



Newsletter

Highwood Primary School Issue no.69

April 2025

'Where Individuals Matter'

Dear Parents/Carers,

Academisation Update:



Hopefully you will have read in our recent communication to parents that by the time you are reading this term's newsletter, Highwood will officially be an academy and a fully fledged member of the Orchard Learning Alliance!! It has been over two years since our academy order had been granted, so it is good to for it to finally be completed.

From a child and parent perspective, not much will noticeably change - this is exactly how we wanted it to be - but some systems and process behind the scenes will be different. For school staff, the changes will also be minimal as we have been operating under a Trust Partnership Agreement for the last two years. This means that all the school improvement support and challenge processes are already in place and there are a number of collaborative opportunities that we are already actively involved with.

We are also seeing some of the additional benefits that working within a Trust can bring due to some of our school systems subscriptions being discounted. As a few examples: Arbor (our management system), INSIGHT (our assessment system) and CPOMS (our safeguarding monitoring system) will all be cheaper due to all OLA schools use the same software and therefore the economies of scale working in our favour. Opportunities like this will be extremely vital as school budgets continue to be a significant challenge in the current financial times.

Staffing Updates:

Mrs. Atkinson, our Nursery teacher, moves on to a teaching role at a school in Bracknell Forest. We wish her well and thank her for her contributions to Highwood. Mrs. Alleyne will be taking on the Lead Practitioner role for the Summer Term.

Have a great Easter break! Thank you for your support.

Matt Hickey
Headteacher



Governing Body News

Dear Parent and Carers

Update from Governors' Day

The governors visited Highwood on Wednesday 19 March, where we observed lessons, talked to staff and pupils, so we could observe items linked to the school improvement plan and part of our responsibilities. Staff and children were very welcoming, and we were all very impressed with the hard work and enthusiasm of the staff. We observed lessons across all year groups and were encouraged to interact with the students. It was exciting and informative to gather feedback from all parties to see the progress the school is striving to make.

Highlights & Governor Quotes:

"1st chance to see a normal running day within the school and introduce myself as a Governor."

Buenos dias F1! I had fun starting the morning with Spanish and wake-up shake up.

"... one of the key strengths are the staff. Children were very engaged, and I definitely observed some very engaging teachers."

Our school librarian, Mrs Yule, showed us around Highwood's library with its immersive environment and choice of numerous books and we can see why the children enjoy being there.

"Real evidence of initiatives around English, for example, with colourful semantics, and scaffolding. These were in evident throughout the year groups within the books we looked at. Senior staff appear to have a clear grasp in terms of the direction in which the school needs to go."

Meeting with the school council was a great experience. Each year group was represented, and we discussed everything from rave reviews about the school library to insights about the playground.

The continued hard work of whole school team does not go unnoticed, so **many thanks and appreciation to the Highwood team for all their work and dedication**. They work extraordinarily hard to ensure the children are supported and taught a high quality, broad and balanced curriculum in an environment where pupils' well-being and personal development remain of paramount importance.

Governors are recruiting!

Hello to a new governor, Alison Penny, who brings her education background to our team.

Goodbye and thank you to Jainishta Ravindran, who has served as a governor for the last 3 years.

We have some Governor slots available and will send more details in the Summer term. We're updating our section of the [website](#), but feel free to visit and find out more information.

Parent Survey

To round up our Governor Day report, we have a parent survey so we can gather parent's views to discuss in our forthcoming meetings. **Survey closes on Friday 25 April.**



Survey Link & QR code below: <https://forms.office.com/e/6Df31V8DRE>

See you in the Summer Term!

Highwood Governors



Foundation 1 News

Mrs Atkinson

Mrs Alleyne, Mrs Vanka, Mrs Bailey, Mrs Cooper, Miss Teader and Mrs Poulton

Welcome to our Foundation 1 News. We have had a jam-packed second half of the Spring Term in F1. We have continued to explore our topic which is 'What changes?' and crammed in our second school trip to Woodley library too! We enjoyed the walk and were really well behaved while we listened to the stories. We did some super Tiger Who Came To Tea colouring too.



We started off this half term learning about the changes in our bodies as we grow up and had visits from two babies and a toddler.

