



July 2024

Newsletter

Highwood Primary School Issue no.XX

'Where Individuals Matter'

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we come to the end of another academic year, I always focus on giving myself time to reflect on the successes and challenges of the previous 12 months. During this process, it dawned on me that this is the end of my 10th year as Headteacher at Highwood! The job is just as demanding as it was in my first year, and there are still days where I come face to face with things for the first time!

Prior to writing this, I took the opportunity to look back at my very first 'Meet The Teacher' presentation, where I shared with the parent body at the time my core values and principles. Ten years on, I would still write the exactly the same ten things.

As the last sentence at the bottom of my slide states, I am sure there have been times where I have not made people happy, but I do, and will always continue to do, what I feel is right for the school. Ten years is a long time, but there is still so much I want to achieve here and I am looking forward to the future.

At this time of year we inevitably have to say goodbye to some members of staff. After 18 years of working as an administrator at Highwood, Mrs. Westall retires at the end of this term. When I think of the hundreds (probably thousands) of families that she has encountered during her time, I am sure that everybody will be sad to see her leave - none more so than myself. There are a number of weird and wonderful daily requests that arrive at her desk or in her inbox with a 'Is it possible to...' Even if it not straight forward, she will always find a way. On behalf of everyone at Highwood, past and present, I would like to wish Helen a Happy Retirement.

We also say goodbye to the following staff:

Dr. Read is moving on to teach at a school in Bracknell Forest.

Miss Bernardes leaves us to pursue an education career outside of teaching.

Mrs. Bolton moves on after her maternity cover role comes to an end.

I would like to thank them for their contributions to Highwood and wish them well in the future.

To our Year 6s and their families, and any other families that move on, we wish you all the best in the future. We hope you have enjoyed your time with us and use what you have learnt to thrive in the next stages of your lives.

Finally, a couple of quick updates:

Our Nurture Classroom is all set to go in September! It will be called The Mulberry Room and will be a valued addition to our school provision. We are still purchasing resources and furniture, so if any families know of a large dining table and chairs or sofas that people in our community would be willing to donate, then please make contact and send us some photos to help with the final setting up arrangements. Thank you.

Academisation Update - Unfortunately, due to everything in government coming to a standstill during the election, I do not have any further updates in relation to the timeline. As soon as I know, I will update you.

Have a great Summer and we will see you all in September! Thank you for your support.

Matt Hickey
Headteacher



GOODBYE







Governing Body News

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff and Pupils,

Well done for another successful school year! (Give yourselves a round of applause!)

Update so far...

	The national election has pushed the academy timeline to the right, as we wait for the Regional Schools Director to determine next steps post election. Highwood is still working on activities and as usual, will provide updates as this becomes clear.
	Our Governing Team is looking for some governors to help support the school. If you're interested, please let us know using the contact form on the Governors website section.

Finally...

Thank
You

- The whole school team – Highwood's remarkable professionals are a credit to the school and our community. Thank you for everything that you do and encouraging the children every day.
- The Friends of Highwood (FoH) – Thank you for all your events and fostering a great sense of school community!
- The parents and carers – Thank you for all your support. We know it's not been easy with the constant change in the world around us.
- All of Highwood's children – Well done on another year, you've worked hard and so enjoy the summer break!

Best Wishes from the Highwood Governors



Foundation 1 News

Mrs Atkinson

Mrs Vanka, Mrs Cooper, Miss Craker, Miss Briggs & Miss Wilkins

Welcome to our Foundation 1 News. We have had a great Summer Term in F1. We have continued our topic 'How are all animals different?' and have been busy getting our older children ready for their move to Reception.

Having watched the caterpillars growing before half term, the children were so excited to see the butterflies emerge from their chrysalises and watch them fly away on the field. They've continued spotting minibeasts ever since, including worms, frogs, beetles and slugs.



The children have continued participating in lots of animal based activities while learning about our topic. They have made animal masks, looked for creatures in the garden and we also had our minibeast dress up day!

As the weather has been milder (although not very summer-like), we've enjoyed making the most of our new, tarmacked outside area. It's great for building, chalking, running, throwing, and so much more. We're loving our new home corner in the summerhouse too!



