



May 2024

Newsletter

Highwood Primary School Issue no.64

'Where Individuals Matter'

Dear Parents/Carers,

I mentioned in one of the school's recent bulletins (26/04/24) that the governing body had given approval for a Nurture Teacher to be added into our staffing structure. I wanted to take this opportunity to update you in full with our progress and to share with you all how the provision will work.

Recruitment

Last Friday, we successfully appointed Mrs. Jacqui Painter who will be our new Nurture Teacher. We are internally recruiting for members of support staff, so that the Nurture Class will have 4 adults: 1 Teacher and 3 LSAs.

How the provision will work

The classroom will be set up based on the 6 principles of Nurture that you can see in the diagram —>

Selecting Children:

Based on our knowledge of each cohort, we are going to initially target our current Year 1, 2 and 3 classes. The class teachers have identified a large number of children across the year groups that they will assess using a tool called the Boxall Profile. The Boxall Profile assesses the social, emotional and mental development of pupils aged 4 to 18 and provides us with a precise picture of a pupil's strengths, as well as difficulties which could affect their learning. Based on the results, we are able to accurately identify the practical strategies and support each pupil needs and whether they would be appropriate to access some of their learning within a Nurture Class.



Classroom Logistics:

Once we have identified between 10 and 12 children who we feel are most appropriate for the Nurture Class, we will begin conversations with parents about including their children in this bespoke provision. The children's day would be very similar to that of children who access our Speech and Language Resource Base: They would have bespoke teaching during the mornings in a small group and then be reintegrated, with support, into their mainstream classes in the afternoons. More details will be provided to parents once the children have been assessed and selected.

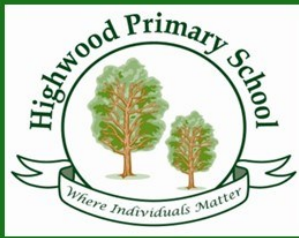
The provision is designed to last between 6 to 8 half terms (an academic year and then maybe an extra term if required) and then the children should be able to access the mainstream curriculum using all the skills and strategies they have developed during their time in the Nurture classroom.

To add some very specific clarity:

- If a child is identified as being appropriate for Nurture, it will not mean that they will be in the Nurture class for the rest of their time at Highwood.
- Children will be identified using the Boxall Profile tool and then the Senior Leadership team will agree the most appropriate children based on age, academic ability and group dynamics. It will not be a provision that parents can simply request.
- The provision will still deliver an English and Maths curriculum and focus very specifically on the targets identified through the Boxall Profile.

I hope this gives a general overview of our Nurture vision. This will hopefully become the start of a wider pastoral initiative that children at Highwood can benefit from, when required.

Matt Hickey
Headteacher



Foundation 1 News

Mrs Atkinson

Mrs Vanka, Mrs Cooper, Ms Kraker, Miss Wilkins and Miss Briggs

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

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



Moving on from farm animals we learnt about different animals that you can keep as pets. We loved our visit from Pippy, the tortoise. Children brought in photos of the pets of family and friends and told their peers about what they ate, liked to do and other interesting facts. Finally we thought about what pet we liked the best.

Most recently, we learnt about creatures that live in the garden. The children really enjoyed learning about this group of animals. They went on a minibeast hunt around the school grounds, collected some insects in pots to look at and learnt about the importance of being gentle with living creatures. When learning about minibeasts, we have also had a fantastic opportunity to grow our own butterflies. They are still caterpillars at the moment but we are excited to see how they've grown and we are looking forward to seeing them come out as butterflies.



We have been beginning to practice for our sports day. We have been doing the egg and spoon race, the weaving through the cones race, the sack race, penalty shooting and beanbag balancing. The children are very excited that their families are going to be coming to watch their sports.

We're back in our own playground now and during some nicer weather we've also spent more time learning outside - our ball skills are really improving and we can enjoy playing with sand and water, building sandcastles and transporting it, as well as cleaning and painting with it.

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

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



Foundation 2 News

Miss Grainger, Mrs Bolton, Mrs Parker and Miss Hargreaves
Mrs Newham, Miss Finch and Miss Webb
Mrs Alleyne and Mrs Poulton

Welcome to our Foundation stage news.

This term, F2 have been exploring the fascinating world of everyday heroes who help us in Woodley. We've been learning about the vital roles played by doctors and nurses, firefighters, and police officers.

It's been an inspiring journey, discovering how these real-life heroes contribute to our community.