Then we learnt all about the life cycle of a butterfly, turning from a caterpillar to a butterfly, learnt a new rhyme "There's a tiny caterpillar on a leaf." and retold the story of 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar.' We made a healthy caterpillar salad and ate it for snack. We learnt about the life cycle of flowers and planted sunflower seeds and runner beans. We planted the beans in clear pots so we could see the roots and leaves grow.



We've done lots of cooking this term too—with Pancake Day and Red Nose Day and as part of our Personal Social and Emotional Development, we've been thinking about how to stay healthy. We made healthy teddy bear rice cake snacks.



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



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

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

Remember to look on Seesaw for regular updates on our learning.

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



Foundation 2 News

Mrs Parker and Miss Grainger

Miss Webb, Mrs Newham, Mrs Vanka

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

One of our many highlights was **World book day** - where we focused on 'The Smeds and the Smoos' by **Julia Donaldson**. We had great fun bringing the story to life through lots of activities. The children enjoyed this day dressed as their favourite words!



In maths we have focused on numbers to 10, making comparisons, building numbers and exploring number bonds to 10. We have been looking at 3D shapes and their properties too. Its been fun to see which 3D shapes stack, roll and slide! The children are now excited to look at 'teen numbers' in the summer term.

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

We thoroughly enjoyed our Class Assembly days this term, it was great having parents in so that we can showcase our acting and knowledge about Space.! We hope that you enjoyed your child's performance.



We celebrated so many fun days too including Pancake Day!

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



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

Enjoy the holidays.

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@HighwoodPrimF2P

@HighwoodPrimF2H



Year 1 News

Miss Bolger, Miss Ahmed, Mrs Garner

Mrs Wheeler, Mrs Swamiraj, Miss Mubashar

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

Science



In Science we have been testing materials to find out their properties. We have learnt about why certain materials are suitable for certain toys. We designed our own toys and thought about

which materials would be best. We then made a model of it.



English

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

Earlier in the term we learnt how to write clear and easy to use instructions. We designed our own lego mini figure and wrote some instructions on how to make it



Maths

We have developed lots of different skills in Maths this term. We started off with expanding our place value knowledge to numbers to 50. We have used numicon, bead strings, cubes, counters and number lines to help represent our numbers. We have been counting in 1s and 10s in different ways too. We have also been working on measuring length and height and we were really good at it! We have created height charts and learnt how to use rulers to find the longest and shortest objects. We have really enjoyed learning about mass and capacity too, especially using the bucket balances!



DT

In DT we have enjoyed learning about building using LEGO and how to construct different features of a house. We planned out models and followed our plans to make them. We have learnt that sometimes you have to adapt your plan and make changes as you go.

We have reflected on our models and evaluated how well they worked.



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@HighwoodPrim1G



Year 2 News

Miss Anderson, Mr Gauld

Miss White, Mrs Moore, Mrs Aswal

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

Where in the world would we like to explore?



English

Year 2 have been hard at work researching their favourite animals and creating informative non-fiction fact files. Each fact file includes details about the animal's appearance, diet, habitat, and some fun facts. We are thrilled to announce that we will be sending these amazing fact files to Sir David Attenborough!



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@HighwoodPrim2H

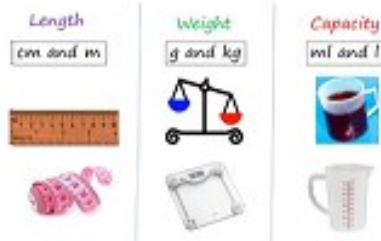
Science

In science, we've been exploring habitats and understanding what they need to contain for animals to survive. We had a great time creating our own shoebox dioramas to illustrate these concepts!



Maths

Year 2 have had a fantastic time learning all about measurement! They've been exploring how to measure length, height, weight, capacity, and temperature.



We had a fantastic time celebrating Maths Day with some creative activities! One of the highlights was drawing portraits using only numbers and making robots only out of quadrilateral shapes!





Year 3 News

Miss Rumbold, Mrs Inwards and Mrs Hartgrove

Miss Mair, Mrs Mohammed and Mrs Strong

How has water shaped our World?