SPORTS DAY!

After lots of hard work practicing, F1 children participated in their Sports Day and we all had a fantastic time. The children joined in with lots of different races. They all listened so well and showed really good teamwork skills. All the children won a medal for their participation. Well done F1, you were amazing! Thank you to all the families that came to support and joined in the parents' races! Brilliant sportsmanship!



The children had great fun being pirates in our pirate ship while we were learning about creatures that live under the sea. Watching octopuses fitting through tiny holes and whales jumping out of the water was really interesting. The children enjoyed making different sea creatures to decorate our roleplay area. Our jungle roleplay went down well too!



The F1 team would like to take the opportunity to wish farewell to our children that are leaving us to move to Reception either at Highwood or other schools. We will miss you all very much but we know you will continue to dazzle and astonish, wherever you are. We look forward to welcoming back our current F1 children who are staying with us and welcoming lots of new children into the setting. We hope you all have a great summer holidays!

Thank you to all the parents that have supported us during this half of term!

Remember to follow us on X to see what we are up to each week! @HighwoodPrimFS1



Foundation Stage 2 News

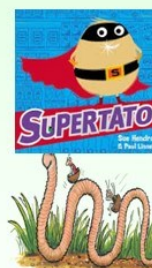
Mrs Parker, Mrs Bolton and Miss Grainger and Miss Hargreaves

Mrs Newham, Miss Finch, Miss Webb, Mrs Alleyne,

Who are our local heroes?

Welcome to the Foundation Stage Newsletter for the second half of the summer term!

We have looked at superheroes in stories, such as: 'Supertato' and 'Superworm'. The children were able to write their own versions of the stories using a new and exciting colourful story board. This resource helps the children to understand different parts of the story. They loved seeing themselves as authors!



Everyone enjoyed the Superhero activities on offer this term, such as making masks, superhero art, making their own 'Super-tato' Superhero and going on a hunt to find the missing veggies.



In maths the children have been looking at positional language, mapping skills and patterns and relationships. We have made repeating patterns using materials and printing with fruits and vegetables. We drew maps and plans of the classroom and other places.

We also read the story of Mr Gumpy's Outing and explored how many items a boat can carry before it sank. Its been great fun!



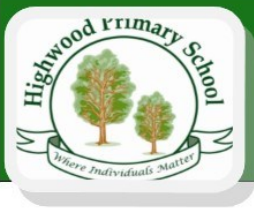
PE is always a highlight of the week! This half-term they have focussed on athletics and cricket skills.

We had our trip to Wellington Country Park! We had an amazing time: bug hunting, visiting the farm and jumping on the bouncy pillow!

The children have been absolutely brilliant and we are all very proud of them. Thank you for your support. Enjoy the summer holiday!



Find us on X : @HighwoodPrimF2BP, @HighwoodPrimF2H



Year 1 News - Summer 2

Miss Bolger, Mrs Garner, Miss Ahmed

Miss Mubashar, Mrs Wheeler, Mrs Shahzadi, Mrs Mohammed

Which animal would you invite for tea?

Science

This term we have been learning a lot about plants. We have looked at what plants need in order to grow and the functions of different parts of the plant.



We hope that the sunflower and bean plants are still growing!

We have also looked at how to eat healthily and what a balanced plate would look like for our tea party. We have learnt about the different diets of animals, and designed a tea party plate for them.

Maths

In Maths we have been working really hard to learn about multiplication and division. We have used lots of practical resources to help us. We have learnt about halves and quarters of shapes and numbers in our first introduction to fractions.

We have learnt about different units of time: We now know that the school day lasts 6 hours, not six seconds! We can tell o'clock and half past times on an analogue clock.

English

Our main text this term has been 'Six Dinner Sid'. We have loved exploring how cheeky Sid is and creating some fantastic word banks to describe him. We have used our creativity to think of different activities that Sid might do when he visits different houses. We wrote our own story using different animals too, We have also written invitations to the animals we want to invite to our tea party.



