



Highwood Primary School
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Promoting Resilience, Achieving Potential
Headteacher Mrs B Rai

Monday 5th October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

The first month of the new academic year has been a positive one for all of us. The children have been demonstrating the Highwood Golden Rules and settling into their new classes with enthusiasm and excitement. Last week our school improvement adviser visited to observe the learning. He was pleased that the classrooms are very calm and purposeful, the children were motivated in their lessons and were demonstrating resilience and perseverance. A big well done to all the staff and children for establishing such a happy learning environment!

It is also lovely to see our new children in Nursery and Reception. They are making the most of all the great learning opportunities and feeling a strong sense of belonging. It is like they have always been here.

Our biggest priority at Highwood has been the launch of our renewed vision. This work is being led by Mrs Fernandes and the senior leadership team.



Together We Belong: Growing Futures



Our renewed vision for every child and every family

We are delighted to share with you that **Highwood Primary School** is beginning an exciting new chapter.

At the heart of this is a simple but powerful belief:

Every child should leave Highwood believing:

“I belong. I matter. I can achieve. My future is full of possibilities.”

Our renewed vision is called:

TOGETHER WE BELONG: GROWING FUTURES

It brings together what we value most at Highwood — **belonging, relationships, family partnership, confidence and opportunity.**

What does this mean for our children?

Our renewed vision makes four important promises:

EVERY CHILD BELONGS

Every child should feel **safe, valued, understood and connected.**

EVERY CHILD HAS A CHAMPION

Every child should have trusted adults who **know them, believe in them and advocate for them.**

EVERY FAMILY BELONGS

We want every family to feel **welcomed, respected, listened to and valued as a partner** in their child's education.

EVERY CHILD SEES POSSIBILITY

We want children to experience a wider world — meeting inspiring people, discovering new experiences and developing the confidence to imagine what they might achieve.

Why does this matter?

We know that children learn and thrive when they feel that they **belong.**

Strong relationships give children confidence. Positive experiences help them discover new interests. High expectations help them believe in what they can achieve.

Our aim is therefore not simply for children to do well at school, but to **grow as confident, capable young people who believe that they have a positive future ahead of them.**

This is not a new programme or something additional to school life. It is about bringing together the things that matter most to us and making sure that every child and family experiences them consistently.



You are warmly invited!

Parent Coffee Afternoon – This Friday 9th October at 2.15pm – 3.10pm

We would love you to join us for a special opportunity to hear more about our renewed vision and what it means for **your child and your family.**

Come along, have a coffee, meet with members of the school team and find out more about the exciting direction we are taking together.

Together, we can help every child belong, grow in confidence and see the possibilities ahead.

Further details about our renewed vision will be shared with families shortly.

We look forward to sharing this journey with you.

Staff News

I would like to share that after a decade of supporting pupils and staff; **Lisa Herbert** will be leaving Highwood. Her last day will be on Friday 23rd October.

Since joining us in 2015, Lisa has made an enormous contribution to our Early Years provision. She has played a key role in supporting pupils' development, building strong and trusting partnerships with parents, and being a wonderful team player. Her deep knowledge of child development, commitment, and kindness will be greatly remembered.

Lisa has always been unassuming in the way she has supported others, quietly helping ECTs, as well as less experienced teachers and staff, to build their confidence through her strong team ethic.

It is never easy to say goodbye to someone who has been such a valued part of our school. We wish her every success, happiness, and fulfilment in the next chapter of her journey.

An enormous thank you to colleagues who attended the Friends of Highwood Welcome Back Fair. Your support was gratefully appreciated. "A huge thank you to everyone that attended this weekend's Friends of Highwood Welcome Back Fair!

