



Newsletter

Highwood Primary School Issue no.70

May 2025

'Where Individuals Matter'

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have reached the end of another learning-filled term and it brings us even closer to the end of another academic year.

Firstly, congratulations to the Year 6 children (and a thank you to all the adults involved) for having such a successful SATs week. The children did exactly what we asked - **trying their best** - and we couldn't be prouder of them all! I have spoken with both classes about using the remainder of the term to keep on learning, but also to make sure that they continue to create positive memories of their primary school life so when they leave us at the end of the next half term, they can look back on what an amazing time they had at Highwood.

Other Updates:

Friends Of Highwood



I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank the Friends of Highwood for all work they undertake. With their efforts, and the support of the whole community, they have been able to donate a huge amount of £6,700 to the school!!!! We have already earmarked a number of purchases that this money will be spent on, for example:

- New stands in the library to make it easier for children to scan their books
- Additional books to increase the choices for all year groups
- Outdoor speakers and microphone to help with outside events and also for the children to have music playing during their lunchtimes
- Additional playground equipment

These items will benefit all the children and once we have decided what the remaining funds will be used for, I will update the whole community.

Eco-Committee

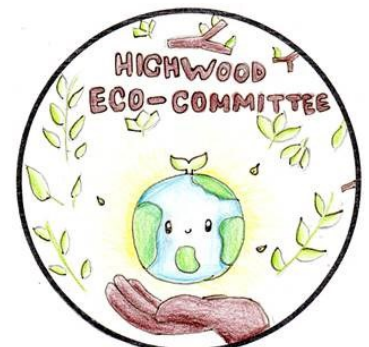
We have been continuing our work on our sustainability plan. Mrs. Hind regularly attends our OLA Climate Change and Sustainability Network meetings and feeds that high-level vision into discussions with the Eco Committee. They have a number of ideas that they would like to work on, building on the recent Earth Day activities, so we will probably create their own section in the newsletter to keep you up to date with all their plans!

We now have an Eco Committee Logo. Nishka and Deetya in Year 5 had amazing individual entries to our competition. Myself and Mrs. Hind asked them to combine the different elements of their design as it was impossible to choose between the two entries. What they produced was perfect!

Thank you for your support and have a restful half term break.

Matt Hickey

Headteacher





Foundation 1 News

Mrs Alleyne

Mrs Poulton, Mrs Cooper, Ms Kraker and Mrs Bailey

Welcome to our Foundation 1 News. We have had a great start to the Summer Term in F1.

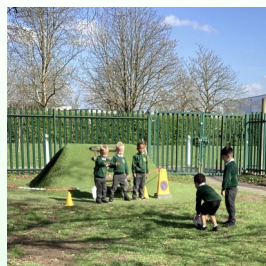
We have started our new topic which is **'How are all animals different?'**

We started off this half term learning about farm animals which followed on beautifully from having our chicks at the end of last term. The children engaged in lots of farm animal based activities such as playing with our farm animals, reading farm stories and bread making, following on from The Little Red Hen story.



Moving on from farm animals we learnt about different animals that you can keep as pets. The children made some pet food in our mud kitchen, and shared their thoughts about what animals would be good to keep as a pet. The children practised their fine motor skills and got very creative using coloured paper to weave pictures. Finally we thought about what pet we liked the best.

Most recently, we learnt about creatures that live in the garden. The children really enjoyed learning about this group of animals. They went on a minibeast hunt around the school grounds, collected some insects in pots to look at and learnt about the importance of being gentle with living creatures. When learning about minibeasts, we are also going to have a fantastic opportunity to grow our own butterflies.



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

During the nicer weather we've spent more time learning outside - our ball skills are really improving and we can enjoy playing with sand and water, building sandcastles and transporting it. We are getting our vegetable patch ready too and started growing some tomatoes.

Thank you to all the parents that have supported us during this half of term and welcome to our new children and families. We look forward to welcoming the children back after half term!

Email: F1@highwood.wokingham.sch.uk



Foundation 2 News

Mrs Parker and Miss Grainger

Miss Webb, Mrs Newham, Mrs Vanka

Welcome to our Foundation stage news.

