



# Newsletter

## Highwood Primary School Issue no.62

February 2024

'Where Individuals Matter'

Dear Parents/Carers,

Although this term has been quite short, you will see in this edition how jam packed the term has actually been. It is fantastic to read about all the exciting learning opportunities your children have access to and how the school staff bring our curriculum to life. I hope you enjoy this term's edition!

Just a few updates to bring to your attention:

### **Staffing Update**

We have been managing a significant amount of staff absence during this term, which I am aware has resulted in classes being taught by a variety of adults. Unfortunately, staff sickness is not something within the school's control and we always make sure that the children are taught by a familiar and extremely competent adult. We are hoping that after half term we will be back closer to a full staffing contingent, but I want to thank you for understanding in the current circumstances.

### **Careers Fair**

I mentioned in one of my previous bulletins about the school attempting to organise a Careers Fair for our Year 6 children in the Summer term. The request was for parents (or contacts) who would be willing to come into school on an agreed day to host a number of mini-talks to children about their jobs. The talks would include a variety of information of: What your job entails; what your daily routine looks like; what qualifications you need; what training you have had to do and any interesting experiences that your job has allowed you to access. Please get in touch with the school office and we can include you in our planning. Thank you.



### **Attendance**

I want to continue my updates on our attendance figures. Last year's National Average attendance for all primary schools was 92.5% and the rate of Persistent Absentees (children who have less than 90% attendance) was 17.2% Currently our whole school attendance figures are:

Whole School Attendance - 93.6%  
Persistent absentees - 15.7%

The persistent absentee figure only count children who are over 5 and equates to 60 children out of 381 who can be counted.

Thank you for your continued help and support in improving these attendance figures, it is very much appreciated. Have a restful break over half term!

Thank you for your support.

Matt Hickey  
Headteacher



# Foundation 1 News

## Mrs Atkinson

Mrs Vanka, Mrs Cooper, Mrs Hargreaves, Miss Wilkins, Miss Kraker

Welcome to our Foundation 1 News. We have had a very busy first half of the Spring Term in F1. We have begun exploring our new topic which is **'Why do things change?'** and have welcomed a new group of F1 children into the setting. We've been really impressed with how quickly they've settled and how helpful the older children have been.

We started this term learning about the different seasons of the year. We were blessed with a cold snap and had fun playing with ice we found in the garden. The children were very good at telling us what would happen in Winter - Santa, making snowmen and having to wrap up warm. When we moved on to Spring, the children made some beautiful Spring crafts. We made butterflies and snipped leaves and scrunched tissue blossom for Spring trees. We've learnt our seasons by singing a "Seasons song" - Spring is our favourite verse! We had great fun when the ice melted too - lots of splashing in puddles! Recently we used our observation skills to find signs of Spring - we saw buds on the trees and saw daffodils emerging.



In Maths we've been learning about what heavy and light mean using our hands and also a bucket balance. Our number focus has been 1 and 2 and the children have become really good at subitizing 1 and 2. We've also talked about when a group of objects is "not 1" or "not 2" and then started exploring what "more" and "less" mean. The numbers may seem simple, but the concepts are not. F1 have continued to listen well and find these numbers in their play too.



During this half of term we also celebrated Chinese New Year. We dressed up in real Chinese costumes, made fireworks out of junk modelling and drums to scare away Nian, made Chinese dragons and red lanterns too! The children have been SO busy. They role played in our Chinese restaurant and enjoyed lots of "lucky" red and gold messy play. We tasted some Chinese food together too.

In phonics this half term, we've started looking at the sounds letters make. The children are so excited to bring in their objects starting with the "Sound of the Week". "A" was a tricky one, but we've been pleased with how many different objects the children have found. It's really brought it to life for them and they're even spotting letters in their play! We're still singing lots of rhymes, practising our listening skills and been clapping the syllables in our names and new words we've learnt about the different seasons. Why don't you challenge your child to clap "Winter" or "Autumn"?



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 their break!

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



# Foundation 2 News

Mrs Parker,  
Mrs Bolton and Miss Hargreaves

Miss Webb, Mrs Newham, Miss Finch, Mrs Alleyne and Mrs Poulton

Happy New Year from all of team F2! Reception have dived in with spirit of curiosity and exploration reflecting on the question "How is the world filled with colour?" We have been on a capitating adventure as we have explored the vast wonders of space and the beauty of our planet.