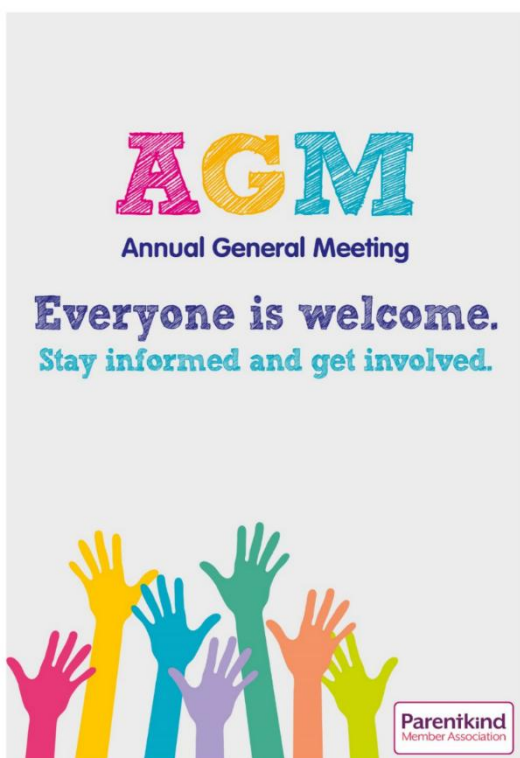
We are thrilled to announce we took £2,834.50 and the profits of these funds will go straight back into financing necessary equipment and fun experiences that all the Highwood young people will benefit from.

We'd like to thank everyone (parents, carers, grandparents and teachers) that gave up their time to help set-up, breakdown and man the stalls - we hope you had fun too!

Another BIG belated thank you goes to **Rosie in Year 6's Grandad**, who for the past several years he has quietly funded the cost of and arranged for the fair's toilets and bins. As you will agree this is a very necessary part of the event. We appreciate this incredibly kind donation of resources and time very much.



And, finally, congratulations to Ava in Elm 1 - the winner of the giant plushie monkey - his name was Sky!"



Friends of Highwood AGM taking place this Thursday 8th October at 6.00pm at school.



HARVEST FESTIVAL CELEBRATION

Can you help? Each year we request your donations of non-perishable foods and hygiene items for New Hope Charity.

Harvest Assembly is a lovely occasion which encourages the children to think about where our food comes from and how lucky we are to live in a country where food is plentiful. We invite you to send into school from **Tuesday 6th October**, any of the items listed on the next page for New Hope (please watch the 'use by' dates!). If you could spare an item or two for your child to bring in, it would be much appreciated. I know that food banks up and down the country are really stretched currently and this is a local cause which we are very keen to support.

Please send items in to your child's classroom. They will then bring the items to the special display "Our Table of Plenty".

Thank you for your ongoing support

Yours sincerely,
Bindu Rai
Headteacher

NewHope

PREVENTING
HOMELESSNESS.
TRANSFORMING
LIVES.

Here
are some
things
that we
need
please:



Baby and Child

Aptamil formula
Branded nappies from
size 3 onwards
e.g. Pampers
Jars of baby food with
long shelf life
Nappy sacks
Wipes - sensitive or
water based

Drinks

Cans of fizzy drinks
Coffee
Fruit juice:
Individual cartons and
large cartons of
long-life juice
Instant hot chocolate
Long-life milk
Small bottles of water
Squash
Tea

Groceries

Baked beans
BBQ sauce
Biscuits
Breakfast cereals/
porridge pots
Brown sauce
Cereal bars
Chocolate spread
Chutney/pickle
Cooking oil (not olive)
Cup a Soups
Dried herbs, (chilli,
oregano, thyme,
parsley, mint)
Individual bags of crisps
Individual chocolate
bars/biscuits
Jam
Ketchup
Marmite
Mayonnaise

Mug shots
Pasta
Pasta sauces
Peanut butter (smooth)
Pot noodles/
super noodles/
pasta pots
Salad cream
Salt and pepper
Stock cubes
Sugar
Supermarket vouchers
Tinned tomatoes
Tinned tuna

Household

Air freshener
Antibacterial
multi-purpose cleaner
Dishwasher tablets
Kitchen foil/cling film
Kitchen rolls
Scourers/cloths

