3

What Is the 100 Club?

- ✓ Being in *every lesson*
- ✓ Being *on time*
- ✓ Getting it right in every lesson
- ✓ No removals or truancy marks



This is your achievement – recognised and *celebrated!*

Tutor Prize Draw

Every 100 Club Member Gets:

- ✓ A Certificate on the last day of term
- 📅 Entries drawn in your year assembly
- 🍪 Prizes like vouchers, passes and treats

YEAR GROUP GRAND PRIZE

- ✓ One winner per year group
- 🎁 Bigger prizes – bigger celebration!



Why It Matters:

- 👉 Shows consistency and determination
- 👉 Supports your learning every lesson
- 🌐 Recognised across your tutor and year group
- 👏 Celebrated at the end of term

Every lesson counts. Get it Right – Be in the 100 Club!

Show Your *PRIDE* Get it Right – Be in the 100 Club!





Creative Classics!

- Ms Beale, Head of Classics

Year 8 have been exploring Homer's *The Iliad* in their Classics lessons. They have been assessing who was responsible for starting the Trojan war and produced impressive pieces of writing to support their decision.

We then zoomed in on the fighting. At one point Patroclus borrowed Achilles' armour. Achilles' mum, Thetis asked Hephaestus (the metal-working god) to create her son a new set of armour and a shield.

Hephaestus promised to make a set that would *'fill his heart with joy and will fill the eyes of all men and women with wonder'*.

Our Year 8 have done an even better job with their shield designs!

It has been wonderful to see the talent and imagination with which they approached this task. Working to the same brief we had a range of responses. Some are simple, but graphically strong with bold, repeated designs and intense colour. Others used our Ancient World image sheets to develop designs that may well have fit into Ancient Greece. Others' shields are full of whimsy.

We have displayed the shields around our Year 8 Heartspace, and they look great. It has been a pleasure to see the commitment and care students have put into their work.



A cast of characters.

I couldn't resist sharing some of the characters that made their appearance on the shields. From murderous suns, miserable Medusas, to other weird and wonderful beings. Enjoy!





Historian of the Month

We would like to congratulate our Historian of the Month for January and February. They have both worked so hard and their reward is well deserved!

January - Charlotte - For consistent hard work in History. Always trying her best and putting forward super ideas during class discussions.

February - Annabelle - For high quality work throughout the year in History.

Keep up the great work!

- Ms Burton, Head of History

GOLD SUCCESS - Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Congratulations to Austin and Fred who have achieved their full Gold Duke of Edinburgh's award this week.

The Award has five sections:

- Volunteering: Community service, with a group or organisation.
- Physical: Regular involvement in a sports or fitness activity.
- Skill: Work developing a new or existing skill.
- Residential: Five consecutive days with a minimum of four nights spent away from home.
- Expedition: Four days of walking and camping, carrying all equipment and food.

DofE is a fantastic opportunity, it encourages our young people to develop skills and interests and to meet a range of new people. Most importantly, we know from experience that the young people who take part benefit from it and enjoy it.

Fred volunteered for 12 months with the Charity Keep the beat, Austin has been giving back by helping in a community garden.

For the physical section of the award, they both continued to improve their fitness and stamina, Fred went to the gym and Austin took on more heights whilst out climbing.

Both Austin and Fred learnt to drive for their skill section of the award.



Austin chose to spend his 4 night, 5-day experience away from home helping with the 'Pick for Britain' scheme volunteering on an asparagus farm whilst Fred took an adventure week on the shores of Poole Harbour, staying in a podded village taking part in activities including coasteering, climbing, various paddle sports, tunnelling, target sports, Dorset Waterpark and high ropes.

The final section of the award is the expedition, which took place in Snowdonia. The team were well trained and well equipped for their expedition. They chose a challenging route which tested their physical, mental and emotional abilities. Extremes of mixed weather, heat, then rain, added to their challenge, which they handled well.

