



Newsletter

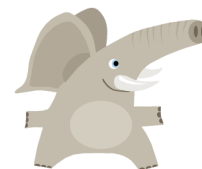
Highwood Primary School Issue no.71

July 2025

'Where Individuals Matter'

Dear Parents / Carers,

Another school year draws to a close – and it feels like it's flown by in the blink of an eye. As a current Year 6 parent myself, it's hard to believe how quickly the months (and years) have passed, but as we look back, we can see just how much has been achieved this year.



A couple of key successes to share:

The Mulberry Room

The Mulberry Room has been a resounding success as our school's nurture provision, offering a safe, supportive space where pupils can develop their emotional, social, and academic skills in a nurturing environment. Through tailored interventions, consistent routines, and strong relationships with trusted adults, the Mulberry Room has helped students build confidence, improve self-regulation, and re-engage positively with learning. Staff have seen noticeable improvements in pupils' wellbeing and classroom readiness, and the wider school community has benefited from the positive impact on behaviour and inclusion. The success of the Mulberry Room reflects our school's commitment to supporting the whole child and ensuring that every learner feels valued and understood.

Well Done, Year 6 – You've Made Us Proud!

A huge congratulations to our Year 6 pupils for reaching the end of their primary journey! You've worked incredibly hard this year, showing resilience, determination, and maturity as you prepare for secondary school. We are so proud of all you have achieved. Just like those fearless Pirates of the Curry Bean, our Year 6 cohort has navigated through waters of their primary years - and come out stronger, braver, and more prepared than ever.

As well as being a nurturing and inclusive school, it is also important to share the academic success we achieve as well. This year's KS2 SATs data was extremely strong. A huge well done to the children and staff for all of their hard work.

	Expected Standard	Above the Expected standard
Reading	87%	60%
Writing	71%	16%
Maths	84%	40%
Grammar	84%	42%

GOODBYE

We only have one member of staff leaving in the Summer. Mr Gauld's maternity contract comes to an end and we wish him well in his next school!

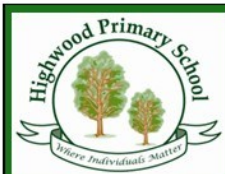
To the families who are leaving us – thank you for being part of our school community. Whether you've been with us for many years or just a short while, you've helped shape our school, and we wish you all the very best for the exciting adventures you have ahead.

Wishing You All a Restful, Safe, and Happy Summer

Thank you to every pupil, parent, carer, and member of staff who made this year what it was. We are grateful, proud, and excited for what's to come.

See you in September!

Matt Hickey
Headteacher



Governing Body News

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff and Pupils,

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

Highlights this year...

Back in March, the team had **Governor's day** - spending time in school, visiting classes, talking to pupils and school staff. It was a great time especially hearing the school council (who are like our own team) discuss playground changes, lunchtime favourites and their vision for Highwood. It was a joy to see the children so engaged, the classrooms full of energy, and the brilliant work happening across the school – thank you for making us feel so welcome!

Our school joined the **Orchard Learning Alliance** (orchardlearningalliance.com), a family of schools within Wokingham & Reading, who came together and created our own multi-academy trust. We know schools across the country are facing several challenges – from funding pressures and staff recruitment to changes in the curriculum and increased demand for support services. As Governors, we're keeping a close eye on developments and working with the school leadership to make sure we stay ahead. Our aim is always to support the school in creating a stable, happy, and high-quality learning environment for every child and we're positive this direction will open great opportunities for collaboration and growth.

All change...

We are saying *goodbye* to **Mr Rehan Kamal**, a parent governor, who ended his 10-year service this term. His knowledge and experience in finance has been highly valued and appreciated through the years. I know his thorough accountancy knowledge and football chats will be missed!

We need you! Our Governing Team is looking for new governors to help support the school and will have more information in the new academic year. If you're interested or would like more information, please let us know using the contact form on the Governors website section.

