



May 2022

Newsletter

Highwood Primary School Issue no.52

'Where Individuals Matter'

Dear Parents/Carers,

Apologies for the slightly delayed publication of our Summer 1 Newsletter - I was keen to be able to share photographs of the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations in this edition and we ran out of time at the end of term.

I would like to put on record my thanks to Mrs. Parker for organising the hugely successful Jubilee Celebration - it was such a great event, made even more special by being our first post-Covid event that parents could join with us to enjoy. Seeing the children perform their 'Dancing through the Decades' routines was fantastic and the atmosphere with our family picnic was a great reminder about what makes our Highwood community so special.



We look forward to returning to other key events during the Summer term, and then again in the next academic year. We are aiming to get all the dates finalised well in advance, so that parents have as much notice as possible to be able to join us.

Car Parking

Parents may be aware that there is a petition circulating relating to the use of the Reading University Car Park on Woodlands Avenue. The link can be found here:

<https://www.ipetitions.com/petition/university-of-reading-to-allow-parents-to-park-2>

To reassure Highwood parents, during the initial expansion of the school we approached Reading University, The Local Council (and even the employee with the padlock key) but due to concerns around the security of the site, this request was declined. We have sought many different routes to get access and I will be representing the school when a meeting is organised as a result of the petition. Can I request that parents continue to park responsibly, so that we can continue our positive relationships with local residents and ensure our children can arrive and leave school safely.

Thank you for your support.

Matt Hickey
Head Teacher



Foundation 1 News

Miss Nunn

Mrs Vanka, Miss Finch, Mrs Cooper, Miss Ryan, Miss Mubashar and Mrs Bailey

Welcome to our Foundation 1 News. We have had a great start to the Summer Term in F1. We have started our new topic which is '**How are all animals different?**'.

We started off this half term learning about farm animals which followed on beautifully from having our chicks at the end of last term. The children engaged in lots of farm animal based activities such as sensory trays, farm animal yoga and craft activities.



Moving on from farm animals we learnt about creatures that live in the garden. The children really enjoyed learning about this group of animals. They went on a mini beast hunt around the school grounds, collected some insects in pots to look at and learnt about the importance of being gentle with living creatures. We especially enjoyed having Shelly, the giant land snail in our class for a few days!

When learning about mini beasts, we have also had a fantastic opportunity to grow our own butterflies. They are still in their cocoons at the moment but we have enjoyed the process so far and we are looking forward to seeing them come out as butterflies.



We also celebrated 'World Bee Day'. We learnt all about the importance of bees to our planet and what we can do to help look after the bees.



We have been practicing for our sports day. We have been doing the egg and spoon race, running races, the sack race, an obstacle course, ball control and beanbag balancing. The children are very excited that their families are going to be coming to watch their sports.

Thank you to all the parents that have supported us during this half of term and we look forward to welcoming the children back after half term!

Don't forget to follow us on Twitter to see what we are up to each week! @HighwoodPrimFS1



Foundation 2 News

Miss Hargreaves & Mrs Parker

Mrs Newham, Mrs Alleyne, Mrs Poulton, Miss Mair,

Miss Webb, Mrs Pithiya

Welcome to the Foundation Stage Newsletter for the first half of the summer term! We have been really busy with our exciting new topic **"Who are our local heroes?"** We hope that the children have been telling you all about it!

We started our topic by discussing different heroes within our community. We have explored the role of a nurse, a police officer and a firefighter, as well as finding out about animals who help us.



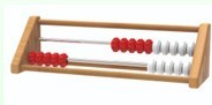
The children have enjoyed pretending to be doctors and patients in the role-play area. We often have a long line of children waiting to see the 'doctor', just like real life!



We have explored the topic 'healthy eating' and why it's important to keep our bodies healthy, especially if we want to become a hero. The children enjoyed creating a plate of healthy food that they would like to eat. We discussed different ways of keeping healthy and suggested different forms of exercise. Our 'wake-up, shake-up' was a firm favourite!



In maths the children have been working on extending our knowledge by looking at numbers to 20. We have also started maths mastery time, where we have enjoyed using rekenreks to deepen our knowledge of subitising, number recall and number composition.



We have been really impressed with the children's first attempts at story writing. They used their imagination and creativity to write their own Fireman Sam story. During learning zone, the children have been writing for a variety of purposes including: missing posters and police investigation reports and post cards.



