



March 2024

Newsletter

Highwood Primary School Issue no.24

'Where Individuals Matter'

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a jam-packed half term we have had! This edition has been a great read and I am sure you will be proud of the learning and progress your children have made - I know I am!

Academisation

I just wanted to draw your attention to the items I have been updating you with in recent school communications. Hopefully you will have read the letter about the recent Orchard Learning Alliance Updates. As of April 1st, 3 of the 9 Primary Schools will officially join the Orchard Learning Alliance (OLA). Work will then begin on the next phase.



ORCHARD
LEARNING ALLIANCE
WHERE EVERYONE THRIVES

We still continue to work closely with the OLA under our Trust Partnership Agreement and we are still hopeful of our conversion in the Autumn. There are a lot of meetings going on with the Regional Schools Director to confirm a definitive date and as soon as I know I will share with the community.

Term dates

You may have already seen that the term dates for 2024 / 2025 and 2025 / 2026 have been published on our website. We have been coordinating with other OLA schools to have an agreed annual INSET day for all 10 schools. These dates have now been confirmed, so the Highwood term dates have now been approved by governors.

Flooding

There has been significant progress since my last communication. The ground works that have taken place outside the school grounds (on the public footpath behind the school) have succeeded in dropping the water level of the overflowing ponds. This means that there is no overspill onto our school field despite the recent rainfall. Works will continue, but this is a great first hurdle to overcome.

Attendance

I want to continue my updates on our attendance figures. As you know, 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%

NHS



Is my child too ill for school?

Currently our whole school attendance figures are:

Whole School Attendance - 94.8% (was 93.6% in February's update)

Persistent absentees - 15.2% (was 15.7% in February's update)

NHS



Is my child too ill for school?

To further aid this improvement, there is guidance from the NHS to help you decide if your child is too ill for school. It provides you with specific advice around a number of illnesses that children may experience at one time or another.

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Have a restful break over half term!

Thank you for your support.

Matt Hickey

Headteacher



Governing Body News

Dear Parent and Carers,

Update from Governors' Day

The school governors meet on a regular basis and endeavour to spend at least one day in the academic year in classrooms - this is linked to the school improvement plan and part of our responsibilities.

All the governors visited the school on Monday 18th March, where we observed lessons, talked to staff and discussed their learning with the children and their experience of school. Staff and children were very welcoming, and we were all very impressed with the hard work and enthusiasm of the staff. We were able to watch lessons across all year groups and were encouraged to interact with the students. It was exciting and informative to gather feedback from all parties to see the progress the school is striving to make.

Highlights:

The children were not shy to ask the governors questions about why we were in class

It was great to see them engaged in Maths (reflecting on what they had learnt the week before)

Phonics is always an eye-opener (especially when the children can identify split-diagrams – the governors' definitely needed a refresher there!)

The discussions in PSHE really gave the pupils the opportunity to share their thoughts and feelings on a topic and share ideas about how to help themselves and their friends if faced with similar scenarios

The continued hard work of the staff does not go unnoticed, and the governors would like to express their thanks and appreciation for all their work and dedication. They work extraordinarily hard to ensure the children are supported and taught a high quality, broad and balanced curriculum in an environment where pupils' well-being and personal development remain of paramount importance.

Orchard Learning Alliance (OLA)

The first phase of primary schools has now joined the OLA. We are expecting to join the OLA in phase 2 later in 2024, and we will keep the Highwood community informed as we progress closer to this final milestone. However, if you do have any questions, please feel free to send across using the form QR code below.

Meeting with the Governors

We will be hosting a call in the Summer Term for parents/ carers to join and ask Governors any questions, as well as sharing information about being a governor.

Survey QR code



See you in Summer Term!

Highwood Governors



Foundation 1 News

Mrs Atkinson

Mrs Cooper, Mrs Vanka, Mrs Hargreaves, Mrs Craker and Miss Wilkins

Welcome to our Foundation 1 News. We have had a jam-packed second half of the Spring Term in F1. We have continued to explore our topic which is 'Why do things change?' and crammed in our second school trip to Woodley library to celebrate World Book Day too! We enjoyed the walk and were really well behaved while we listened to the stories. We did some super Rainbowsaurus colouring too.