Finally...

Best wishes to Year 6 as they take their next steps into secondary school – we're cheering you on!

Our amazing children – thank you for being curious, creative, and full of life. Enjoy the Summer break!

Our fantastic parents & carers – thank you for all the support and encouragement at the school gate and beyond.

The Friends of Highwood (FoH) – Thank you for all your events and fostering a great sense of school community!

To our incredible school staff & volunteers – thank you for your hard work, passion, and unwavering commitment to every child.



Best Wishes, Highwood Governors

THANK YOU!



Foundation 1 News

Mrs Alleyne

Mrs Poulton, Mrs Cooper, Ms Craker and Mrs Bailey

Welcome to our Foundation 1 News. Such an eventful term which we have had in F1.

We have completed our topic and researched further about **'How are all animals different?'**

We started summer 2 learning about animals that are under the sea and noticing some other items that shouldn't be in the sea. This led on to how we look after our environment. The children moved on to jungle animals, desert animals, animals that are extinct and lastly dinosaurs. The children's curiosity was wonderful to see and they asked many questions about the dodo, sabre tooth cat and the black rhino.



We had a lot of fun taking part in our sports day and the children were very athletic. They were all so amazing and done their parents proud. Well done to everyone and thank you to all the adults that helped and supported. Also a huge thumbs up for the mums and dads that took part!



We have started to practice our written phonics and was really proud of our work. Our letter formation is developing well and we all were able to write some sounds. We could hear and blend some words too such as cat, bug, pan and sun.



We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents for their support during this last year and we would like to wish the children and their families all the very best moving up to F2 or moving on to new adventures.



Have a lovely summer holidays. Mrs Alleyne and F1 team

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



Foundation Stage 2 News

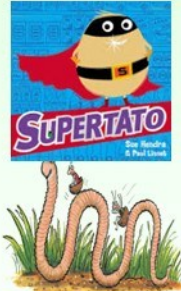
Mrs Parker and Miss Grainger

Mrs Vanka, Mrs Newham, Miss Webb, Mrs Sundaresh

Who are our local heroes?

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

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



Everyone has enjoyed the Superhero activities on offer this term, such as making masks, superhero art, and making their own 'Super-tato' Superhero. We enjoyed Superhero Day too!



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

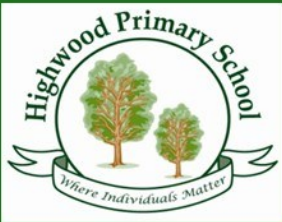
We also read the story of Mr Gumpy's Outing and explored how many items a boat can carry before it sank. It has been great fun!

PE is always a highlight of the week! This half-term they have focussed on gymnastics.

We had our trip to Wellington Country Park! We had an amazing time: being farm detectives and having fun jumping on the bouncy pillow!

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





Year 1 News

Miss Bolger, Mrs Garner, Miss Ahmed

Miss Mubashar, Mrs Wheeler, Mrs Kaur, Miss Mair

Which animal would you invite for tea?

Science



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



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



We have also

looked at how to eat healthily and what a balanced plate would look like for our tea party.

Maths

In Maths we have learnt about halves and quarters of shapes and numbers in our first introduction to fractions.



We have learnt about different units of time: We now know that the school day lasts 6 hours, not six seconds! We can tell



o'clock and half past times on an analogue clock. We have also learnt about money and loved making pretend shops in our classrooms to practice

making amounts of money using the correct coins.

Topic

To celebrate the end of our topic "What animal would you invite to tea?", we had a tea party. The children enjoyed playing games and having yummy snacks.



English

In English we have been doing lots of writing about Dragons. We have described them and used AI to create a picture of our dragons.



We have written non fiction reports about dragons too which included their diet, habitat and magical powers. We have learnt some dragon stories from different countries too.