English

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



Whole Class Reading

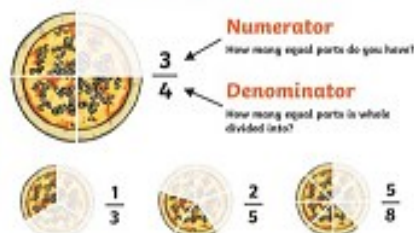
We have had a focus on fluency across the school and so in Year 3 we have spent the half term focused on improving our fluency speed. This is through listening to an adult read an extract, then practising reading in pairs and then performing. The children have become much more confident in reading at a fluent pace.



Maths

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

Numerator and Denominator



Topic

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

Follow us on X (formerly know as Twitter)

@HighwoodPrim3R

@HighwoodPrim3WH



Year 4 News

Mrs Partridge, Mr Williams

Mrs Nice, Miss Briggs and Mrs Hillier

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

What did the Romans do for us?

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

Maths

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

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

Writing

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



Have a lovely Easter break and we look forward to

continuing our learning in the new term.

From the Year 4 team

Science

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



Design and Technology and Art

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



Geography and History

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



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@HighwoodPrim4W



Year 5 News

Mrs Downes, Mrs Hind,

Mrs Lakshmanan, Mrs Rodroju and Mrs Kamath

Is Invasion Ever Justified?

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

English

This term we completed a full-length narrative of a Viking Saga based on our whole class reading book, 'Beowulf'. The children developed their descriptive writing skills and showed excellent use of adverbs and linking words for cohesion as they described their monster and the ensuing battle with their hero. We have also begun reading our next book, 'Letters from the Lighthouse', and will be writing letters as though writing home as evacuees during WW2.

Maths

Our focus areas in maths this term have been area, perimeter, statistics - and we have just begun to revisit fractions, although this time we will be multiplying fractions and converting to decimals and percentages. We all enjoyed celebrating 'World Maths Day' by playing a variety of online, board and playground activities; the children also used protractors to draw triangles to make bunting, which they decorated with maths problems.



Key Question Lessons

Our key question this term has been 'Is Invasion ever Justified? The children have learnt a lot about how this island endured wave after wave of invasions from Anglo-Saxons and then Vikings, and about where invaders settled and how the land was then ruled. The children wrote persuasive arguments 'for and against' invasion, summarising their learning. Each class also had a debate about who should succeed to the English throne after the death of Edward the Confessor and they prepared an



election campaign for their candidate. Following this, the children learnt about the Battle of Hastings and how William the Conqueror ultimately became king. We will wrap this topic up with a trip to Ufton Court and an action-packed Viking Day where we will be re-enacting the Battle of Reading.

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

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[@HighwoodPrim5D](#)

[@HighwoodPrim5H](#)



Year 6 News

Mr Robinson, Miss Bicheno

Mrs Panahpoori, Mr Edwards, Mrs Rajpal and Ms Yu

This term has been a busy one with lots of hard work but also lots of fun. We have continued to address our key question, 'How does war change people's lives?'

English

We have continued our enjoyment of 'When the Sky Falls' and have completely fallen in love with Adonis, the silverback gorilla. This fascination with animals has also extended into our writing where we have written non-chronological reports about Animal War Heroes.



Maths

In maths, we have continued to focus on arithmetic and how to apply this to reasoning problems. We have also learnt about fractions, decimals and percentages, understanding how to find equivalents and compare them. We have also recapped on area and perimeter when looking at shapes.

Art

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



History and Geography

The children have continued to show a real enthusiasm for learning about WWI. In history, we have learnt about the story of Anne Frank and how the war changed her life. In geography, we have concentrated on cities that were attacked during the Blitz.



PE

In PE, one of our main focuses this term has been tri-golf where children have been improving their putting and chipping skills, though the most fun was probably had trying to see who could hit the ball the furthest. Some of the children were amazed by how far they could hit the ball.

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

The Year 6 Team

Follow us on X (formerly know as Twitter)
[@HighwoodPrim6R](#) [@HighwoodPrim6B](#)





The Grove Speech and Language Resource News

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

Literacy: Paddington by Michael Bond

This term we have been busy writing a description about Paddington Bear and writing our poems about Paddington Bear's adventures from when he arrived at London.