We started off this half term learning about the changes in our bodies as we grow up. We learnt about the life cycle of flowers and planted sunflower seeds and runner beans. We planted the beans in clear pots so we could see the roots and leaves grow.

Then we learnt all about the life cycle of a butterfly, turning from a caterpillar to a butterfly, learnt a new rhyme "There's a tiny caterpillar on a leaf." and retold the story of 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar.' We made a healthy caterpillar salad and ate it for snack.

The main event was learning about the life cycle of a chicken and hatching our own chicks. The children have been so excited to watch the eggs hatch and see how they change and grow. It was wonderful to see the children experience the changes first hand and handle the chicks so beautifully. We had some really good chick-whisperers who calmed the chicks down when they were holding them.



We have had lots of fun doing a variety of chick-related and Easter activities to round off the term. We have made edible Easter gardens, done a chick hunt, explored Easter sensory trays, made so many different Easter crafts and had an Easter egg hunt around the nursery setting. What fun!

Thank you to all the parents that have supported us during this half of term, helping with the trip and joining us for SPLAT. We look forward to welcoming the children back after the Easter break!

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



Foundation 2 News

Miss Grainger, Mrs Bolton & Mrs Parker
Mrs Newham, Miss Finch and Miss Webb

Miss Hargreaves, Mrs Alleyne, Mrs Poulton

Welcome to our Foundation stage news. We have been really busy continuing to explore our termly topic 'How is the World filled with colour' which has allowed us to explore in more detail the world in which we live. Take a look!

One of our many highlights was **World book day** - where we focused on '**The Smeds and the Smoos**' by **Julia Donaldson**. We had great fun bringing the story to life through lots of activities. The children enjoyed this cosy day in their pyjamas, reading stories and taking part in the most popular game at Highwood - The Masked Reader!!



In maths we have focused on numbers to 10, making comparisons, building numbers and exploring number bonds to 10 - ask us to sing Farmer Pete has lost his sheep! The children are now excited to look at 'teen numbers' in the summer term. We also looked at doubling numbers using ladybird spots to help us understand that when we double we add the same amount.

We have been **revisiting phase 3 phonics**. It has been fantastic to see the growing **independence** and **confidence** within our reading and writing. The children really enjoy writing their own sentences during phonics, and we are currently using our love of writing to retell the story 'The Enormous turnip'!



We thoroughly enjoyed our **SPLAT** day this term, it was great having parents in so that we can showcase our **continual improvement** with our reading and writing! We hope that you enjoyed your visit and we look forward to our final SPLAT day in the summer term.

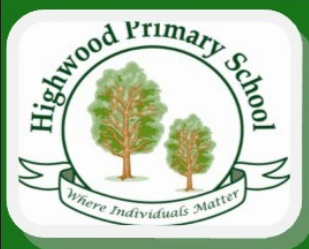


We would like to say a huge thank you for your generous donations on **Red Nose Day**! We had such a fun day wearing our red clothes!



Thank you to all the parents who have continued to support us this half term and we look forward to seeing you after half term. Enjoy the holidays.

Find us on Twitter : @HighwoodPrimF2BP, @HighwoodPrimF2H



Year 1 News - Spring 2

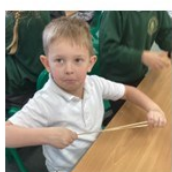
Miss. Bolger, Mrs Garner, Miss Ahmed

Mrs Wheeler, Mrs Tiwari, Miss Mubashar, Miss Briggs

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

Science, Geography and History

In Science we have been testing materials to find out their properties. We have learnt about why certain materials are suitable for certain toys. We designed our own toys and thought about which materials would be best. We then made a model of it.



English

In English we have been focussing on non-fiction writing. We have learnt about lots of different materials and have written an information text about them. We have learnt how to use question marks and included them in our books. We decided that our books would be suitable for younger children to learn

about materials. We also had great fun with poetry this term. We learnt a poem called 'Things You Don't Need to Know' by Ken Nesbitt. We learnt the poem and performed it to the other class. To help us learn it, we created a poem map and made up actions for the poem.