Computing

We have been using a program called Scratch Junior to design our own space projects on the iPads. First we designed sprites of space rockets. After that we decided how each sprite would move and created algorithms for each one. We were even able to make our rockets race each other! Some children have even used it at home to make their own creations.



Outdoor Learning

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





Year 2 News

Miss Anderson, Mr Gauld

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

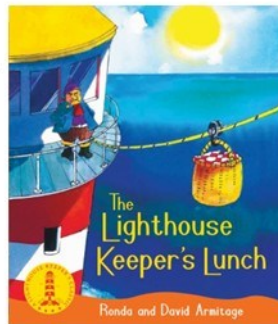
What a year it has been! Whilst we are sad that the children are moving on to Year 3, we can't help but celebrate all the wonderful memories we have created together. We wish the children all the best for their new adventures in Year3!

Is there really a Climate Crisis?

English

This half term, we have been hard at work developing our storytelling skills. One of our key focuses has been writing a detailed re-count of our school trip, using time adverbials. The children have also impressed us with their use of expanded noun phrases.

We've also enjoyed reading the story *The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch*. This tale has introduced us to exciting new vocabulary like *jubilant*, *concocting* and *brazen*.



Bucklebury Farm

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



DT

Puppet-Making Fun at SPLAT! We had an absolutely fantastic time sewing and creating our very own hand puppets during SPLAT! With the wonderful support of our adults, we brought our imaginative designs to life.

Topic

We have been hands on with our topic learning this half term. Our key questions have ranged from 'How has the Earth's climate changed over time?' to a debate around the question 'Is there really a climate crisis?'

Activities have included planning how to make the school more bee friendly, creating persuasive posters, planning arguments for and against climate change ready for a *heated* debate (pardon the pun!).

Maths

Our topics this half term have involved the children learning about statistics and how to present data, about positional and directional language and a consolidation of the four main operations: addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

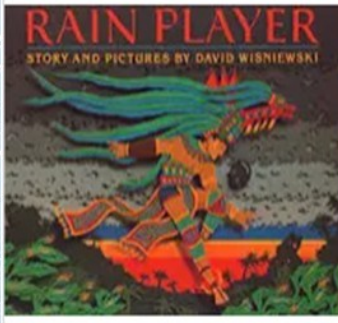


Year 3 News

Mrs Inwards, Mrs Hartgrove and Miss Rumbold

Miss Mair, Mrs Mohammed and Mrs Strong

How can we help protect our planet?



LITERACY

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

MATHS

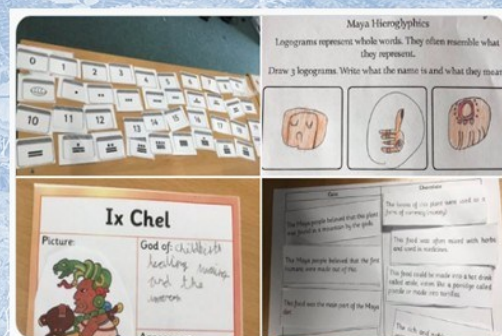
In maths, we learned about money, time, shape and statistics! The children worked very hard to understand time in many different contexts and were also introduced to the 12 hour digital clock.

SCIENCE

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

TOPIC

We have been excited to learn about the Maya. We learnt about their Gods, what they ate, how they wrote and their number system. We compared their civilisation to our own and found there were lots of similarities. In DT, the children really worked hard to create functioning puppets!





Year 4 News

Mr Williams, Mrs Partridge

Mrs Nice and Miss Briggs

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

How have our castles made Britain

great?

This term year 4 have continued their investigation into Britain's castles and the features that define a coast. The children have also been exploring medieval castles and replicating their engineering.

Maths

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

Writing

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

After poetry, the children moved onto writing fantasy narratives that involved terrifying monsters, resilient heroes and fantastical worlds. It has been lovely to watch their creativity flow in deciding what challenges their characters should face. The outcome of using AI for the mythical creatures were fantastic and the children were really proud of the end results!



