

Weekly Bulletin

21 September 2026 - 25 September 2026

Important Dates	
7 October	Open Evening & Year 7 Settling-in Evening
26-30 October	October Half-term
9 November	Year 7-11 Flu Immunisations
23 November	Staff Training Day (School Closed)
24-27 November	Year 11 Creative Design Mock Exams
30 November-11 December	Year 11 Winter Mock Exams
14-18 December	Year 11 Creative Design Mock Exams
21 December-1 January	Christmas Holidays
4 January	Spring Term Starts / Staff Training Day (School Closed)
5 January	Pupils Return to School



Report Absences in Seconds

No need to pick up the phone—simply open MyEd and submit your child's absence directly through the app.

Fast, easy and available whenever you need it.

 Download

Stay Up to Date: Visit Our Website

Looking for the latest school updates? Our website is your one-stop hub for all key information.

Visit us online to instantly access:

- Term dates, upcoming school events, and after-school clubs
- Letters home and important announcements
- Lunch menus and Free School Meals information
- Safeguarding resources, school policies, and much more

Check it out and bookmark the website today: www.hodgehill.bham.sch.uk.

Useful Links



[Hodge Hill College](http://www.hodgehill.bham.sch.uk)



[ParentPay](https://www.parentpay.com)



[MyEd](https://myed.bham.sch.uk)



[Birmingham City Council](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk)



**DONATIONS
WELCOME**



Hodge Hill College

Food Bank

BE PART OF OUR HELPING HANDS

**OPEN EVERY THURSDAY FROM
3:10PM TO 3:30PM
IN THE STUDIO**

0121 783 7807

HOUSEHOLDSUPPORT@HODGEHILL.BHAM.SCH.UK

**TO REQUEST SUPPORT, KINDLY COMPLETE
AND SUBMIT THIS FORM: [HTTPS://BIT.LY/3UXZI4X](https://bit.ly/3UXZI4X)**

Food Bank Reopening Announcement

We are pleased to inform you that the school food bank is now open! We appreciate your patience and understanding during the closure, and we look forward to serving our families once again. Thank you for your continued support!

Year 7 Settling-in Evening



Settling-in Evening is important for parents/carers, pupils, teachers, and tutors. During this event, tutors will provide feedback from your child's class teachers, address any concerns, and suggest steps for further improvement.

We value working in partnership with families, so it's important to take this opportunity to discuss with tutors how your child is performing and what we can do together to support them.

Your child's tutor will be available to meet with you between 16:00 and 18:30. Each meeting will be limited to 10 minutes to ensure that all parents can be accommodated.

Open Evening



If you know of any family, friends or neighbours with children in Year 6 at primary school, please let them know about our Open Evening. They are invited to visit the school on Wednesday 7 October 2026, from 16:00 to 18:30. They will be very welcome and will have the opportunity to look around the school.



SEND Occupational Therapy Newsletter



Autumn Term



Birmingham Families

Sensory Circuits at Home

Sensory Circuits are a series of motor activities that aim to support with sensory regulation. Learn about how to structure a sensory circuit through our online training. This training also explores how a sensory circuit can be used within routines such as mealtimes and bedtimes.

Feedback: "The children are always excited to attend. Children have commented it makes them feel calmer"

1st October 2026 at 10:00-11:30

Virtual training booked via Eventbrite

www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/bchc-send-occupational-therapy-team-58871323623

Top Tip!

Fastening buttons

When learning to fasten buttons children can engage in games to develop the skills, they need to be able to fasten buttons. For some activity ideas scan the QR code.



When learning new skills, it is important to involve the child's interests. Think about how you can bring in their favourite characters, TV shows or films into games.

Contact Us!

OT Advice Line: Parents, professionals and education staff can contact the OT advice line to gain OT advice and signposting on children's OT needs.

OT Website:

www.bhamcommunity.nhs.uk/paediatric-occupational-therapy



Weekly Lunch Menu, Deals & Price List

Wondering what's for lunch? You can find our full menus, price lists, and meal deals on our website. Take a look today for a daily breakdown of our fresh and healthy school meals! [View school lunch menus and pricing.](#)

ParentPay

ParentPay enables parents/carers to make secure payments for their child's lunches and school trips.

