



# Newsletter

## Highwood Primary School Issue no.55

December 2022

'Where Individuals Matter'

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been so nice this term to get back to a lot of Highwood's traditional events. There is nothing quite like a school nativity to help get everybody in the Christmas spirit! This, alongside our SPLAT events and Winter Fayre, have created a really nice atmosphere this term with many of our exciting activities and opportunities being shared inside this newsletter.



I would like to put on record a huge thank you to all our school community - children, parents, staff, Friends of Highwood and governors - for being part of a really successful Autumn term.

### Academisation Update

Thank you to everyone who took part in our consultation about becoming an Academy and joining the Orchard Learning Alliance (OLA). At a meeting on Monday 21st November, the Governing Body discussed all of the questions that you raised, and took the decision that we would become an Academy and join the OLA. This is a significant decision, but it definitely isn't the end of the process, and the questions you raised will help us make the OLA the best possible home for Highwood. Thank you all for your engagement, and please continue to get in touch if you think of any further questions.

### Attendance

Attendance is a really high priority for us at the minute and a lot of school resources are being targeted at improving the data. At the time of writing this newsletter, our attendance for the year to date is **92.8%**. National Average for last year was **95.4%**

We understand that children can become ill and we know that a lot of seasonal illness is contributing to the figure. We want to be able to work with parents to make sure that if children are well enough to attend, that we can make this happen.



School success starts  
with attendance

What is a much greater concern is our level of Persistent Absenteeism. A child is identified as a Persistent Absentee if they are **below 90% attendance**.

In 2020 - 2021 the **National Average for Persistent Absenteeism was 12.1%**. At Highwood for the same period of time, our **Persistent Absenteeism level was 23.2%** - almost **double the national average**. This figure means that nearly 1 in 4 children at Highwood missed over 10% of their education during last academic year.

At the time of writing this letter, our current level Persistent Absenteeism is at 22.8%. I hope that we can successfully work with all families to significantly decrease this figure and have more of our children in school for more of the time.

Thank you for your support

Matt Hickey

Headteacher



# Governing Body News

Dear Parent and Carers,

## Orchard Learning Alliance

Following the governors' research into academy trusts over recent months and subsequent consultations with staff and parents, an extraordinary meeting of all governors took place on 21st November 2022. At this meeting, the Highwood governors unanimously agreed and voted to join the Orchard Learning Alliance (OLA) multi academy trust. We are currently in the application process and we will keep you informed of updates as we progress on this new journey.

## Parental & Community Engagement

Governors would like to know what you need to support your child's progress at Highwood. We are keen to hear any opportunities for Highwood to benefit from, so please contact us. [Contact governors here](#)

We wish everyone has an amazing Christmas break and we've put together a few activities for the kids to enjoy over the Christmas break.

## Seasons' Greetings!

Highwood Governors





# Governing Body News

## Page 2

### CHRISTMAS WORDSEARCH



#### WORD LIST

CANDY CANE  
COOKIE  
ELF  
HOLLY  
LIGHTS

MISTLETOE  
PRESENT  
REINDEER  
SANTA  
TREE

#### Christmas Cheer ☐

Where does Santa always stay when he goes on any vacation? *At the ho-ho-ho-tel.*

What happens when you combine Santa with a duck? *A Christmas Quacker.*

Why doesn't Santa eat junk food? *Because it's bad for your elf!*

Why is it so cold at Christmas? *Because it's in Decembrrrrrrr.*

What does an elf study in school? *The elfabet.*

What do snowmen eat for lunch? *Ice bergers.*

Which of Santa's reindeer has bad manners? *Rude-olph!*

Who is Santa's favourite pop star? *Beyon-sleigh!*

What is a reindeer's favourite sport? *Stable tennis*

Why do cats take so long to wrap presents? *They want them to be purr-fect!*





# Foundation 1 News

## Mrs Atkinson

Mrs Vanka, Miss Mair, Mrs Bailey, Mrs Cooper and Miss Ryan

Welcome to our Foundation 1 News. We have had a very busy second half of the Autumn Term in F1. We have been continuing to explore our termly topic **'What makes us special?'** by looking at our sense of taste, hearing and sight.



We have learnt about the other senses which we use every day - sight, taste and hearing. We learnt all about firework night and the different sounds we might hear and made our own binoculars and telescopes when we learnt about sight. The children have also been focusing on listening in phonics, learning to distinguish between different sounds they hear with their ears.

Our favourite sense was our sense of taste! We explored the four parts of taste - salty, bitter, sweet and sour. Sweet food is our favourite but we disliked the bitter taste. We also tasted some new kinds of fruit and made our own fruit kebabs. The children made shopping lists to make sure Mrs Atkinson bought the right ingredients.



As part of learning how everyone is different and celebrating diversity, we have really focused on being kind and being a good friend this half of term. This tied in nicely with anti-bullying week where we learnt all about the different ways that we can show kindness to others. We have done circle times focused on the children's Personal, Social and Emotional development and helping them learn to use their voices to solve disputes with others.

And of course, who can forget our fabulous Welly Walk! We got very wet and learnt that paper bags and rain are not a good combination, but we made a wonderful tree with all the natural objects we collected and used them in our craft activities that week too. Thank you so much to all the grown-ups who gave up their morning to help us.