Outdoor Learning

We have been studying the art work of Andy Goldsworthy. He creates art out of natural materials like, wood, leaves, stones, petals. We experimented with our own ideas based on his work. We then made sun catchers too.



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@HighWoodPrimIG



Year 2 News - Summer 2



Miss Hughes, Miss Anderson

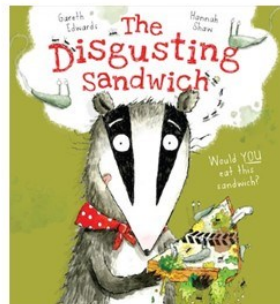
Mrs Moore, Miss White, Mrs Mair

What a year it has been! Whilst we are sad that the children are moving on to Year 3, we can't help but celebrate all the wonderful memories we have created together. We wish the children all the best for their new adventures in Year 3!

What could go in our Best British Banquet?

English

The children really enjoyed learning about The Disgusting Sandwich and letting this inspire their writing. They were very imaginative when creating their own ideas and were able to produce some lovely descriptions. We then enjoyed doing some instruction writing on how to make a perfect sandwich! We have been very busy with writing this year and have been very proud of how the children have persevered and challenged themselves.



DT

We continued looking at different types of food and where it comes from. We designed our own biscuits and packaging and made these for some tasty



treats to take home.

The children were very creative and had a lot of fun, maybe we have some budding bakers in the making.

Enrichment

We all had a fantastic day at Bucklebury Farm and Deer Park. It was lovely to see the children so enthusiastic about the animals and enjoying the experience. In particular, the children enjoyed feeding the deer by hand and getting to pet so many baby animals!

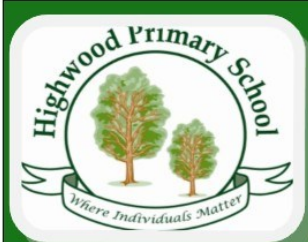


Maths

To end an amazing year of being super mathematicians we have loved learning about statistics and collecting our own data! It was very fun to be outside on the field to gather data about the colour of cars that went past!

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[@HighwoodPrim2A](#)

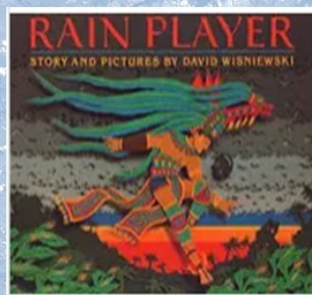




Year 3 News

Miss Bernardes and Miss Rumbold

How can we help protect our planet?



LITERACY

Most recently we have written speeches to explain why we must protect rainforests and our planet against deforestation. Earlier in the term, we looked at the story of Rain Player. In the story, Pik has to defeat Chac, the god of rain, in the Mayan game 'Pok-a-Tok'. We adapted the story, creating our own versions which involved new helping characters, who enabled a win for our heroes.

MATHS

In maths, we learned about mass, capacity, and statistics! We measured and compared the weight of different objects, understanding grams and kilograms. We also explored capacity by measuring liquids in millilitres and litres. Additionally, we collected data and created simple graphs to understand information better.



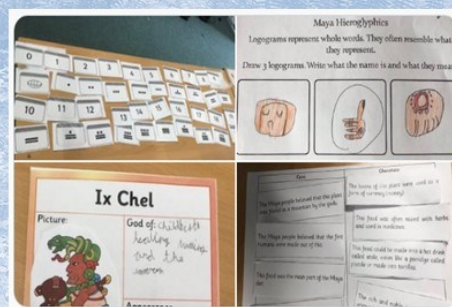
SCIENCE



We have been exploring the exciting topic of light and shadows. We investigated how light is needed to see things and that darkness is the absence of light. We also explored how the size and shape of shadows change depending on the object's distance from the light source.

TOPIC

We have been excited to learn about the Mayans. We learnt about their Gods, what they ate, how they wrote and their number system. We compared their civilisation to our own and found there were lots of similarities.