Maths

We have developed lots of different skills in Maths this term. We started off with expanding our place value knowledge to numbers to 50.



We have used numicon, bead strings, cubes, counters and number lines to help represent our numbers. We have been counting in 1s and 10s in

different ways too. We have also been working on measuring length and height and we were really good at it! We have created height charts and learnt how to use rulers to find the longest and shortest objects. We have really enjoyed learning about mass and capacity too, especially using the bucket balances!

DT



In DT we have enjoyed learning about building using LEGO and how to construct different features of a house.

We planned out models and followed our plans to make them. We have learnt that sometimes you have to adapt your plan and make changes as you go. We have reflected on our models and evaluated how well they worked.



Check out our Twitter feeds at;
@HighWoodPrimIBG (Miss Bolger/Miss Ahmed)

@HighWoodPrimIG (Mrs Garner)



Year 2 News - Spring 2

Miss Hughes, Miss Anderson

Mrs Moore, Miss White, Miss Mair, Mrs Neilson



More fun traveling around the world was in order for the second half of the Spring Term! Geography and history has worked in perfect harmony as we have discovered many interesting facts about famous explorers and where they visited!

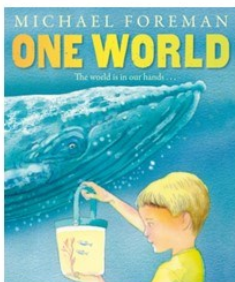
Where in the world would we like to explore?

English



To fit perfectly with our theme of exploring the world, Year 2 have written their own ipostcards based on the book 'Meerkat Mail'. We have seen some wonderful creativity and perseverance. The children are very excited to complete and post their letters on how to help the planet, ready for these to arrive home over Easter. We have been lucky to enjoy a lot of time reading, both in the library sessions and buddy reading with other year groups. It has been lovely to see how confident the children are becoming!

Whole Class Reading



We have been reading 'One World' which focuses on protecting the environment and how it is important to care for the world.

Maths

We have massively enjoyed our topic of multiplication and division in maths. The children have worked incredibly hard to learn their 2s, 5s and 10s times tables and have begun using Time Table Rocks Stars and Sumdog to practise their skills. The amount of progress has been a pleasure to see! We ended the term with some work on fractions!



Science

We have had a lot of fun creating food chains and exploring the nature around us. The use of key terminology has been fantastic. Also, we have looked at Stephen Hawking and exploring the universe.



Follow us on Twitter;

@HighwoodPrim2A

@HighwoodPrim2H



Year 3 News

Miss Rumbold and Miss Bernardes



How has water shaped our World?

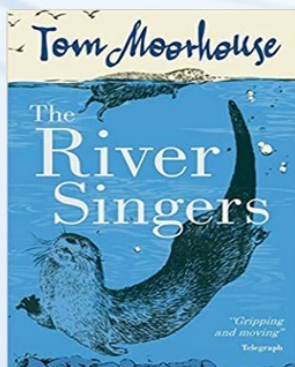
English

Year 3 have worked extremely hard in their writing this term. They wrote their own chapter of The Wind in the Willows - making sure to include inverted commas for speech. They had some very imaginative ideas for stories with a beginning, middle and end. Year 3 also wrote a recount based on their trip to the River and Rowing Museum in Henley-on-Thames.



Whole Class Reading

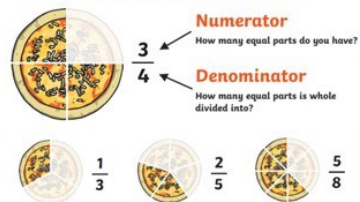
We have continued to enjoy reading The River Singers by Tom Moorhouse and have liked learning about the lives of the creatures who live near the water. It has been lovely to see the journey the characters have been on and how they have worked together and been resilient to overcome the challenges they have faced.



Maths

We have been showing great resilience when learning about fractions. We have secured our understanding of what a fraction is and how the denominator is how many equal parts the whole is split into and how the numerator is how many parts we are counting. We have been comparing different fractions and seeing which ones are greater. We have also looked at shapes, angles and turns.

