

# Newsletter

## Highwood Primary School Issue no.66

October 2024

'Where Individuals Matter'



Dear Parents/Carers,



### **Academy Update:**

In the October Newsletter last year, I shared with you an update in relation to the progress we had made with our academy conversion to become members of the Orchard Learning Alliance (OLA). In the 12 months that have followed, we have been working under a Trust Partnership Agreement (TPA) which means we have been able to access all the school improvement and collaborative support without actually being formally converted to an OLA academy school.

Southlake / Hawkedon and Churchend have all now successfully converted, however the process for schools in the next phase had to be put on hold when the general election was called. Tom Bartlett (OLA CEO) has now had confirmation that the next phase can continue and we are eagerly waiting confirmation of a date for our conversion to take place.

I will keep you updated with any timelines, once they have been confirmed.



### **Climate Change:**

One of the collaborative pieces of work that all schools involved with the OLA are partaking in is a project linked to The Importance of Taking Climate Action. Last week, I attended the OLA Climate Conference, where we had the Climate Ambassador South-East Hub Manager and Wokingham Borough Council's Project Manager and Climate Emergency Engagement Officer as guest speakers.

We talked through the importance of including this generation of children in the process, so that we can enable and empower young people in our school and Trust wide strategy. As a school, we plan to have a Climate Action Plan in place by 2025 with a target of achieving net zero by 2030 and we will be using the Schools Green Flag Award as a framework to ensure success.

There will be many strands that contribute to this work, including working with our school community to help us achieve our goal. If this is an area that you are particularly interested in and could help offer support in formulating our Climate Action Plan, then please get in touch. Having our parent body involved from the outset will be a key factor in ensuring our success.

Thank you for your support.

Matt Hickey

Head Teacher





# Governing Body News

Dear Parent and Carers

## What do we do?

The Highwood Governing body is a dedicated group of volunteers (parents and co-opted members) who committed to making Highwood a great school for pupils, staff, parents & carers, staff and the local community.

A school governing board has three primary duties:

1. To set the vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school.
2. To hold the head teacher to account for the educational performance of the school.
3. To oversee the financial performance and ensure that money is well spent.

One of our key priorities is to ensure that the school is a safe and secure environment for all. We work closely with the headteacher and staff to develop and implement policies and procedures to promote good behaviour and prevent bullying. We also ensure that the school has adequate security measures in place to protect the safety of everyone on site.

We encourage all parents and carers to actively support the school and model exemplary behaviour as responsible global citizens. By setting a positive example, you help instil important values in your children. Please be mindful of the school's behaviour guidelines to ensure a positive environment for everyone.

## Orchard Learning Alliance

We are excited to inform you that our school will be transitioning to the OLA within this academic year. We will keep you updated with more details as the process progresses and appreciate your continued support during this transition.

## Governor Vacancies

We have some Governor slots available (1 x Parent, 1 x Co-opted). A letter will be sent regarding a parent election. We're updating our section of the [website](#), but feel free to visit and find out more information.

Enjoy the half term break!



# Foundation 1 News

## Mrs Atkinson

Mrs Vanka, Mrs Cooper, Miss Craker and Mrs Poulton

Welcome to our first Foundation 1 News this year. We have had a very busy start to the Autumn Term in F1. All the children have settled incredibly well and have begun making friends. We have begun exploring our termly topic **'What makes us special?'**

We started off this half term by learning all about each other and discovering how we are all different and unique. The children painted their own self-portraits, looking at their features in a mirror and were encouraged to speak about their families. We have been learning about our bodies and the different parts of it and learnt a new verse of Head Shoulders Knees and Toes.



We have been developing our self-confidence and communication skills by telling our friends about our families and interests through our All About Me boxes. We've talked about what makes us the same as our friends and what makes us different.



When continuing to explore our senses, the children learnt about using their senses in the Autumn time. We explored lots of Autumn objects such as pine cones, conkers and acorns. We've begun learning about our sense of sight and had fun making binoculars, looking in mirrors and trying on glasses in the opticians.



We've also been learning about the different jobs people do as we've been getting better at helping each other with jobs in school. We know we can ask any grown-up in school for help and have loved our ice cream parlour and opticians roleplay.

Throughout this half of term all the children having been trying very hard to develop their independence and do things for themselves. This includes washing and drying their own hands, putting on their own coats, feeding themselves at lunch time and taking off and putting on their own shoes.