As we are coming towards the end of the term, we are doing all things Christmas! The children have been busy rehearsing for their play 'The Nativity' which we are very excited to share with parents and also engaging in lots of Christmas/winter themed activities and crafts. The children also enjoyed their Christmas party and Christmas lunch and decorating the classroom to make it very festive.

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 the Christmas break!

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





## Foundation 2 News

Mrs Parker, Miss Hargreaves  
Mrs Newham, Mrs Alleyne, Miss Webb Miss Finch,

Welcome to the Foundation Stage Newsletter! It has been such a busy and exciting half term, continuing with our topic question 'Could dinosaurs live in Woodley?', and with all of our other learning - take a look!



We started the term looking at the different ways that dinosaurs move; we compared animals that we see today who resembled dinosaurs and discussed extinction and how it might have happened. Our WOW event, a dinosaur day, was very exciting. We baked dinosaur biscuits, and looked closely at fossils.

In maths the F2 children have been learning about sequencing. They have been using objects to make a 2 colour repeated pattern and a 3 colour repeating pattern! We introduced numicon and worked together to order them in different ways. We have also been exploring 2D shapes - going on a shape hunt and exploring how we can manipulate shapes to create effects.



We were delighted to welcome you all back into school for our SPLAT session. It was such a lovely atmosphere. The children certainly enjoyed completing the activities with their parents.

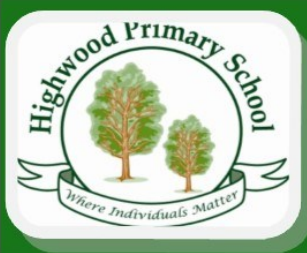
We have introduced a new parent-share app this term - Seesaw. We are uploading lots of videos and photos for you to see. We love to receive updates on what your children have been doing whilst outside of school. If you haven't received your QR code to access this app, please speak to us.



The children had the opportunity to show off their singing, acting and dancing during our nativity 'The Nativity'. They all looked lovely in their outfits, and were amazing in the hall in front of so many parents and relatives! We hope that you all enjoyed watching it.

Thank you to all the parents that have supported us this half term and we wish you a very **Merry Christmas** and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year!

Follow us on Twitter: @HighwoodPrimF2H @HighwoodPrimF2P



## Year 1 News - Autumn 2

Miss Hughes, Miss Bolger and Mrs Garner

Mrs Tiwari, Mrs Wheeler, Miss Robins, Miss Mubashar

Year 1 have had a fantastic Autumn term. We have seen the children put so much effort into all of their work over the past few weeks and they have shown our Learning Behaviours really well.

### Where In The World Am I?

#### Trip to The Birches

We had a lovely afternoon singing our Christmas Play songs to the staff and residents at the Birches. The children really shared our Highwood Value of Happiness.



#### Maths

Over the last couple weeks we have been focusing on 3d and 2d shapes. We have been naming them and sorting them according to their properties. We have investigated which ones would roll or build the most stable tower, based on their properties.



#### History and DT

As part of our Key Question, we have been looking at the history of the school and of Woodley and the surrounding area. We can explain some of the key ways the school and



Woodley has changed and even how we think they will change in the future! We did lots of activities to explore how Highwood has changed, including making timelines! We have also completed our first DT project, making Christmas biscuits. We started by researching different types of biscuits to decide what we liked and what we wanted our biscuits to be like. We then made different designs of Christmas inspired biscuits and evaluated which was our favourite. We took some biscuits with us to The Birches and shared them with the residents. They were delicious!



#### English

This term we have been looking at traditional tales, focusing on 'The Three Little Pigs.' We loved reading the story and identifying all of the key phrases we would need to use.



We have practised retelling the story a lot, both orally and through some drama! The children have written their own versions of The Three Little Pigs, choosing their own animals. We were very impressed by their creativity and the way they challenged themselves with their word choice to think of the most interesting adjectives possible. We also discovered some amazing acting skills with the children thinking hard about their expression and actions to tell the story.



Follow us on Twitter for more updates::

@HighwoodPrim1H

(Miss Hughes)

@HighwoodPrim1BG

(Ms Bolger/Mrs Garner)





## Year 2 News - Autumn 2

Miss Hulme, Ms Sandhu

Miss Haywood, Mrs Butler and Miss Roberts

### Was the Great Fire of London a total disaster?

We have been very busy this half term continuing to learn about The Great Fire of London and rehearsing for our Nativity. The children have enjoyed learning about Samuel Pepys and his diary (especially the secret code it was written in) and are now fantastic historians!

#### Topic

This term the children have been learning about Samuel Pepys and why he remains an important person. The children had great fun researching facts about him and creating a fact file. In Science, the children have been learning what it means to recycle. They have watched and then sequenced the recycling process. We hope they have been using the correct bins at home!



#### English

We have been focusing on all the skills needed to write a diary entry based on Samuel Pepys diary during the Great Fire of London. This includes, writing in the past tense, writing their feelings, thoughts and opinions in chronological order.



#### Maths

This term the children have been using their number bonds to solve addition and subtraction calculations. They have had a lot of concrete practice with the dienes and ones. This has enabled the children to be more confident when solving calculations independently.