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

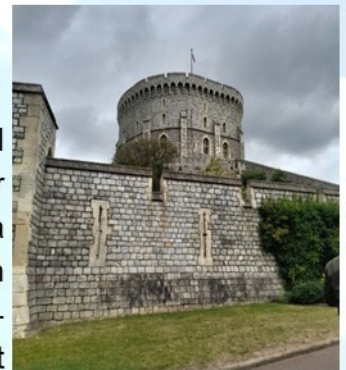
Design and Technology

In DT this term we have been looking at castles and how drawbridges work. They have finished their castles which will be sent home before the end of the year and the final outcomes were amazing! You could really see the children's designs come through in their final piece.

Windsor Castle

Trip

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



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

The Year 4 team



Year 5 News

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

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

What was the greatest legacy of Ancient Greece?

English

This term, our work has been based on the Greek myth 'Pandora's Box'. We began by writing a paragraph describing the moment the box was opened and the evils unleashed. We then wrote Abstract Noun Poems, based on Emily Dickinson's 'Hope', which led to a thorough deep-dive



into a review of the different types of nouns and culminated in the whole class writing a poem together about 'Evil'. The children then wrote their own very successful poems about 'Love', 'Wealth', 'Bravery' and many other abstract nouns.

Maths

We have packed a lot in this term! We completed our work on percentages, decimals and fractions; then we learnt about the different types of angles and how to use protractors; and finally, we learnt about polygons and the properties of 3D shapes.

Key Question Lessons

Our key question this term 'What was the greatest legacy of Ancient Greece?' led us to study key figures such as Alexander the Great, and famous events such as The Battle of Marathon. We have also learnt about the Elgin marbles and are now building relief clay tiles, decorating them with designs of myths, architecture and Gods.



We have also been doing Geography field work; we set up a weather station in our school field and recorded the data we captured in graphs and charts.

Despite the high temperatures we recorded this term, the children have been working with good focus and they should be very proud of how far they have come this year.

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

Well Done everyone!



Year 6 News

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

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

English

In English, we have been entertained (or scared) by the short film 'Franics' and produced some writing linked to it.

In reading, we have been enjoying the book: The Dawn of Adonis which is a prequel explaining the existence of Adonis, the silverback gorilla, from When the Sky Falls. A very enjoyable read.

Maths

Although SATs have finished, we still continued with our maths curriculum, completing units on Shape and Geometry.

Science and PSHE

We have continued to explore the question, 'What's the secret to a healthy body?' by looking at the effect of exercise on our body and mind, and what is needed for a healthy diet.

PE

We have used the learning behaviour of 'teamwork' in PE this term. Year 6 demonstrated amazing teamwork during our sports day and superb leadership when helping at KS1 sports day. We have also enjoyed playing cricket with Mr Edwards and Danish long ball in class.

Art

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

Music and Drama

Pirates of the Curry Bean was a huge success. We really enjoyed learning all the songs, and having the opportunity to perform to a real life audience at last! I am sure that you will agree that we have some incredibly talented individuals in this year group. This was one of my favourite Year 6 plays to date.



Manor Adventure

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



Goodbye and Good Luck

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





PE/Sports News

Mr Edwards

Welcome to the last "PE & Sports News Page" of the 2024/25 academic year and what a year it has been!

PE Lessons:

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

Highwood Primary 2025 Sports Days.

Due to the fantastic comments received by parents and staff over the last few years, I decided a repeat of the format for this year. However, we were able to add the activities missing from last years KS2 sports day. There were so many positive comments about it being run on the KS1 field mainly by staff and children mainly due to the logistics. Both KS2 and KS1 had a carousel of activities plus every child being entered into a running race. Unfortunately, due to the weather, the KS1, parent and toddlers races were cancelled. After a whole day of events across KS2 and KS1 sports days, only a few points separated 1st (Falcons) & 2nd place (Eagles) with Red Kites and Hawks 3rd and 4th respectively. It just goes to prove that every child played their part and every last ounce of extra effort makes the difference. Once again I would like to thank all of the staff, Bulmershe young leaders that ran the KS2 activities, year 6s and the parents for their support of this years sports days.