The children created a description using expanded noun phrases and prepositions of Paddington Bear. We then put these into AI to see how close their descriptions were to what he actually looked like! They even went back and edited their work to improve their pictures. We have also worked together creating, sharing and choosing their ideas as a team to create a poem. They have all used key features of repetition, onomatopoeia and rhyme.



Maths: Money and more/less than

This term the children have really persevered with learning coins and notes and their value, counting amounts of money, finding how much more money to equal a pound, finding change from money and even two-step money problems. This term has been challenging but I could not be prouder of their determination to continue.

We have also had a big focus on understanding the language 'one more or one less than' a number, identifying whether a number is odd or even and whether a number is greater, less or equal to.



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@HighwoodPrimR

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



PE/Sports News

Mr Edwards

Welcome to the Spring 2 edition "PE & Sports News Page" of 2025.

PE Lessons:

This half term we have had to be very creative with space due to the very changeable weather! Despite this, we have still managed to cover many of the curriculum skills within the sport specifics of Tennis & Tri-Golf. There has been a lot of hand-eye, spacial movement, striking, agility and target work. Miss Coleman has also continued teaching dance, this time to her last class within Highwood, 1BA. This is because very sadly for us, Miss Coleman is leaving for pastures new outside of education. Miss Coleman has worked at Highwood for 6 years bringing the joy of "funky moves" and "jazzy jives" to the children's lessons and we will miss her very much.

I am also delighted to say that we have continued swimming lessons, this half term with Year 5D. Many children moving up not 1 but 2 grades which is absolutely amazing. We are eternally grateful for the opportunity Blue Coat School allows us free of charge so we cannot complain and continue our fabulous relationship with the school. They have loved every minute of it with many nervous first time swimmers progressing so fast in the pool they are continuing it outside of school lessons. This makes me so happy as it is a life skill as well as a curriculum skill. We look forward to starting again with Year 5H after Easter.



After School Clubs:

This half term, we ran KS1 Multisports with Mr Gauld, 5/6 Gymnastics, 3/4 Paddles, Bats & Racquets (which included a trip to Kingfisher Table Tennis Club) 5/6 Basketball, & 3/4 Football. These clubs are very, very popular and have huge waiting lists. We continue to offer these free of charge and rely on the good nature of the staff to run them. Obviously, we cannot guarantee a spot for every child on each of the clubs they would like to attend. I will be sending out an email at the end of the school year to gauge parents thoughts on "paid for clubs" This may enable us to hire in external providers to offer more choice.





PE/Sports News

Mr Edwards

Spring Half Term Matches & Tournaments:

This half term we have seen both the girls & boys football team play in the respective Wokingham Schools FA Shield & Cup. Despite their best efforts and in the girls case playing in torrential rain, they were knocked out at the first hurdle. These were the last football matches of the year so we go again in 25/26. Well done to all that have represented in those teams.



As always, Highwood fielded a team at the annual New Age Kurling event. This year was not a competition but a festival which made for a fabulous atmosphere and an opportunity to show off their skills. The boys were very proud of their medals!

Last week our hockey players entered the In2Hockey tournament held at Berkshire County Sports Club. This was an amazing experience and the children were unlucky not to make it through to the knockout stages.

House games this half term was "Hockey". The 4/5/6 mixed competition of which the Red Kites were victorious picking up the 50 winners house points for their win.



The competition was so close with three out of the four houses ending up on the same points so goal difference was used to determine the winners.

Here is Marcus, the Red Kites house captain with the trophy.

Next Half Term

PE Lessons:-

Yr 1-6 Athletics (Mr Edwards)

Yr 1 Gymnastics, Year 2 Yoga, Year 3,4,5 Dance,

Year 6 Rounders

Swimming - Year 5H

PE Kit required:-Summer Gear.

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

Achievements outside of school:

Daisy in Year 4 competed in her first ever Ballroom and Latin competition held in Gosport. Whilst being one of the youngest in the 9-12 Years category she did very well, dancing the Waltz for Ballroom and the Cha Cha Cha for Latin.