#### Music and DT

We have been busy learning the songs for our Christmas Nativity and looking at the different tones and pitches to our voices. In DT we have investigated the different materials that a Tudor house would be made from and planned and designed our own Tudor house, ready to use our creativity skills to build a Tudor house.



Please follow us on Twitter;

@Highwoodprim2H

@Highwoodprim2S







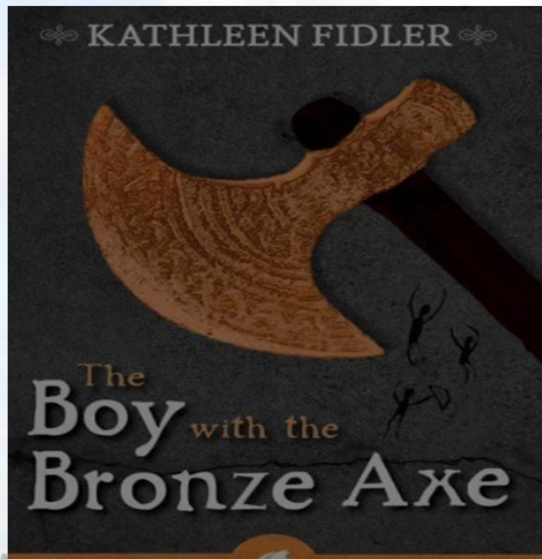
# Year 3 News

Dr Read, Mrs Hartgrove, Miss Rumbold

## What did pre-historic people yabba dabba do?

### Reading and Writing

We have had a lot to write about recently! Not only have we discovered a lot about pre-historic times to write about in non-chronological reports, we then had an amazing day in the Stone Age! We enjoyed the day so much that we are writing recounts of it to share our experience with others. We also finished reading *The Boy with the Bronze Axe*, and gave it some very good reviews!

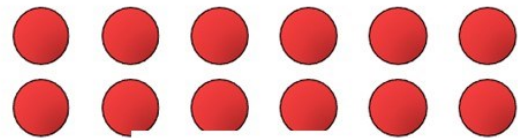


### Topic

What did prehistoric people yabba dabba do? We found out during Stone Age Day! We loved flint knapping, and built an axe (of paper!) Most recently, we have thought about the materials that were available to Stone Age people and wondered how Stone Age people would fix their tunics Et la francais? C'est super! We have even been learning about Ancient Britain in French!

### Maths

We have been trying so hard with our maths column addition and subtraction. Now we are working on multiplication and division. We have used arrays to help us visualise, and have enjoyed using the counters to help.



$$6 \times 2 = 12$$

### Science

We have been learning all about bodies in science, focusing on skeletons. We discovered the different type of skeleton names, and that some animals even have skeletons on the outside of their bodies!

We have also been thinking about why animals need food.

Je suis un homme  
de l'âge de la pierre. 🔊

J'ai un silex. 🔊

J'habite dans  
une grotte. 🔊



Follow us on Twitter;

@HighwoodPrim3R

@HighwoodPrim3RH





# Year 4 News

Miss Barrett, Miss Clarke, Mrs Strong, Mrs Tindall and Mrs Chaurasia

**Welcome to the second edition of the Year 4 news! All the Year 4 children have continued to take pride in their learning and have produced some amazing work. Please read on to find out about the incredible learning the children have been doing!**

## What is More Precious - water or gold?

Year 4 continued our investigation into the Ancient Egyptians and how their wealth and the river Nile were important to their rise to power success as a civilisation.

We learned all about why the River Nile was so important to the Egyptians, explored an Egyptian textile Khayamiya and have created our own hieroglyphic counting system.

Thank you to all of the parents who came to the maths SPLAT event! The children loved learning with you.



## Maths

In maths this term the children explored and concreted their understanding of addition and subtraction of 4 digit numbers and have been challenged to multiple exchanges within one calculation. We continued our work on addition and subtraction to find answers to multistep problems. We then investigated different techniques in working out timetables we didn't know. Their timetables knowledge has come so far over the past few weeks but any extra practise that could be squeezed in on the school run or at home would be beneficial!

## English

In our writing, we have created excellent setting descriptions, full of adjectives, similes, personification and an assortment of fronted adverbial phrases. We have pulled all of this learning together with show don't tell emotions and have written a whole narrative all about a child becoming brave and adventuring into a task they are scared to do! We are so proud of the creativity and perseverance the children have put into their writing!

Year 4 have continued reading 'Secrets of a Sun King' and the class have loved the excitement and adventure within the story. We have been improving our predicting skills for what we think is going to happen next and summaries of chapters to help us remember all the key events throughout the book.

## Science

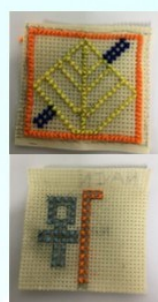
As scientists we have been investigating the different functions of our teeth and even created our own 'perfect' set out of play-dough! We then dove into the 'disgusting' digestive system where the children used tights and crackers to show how the food is processed. The children became the food and acted out how the food travels through our body and performed the function of each organ to solidify our learning.



## Art

As artists we have looked at the Egyptian textile Khayamiya. The children created their own elaborate patterns in the Egyptian styles and painted them onto fabric.