Washing powder
Washing up liquid
Wooden disposable
cutlery

Toiletries

Brushes
Combs
Conditioner
Moisturiser
Paper towels
Pump soaps
Sanitary towels
Shampoo
Shaving gel/foam
Shower gel/body wash
Spray deodorant (male
and female)
Sun cream (30+)
Toilet rolls
Toothbrushes
Toothpaste
Women's razors

For further details:

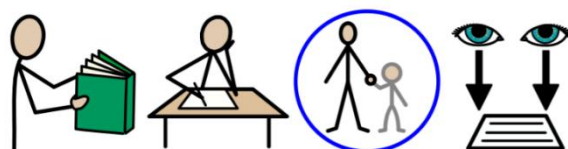
visit newhope.org.uk/harvest
contact Frazer at fansell@newhope.org.uk
or call 01923 227 132

You can also donate money online to our Fresh Food Fund
newhope.org.uk/freshfoodfund

New Hope (Welton New Hope Trust) is a registered charity (1080784) and a company limited by guarantee (20340063).
Registered office: 67 Queens Road, Welton, WOT1 2QN

Please see below the diary dates of some events.
We are still finalising the Friends of Highwood events,
class sharing assemblies and some class trips.

Book Look Days have commenced. Find out how much progress your child is making.



We are excited to let you know that Book Look Days will be starting again. On the dates below, you're warmly invited to join us **at the end of the school day**. This is a lovely chance to sit with your child, look through their learning, and chat together about everything they've been working on. It's an informal and relaxed way to see just how much progress they're making. If you'd like a more in-depth, individual meeting with the class teacher, please contact the school office to arrange a separate time.

During the month of October and November we will be learning about the significance of **Black History Month in the UK**. **Some of our families will be celebrating Diwali**, the Festival of Lights. We also wish a joyful **Bandi Chhor Divas** to those of our Sikh community who are celebrating.



05.10.26	Election for School Council and ECO Committee Representatives announcement	
05.10.26	Harvest Celebration launched – Please take any donations to class for New Hope	
13.10.26	Y3 Trip to Chiltern Open Air Museum	
14.10.26	Watford Schools Trust whole school assembly whole school. Rebecca Palmer to visit and thank the children on behalf of New Hope Charity.	
19.10.26	Book Look Day after school	
20.10.26	Science Ambassador trip to Science Museum	
21.10.26 to 23.10.26	Y6 PGL Residential visit	
22.10.26	Y4 Trip to Cassiobury Park	
23.10.26	Break up for Half Term (Normal finish)	
Half Term 26.10.26 to 30.10.26		
02.11.26	Pupils Return to school	
05.11.26	Guy Fawkes Day – Remember safety around fires and fireworks	

05.11.26 and 06.11.26	Celebrating British Values of Respect, Tolerance and Diversity We are delighted to share with you that a company is visiting us. They will provide a Bollywood dance lesson to every class on 5 th and 6 th November as part of the children's learning about Diwali, the Hindu festival of light.
08.11.26	Happy Diwali to our families
11.11.26	Armistice Day. We will be observing the two Minute Silence. 
11.11.26	Y6 Workshop Crucial Crew trip from 12.00 noon
11.11.26	Y2 Fire of London Workshop
12.11.26	Y1 Whipsnade Zoo trip
13.11.26	Y6 Chestnut Class sharing assembly 9.10am
16.11.26 – 20.11.26	Anti Bully awareness Week – ODD Socks Day. Pupils are encouraged to wear ODD Socks to demonstrate the importance of accepting everyone and their differences that make them unique  
17.11.26 & 18.11.26	Parent/Carer Consultation Meetings – Further information will be sent.
18.11.26	Flu Vaccination Mop Up Clinic – Reception to Y6
18.11.26	Step into Christmas. We will be starting to get ready for end of year festivities and thinking and the meaning of Christmas around the world. Dates are to be confirmed about Year group Performances. 