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Year 4 News

Mrs Partridge, Mrs Strong,

Mr Williams, Miss Harris and Mrs Trayhorne

Welcome to this edition of the Year 4 news! As we welcomed everyone back through the school doors for the final term in Year 4, we had lots of new and exciting learning opportunities. 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 continued their investigation into Britain's castles and the features that define a coast. The children have also been exploring medieval castles and replicating their engineering.

Maths

Year 4 have been very busy in maths this term, covering topics ranging from shapes and angles to co-ordinates. We have been incredibly impressed with the timetables knowledge this year and could not believe our eyes when we saw their results for the multiplication check. We could not be prouder of all the children and their accomplishments this year!

Writing

This term year 4 have been on a fantastical adventure, exploring fantasy realms, creatures and plot lines. We started off by creating our own creatures and writing poems about them. The children loved trying out different vocabulary to create rhyming couplets.

After poetry, the children moved onto writing fantasy narratives that involved terrifying monsters, resilient heroes and fantastical worlds. It has been lovely to watch their creativity flow in deciding what challenges their characters should face.



Our class reader this term has been 'The Castle of Tangled Magic', which everyone thoroughly enjoyed and has been a fantastic stimulus for our writing.

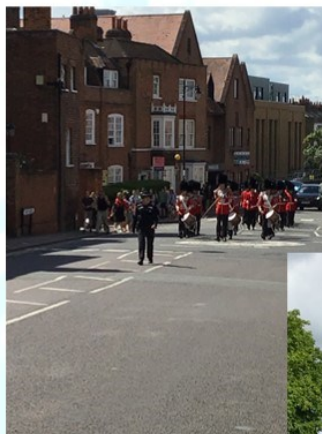
Design and Technology

In DT this term we have been looking at castles and how drawbridges work. The children have been working in pairs to design castles, which they will decorate. They

have spent time using paper mâché to create the hill in a motte and bailey castle, and will use their skills to create drawbridges that open and close!

Windsor Castle Trip

We had a wonderful time visiting Windsor Castle together as a year group. The children were incredibly well behaved and excellent clue finders when it came to completing our treasure hunt. It was so lovely to be able to appreciate the scale of the castle that we have been learning about in our History and Geography lessons - we could not believe how high up the keep was!



It has been an absolutely fantastic year and we wish everyone the best when they move up to Year 5.

The Year 4 team

*Follow us on X @HighwoodPrim4P &
@HighwoodPrim4W*



Year 5 News

Team: Mrs Downes, Mrs Hind, Mrs Lakshmanan, Mrs Kamath, Mrs Rudrojo and Mrs Panahpoori

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

How do you build an empire?

English

This term, we have been writing Abstract Noun Poems, based on the Ancient Greek myth, 'Pandora's Box'. This all began with a study of Emily Dickinson's poem 'Hope', which led to a thorough deep-dive into a review of the different types of nouns and culminated in some very successful poems about 'Love', 'Wealth' 'Bravery' and many other abstract nouns.

Maths

We have been working with decimals: adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing them to solve word problems and to find missing numbers. We will finish the term with a recap on units of measure and then practice converting between different units.

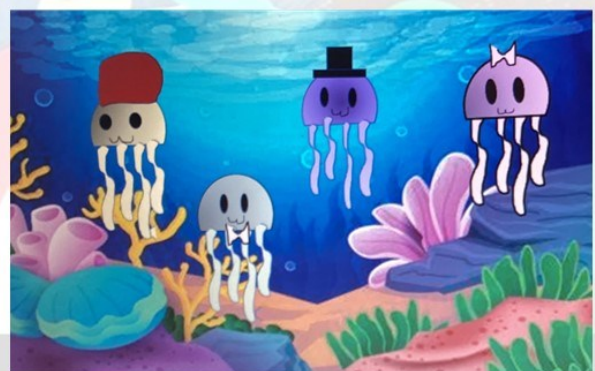
Key Question Lessons



Our key question this term is 'How do you build an empire?' and our focus has been on what

life was like in the different city states of Ancient Greece, studying key figures such as Alexander the Great, and famous events such as The Battle of Marathon. We have also learnt to build relief clay tiles, decorating them with designs of myths and monsters.