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

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



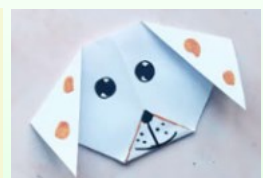
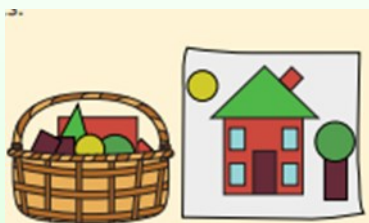
We have been thinking about ways to keep healthy. The children enjoyed designing their own healthy plate for the 'hungry caterpillar'. They were also thrilled to try lots of fruit when we made fruit kebabs. They were delicious!



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



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



As we will hopefully have some glorious sunshine next half term, please ensure the children have had sun cream applied and that they bring a hat and water bottle to school.

Exciting news— we will be taking the children to Wellington Country Park on the 10th July. A letter will follow soon.

Thank you to all the parents who have continued to support us this half term and we look forward to seeing you after half-term for their remaining weeks in F2.

Email: F2@highwood.wokingham.sch.uk



Year 1 News

Mrs Garner, Miss Bolger and Miss Ahmed
Mrs Wheeler, Miss Mubashar, Mrs Mair, Mrs Kaur

Which animal would you invite for tea?

Science and Geography

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



English

Our main text this term has been 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea'. We have loved using the story sacks to help us to retell the stories. We have been writing letters to and from the Tiger, Hot Seating characters and acting out parts of the story. We have been working really hard on using conjunctions in our sentences too. We loved our trip to Woodley Library and lots of children have started to go with their parents.



Maths

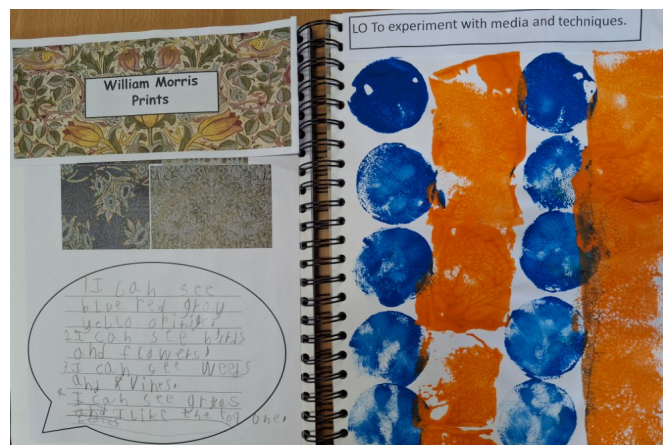
In Maths we have been working really hard through our Mastery Flow and doing a variety of Do, Think, Explore and Solve tasks. We have practised multiplication and division, focusing on counting in 2s, 5s and 10s. We have used this to help us with grouping and sharing and investigating how we can make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



Art

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

It was a lot of fun and very messy!



Email: Year1@highwood.wokingham.sch.uk



Year 2 News

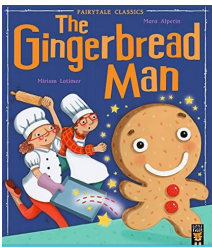
Miss Anderson, Mr Gauld

Mrs Hillier, Mrs Moore, Mrs Swamiraj, Mrs Aswal, Miss Mubashar

We've launched into the summer term with energy and enthusiasm! Our new and exciting topic—*Is There Really Climate Change?*—has sparked curiosity, thoughtful questions, and a growing sense of empathy for our planet.

Is there really a Climate Change?

English



Wow—what a fantastic English topic we've had this term! The children have truly stepped into the shoes of authors and illustrators as they created their very own versions of the classic tale *The Gingerbread Man*. With lots of imagination and creativity, they changed the characters, invented new rhymes and brought fresh twists to the story.

To top it all off, each child made their own hardback book, complete with a beautifully designed front cover and a blurb on the back.

Topic



This term, our classroom has been *buzzing* with excitement as we've been learning all about bees!



The children have been *busy bees*, discovering the important role these tiny pollinators play in our world.

