Highwood Primary School
Mead Way, Bushey, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD23 2AW
Tel: 01923 256210 E-mail: admin@highwood.herts.sch.uk

Promoting Resilience, Achieving Potential

Headteacher Mrs B Rai

Monday 29th September 2025

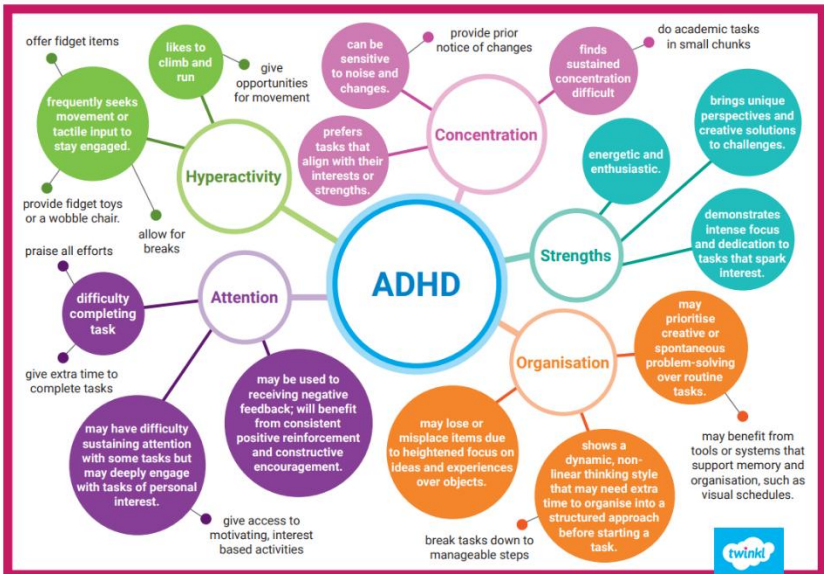
Dear Parents and Carers,

We are now well underway with the new academic year as we establish routines, behaviour expectations and plan for lots of exciting learning opportunities.
Thank you for attending our Parent Information Talk Meetings. We were pleased with the attendance and it was an opportunity for you to know how ambitious we are about every child making progress in all areas of their learning.

SEND Information
Mrs Uezzell, our new SENDCo has been holding numerous meetings with parents, carers and outside professional agencies. She is also getting to know the pupils in all classes. Should you wish to meet with her, please make an appointment by speaking to Miss Graham or Mrs Home at the main Office. You can also send an email request.

October is ADHD Awareness Month
ADHD Awareness Month takes place throughout October and is dedicated to raising awareness of and educating people about Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). The goal of ADHD awareness month is to provide reliable information and resources to help people thrive with ADHD. On the following website you can find lots of resources to learn more about the condition.

https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/adhd-children-teenagers/
https://www.adhdawarenessmonth.org/



Forest School Sessions

An enormous thank you to Friends of Highwood for the investment in our Forest School. As you know Steve Pratt has commenced sessions and the pupils are thrilled. It's great that he has created a carpentry area too. **This is a wonderful opportunity to practice woodwork and construction skills using both natural and manufactured materials**. We would like to continue to develop this area to promote sawing with vices and saws, and using a variety of other resources to support hands-on building activities and promote creativity and problem-solving.
We are always grateful for donations. Please let the Office know if you have an item that will be beneficial for our lessons.

What to wear for Forest School

We have noticed that some pupils are wearing unsuitable clothing for outdoor learning, such as dressy outfits, cropped tops, or shorts. To ensure safety and comfort, we ask that all pupils wear their **P.E. kit** for these sessions.

Please make sure your child is dressed appropriately for outdoor activities:

- **Joggers** (not shorts)
- **Long-sleeved top** - Long sleeves and joggers help protect pupils from scratches, stings, insect bites, rope burns, cuts, grazes, and even sunburn.
- **Lightweight raincoat or coat**
- **Old trainers or wellington boots**

Thank you for your support in keeping pupils safe and ready to enjoy their outdoor learning.

Please also ensure that you have looked at the most recent email from the school regarding uniform standards.

CENSUS DAY Thursday 2nd October

School funding allocation from the government is dependent on the number of meals ordered on this day, so we are understandably very keen for the maximum number of orders!

We are facing significant cost pressures.