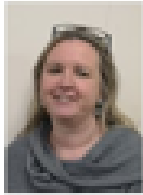
With many children attending sports clubs outside of school, I'd love to share any more pictures to add to this part of the newsletter.

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

Mr Edwards



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 Woodlands 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.*

This half term we have held:

- **2 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.
- **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.
- **A workshop for parents** on how to support the development of play skills with their child.
- **An eight week** programme run by the Mental Health Support Team to support parents and carers of autistic children cope with uncertainty (CUES) concluded with parents sharing how useful the course had been.
- **A Parent Gym booster** session for our Autumn 2024 team of parents.
- **And lots of** individual meetings with parents and carers and other professionals, brain storming and trouble shooting issues of concern for them and their children and making onward referrals to other organisations for support and help.

We also started a big piece of work to help make the identification and support of young carers in school as easy as possible. Often these children are caring for relatives without their teachers' knowledge, slipping through the net, undetected by support services. It's really important to us that we make a real and positive difference to the lives of young carers.

****Coming up next term****

Little Saplings - a family playgroup for children aged 3 and under who will join Highwood in the future

Yr6 Transition support group with the MHST

Toilet training workshop

More craft and art wellbeing sessions with CREATE



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



Follow me on X (formerly known as Twitter)

[@FSWHighwood](https://twitter.com/FSWHighwood)



SENCO

Dear Families,

Outdoor play is beneficial for all children including those with SEND. Children can engage in social interactions with their peers and hone their social skills in a nurturing environment while playing outside. Being outside is calming and brings down levels of stress and anxiety. It also helps children develop important motor skills, strength, and coordination. This can be especially helpful through climbing, swinging, and balancing. Incorporating sensory-stimulation features, such as textured surfaces and sensory gardens, can also be beneficial for cognitive development. I have included some suggested outdoor activities that you could do with the family over the holidays and encourage you to enjoy the local outdoor amenities.

I hope you all have a happy and relaxing 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

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

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

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

F1 SALT: [Communication and hearing | Children Young People and Families Online Resource](#)

Sensory Processing

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

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

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

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

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





SENCO

Local SEND Support

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

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

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

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

[Events | SEND Voices Wokingham](#)

Family and adult Support

[Wokingham Borough Council family support](#)

[Young Sibs](#) for siblings

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

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

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

Mental Health

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



Sleep Issues, Anxiety and Behaviour Support

FIRST [Wokingham Directory | Family Intervention Resources & Support Team](#)

(FIRST) - supporting families with sleep and behavioural issues

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

Autism and ADHD Support

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

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

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

[Right to Choose - ADHD UK](#)

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

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

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

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

[Autism Berkshire Reading - Autism Berkshire](#)

[Neurodiversity News September 2023](#)



[\(newsweaver.com\)](#)

Fine Motor Skills

[Fine Motor Skills | Children Young People and Families Online Resource](#)

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



101 THINGS TO DO OUTSIDE

101 WAYS TO PLAY OUTDOORS

SENSORY

Catch raindrops on your tongue
Play with playdough outdoors
Make a rainbow with the garden hose
Build a sand castle
Paint a fence with water
Eat breakfast outside
Decorate mud pies
Toast marshmallows
Blow bubbles
Try bubble painting
Wash the dog
Wash your toys
Jump in puddles
Watch a sunset



LITERACY

Make a set of story stones
Make your name with sticks
Start a nature journal
Read a field guide
Write in damp sand with a stick
Share a story inspired by the shapes you see in the clouds
Make a tin can telephone
Make a collection of some kind
Write a letter on a leaf to a friend
Make a nature ABC book
Read a book that is set outdoors
Make a map of the space you are in



ACTIVE

Jump rope
Kick a ball
Walk along a wall
Throw a frisbee
Do a somersault or handstand
Walk as you balance a small bean bag on your head
Ride a bike or scooter
Spin around until you make yourself dizzy
Make an obstacle course to run
Climb a tree
Fly a kite
Roll down a hill
Try hula hooping



CONSTRUCTING

Build a fort
Make a pinwheel
Make a paper boat to float
Dig a deep hole and fill it with water
Make a drip castle with wet sand
Build the tallest stick tower you can
Take wooden blocks or toy cars outdoors
Make a bird bath
Make a bird feeder
Build a bug hotel