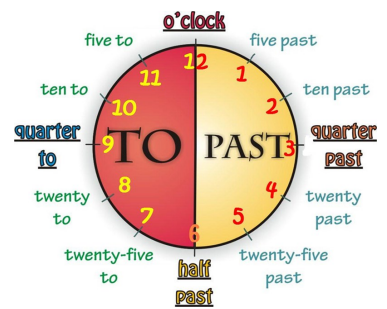
We were thrilled to welcome a local beekeeper into our classroom this term! The children were *buzzing with questions* as they learned all about the important roles bees play in pollination and protecting our environment. It was a fascinating and inspiring session that really brought our learning to life.

Following the visit, the children put their creativity to work by designing eye-catching posters to inform others about how we can help protect bees.



Maths

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



Science



The children had a fantastic time going on a plant hunt around the school grounds, where they discovered a wide variety of plants and flowers growing in different areas.

Back in the classroom, we've been learning all about the parts of a plant and their important functions. From roots to leaves and stems to flowers, the children have enjoyed exploring how each part plays a vital role in helping plants grow and thrive.

It's been a hands-on and engaging start to our topic and we're looking forward to discovering even more about the amazing world of plants!

Email: Year2@highwood.wokingham.sch.uk



Year 3 News

Miss Rumbold, Mrs Hartgrove & Mrs Inwards

Mrs Mohammad and Mrs Strong

How can we help protect our planet?

LITERACY

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

MATHS

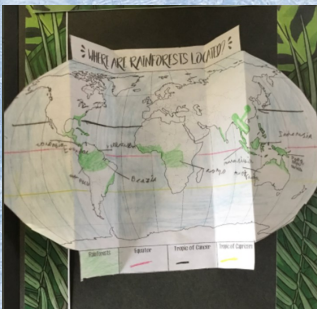
In maths, we have been looking at fractions. We discussed what is meant by equivalence, its link to the word equal, and that parts can only be equivalent if they are equal themselves! We have also been looking at money and learning to add, subtract and find change of different amounts.

SCIENCE

In science, we have been exploring light. We have learnt that darkness is the absence of light. We enjoyed doing an experiment to find out which materials were opaque, translucent and transparent. On a sunny day, we managed to explore how shadows are made and even drew around our shadows with chalk.

TOPIC

We began our topic by learning about tropical rainforests, in particular, the Amazon. We learned about the layers of the rainforest and what vegetation and creatures are found in each layer. We made dioramas to secure our understanding of the different layers. We know where tropical rainforests are located and have looked at two different types of settlement in the rainforest.



Email: Year3@highwood.wokingham.sch.uk



Year 4 News

Mrs Partridge and Mr Williams
Mrs Nice and Miss Briggs

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

How have our castles made Britain great?

This term Year 4 have started their investigation into Britain's castles and why they are so important to our nations. It has already been exciting to see the enthusiasm of the children for this topic.

Maths

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

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

Writing

This half term we have enjoyed reading our new book *The Castle of Tangled Magic*. In the story the protagonist, Olia, travels to a land of Forbidden Magic and encounters lots of mythical creatures.

The children in both classes have shown such an enthusiasm towards creating their own mythical creature which has then formed the basis of their poetry and their character descriptions. They have all used their creativity to think of some beautiful sentences that help the reader visualise their character. They have recently spent time typing up their work so that we can create AI images of their mythical creature. We are all very excited to see how they turn out!

History and Geography

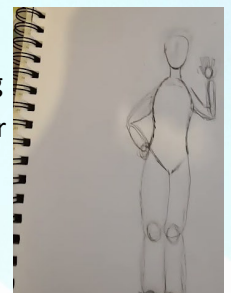
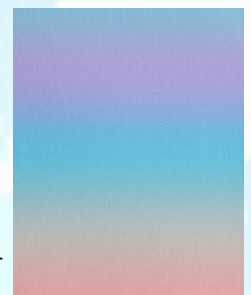
The children have absolutely loved learning about castles this half term. We've explored where they are located in Geography, thinking about counties and countries. In History we have spent time thinking about the different types of castle and how they have changed over time, looking at the changes in size, materials and layout.