ParentPay Activation

When pupils join Hodge Hill College, parents/carers are issued with a ParentPay Activation Letter that contains a temporary ParentPay username and password. As part of the account activation, the parent/carer will need to choose an email address and new password to use with ParentPay. Parents/carers should follow the instructions in the letter, and on www.parentpay.com to successfully activate their account. If you have more than one child at our school or have children in other schools that use ParentPay, you can create a single account to manage them all.

Forgotten Password

If a parent/carer can't get into their ParentPay account, they should go to www.parentpay.com > For Parents > Parent Login, and click on the "Forgotten password" link. Parents/carers should not need to contact school to regain access to ParentPay accounts.

Outstanding Balances

If you have an unpaid balance on your child's ParentPay account, we kindly request you to settle it as soon as possible by logging into your account. Your child will need to bring their own packed lunch and they will not be able to use the school canteen until the account is topped up and the debts have been cleared.

If you need help with adding credit to the account, please visit the School Office with your debit card.

FAQs & More Information

- FAQs: www.hodgehill.bham.sch.uk/parentpay.
- More information: www.parentpay.com
- Call the School Office: 0121 783 7807

Free School Meals

Who is eligible for Free School Meals?

Your child may be able to get free school meals (daily allowance of £2.70) if you get any of the following:

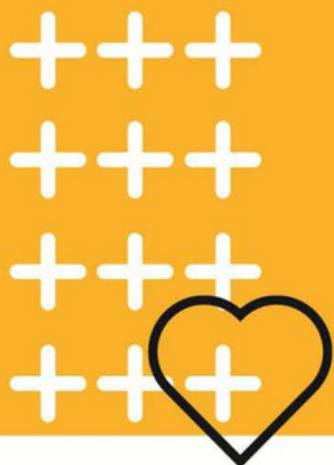
- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

Please note from September 2026, all pupils in households receiving Universal Credit will be entitled to free school meals, regardless of income level.

Apply for Free School Meals

We encourage you to [apply for Free School Meals](#) through the online service found on our website. You can also telephone (0121 783 7807) or come into school and complete a Free School Meals application online with a member of staff if you prefer.

Please make sure you have the National Insurance Number with you for the named person who receives either working tax credit/child tax credit and we will be happy to help.



MAKE SAVINGS BY CLAIMING YOUR FREE SCHOOL MEAL

Mellors
**FOOD
HAPPY**

Save time and money by claiming your free school meal allowance today. Not sure if you can claim?

Read on to learn more...

FREE SCHOOL MEALS (FSM)

Your child may be entitled to a Free School Meal. **However, with FSM you will need to apply.** The link on this sheet is for your local authority (search your postcode) and there is information from the Government website about FSM. Your child's school will also have an application form, if you prefer to complete it by hand.

Each day, your child can choose a hot meal from the menus or a sandwich, served with dessert, fresh fruit or yoghurt.

save up to £495 per year per child
on school lunches.

Studies show that 55% of parents felt their children
tried new, healthier foods
on school meals.

84% of parents reported improved
household finances.

Menus are available on the school website, and our Catering Manager is happy to discuss any food allergies, intolerances or dietary requirements.

DO YOU RECEIVE ANY OF THESE?

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration & Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (restrictions apply)
- Working Tax Credit run-on
- Universal Credit – **NEW eligibility criteria takes effect September 2026.** All households receiving Universal Credit will be able to access free school meals (previously capped at £7,400 income).

**CHECK YOUR
ELIGIBILITY TODAY!**

**CHECK YOUR
ELIGIBILITY
TODAY!**



SCAN ME

or visit: www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals for more info!



Update to PE Kit - Quarter-zip Top

We are pleased to advise that a quarter-zip top has now been added to our PE kit. This item is available to purchase from our uniform suppliers, Mansuri Schoolwear and Clive Marks.

- **Mansuri Schoolwear (Sparkhill)**
754-756 Stratford Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham, B11 4BP
- **Mansuri Schoolwear (Yewtree)**
163 Yewtree Lane, Yardley, Birmingham, B26 1AY
- **Clive Mark Schoolwear (Sheldon)**
2286 Coventry Road, Sheldon, Birmingham, B26 3JR
- **Clive Mark Schoolwear (Wylde Green)**
409-411 Birmingham Road, Wylde Green, Birmingham, B72 1AU

Personal Development Curriculum

As a part of your child's education at Hodge Hill College, we promote personal well-being and development through a comprehensive Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education programme. PSHE education is the curriculum subject that gives young people the knowledge, understanding, strategies and practical skills to live safe, healthy, productive lives and meet their full potential.