The children have thoroughly enjoyed storytelling and expanding their vocabulary through activities like making puppets and roleplaying. We explored the different parts of a story and discussed how our heroes solve problems in various tales. The children have loved being creative in their play, bringing their favourite heroes to life.

The children have been expanding their writing skills this term as they become increasingly confident in writing sentences independently. As well as continuing to write captions they have also written short stories, postcards and posters as they begin to consider writing for different purposes.

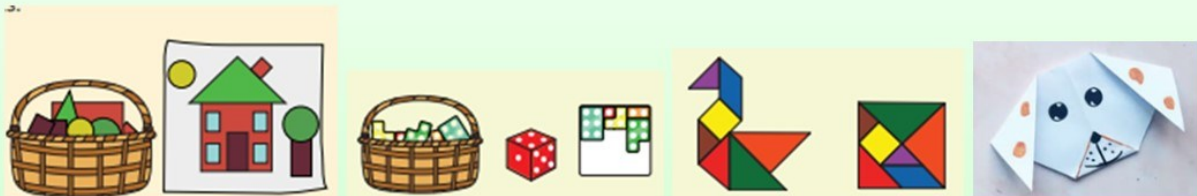


Searching for a missing toy at police headquarters



Writing missing posters for our class teddy

In Maths, we have been learning to manipulate, compose, and decompose shapes. The children have really enjoyed engaging in practical investigations to explore these concepts. They particularly enjoyed tangram puzzles and making origami dogs.



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



Which animal would you invite for tea?

Science and Geography

This term we have been learning about the climate of different parts of the world and what makes some places hot and some cold. We have learnt about where different animals live and had great fun investigating habitats around the school. We loved making habitats at school to help attract wildlife such as bees, butterflies and spiders. We made sure they provided food, shelter and protection for animals. We have also looked at what animals eat and how they find food. We have learnt about carnivores, herbivores and omnivores.



Maths

In Maths we have been working really hard through our Mastery Flow and doing a variety of Do, Think, Explore and Solve tasks. We have practiced multiplication and division, focusing on counting in 2s, 5s and 10s. We have used this to help us with grouping and sharing and investigating how we can make equal groups. We have loved doing lots of practical activities to show this in different ways. We have started looking at fractions and how we can find a half and a quarter. We have looked at fractions of shapes and also of amounts. We know that for a shape to be cut into half, both parts need to be equal.



English

Our main text this term has been 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea'. We have loved using the story sacks to help us to retell the stories. We have been writing letters to and from the Tiger, Hot Seating characters and acting out parts of the story. We have been working really hard on using conjunctions in our sentences too. We have also been looking at non fiction texts about tigers and creating our own fact files. We will soon be tiger experts! We loved our trip to Woodley Library and lots of children have started to go with their parents.



Art

We have been learning about printing in Art and have looked at the work of William Morris. We have practiced designing our own repeating patterns using sponge shapes. Then we tried to recreate an animal print design in the style of William Morris.

It was a lot of fun and very messy!



Check out our Twitter feeds at;

@HighWoodPrim1BG (Miss Bolger/Miss Ahmed)

@HighWoodPrim1G (Mrs Gamer)



Year 2 News - Summer 1



Miss Hughes, Miss Anderson,

Mrs Moore, Miss White, Mrs Mair and Mrs Neilson

It's been a very busy half term. It's been a period of growing...literally! Not only have we seen the children making great progress and working very hard, but we have also started planting beans and investigating how they germinate!

What could go in our Best British Banquet?

English

We have been very busy in Writing lessons! We started off with reading *The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch* and finding the seagulls very funny. We then wrote our own versions of the story, including lots of descriptions and challenging ourselves to make our writing as good as it can be. We were so proud of our writing, we have made a brand new display to show it off!



Whole Class Reading

We have loved reading "Alice in Wonderland". We have enjoyed discussing the different characters and learning lots of interesting new vocabulary! It has been great to see some of these words being used in our writing!

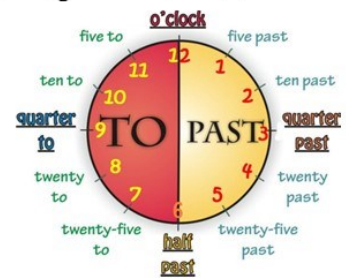


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@HighwoodPrim2H @HighwoodPrim2A

Maths

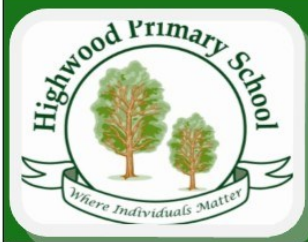
Maths has been great fun this half term! We started off by looking at fractions of shapes and amounts and used our super division skills to help us. We have been looking at how our fractions can help us tell the time and have been having a great time practising this throughout the day.