Numerator and Denominator



Topic

We have added to our learning loop with a lot more information. Our Design and Technology and Computing lessons have involved a focus on designing and creating boats. We thought carefully about the specifications and chose materials which would be able to float and be waterproof. We also had a brilliant time visiting the River and Rowing Museum in Henley-on-Thames. It helped extend our knowledge of rivers and of Henley-on-Thames.



Follow us on Twitter;

@HighwoodPrim3R @HighwoodPrim3B



Year 4 News - Spring 2

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

Welcome to this edition of the Year 4 news! We have had a jam-packed term of learning - please read on to find out about the incredible things the children have achieved!

What did the Romans do for us?

This term year 4 have been learning all about the Romans and their invasion of the British Isles and what the Romans brought over to Britain. It was incredible to see how much enthusiasm the children had for this topic.

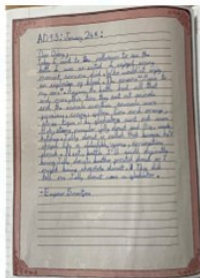
Maths

Recently we started our new topic in maths, everyone's favourite: fractions! We have explored identifying fractions, fractions on a number line and mixed numbers. We look forward to continue our learning after the break.

We are still focussing on our times tables work every week and getting the children ready for the multiplication test in the summer term. If you could find some time at home to support with this as well it will make a huge difference to their knowledge.

Writing

Over the past few weeks we have been working on our non-fiction skills and learning many facts about Romans. The children particularly enjoyed learning about Julius Caesar and the role he played in the expansion of the Roman empire. It was lovely to see the work produced when they could take these facts and create a biography on Caesar! We also spent time this half-term learning about gladiators. The children were extremely successful at writing diary entries about a gladiator battle from two viewpoints.



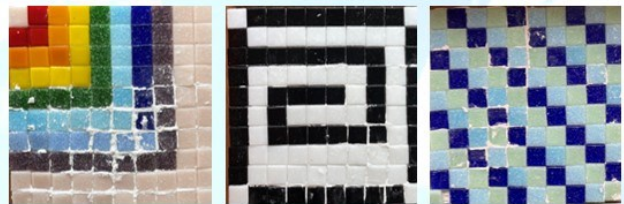
Science

This term, in science, we started off by recapping our knowledge on living organisms and used this to help us classify animals. We then spent some time thinking about their habitats and how human activity can pose a threat to them. More recently we learnt about the hypocaust (Roman central heating system) and how this differs to our homes now.



Design and Technology and Art

As we have studied the Romans, the children have been able to put their creativity to the test to produce a Roman Mosaic. The children were able to experiment with some designs, create it on a software programme called TinkerCad and then finally produce it using tiles and grout. The patience, creativity and independence was something to behold.



Geography and History

In Geography we have spent time thinking about where the Romans settled and why, using this to help us understand our case study of Rome. We compared the city, looking at it in the past and now. In History we have practiced our archaeology skills, using Roman artefacts to help us understand life during the empire.

Have a lovely Easter break and we look forward to continuing our learning in the new term.

From, the Year 4 team



Follow us on X (formerly Twitter)

@HighwoodPrim4P &

@HighwoodPrim4W



Year 5 News

Team: Mrs Downes, Mrs Hind, Dr Read, Mrs Hartgrove, Mrs Laksmanan, Mrs Kamath, Mrs Rudroju & Mrs Panahpoori

Is Invasion Ever Justified?

Welcome to the third 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

We began the term by completing our full-length narrative of a Viking Saga based on our whole class reading book, 'Beowulf'.



We had a very enjoyable Splat afternoon showing parents the variety of activities we use in KS2 to teach reading comprehension skills and writing. We spent the remainder of the term exploring the features of informal letter writing and, inspired by our current book, 'Letters from the Lighthouse', have written letters as though writing home as evacuees during WW2.