Thank you to all the parents that have supported us this half term and we look forward to seeing you after the half term break. Enjoy the holiday.

Follow us on twitter @HighwoodPrimFSP @HighwoodPrimF2H



Year 1 News - Summer 1

Mrs Garner, Mrs Gill, Miss Hughes

Mrs Butler, Mrs Rodroju, Mrs Turnbull, Mrs Kearney

Which animal would you invite for tea?

Science and Geography

This term we have been learning about the climate of different parts of the world and what makes some places hot and some cold. We have learnt about where different animals live and had great fun investigating habitats around the school and making our own to attract different animals.



English

Our main text this term has been 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea'. We have loved using the story sacks to help us to retell the stories. We have been writing letters to the Tiger, Hot Seating characters and acting out parts of the story. We have been working really hard on using conjunctions in our sentences too. We are now focusing on creating a tiger information poster. We are researching using iPads, books and videos.



Maths

In Maths we have been working really hard through our Mastery Flow and doing a variety of Do, Think, Explore and Solve tasks. We have practiced adding and subtracting and have been learning about different units of time. We have learnt about months, days, hours, minutes and seconds. We loved timing ourselves to complete different activities. In mental maths, we have been using Rekenreks to help us with subitising. It has been lots of fun to learn a new method in maths.



Art

We have been learning about printing in Art and have looked at the work of William Morris. We have practiced designing our own using polystyrene tiles. We then used these to create our own repeating patterns using an animal theme.



Check out our Twitter feeds at;

@HighWoodPrimIG

(Mrs Gill/Mrs Garner)

@HighWoodPrimIH

(Miss Hughes)



Year 2 News - Summer 1



Miss Amor, Miss Bolger,

Mrs Long, Mrs Tiwari, Mrs Moore, Mrs Nandini, Mrs Platt

It's been a very busy half term. It's been a period of growing...literally! Not only have we seen the children making great progress, but we have been growing produce for our upcoming Best British Banquet!

What could go in our Best British Banquet?

English

To kick start our writing cycle, we applied all what we are learning in Science to help us write a setting description of "The Secret Garden". Also, we worked hard to produce beautiful illustrations of gardens around the world to accompany our tremendous writing!



Whole Class Reading

We have loved reading "Alice in Wonderland". We have enjoyed booing The Queen of Hearts and giggling at the Cheshire Cat's mischievous ways! We cannot wait to get started on writing our own Alice stories in the Summer Term 2!



Follow us on Twitter;

@HighwoodPrim2A @HighwoodPrim2B

Maths

Maths that we use in our everyday lives has been our focus this half term. First, we tackled how to handle and represent data and then we moved onto the important skill of telling time on an analogue clock. Then we explored all about length and height, mass, temperature, volume and capacity. Get creative and test these new skills at home with some baking!



Science

We are very quickly developing green fingers! Most of our seeds have germinated and are well on their way to becoming a tasty addition to our banquet menu. During our growing journey we have learnt all about the different parts of a plant and their functions as well as the lifecycle of a sunflower.



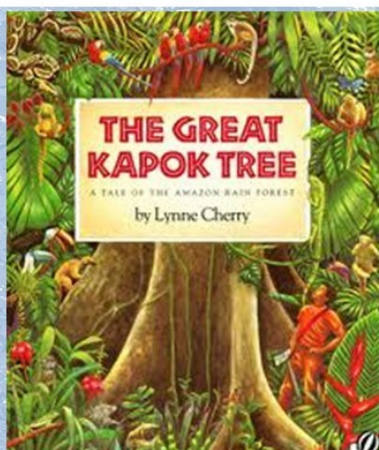


Year 3 News

Mrs Hartgrove, Miss Bicheno & Dr Read

Mrs Lawrance, Ms Fouz and Mrs Dharmaraj

How can we help protect our planet?



LITERACY

We have been looking at the story of The Great Kapok tree in English. In the story, animals from the rainforest tell a huntsman why he should save the rainforest and not cut down the great tree. We retold the story using our own descriptions of the animals. We are also enjoying learning more about the rainforest and the Maya civilisation in whole class reading.

MATHS

In maths, we looked at both 2D shapes and 3D shapes, thinking about their properties such as vertices and faces. We were also able to identify different type of angles in shapes, such as acute and obtuse, as well as right angles.