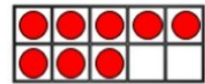


Imagine the excitement when we realised a rocket had crash landed in our outdoor area! Our little detectives eagerly set out hunting for clues and researched this cosmic event. Our budding engineers set about building cameras in our junk modelling area whilst others meticulously laid out a spread of alien friendly food. As we learnt more about space the children expressed their newfound knowledge through the creation of stunning planet art. Take a look at some of the things they have made!

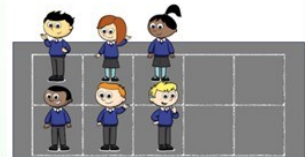


How many can you see?

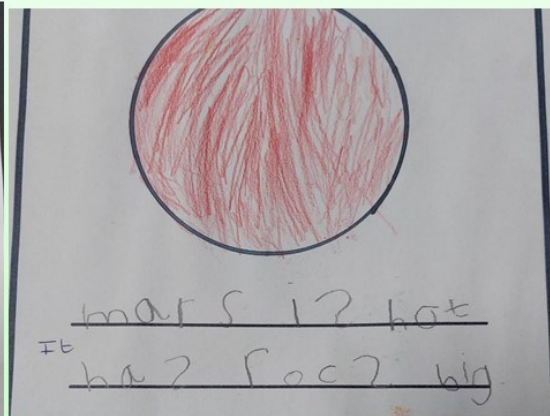
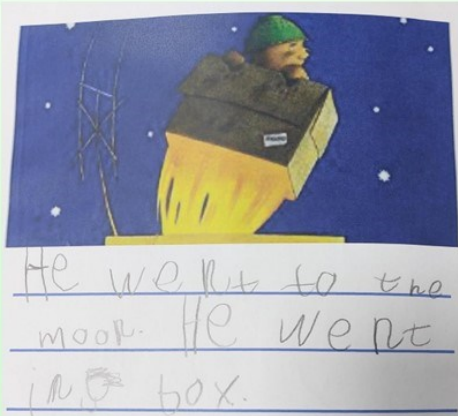
In Maths we have been busy extending concepts of 5 all the way up to 10. Using 5 and then 10s frames the children have been counting and subitizing to check their representations. We have explored 1 more and 1 less, composition, making pairs and odd and even numbers. We have also spent a week exploring mass and capacity. The children are becoming increasingly confident in using mathematical language to explain their thinking.



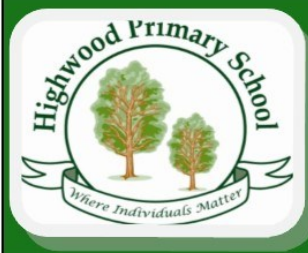
6 is an even number because we have made 3 pairs.



We have been so proud of how the children are working hard to write simple sentences using their phonics. They are becoming increasingly independent in doing so and practicing every day. Everyone is working hard at forming their letters neatly. They are also trying to remember to use finger spaces between words. Take a look at some of our writing. Isn't it out of this world?



Thank you to all the parents that have supported us this term and we hope you have a lovely holidays.



# Year 1 News - Spring 1

Miss Bolger, Miss Ahmed, Mrs Garner

Mrs Tiwari, Mrs Wheeler, Mrs Mohammad, Miss Mubashar

Year 1 have had a wonderful start to the New Year. The children have shown real curiosity in our topic and have loved finding out about toys from the past. Our trip to Milestones Museum was a highlight of the term so far!

## Will we play with the same toys when we are older?

### Science

In Science, we have been learning about materials and exploring what things are made of. We have discussed what toys were made from in the past and what they are made from today. We have also learnt why toys are now made from different materials.



materials and exploring what things are made of. We have discussed what toys were made from in the past and what they are made from today. We have also learnt why toys are now made from different materials.

### History

As part of our Key Question, we have been looking at the history of the toys and how they have developed over time. We can



explain some of the key differences between the toys of the past and the toys we have at home - we enjoyed being able to look at old toys

and thought about which ones we would have liked to have. We have looked more specifically at the history of LEGO and



considered how and why it changed to become what it is today. Our topic has been enhanced by children bringing in older toys that belonged to family members, as well as a trip to Milestones Museum

where we explored the history of toys further. We got to play with a range of toys and games from the past.



### Maths

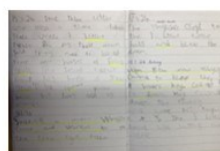
This term, we have revisited place value, addition and subtraction by looking at our numbers to 20. We have thought about how numbers can be split into tens and ones and how we can use our number-bond knowledge to help us find the answer. We have also practised building our own number lines and have begun to estimate.