Science

In science, we have been investigating how electricity is generated and the dangers that can come with it. The children got the buzz for learning more when we introduced building circuits. They have also been fascinated by learning which items within the classroom are conductors and insulators.

Art and DT

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



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



Year 5 News

Mrs Downes, Mrs Hind, Mrs Lakshmanan,
Mrs Kamath, Mrs Rudroju

Welcome to the Year 5 news!

What was the greatest legacy of Ancient Greece?

English

Our class book—Letters from the Lighthouse—has led us to learn much about what life was like as an evacuee during WWII and we have been writing informal letters, as if we were writing home as evacuees. We have continued to practise describing using all our senses and describing emotions using the ‘show not tell’ method. We will shortly begin our next book—Who Let The Gods Out – which will guide our writing towards writing our own Greek myths.

Maths

We began the term by continuing our work on multiplying fractions and have now moved on to working with decimals and finding equivalent fractions and decimals. Our arithmetic skills came in very handy during our Mini-



Enterprise project this term, when the children were required to work in groups to set up a business making paper kites. This gave the children very practical experi-

ence in understanding expenditure and income—plus lots of additional lessons such as time-management, organisation and teamwork. This was a competitive event and the winning business team will be announced shortly; their prize will be to represent Highwood at a Business Enterprise event held at Waingels College when they are in Year 6.

Key Question

Our key question this term is ‘What was the greatest legacy of Ancient Greece?’. We have been exploring how artefacts recovered by archaeologists have helped us to understand what life was like in Ancient Greece and will be able to handle real-life artefacts when we visit the museum at Reading University next term.

Science

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



A busy term!

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

Email: Year5@highwood.wokingham.sch.uk



Year 6 News

Mr Robinson, Miss Bicheno
Ms Yu, Mr Edwards and Mrs Panahpoori

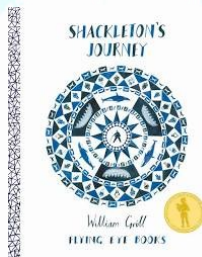
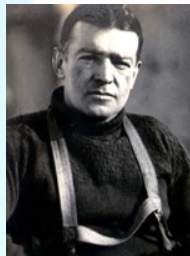
The focus at the beginning of this term was SATs. We spent the first three weeks practising, so that when the SATs finally arrived, we realised that they weren't as scary as we all thought! The children worked extremely hard and we were very proud of their positive attitude despite some extremely difficult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

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

'What is the secret to success?'

English

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



PE

With Mr Edwards, the children have been taking part in athletics and did themselves proud in the 600m! With Mr Robinson we have enjoyed learning the game of rounders and have shown a competitive spirit when playing matches against each other.

Art

In art, we have studied the life and times of Leonardo Da Vinci and are amazed at how many different areas he has excelled. The focus then moves on to his art work and the drawing/paintings/sketches that he produced. Hopefully, this will inspire the next generation of artists.



Maths

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

Topic

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

Science

In order to answer the question, 'What's the secret to a healthy body?', we have begun to study the circulatory system and how the heart works. This will help us to understand what we need in order to lead a healthy lifestyle. We have investigated how exercise affects our body and how we can measure our heart rate by finding our pulse.

Contact us at:

Year6@highwood.wokingham.sch.uk



The Grove

Speech and Language Resource News

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

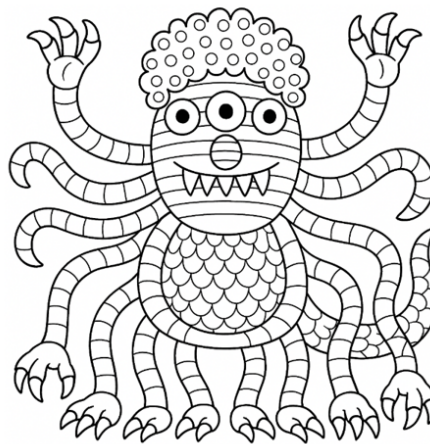
Literacy: Monsters

This term has the children have been using their creativity to design their very own monsters.