Science and History

We have been having great fun learning all about plants and flowers and what they need to be healthy! We have begun to plant some beans and are excitedly watching them grow. During our growing journey we have learnt all about the different parts of a plant and their functions. In History, we have been learning about Huntley and Palmers and why Reading is famous for its biscuits.





Year 3 News

Miss Rumbold & Miss Bernardes

Mrs Aswal, Mrs Rudroju, Mrs Hillier, Miss Robert & Mrs Nice

How can we help protect our planet?

LITERACY

We have been looking at the story of The Rainplayer in English. It is a Mayan folktale about Pik, a curious boy whose community is experiencing a drought. When he faces Chac, the rain god, in a pok-a-tok contest, Pik's courage shines. We have also been tasked with writing non-chronological reports to stock the library with all about rainforest animals.

MATHS

In maths, we have been looking at fractions. We discussed what is meant by equivalence, its link to the word equal, and that parts can only be equivalent if they are equal themselves! We have started to revise time and are looking forward to learning more soon! We have also been practicing telling the time on analogue and digital clocks.

SCIENCE

In science, we have been exploring the wonderful world of plants. We have been experimenting with what plants need to grow and have discovered that they need sunlight, oxygen, warmth and water. We have also looked at the different parts of a plant and their functions.

TOPIC

We began our topic by learning about tropical rainforests, in particular, the Amazon. We learned about the layers of the

rainforest and what vegetation and creatures are found in each layer. We know where tropical rainforests are located and have compared our local area with Iquitos, known as the gateway to the Amazon.



Follow us on Twitter

@HighwoodPrim3B @HighwoodPrim3R





Year 4 News: Summer 1

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

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

How have our castles made Britain great?

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

Maths

In maths this term the children explored lots of different topics such as decimals, money and time! It was fantastic to see everyone using their understanding of place value to figure out how decimals work, and this really helped set us up for learning all about money.

We are still focussing on our times tables work every week and the children have additional TTRS time in the mornings to help support their learning. If you could find some time at home to support with this as well it will make a huge difference to their knowledge and their Multiplication Test coming up after May half-term.

Writing

Our English this term started with a focus on writing a story opener based on our class reading book 'Flotsam'. The children thoroughly enjoyed inventing a scenario to why a mechanical fish had appeared in the water. They were able to create a scene, character and mysterious ending of what might happen to the fish next.



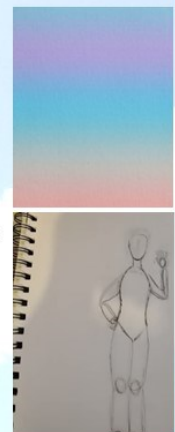
Recently, we moved onto explanation texts about how a coast is formed. We have been building on our skills of conjunctions, fronted adverbials and rhetorical questions to create our finished piece. We cannot wait to see the end result of our enthusiastic writers.

Science

In science, we have been investigating how electricity is generated and the dangers that can come with it. The children got the buzz for learning more when we introduced building circuits. They have also been fascinated by learning which items within the classroom are conductors and insulators. They all showed such creativity and independence when they designed a knowledge organiser all about electricity, and were able to really show off everything that they had learnt.

Art

We have focussed on art this term, and we have appreciated our new artist Antony Gormley. We have begun experimenting with chalk to create a gradient for a sunset sketching outlines of bodies and getting used to drawing with charcoal. We are looking forward to seeing how they bring their skills together for their final piece, inspired by Gormley's 'Another Place'.



Swimming

4P have been swimming this term and have absolutely loved it. It has been a great opportunity to learn a new skill and hope to see lots of them carrying on outside of school too! We can't wait to see what 4W get up to in the pool next term!

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



Year 5 News

Team: Mrs Downes, Mrs Hind, Mrs Lakshmanan, Mrs Kamath, Mrs Rudroju, Mrs Panahpoori and Miss Owen

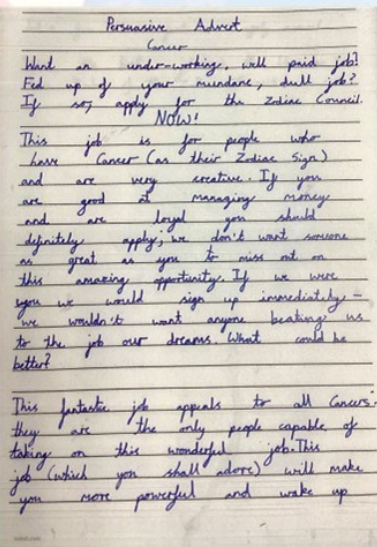
How do you build an empire?