Our PSHE programme is delivered through form-time activities to all year groups and through our Personal Development weekly lessons to pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9. The [Personal Development Curriculum from September 2026 to July 2027](#), with a list of topics, is available on the school website.

If you would like to discuss our Personal Development & Tutor Time curriculum, please email personaldevelopment@hodgehill.bham.sch.uk and a member of staff will be in contact to arrange a meeting.

Key Stage 3 Assessment and Core Vocabulary Booklets

This term's assessment and core vocabulary booklets are linked below. These booklets feature key vocabulary that pupils will learn this term, along with definitions. They are organised by subject area for easy reference. This will support pupils in their comprehension and language development.

[Year 7](#)

[Year 8](#)

[Year 9](#)

Curriculum Handbook

You can find detailed information about the curriculum and the specific subjects and skills your child will be learning each year on the [curriculum page](#) of our website.

Uniform Donations

Throughout the year, we kindly request your help in supporting other families in need. If your children have outgrown their old school uniforms, please consider donating them to the School Office. We will collect all donated uniforms and distribute them to pupils who would greatly benefit from them. Even a single donated item can make a significant difference.

We are happy to accept donations of new uniforms too. Whether gently used or brand new, your contributions are greatly appreciated.

Please make sure to wash any used uniforms before donating and ensure they are in good condition. You can send the uniforms with your child or drop them off at the School Office yourself. We appreciate anything you can provide to help clothe and equip pupils whose families are facing financial difficulties.

Together, we can ensure that all our students feel comfortable, confident, and ready to learn.



Connecting parents, students and schools



Download our
school app
NOW

Step 1: Go to your app store

Step 2: Search for My Ed

Step 3: Download the app

1



2



3

FREE
Download

Information about your student and school direct into your pocket.

95%

Attendance

Keep up to date with your
child's attendance details.



Forms

Fill in forms securely on your app
and return them directly to school.



Timetables

Get regular updates
on timetables.



Key Dates

Important dates the
school needs you to know.



News

Access the latest
school news.



Info Packs

Digital information packs
reduces time, hassle & paper.



**GET
THE
APP
HERE**

SCAN ME



Find out more

www.myedschoolapp.com

Zero Tolerance

Please note that Hodge Hill College operates a zero-tolerance policy about verbal and physical aggression.

If you become abusive towards a member of staff, we will need to:

- Close down any conversation and not speak with you any further
- Ask you to leave and come back another time
- If necessary, call the police for assistance

Please be respectful of our staff in the School Office team. They will do their best to help you but in a large school with several buildings, over 150 members of staff, and approximately 1200 pupils, they may not always be able to find out what you want to know or locate a member of staff immediately, so please be patient.

Is my child too ill for school?

We know that, at certain times of the year, children pick up bugs and illnesses. However, please remember that children can come to school with some illnesses if they feel well enough. The NHS guidance can be accessed online via the [NHS Guidance](#) page.

Medical Appointments During the School Day

In order to ensure that your child's learning is not disrupted, it is strongly recommended that non-urgent GP, dentist, or optometrist appointments are scheduled outside of school hours.

If your child has a hospital appointment or requires specialist medical care, please inform the school in advance. You can do so by sending a photo of the appointment letter via MyEd or by submitting it in person to the School Office. A copy of the letter will then be sent to your child's AC and AAC to authorise the absence.

Medication

As a parent or carer, it is your responsibility to provide the school with accurate and updated information regarding your child's medical needs. You should also be involved in developing and reviewing your child's individual healthcare plan.

If your child has any medical needs or needs to take medication during school hours, please visit the School Office to complete a Parental Medical Consent Form and drop off any medication that needs to be kept in school.

If your child has asthma, we highly recommend that they always carry an inhaler with them. Please provide us with an inhaler by dropping it off at the School Office in case of any emergencies, and completing the consent form.

Contact Details

Please remember to inform the school of any changes to your contact details.

This is important because we may need to contact you if your child is injured or taken ill, to provide you with information about trips and closures or to send you reminders and cancellations of any event.

Please update and submit any new details via the Change of Pupils Details Form on the MyEd app. Alternatively, you may visit the School Office to complete an electronic/paper copy of the form.