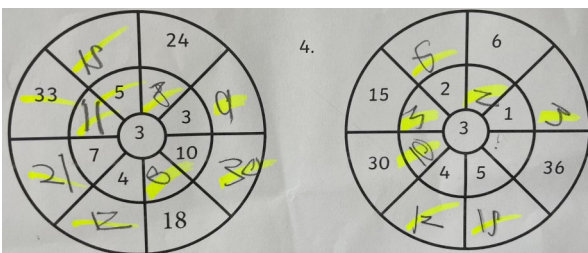
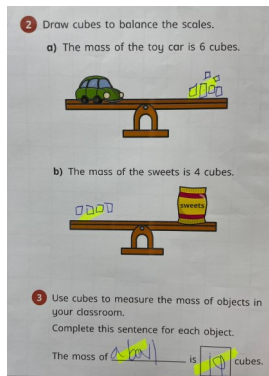
Independently, the children described a monster from their imagination choosing different body parts, adjectives and colours. We then inputted them into AI and we watched their creations come to life! Some children needed to edit them as AI did not create the image in their heads. The end product has been fantastic.

We have also started to learn our addresses and how the postal service works. So look out—there might be some monster post heading to your homes!

My monster has 10 long rainbow arms and 7 long rainbow legs.
He has a huge stripy head and yellow and blue dotty hair.
The monster has 15 orange powerful claws.
He has 3 round red eyes, a stripy nose and sharp pointy teeth.
He has a round, scaly, blue tummy and orange scaly medium tail.



Maths: Number bonds, times tables and mass



SATS and Testing

A massive congratulations to the boys in Year 6 for completing their tests and SATS this term! We are all unbelievably proud of you.



This has been a short but jam packed term! Enjoy the half term break.



PE/Sports News

Mr Edwards

Welcome to the Summer 1 edition "PE & Sports News Page" of academic year 2024/25.

PE Lessons:

This half term I have been testing the children's overall strength, agility, speed and fitness via a "quadkids" style programme. This has been through sprints, standing long jump, Vortex throws and a long distance run. They have been scored against national average statistics and I have been pleased with many of the results including one child obtaining Mr Edwards' "Golden Nugget". This is achieving 200 points or more over the four events. This is Ibrahim in Year 6 for the second year in a row. A huge congratulations to him. That said, we are finding overall that our fitness levels are declining year on year. This week we have spent part of our lessons discussing why this is and how we can change this. The children are now on a mission to join active clubs outside of school and take part in more physical activities with their parents so that it can benefit the whole family.



Swimming lessons have continued this half term with Year 5D. They have loved every minute of it with many nervous first time swimmers progressing so fast in the pool they have moved up to my group from Mrs Hope's group and are continuing it outside of school lessons. This makes me so happy as it is a life skill as well as a curriculum skill. As always we are working to

the national curriculum covering all aspects of swimming including water safety and self rescue. We look forward to the next group, 5H who start this week.



Summer Half Term Matches & Tournaments:

Wokingham Schools "Quadkids" Athletics Tournament.

Another amazing effort from our Athletes amassing a colossal amount of points. We will find out if they have made it through to county finals after half term. Watch this space!





PE/Sports News

Mr Edwards

Woodley Schools Sports Week.

At the time of print, we will be in the middle of the 2025 Woodley Schools Sports Week. This is a fantastic week full of opportunities for many children in Woodley schools. On Tuesday all pupils in Year 2 will get to take part in an "All Stars Cricket" event, Wednesday, Year 3 will take part in a Paralympic Sports Festival, Thursday, Year 4 will take part in a Multisport Festival and on Friday, Year 1 will take part in a Multiskills Festival. I will make sure that photos from these events are included in the final newsletter of the academic year.

Good luck to all taking part!

After School Clubs:

This term we have:-

Tuesdays: Year 3/4 Athletics Club.

Wednesdays: Year 4/5 Summer Sports Club

Thursdays: Year 5/6 Cricket Club & KS1 Summer Sports Club

Next Half Term

PE Lessons:- Cricket, Dance, Rounders, Badminton & Gymnastics.

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

Next Half-Term Competitions:

Inter-house KS2 Rounders

Wokingham Schools Cricket League

Sports Day!