House Captains Zoe & Navin

Matches & Tournaments:

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

Wokingham Schools Yr 5/6 Quadkids Athletics.

One of my favourite events of the year took place at The Holt School this year whilst Palmer Park track is being refurbished. The team of 5 boys & 5 girls sprinted, jumped, threw and ran long distance all afternoon with so much pride and determination. This year I had a feeling we could do well as we fielded our best team yet. This was rewarded by coming 4th overall which is our best result so far. There were many individual highlights which I am so proud of.





PE/Sports News

Mr Edwards

Wokingham Schools Cricket League.

A really competitive league this year has seen our team of 2025 play together and include many year 5's. This bodes well for next years team. I cannot be more proud of the team. They have really bonded as a team and worked so hard for each other showing some great crick-eting skills learned in their own clubs out of school or in PE lessons which have been rewarded with 3 out of 4 wins including one school that fielded 3 county players!



Sports Achievements out of school

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



This half term we have Joselyn in year 3. Joselyn competed in her first ever dance competition for urban stylez and her mini crew won 1st place! Congratulations Joselyn!

Jack (year 4) & Freddie (year 2) took part in the Wargrave kids Fun run. They ran for a mile in the recent heat and both won themselves a medal! Jack ran it in 8m10 and Freddie in 10m 20. Fantastic achievement!



PE Autumn Term 1 2025

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

Ball Skills Years F2—Year 4

Football Year 5

Tag Rugby Year 6

PE Kit

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

As per "Uniform Policy" all earrings have to be removed for the lesson by the pupil or parent before school. **Please ensure any new piercings are carried out in first week of summer holidays to ensure removal for lessons at the beginning of next term.**

2023/24 Sports clubs outside of school Survey

Our previous record stood at 317 club members/activities (Yr 1-6) taking part in a physical activity outside of school. This year the number is slightly down at 278 (some children take part in more than one club per week) 31% of which are in swimming lessons which makes me very happy. A huge thank you to the parents for giving the children such a valuable opportunity. There is an obvious correlation in the fitness results carried out in PE against the low numbers of children attending physical clubs outside of school. This is not a "Highwood" issue but a national issue. Therefore I would like our Highwood children and parent body to buck the trend and encourage more physical activities and sports club memberships out of school. If you are in need of help with sign-posting towards any particular sports clubs, I am more than happy to help.

Finally.....

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

I hope you all have a great summer holiday.

Mr Edwards



Family Centre News



My role in school is to provide support, advice and information to the families within our school community. I can help you with any worries that you may have in relation to your child's education, behaviour and wellbeing. I am also here as someone to talk to if you need it. I 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 academic year, 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! All dates are advertised in the weekly bulletin.
- **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 morning** 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 worked with SEND Voices to host a parent forum for the PINS project which looks at inclusivity across the school.
- **Little Saplings Family Playgroup:** welcoming families with young children who will join Highwood in sessions of play, learning, singing and creating. All dates are advertised in the weekly bulletin.
- **Young Carers Support Group:** we have held our first meeting with Natasha, the schools lead from Berkshire Youth/Wokingham Young Carers. If your child has any caring responsibilities at home and they are over 8 yrs. they are welcome to join us next term. Please contact me for more information.
- **Home Visits:** to families joining us in F1 and F2 - one of my favourite parts of the school year!