CREATIVE

Create a nature collage
Make texture rubbings with crayons
Draw on the pavement with chalk
Make a stick sculpture
Try leaf printing
Trace a shadow on the ground
Take photographs of the clouds
Find some tapping stones to make music outdoors
Make a sand sculpture
Paint with feathers
Decorate a tree
Dance and sing



NATURE

Hug a tree
Make a rain gauge
Set up a worm farm
Rake a leaf maze
Make a compost bin
Grow a grass head
Set up a snail race
Collect flowers to press
Do some bird watching
Grab a magnifying glass and go bug hunting
Plant vegetables
Plant herbs
Grow a sunflower
Make a sun dial



IMAGINATIVE

Make leaf puppets
Make a leaf crown
Make a pet rock
Make petal perfume
Set up a lemonade stand
Create a home for a fairy or elf
Put on a cape and pretend to fly
Make a cave for a dinosaur
Enjoy a teddy bear's picnic
Make a teensy world for toy figurines to live in
Make a nest for a bird
Put on a show
Dig for treasure
Gaze up at the stars



SOCIAL

Play hide and seek
Play leapfrog
Play hopscotch
Host an egg and spoon race
Play tag
Play torch tag
Make up a new game
Have a three legged race
Have a wheelbarrow race
Host a paper plane throwing contest
Invite a friend for a picnic
Make a daisy chain for a friend



Find more fun ideas for outdoor play at childhood101.com



childhood101



Attendance Matters

The Spring months are here at last. Thank you to all our parents/carers who have met with me this term and those who have kept in touch with the school about their child's attendance. Monitoring attendance is not just about how many times a child is off ill. There are many reasons why a child may not want to be in school. Lucy Morris, our Family Support Officer and myself are always here to help by offering support and advice.

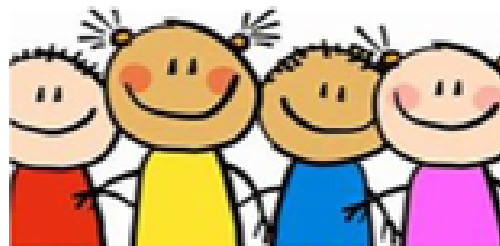
Why Your Child's School Attendance Matters

Attending school every day goes beyond academic benefits

- Builds a stronger, more meaningful relationship with teachers and class mates
- Learn a set of skills and values that prepare children for both academic achievements and the broader life experiences that lie ahead
- Unlocks a level of discipline that sets the stage for life long success
- Develop resilience, learning to face and overcome daily challenges, vital for emotional and mental health

Breaking down barriers to attendance

- Have open communication with your child is key to identifying any reluctance to attending school
- Encourage healthy habits outside of school
- Preparation is key to avoid lateness and stressful mornings
- Recognise and reward your child's efforts on how well your child is doing maintaining a good level of attendance
- Show interest in their daily education



If you are finding it a challenge then please do come and talk to us



Library News

Mrs Yule

How Children Choose Their Books

I thought it would be interesting for parents to read how their children use the library so I will give you a year by year breakdown.

F2's - come into the library for the experience. They have lots of books to choose from, which they can look at by themselves, or ask an adult to read to them. Sometimes they just love having a whole class story read to them.

Year 1 & 2 - can take a book home from the library. They each have an individual barcode in their reading record books. All the books also have individual barcodes. An adult will scan the barcode in the book they choose and then in their reading record books. The library system now knows who has the book! Each year group has more books to choose from than the previous year. By the time they are in year two they can access most of the Lower Years library. I also have books set aside just for year two. There is also a shelf of Graphic Novels (comic books) available from year 2. They can choose books like Dog Man or The Investigators series.

Year 3—this marks the crossover between the Lower- and Middle-years library. They can now take out two books. There are now many books in the Middle Years library that are labelled for year 3 and above to take out. Most year three students are confident enough to scan their books in and out with very little help.