Achievements outside of school:

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

I have also started coming along to watch the

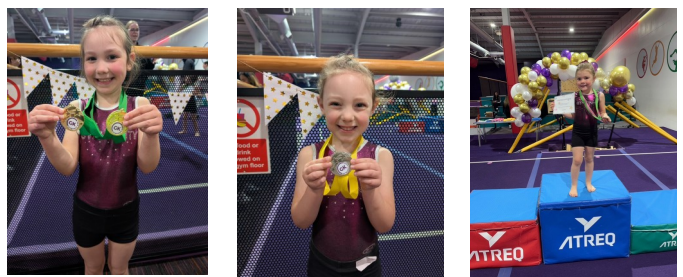
pupils taking part in their activities outside of school which is always a joy to see them compete with their friends and teammates.

Peter, Jake & Joseph in Year 5 attended the ESF Football Festival along with many teams across the country. All three of our Highwood stars had a great time, each winning a trophy, but Peter bagged two as he also won "Player of the Tournament" largely down to his very impressive goalkeeping and positive motivation of his team.



Holly (Year 2) & Willow (F2G) have been at it again competing for their gymnastics club, Holly gaining 1st in Floor and 1st in Trampoline with Willow gaining a 2nd in Vault. This is another great achievement!

Callie in F2P has also been successful at her gym club gaining a 1st and 3rd place plus being selected for squad! Congratulations!



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

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



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 may not have all the answers, but hopefully I can help you to work out how to find them! *Lucy Morris, Family Support Worker.*

As we reach the end of another busy and exciting half term, I wanted to take a moment to connect with you all to share some updates, support resources, and reminders. It's been a pleasure seeing so many of you at school events, drop-ins and workshops - thank you for your continued involvement in school life.

What's been happening this half term:

- ◆ **Coffee and chat mornings:** Thank you to everyone who has attended. These informal sessions are a great opportunity to meet other parents, share ideas and have a drink and a chat!
- ◆ **Wellbeing focus:** We've continued to promote positive mental health across the school. Some of you have reached out for 1:1 support and others have attended art sessions run by CREATE.
- **Attendance Matters:** We've been working closely with families to improve punctuality and attendance and work through barriers and challenges. Every school day counts—thank for you supporting your children to be in school and ready to learn.
- **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. This half term we focussed on transition and moving up to the next year group.
- **Little Saplings Family Playgroup:** Welcoming families with young children who will join Highwood in the future with sessions of play, learning, singing and creating.

Looking ahead to next half term:

- ◆ **Parent workshops:** We'll be running sessions on healthy lunchboxes, a taster to our Parent Gym programme and have the Mental Health Support Team coming in to talk to parents about their work. We'll also run another wellbeing creative workshop.
- ◆ **Young Carers:** Our monthly young carers support group will have their first session.
- ◆ **Uniform, food and other essentials:** We have some donated items available including school uniform, shoes and coats. Let me know if you need anything for your child, no questions asked. We can also support with referrals for food and other household essentials.
- ◆ **Home Visits:** I'm looking forward to visiting children who are joining Highwood in F1 and F2.

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)



Family Centre News

Please see the following information about Wokingham Borough Council's Education courses and workshops available locally.




WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

RESILIENCE AND ANXIETY IN TEENAGERS

Thursday 5 June and Thursday 12 June 2025
7:30pm to 9pm, on Zoom

Look at how anxiety presents itself in teenagers, and techniques that can be used to reduce its impact.

To enrol visit:
www.webenrol.com/wokingham



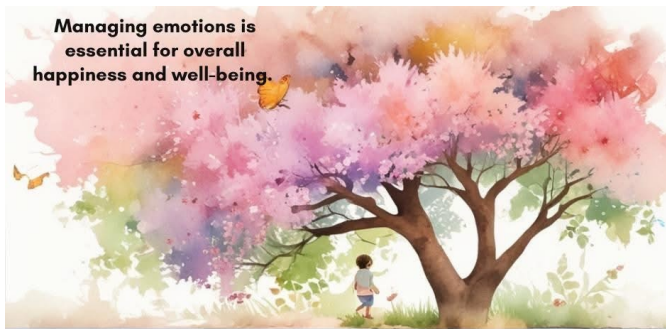
WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

MANAGING CHILD ANXIETY (PRIMARY AGE)

This informative and insightful course is aimed at parents of primary school pupils, this course aims to give you a better understanding of anxiety and how it might present in children.