## Design and Technology



We have been extremely creative in D&T this term. The children designed a logo for Ancient Egypt, planned out a pattern, then sewed it onto fabric using either a running stitch or a cross stitch. The children persevered to complete their logos as accurately as they could. The outcomes were incredible!

*Have a lovely, well-earned Christmas break and we cannot wait to continue our learning in the New Year!*

*The year 4 team*



HighwoodPrim4b  
HighwoodPrim4c





## Year 5 News

**Team: Miss Majer, Mrs Downes,  
Mrs Laksmanaman, Mrs Mohammad & Mrs  
Shahzadi**

### Has our Earth finished evolving?

Welcome to the second edition of the Year 5 news! I am pleased to say that we've had a fantastic start to the school year, with lots of exciting opportunities and lots of new learning going on. Please read on to find out more!

#### English



During the second part of the Autumn Term, we focused on writing newspapers, linked to the

moon landing. We looked at all the features first, introducing a new idea of relative clauses, before doing lots of research and interviewing key players in the landing. Finally, we published our newspaper articles like real journalists.

#### Science and Key Question Lessons



Continuing on with our Key Question of 'Has Our Earth Finished Evolving?' we moved on to look at space. We spent a

long time learning all about the planets, as well as how we get night and day and the Lunar Cycle. Throughout our learning, we used practical resources to show our understanding and using what we learnt practically to write our explanations on how things worked, using scientific explanations.

#### Maths

We've been looking at the four operations including looking at 'special numbers', such as



prime numbers and factors. We have focused on multiplying and dividing, learning new formal methods that can help us calculate answers. This side of half term, we have been exploring fractions: find equivalent fractions, converting between improper fractions and mixed numbers, and comparing fractions.

#### Art

We have finished the term with a very exciting art day where we started to look at the work of three different artists: Jackson Pollock, Michael Carroll and Peter Thorpe.



Learning new techniques, we then created a piece of art work based on space.

*It has been a super start to the year. We look forward to continuing this hard work after Christmas!*

*Follow us on Twitter @HighwoodPrim5M and @HighwoodPrim5D*





# Year 6 News

**Teachers: Mr Robinson, Mrs Partridge, Mrs Nielsen  
Mrs Rajput, Mrs Nice and Ms Yu**

Looking back over this Autumn Term, we can't believe how much we have learnt and done. We have continued to address our question '**Does Change Always Lead to Progress?**' through English, History, Science and the Arts. Year 6 would like to wish a Happy Christmas to all our families and friends.

## English

After half-term we immersed ourselves in poetry. We read and performed a variety of poems, and collected our favourite ones for display. We then wrote our own poems inspired by Robert MacFarland's Red Fox.



We have thoroughly enjoyed our whole class reading book 'Cogheart' by Peter Bunzl. It is an exciting adventure story that includes themes such as, what it means to be human; trust and betrayal; friendship and kindness.

In writing, we have used our knowledge of the Industrial Revolution to write biographies about influential men and women of the time, how their lives contributed to their successes, and how we benefit from their legacies today.

## Maths

We have continued to hone our arithmetic skills and use them to solve mathematical problems. We have had a huge focus on skills involving fractions: addition and subtraction of fractions, multiplying and dividing; and fractions of an amount. The children have worked incredibly hard and have made excellent progress.

## Science

In Science, we started off finding out about Darwin and how he developed his theory of evolution. We investigated how the different beaks of finches had adapted over many generations so that they were better able to survive on the food that grew on different islands of the Galapagos.

Recently, we have begun to build on our knowledge and understanding of electricity. We have learned the scientific symbols for electrical components, and how these can be combined to make a circuit.

## History

As historians, we studied the impact that railways had on the people of Britain. And asked, whether they were a change for good or bad? We then looked at the development of the Great Western Railway and how Reading Station has changed over time.

## Geography

We have been learning about the British Empire and the countries that were impacted by the actions of the British. We studied their locations and found them on a map.



## Engineering

As part of our work on 'the industrial revolution', we have been visited by different engineers who have shared their experiences with the children. We thank them for giving up their time and inspiring a possible future generation.



## PE

In PE with Mr Edwards, we have been learning about fitness and how important it is to exercise as well as learning how to coach others in ball skills. We have continued with swimming being a key component of the curriculum and 6P have enjoyed regular lessons at Blue Coats.

*Follow us on Twitter*

*@HighwoodPrim6R & @HighwoodPrim6P*

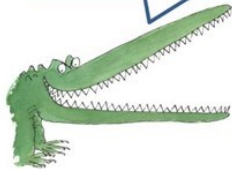




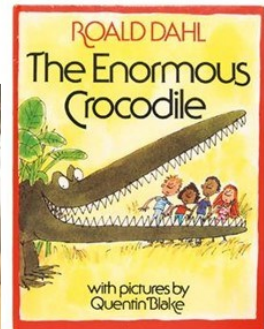
# The Orchard Speech and Language Resource News

Mrs Godfrey, Mrs Payne, Mrs Khan, Mrs Pithiya

I have secret plans  
and clever tricks!