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

**Don't forget to look on Seesaw to see what we are up to each week!**

**Follow us on X (formerly known as Twitter) @HighwoodPrimF1**



# Foundation 2 News

## Mrs Parker, Miss Grainger and Miss Hargreaves

Welcome to our first F2 Newsletter! We have had a very busy first half of the term, ensuring that all our children settle into their new classrooms. We have also had some new F2 children start with us, so we have been very busy making new friends!



Our Topic this term is **Could dinosaurs live in Woodley?** We were all excited to go outside and discover some large claw marks in the outside area. The children came up with lots of theories, including that a giant T-rex had visited!



We received a very interesting letter from the institute of dinosaurs who gave us a dinosaur egg to care for. This sparked huge interest among the children which prompted them to make nests and search for food for the new born dinosaur. They are very disappointed that we cannot keep it!



We have started using our new scheme: Little Wandle letters and sounds. They have been very creative, practising their letters in sand, salt, with chalk and even with tooth brushes! Thank you for continuing to read at home with them to promote this learning.



In maths we have been learning to match, sort and compare different objects. We enjoyed exploring different sorting techniques and creating our own sorting rules. We have also been exploring patterns, recognising them in the environment and making our own.



This term the children began their PE sessions with Mr Edwards. They have been perfecting ball skills. Now that the weather is getting colder, please ensure your child has a **black tracksuit top, trousers and trainers** in their PE kit. Thank you.

Thank you to all the parents that have supported us and we look forward to another busy but enjoyable half-term in Foundation 2!

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# Year 1 News

Miss Bolger, Miss Ahmed and Mrs Garner

Miss Briggs, Miss Mubashar, Mrs Wheeler, Miss Anderson

What a fantastic start to Year 1 we have had. We have seen the children grow so much in confidence and independence over the past few weeks and they have settled into the new routines of Year 1 really well.

## Where In The World Am I?

### Science

As part of our Key Question, in Science, we have been finding out about the body. We can name different parts of the body and some organs.

We have done lots of activities to explore using our senses like a sound walk and trying to work out the flavour of crisps without tasting them!

We have also been learning about nocturnal and diurnal animals and why they might sleep at night. We focused on the animals that the children might see in Woodley.



### Maths

In Maths we have been busy working on our place value of numbers and representing them in different ways.

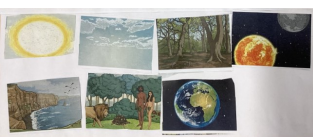
We have done lots of practical activities when ordering numbers too. We

have been practicing making and using part-whole models too.



### English

This term our story focus has been 'We're going on a bear hunt'. We loved reading the story and creating a story maps and retelling the story ourselves using story sack props. We have been so impressed with the stories that the children have written themselves based on The Bear Hunt. They chose their own animals and setting for their story. There was so much creativity in describing different places they might visit and a



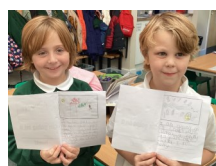
### RE

We have been learning about the Christian story of Creation and thinking about why God wants Christians to look after our world. We also celebrated our own creativity.



### Art

We have been learning about the art of Henri Matisse and have been practicing techniques with paper such as folding, tearing and scrunching to create a collage.



wide range of adjectives were showcased to describe their animal. The children are publishing their books to be able to share with each other.

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## Year 2 News

Miss Hughes, Miss Anderson,

Mrs Moore, Miss Briggs

Wow! We have made a fantastic start to Year 2! The children have loved learning about The Great Fire of London and are still keen for more. We have used this historical event to inspire our writing as well as many other areas of the curriculum.

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

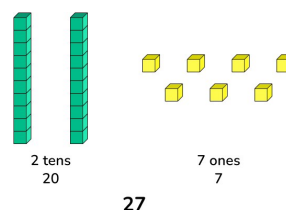
#### English

Everyone has thoroughly enjoyed reading and writing about the fire and it really shows in our writing. We have been doing lots of handwriting practice and trying to make sure we use our best handwriting in our writing. We have been writing lots of descriptions and challenging ourselves to use a wide range of adjectives in our expanded noun phrases.