Computing



After learning how to create Vector drawings by re-sizing, grouping and layering shapes, we designed our own creatures - like our jellyfish?

Science

We all had a great time at our Science SPLAT session at the beginning of the term. After researching complete and incomplete metamorphosis, and the life-cycles of sea-turtles, butterflies, bees, chickens and frogs, we then created stop animation videos of each life-cycle - with a little help from a lot of parents!

With all the fun of Sports Day and the Summer Picnic, it has been a super end to the year.

Well Done everyone!

Follow us on X @HighwoodPrim5M and @HighwoodPrim5H



Year 6 News

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

This term we have worked hard to answer the question: **'What is the secret to success?'**

English

In English, we have spent our time developing our use of language and vocabulary by producing our own 'Emotional Menagerie' poems with a concentration on rhythm and rhyme.

During class reading lessons, we have just finished a new book for this year: 'Tyger'. This has been well-received by the children who all enjoyed the mystical and fantasia nature of the book.

Maths

We all sighed with relief when we eventually finished the Year 6 maths curriculum. Since then, we've made sure our times tables and arithmetic skills have kept up to date and we have learnt about budgeting and mortgages.

Science and PSHE

We have continued to explore the question, 'What's the secret to a healthy body?' by looking at the effect of exercise on our body and mind, and what is needed for a healthy diet. As scientists, we carried out an experiment to find out the effect of different levels of exercise on our mood and levels of concentration. We were surprised to find out that even though our bodies felt exhausted after the 'bleep test', we were more alert and had better levels of concentration.

PE

We have used the learning behaviour of 'teamwork' in PE this term. Year 6 demonstrated amazing teamwork during our sports day and superb leadership when helping at KS1 sports day. We have also enjoyed playing cricket with Mr Edwards and laughed when attempting some team games kindly donated by Blue Coats.

Art

In Art, we have used our observational skills and sketching techniques to draw an anatomical drawing of a heart.

Music and Drama

I'm an 11 year old...Get Me Out of Here! was a huge success this term. We really enjoyed learning all the songs, and having the opportunity to perform to a real life audience at last!

Manor Adventure

Our residential trip to Culmington Manor was a real highlight! Every activity challenged the children in different ways and their enjoyment was clear to see. Many simply enjoyed sharing a cabin with their friends, while others excelled when facing new challenges. Well Done.



Goodbye and Good Luck

All the Year 6 team would like to wish the children all the very best for secondary school and beyond.

Follow us on X: [@HighwoodPrim6B](#) [@HighwoodPrim6R](#)



The Grove Speech and Language Resource News

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

We have reached the end of another school year and I could not be prouder of how far the children have come! I look forward to teaching in The Grove next year and watching them all continue to blossom.

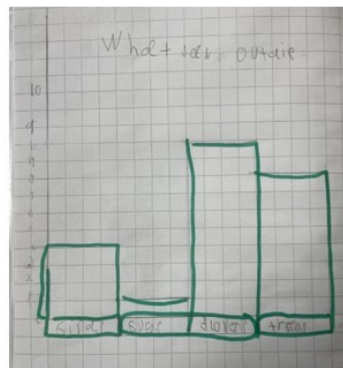
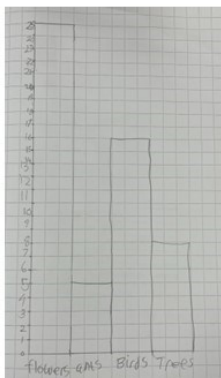
Have a lovely summer and see you soon, Miss Barrett.

Literacy: The Boy Who Grew Dragons

This term we have continued reading 'The Boy Who Grew Dragons'. We finished our wanted posters which included using rhetorical questions, adjectives, and even similes. Next we explored retelling the start of the story. The children recreated finding a strange looking fruit and a mythical creature bursting from it. I have been really proud of their imagination and sequencing of what happened through the story opener.

Maths: Tally charts, bar graphs and

This term we investigated tally charts, bar graphs and pictograms. The children went outside and tallied different things they could see. We even went to Year 4 and asked them questions to investigate their favourite things from our chosen topic. Some of us then turned this data into a bar graph and analysed the most popular things.



