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

Monday 2nd November 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

We hope you all had a restful and enjoyable half-term break. This stretch of the term is as hectic and one of the busiest.

We start the newsletter by saying an enormous thank you to the staff, **Mrs Kamboz, Mrs Shameem, Mr Goodenough, Mrs Home and Mrs Gerrald who created a fantastic three-day experience for our Year 6 who attended PGL.** We would like to thank them for putting in the extra effort. It was truly appreciated. The pupils had an enjoyable time, experiencing lots of new activities. Photos can be viewed through Class Dojo.
Thank you to **Miss Pascutoi** as well, who supported the pupils who did not attend. They also carried out a variety of fun and interesting learning opportunities.



There are plenty of activities, events, and important dates to look forward to, so be sure to mark your calendar.
There will be some additions of workshops and class trips and will be notify those parents with a separate letter.

Thank you for your ongoing support as we work together to create a vibrant, supportive, and learning environment. Let's make this half of the autumn term full of learning and memorable experiences!

An enormous thank you for our Friends of Highwood Committee. They are some great events planned and we are looking forward to your support, otherwise we may have to cancel some due to not having enough volunteers

The Friends of Highwood offers a chance to connect with other parents and families, build friendships, and work together toward shared goals. We all want the best for our children, and by being a part of Friends you can contribute to making Highwood a warm and inclusive community.
Committee members stay informed about school initiatives and get a voice in decision-making processes that impacts our school. Your feedback and ideas are valuable, and by joining in you'll have an opportunity to shape the future of our school. Thank you for considering this opportunity to make a lasting difference.

School and ECO Council 2026

Our newly elected members held their first meeting just before the holiday break.

Here are some of the additional things that the Council wanted to share

School and ECO Council Meeting Minutes

Date:	20.10.26	Time:	9.20am
In attendance:	**Maple 3** – Ada & Troy **Hawthorn 4** – Hannah **Willow 5** – Violet & Gabriel **Sycamore 6** – Lucy & Myra		**Cedar 3** – Daniel & Thea **Hazel 4** – Katie & Mason **Poplar 5** - Shivaay, Alex & Guy **Chestnut 6** – Brody, Mia & Pala
Apologies:	Troy and Violet		
Topic:	Introductions, Friends of Highwood events, events for the year sharing possible ideas, Anti Bullying theme, Any other matters to share?		

Additional Discussion Points were:

1. If the dining hall is too noisy, then pupils should not go out until they are quiet. **Brody.**
2. The Christmas Fair was too crowded and there was not enough space. Can we increase the space ? Can we have hot chocolate? **Guy.**
3. Cheese Touch, Contact games should be banned. They are annoying and unsafe. **Gabriel.**
4. Need to only use soft balls. Children are getting hit with hard leather balls and tennis balls. **Alex, Guy, Gabriel, Myra.**
5. Evey month a pupil from every class should get a Golden Ticket Reward. This could be Student of the Month. It's not fair for pupils who don't come to the Christmas Fair. **Pala.**
6. We can ask the classes what kinds of rewards they want.
7. We should promote more fundraising activities so we can get new goal posts. **Shivaay.**
8. Can we have more school clubs like basketball, netball, Hockey. **Mason.**
9. We should improve Tea time Club. I have been going there for four years. It is boring with the same games and activities. **Guy.**
10. Can we do the Colour Run? It is a good idea. **Lucy**
11. We need more children doing TTRS, Spelling Shed.
12. Can we hold a competition for Class Battles! The winning class could have extra play.

National Anti-Bullying Week 2026 As always, our school will be in full support of National Anti-Bullying Week. National Anti-Bullying Week 2026. It runs from Monday, November 16th to Friday, November 20th. The theme for the week is "Break the Silence," which encourages everyone to use their courage to speak up, stand with those who are being hurt, and create a more inclusive and supportive community. During the week we are also having our Odd Socks days to help raise awareness for Anti-Bullying Week. Most importantly, Odd Socks Day is designed to be fun! It's an opportunity for children and staff to express themselves and appreciate individuality and uniqueness! School uniform must be worn.

Our School and ECO Committee Representatives will be promoting this event.





At Highwood Primary we aim to educate our children about British Values. We promote a deep understanding of different faiths, traditions and appreciate diverse cultural celebrations that contribute to the rich tapestry of our community.



Remembrance Day

The red poppy flower has become a symbol of remembrance for those who have died in service to their country, particularly during wartime.

Over the next few days, our School Councillors will be visiting each classroom with Poppies and other exciting items. If you wish to support the Appeal, please ensure your child brings in some cash with them over the next few days.

Thank you for honouring and supporting our veterans.

Online Safety

Because children deserve a safe digital world

Many parents will opt to use apps to track and monitor the location and online activities of their children. These apps can be really beneficial (e.g. physical safety) but as with anything there are drawbacks (e.g. invasion of privacy).

There are so many really good resources out there for parents/carers about how to help keeping children safe online, but it can quickly become really overwhelming.

Internet Matters has a really great resource for parents called **My Family's Digital Toolkit**. This is a personalised resource which gives age-specific advice, advice to deal with specific concerns, recommendations for digital tools to support children's interests and more. The toolkit is free and you can find more details **https://www.internetmatters.org/**

https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/

Farewell

It is always with mixed feelings when colleagues decide to move on to new roles and opportunities. With this in mind, I wanted to share the news that **Steve Pratt** will be leaving us at the end of this term. It has been a real pleasure to support Steve on his journey to becoming a Forest School Practitioner. I will look back on 2023 with particular gratitude, as this was the year he helped bring

our vision for outdoor learning to life, whilst training and developing his skills. Steve has made a significant contribution towards developing our Forest School provision **(with the amazing financial support of Friends of Highwood)** and creating meaningful opportunities for children to explore nature, develop practical skills, build confidence and resilience, and learn through outdoor experiences. His enthusiasm and commitment have helped shape part of the school field to an engaging outdoor learning environment that enriches children's experiences and their wider development. I am incredibly thankful for the time and passion Steve has invested in Highwood and for the foundations he has established for the future of our Forest School provision. He is moving on to work at the Acorn Centre, a local behaviour support provision. No doubt, our paths will continue to cross as he supports Highwood pupils at tier 4 level and their parents.