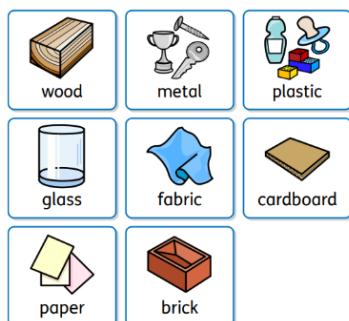
#### Maths

Our understanding of place value and our mental maths skills have helped us greatly when learning about larger numbers and calculation this half term. We can now count in multiples of 10s and have started to learn the 10 times table. Not only that, we have persevered to solve a variety of addition and subtraction problems.



#### Science

In Science we have looked at everyday materials. We can now sort objects by materials and are able to identify their properties.



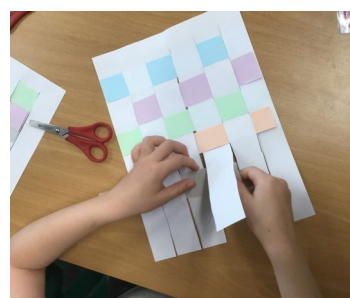
#### Art

We have thoroughly enjoyed learning how to weave this term. We have studied different weaving techniques and looked at which materials would be best for weaving. The finished paper and ribbon weaving that we created has made us very proud of what we can do!

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@HighwoodPrim2A

@HighwoodPrim2H





# Year 3 News

Miss Rumbold, Mrs Welsh and Mrs Hartgrove

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

### Reading and Writing

We have really enjoyed rewriting the ending of 'Stone Age Boy' in English. The children have loved creating their own stone age characters and animals. We are working hard on including powerful verbs and adverbs, fronted adverbials and expanded noun phrases. We have also enjoyed further understanding the Stone Age through Whole Class Reading where we read a range of non-fiction texts and developed many reading skills.

### Maths

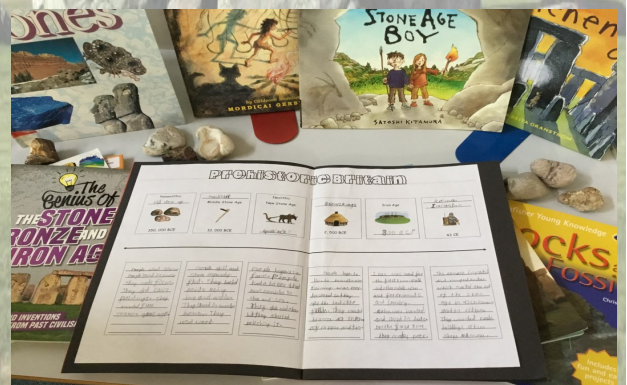
We have really focused on place value this term and are confident working with 3-digit numbers. We've started looking at adding and subtracting and in mental maths have had a real focus on our 2 and 10 times table.

### Science

Our science has also linked with our big question and the Stone Age. We can now sort rocks and soils into groups based on their properties and have tested their strength using different experiments. We've also learnt about how fossils are formed.

### Topic

So, what did prehistoric people yabba dabba do? We have begun to answer this question by looking individually at the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age and identifying the changes that have happened between these times. The children have also started to look at prehistoric settlements in Britain and had a go at predicting what these places could have been. We discovered a hillfort and a Neolithic village. In Art we've been looking at cave paintings and experimenting with charcoal and sketching pencils.



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@HighwoodPrim3WH



# Year 4 News

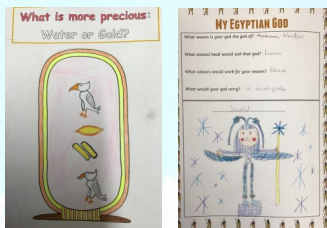
Mrs Partridge, Mr Williams,  
Mrs Nice and Mrs Hillier

Welcome to the first edition of the Year 4 news! We are working hard, especially on our expectations around behaviour, with lots of exciting opportunities and lots of new learning going on. Please read on to find out more!

## What is More Precious: Water or Gold?

Year 4 have been busy investigating the Ancient Egyptians and how their wealth and the river Nile were important to their success.

We have learned all about the Ancient Egyptian Gods and why they were important. Year 4 even had a go at creating their own Ancient Egyptian god and writing their name in hieroglyphics!