Tuesday 3 & 10 June 2025, 7:30pm - 9:00pm
Online via Zoom

To find out more and to book visit our website:
www.webenrol.com/wokingham



Managing emotions is essential for overall happiness and well-being.

BUILDING RESILIENCE IN CHILDREN

Monday 2 June and Monday 9 June 2025
7:30pm-9.00pm Online via Zoom

Apply online at www.webenrol.com/wokingham
Or email adulteducation@wokingham.gov.uk
Or call 0118 9743797

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

Building Your Confidence to get back into Work and Volunteering

Starting 16 June - 21 July 2025 Weekly every Monday 10:15am - 11:45am
New Wokingham Library

This course will help you to identify all the strengths and qualities you have that employers wants.

Whether you've been away from the workplace for a while due to parental leave, sickness, caring responsibilities, redundancy, moving country or other reasons, getting into work or volunteering after a break can be daunting.



To apply: www.webenrol.com/wokingham

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

Skills for Work Courses

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

Improving your Maths Skills online

- 19 May or 1 July, 7pm to 8:30pm, online via Zoom - FREE

Create and Deliver PowerPoint Presentations

- 4 June and 11 June, 10.30am to 1pm, online via Zoom, £15

Build your Confidence to Get into Work or Volunteering

- 16 June to 21 July, 10.15am to 11.45am, Wokingham Library, FREE

Excel for Work

- 18 June to 23 July, 10.30am to 12.30pm, online via Zoom, £50

Introduction to working in Care or the NHS

- 24 June to 15 July, 12.30pm to 2.30pm, Oakwood Centre, Woodley, £40

Introduction to Teaching Assistant Roles in School

- 26 June to 17 July, 9.30am to 12.30pm, Earley Crescent Resource Centre, £40

Unlock the Full Potential of Your iPad or Tablet

- 26 June to 17 July, 10am to 12pm, Cornerstone, Wokingham, FREE

Digital Skills for beginners

- 2 July to 23 July, 10am to 12pm, Wokingham Library, FREE

Design and format your CV using Word

- 4 August, 10.30am to 1pm, online via Zoom, £10

Social Media for Jobsearching

- 6 August, Wednesday 10.30am to 1pm, online via Zoom, £10

ESOL

- Ongoing courses online and in person - contact us for an assessment and to join the waiting list






To find out more and to enrol visit:
www.webenrol.com/wokingham
or contact via 0118 974 3797
adulteducation@wokingham.gov.uk



SENCO

Mrs Padbury

Dear Families,

We are really excited to be part of the Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS) programme. PINS is a collaborative process, and the voice of your parent/carer community is extremely important. The first step of the process is surveying different groups within our school community including students, parents, carers, staff and school governors. The survey is for all parents, not just those with children with SEND. Thank you to those who have already responded and if you are yet to respond, please follow the QR code to access the survey. The survey closes over half term and SEND voices will collate our school responses. All surveys will help build a picture of our school's strengths and highlight areas to focus on moving forward. I am especially keen to develop coproduction within our school community to further support our children. We will keep you updated as the project progresses.

I hope you all have a happy and relaxing break.

L Padbury

You can access the survey by scanning the QR code provided or by clicking this link:

🔗 <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/N2T6CSB>



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.

Nationally accredited by Eiklan and OCN London
Communication Friendly Primary
September 2023 - September 2026



Here are some services you can access for additional SEND support.

Holiday Support and activities

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

Mrs Padbury

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

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

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

[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](#)





SENCO
Mrs Padbury



Aiming to create more inclusive & supportive mainstream schools

Partnerships for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools
(PINS) Project

Parent Survey - we'd love to hear your views

Feedback from all parents & carers is really important and will help shape the support for your school.