WANTED!



Look out! I've stolen the city!
We need your help to stop the
the dragon. Sneaky in
the night. His name is
Bob.

WANTED!



Look out! I've stolen the city!
Have you seen the dragon?
The pig's crazy dragon know
as James the dragon is his
definitely wrecking havoc on
the city!

We hope you all have a lovely summer and wish our leavers the best of luck in their new schools. Have a restful break and see you in September!



PE/Sports News

Mr Edwards

Welcome to the last "PE & Sports News Page" of the 2023/24 academic year and what a year it has been!

PE Lessons:

The classes have been concluding the suite of athletics events. We have finished the year learning cricket skills & playing full fun matches including "Non Stop Kwik Cricket" for KS1, "Diamond Cricket" for LKS2 and full Kwik Cricket in UKS2 plus the introduction of "Caterpillar Cricket" which has been well received by all pupils. Year 6 have completed their assessments pulling all of their learning into the last 12 weeks of their primary school life, teaching their peers various curriculum skills. The year 6 final assessment was to run KS1 Sports day which I am pleased to say was a great success. I have received many emails from parents saying how amazing they were and a credit to our school. F2BP also had an extra session taking part in Dance with our teacher Miss Coleman.

Highwood Primary 2024 Sports Days.

Due to the fantastic comments received by parents and staff over the last few years, I decided a repeat of the format for this year. However, due to the KS2 field being out of order, we have had to transfer the event to the KS1 field. Very little had to be changed for the KS1 event but the KS2 event had to be reduced by 4 activities due to space. After running the event it seems that I can increase this by another 2 next year. There were so many positive comments about it being run on the KS1 field mainly by staff and children mainly due to the logistics. Both KS2 and KS1 had a carousel of activities plus every child being entered into a running race. Sports day wouldn't be the same without the parents and toddlers races and again they didn't disappoint (albeit injury prone for the dads!). After a whole 2 mornings events across KS2 and KS1 sports days, only a few points separated 1st (Eagles) & 2nd place (Red Kites) with Falcons and Hawks 3rd and 4th respectively, it just goes to prove that every child played their part and every last ounce of extra effort makes the difference. Once again I would like to thank all of the staff, Bulmershe young leaders that ran the KS2 activities, year 6s and the parents for their support of this years sports days.



Matches & Tournaments:

This half term has been fun with the remaining Wokingham school games and the cricket league matches.

Wokingham Schools Yr 5/6 Quadkids Athletics.

One of my favourite events of the year took place at Palmer Park Athletics Stadium and the team of 5 boys & 5 girls sprinted, jumped, threw and ran long distance all morning with so much pride and determination. Despite coming 17th overall, Hanna in year 4 came 26th out of all of the girls and 32nd overall out of nearly 200 boys and girls. A phenomenal achievement.



PE/Sports News 2

Mr Edwards

Wokingham Schools Cricket League.

A really competitive league this year has seen our team of 2024 play together and include so many year 5's. This bodes well for next years team. I cannot be more proud of the team. They have really bonded as a team and worked so hard for each other showing some great cricketing skills learned in their own clubs out of school or in PE lessons.



Sports Achievements out of school

Here is the space for your children to show off what they have been up to outside of school, whether it's a team sport like football, individual such as Golf, Dance, Gymnastics or even horse riding! Send in any photos and a description to my normal school email or via the school office email address.

This half term we have Daisy in year 3. Daisy completed Level 1 in Ballroom and Latin dancing, which consisted of the Cha Cha Cha, Rumba, Waltz and Quickstep.

Daisy passed all 4 dances 'with Honours', scoring over 90% for each dance. The examiner added the following comments to her results:

Ballroom - "a promising young dancer, well done Daisy"

Latin - "A great start to the Latin American rhythms, well done"



PE Autumn Term 1 2024

Disability Games Year 1-4 (Boccia/Kurling/Seated Volleyball)

Ball Skills Years F2—Year 4

Football Year 5

Tag Rugby Year 6

PE Kit

Autumn 1 will require PE T-shirt, Shorts, Trainers (football boots optional) Tracksuit top and joggers.