We even learned the meaning of perpendicular and parallel!

SCIENCE

In science, we have been looking at plants. We completed an investigation, looking at what they need to grow, and discovered that water, light and warmth are very important to keeping them healthy. That's probably why plants do so well in the Amazon! We even looked at how water is transported in plants using blue food dye and celery.



TOPIC

We began our topic by learning about tropical rainforests, in particular, the Amazon. We learned about the layers of the rainforest and what vegetation and creatures are found in each layer. We know where tropical rainforests are located and have compared our local area with Iquitos, known as the gateway to the Amazon.

Follow us on Twitter; [@HighwoodPrim3RH](https://twitter.com/HighwoodPrim3RH) [@HighwoodPrim3B](https://twitter.com/HighwoodPrim3B)





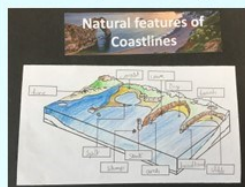
Year 4 News

Mr Allaway, Miss Barrett, Miss Rajput, Miss Hulme,
Mrs Tindall and Mrs Mohammed

Welcome to this edition of the Year 4 news! As we welcomed everyone back through the school doors after Easter, we have had lots of new and exciting learning opportunities this term. Please read on to find out about the fantastic learning the children have been doing!

How have our coasts made Britain great?

This term year 4 have started their investigation into Britain's coasts and the features that define a coast. It has already been exciting to see the enthusiasm of the children for this topic.



Maths

In maths this term the children have been exploring reasoning with measure and describing positions. We had a tough start to the term exploring money and calculating addition, subtraction and multiplication problems. We then dove into area and perimeter where the children have been able to build on their knowledge of geometry and measure to problem solve, which they have continued to enjoy the challenges set.



Finally, we have been investigating coordinates on graphs. The children have loved learning about the x- and y- axis and how to plot shapes using them. They have been excited to learn what translation is and how you move a point on a graph!

Writing

Our English this term started with a focus on writing a story opener based on our class reading book 'Flotsam'. The children thoroughly enjoyed inventing a scenario to why a robot fish had appeared in the water. They were able to create a scene, character and mysterious action sequence to leave the reader on a cliff hanger.

Recently, we moved onto explanation texts. We have been building on our skills of subordinating conjunctions,

time connectives and writing in present tense to create our finished piece. We cannot wait to see the end result of our enthusiastic writers.

Science

In science, we have been investigating how electricity is generated and the dangers that can come with it. The children got the buzz for learning more when we introduced building circuits. They have loved learning how to build a circuit to turn on a lightbulb and fix circuits that are not working independently. They have also been fascinated by learning which items within the classroom are conductors and insulators. We cannot wait to put all our learning together to build a lighthouse with a working circuit inside!



Art

Finally, in art, we have been appreciating our new artist Antony Gormley. We have used our oracy skills to discuss our opinions about his work, what we liked, didn't like and what similarities we noticed. We also experimented by drawing in the style of Gormley's sculptors and have been fascinated to learn that he created the 'Angel of the North'.



Have a lovely half term and we look forward to continuing our learning in our last term in Year 4!

The year 4 team



HighwoodPrim4a

HighwoodPrim4b



Year 5 News

Team: Miss Majer, Mr Robinson, Mrs Inwards, Mrs Nice, Mrs Nielsen, Mrs Pyle and Miss Smith

How do you build an empire?

Welcome to the Year 5 news! I am pleased to say that we've had lots of exciting opportunities and lots of new learning going on. Please read on to find out more!

How do you build an empire?

English

All our English this term has been about Greek myths, linking to our key question 'How do you build an empire?' Our focus is on the Greeks and how they have influenced the modern world. We've spent a long time looking at Greek myths and learning what would go in our 'tool kit' for writing a myth, before exploring the different characters and settings we might see. From here, we created our own mythical creatures for our hero to defeat, using character descriptions, and finally, we are starting to write and then publish our own myths.

Key Question Lessons

Our key question this term is 'How do you build an empire?' Our focus is on the Greeks and how they have influenced the modern world. We've spent a long time exploring where Greece is and the land that they occupied during the Ancient Greek reign, as well as looking at the human and physical geography of Greece and comparing it to where we are in the south of the UK. Since then, we've moved on to look at the history side, exploring Greek Gods and making our own top trumps cards.