### English

In English we have been developing our writing skills through traditional tales. We have been reading and acting out parts of traditional tales, as well as comparing similarities and differences between stories.

We then focussed on the story of the 3 Little Pigs and created our own characters, including the villain. We used our own characters to write our own versions of the 3 Little Pigs. The



children were fantastic at using their creativity whilst not forgetting to use capital letters, full stops, finger spaces and adjectives in their

writing.



Follow us on Twitter for more updates::

@HighwoodPrim1G (Mrs Garner)

@HighwoodPrim1BG (Ms Bolger/Miss Ahmed)



# Year 2 News - Spring 1



Miss Hughes, Miss Anderson,  
Mrs Moore, Miss Briggs, Mrs Neilson, Miss White

The children have been very curious about our key question and they loved exploring the world to learn all about the different countries, continents and oceans. It seems we have some budding explorers who have been inspired by those who came before and are eager to find out as much about the world as possible.

## Where in the world would we like to explore?

### English

To help us understand more about the importance of exploring, we began by learning about Neil Armstrong and the Moon Landing. We completed some fantastic newspaper reports! We are now creating an adventure narrative to explore more islands by continuing the story of 'The Antlered Ship' by Dashka Slater.



### Maths

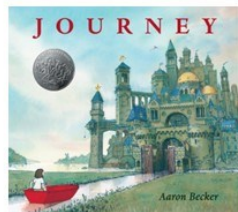
We have been very busy this half term - we've learnt about money, multiplication and have begun to learn about division. The children have shown amazing perseverance and have revelled in more challenging tasks, pushing themselves and each other to learn even more.

### British Money



### Whole Class Reading

We have been reading 'Journey' by Aaron Becker and considering how to read a story that is wordless. The children have interpreted the story well and have been making some fantastic predictions.

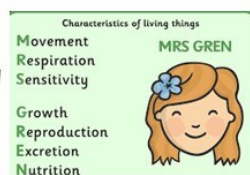


### Science

We have enjoyed exploring our local habitat and learning about living things native to the UK.



MRS GREN has helped us to remember the 7 life processes of living things, where we have enjoyed learning new scientific vocabulary and how to identify if something is living, dead or never alive.!



### Geography



We have been on a journey around the world, learning about each continent and the oceans. We love singing our naming songs and have been using atlases to help find countries around the world.

Follow us on Twitter:

@HighwoodPrim2H @HighwoodPrim2A



# Year 3 News

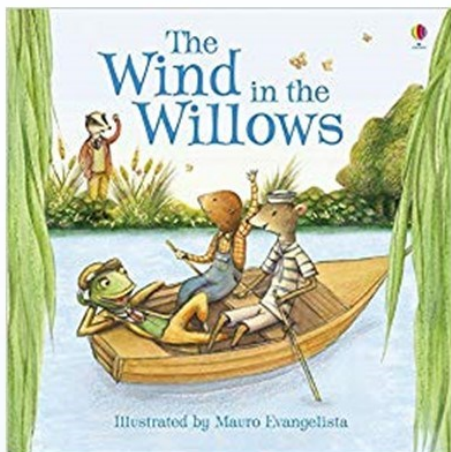
Miss Rumbold and Miss Bernardes



## How has water shaped our World?

### English

Year 3 have had an exciting start of term, imagining that they were Mr Mole and writing a diary entry about the day that they ventured into the Wild Wood - scary stuff! We have also enjoyed looking at setting descriptions and writing a spooky setting description of the wild wood.



### Whole Class Reading

We read the classic text 'The Wind in the Willows' this term. The children demonstrated really good skill when making connections and links to other books they have read. The children were so engrossed in the story that this helped hugely in our writing in English. We have started reading 'The River Singers', which is similar to 'The Wind in the Willows' in using animals as central characters. We can't wait to read more after half term!

### Maths

The children have been working hard on multiplication and division. The children have been working hard to use different methods to multiply and divide 2-digits by a 1 digit number. We have also started learning about length and measurement - we even practiced this skill when conducting a science experiment where we measured the distance!

Tens	Ones
30	2
30	2
30	2
30	2
30	2

$$\begin{array}{r}
 32 \times 5 \\
 \begin{array}{r}
 30 \quad 2 \\
 \times 5 \quad \times 5 \\
 \hline
 150 + 10 = 160 \\
 32 \times 5 = 160
 \end{array}
 \end{array}$$

### Topic

We started off our new key question gathering information on the different ways in which water is used daily and worldwide. The children were surprised to see how much of an impact water has on our lives. We learnt about boats through history. We have looked at the physical and human geography features when doing a local study on Henley.