Confiscated Items

If a pupil has an item confiscated, their parents/carers can pick it up from the School Office after school on the same day between the following times:

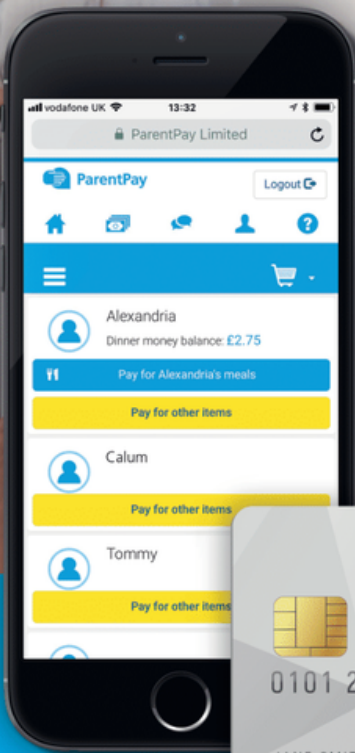
- Monday: 16:10-16:45
- Tuesday to Thursday: 15:10-16:00
- Friday: 13:40-14:30

If parents/carers cannot collect it on the same day, they must pick it up on another day after school. Pupils are not permitted to collect the item.

THE EASY WAY TO PAY

We're using ParentPay so parents
can easily pay online for school
dinners, trips and clubs.

No stress, hassle free.



**SIMPLE
QUICK
SAFE**



www.parentpay.com



ParentPay
COUNT ON US

VISA

VISA Checkout



Detentions

Hodge Hill College operates a detention system. If your child is late, misbehaves or doesn't hand in their homework on time, they will be given detention at lunchtime or up to 30 minutes at the end of the day. You will usually get a text or an in-app message on [MyEd](#) to inform you. Please ensure your contact details are up to date. For more serious matters, staff can issue an hour's detentions after school without giving parents/carers notice.

What the Law Allows

- Teachers have the power to issue detention to students (aged under 18)
- Schools must make clear to students and parents/carers that they use detention (including detention outside of school hours) as a sanction
- The times outside normal school hours when detention can be given (the 'permitted day of detention') include:
 - any school day where the student does not have permission to be absent
 - weekends - except the weekend preceding or following the half-term break
 - non-teaching days – usually referred to as 'training days', 'INSET days' or 'non-contact days'
- Parental consent is not required for detentions
- As with any disciplinary penalty, a member of staff must act reasonably given all the circumstances

This guidance is available on the Government's [Behaviour in Schools](#) page.

Uniform & Standards

As part of the school's continued drive to improve standards, we would like all pupils to consistently adhere to the expectations on appearance, conduct and equipment. We are a professional environment and as such, we need all pupils to look smart, professionally conduct themselves and come equipped for their learning.

If a pupil does not meet the standards consistently, they will sit a 30-minute detention. We must have your support to raise our standards collectively. Please can we remind you that pupils are not permitted to wear nose studs and patterns and lines are not to be shaved into hairstyles or eyebrows.

If there are any problems in acquiring uniform, please contact the school and we will endeavour to work with you to address these issues. Such cases will be treated with due sensitivity and confidence.

Our full school uniform and PE kit list can be found on the [uniform page](#) of our website.

Year 11 After-school Tuition

We have introduced a comprehensive new tuition model to support Year 11 pupils' academic progress. Pupils requiring additional help are identified early through mock exams and subject-led assessments.

Teachers use focused tuition sessions to provide targeted support in small groups. There are dedicated after-school sessions each week for Maths, English, Science, and other core subjects. Those making significant progress can move out of the tuition program, while those who require further support may receive more intensive interventions with subject specialist teachers.

This multi-layered approach aims to collect and utilise data effectively, allowing teachers to adapt and personalise tuition to meet individual pupils' needs throughout the academic year.

This timetable is available on the [tuition page](#) of our website.

Extra-curricular Activities & Clubs

At Hodge Hill College, our enrichment and extra-curricular provision provides our pupils with a breadth and balance of activities designed to broaden their horizons, allowing them to develop their own interests and talents. The programme is an extension of the school's curriculum and builds on our CARE brand whilst instilling British Values.

We offer quality provision which provides our pupils with a number of opportunities to develop their resilience, character and performance. Our sports provision has continued to improve to develop pupils physically and mentally.

Please note, that all pupils must sign in at reception upon arrival for before-school sessions each morning.