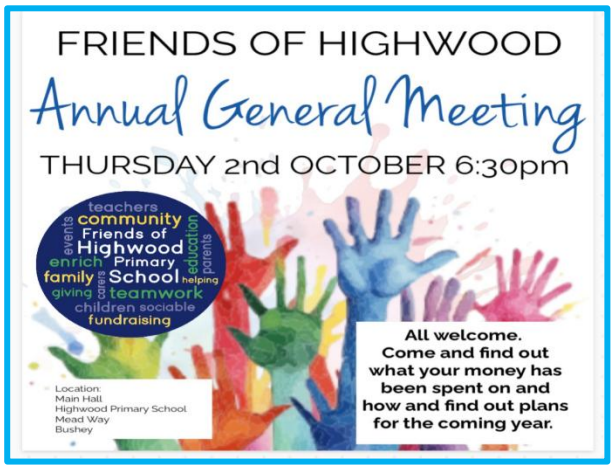
The Autumn School Census calculation will be used for the school's block of the dedicated schools grant (DSG), pupil premium allocations for 26/27, funding allocations for the early years entitlements and also the universal infant free school meals funding, therefore it is vitally important.

We could lose up to £20,000 if we do not have all pupils in Reception, Year 1, Year 2 and those pupils eligible for Free School Meals take up a meal on Census Day.

Please book a meal to help the school. Thank you.

Friends of Highwood AGM – Thursday 2nd October.

Please support the Friends of Highwood by attending the AGM at the School to find out what is taking place this year.



STAFF NEWS

I would like to share that after nearly **21 years of dedicated service**, **Mrs Janine Bannon** will be leaving Highwood on Friday 24th October.

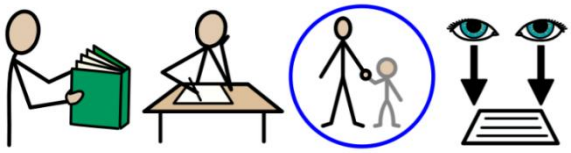
Since joining us in 2004, Mrs Bannon has made an enormous contribution to our school community. She has played a key role in supporting pupils' development, building strong and trusting partnerships with parents, and being a wonderful team player. Her deep knowledge of child development, commitment, and kindness have left a lasting impact, not only through the excellent work she has carried out but also through the care and support she has shown to colleagues and our families alike.

Mrs Bannon's inspirational and thoughtful approach has brought the best out of the pupils where they have grown to be confident and inquisitive learners. Her energy and determination, has helped us achieve so much over the years, and our team simply won't be the same without her. She leaves big shoes to fill!

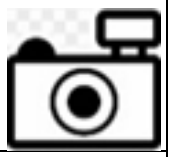
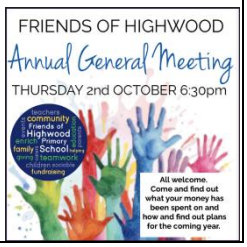
It is never easy to say goodbye to someone who has been such a valued part of our community. While we are sad to see her go, we are deeply grateful for everything she has given to Highwood and wish her every success, happiness, and fulfilment in the next chapter of her journey.
Please join me in truly thanking Mrs Bannon for her outstanding contribution and in wishing her all the very best for the future.

Yours sincerely,
Bindu Rai
Headteacher

Book Look Days are Back!



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.

22.09.25	Launch of School Council and ECO Committee
29.09.25	Year 6 Parent / Carer PGL Meeting 3.30pm – Y6 Classroom
02.10.25	**Autumn School Census Day** Census Day is an important day for schools across the country. On this day, the government collects information about the number of children having a school meal. Why does this matter? ✅ The number of meals taken on Census Day directly affects the funding our school receives for the year. ✅ More meals booked means more funding, which helps us provide the very best opportunities, resources, and support for your children. That's why we kindly encourage all families to **book a school meal for their child on Census Day**—even if they don't normally have one. Every meal really does make a difference! **Thank you so much for your support.**
02.10.25	Van Cols Photo Day – Please ensure your child/ren are in Uniform. 
02.10.25 **Please support our fantastic Committee. We need lots of parents and carers to join us to make wonderful memorable experiences for our children!**	

06.10.25	Harvest Celebration Week begins – more information will be sent out
07.10.25	Hustings for School Council and ECO Representatives begins
08.10.25	Spelling Shed Day Pupils will be encouraged to boost their knowledge about spellings. Further details will be sent.
09.10.25	Election of School Council and Eco Representatives
10.10.25	World Homeless Day and World Mental Health Day
10.10.25	Chestnut 6 Class Sharing Assembly
13.10.25	Year 6 PGL Residential visit
13.10.25	Cycle or Scooter to school week begins
20.10.25	Book Look Day after school
21.10.25	Diwali and Bandi Chor Divas
22.10.25	Hawthorn Class Sharing Assembly – To be confirmed
23.10.25	Friends of Highwood Disco – Please come along and volunteer. Further information from Friends of Highwood will be out shortly.
24.10.25	Break up
Half Term 27.10.25 – 02.11.25	
03.11.25	Pupils Return to school