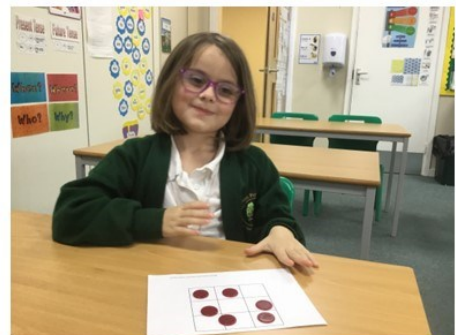
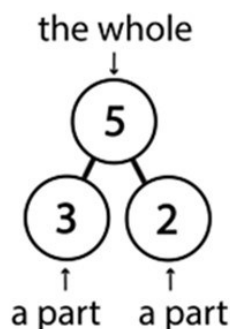


## Literacy: The Enormous Crocodile



Inspired by The Enormous Crocodile, the children have created their own stories using the Colourful Stories planning structure and lots of imaginative ideas. They have made good use of adjectives and have been practising how to revise and edit their work before publishing the stories ready to display and perform. Their stories have been full of secret plans and clever tricks!

## Maths: Addition and Subtraction



Both maths groups have been consolidating their knowledge of addition and subtraction this half term including using fact families, part-whole models and column methods. The mastering number and times tables groups have also been working hard every day to develop their recall of number facts.



During December, we have been starting every morning by unwrapping and reading a story from our book advent calendar. We wish you a cosy Christmas and Happy New Year from the Resource Team!

Follow us on Twitter @HighwoodPrimR





# PE/Sports News

## Mr Edwards & Miss Coleman

**Welcome** to the final half term "PE & Sports News Page" of 2022. I will endeavour to continue to keep the children and parents informed about our recent achievements in sports tournaments, what we have been learning in PE, **PE Kit required**, after school clubs and of course the future sports dates.

### PE Lessons:

This half term the children have been learning about the games of Hockey, Badminton and Tag Rugby so a huge focus on Hand-Eye Co-ordination, pass & receive, striking, teamwork, target and agility. Key stage 1 are still making great use of the Uni-Hoc equipment whilst KS2 are using the wooden sticks. Over the last 7 weeks we have been developing our skills in these games in preparation for the tournaments which historically run in the Spring Term. The development that has occurred this term in all lessons has been fantastic.



Year 2S have also had an extra session taking part in Dance lessons with Miss Coleman. This is still proving to be a fantastic hit with the children of all ages, boys and girls plus they have been learning a new Christmas themed dance.

What has also been a highlight has been the effort and enthusiasm from many of the children.

Year 6P have enjoyed a fabulous half term in the

pool learning or improving their swimming techniques and abilities. Many children are showing amazing bravery overcoming their fears of either the water, lifting feet or even swimming in the deep end! The smiles and excitement from the children makes it all so worthwhile and we are forever grateful for the opportunity Blue Coat School gives us in using their facilities.

### Sporting After School Clubs:

This Half term we have been able to only run a few clubs but we are giving every opportunity we can to as many children as possible. We are hoping to run more in the spring term :-

#### Tuesdays:

KS2 Girls Football - **Mr Robinson**

KS1 Multisports - **Mr Edwards.**

#### Wednesdays:

5/6 Boys Football - **Mr Edwards**

#### Thursdays:

KS2 boys & girls Netball - **Mr Edwards.**

As ever, these clubs attract large numbers and long waiting lists, remember, if children sign up for a club they **must persist for the whole term.**

### Final Autumn Half Term Matches & Tournaments:

It has been a very busy half term fitting in many Wokingham School Games events and completing both the boys and girls Autumn term football fixtures.

### Wokingham Primary School Football Association.

Highwood 0 Vs Polehampton 6 Girls Squad.

Our girls this season have improved with every game. They have been working hard on their positional play and working the ball out of their own half to set up an attack. We have had some very tough and established teams in our league but their efforts and enjoyment have shone through.







# PE/Sports News

## Sports coach: Mr Edwards

### Highwood 0 Vs Robert Piggott 6

A tenacious squad of our boys took on a very organised team from Robert Piggott. We were missing some key players which made a huge difference but even so, I was so proud of the boys perseverance and professionalism.

Next term, both the boys and girls team will be put into new leagues with schools with similar abilities based on their results in this Autumn league. We hope to have some much closer games in the Spring term.



### Wokingham School Games Sportshall Athletics Years 3/4 & 5/6

18 schools competed in these tournaments so there was a lot of competition. Both teams in all year groups performed amazingly. They ran, jumped and threw as fast and far as they could all cheering each other on as their teammates did battle. Our efforts were rewarded with a 2nd place for 3/4 and a 4th place for 5/6. Great results all round.



### Wokingham Schools Boccia & NAK Tournament

Again, a great squad of Boccia and New Age Kurlers accompanied me to Bohunt School. This was an amazing festival where our teams played friendly matches against other schools. I am very proud of their enthusiasm and professionalism.



### Next Half Term

PE Lessons:- Basketball, tennis & Gymnastics

Swimming:- 5D Dance:- 1H

Next Term Competitions:

Six Nations Rugby league

WPSFA 5/6 Football League

Spring Term School Games

Hockey & Basketball House Games.

### Outside School Gallery



### PE Kit.

PE Kit required:- Shorts, Highwood PE T-Shirt, Black Plain Tracksuit, trainers.

**No Earrings!** Please remember 1st week in summer holidays only for new piercings just in case it's on your list you have sent to Santa!