Follow us on Twitter;

@HighwoodPrim3R @HighwoodPrim3B



# Year 4 News - Spring 1

Mrs Partridge, Mrs Strong, Mr Williams, Miss Harris and Mrs Trayhorne

## What did the Romans Do For Us?

### English

This term we have been focussing on the Roman gods. We began 2024 by writing playscripts about the myth of the gods: Romulus and Remus. We really enjoyed thinking about stage directions and speech and how they can be used to portray a character and their emotions. We had a lot of fun publishing our work - a performance to the class! We have just started writing a humorous information text all about the Roman gods.

### Maths

This term we started with learning the concepts behind multiplication and division. The children have explored these by using practical equipment, before moving onto using a variety of different written methods. In Multiplication, we successfully used the expanded column method to multiply a 3-digit number by a 1-digit number. In Division, the children used a combination of the part-whole method and number lines to explore division problems. They then moved on to the slightly trickier short-division method and showed such perseverance!



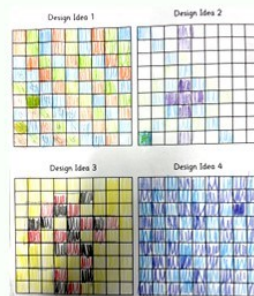
### Geography and History

With our key question being all about the Romans, the children have been focusing a lot on Geography and History so far. We have explored what the Roman Empire was, where it was located, and the trade routes within the empire. The children have really enjoyed using their Geography skills to understand this significant moment in History.

### Science

This term we have been learning about food chains and the human body. The children have been fascinated by the different types of teeth in their mouth, and really enjoyed learning about this as the first step in the digestion process. We are in the middle of an exciting experiment where we are investigating the impact of sugary drinks on our teeth!

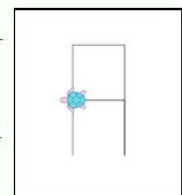
### Art and DT



In Art and DT this term we have started to look at mosaics. We've appreciated Antoni Gaudi's work with mosaics and how this is linked to the Romans. We have also thought about Roman mosaics and how they inspire us!

### Computing

The children have had a lot of fun learning about coding in Computing. We have been using the website [turtleacademy.com/playground](https://turtleacademy.com/playground) to create short algorithms that send a screen turtle around an area. The children have used their teamwork and problem solving skills to write the alphabet with the screen turtle!



Have a lovely Half Term break.

Follow us on X (formerly Twitter)

@HighwoodPrim4P & @HighwoodPrim4W



## Year 5 News

Team: Mrs Downes, Mrs Hind, Mrs Laksmanan, Mrs Panahpoori, Mrs Rudroju, Mrs Kamath

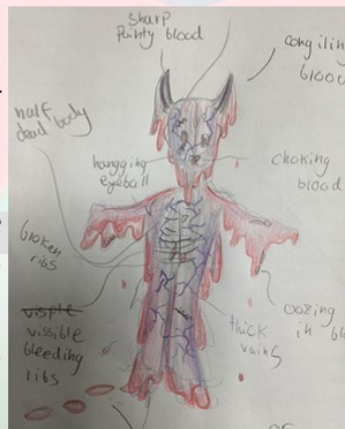
### Is Invasion Ever Justified?

Welcome to the first spring edition of 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!

#### English

Having read about the trailblazing NASA Mathematician Katherine Johnson, we began this term by writing a biography detailing her amazing accomplishments. We then went on to read the story of Beowulf, the Anglo Saxon hero who saved a town from the peril of a 'foul-fiend' named Grendel. We've spent a long time analysing the text and collecting crucial vocabulary. After this, we created our own, vile monsters for Beowulf to defeat, using character descriptions to create wanted posters for the town of Heorot. We will use these to write our own Beowulf sagas.