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



Family Centre News

Looking ahead to next half term:

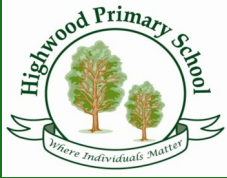
SAVE THE DATES:

- New to Highwood? First day feelings? A **coffee morning for all new parents and carers**. 4th September, 8:45 in the family room
- **Parent Gym taster session** —Thursday 18th September. A taster session before the 6 week programme starting on 6th October. For more information about the programme please see here [Parent Gym - Highwood Primary School](#)
- **Healthy lunchboxes** workshop - Monday 22 September.
- Winter warmers - we are going to be running a **'bring a coat, leave a coat'** rail as we get closer to the cooler months. If you are in need of a coat for your child, you will be able to choose one, at no cost. If your child has outgrown one, you can leave their old one on the rail to find a new owner. Please ensure any donations are in good clean pre-loved condition with old name labels removed.

**PLACES WHERE KIDS EAT FREE (OR FOR £1)
SUMMER HOLIDAYS 2025**
moneysavingcentral.co.uk/kids-eat-free

<p>ANGUS STEAKHOUSE Kids under 8 eat FREE daily, 12pm to 5pm</p> <p>ASDA Kids eat for £1 daily, with no adult spend</p> <p>ASK ITALIAN Kids under 10 eat for £1 during school holidays</p> <p>BEEFEATER Kids Eat FREE with Newsletter Voucher this Summer</p> <p>BELLA ITALIA Children eat for £1 with any adult main</p> <p>BILLS Kids Eat Free weekdays, 21st July - 29th Sept</p> <p>BREWERS FAYRE Kids Eat FREE with Newsletter Voucher this Summer</p> <p>BREWDOG 2 Kids eat free with 1 adult, 19th July - 31st August</p> <p>BURGER KING From 28th July - 31st August, Kids Eat Free (via app)</p> <p>CHIQUITO Kids eat FREE Daily Until August 31st</p> <p>DOBBIES GARDEN CENTRES Kids eat for £1 with an adult breakfast or lunch</p> <p>FRANKIE & BENNY'S Kids Eat Free from 14th July - 31st August 2025</p> <p>FUTURE INNS Under 5s eat for free with any adult meal</p> <p>GORDON RAMSEY RESTAURANTS Kids under 10 eat FREE all day, every day</p> <p>HARVESTER Kids eat for £1, Mon - Fri via the App</p> <p>HUNGRY HORSE Kids eat for £1 on Mondays</p> <p>IKEA Kids get a meal from 95p daily from 11am</p>	<p>LAS IGUANAS Kids under 12 eat FREE with 'My Las Iguanas' App</p> <p>MARCO PIERRE WHITE Kids under 12 Eat FREE daily with an adult spend</p> <p>MORRISONS Kids Eat FREE all day, every day with a £5 spend</p> <p>PAUSA CAFE @ DUNELM Kids eat FREE with every £4 spend after 3pm</p> <p>PREMIER INN & TRAVELODGE 2 kids eat for FREE with 1 adult breakfast</p> <p>PRETO Kids up to age 10 eat free with 1 paying adult</p> <p>PUREZZA Kids under 10 get free pizza with every adult meal</p> <p>SA BRAINS PUBS Kids eat for £1 on Wednesdays</p> <p>SIZZLING PUBS Kids eat for £1, Every Monday to Friday, 3 - 7pm</p> <p>TABLE TABLE 2 Kids Eat free breakfast daily with 1 paying adult</p> <p>TESCO Kids Eat FREE with a 60p spend until Aug 31st</p> <p>TGI FRIDAYS Kids Eat Free with any adult meal (Via App)</p> <p>THE REAL GREEK Kids under 12 eat FREE Sundays with £10 spend</p> <p>TOBY CARVERY Kids eat for £1 all day (weekdays) until Aug 29th</p> <p>WHITBREAD INNS 2 Kids eat for FREE with 1 adult breakfast</p> <p>YO! SUSHI Kids eat free all day (weekdays) in school holidays</p> <p>ZIZZI Kids eat free this summer holidays (ex Saturdays)</p>
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SENCO

Dear Families,

It has been truly wonderful to see our pupils grow, thrive, and achieve so much this term. Whether they are challenging themselves academically, taking part in sporting events, or simply enjoying school life, their enthusiasm and progress have been inspiring. We've seen children step out of their comfort zones, support one another, and celebrate their successes—both big and small. From school trips that sparked curiosity, to the excitement of the school disco, and the brilliant performances in the Year 6 production, it's clear our pupils are making the most of every opportunity.