Please ensure your child has a plain black tracksuit consisting of both long trousers and a long sleeved top as it is too cold for them this time of year to be dressed in shorts and a t-shirt!

It just remains for me to wish you all a very happy and safe Christmas break.  
Mr Edwards.







# SENCo & Parent Support Adviser







And just like that, we have come to the Christmas break!

This has been a very busy half term at school; we have been running coffee mornings with a number of different charities, have also run an education event with the Adult Learning Service in Wokingham, and have another visit from the CAB mobile unit. We will continue to run events in the new year, so please check on Parent Mail and in the weekly Head's bulletin for more details. We will also be having regular visits from the CAB mobile unit, and these will be advertised around school.

This time of year can be tough under normal circumstances, but this year, it's really tough for many. We have included a list of warm spaces, food banks, supportive charities and organisations that can be contacted. The Highwood Help Hub has also received lots of generous donations of food for distribution to Highwood families, looking for a little extra help at this challenging time. Please use the confidential [HHH@highwood.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:HHH@highwood.wokingham.sch.uk) address, if you think your family would benefit from accessing this. We also have a small number of Christmas presents, donated to us by Toys and Teens Reading. Again, if you feel you would like to benefit from this, use the [HHH@highwood.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:HHH@highwood.wokingham.sch.uk) address, and we can support where we will. If we are unable to help in any case, we can always help with signposting to other agencies.

Take care and, however you celebrate this time of year, we wish you a happy and restful holiday,

**Lucy and Mrs Padbury**

 <p>Information, support &amp; what's on locally for SEND families.</p> <p><a href="https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/local-offer-for-0-25-year-olds-with-additional-needs/">https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/local-offer-for-0-25-year-olds-with-additional-needs/</a></p>	 <p>Provide free, confidential, impartial SEND advice, guidance and support.</p> <p><a href="http://www.sendiasswokingham.org.uk">www.sendiasswokingham.org.uk</a></p>	 <p>Specialist support for local Families who have Children &amp; Young People with Special Needs <a href="http://parentingspecialchildren.co.uk">parentingspecialchildren.co.uk</a></p>	 <p>ASSIST Team Autism Spectrum Service for Information Support and Training</p>
<b>Who we are:</b>			
	<b>Lucy Sayer – Family Support</b> 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.		
	<b>Mrs Padbury - Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo)</b> 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 initially talk to your child's class teacher.		

# Reminders



## SCHOOL UNIFORM

School uniform can be purchased direct from our supplier Michael Hope at the following [link](#)

We now only have cardigans and a few larger size jumpers left and small size PE tops available to order via SCOPAY.



## 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. The price of a school dinner is **£2.30 per day**. Payment should be made via SCOPAY in advance.

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

## 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 ParentMail 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.

## 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



Tuesday 20th December 2022	Last day of term - school closes at 1.30pm
Wednesday 21st December to Tuesday 3rd January	Christmas Holidays
Wednesday 4th January 2023	Inset Day - School closed to pupils
Thursday 5th January 2023	Start of Spring term
Monday 6th February 2023 - after school	WASMA rehearsal at Waingels
Tuesday 7th February - all day	Safer Internet Day
Wednesday 8th February 2023 - all day	Woodley Cluster Year 5 Bake-Off (selected pupils)
Thursday 9th February	Parent Book Look - 3.15pm to 3.45pm
Friday 10th February 2023	Inset day - school closed to pupils
Monday 13th February to Friday 17th February 2023	Half Term - school closed
Monday 27th February to Friday 3rd March 2023	Book Week
Tuesday 28th February 2023 - after school	WASMA rehearsal at Waingels
Thursday 2nd March 2023	World Book Day
Friday 3rd March 2023	Reports out to parents
Monday 6th March 2023	Upper KS2 SPLAT - 1.30pm to 3.15pm
Tuesday 7th March 2023	Lower KS2 SPLAT - 1.30pm to 3.15pm
Sunday 12th March 2023	WASMA
Monday 13th March 2023	F1 SPLAT - 10.30 - 11.30am & 2pm - 3pm
Wednesday 15th March 2023	F2 SPLAT
Thursday 16th March 2023	KS1 SPLAT
Friday 17th March 2023	Red Nose Day
Tuesday 21st March to Saturday 1st April 2023	Big Walk and Wheel
Friday 31st March 2023	Last day of spring term
Monday 3rd to Friday 14th April 2023	Easter Holidays
Monday 17th April 2023	Inset Day - School closed to pupils
Tuesday 18th April 2023	First day of Summer Term

## WARM SPACES

### Reading

#### Libraries

All Reading's libraries have varying opening days and times, which can be checked on [the council website](#).