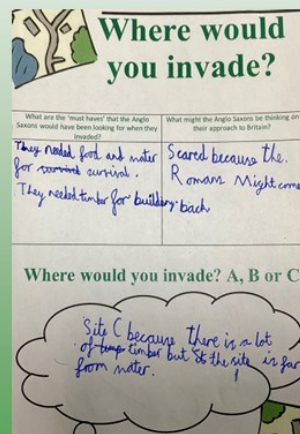
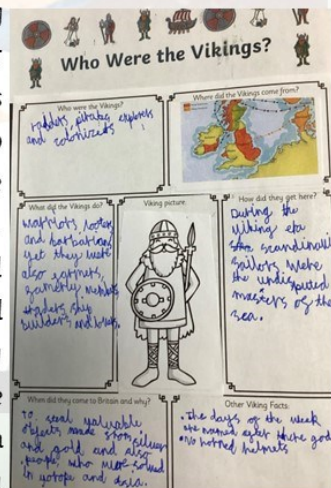
#### Maths

Our focus in maths has been multiplication, division and fractions. We have practised the column method by multiplying up to 4-digits by 2-digits, and the 'bus stop' method to divide with remainders. With fractions, we have been multiplying and finding fractions of an amount or quantity. The trickiest part is using all of that new knowledge to answer word

problems - tricky but we're getting there!

#### Key Question Lessons

Our key question for this term is 'Is Invasion Ever Justified?', where we are basing our learning all around The Vikings and The Anglo-Saxons. We started by completing our very own archaeological dig where we dug for Anglo Saxon artefacts and asked questions to try and learn more about the civilisations. We have also looked at what physical and human geography features might come into play when deciding on why you would invade a country, learnt about the different Anglo-Saxon kings and learnt about how the country was split into seven key kingdoms.



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

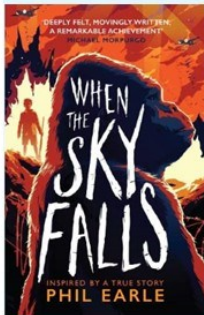
Follow us on Twitter @HighwoodPrim5D and @HighwoodPrim5H



# Year 6 News

**Teachers: Mr Robinson, Miss Bicheno, Mrs Shahzadi, Ms Yu, Mr Edwards and Miss Anderson**

This term we have really immersed ourselves in our topic question, **'What would a world without war look like?'** So far we have concentrated on the causes of WW2, The Blitz and the effect the war had on families.



## English

Our whole class reading book this half term has been, 'When the Sky Falls' by Phil Earle. The children have enjoyed getting to know Joseph (a troubled boy who has been evacuated to the city), and how he learns to understand his own feelings through his relationship with a gorilla

(Adonis).

In writing, we wrote a powerful description about The Blitz. We used lots of the figurative language (personification, similes etc) that we had learnt about in the Autumn Term.

## Maths

This term we have been learning about ratio and algebra. The children have excelled at using their knowledge of fractions to help them understand ratio and have made good progress learning a new concept in algebra.

## Topic

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

## History

History has been the main focus of our topic this term. We have learnt about the women's land army (and the role of women in WW2) and we wrote a letter to a young woman trying to persuade her to come and work at our farm. We found out about evacuees and how they were different from refugees. We were amazed about rationing and what people actually ate in the war. Perhaps our question should have been, *'How could people live in a world without pizza or McDonalds?'*

## Science

We have started investigating light in Science and thinking about how the properties of light were used for attack and defence during WW2. We know you need to have light in order to see and that the blackouts prevented German bombers from identifying targets.

## PE

In PE, the children have been learning basketball and tri-golf with Mr Edwards and Gymnastics in Indoor PE. It has been wonderful seeing so many children gaining confidence in skills such as tumbling and vaulting.

## Homework

Many children have been inspired to create models of planes and air-raid shelters linked to our topic. Here are some of the wonderful examples that the other children commented on:



We hope you all have a healthy half-term break.

The Year 6 Team

**Follow us on Twitter @HighwoodPrim6R & @HighwoodPrim6P**



# The Grove Speech and Language Resource News

Miss Barrett, Mrs Payne, Mrs Gale, Mrs Pithiya, Mrs Harris and Mrs Godfrey

## Literacy: The world's most ridiculous\* marvellous animals

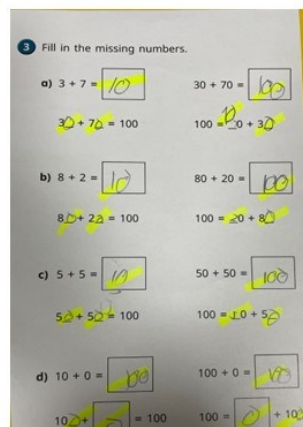
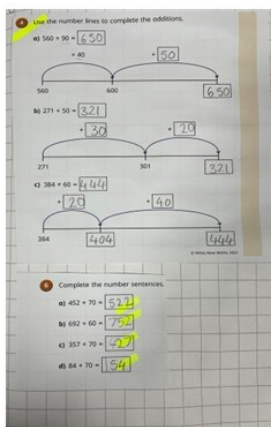
This term we have been looking into the world's most ridiculous animals. We have had a focus on creating a non-chronological report on our favourite ridiculous animal. We are then going to publish a non-fiction book about them for the library.