Please complete the survey by scanning the QR code:



or by this link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/N2T6CSB>

You can find out more about the PINS project on our website here:
www.sendvoiceswokingham.org.uk/pins



Attendance Matters

Persistent Absence in School

When a child has an attendance rate of 90% or under they become a persistent absentee. It is my role as Attendance Officer to ensure attendance rates at Highwood are the best they can be. There are good reasons for my phone calls, meeting invites and letters I send out to parents.

If your child has a 90% attendance record, it means that your child is absent from lessons for the equivalent of *one half-day every week*.

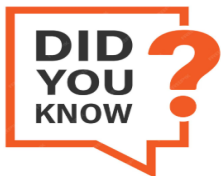
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
✓ ✓	✓ ✓	✓ ?	✓ ✓	✓ ✓

A 90% attendance rate means that your child has missed the equivalent of *four whole weeks of lessons in the school year*.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
✓	✓	✓	✓	?	✓	✓	☀	✓	✓	✓	✓

The impact of attendance on your child's learning

Primary school education is incredibly important to your child's progress and development. It also provides a strong foundation for later academic, social and emotional growth.



Did you know that having an attendance of 90% means that a child will have less than 50% chance of achieving GCSE grades at 9-5?

Here at Highwood we want all our children to have the best possible chance of success. That is why we strive for every child to have an attendance rate of above 96%.

How can you help?

- Ensure that your child attends every day so that they can engage fully with their learning. Remember that any day missed is learning time missed.
- Encourage punctuality so that no learning time is missed.
- Keep the dialogue open between school and home.

It's good to talk!



We have supported a number of parents in getting their children's attendance back on track this term. If you need any advice or support with your child's attendance please contact myself or Lucy Morris, our Family Support Worker.

I want your child to have the best possible chance of a successful future. Good attendance at school is a vital step to achieving this.

Lisa Hall, Attendance Officer



Library News

Mrs Yule

I thought that this was a great time to remind everyone about the upcoming Travelling Book Fair. This year it will run from Wednesday 18 June to Friday 20 June.

The school really appreciates the support that parents and children give to the Book Fair, as it helps us purchase more books for the library. The books and stationery that you buy gives the school points as a reward. The more we sell, the more points we receive. We can then redeem those points to purchase books from the Fair and the scholastic book shop. I understand that everyone is on a tight budget. This is a fantastic time to buy books at the Fair as they are on a 3 for 2 offer. Buy three books and the cheapest is **FREE!**

The Book Fair will be open at lunchtimes from Wednesday 18 June to Friday 20, in the library. It will be available from 3:20 pm to 4:30pm Wednesday to Friday, as well. The location for Wednesday and Thursday is not finalised but it will definitely be in the library all day Friday. If your children are in F1 or F2 their trolley of books will be available to view in their area on Wednesday 18 June and will remain with the other trolleys from Wednesday after school.

Did you know that if you purchase books from the scholastic book shop at any other time of year, when there is no book fair, you can select our school to receive the points? Just remember the postcode, RG5 3JE, to select the correct Highwood Primary School.

Finally, you may not be aware that we are members of The Federation of Children's Books Groups. Every month I receive news about upcoming events and books soon to be released. In addition, I have been fortunate to win a few books in 'Giveaways'. Publishers offer free books if you email them. There is a limited number each month so I am always delighted to receive a free book. A picture of a few is attached. These will be in the library soon. I will keep you informed of any more we receive.

Have a great week off. See you all at the Book Fair!

Mrs J Yule





Reminders



SCHOOL UNIFORM

School uniform can be purchased directly from our supplier Michael Hope through this [link](#).

Delivery to school is currently free. Any orders placed over the summer holidays must be done by **Sunday 3rd 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 does not guarantee enough time for any exchanges.



SCHOOL DINNERS

Children in Reception and 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 and 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.

With regards to snacks and if your child brings a packed lunch please remember 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 926 5493.

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.

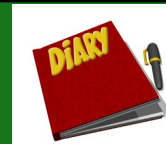
Please ensure that your child has practised taking them out as well.

Only stud earrings are allowed in school.





Diary Dates



Please find a list of forthcoming dates.

Keep an eye on the weekly Head's Bulletin for up to date information on Diary Dates.

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 <i>This session is cancelled due to an additional transition event for the pupils. Further information about this will be sent after half term.</i>
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