Maths

Our focus areas in maths this term have been decimals and percentages, area and perimeter, and statistics - so quite wide-ranging! The children have done particularly well in remembering their learning from last term around fractions, which helped them to progress onto ordering and comparing decimals and percentages. They also had to use real-life maths skills in our 'Mini-Enterprise Project' where the children set up their own businesses manufacturing Easter Egg Hunt Kits and had to balance their accounts.

Key

Question Lessons

Our key question this term has been 'Is



Invasion ever Justified? After exploring Viking battle techniques and equipment, the children then worked in small groups to construct their own Viking weapons. The children are now at the final stages of their topic work, writing persuasive arguments 'for and against' invasion, summarising all they have learnt so far. We will wrap this topic up with a trip to Ufton Court and an action-packed Viking Day on Tuesday 16th April when we will be re-enacting the Battle of Reading.



It has been a very busy Spring and we look forward to continuing this hard work after the Easter break.

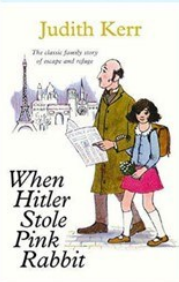
Follow us on Twitter @HighwoodPrim5D
@HighwoodPrim5H



Year 6 News

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

This term has been a busy one with lots of hard work but also lots of fun. We have continued to address our key question, **'What would a world without war look like?'**



English

Our whole class reading book this half term has been, 'When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit' by Judith Kerr. The children have enjoyed getting to know Anna and Max (German Jewish siblings who become refugees during WWII). We used this and the introduction to 'Carrie's

War' (by Nina Bawden) to inspire us in our writing of an evacuee story. We are now focusing on writing a non-chronological report linked to WWII with topics such as WWII aircraft and the role of women.

Maths

In maths, we have continued to focus on arithmetic and have enjoyed using SumDog to support us with this. We have also learnt about fractions, decimals and percentages, understanding how to find equivalents and compare them. We have also recapped on area and perimeter when looking at shapes, mainly triangles, rectangles and parallelograms.

Art

As artists, we have evaluated the success of Propaganda posters during WWII. We have learnt how to create a stamp for printing using Styrofoam; evaluating what worked well when trying to create a clean print. We are excited to be creating our final pieces this week!



History and Geography

The children have continued to show a real enthusiasm for learning about WWII. In Geography, we have looked at Reading and compared it to Dusseldorf (the city in Germany that Reading is twinned with) to see how WWII affected both places. In History, we learnt about what it was like to be a young person in Germany in the 1930s under Nazism.

SPLAT

It was wonderful to see so many parents attend our SPLAT afternoon where we enjoyed finding out what it was like to live in Reading during WWII. Many groups found some fascinating facts and presented them in imaginative ways. Well Done to all!

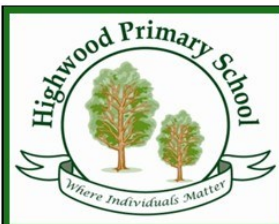


We hope you have a lovely Easter break, and look forward to seeing you in the summer term!

Follow us on Twitter:

@HighwoodPrim6R &
@HighwoodPrim6P





The Grove Speech and Language Resource News

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

Literacy: The world's most ridiculous* marvellous animals continued

This term we have continued to look at the world's most ridiculous animals. The children had so much fun they asked if they could investigate another animal to create another non-chronological report. We now have 16 animals for our book and we cannot wait to share it with you on coffee morning! Here is a sneak peak at some examples.

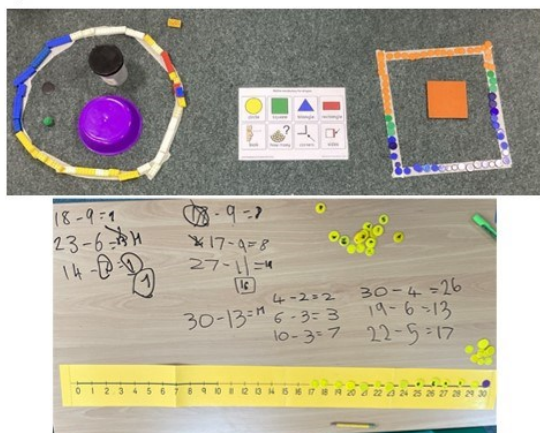
Fun facts

Grey wolf are considered to be elegant predators and highly social animals that they make nuclear pack for hunting.