## Maths

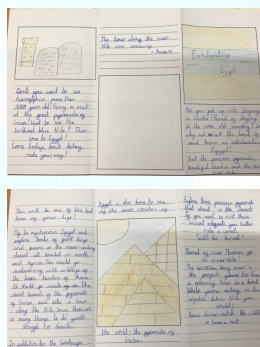
In maths this term the children explored and concreted their understanding of numbers and place value. We have been using our place value skills to partition numbers in standard and non-standard ways. They also learned how to round numbers to the nearest 10, 100 and 1000. We have also begun to use the written column addition and subtraction method to help solve problems.

Our times table knowledge is coming along well, but any extra practise that could be done at home would really benefit your children.

## English

In our writing, we have learned how to write non-chronological reports and persuasive brochures.

Year 4 researched lots of interesting facts about River Nile Critters and then used their writing skills to engage the reader.

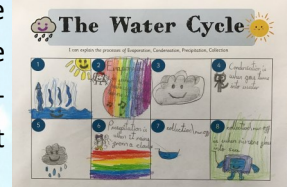


In persuasive writing, the children learned how to use imperative verbs and boastful language to make Egypt sound like the most exciting trip you could go on.

Year 4 have been reading 'Secrets of a Sun King' and the class seem to be thoroughly enjoying it. We have been exploring exciting new vocabulary and summarising the sections by deciding on the key events so far.

## Science

In Science, we have been looking at states of matter, with a really exciting experiment where we investigated melting points. This has really supported our learning in Geography where we have spent time learning about the water cycle. Playing Solids, Liquids, Gases was a real highlight for many people in 4P!



## Geography

In Geography we have explored the River Nile and its importance to the Ancient Egyptians. We then learnt the features of a river and how it travels from the source into mouth of seas and lakes.

We hope you all have a fantastic half term break!

*The year 4 team*

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@HighwoodPrim4P @HighwoodPrim4W



# Year 5 News

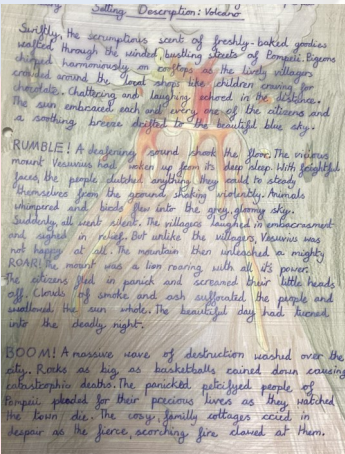
Mrs Downes, Mrs Hind, Mrs Lakshmanan  
and Mrs Kamath

## Has our Earth finished evolving?

Welcome to the first edition of the Year 5 news! I am pleased to say that we've had a fantastic start to the school year, with lots of exciting opportunities and lots of new learning

### English

We've spent a lot of time this term writing about volcanoes! As a stimulus, we used 'Escape from Pompeii' to write some brilliant setting descriptions, using a range of descriptive vocabulary and painted some very vivid pictures for the reader of a volcano exploding!



In guided reading we have been reading 'Holes', which we've been thoroughly enjoying, before using what we've read to rewrite one of the Holes Chapters! We have

focused on narrative structure and including speech punctuation via an argument between the boys and Mr Sir.

### Maths

This half term we have focused on place value of numbers up to a million, as well as decimals. Through this journey we have looked at place values of digits, rounding and counting in powers of 10, before finally moving onto addition and subtraction at the end of the term. We've also done lots of problem solving and reasoning around the unit too.

### Science

Our Science topic this term has been all about properties of materials. To begin with,

we learnt the scientific language to group different materials and then did a series of experiments, including how to separate materials and looking at what might be soluble or insoluble!

### Key Question lessons

Finally, all our topic lessons this term have been around our key question: Has our Earth finished evolving. Highlights have included: learning about the Ring of Fire, using biscuits to learn about tectonic plates and creating our own PowerPoint Volcano reports. Homework has also been of a particularly high standard, with some excellent working models of volcanoes.



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

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**@HighwoodPrim5D**

**@HighwoodPrim5H**



# Year 6 News

Teachers: Mr Robinson, Miss Bicheno

Mrs Panahpoori, Mr Edwards and Ms Yu

Welcome to the first newsletter for Year 6. Although we have only been back in school a matter of weeks, we have already achieved a lot. Our topic this term is, '**Does Change Always Lead to Progress?**', and we have been thinking about this through English, History and Geography.

## English

This half-term, we started by immersing ourselves in poetry. The children had a great time writing their own version of 'The Jabberwocky'.