Years 4 to 6 can also choose two books. Individual children in years 5&6 may be permitted to take out more than two books if they return all their books within a week and need an extra book each week. There are shelves for year 5+ readers and a couple of shelves just for year six. Years 4 to 6 also have a Graphic Novel shelf, with books appropriate to their year group.

In addition to all the books with quizzes, there are many that do not have a quiz. Some children will choose one of these as their second book, in addition to their quiz book. Their second book can be anything they wish, as long as it's age appropriate.



How long can they have a book for?

We allow them 25 days to have a book. I'm flexible if they are a few days overdue. Generally, once they are more than ten days overdue they get a reminder in the classroom. A final reminder will go out as a letter if they are more than 30 days overdue. Children are welcome to renew a book that's overdue, if they haven't finished reading it. The only exception is if someone else has reserved a book. Years 3 to 6 may reserve one book.

If you have any questions about the books that are available or would like some recommendations please email me –

jyule@highwood.wokingham.sch.uk

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 3 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 **£2.65 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 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.

EARRINGS

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

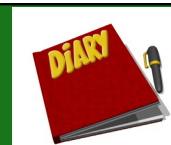
It is recommended that ear piercing is only done in the first week of the summer holidays to allow the time for them to settle.



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

Diary Dates

Please find a list of forthcoming dates



Friday 4 April	Last day of spring term - school finishes 1:30pm
Monday 7 April — Monday 21 April	Easter Holidays
Tuesday 22 April	School starts for all children — Start of Summer Term
Friday 25 April	Year 3R— Parent Class Assembly —2.30pm
Monday 28 April - Thursday 1 May	Year 6 SATs mocks week
Friday 2 May	Coffee Morning - open to all—8.45am—9.45am
Friday 2 May	Year 4P— Parent Class Assembly —2.30pm
Monday 5 May	May Day Bank Holiday - school closed
Monday 12 - Thursday 15 May	Year 6 SATs week
Friday 16 May	SEN support coffee morning—8.45am—9.45am
Monday 19 - Friday 23 May	Woodley Schools Sports Week
Wednesday 21 May	F2 SPLAT—1.30-3.00pm
Thursday 22 May	F1 SPLAT—10.30-11.30am & 2.00-3.00pm
Thursday 22 May	Parent Book Look in classrooms— 3.15-3.45pm
Friday 23 May	Coffee Morning - open to all—8.45am—9.45am
Friday 23 May	Year 6R— Parent Class Assembly —2.30pm
Monday 26 - Friday 30 May	Half term holiday - school closed
Monday 2 June	Year 5 SPLAT—1.30-3.00pm
Tuesday 3 June	Year 1 SPLAT—1.30-3.00pm
Wednesday 4 June	School photographer - class photos and Year 6 Leavers
Thursday 5 June	Year 4 SPLAT—1.30-3.00pm
Friday 6 June	Coffee Morning - open to all— 8.45am—9.45am
Friday 6 June	Year 6B— Parent Class Assembly —2.30pm
Monday 9 - Friday 14th June	Year 6 Residential Trip
Monday 9 June	Year 3 SPLAT—1.30-3.00pm
Wednesday 11 June	Year 2 SPLAT—1.30-3.00pm
Saturday 14 June	Woodley Carnival
Tuesday 17 - Friday 20 June	Travelling Book Fair available in school
Thursday 19 June	KS2 Sports Day—9.30am-12noon
Thursday 19 June	KS1 Sports Day—1.15-3.00pm
Friday 20 June	SEN support coffee morning—8.45am—9.45am
Monday 23 June	Year 6 SPLAT—1.30-3.00pm
Friday 27 June	Summer Picnic
Wednesday 2 July, morning	F1 and F2 Sports Day
Wednesday 9 July	Year 6 production - evening performance—6.30-8.00pm
Thursday 10 July	Year 6 production - afternoon performance—1.30-3.00pm
Friday 11 July	Coffee Morning - open to all —8.45am-9.45am
Friday 11 July	One page reports out to parents
Monday 14 July	Moving Up morning
Wednesday 16 July	Year 6 Leavers' Awards Celebration Evening—6.30-8.00pm
Tuesday 22 July	Last day of summer term - school finishes 1:30pm
Wednesday 23 July	Inset day - school closed to pupils