More information and the activities timetable are available on the [extra-curricular page](#) of our website.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SKIN BETTING

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

'Skin betting' is the term used when players gamble using virtual in-game items, such as weapon 'skins' or character cosmetics. Although these items appear purely decorative, some can hold significant real-world value. Research suggests that children as young as 13 have engaged in this type of betting, often on sites with limited age checks or safeguards, blurring the line between gaming and gambling.

UNREGULATED PLATFORMS

Skin gambling typically takes place on third-party websites that are not licensed or regulated. These platforms often lack age verification, making them easily accessible to children. By linking their gaming accounts, users can deposit skins, place bets, and withdraw winnings as cash or higher-value items – often without adults being aware these activities are happening.

REAL-WORLD VALUE

Skins may look like simple cosmetic upgrades to in-game items and characters, but some are worth hundreds or even thousands of pounds. They can be traded or sold on online marketplaces, meaning they function much like real money. When young people bet with skins, they are risking items of genuine financial value, even if no physical cash is exchanged directly.

INFLUENCER PROMOTION

Some gaming influencers and streamers have promoted skin betting sites in their content. This can make the behaviour appear normal or even desirable, potentially encouraging younger audiences to engage in these activities without fully understanding the risks involved.

SOCIAL STATUS PRESSURE

In games such as Counter Strike: Global Offensive (CS:GO) and Fortnite, rare skins can act as status symbols. Young players may feel the pressure to own high-value items to fit in with peers. This can lead them to take risks – such as using gambling sites – to obtain desirable skins, similar to how branded goods can influence behaviour offline.

LIMITED OVERSIGHT

Skin betting can take place both in-game and on external websites that parents and educators may not be familiar with. Because skin betting does not always resemble traditional gambling, it can go unnoticed until significant losses have occurred, in both items or money.

GATEWAY BEHAVIOURS

Skin betting mirrors many aspects of traditional gambling, including chance-based outcomes, reward systems and excitement. Early exposure to these mechanics can normalise betting behaviours before children and young people even reach legal gambling age. Research indicates that this may increase the likelihood of developing unhealthy habits later, particularly if early wins create a false sense of control or skill.

Advice for Parents & Educators

UNDERSTAND IN-GAME ITEMS

Familiarise yourself with the games young people are playing and learn whether they include tradable or sellable items. Titles like CS:GO and Rust are known for skin marketplaces, but similar systems are increasingly common across games.

LOOK FOR WARNING SIGNS

Be alert to changes in behaviour, such as secrecy around gaming, a strong focus on acquiring specific skins, or a sudden loss of in-game items. These could indicate involvement in skin gambling and provide an opportunity to start a conversation about it.

DISCUSS VALUE AND RISK

Help children and young people understand that cosmetic items like skins can carry real-world value. Explain that losing them through betting is comparable to losing money, therefore reinforcing the connection between in-game actions and real financial consequences.

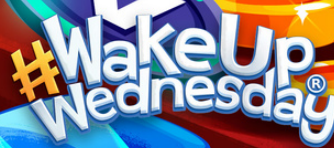
USE CONTROLS AND SAFEGUARDS

Make use of parental controls and platform settings to restrict trading, purchases, and access to external websites. Where possible, disable marketplace features on games and monitor young people's account activity to reduce the risk of unauthorised transactions.

Meet Our Expert

Nathan David is Head of Foundation and Programme Lead for Esports Coaching at the University Campus of Esports.

Bubba Gaeddert is a Senior Lecturer and Head of Events at the University Campus of Esports, as well as President and Co-Founder of the Videogames and Esports Foundation.



See full reference list on our website

Avoidant Restrictive Food Intake Disorder (ARFID)

Avoidant/restrictive food intake disorder (ARFID), formerly known as feeding disorder or selective eating disorder, involves avoiding certain foods, limiting food intake, or both.

People with ARFID are typically unconcerned with body weight or shape and develop the disorder for other reasons. These can include a strong dislike of the smell, texture, or taste of specific foods; anxiety after negative food experiences such as choking or illness; persistent fussiness that escalates into severe aversions; or a general lack of interest in food and appetite.

Visit the [Forward Thinking Birmingham](#) website for more information, when to seek help and to see what support is available.