Maths: Addition, subtraction,

We have continued our mathematical journey across the curriculum. There has been lots of addition, subtraction, number recognition and shape work this term.



Cuttlefish

Cuttlefish Latin name is metasepia pfefferi.

Cuttlefish ridiculous name is flasheus toxicus.

Appearance

Cuttlefish has two tentacles and eight arms because they have to walk under the sea. Cuttlefish usually have skin that changes colour in flashing patterns.

Habitat

On the whole, cuttlefish live in southern New Guinea and Australia. In the Indian and pacific oceans.

Diet

Generally, cuttlefish eat shellfish, shrimp, marine worms. Cuttlefish are a carnivore.

Fun fact

Cuttlefish lives only a short time between 18 and 24 months.



Playhouse Donation



This term we have been lucky enough to receive a brand new playhouse for The Grove! First Days donated it with our choice of design for our outdoor area. The kids have loved using it and have worked together to design a 'chalk carpet' inside.

Follow us on Twitter @HighwoodPrimR

Another amazing term completed. We hope you have a restful and chocolate filled Easter break!



PE/Sports News

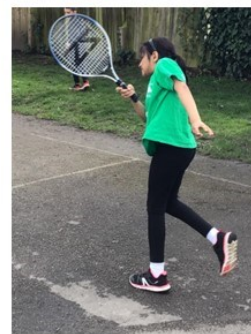
Mr Edwards

Welcome to the Spring 2 edition "PE & Sports News Page" of 2024.

PE Lessons:

This half term we have had to be very creative with space due to the very changeable weather! Despite this, we have still managed to cover many of the curriculum skills within the sport specifics of Tennis & Tri-Golf. There has been a lot of hand-eye, spacial movement, striking, agility and target work. The children have also been playing "Inclusion Games" such as Boccia, New Age Kurling, blind goal ball and seated volleyball as their class teacher PE option. On top of that, Miss Coleman has also continued teaching dance, this time to class 1B6.

I am also delighted to say that we have continued swimming lessons, this half term with Year 5H however, circumstances out of our control has meant that we have missed some sessions but we have extended the times to make up for this. We are eternally grateful for the opportunity Blue Coat School allows us free of charge so we cannot complain and continue our fabulous relationship with the school. They have loved every minute of it with many nervous first time swimmers progressing so fast in the pool they 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 starting again with Year 4 after Easter.



After School Clubs:

This half term, we ran KS1 Multisports, Yr3/4 Gymnastics, 5/6 Netball, & 4/5 Football. These clubs are very, very popular and have huge waiting lists. We continue to offer these free of charge and rely on the good nature of the staff to run them. Obviously, we cannot guarantee a spot for every child on each of the clubs they would like to attend. I will be sending out an email at the end of the school year to gauge parents thoughts on "paid for clubs" This will enable us to hire in external providers to offer more choice.



PE/Sports News

Mr Edwards - Page 2

Spring Half Term Matches & Tournaments: Next Half Term

There have been quite a few competitions over the spring term but only one this half term. This was "Smash Badminton". This was a fabulous opportunity for our children that signed up to our "Paddles, Racquets and Bats" Autumn term after school club to represent Highwood. Our team were absolutely fabulous winning the qualifying event and returning 2 weeks later to the finals and achieve the Silver Medal position. A huge achievement.



Our Tag Rugby team attended the last of the league events on the 21st March where they showed huge improvements with each game. Again, a great opportunity for the children that attended Mr Robinsons Rugby after school club in the autumn.

House games this half term was "Handball". The 4/5/6 mixed competition of which the Red Kites were victorious picking up the 50 winners house points for their win. Here is house captain Eitha-Bella with the trophy.



PE Lessons:-

Outdoors - Athletics.

Indoors - Dance (KS2) Danish Longball/Footy Rounders

Swimming - Year 4P

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

Achievements outside of school:



Straight from their success in the school games team, Aadhya & Aaraadhya have won trophies in their Badminton club tournaments. We are very proud of you girls and your success.