Maths

Our focus this term in maths has been geometry and measure. We have looked at shape, angles and how to draw accurately using a ruler and a protractor. We were able to use everything we knew about shape, space and measure to reason and problem solve, explaining why something might be true or looking for patterns across a range of statements. We've also been



Dance



working hard. Finally, in PE, we have been focused on producing a dance for our Queen's Jubilee celebrations. It has been a joy to see the children really engage with the music and to see their confidence improve over the weeks. Well Done everyone!

It has been a super start to the summer term. We look forward to continuing this hard work after half term

Follow us on Twitter @HighwoodPrim5M and @HighwoodPrim5R



Year 6 News

Teachers: Mrs Raines, Miss Bocutt, Mrs Chaudhary, and Mrs Anil

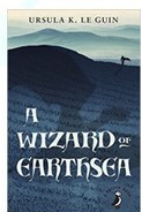
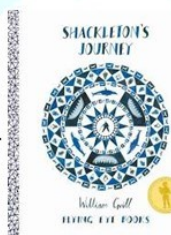
The focus at the beginning of this term was 'SATs'. We spent the first 2 weeks practising so that when the SATs finally arrived, we realised that they weren't as scary as we all thought! The children worked extremely hard and we were very proud of their positive attitude. Well done Year 6!!

Once SATs were over, we were able to begin to answer the question:

'What is the secret to success?'

English

As readers, and writers, we immersed ourselves in the story of Ernest Shackleton and his ill-fated expedition to the South Pole. We thought about the question: 'What does it mean to be successful?' and debated whether Shackleton achieved success (as he never made it to the South Pole). We took inspiration from the beautifully illustrated book by Will Grill, 'Shackleton's Journey'. We have authored an encyclopaedia entry, a persuasive letter to Shackleton, and a quest story based on his heroic expedition.



During class reading lessons, we have been studying 'A Wizard of Earthsea' which is a challenging and thought-provoking read.

We have really enjoyed getting used to the archaic language, and can't wait to find out what happens to Ged as he learns to become a wise wizard.

Maths

This term has focussed mainly on shape (transformations) and reasoning with measures (area and perimeter). We have also revised multiplying and dividing by 10, 100 and 1000 as we converted units of measurement. We have now begun to understand ratio and use it in problem-solving.

Topic

Over the last few weeks, our topic has focussed on art, geography and science.

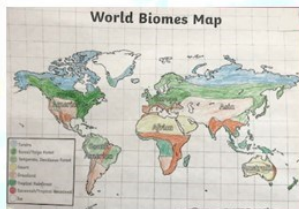
Art

As artists, we have taken inspiration from William Grill and drawn our own illustrations of aspects of Shackleton's expedition. We have enjoyed using our creativity.



Geography

We used our geography lessons to help us evaluate the enormity of Shackleton's expedition. We learnt about longitude and latitude to have an understanding of just how far he travelled; we learnt about day length and seasons in the Antarctic and how the Earth's tilt causes it to have opposite seasons from the Arctic; and biomes.



Science

In order to answer the question, 'What's the secret to a healthy body?', we have begun to study the circulatory system and how the heart works. This will help us to understand what we need in order to lead a healthy lifestyle.

PE

With Mr Edwards, the children have been taking part in athletics and did themselves proud in the 600m! 6B have begun swimming lessons, and 6R are looking forward to having their turn.

[@HighwoodPrim6B](#) [@HighwoodPrim6R](#)



The Orchard Speech and Language Resource News

Mrs Godfrey, Mrs Payne, Mrs Khan, Mrs Pithiya, Mrs La Porte

Literacy: Six Dinner Sid



'Six Dinner Sid' has been a big hit with the children in The Orchard. They are looking forward to showing you their work at the Summer coffee morning next half term.



Maths: Statistics, Time and Measure



We have been having lots of fun with practical maths activities this half term! Mind maps including objects and pictures have helped the children to build and use new maths vocabulary.



Follow us on Twitter @HighwoodPrimR



PE/Sports News

Mr Edwards

Welcome to the Summer 1 edition "PE & Sports News Page" of academic year 2021/22.