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

How do you build an empire?

English

We have been enjoying reading 'Who Let The Gods Out' by Maz Evans and learning about the Ancient Greek Gods. This led to persuasive writing in the form of a job advert for a position on the Zodiac Council. The interest in Greek Myths has continued with 'Pandora's Box' as the theme for an atmospheric description. The children are working on improving their figurative language with the use of similes, metaphors, personification and by describing using the five senses.



Maths

We've covered a lot of ground in Maths: statistics; measuring and drawing angles (using a protractor); looking at plotting coordinates, translating shapes, mirroring and symmetry.

Key Question

Our key question this term is 'How do you build an empire?' Our focus is on the Greeks and how they have influenced the modern world.



We've explored where Greece is and the land that they occupied during the Ancient Greek reign, as well as looking at the human and physical geography of Greece and comparing it to where we are in the south of the UK. Since then, we've moved on to look at the history side, exploring Greek Gods and the qualities and achievements that made Alexander the Great, 'great'.

Science

After exploring the structure and reproduction of plants, the children were challenged with creating their own exploding seed pods. Consideration was given to creating a fair test and there was lots of discussion around how to create the energy needed for an explosion.

A busy term!

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

Follow us on Twitter @HighwoodPrim5D and @HighwoodPrim5H



Year 6 News

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

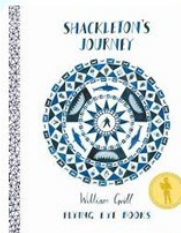
The focus at the beginning of this term was SATs. We spent the first 4 weeks practising, so that when the SATs finally arrived, we realised that they weren't as scary as we all thought! The children worked extremely hard and we were very proud of their positive attitude despite some extremely difficult papers. Well done Year 6!!

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

'What is the secret to success?'

English

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



area; thinking about how the past has influenced the present and how the present is shaping the future. We really enjoyed analysing old photos of Woodley and comparing them to images from today.

Science

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

PE

With Mr Edwards, the children have been taking part in athletics and did themselves proud in the 600m! With Mr Robinson and Miss Bicheno we have enjoyed playing different variations of the game 'bench ball' and are now moving on to rounders - hopefully the weather will be kind to us!

Follow us on twitter

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

Maths

This term has focussed mainly on area, perimeter and volume, statistics, and more recently shape. Both classes have picked these concepts up quickly, and enjoyed mastering more tricky things like the mean!

Topic

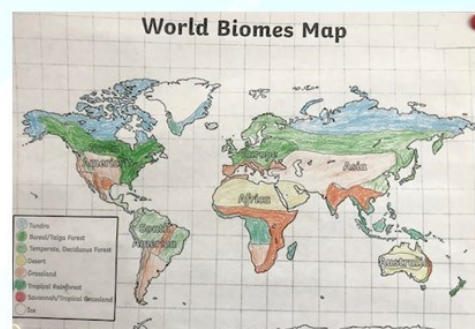
Over the last few weeks, our topic has focussed on geography, history and science.

Geography

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

History

In History we have enjoyed learning about our local





The Grove Speech and Language Resource News

Miss Barrett, Mrs Payne, Mrs Gale and Mrs Harris

Literacy: Wanted Posters

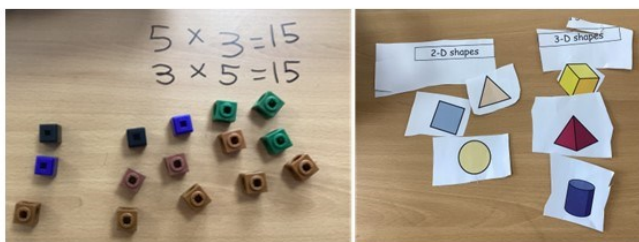
This term we have been reading 'The Boy Who Grew Dragons'. Within the book the dragon gets up to lots of different crimes. The children have designed their own dragon and invented their own crimes for a wanted poster. We have been using rhetorical questions, adjectives, and even similes in our writing!



The dragon teeth are as red as blood.
The dragon's eyes are as red as Lava.
The dragon's scales are shiny like gold.