One group in The Grove has focussed on forming capital letters, learning where we use them and remembering where to put a full stop. While another group has had the focus on learning subordinating conjunctions and how we use them. All children have had to remember their own animal's facts and I couldn't be more impressed by their recall of them everyday!



## Maths: Addition, subtraction, number bonds and shapes

We have continued to learn a range of mathematical topics across resource this term. We have used our number knowledge to add and subtract 1s, 10s, and 100s across a 100 boundary. Diving into number bonds to 10 and how this can help learning our number bonds to 100. Also some children have looked at shapes and have been learning what makes a circle and a triangle. They even had a go at identifying circles and triangles in Kandinsky's art work and created their own version.



What a fantastic start to the New year in The Grove. I am especially impressed with their memory and knowledge of their ridiculous animals. We hope you have a wonderful half term!

Follow us on Twitter @HighwoodPrimR



# PE/Sports News

## Mr Edwards

**Welcome** to the first "PE & Sports News Page" of 2024. I will 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**, lunch & after school clubs plus of course the future sports dates.

### PE Lessons:

This half term the children have been learning skills required to play Tri-Golf & Basketball, really honing our striking, control, target, hand eye coordination and strategy.

Over the last 6 weeks we have been developing our skills especially Key Stage 2, getting into full games by the end of the programme. We have seen some great work over all of the school years especially our FS2 class who have all completed their pass & receive task. The class teachers have had the pleasure of teaching Gymnastics. The classes have been working really hard in their teams to improve their "Tumble, Floor & Vault" skills and then choreograph routines in all 3 areas.

1G have also had their extra session taking part in Dance lessons with Miss Coleman working on routines that continue challenging even our "funkiest" dancers.

It has been 5D's turn in the pool this half term and the children have been working hard on their confidence with new strokes, self rescue and improving existing skills.

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

### Tournaments & Competitions:

This half term has seen Highwood take part in the Wokingham School Games "Smash Badminton (Thursday 8th Feb - after newsletter published.) Last year our players came runners up so we are hoping for a repeat of that success.

Our boys 5/6 football team were in action again vs Keephatch Primary in a very tight cup game which saw us lose to a single goal. We are looking forward to a friendly next half term vs Southlake.



**Huge congratulations to Zoe & Ava from year 5 having been picked to represent Woodley Netball Club. We look forward to hearing how they get on this season.**



### Next Half Term

**PE Lessons:-** Golf Cont, Tennis & Disability Games

### After School Clubs:

This term we have:-

**Tuesdays:** KS1 Multisports, & Yr 5,6 Netball

**Wednesdays:** Yr 3/4 Gymnastics

**Thursdays:** Yr 4/5 Mixed Football

**PE Kit required:-** Shorts, Highwood Green PE T-Shirt, Black Plain Tracksuit, trainers. (Gloves and beanie style hat recommended) No Earrings!

Have a great half term break and I look forward to seeing you all again for another fun filled PE Spring term 2.

Mr Edwards



# SENCO

Dear Families,

Highwood Primary School has continued to support pupils individual needs, while providing inclusive, enriching experiences. This half term, highlights have included FS1 investigating ice, Year 4 coding short algorithms and classes learning Tri-Golf & Basketball. 5D have been learning new strokes and self rescue in their swimming sessions and year 1 had a fantastic time at the Milestone Museum. It has been great watching the children accessing the curriculum and enjoying their learning.

Lindsay Padbury

Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo)



Lindsay Padbury - Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo) 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 Learning Support Assistants (LSAs) 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.

## Here are some services you can access for additional SEND support.

### **February Half term Support and activities**

[Holiday, Activities, and Food programme \(wokingham.gov.uk\)](https://www.wokingham.gov.uk)

[Beano Comic takeover at The Lexicon - The Lexicon Bracknell](https://www.lexiconbracknell.co.uk)

[Lunar New Year – Wokingham \(wokingham-tc.gov.uk\)](https://www.wokingham-tc.gov.uk)

[Meet the Guide Dogs | Wokingham Library Service \(spydus.co.uk\)](https://www.spydus.co.uk)

[Places to Walk Archives - Berkshire Mummies](https://www.berkshiremummies.co.uk)

[Half Term in Reading | What's On Reading \(whatsonreading.com\)](https://www.whatsonreading.com)

[Half Term Events and Activities in Wokingham \(wokinghamrocks.co.uk\)](https://www.wokinghamrocks.co.uk)

[Home | Camp Mohawk](https://www.campmohawk.co.uk) a multi-functional day centre for children with special needs and their families.