A big thank you to everyone who responded to the PINs (Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools) survey and those who came to the PINS coffee morning run by Send Voices Wokingham. We will be continuing to work on this project into the next academic year.



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 \(wokingham.gov.uk\)](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

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

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



SENCO

Mrs Padbury's Holiday Challenge

How many of these free activities can you do in the summer holidays?

- Climb a tree in Highwood.
- Skim a stone at Southlake.
- Count the Ducks at Dinton.
- Kick a ball at Bulmershe Park.
- Try Woodford Park's new play equipment.
- Visit a museum:

(<https://www.readingmuseum.org.uk> <https://collections.reading.ac.uk/cole-museum/> <https://merl.reading.ac.uk/>)

- Visit the library
- Visit all these playgrounds in Woodley:

Ashenbury Park	Badgers Rise play area	Blanchard Close play area
Bulmershe Park	Crescent play area	Enstone Road play
Hearn Road play area	Malone Park	Mollison Way play area
Redwood Avenue play area	Sandford Park Southlake	Vauxhall Drive play area
Wheble Park	Woodford Park	Woodley Town Centre play area



Attendance Matters

We have made it! As always, thank you to our families for continuing to work with us to ensure that all our children have the best possible attendance. We have had some real success stories this year supporting children and parents/carers with improving their child's attendance.

Highlights of 2025!

- Persistent absence (under 90%) has reduced
- 167 of our children have achieved excellent attendance this year (97% or over)
- Year 5 have achieved top attendance this year. big well done!



We return to school on 4th September at 8.45!

Lateness is sadly on the increase at Highwood. Every moment matters in school so lets start the new school year on a high ensuring all our children are here every morning on time and ready to learn. Do remember we also have breakfast and after school club provision.



- ⇒ Gates open at 8.30am
- ⇒ The school day starts at 8.45am
- ⇒ School closes at 3.15pm

The back-to-school transition — lets embrace the new school year!

- Ease back into a school-based sleep schedule ahead of the first days back
- Reintroduce routine early
- Start to talk about school
- Involve your children in back to school shopping
- Reconnect with friends
- Engage your child's mind with brain boosting activities such as puzzles and word games



Why is good attendance important?

Statistics show that children with good attendance achieve well in school

Children with attendance above 96% make better progress socially and academically

Children who attend regularly find their learning more satisfying and have fewer gaps in their knowledge





Attendance Matters

Looking ahead to 2025/2026

Important information to keep your child's attendance on track

Authorised absences

- Genuine illness
- Emergency situations
- Educational trips/ open days
- Medical appointments



Unauthorised absences

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



Penalty fine charges have increased. We issued 15 penalty fines during the school year 2024/2025.



Did you know you can also receive a penalty fine for lateness.

Speak to Lisa Hall, Attendance Officer to find out more.

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



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





Library News

Mrs Yule

Thank you!

I'd like to start with a big thank you to all parents, carers and students who have supported the library in many ways this year.

Book Fairs

Our book fairs have been a great success. Your generosity meant we received £660 in reward points, at the recent Book Fair, to spend on books for the school. We purchased some at the Fair and will be looking at what we need in the coming year.



Friends of Highwood

Friends of Highwood have also been very generous with helping to fund the new stands and scanners in the library. This enables the children to scan their books in and out of the library in a timelier fashion. We have also been able to buy some new books from another source and a picture of these is attached.