Year 11 Extra Tuition Available Throughout the Week

We are pleased to offer extra tuition sessions for Year 11 pupils throughout the week to help support their learning and exam preparation. We encourage all parents to check the [Year 11 Extra Tuition Timetable](#) for more information.

Absence Reporting

If your child is going to be absent from school, please let us know before 08:30. You can do this by sending an in-app message (free of charge) to the Absence Hotline via our MyEd app or calling 0121 783 7807.

Parents/Carers may be asked to provide medical evidence where there are repeated absences due to reported illness.

Punctuality

All pupils must arrive on time each day to run the school efficiently. Pupils are expected to be on school premises by 08:30.

The Key Stage 3 and 4 gates will close at 08:37, and any pupil who arrives after this time will need to sign in via the School Office.

If a pupil is late for school, they will receive a 30-minute detention on the same day. Similarly, if a pupil is late for a lesson, they will receive a 30-minute detention on the same day.

If a pupil is marked late more than once in a day, the detention time will be increased on the same day.

Learning Wallets, School Bags & Equipment

All pupils have been given a learning wallet containing the equipment they need to bring to school to support their access to the curriculum.

This needs to be brought into school every day in a school bag to ensure it is kept safe. Failure to bring in the learning wallet or school bag will result in a 60-minute detention.

If pupils lose any of their equipment, they are responsible for replacing it. Stationery items are available for purchase at the Ready to Learn Hub for a nominal amount of 10p per item (cash).

If your child needs to replace their calculator, you can either provide one or purchase a new one through ParentPay/the School Office for £15 (cashless).

Empty learning wallets are also available to purchase through ParentPay/the School Office for £1.70 (cashless).

School Policies & Documents

Parents can access the latest school policies and important documents on the [policies page](#) of our website.

This includes our behaviour and expectations policies, which outline how we promote a safe, inclusive and positive learning environment and support high standards of conduct for all pupils.

REWARDS

EARN POINTS | CLAIM PRIZES | CELEBRATE SUCCESS!

Prize Drawer Entries

£40 Uber Eats Voucher
Raffle Ticket (*Termly*)

45

Laptop Raffle Ticket
(*Yearly*)

75

Game Console Raffle
Ticket (*Yearly*)

75



Creative & Sports Equipment

LEGO Mini Figures

300

Colouring Book

350

Water Colour Paint Set

450

Felt Tip Pens

500

LEGO Technic Mercedes

800

Table Tennis Bat

400

Nike Football

850

Wilson Basketball

900



Academic & Learning Supplies

Wobbly Fuzzy Head Pen

75

Book of Choice

250

Learning Wallet (*Empty*)

100

Calculator

500



Audio Rewards

Wireless Headphones Bluetooth Speaker

1200

1300



Experience & Lifestyle

Free Slush Pass

50

Jump the Queue Pass
(*1 Day Only*)

75

Free Breaktime
Snack or Drink

100



SAVE YOUR POINTS OR SPEND THEM - THE CHOICE IS YOURS!

Translate Our School Website Using Google Translator on Chrome

If you need help understanding information on our school's website, Google Chrome has a built-in translation feature that can translate the pages into your preferred language.

To use this, first make sure you have the latest version of Google Chrome installed on your device. Then navigate to our school's website and click on the three-dot menu icon in the top right corner of Chrome. Select "Translate" from the menu. This will bring up a sidebar where you can choose which language you want to translate the page into. Click on your desired language and Chrome will automatically translate everything on the webpage.

The translation may not be completely perfect, but it should help convey the key information and allow you to understand important updates from teachers or the school administration.

This feature works for dozens of popular languages - just select the one you feel most comfortable with.

Examples:

Arabic



Bangla



Chinese



Romanian



Polish



Urdu



Homework - Useful Links



[ClassCharts](#)



[MathsWatch](#)



[My GCSE Science](#)



[Century](#)

flu: 5 reasons to have the vaccine

1. Protect yourself

The vaccine will help protect you against flu and serious complications such as bronchitis and pneumonia

2. Protect your family and friends

Having the vaccine will help protect more vulnerable friends and family

3. No injection needed

The nasal spray is painless and easy to have

4. It's better than having flu

The nasal spray helps protect against flu, has been given to millions worldwide and has an excellent safety record

5. Avoid lost opportunities

If you get flu, you may be unwell for several days and not be able to do the things you enjoy

For more information visit
www.nhs.uk/child-flu

Flu  **mmunisation**

Helping to protect you against flu