### **Supporting SEND**

[Seven techniques for helping kids keep calm - CBeebies - BBC](https://www.bbc.com/1/shorts/seven-techniques-for-helping-kids-keep-calm)

[Events | SEND Voices Wokingham](https://www.sendvoiceswokingham.co.uk)

### **Speech and Language support**

[Home - Afasic](https://www.afasic.co.uk)

[Words for Life | National Literacy Trust | Words for Life](https://www.wordsforlife.org.uk)

[Learning to talk 3 to 5 years - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

### **Sensory Processing**

[What is Sensory Processing? - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

[Sensory Processing: The Tactile \(touch\) System - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

[Sensory processing: Body awareness \(proprioception\) - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

[Sensory processing: movement and balance \(the vestibular system\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

[Sensory Processing: Alertness Levels - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)





# SENCO

## **Local SEND Support**

[Local Offer for 0 - 25 year olds with additional needs - Wokingham Borough Council](#)

[Homepage \(sendiasswokingham.org.uk\)](http://sendiasswokingham.org.uk) free, confidential, impartial advice, guidance and support

[Children with additional needs \(CAN\) network - Wokingham Borough Council](#)

[Home Page - PSC \(parentingspecialchildren.co.uk\)](http://parentingspecialchildren.co.uk)

[Events | SEND Voices Wokingham](#)

## **Family and adult Support**

[Wokingham Borough Council family support](#)

[Young Sibs](#) for siblings

[Talking Therapies](#) self-refer for support with emotional and mental health (17years and above)

[Samaritans](#) are available 24/7 to listen, even if you just need someone to listen whilst you offload, they don't have to provide advice unless you ask for it.

[Parenting and mental health – the Mental Health Foundation](#)

## **Mental Health**

[little-blue-book-of-sunshine.pdf \(berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk\)](http://berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk)



## **Sleep Issues, Anxiety and Behaviour Support**

FIRST [Wokingham Directory](#) | [Family Intervention Resources & Support Team \(FIRST\)](#) - supporting families with sleep and behavioural issues

First Video: [Supporting children with disabilities - YouTube](#)

## **Autism and ADHD Support**

[Autism+Facts+for+Kids.pdf](#)

[Talking to your child about autism - CBeebies - BBC](#)

[Waiting times for ADHD and Autism Assessments](#)

[Right to Choose - ADHD UK](#)

[Centre for Autism - University of Reading Centre for Autism](#)

ASSIST Team [Wokingham Directory](#) | [ASSIST Team \(Autism Spectrum Service for Information Support and Training\)](#)

Assist video [Supporting autistic children and their families - YouTube](#)

[Neurodiversity Hub - Resources for Students, Employers & More](#)



[Autism Berkshire Reading - Autism Berkshire](#)

[Neurodiversity News September 2023 \(newsweaver.com\)](http://newsweaver.com)

## **Fine Motor Skills**

[Fine Motor Skills | Children Young People and Families Online Resource \(berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk\)](#)





# Family Centre News



Hello, my name is Lucy Morris.

I joined the school as Highwood's Family Support Worker in January. My role in school is to provide support, advice and information to the families within our school community. I can help you with any worries that you may have in relation to your child's education, behaviour and wellbeing. I am also here as someone to talk to if you need it.

I can meet with you in school at a time to suit yourself. Or we could chat on the phone or have an online meeting. Advice and support is confidential although concerns relating to the safeguarding of children will always be dealt with in accordance with the school's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy. I may not have all the answers, but hopefully I can help you to work out how to find them!

## Working with and supporting families and children in different ways...

I can listen and appreciate parents/carers issues and offer suggestions and advice for individuals and families about (but not limited to):

- Behaviour support
- Boundary setting and routines
- Good school attendance and punctuality
- Self-esteem and confidence
- Online safety
- School transition
- Sleep
- Adult education
- Toilet training
- Sleep
- Healthy eating / selective eating
- Assistance with completing paperwork and forms e.g. school places, disability living allowance
- SEND support
- Signposting to specialist agencies
- And more!
- I can refer and signpost to other services available within Wokingham and Reading.
- In consultation with teaching staff and parents/carers I can support children on a 1:1 basis listening and working with them in different ways e.g. family issues, bereavement, new baby in the family, parent's separation/divorce, anxious behaviours.
- I can run courses/workshops for parents/carers on topics that are key to them.