PE Lessons:

This half term I have been testing the children's overall strength, agility, speed and fitness via a "quadkids" style programme. This has been through sprints, standing long jump, Vortex throws and a long distance run. They have been scored against national average statistics and I have been pleased with many of the results, despite the effect the lockdowns have had on our children's overall fitness. That said, there have been a number of children that have actually improved their fitness as they have found enjoyment out of many physical activities with their parents as we have been thrown together. This is a huge positive, I think you will all agree. I would like your support to continue to encourage your children to participate in sports out of school now that many have restarted so that we can improve on these results. It is very important that children keep active as much as they can.

Swimming lessons have continued this half term with Year 4B. They have loved every minute of it with many nervous first time swimmers progressing so fast in the pool they have moved up to my group from Mrs Hope's group and are continuing it outside of school lessons. This makes me so happy as it is a life skill as well as a curriculum skill. We look forward to the next group, 6A that have started whilst this newsletter has gone to print.



After School Clubs:

This term we have:-

Tuesdays: Year 3/4 Summer Sports & Year 5/6 Summer Sports Club.

Wednesdays: Year 5/6 Cricket Club

Thursdays: KS2 Athletics Clubs

Inter-House Competition

After 2 years off of house games, we have finally resumed this very popular competition. This half term we have started playing basketball with the year 5/6s. After 2 rounds, it went right down to the final round this week where Red Kites and Falcons ended up at the top on the same points. Red Kites won overall as they had a better goal difference. Congratulations again to the house captains for organising their teams and 50 housepoints will be added to the overall total at the end of the week.





PE/Sports News

Sports coach: Mr Edwards

Summer Half Term Matches & Tournaments:

After 2 years absence from the Wokingham School Games where we would compete in person rather than virtually, we headed to Sand Martins Golf Club for the Year 4 "Tri-Golf" tournament. The weather certainly shone for us on a beautiful afternoon. The participation rules were 5 girls and 5 boys. All of our children played so well, putting their skills learned in PE to great use. After all 8 activities, the organisers totalled the scores from all of the schools and Highwood were awarded the bronze medal! This is an amazing result. On top of that, I had an email to say how amazingly well the children behaved and that it was lovely to hear them thanking the volunteers who ran the activities. This makes me most proud.



Woodley Schools Sports Week.

At the time of print, we will be in the middle of the 2022 Woodley Schools Sports Week. This is a fan-

tastic week full of opportunities for many children in Woodley schools. On Monday we will be playing in the Cecil Trembath 5/6 Cricket Tournament. On Tuesday all pupils in year 2 will get to take part in a multi activity Tennis Festival and Wednesday all pupils in year 4 will take part in a multi activity Cricket Festival. Good luck to all taking part!

Next Half Term

PE Lessons: - Continue Athletics & Cricket.

PE Kit required: - **Summer Gear.** Shorts, Highwood PE T-Shirt, trainers, not plimsolls (Black Plain Track-suit optional). **No Earrings**

Next Term Competitions:

Interhouse 3/4 Basketball & KS2 Rounders

Wokingham School Games

Wokingham Schools Cricket League

3/4 Tennis Red & 5/6 Tennis Orange

3/4 Cricket Stars

Achievements outside of school:

With many sports clubs returning to training, I would again like to see pictures to add in this section of the newsletter of the fun physical or sporty things you get up to outside of school.

Here is Robbie with another medal and trophy showing how well he is doing in his Rugby Club, well done!!



Have a fabulous half term break and we'll see you for "Summer 2"

Mr Edwards



SENCo & Parent Support Adviser

This half term has flown by! But at the same time so many things have been happening around school! We have especially enjoyed working with staff and families, to support our pupils, so that they are happy and progressing within school.







It is great, with the lifting of Covid measures, to be able to get back to our in-person meetings, training and coffee mornings (IRL as the kids say!) We have parent/carers coffee mornings and workshops being planned for Summer 2 term onwards. We will keep you posted as they are confirmed.

We hope that you have an enjoyable half term holiday. We have included some local organisations who can provide information, support and ideas of local events and SEND friendly venues you may want to visit in the holidays.

We look forward to welcoming you back to school, after the holidays.