Summer Picnic

I am glad that many of you were able to come to the summer picnic and take home a few of the books that I cannot use in the library or need to replace with newer books. If you have books at home that your children have read and enjoyed, but no longer need, please consider donating them to the library. They must be in good condition and I would prefer books suitable for Year 1 and upwards.

Scholastic Book shop

If you are considering buying books online for your children or other family and friends have a look at the Scholastic Book shop. You can buy books and nominate the school to receive reward points. This may be easier for those of you who find online shopping more accessible. This may also be an option when you are unable to come to the book fair. You are welcome to do both!

Summer Reading Challenge

Don't forget the Summer Reading Challenge. This year it's all about nature and the outdoors. If you are not a member of your local library it's free to join at the library or online. The challenge for each child is to read 6 books over the holidays. They will then receive a certificate. I would love to put copies of as many certificates as I can, on the display board outside the library.

Finally, I'd like to wish you all a very happy summer break and I look forward to seeing all the children back in the library in September.

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

jjule@highwood.wokingham.sch.uk

Mrs J Yule



Friends of Highwood



Raffle Prizes for the Winter Fayre

If you, or your employer, may be able to donate, please email 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





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 you think your child is eligible for benefits related free school meals please contact the school office.

Children in Nursery, Years 3 to 6 are required to pay for dinners. The price of a school dinner is to **£2.57 per day**.

As you will know that we are moving to a new catering provider "Innovate" where you will be required to book your child's dinner directly with the provider.

More information has been sent to you and available on our website.

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.

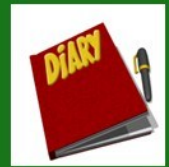
It is recommended that ear piercing is only done in the first week of the summer holidays to allow the time for them to settle.

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

Wednesday 3 September	Inset day - school closed for staff training
Thursday 4 September	School starts for all children (including F2 (unless agreed staggered start) and existing F1 children)
Thursday 4 September	Welcome to Highwood coffee morning for new F2 parents (and new parents in other year groups) 8.45am to 9.45am
Friday 12 September	Parent coffee morning with Mental Health Support Team - 8.45am to 10am
Tuesday 16 September	Meet The Teacher - 6pm to 7.30pm
Thursday 18 September	Parent Gym Taster Session—9am—11am
Monday 22 September	Healthy lunchboxes workshop for parents/carers run by WBC
Friday 26 September	Parent coffee morning in Family Centre - 8.45am to 9.45am
Friday 10 October	SEN support coffee morning in Family Centre - 8.45am to 9.45am
Wednesday 22 October	Parents' Meetings (evening) - 5pm to 8pm
Thursday 23 October	Parents' Meetings (after school) - 3.30pm to 6pm
Wednesday 22 - Thursday 23 October	Travelling Book Fair in school
Friday 24 October	Inset day - school closed for staff training
Monday 27 - Friday 31 October	Half Term
Monday 3 November	Inset day - school closed for staff training
Friday 7 November	Non-uniform day for "Elfridges" donations for Winter Fair
Wednesday 12 November	School Photographer - Individual and Sibling photos
Friday 14 November	Parent coffee morning in Family Centre - 8.45am to 9.45am
Friday 14 November	Children in Need Day (wear spots or merchandise)
Friday 28 November	SEN support coffee morning in Family Centre - 8.45am to 9.45am
Friday 28 November	Non-uniform day for chocolate and bottle donations for Winter Fair
Saturday 29 November	FOH Winter Fair
Wednesday 10 December	Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 12 December	Parent coffee morning in Family Centre - 8.45am to 9.45am
Tuesday 16 December	Nativity (morning)
Wednesday 17 December	Nativity (afternoon)
Thursday 18 December	Nativity (morning)
Thursday 18 December	Parent Book Look in classrooms - 3.15pm to 3.45pm
Friday 19 December	Last day of term - school finishes at 1.30pm
SPLAT Sessions will be communicated in the Autumn Term	