Ivy in year 1 has this term completed her badge n.o 7 for her gymnastics. This is a great achievement and reward for hard work and perseverance. Well done Ivy.

With many children attending sports clubs outside of school, I'd love to share any more pictures to add to this part of the newsletter.

I hope you all have a fun, relaxing and very chocolatey Easter Break.

Mr Edwards.



Attendance Matters

BE A HIGHWOOD H.E.R.O (Here Every Day Ready On Time)



Thank you to all the parents and carers who have supported us this year with making sure their child is at school more than 96% of the time and that they are on time each day. You are supporting your child in making sure they don't miss out on important learning

Punctuality Matters!

A reminder that the school day starts at 8.50am and the registers close at 8.55am. The school doors are open at 8.30am to allow the children to get in with plenty of time to be settled.

A is for Attendance!

Did you know....

If your child takes too much time off school they will become persistently absent (Attendance below 90%)

90% attendance is the same as being absent from school for a half day every week!

Missing school has a huge impact on how well a pupil gets on at school. The more school a child misses, the harder it is for them to get into a routine of attending regularly and catch up on the work they have missed.

What can I do?

Be Honest

Every parent/carer struggles at some point, no one is perfect! If you're having difficulties with your child's attendance, seek help.

Engage

Here at Highwood we have an Attendance Officer, Lisa Hall and a Family Support Worker, Lucy Morris who are here to help by offering support and advice.



SENCO

Dear Families,

Although this is a shorter term, we have packed a lot into the term! Our dedicated Highwood team have continued to work hard to support all the children within school, ensuring that all can access their learning and be involved in all areas in school life. This has included planning and supporting at sporting events, school trips and bake offs as well as differentiated classroom learning.

While many enjoy the school holidays, others may find it more difficult. Below are a range of support and advice websites that can hopefully help you get the most out of your break.

Wishing you all a happy and restful break. Happy Easter and Eid Mubarak to those who celebrate.

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.

Easter Support and activities

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

[Woodley Town Council's Parks and Open Spaces](#)

[Woodley Town Center \(woodleytowncentre.co.uk\)](http://woodleytowncentre.co.uk)

[Places to Walk Archives - Berkshire Mummies](#)

[Search | What's On Reading \(whatsonreading.com\)](http://whatsonreading.com)

[What's on this Easter Holiday in Wokingham \(wokinghamrocks.co.uk\)](http://wokinghamrocks.co.uk)

[Free Events and Attractions in Wokingham \(wokinghamrocks.co.uk\)](http://wokinghamrocks.co.uk)

[Home | Camp Mohawk](#) a multi-functional day centre for children with special needs and their families.

Supporting SEND



[Seven techniques for helping kids keep calm - CBeebies - BBC Events | SEND Voices Wokingham](#)

Speech and Language support

[Home - Afasic](#)

[Words for Life | National Literacy Trust | Words for Life](#)

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

Sensory Processing

[What is Sensory Processing? - YouTube](#)

[Sensory Processing: The Tactile \(touch\) System - YouTube](#)

[Sensory processing: Body awareness \(proprioception\) - YouTube](#)

[Sensory processing: movement and balance \(the vestibular system\)](#)

[Sensory Processing: Alertness Levels - YouTube](#)





SENCO

Local SEND Support

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

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

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

[Home Page - PSC \(parentingspecialchildren.co.uk\)](#)

[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 \(berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk\)](#)



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 \(newsweaver.com\)](#)



Neurodiversity Support

[Cerebra - Working with you and your amazing child](#)

Fine Motor Skills

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





Family Centre News



It's the end of my first full term at Highwood and I just wanted to say thank you to the entire Highwood team - staff and parents - who have given me such a warm welcome to the school.

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. I am (almost) always on the Woodland Avenue gate at the start and end of the school day. 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!

This term:

- We have hosted 4 parent/carer coffee mornings. First Days Children's charity joined us one morning and shared information about their local services. Friends of Highwood joined us one week selling pre-loved school uniform. Parents who have attended have shared how good it has been to begin to develop networks with other parents, meet key school staff and have some social time. Please keep an eye on school communications for dates of next term's coffee mornings.
- The local counselling charity ARC led a parent workshop on supporting your children with anxiety. It was lovely to welcome so many parents into school for this event and we hope you found it helpful.