I am very interested in your suggestions of how we can best support our families and build beneficial parent engagement please do email me at [FSW@highwood.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:FSW@highwood.wokingham.sch.uk)



Follow me on X (formerly known as Twitter) @PSAHighwood



Also based in the family centre is Mrs Lisa Hall, our Attendance Officer.

We have had a good start to the year. A big thank you.

My priority is to always ensure that your child attends school healthy and happy, and with the best possible chance to succeed.

I am here to support families achieve this.

Please do contact me if you have any questions relating to attendance.

Important things to remember:

- The school day begins at 8:45am and all pupils are expected to be in their classrooms by this time. Morning registration closes at 8:55am. Classrooms are open to children from 8.35am, as part of a soft start approach.
- All lateness is recorded daily and monitored by the Attendance Officer
- If your child is absent from school contact the school by 9.15am
- Leave of absence during term time will not be authorised unless it is for exceptional or compassionate reasons. Family holidays will not be authorised.



## Our Family Centre

We are very fortunate to have a dedicated Family Centre, right at the heart of Highwood school.

The space is used to host social events, training courses and to hold meetings with parents and children.



## Coffee mornings

We hold parent/carer coffee mornings in the centre every few weeks. Dates will be published in the Headteachers bulletin and on the website.

We will sometimes have guests - for example this term Lindsay from First Days Children's Charity came to talk with parents about their outreach programme and brought free energy saving light bulbs for us all to take away. If there is an interest in a particular subject or topic, please let us know.

They are very informal - there is lots of time to ask questions, share experiences and find out what is happening in school. Mums, Dads, Grandparents, Carers, Aunties, Uncles and friends of the family are ALL welcome

### **Why come in for a coffee morning?**

- meet other parents
- chat to your friends
- celebrate that it is Friday
- Learn something new
- Feel involved in school life and up to date with what's going on
- Have some time just for you!



# Reminders



## SCHOOL UNIFORM

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

Please note that free delivery to school is only available up to October Half Term. Otherwise there is a delivery charge of £4.50 to home up until Easter.



## 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 **£2.53 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.

**Please note that we are a NUT-FREE school.**



## 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 the Arbor Portal/APP 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

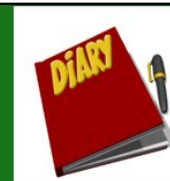
Please note that our school policy is for earrings to be removed for PE, for the health and safety of the children.

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.

Please ensure that your child has practised taking them out as well.

Only stud earrings are allowed in school.

# Diary Dates



Please find a list of forthcoming dates.

Thursday 8th February	Parent Book Look - 3:15 - 3:45pm
Friday 9th February	Inset day - school closed to pupils
Monday 12th - Friday 16th February	Half Term - school closed
Monday 19th February	Second half of term starts
Friday 1st March	Reports out to parents
Monday 4th March	Year 6 SPLAT - 1:30 - 3pm
Tuesday 5th March	Year 3 SPLAT - 1:30 - 3pm
Wednesday 6th March	Year 1 SPLAT - 1:30 - 3pm
Thursday 7th March	F1 SPLAT - 10:30 - 11:30am
Thursday 7th March	F1 SPLAT - 2pm - 3pm
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day
Sunday 10th March	WASMA - school choir
Monday 11th March	Year 2 SPLAT - 1:30 - 3pm
Tuesday 12th March	F2 SPLAT - 1.30 - 3pm
Wednesday 13th March	Year 5 SPLAT - 1:30 - 3pm
Thursday 14th March	Year 4 SPLAT - 1:30 - 3pm
Friday 15th March	Red Nose Day
Monday 11th - Friday 22nd March	Big Walk and Wheel
Tuesday 19th March	Year 1 Phonics Screening Check parent workshop - 3:30 - 4:30pm
Thursday 21st March	Year 6 SATs parents meeting - 3:30 - 4:30pm
Thursday 28th March	Last day of spring term - school finishes 1:30pm
Friday 29th March to Friday 12th April 2024	Easter holidays
Monday 15th April	Start of Summer Term

## BEE ON TIME!



Making sure your child is at school and ready to learn is vital to ensuring they don't miss out on key learning and start their school day unsettled.

The school day starts at 8.50am and we expect all children at Highwood to be in class by this time. You will now be expected to sign a register if you come in late detailing why your child is late for school.

Please note that you will not be allowed to park in the school car park to drop off late children unless you have a pass to do so.