- **Central Library**, Abbey Square, Reading RG1 3BQ
- Battle Library, 420 Oxford Road, Reading RG30 1EE
- Caversham Library, Church Street, Caversham, Reading RG4 8AU
- Palmer Park Library, St Bartholomew's Road, Reading RG1 3QB
- Southcote Library, Southcote Community Hub, Coronation Square, Southcote, Reading RG30 3QP
- Tilehurst Library, School Road, Tilehurst, Reading RG31 5AS
- Whitley Library, South Reading Community Hub, 252 Northumberland Avenue, Reading RG2 7QA

#### Churches

- Norcot Mission Church: Oasis Café
- All Nations Christian Centre, 1 Berkeley Ave Reading RG1 6JE - Tuesdays 10:30 to 15:00.
- LifeSpring Church, Café 12, The Pavilion, 143-145 Oxford Road Reading RG1 7UY - Tuesday to Friday 10:00 to 14:00, Thursday lunch for the over 60's
- Greyfriars Church, Friar Street, Reading RG1 1EH - Monday 10:00 - 17:00, Tuesday to Friday 09:00 - 17:00, Saturday 09:00 - 16:00 and Sundays 09:00-12:00 and 17:30 - 20:30
- Wycliffe Baptist Church Community Cafe, 233 Kings Road, Reading RG1 4LS - Tuesday 09:30 to 15:00 and Wednesday 16:30 to 21:00. Normally £1.50 for a drink but have a pay it forward system for those that can't afford it.
- Norcot Mission Church, Oasis Cafe, Brockley Close, RG30 4YP - Fridays 10:00 to 15:00
- St Michael's Church, The Morlais Room, New Lane Hill, Tilehurst, RG30 4JX - Thursdays 12:00 to 17:00 No charge, but donations appreciated.
- There is also a regular Wednesday lunch group, cost £5 for two courses - please book in advance on 0118 942 7331. Lunch starts at 12:30pm. It is followed at 2pm by a "Knit and Natter" group, to which all are very welcome.
- St Matthew's Church, 205 Southcote Lane, Southcote, RG30 3AX - Fridays 12:30 to 15:00 . Soup and bread in a warm space.
- St George's Tilehurst, St George's Road, Reading RG30 2RG - Fridays 12:00 to 16:00.
- St Mary Magdalen's Tilehurst, Kentwood Hill, Reading RG31 6DR, Wednesdays 10:30 to 11:30
- St Catherine's Church, Wittenham Avenue, Tilehurst, RG31 5LN - Tuesday 10:00 - 12:00,

#### Community Centres

- Weller Centre, 110 Amersham Road, Reading, Reading, RG4 5NA - Monday to Friday 09:30 to 12:00. Use Wi-Fi, catch up on the news, make new friends and maybe grab a hot drink starting at 20p (pay if you can)
- Whitley CDA, Whitley Community Café 252 Northumberland Avenue, Reading RG2 7QA - Wednesdays 12pm to 2:30pm. Over 50s club open to all, unlimited tea and coffee £1, free soup, board games and chat
- Salvation Army, 522 Oxford Road, RG30 1EG - Tuesday 10:00 to 13:30, Wednesday 13:30 - 15:00

#### Museums

- Reading Museum, Reading Town Hall - Tuesday to Friday 10:00 to 16:00 and 10:00 to 17:00 on Saturday. Closed from Saturday 24 December to Monday 2 January inclusive.



# Wokingham

## Libraries

- Arborfield Library
- Finchampstead Library
- Lower Earley Library
- Spencers Wood Library
- Twyford Library
- Wargrave Library
- Winnersh Library
- Wokingham Library
- Woodley Library

## Churches

- St Nicholas Church, Sutcliffe Avenue RG6 7JN - Tuesday - 14:15 - 15.30, Wednesday 10:00 - 12:00 and Thursday 14:00 - 16:00
- Lower Earley Baptist Church, Maiden Place, RG6 3HE - Wednesday 11:30 - 13:30
- Trinity Church, Chalfont Close, RG6 5HZ - second and fourth Saturdays of the month, 10:00 - 12:00
- Brookside Church, Brookside Close, RG6 7HG - Fridays 15.30 to 18:00
- St Michael's Café at St Michael and All Angels Church, Basingstoke Road, RG7 1AP - Wednesdays 10:00 to 14:00 - free soup and bread roll (other options on offer with fee)
- Café Mosaic at Wokingham Methodist Church, Rose Street, RG40 1XS - Mondays 10:30 - 13.30, hot drinks, soup, biscuits and charging points available
- The Cornerstone at All Saints Church, Norreys Avenue, RG40 1UE, Tuesdays 15.30 to 17:00 - for families after school drop in; term time only
- Kings Church, Station Road, RG40 2AD - Wednesdays 11:00 to 15:00

## Community Centres

- Brookside over 60s club, Brookside Close, RG6 7HG - Wednesdays 14:00 - 16:00
- Brookside Youth, Brookside Close, RG6 7HG - Thursdays 19:00 to 21:00
- Salvation Army, Chalfont Close, RG6 5UG - Mondays and Thursdays 10:00 to 12:00 for tea, coffee, biscuits, games and chats
- School Green Centre Warm Hub, Shinfield School Green Centre (RG2 9EH - Daily 10:00 to 16:00 - TV, games and free hot drinks
- St Mary's Church Hall, Church Lane, RG2 9BY - Fridays 12:00 - 16:00 - free soup and a roll
- Twyford and District Youth and Community Centre, Loddon Hall Road, RG10 9JA - Tuesdays 12:00 - 14:00 - free hot drinks and free soup and roll (from 13 December)
- St Paul's Parish Room, Reading Road, RG41 1EH - Fridays 14:00 - 16:00
- [Trinity Refresh Café](#), Chalfont Close (RG6 5HZ), Thursday 2pm to 4pm

## Food Banks

Please remember that the Highwood Help Hub has a stock of donated food that we can provide to Highwood families in need, email school confidentially at [HHH@highwood.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:HHH@highwood.wokingham.sch.uk) (term time only).