Next term:

- On 26th April we are hosting a parent/carer workshop in with the charity Parenting Special Children on the 'Joys and Challenges of parenting a child with special needs'. The workshop will be delivered in Urdu.
- Wokingham Adult Education are coming into school to deliver a series of workshops all aimed at supporting you to help your child with maths at home. There is no minimum level of maths knowledge needed for the workshops. They are all informal and run in a way that is accessible to all.
- We will also be holding a two part workshop on 'Resilience' on the mornings of 18th and 25th June so save these dates!
- Booking for the times table workshop is now open and further information on all of other workshops will be sent out shortly or please just get in touch.



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



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



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.

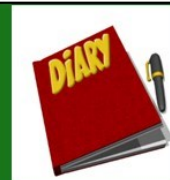


EARRINGS

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.

Diary Dates



Please find a list of forthcoming dates.

Monday 15th April	First day of summer term
Tuesday 16th April	Year 5 trip to Ufton Court
Thursday 18th April	Year 6 parents meeting re residential - 3.30 - 4.30pm
Tuesday 23rd April	Year 1 visit to Woodley Library - 1G
Wednesday 24th April	Year 1 visit to Woodley Library - 1BG
Friday 26th April	'The Joys and Challenges of parenting a child with special needs' delivered in Urdu drop in coffee morning & workshop - 8.45am to 11am
Thursday 2nd May	Terrific Timestables - short course for parents - 9.30am to 11.30am
Monday 6th May	May Day Bank Holiday
Monday 13th - Thursday 16th May	KS2 SATs
Monday 20th - Friday 24th May	Walk to School Week & Woodley Schools Sports week
Wednesday 22nd May	F2 SPLAT - 1.30 to 3pm
Thursday 23rd May	F1 SPLAT - 10.30 to 11.30am or 2pm to 3pm
Thursday 23rd May	Parent Book Look - 3.15 to 3.45pm
Monday 27th - Friday 31st May	Half term holiday - school closed
Monday 3rd - Friday 7th June	Year 6 at Culmington Manor
Tuesday 4th June	Year 2 SPLAT - 1.30pm to 3pm
Wednesday 5th June	Year 5 SPLAT - 1.30pm to 3pm
Thursday 6th June	Year 4 SPLAT - 1.30pm to 3pm
Saturday 8th June	Woodley Carnival
Monday 10th June	Year 3 SPLAT - 1.30pm to 3pm
Tuesday 11th - Tuesday 18th June	Travelling Book Fair in school
Tuesday 11th June	Year 1 SPLAT - 1.30pm to 3pm
Wednesday 12th June	School photographer - class photos and Year 6 Leavers
Thursday 13th June	Year 6 SPLAT - 1.30pm to 3pm
Wednesday 19th June	F2 and KS1 Sports Day - am
Thursday 20th June	KS2 Sports Day - am
Wednesday 26th June	Year 6-7 Transition Day
Tuesday 2nd July	New F1 parents meeting (takes place in F1) - 1.15pm to 2.15pm
Wednesday 3rd July	F1 Sports Day - am
Wednesday 10th July	Year 6 production - evening performance
Thursday 11th July	Year 6 production - afternoon performance
Friday 12th July	One page reports out to parents
Wednesday 17th July	Year 5 Fishbowl Day at Bulmershe School
Wednesday 17th July	Parents Evening (for those who request to discuss report content) 3.30 to 6pm
Thursday 18th July	Year 6 Leavers' Awards Celebration - evening
Friday 19th July	Year 6 Leavers' Assembly - 9.30am to 10.30am
Friday 19th July	Last day of summer term - school closes at 1.30pm
Monday 22nd July	Inset day - school closed to pupils
Tuesday 23rd July	Inset day - school closed to pupils
Tuesday 3rd September 2024	Inset day - school closed to pupils
Wednesday 4th September 2024	Start of Autumn Term