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



In writing, we have also studied Mary Anning and written a biography about her, which linked nicely to our science topic.

## Maths

So far in maths, we have been securing our understanding of place value. We have been learning how to read, write and compare large numbers (up to 10,000,000). We have been investigating negative numbers and rounding. Then we moved on to understanding the core skills of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

## Science

In Science, we have thought about evolution and inheritance. This has including understanding terms such as adaptation, evolution, natural selection and inheritance. Charles Darwin has been key to understanding this.

## History

We have been studying the Industrial Revolution and the changes that occurred between 1750 and 1900. So far we have concentrated on looking at population growth, urbanisation and technological changes. We have found out about the lives of children and the jobs that they were sometimes asked to do.

## Reading Museum Trip

We enhanced our knowledge of the industrial revolution by attending Reading Museum to learn more about Huntley & Palmer and Victorian Schools. The latter was thoroughly enjoyed by all and gave a good insight into life in Victorian Britain.



## PE

In PE we have been improving our understanding of SEND sports, alongside learning the basics of tag rugby (when it hasn't been raining)!

## Swimming

This term 6B have been swimming at Reading Blue Coat School where they have been learning water confidence and how to swim using the correct techniques. Whatever their ability, the progress over a short period of time has been great to see. Soon, 6R will get the chance to improve and impress.

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**@HighwoodPrim6R**

**@HighwoodPrim6B**



# The Grove

## Speech and Language Resource News

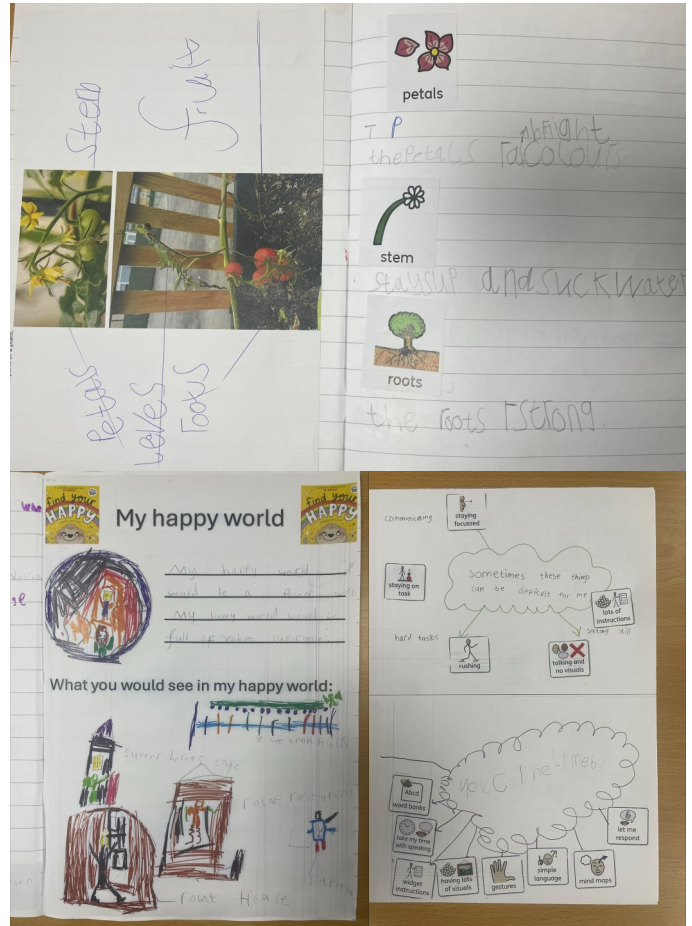
Miss Barrett, Mrs Payne, Mrs Gale, Mrs Harris and Mrs Neilson

### Literacy: Tomato plants, All About Me booklets and My Happy World

This term we have had a jam packed start to the year! We started off by looking at our own home grown tomatoes and investigating the different functions of the plant. There were mixed reviews about the tomatoes when we taste tested them!

After we created a booklet 'All About Me'. The children were able to assess themselves and decide their needs and how they need help this year. It was so lovely to watch the children understand who they are and how best they learn.