Maths: Addition, subtraction,

This term we have been investigating, 1 more and 1 less than, securing our numbers bonds to 10, identifying the properties of shape and investigating ways to help us work our trick time table questions! So much individualised learning has been going on this term.



The Grove's Gardeners

This term we are helping grow lots of wildflowers to help support Year 1's Flower Tray competition. We have also planted our own tomatoes, radishes and pumpkins for us! Everyone in The Grove used teamwork to help pot, sow and water our plants.



Follow us on Twitter @HighwoodPrimR

We are very proud of the children in The Grove. We hope you have a restful break and see you for our final term of the year!



PE/Sports News

Mr Edwards

Welcome to the Summer 1 edition "PE & Sports News Page" of academic year 2023/24.

PE Lessons:

This half term I have been testing the children's overall strength, agility, speed and fitness via a "quadrants" style programme. This has been through sprints, standing long jump, Vortex throws and a long distance run. They have been scored against national average statistics and I have been pleased with many of the results including 3 children across KS2 to obtain Mr Edwards "Golden Nugget". This is achieving 200 points or more over the 4 events. They are Sean in Year 3, Hannah in Year 4 and Ibraheem in year 5. A huge congratulations to them. That said, we are finding overall that our fitness levels are declining year on year. This week we have spent part of our lessons discussing why this is and how we can change this. The children are now on a mission to join active clubs outside of school and take in more physical activities with their parents so that it can benefit the whole family.

Swimming lessons have continued this half term with Year 4P. They have loved every minute of it with many nervous first time swimmers progressing so fast in the pool they have moved up to my group from Mrs Hope's group and are continuing it



outside of school lessons. This makes me so happy as it is a life skill as well as a curriculum skill. As always we are working to the national curriculum covering all aspects of swimming including water safety and self rescue. We look forward to the next group, 4W who start after the half term break. Miss Coleman this half term has been teaching dance to F2H who

are having a great time learning tempo, movement, and creativity.



Summer Half Term Matches & Tournaments:

Girls Friendly Football Round Robin.

Rivermead Primary brought along two teams to play a "Round Robin" mini friendly against 2 Highwood teams made up of the girls that attended the after school club in the Autumn term. All players benefited from game time and coaching within the games to help improve their knowledge and confidence.



Woodley Schools Sports Week.

At the time of print, we will be in the middle of the 2024 Woodley Schools Sports Week. This is a fantastic week full of opportunities for many children in Woodley schools. On Tuesday all pupils in year 2 will get to take part in an "All Stars Cricket" event, Wednesday year 3 will take part in a Paralympic Sports Festival, Thursday year 4 will take part in a Multisport Festival and on Friday, year 1 will take part in an All Stars Cricket Session. Good luck to all taking part!



PE/Sports News

Sports coach: Mr Edwards

After School Clubs:

This term we have:-

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

Wednesdays: KS1 Summer Sports Club

Thursdays: Yr 5/6 Cricket Club

Next Half Term

PE Lessons: - Continue Athletics, Cricket, Dance, Rounders & Danish Longball.

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

Next Half-Term Competitions:

Interhouse KS2 Rounders

Wokingham School Games - Quadkids Athletics Tournament.

Wokingham Schools Cricket League

Sports Day!



Achievements outside of school:

With many more children now attending sports clubs, I would again like to continue to showcase pupils & pictures to add in this section of the newsletter of the fun physical or sporty things you get up to outside of school.

I have also started coming along to watch the pupils taking part in their activities outside of school. Last week I was very kindly invited to watch Ava & Zoe from year 5 play in a netball tournament for Woodley Netball Club. They convincingly won 20-4 vs Wokingham Netball Club.

Peter in year 4 has this year started supporting his dad with his training for both the London Marathon and the Reading Half Marathon. In doing so, Peter has successfully completed the Green Park challenge in under 15 minutes. This hard work has transposed into his PE lessons this term showing huge improvement in his overall



fitness lifting him to one of the top athletes in KS2. Well done Peter and keep it up.

Holly (year 1) & Willow (F1) have been working really hard in their new gymnastics club sessions both achieving Level 2 certificates in only five weeks. This is a great achievement and I look forward to seeing more pictures with the next level very soon!

Please continue to send in updates of your children's successes and also invite me along to come and spectate, I really enjoy seeing the pupils taking what they have learnt in PE into the "Sports Specific" clubs.