As per "Uniform Policy" all earrings have to be removed for the lesson by the pupil or parent before school.

2023/24 Sports clubs outside of school Survey

Our previous record stood at 274 club members/activities out of 368 children (Yr 1-6) taking part in a physical activity outside of school. I am pleased to say that this number has increased and is now 317 club members (some children take part in more than one club per week) 33% of which are in swimming lessons which makes me very happy. A huge thank you to the parents for giving the children such a valuable opportunity. Majority of these numbers are in KS1 which I am hoping will lead on to some very competitive sports teams in the future. I would really like to see an increase in numbers from our KS2 children. There is an obvious correlation between the fitness results carried out in PE against the low numbers of children attending physical clubs outside of school. This is not a "Highwood" issue but a national issue. Therefore I would like our Highwood children and parent body to buck the trend and encourage more physical activities and sports club memberships out of school. If you are in need of help with signposting towards any particular sports clubs, I am more than happy to help.

Finally.....

I would like to wish our year 6's the very best of luck in the future. You have been a joy to teach, many of you since the age of 3. I hope that you carry your PE knowledge into your secondary school and make us proud representing school teams in the future. Please make sure you remember your PE kits otherwise you will spend a lot of your breaks in the PE department!

I hope you all have a great summer holiday.

Mr Edwards



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!

Lucy Morris, Family Support Worker.

We've been busy in the family centre! Over the last two terms we have held:

- **6 coffee mornings**, open to all parents and carers. If you haven't attended one yet please come along to say hi to other parents and take some time out for yourself from your busy lives.
- **2 SEN Support coffee mornings** for parents and carers of children who have special educational needs, either diagnosed or on pathways or for parents who have early concerns. Over the two mornings we were joined by four local charities - Promise Inclusion, Camp Mohawk and Me2Club and ASSIST. 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.
- **An evening workshop** on Anxiety with ARC.
- **A parent carer workshop in Urdu** with the charity Parenting Special Children on the 'Joys and Challenges of parenting a child with special needs'.
- **3 maths workshops** with Wokingham Adult Education - Terrific Timetables, Mixing up Maths and Learn with Lego. Feedback from the workshops was really positive and we hope to be able to repeat them next academic year.
- **A two-part workshop** on how to support your child's resilience with Wokingham Adult Education. These were lively and interactive but thought provoking sessions which parents said really helped them understand how to support their children differently.
- **And lots of** individual meetings with parents and carers, brain storming and trouble shooting issues of concern for them.



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@PSAHighwood



HOT OFF THE PRESS!

Did you know that **1 in 5** parents worry that other people are better parents?

Parenting is one of the hardest jobs around and sometimes parents can feel quite alone. We are very excited to share that next term we will be running a parent support programme, 'Parent Gym' run by a trained coach.

The Parent Gym programme has been designed to make our lives, as parents, easier. Each workshop focuses on a different aspect of parenting. As a group, we find out the science behind each topic and then discuss the helpful tips and techniques and how these can be put into practice.

The programme is made up of six two-hour interactive participative sessions with 'missions' to complete between each session.

****Watch out for dates of the taster sessions next term!****

'The best thing you can do for yourself and your family is attend Parent Gym. I have learned about so many tools, how to tackle everyday situations and to be kinder to myself. The biggest revelation is that no matter what I'm going through there are others who are also going through the same. Take the leap!'

Parent. Hove Junior School, Hove

'If you have been thinking about doing this course then STOP! Don't think any longer, just do it! Six weeks on this course have transformed the way I tackle difficult situations with my children but. Most importantly, during this time I feel as though I have been equipped with the correct techniques and tools to manage such situations concisely and effectively.'

Parent, The Orion Primary, Barnet

parentgym



SENCO

Dear Families,

Another year has flown by! It has been a joy watching the children develop and grow at Highwood Primary School.

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.

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.