Well done and congratulations Fred and Austin on becoming Gold award holders and completing your personal challenge. We look forward to hearing all about your trip to the Palace to officially receive your awards.

- Amy Fennell, DofE Co-Ordinator



THE HINCKLEY SCHOOL
ECO CLUB NEEDS YOU

- Nature mapping
- Planting
- Caring for houseplants
- Implementing sustainability projects
- Improving the school site
- Growing vegetables
- Encouraging pollinators
- Building insect homes

Library – Thursdays 3–4pm With Ms Crisp and Mrs Sturgess

Eco Club Start to Welcome Spring

As spring is slowly arriving, our Eco Club have been busy propagating plants using different methods to see which is the most successful.

The plants will be used to develop our memorial garden area and sold to create funds for the Eco Club. The club has many plans for the future, including, putting up bird-boxes, creating insect houses, making a vegetable garden as well as looking at energy usage in school and encouraging the three R's, Reduce, Reuse and Recycle in our community.

**CAN YOU HELP OUR ECO CLUB?
DO YOU HAVE UNWANTED PLANTS OR GARDENING TOOLS?**

We are welcoming donations for our Eco Club including: plants, compost, gardening tools etc. Please contact the school if you can help.

Any students wanting to join the club, are invited to meet on a Thursday at 3pm in the library with Mrs Sturgess and Ms Crisp.

CREATIVE CURRICULUM



March Creative Challenge: Book Cover Illustration & Review

Launch: Monday 2nd March

Deadline: Monday 30th March

Challenge (Part 1):

Using any materials or techniques you like—such as pencils, markers, paints, collage, digital tools, or mixed media—create a visually engaging front cover for your favourite fiction or non-fiction book.

Front Cover Features to Include:

- **Title of the Book** – Clear, readable, and visually integrated into the design.
- **Author's Name** – Placed so it's easy to see but doesn't overpower the illustration.
- **Main Illustration** – A creative image that reflects the theme, mood, or key scene of the book.
- **Colour Scheme & Style** – Should match the tone of the story (e.g., bright for happy stories, darker for mysterious ones).
- **Visual Hierarchy** – Make sure the reader's eye is drawn first to the title, then the illustration, then the author's name.
- **Optional Elements** – Publisher logo, tagline, or small details hinting at the story's content.
- **Overall Appeal** – The cover should make someone want to pick up the book!

Entries can be printed and handed to Miss Webster in D7, or emailed to kwebster@thehinckleyschool.co.uk

March Creative Challenge:

Book Cover Illustration & Review

Launch: Monday 2nd March

Deadline: Monday 30th March

Challenge (Part 2):

After completing your book cover, write a short caption that explains why you chose your illustration style, colours, and design elements. This helps others understand your creative decisions.

Criteria for the Caption:

- **Explain your style choice** – Why did you choose this illustrator's style or your own approach?
- **Explain your colour scheme** – How do the colours reflect the mood, theme, or genre of the book?
- **Explain your main illustration** – Why did you depict this scene, character, or object on the cover?
- **Connect to the story** – How does your cover represent the book's story or message?

Sentence Starters to Help:

- "I chose this style because..."
- "The colours I used show... because..."
- "I included this character/scene/object to..."
- "This design represents the story by..."
- "I wanted the reader to feel... when looking at my cover."

Optional Tip:

Keep it 1–3 sentences—clear and focused captions are often more powerful than long explanation

Entries can be printed and handed to Miss Webster in D7, or emailed to kwebster@thehinckleyschool.co.uk



Sample Caption:

"I chose a loose, energetic style like Quentin Blake because it matches the playful and humorous mood of my book. The bright, bold colors help show the excitement of the story, and I included the main character in a dynamic pose to give a sense of movement and fun. I wanted readers to feel curious and happy when they first see the cover."

There is a fantastic prize up for grabs!..

A mini watercolour set!