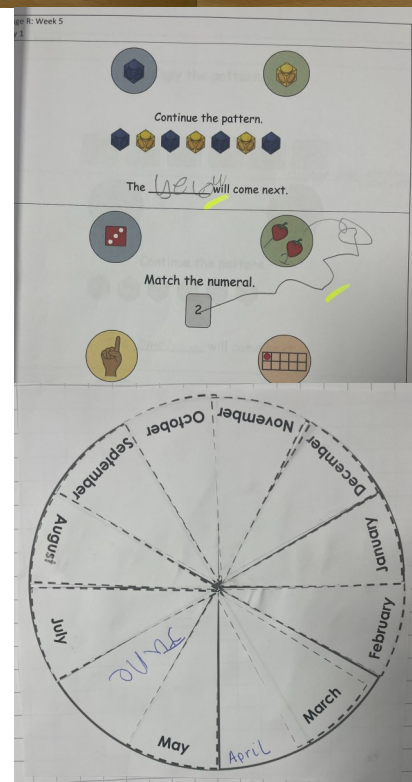
Finally, we started our main topic based on a book called 'Find Your Happy'. The children have started identifying what their happy looks like and what would be in their world if they could be happy all of the time. We have investigated expanded noun phrases, alliteration and similes. I cannot wait to see what they produce!



### Maths: Time and Measuring

This term we have all started to access our Flash-Back4s which has been fantastic! All children have independently attempting previous learning by themselves, finding resources they need to complete them and asking for help once they have attempted. The independence has been brilliant!

We all started the term off all together learning tricky vocabulary related to time, days of the week and months of the year. Some of us have started telling the time up to 5 minutes past and to the hour. Some of us have also started exploring measuring and trying to remember mm, cm and m. along with converting between the three.



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# PE/Sports News

## Mr Edwards

**Welcome** to the first half term “PE & Sports News Page” of academic year 2024/25.

### **PE Lessons:**

This half term the children have been learning skills such as “control, pass & receive, target, catching, throwing, reaction, speed & agility. This has all been carried out utilising many different types of balls. There has been some fantastic results with children improving their basic skills. The KS2 children have had both “Invasion games” and Disability games. KS1 have had an amazing time working on their ball skills whilst taking on the roles of Prehistoric animals, fire, rats and the fireman linking in their Autumn topics.

Miss Anderson’s class have also had an extra session taking part in Dance with Miss Coleman. I hear we have several “movers” in that class. Next half term it is Miss Hughes’ class that will have the dance session.

Swimming lessons have resumed this half term with 6B. They have been making so much progress, especially our beginner or non swimmers. In only a few weeks, some have progressed from walking across the pool to swimming 25m unaided! This shows great confidence in themselves and their ability. Each class is getting 4 weeks of lessons before the Christmas holidays. I would like to encourage our parents to take their children swimming. It is great fun for all of the family plus aiding with our overall health and fitness.

### **After School Clubs:**

#### **Tuesdays:**

KS2 Girls Football with Mr Edwards

#### **Wednesdays:**

Yr 4-6 Netball with Mr Edwards

Year 5/6 Boys Football with Mr Hutchings

#### **Thursdays:**

Yr 3/4 Winter Sports with Mr Edwards.

### **Autumn Half Term Matches &**

#### **Tournaments:**

This half term we have again entered football teams into WPSFA (Wokingham Primary Schools Football Association) leagues. We played our first 3 out of 4 games by the beginning of October which was fabulous as it avoided most of the bad weather and the fading light. Very competitive, close games where the wins narrowly avoided us. We are awaiting response of the last team in our league to be played before Christmas. We have also entered the Wokingham Schools Netball League where the girls play 12 matches over the course of 3 Fridays in a row. This has been excellent and at the time of print we will have completed all of our games. We are poised in a strong position to go through to the finals in November winning many of our games.





# PE/Sports News 2

## Mr Edwards

### Next Half Term PE Lessons:-

Netball & Hockey

**PE Kit required:-Winter Gear.** Shorts, Highwood PE T-Shirt, Black Plain Tracksuit, sturdy trainers not plimsolls. **No Earrings!**

**Please ensure your child has plain track-suits, both long trousers and long sleeved top as it is too cold for them this time of year to be dressed in shorts and t-shirt! Unless it is heavy rain or deep snow they will still do PE outdoors. Too many children are expecting to do PE without long sleeves and trousers.**

### Achievements outside of school:

Please feel free to send in pictures of your children enjoying taking part in activities outside of school or achievements in their clubs in their own time.