I hope you all have a fun, relaxing and hopefully sunny, Half Term break. Mr Edwards.



SENCO

Dear Families,

With longer days and hotter temperatures, we are crossing our fingers that the good weather continues into the Half term holiday. We are lucky to have many playgrounds and nature areas within walking distance of the school, that can be visited for free in the holiday, as well as Woodford Park paddling pool, which is opening for the season tomorrow .(Saturday 25th May).

While many enjoy the school holidays, others may find it more difficult. Here are some strategies you can use to support your children during the holidays: [School Holidays 'Guide to Thrive' for SEN Parents](#)

Wishing you all a happy and restful break.

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.

Holiday Support and activities

[Wokingham Directory | Local Offer What's On for children and young people with additional needs](#)

[Holiday, Activities, and Food programme \(wokingham.gov.uk\)](#)

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

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

[Children's Fun Day – Wokingham \(wokingham-tc.gov.uk\)](#)

[Reading Children's Festival brochure 2024 by Reading Council - Issuu](#)

[Free Events and Attractions in Wokingham \(wokinghamrocks.co.uk\)](#)

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

[School Holidays 'Guide to Thrive' for SEN Parents \(senploy.co.uk\)](#)



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 \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)

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 \(the vestibular system\)](#)





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](#)

[Wokingham Directory | Leisure activities for children and young people with additional needs](#)

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



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 half term:

- **We have hosted 3** parent/carers coffee mornings.
- **We hosted our first SEN Support** coffee morning for parents and carers of children who have special educational needs, either diagnosed or on pathways or for parents who have early concerns. We were joined by three local charities—Promise Inclusion, Camp Mohawk and Me2Club. They shared information about their services for parents and children and were on hand to offer individual advice. Parents who attended have shared how good it has been to begin to develop networks with other parents and have the opportunity to learn about what support is out there. Following feedback we will be holding these coffee mornings every half term.
- **We hosted a parent carer workshop in Urdu** with the charity Parenting Special Children on the 'Joys and Challenges of parenting a child with special needs'.
- **We hosted two maths workshops** with Wokingham Adult Education—Terrific Timetables and Mixing up Maths where attendees made an amazing cous cous salad. Feedback from both workshops was really positive and we hope to be able to repeat them next academic year.

Next half term:

- **Coffee morning dates** June 7th (open to all), June 21st (SEN support), July 5th (open to all). No need to book.
- **On Thursday 13th June** we are hosting a 'Learn with Lego course'. This is aimed at parents of nursery or younger children. Booking is now open.
- **On Tuesday 18th and Tuesday 25th June** we are hosting a two part workshop on 'Building your Child's Resilience'. This will be a really useful course to follow on from the Anxiety workshop held last term either or if you missed that workshop. Booking is now open.
- **You said** in feedback that a workshop on sleep would be helpful. **We will** aim to run one before the end of term.



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



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Attendance Matters



We have had an improved half term! Thank you to all the parents and carers who have supported us with making sure your child is at school. You are supporting your child in making sure they don't miss out on important learning.

Do Remember:

- ⇒ Tackle attendance issues early
- ⇒ School and your child's future success starts with good attendance
- ⇒ School gates open at 8.35am. Don't get left behind!

It's good to talk!

We have supported a number of parents to get back on track this term. Don't continue to struggle. Our Attendance Officer, Lisa Hall and Family Support Worker, Lucy Morris are always here to help by offering support and advice.



What to watch out for in our weekly newsletters!

Penalty Notice Fines for school non-attendance are changing

Tips and advice for school refusers

Don't let your child become a 'persistent absentee' factsheet

Parenting workshops

Reminders



SCHOOL UNIFORM

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

Delivery to school is currently free. Any orders placed over the summer holidays must be done by **Sunday 4th August at the very latest** for delivery in time for the start of term in September. This date is for both home & school deliveries and doesn't guarantee enough time for any exchanges.



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.

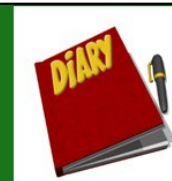


EARRINGS

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 27th - Friday 31st May	Half term holiday - school closed
Monday 3rd - Friday 7th June	Year 6 at Culmington Manor
Monday 3rd & Wednesday 5th June	Year 6 not on Residential going to Blue Coat School
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
Monday 10th June	Year 1 visit from Basil & Crew
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
Thursday 4th July	F2/Reception Trip to Wellington Country Park
Monday 8th July	Year 2 Trip to Bucklebury Farm Park
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