



**Highwood Primary School**  
**Mead Way, Bushey, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD23 2AW**  
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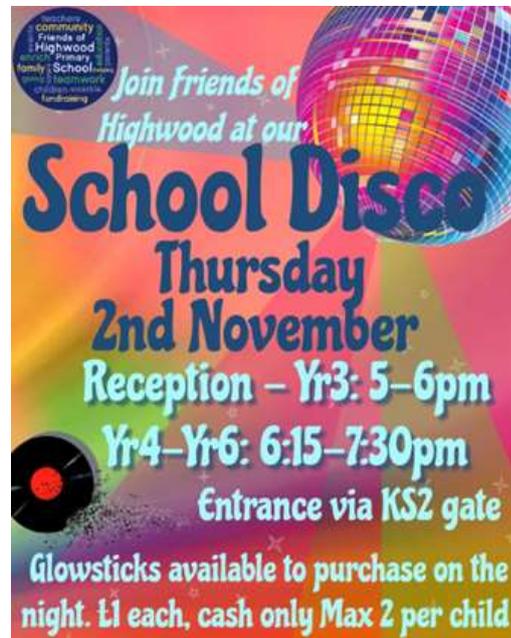
**Promoting Resilience, Achieving Potential**  
 Headteacher Mrs B Rai

Friday 20th October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been an eventful, busy and engaging start to the term. As always thank you for your support of the school and the children.

We are looking forward to many more exciting learning opportunities and the Friends of Highwood events. Please volunteer to help out, even if it is only for an hour.



**Morning drop-offs - new pilot** Thank you so much for supporting this initiative with consideration. We will continue with the arrangement after half term. The gate between Nursery and Key Stage 1 will continue to remain open to allow children to walk through independently. We want the adults to settle the children quickly with the morning registration activities.

As always, in the morning, parents and carers cannot walk through. There is always time to speak to the class teachers at the end of the day or by leaving a message with the office team.

**The situation in the Middle East**

We have all been shocked by the terrible ongoing situation in Israel and Gaza.

We are sorry and saddened that there may be families and friends who are directly affected by the violence and trauma happening there. At school we think carefully about how we respond and talk about the events with each other and with the children. We understand feelings run

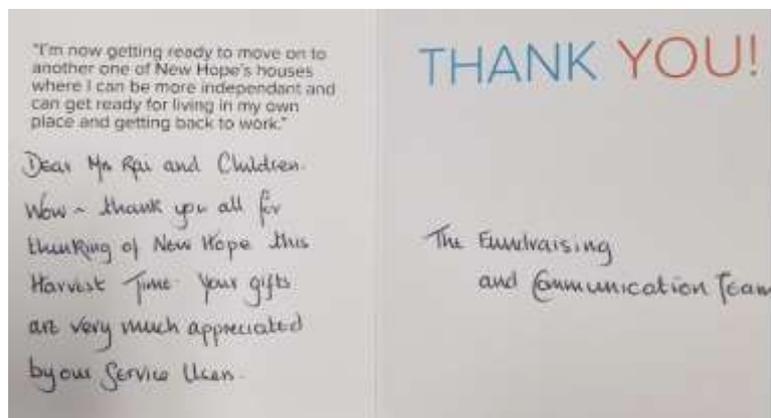
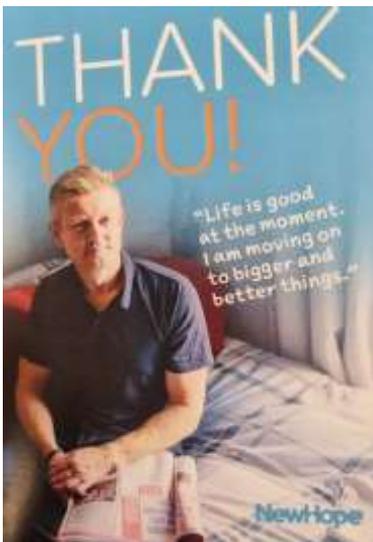


deep and children may see images, hear conversations as they try to grapple with the context of it. Please be reassured that we will avoid making public statements on the conflict.

### Poster Competition

Ask your children about the competition we're running about anti-bullying and Rules about Friends for our new play area. If your children are looking for a mini project to do over half term, they can design a poster to enter into the competition on these themes. They can hand them in on the Monday after half term (Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October).

We have received a lovely thank you card from the New Hope Trust for the donations you send in for the Harvest Festival. Thank you for your kindness and generosity. It is very much appreciated by us and by the people who receive the donations.



With a change in weather likely to be wet and cold when we return after half term, could we please remind you to send your child into school with a named **waterproof** coat. We aim to stay outside even in light rain.

Please check the dates below to see upcoming events next half term. We look forward to welcoming the children back on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October and we wish you a restful and enjoyable half term holiday.

Yours sincerely,

Bindu Rai  
Headteacher

## Dates for your diary

Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> October	Start of term
Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> October	<b>Year 6</b> Mini Medics workshop (Chestnut 6) Friends' SPOOKY HAIR DAY!
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November	Friends' autumn discos
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> November	School tour for prospective parents 2:00pm
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>Year 1</b> trip to Whipsnade Zoo Friends' Quiz Night
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> November	Parents Evening
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	Parents Evening
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> November	School tour for prospective parents 2:00pm
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> November	School tour for prospective parents 2:00pm
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	Non-uniform day in exchange for TOMBOLA gift
Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	Friends' Christmas Fair
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	Flu Immunisation – mop up clinic
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Nursery's</b> Nativity <b>am</b> – time to be confirmed <b>Reception's</b> Nativity <b>pm</b> – time to be confirmed
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Year 2</b> History off the Page – workshop in school
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	Whole school visit to church
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	Friends' WRAP night for Secret shopping room
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Secret Shopping Room
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	End of term! <b>2:00pm finish</b>
Christmas Holidays 21 <sup>st</sup> December – 3 <sup>rd</sup> January 2024	
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	Start of term
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> January	School tour for prospective parents 2:00pm
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January	<b>Year 3</b> trip to Tring Museum
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> February	End of half term – finish at 3.25pm
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> February	INSET DAY – School closed to pupils
Half term Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> -23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2024	