This half term we have Jacob from Year 5 who has been awarded "Coaches Player of the year" for Sonning Cricket Club U9's. Huge congratulations for this great achievement.



And also Congratulations to Thea in Year 4 for attending her first national Karate competition this term and achieving 3rd place with a bronze medal for her individual Kata.

### Mr Edwards Message For The Half Term.

It seems from chatting to many children this term that there is an increase in the amount of children taking part in activities and clubs out of school. This is so pleasing. Please feel free to contact me with fixtures as I love to come and watch the children play their matches. Already this year I have attended Woodley Netball Club and many Woodley Football Team games.

It just remains for me to wish you all a great half term break. Stay safe but stay active! Mr Edwards.

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**@HighwoodPrimPE**





# 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!

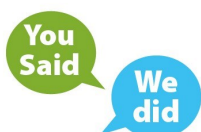
**It's been a busy first half of the Autumn term in the family centre. We have held:**

- **3 coffee mornings**, open to all parents and carers including one on the first day of term for new starters. 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.
- **1 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 two specialist teachers from the Leading Support Service who spoke about how parents can help with their children's working memory. 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.
- **2 Parent Gym sessions** where our wonderful first cohort of parent gym parents at Highwood explored and discussed how to get your child talking and listening in a positive way every day and how to boost your child's confidence with the right balance between closeness and independence. We are looking forward to our next four sessions.
- **And lots of** individual meetings with parents and carers, brain storming and trouble shooting issues of concern for them and their children.

**You said:** workshops on supporting toilet training and early communication development would be useful.

**We did:** Save the date for toileting workshop on 13 November.

**Date for communication workshop to follow!**



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](mailto:FSW@highwood.wokingham.sch.uk)



Follow me on X (formerly known as Twitter)  
[@FSWHighwood](https://twitter.com/FSWHighwood)





# SENCO

Dear Families,

It has been a long Autumn half term and as we finally get to the half term holidays, it is great to reflect and review; how the pupils have settled into their new classes, how they have progressed and how they have developed and grown. We are fortunate to have strong local SEND support services locally who provide a range of courses and events for families. We signpost to specific upcoming events in the weekly bulletin and information can also be found on their webpages (links below). We also had our first SEND coffee morning of the year, with Wokingham Learning Support Service attending, sharing information about how parents and carers can support children with their working memories.

I hope you all have an enjoyable half term break happy Divali and have a great Halloween to all 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.

## **Supporting SEND at Halloween**

[Sensory-Friendly Scares: An Inclusive Halloween For All | MFON](#)

[Four ways to celebrate Halloween with disabled children - Sense](#)

[Tips for an autism-friendly Halloween](#)

[Halloween half term tips from WAY | Winston's Wish](#)



## **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 \(the vestibular system\) - YouTube](#)

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





# SENCO 2

## **Local SEND Support**

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

[Homepage \(sendiasswokingham.org.uk\)](http://sendiasswokingham.org.uk) free, confidential, impartial advice, guidance and support for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

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

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

[Home | Camp Mohawk](#) a multi-functional day centre for children with special needs and their families, set in 5 acres of beautiful countryside, just outside Wargrave, Berkshire.

## **Family and adult Support**

[Wokingham Borough Council family support](#)

[Young Sibs](#) for siblings

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



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

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

## **Mental Health**

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

## **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**

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

[Right to Choose - ADHD UK](#)

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

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

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

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

[Autism Berkshire Reading - Autism Berkshire](#)

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

## **Fine Motor Skills**

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





# Attendance Matters

We have had a good term so far and it's great to see so many happy children enjoying being back at school. Thank you to all our parents/carers who have made this happen. You are supporting your child in making sure they don't miss out on important learning.

I also understand that it can be a challenge to ensure your child is in school on time everyday ready to learn. I am hoping my top tips below might help.

Our Attendance Officer, Lisa Hall and Family Support Worker, Lucy Morris are always here to help by offering support and advice.

- Tackle attendance issues early
- School and your child's future success starts with good attendance
- Its good to talk. We can help to achieve this.