Lucy and Mrs Padbury

Local SEND Support

 <p>Information, support & what's on locally for SEND families.</p> <p>https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/local-offer-for-0-25-year-olds-with-</p>	 <p>Provide free, confidential, impartial SEND advice, guidance and support.</p> <p>www.sendiasswokingham.org.uk</p>	 <p>Specialist support for local Families who have Children & Young People with Special Needs parentingspecialchildren.co.uk</p>	 <p>ASSIST Team Autism Spectrum Service for Information Support and Training</p>
Who we are:			
	<p>Lucy Sayer - Parent Support Advisor (PSA)</p> <p>I support the pupils in school and their families. This includes putting together a timetable of information events, training and social events that we can all, (current restrictions allowing!), enjoy as a school community. I'd also welcome any ideas you have about events, so please get in touch if there is anything you think would benefit the families of Highwood School.</p>		
	<p>Mrs Padbury - Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo)</p> <p>A special educational need/ and or disability (SEND) can cause barriers to a child's learning. My role in school is to identify the children's strengths and manage any extra needs they may have. I liaise with teachers and teaching assistants to help support the pupil's needs and discuss appropriate actions that will help reduce any barriers to their learning. If you have any SEND concerns please talk to your child's class teacher.</p>		

Highwood Events Page

It has been wonderful this term to be able to hold more events now that the covid restrictions have lifted! We have been able to enjoy visitors into school, coffee mornings, House Games, school trips, inter school sports competitions, Woodley Sports Week, swimming lessons for Years 4 and 6, the Year 6 PGL residential and, of course, our Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebration!



Well done to all our pupils who did so well in some great sport competitions!



PGL

What an amazing few days!



There were plenty of fabulous outfits at our Jubilee Celebration! The children performed their Dances from the Decades wonderfully and thankfully even the weather stayed fine for our family picnic!



Reminders

ABSENCE



Please contact the school office by 9.30am if your child is absent stating the reason for the absence. This can be done via Iris Parent-Mail or by phone on 0118 9265493.

If your child is going to be late and requires a hot dinner this must be booked by 9.30am.

All requests for leave of absence must be made on the absence form available from the school office. Routine appointments should be made outside of school time.

Please see the latest Attendance Policy on the school website regarding Penalty Notices.

SCHOOL DINNERS



Children in Reception, Years 1 & 2 are entitled to universal free school meals, funded by the government. If your child would like a school dinner please let the class teacher know and this will be booked for them.

Children in Nursery, Years 3 to 6 are required to pay for dinners at a cost of £2.15 per day. Payment should be made via SCOPAY in advance. Dinners are booked in the morning in class when the register is taken and booking closes at 9.30am.

If you think your child may be eligible for benefits related free school meals please contact the school office for a form.

Applicants in receipt of Universal credit must receive a net earned income of less than £7,400 to be entitled to free school meals. This may also entitle your child to other benefits in school i.e. free trips etc.



EARRINGS

Please note that our school policy is for earrings to be removed for PE, for the health and safety of the children.

It is recommended that ear piercing is only done in the first week of the Summer holidays to allow the time for them to settle.

Diary Dates



Date and Time	Activity
Sunday 12th June 2022	WASMA Concert - singing club
Monday 13th June 2022	F2/Reception trip to Wellington Country Park
Friday 17th to Saturday 18th June 2022	Year 4 Camping at school overnight
Tuesday 21st June 2022	KS2 Sports Day - morning
Thursday 23rd June 2022	F2 & KS1 Sports Day - morning
Friday 1st July 2022	Year 3 trip to The Living Rainforest
Monday 4th July 2022	Parent meeting for new F2 children - 9.30am - 10.45am
Wednesday 6th July 2022	Nursery/F1 Sports morning - 9.30am to 11.30am
Wednesday 6th July 2022	Year 6 Production -afternoon performance
Thursday 7th July 2022	Year 6 Production - evening performance
Friday 8th July 2022	KS1 singing event at Addington School
Thursday 14th July 2022	Year 6 Awards Ceremony - 6.30pm to 8pm
Friday 15th July 2022	Year 4 Coding Challenge - selected children
Tuesday 19th July 2022	Last Day of Summer Term - school finishes at 1.30pm
Wednesday 20th July 2022	Inset day - School closed for staff training
Thursday 21st July to Thursday 1st September 2022	Summer Holidays
Friday 2nd September 2022	Inset day - School closed for staff training
Monday 5th September 2022	First day of the Autumn Term



Events in the community

We get lots of information sent to the school about events in and around the local area. We do not want to bombard parents with too many emails so we will only email specific important events and will add other events to our Community page at the below link.

[Community Events & Highwood in the News - Highwood Primary School](#)