Summer 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)

[ASD Summer Toolkit \(ne-as.org.uk\)](http://ne-as.org.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 \(the vestibular system\)](#)





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





Attendance Matters

Looking ahead to 2024/2025

Important information to keep your child's attendance on track

Authorised absences

- Genuine illness
- Exceptional circumstances
- Educational trips/ open days
- Medical appointments



Unauthorised absences

- Absences for no valid reason
- Arriving too late
- Holiday or family gatherings



Penalty fine charges are increasing from September.
Did you know you can also receive a penalty fine for lateness.
Speak to Lisa Hall, Attendance Officer to find out more.



Our school target is 96% attendance. Anything under 96% is of a concern. If a child is not in school, then we cannot teach them. Did you know that even at 96% that is 2 weeks of school missed per year.



Thank you to all our parents and carers who have supported us this year with making sure their child is at school and on time each day. I hope all our children have a restful summer break ready to return to school on Wednesday 4th September at 8.45am!



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 changing to **£2.65 per day** from September 2024. Payment should be made via Arbor 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.



Tuesday 3rd September	Inset day - school closed for staff training
Wednesday 4th September	School starts for all children (including F2 (unless agreed staggered start) and existing F1 children)
Wednesday 4th September	Welcome to Highwood coffee morning for new F2 parents (and new parents in other year groups) 8.45am to 10am
Thursday 12th September	Meet The Teacher - 6pm to 7.30pm
Thursday 12th September	Year 6 Meet the Teacher and Residential introduction meeting - 6pm to 7.30pm
Friday 20th September	Parent coffee morning in Family Centre - 8.45am to 10am
Friday 4th October	SEN support coffee morning in Family Centre - 8.45am to 10am
Monday 14th October	Year 2 SPLAT - 1.30pm to 3pm
Tuesday 15th October	Year 1 SPLAT - 1.30pm to 3pm
Wednesday 16th October	F1 SPLAT - 10.30 to 11.30am or 2pm to 3pm
Thursday 17th October	F2 SPLAT - 1.30pm to 3pm
Friday 18th October	Parent coffee morning in Family Centre
Tuesday 22nd Oct - Tuesday 5th Nov	Travelling Book Fair in school
Wednesday 23rd October	Parents' Meetings (evening) - 5pm to 8pm
Thursday 24th October	Parents' Meetings (after school) - 3.30pm to 6pm
Monday 28th Oct - Friday 1st Nov	Half Term
Monday 4th November	Inset day - school closed for staff training
Wednesday 6th November	Year 6 SPLAT - 1.30pm to 3pm
Thursday 7th November	School Photographer - individual photos
Friday 8th November	Non-uniform day for secret gift room donations for Winter Fair
Monday 11th November	Year 5 SPLAT - 1.30pm to 3pm
Tuesday 12th November	Year 4 SPLAT 1.30pm to 3pm & Odd socks day for anti-bullying week
Thursday 14th November	Year 3 SPLAT - 1.30pm to 3pm
Friday 15th November	Children in Need Day (wear spots or merchandise)
Tuesday 19th November	Prospective new parent tours - 9.30am, 1.30pm & 6pm
Thursday 21st November	Prospective new parent tours - 9.30am, 1.30pm & 6pm
Friday 6th December	Non-uniform day for chocolate and bottle donations for Winter Fair
Saturday 7th December	FOH Winter Fair - 11am - 2pm
Wednesday 11th December	KS1 and KS2 Christmas Party Day (with Caterlink Christmas Lunch)
Tuesday 17th December	FS Nativity (morning) - 9.30am to 10am
Tuesday 17th December	KS1 Nativity (morning) - 10.15am to 11am
Wednesday 18th December	FS Nativity (afternoon) 1.45pm to 2.15pm
Wednesday 18th December	KS1 Nativity (afternoon) - 2.15pm to 3pm
Thursday 19th December	FS Nativity (morning) 9.30am to 10am
Thursday 19th December	KS1 Nativity (morning) - 10.15am to 11pm
Thursday 19th December	Parent Book Look in classrooms - 3.15pm to 3.45pm
Friday 20th December	Last day of term - school finishes at 1.30pm