## TOP TIPS

For getting to school on time  
[and not forgetting stuff]

- Pack lunches and school bags the night before
- Place school bags and items needed for the school day near the front door ready to go in the morning
- Bring PE kits to school on a Monday
- Lay out clothing and shoes the night before
- Choose a bedtime routine and try and stick with it
- Set the alarm 10 minutes earlier (traffic is not always kind in the surrounding area)

**These small changes can help everyone to be ready to leave home in good time, arrive at school punctually and be ready for the day ahead. Thank you.**





# Friends of Highwood

Save  
the  
Date

7th

Dec

2024



## Friends of Highwood Winter Fayre

Saturday 7th December

11am - 2pm

Please put this date in your diaries so that you can come along and enjoy the fayre!

We will also be asking for volunteers for this as a later date.

FOH are having difficulties getting raffles prizes for our Winter Fayre. If you, or your employer, may be able to donate,

please email [chairfoh@highwood.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:chairfoh@highwood.wokingham.sch.uk). Thank you.

Things we are looking for include (but are not exclusive to):

- Products from shops
- Hampers from shops
- Vouchers
- Tickets





# Friends of Highwood 2



## NON-UNIFORM DAY

*Friday 8th November*

Non-uniform day in exchange for donations for Elfridges

Suitable donations for MEN and WOMEN could be:

Unwanted and unopened gifts

Candles

Picture frames

Stationary

Mugs

Jewellery

Gadgets

Accessories eg socks, gloves, purses etc

Anything that an adult would be happy to receive as a surprise gift from their child!



**Facebook:** Friends of Highwood

**Instagram:** @friends\_of\_highwood\_primary

**Follow us on X (formerly known as Twitter) :** @HighwoodFOH



# 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 **£4.95** 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 to **£2.65 per day** . 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 be advised 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.



## EARRINGS

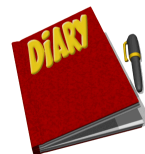
Please note that our school policy is for earrings to be removed for PE, for the health and safety of the children.

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



<b>Monday 28 October - Friday 1 November</b>	<b>Half Term</b>
<b>Monday 4 November</b>	<b>Inset day - school closed for staff training</b>
<a href="#">Wednesday 6 November</a>	<a href="#">Year 6 SPLAT - 1.30pm to 3pm</a>
Thursday 7 November	School Photographer - individual photos
Friday 8 November	Non-uniform day for gift room donations for Winter Fair
<a href="#">Monday 11 November</a>	<a href="#">Year 5 SPLAT - 1.30pm to 3pm</a>
<a href="#">Tuesday 12 November</a>	<a href="#">Year 4 SPLAT 1.30pm to 3pm</a>
Tuesday 12 November	Odd socks day for anti-bullying week
<a href="#">Thursday 14 November</a>	<a href="#">Year 3 SPLAT - 1.30pm to 3pm</a>
Friday 15 November	Children in Need Day (wear spots or merchandise)
Tuesday 19 November	Prospective new parent tours - 9.30am, 1.30pm & 6pm
Thursday 21 November	Prospective new parent tours - 9.30am, 1.30pm & 6pm
Wednesday 27 November	FOH Disco
Friday 6 December	Non-uniform day for chocolate and bottle donations for the Winter Fair
Saturday 7 December	FOH Winter Fair - 11am - 2pm
Wednesday 11 December	Christmas Lunch & Christmas Jumper Day
Tuesday 17 December	<b>FS Nativity (morning) - 9.30am to 10am</b>
Tuesday 17 December	<b>KS1 Nativity (morning) - 10.15am to 11am</b>
Wednesday 18 December	<b>FS Nativity (afternoon) 1.45pm to 2.15pm</b>
Wednesday 18 December	<b>KS1 Nativity (afternoon) - 2.15pm to 3pm</b>
Thursday 19 December	<b>FS Nativity (morning) 9.30am to 10am</b>
Thursday 19 December	<b>KS1 Nativity (morning) - 10.15am to 11am</b>
Thursday 19 December	Parent Book Look in classrooms - 3.15pm to 3.45pm
<b>Friday 20 December</b>	<b>Last day of term - school finishes at 1.30pm</b>
<b>Monday 23 December— Friday 3 January 2025</b>	<b>Christmas Holidays</b>
<b>Monday 6 January 2025</b>	<b>Inset Day - School closed for staff training</b>
Tuesday 7 January	School starts for all children
<b>Friday 14 February</b>	<b>Inset Day - School closed for staff training</b>
<b>Monday 17 — Friday 21 February</b>	<b>Half Term</b>
Monday 24 February	School starts for all children