Wokingham Food Bank can provide families with food parcels and energy support, through their Fuel Bank. Their website is accessible here [Wokingham Foodbank | Helping Local People in Crisis](#) with details on how to access the service. Please note – to access support, you will need to self-refer, or be referred to Wokingham Food Bank by a professional, (Citizens Advice, health visitor, social worker, etc.). The self-referral form can be accessed here [One Front Door – Citizens Advice Wokingham](#).

Woodley Food Bank can be contacted here [Woodleyfoodbank – Woodley's Foodbank](#). You will need to have been referred in to them, or to self-refer, with contact details given on their website.

SHARE Wokingham offer surplus foods collected from local suppliers and supermarkets, their contact details are available here <https://directory.wokingham.gov.uk/kb5/wokingham/directory/service.page?id=7-HWssqfbQ0&youthchannel=701>

The Trussell Trust can also provide support and refer in to local foodbanks, and give this advice on their website: 'If you're in financial crisis and live in England or Wales, please call 0808 2082138 for free (open Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm) to talk confidentially to a trained Citizens Advice adviser. They will talk to you about the problems you're facing and provide support to help you manage your money, navigate the benefits system, and identify any other grants you might be entitled to. If you need one, they'll issue you with a food bank voucher so you can get an emergency food parcel.'

## Clothing/ Shoes/ Household Items

The Cowshed are a local charity supporting people, families and children with clothing, shoes, uniforms and more [The Cowshed | Showing love and support to those in need in Berkshire](#)

First Days also help families in a number of ways, including clothing and coats. They be contacted here

[Home | firstdays](#)

## Other Support

Christmas can be a challenging time of year; physically, financially, and emotionally. There are people there to listen and help.

### Mental Health/ Suicide Support

Samaritans <https://www.samaritans.org> 116 123, (free of charge)

SHOUT [Free, 24/7 mental health text support in the UK | Shout 85258 \(giveusashout.org\)](#) text 'Shout' to 85258



Find urgent NHS Mental Health Support using the online tool found here [Mental Health Helpline for Urgent Help - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)

### **Specific Help for Young People/ Teenagers**

Kooth [Home - Kooth](#) join for ongoing support or use this page to access urgent support.

Young Minds [YoungMinds | Mental Health Charity For Children And Young People | YoungMinds](#)

### **Domestic Abuse/ Exploitation Support**

Berkshire Women's Aid Phone: 0808 801 0882 (Helpline: 24hr; free to call from all UK mobiles and landlines and is not displayed on itemised bills)

Website: [www.berkshirewomensaid.org.uk](http://www.berkshirewomensaid.org.uk)

Mankind Phone 01823 334 244

Website [Male Victims of Domestic Abuse – Please call 01823 334244 to speak to us confidentially - \(mankind.org.uk\)](#)

Flag DV Website: [www.flagdv.org.uk](http://www.flagdv.org.uk) (Self-referrals for free legal advice clinic & support agency signposting: Mon-Fri 9am-5pm)

Email: [enquiries@flagdv.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@flagdv.org.uk) (Enquiries)

Phone: 01635 015854 (Self-referrals for free legal advice clinic & support agency signposting: Mon-Fri 11am-1pm)

Karma Nirvana Phone: 0800 5999 247 (Honour Based Abuse Helpline: Mon-Fri 9am-5pm)

Email: [support@karmanirvana.org.uk](mailto:support@karmanirvana.org.uk) (Support Email)

Email: [info@karmanirvana.org.uk](mailto:info@karmanirvana.org.uk) (General Enquiries)

Website: [www.karmanirvana.org.uk](http://www.karmanirvana.org.uk)

National LGBT Phone: 0800 999 5428 (National LGBT Domestic Violence Helpline: Mon, Tues and Fri 10am-5pm, Wed and Thurs 10am-8pm)

Email: [help@galop.org.uk](mailto:help@galop.org.uk)

Website: [galop.org.uk/domesticabuse](http://galop.org.uk/domesticabuse) (Webchat)

Website: [www.galop.org.uk](http://www.galop.org.uk) (Website including Survivors Forum)

Unseen Modern Slavery and Exploitation Phone: 0800 0121 700 (Helpline: 24hrs)

Email: [info.mshelpline@unseenuk.org](mailto:info.mshelpline@unseenuk.org)

Website: [www.modernslaveryhelpline.org](http://www.modernslaveryhelpline.org)

Paws Protect Phone: 0345 260 1280 (Referrals: Mon-Fri 9am-5pm)

Email: [pawsprotect@cats.org.uk](mailto:pawsprotect@cats.org.uk) (Referrals & general enquiries)

Website: <https://www.cats.org.uk/what-we-do/paws-protect>

## **Homelessness/ Risk of Eviction**

Wokingham Borough Council [Homelessness - Wokingham Borough Council](#)

Wokingham In Need [Wokingham in Need – Dedicated to providing support for the homeless and most vulnerable in our community](#)

Jigsaw, (to register homelessness or risk of homelessness) [Housing Jigsaw](#)