We also have **Ian Spiers** leaving us, to take up a role near to his home. During his time at the school, he has played an important role in keeping our premises clean, safe and well maintained. We are grateful for all his hard work.

We thank Steve and Ian for their contribution and wish them every success and happiness.

Class DoJo

We are so pleased that many parents and carers have joined the Class Dojo for their child's class.



Just to recap some key information:
- On the app, it does ask for you to pay, but you are able to use it without paying so please don't feel obliged to do so! You are **not required** to pay for the service.
- Please do not send messages via the chat function as we will not be looking at/responding to them. Instead, please communicate with us through the office or at the end of the day as usual.
- Please feel free to provide any feedback about the app too. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask the class teacher at the end of the day.

Thank you for your recent feedback comments :

It's a very useful app to stay connected with what the children do at school. Great updates and pictures too. Thank you.

This is very useful tool as I can see what my son is up to at school and also what he is learning as he isn't very forthcoming with information.

I would love to give more home dojo points, but it won't let me.

Great way to see pictures of what the children have been learning at school. Great way of the teachers sending messages and reminders to us.

Another school app to keep track of as a parent. Whilst it's nice to see pics of what the children are doing in class. I would be fine not receiving these updates too. Hopefully it's not too burdensome for Teachers.

It has been positive to discuss with my child why they have received dojos and it has been motivating to them to do home learning.

As the days get shorter and darker through autumn, we are encouraging families to stay safe and visible on the roads through its Be Bright Be Seen campaign. High-visibility clothing, like the reflective tags, plays a vital role in road safety as they can be seen by drivers using headlights from up to three times the distance compared to non-reflective materials.

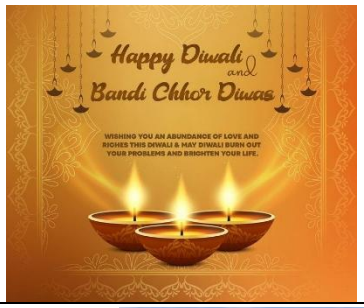
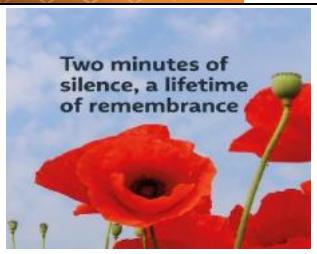
Be Bright
Be Seen

As the mornings and evenings get darker, it is harder for drivers and cyclists to see us. Wearing bright and reflective clothing helps us keep safe.



Hertfordshire

Autumn Term 2 Begins	
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 5th and 6th November as part of the children's learning about Diwali, the Hindu festival of light.
06.11.26	Year 4 Hawthorn start swimming
08.11.26	Happy Diwali and Bandi Chhor Divas to our families and friends  
11.11.26	Armistice Day. We will be observing the two Minute Silence.  
11.11.26	Year 6 Workshop Crucial Crew trip
11.11.26	Year 2 History Workshop Fire of London
12.11.26	Year 1 Whipsnade Zoo trip
12.11.26	**Friends of Highwood Disco** Please ensure to pay via the Arbor app and volunteer if you can by signing up [VolunteerSignup - Online volunteer signup sheets - Autumn Disco 12th November 2026 signup sheet] 
13.11.26	Year 6 Chestnut Class sharing assembly at 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	Parent/ Carer Consultation Meetings – Please ensure you have booked through the Arbor App.
18.11.26	Parent / Carer Consultation Meetings
18.11.26	Mop up Flu Vaccinations

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.** 
23.11.26 2.15pm – 3.10pm	Early Years Parent Workshop – Becoming Independent Learners Everyone is welcome!
24.11.26	Year 5 Trip - STEM Discovery Centre
27.11.26	**Friends of Highwood** Dress Down Day in exchange for bringing an item of the Tombola Stall 
28.11.26	Friends of Highwood Christmas Fair. We will need lots of help to make it successful. Please volunteer! **Further information coming soon.** 
02.12.26	Staff Training from 3.30pm – **No TEATIME CLUB. Please arrange other provision for your child.** External provisions will still be running.
04.12.26 – 12.12.26	 Hanukkah Begins Warm wishes to our familes and friends
10.12.26	**Friends of Highwood Wrap Night in the Hall – Everyone is Welcome.** Please volunteer to come along to wrap presents for the Christmas Pop up Shop. and get into the festive mood. This is a great way to meet new parents, whilst eating mince pies and wrapping gifts! **Time from 5.30pm** 

11.12.26 **Local Trip**	Pupils visit North Bushey Church for the Christmas Service which will be delivered by Reverend Penny. **Further details will be sent. We will require lots of parental helpers. Thank you.** 
11.12.26 	Friends of Highwood Christmas Secret Shopping Room. Each child will come along to the Shopping Room. They will choose gifts for the families. This is a lovely ocassion for the children. Friends of Highwood will send further information about it. Payment will be set up through Arbor.
14.12.26	End of Year Parties on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday – details to be confirmed
16.12.26	Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day 
18.12.26	**End of Term at 2.00pm** **Non School Uniform. £1 donation.**