



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

Monday 10th February 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the last week of the spring first half term, I would like to extend a thank you for your engagement and support in all aspects of school life.

I'm pleased to share that the roof works are getting completed and are scheduled to finish on time.

It was great to see the children take part in NSPCC Number Day. The range of creative T-shirts and props was a fantastic sight to behold! It was fantastic to see how much the children love maths. **Thank you for your donations that will support the NSPCC vital work.** There was a variety of learning to participate in including the times table rockstars.



During February it was Safer Internet Awareness. We know that poor communication through online chats, games and phones can lead to friendship fallouts and misunderstandings.

We would like to remind you of how to stay safe online.

Please look at the resources with your child and discuss the issues and some strategies to work through as a family. These links from the NSPCC are also excellent in supporting families:

[Keeping children safe online | NSPCC](#)

From parental controls to how to talk to your children about keeping safe and setting boundaries, there is a lot of great support here.





We will continue to bring children's attention to ways to self-regulate and keep calm. Please look at the following resources that we use at school. This link, [Resources for parents and carers](#) leads to ideas and resources that can be used at home for ways to talk to children about how they feel. We hope you find them useful. Children's Mental Health Week has been a positive way of putting the children in touch with their feelings and exploring how we all react to situations. We will continue to do this through Thrive and PSHE lessons.

Attendance and Punctuality

We are sure that you have seen that school attendance is in the national news headlines. Schools are responsible for working with families to set clear expectations regarding attendance and punctuality and for working with families to reduce any barriers to non-attendance.

We liaise with the Hertfordshire Attendance Improvement Officer to discuss the school data on attendance and punctuality. There will be a discussion about holidays taken during term time. Our Attendance Improvement Officer is the expert in this area, and she will offer further support when attendance or punctuality falls significantly.

Hertfordshire Attendance officers are also giving more guidance to schools about the use of fines, in some circumstances where reasons for absence straddling holidays cannot be verified.

Current Attendance Data from 02.09.24 – 09.02.25.

	School %	National %
Whole School Attendance	94.47	93.40
Unauthorised Absence	1.47	2.10
Authorised Absence	4.06	4.50

Although our attendance figure is slightly above the national figure currently, we remain aspirational.

Our improvement actions are:

Develop a strong focus on attendance so that all learners have above-average attendance, aiming for the aspirational target of 96%.

Develop a strong focus on punctuality so that persistent lateness is less than 10% for all learners.



Mrs Bryant delivered an assembly about the importance of attendance and coming to school on time. We look forward to your support as we promote this initiative.


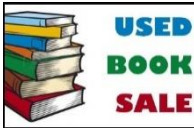




We wish you a relaxing half term holiday when we reach the end of the week.

Yours sincerely,

Bindu Rai
Headteacher

Diary Dates

10/02/25	Bikeability lessons all week for some Year 5 pupils
11/02/25	Safer Internet Day
14/02/25	Sycamore 6 class assembly 9:10am
14/02/25	Elm 1 class assembly 2:45pm
14/02/25	Break up Half term Holiday
24/02/25	Pupils return to school
26/02/25	Year 4 commence Joy of Moving PSHE weekly workshops

<p>24/02/25 – 27/02/25</p> 	<p>Friends of Highwood – Please bring any books in good condition that you no longer want. Please donate clean preloved costumes. Enjoy giving and sharing with others!</p> <p>We will put a pop up stall outside KS2 for you to purchase a costume or book. All donations support Friends of Highwood</p>	 
<p>26/02/25</p>	<p>Willow 5 class assembly 9:10am</p>	
<p>27/02/25</p> 	<p>Friends of Highwood – Tuck Shop and preloved Costume and Book sale in preparation for World Book day 2025</p>	
<p>March and April</p> 	<p>Waste Week led by Eco Committee and School Council – details will be shared nearer the time. It's a great way to get the whole school working together, behind an environmental caring project.</p> <p>We will be discussing and checking the food waste created at snack time and lunchtime. We will be involved in getting our school grounds tidy and litter-free.</p>	
<p>04/03/25</p>	<p>Shrove Tuesday</p>	
<p>05/03/25</p>	<p>Ash Wednesday</p>	
<p>06/03/25</p>	<p>World Book Day – more details to follow</p>	
<p>07/03/25</p>	<p>Hazel 4 class assembly 9:10am</p>	
<p>10/03/25</p>	<p>British Science Fortnight – details to be confirmed</p>	
<p>14/03/25</p>	<p>Year 1 Trip to Windsor Castle</p>	
<p>14/03/25</p>	<p>Cedar 3 class assembly 9:10am</p>	
<p>17/03/25</p>	<p>St Patrick's Day – Patron Saint of Ireland</p>	
<p>18/03/25</p>	<p>Parent Consultation Meetings</p>	
<p>19/03/25</p>	<p>Parent Consultation Meetings</p>	
<p>24/03/25</p>	<p>Sustrans Walk and Wheel to School fortnight</p>	
<p>30/03/25 or 31/03/25</p>	<p>Eid-UI-Fitr - to be confirmed. Warm wishes to those marking this special occasion.</p>	
<p>28/03/25</p>	<p>Pine 1 class assembly 2:45pm</p>	
<p>28/03/25</p> 	<p>Friends of Highwood Mothers, Mum's and Other Lass' Pop up Shop</p>	
<p>01/04/25</p>	<p>Beech 2 class assembly 2:45pm</p>	
<p>04/04/25</p>	<p>Pupils break up. School ends at 2:00pm Warm wishes to those marking the Easter festival.</p>	