Highwood Primary School

Promoting Resilience - Achieving Potential

Year 1 Curriculum Newsletter - Autumn 1 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to Highwood and we hope you had a good summer break.

We are delighted to share with you the content of the Year 1 curriculum for this half term. We hope that this gives you a window into your child's learning and enables you to have conversations with your child about what is happening in school. We hope that you find this newsletter helpful. If you require further details about what skills and knowledge will be taught in each subject, please have a look at the curriculum page on our school website. If you have any questions about our curriculum, or any concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

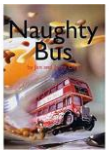
Many thanks,

Miss Wing and Miss Bhatti

English

This half term the children will be reading these key texts:





Here We Are by Oliver Jeffers and Naughty Bus by Jan and Jerry Oke

Read Write Inc.

Children will take part in daily Read Write Inc. sessions. During these sessions they will learn to blend and segment phonics sounds to read and spell words.



Maths

- Positional language including ordinal numbers
- Finding patterns in numbers
- Counting and comparison
- Estimating and ordering
- Regrouping the whole
- Part whole addition and subtraction



Science: Animals Including Humans

The children will be taught the following key knowledge and skills to help them answer our Big Question:

What do our body parts do?

- **Identify and label the parts of the body**
- **Explore the 5 senses**
- **Label the body parts associated with each sense**
- **Conduct simple sense experiments**
- **Think about what our bodies can do**

Reminders

PE lessons are on a Monday and Tuesday for both classes.



Please ensure your child comes to school in their PE kit. Also, long hair must be tied back, and no earrings should be worn on PE days.



Library – Monday (for both classes)

Reading record hand in on a Friday.

Read Write Inc books should be brought to school every day. These will be changed within their RWI groups.

On the 12th of October, please send in a photo of a favourite memory your child has, for an upcoming history lesson.

Home Learning



Home Learning Book

Hand in on Tuesday (returned on Thursday).

Please see home learning grid for further details.
Are you able to help us? We would love donations of bags of soil or/and sand.

Core Home Learning

Reading at least three times a week.

Practise letter and number formation.

History – Ourselves

The children will be taught key knowledge and skills to help them answer our Big Question:

What do I know about my past and present?

- Describe memories of key events from their own lives
- Recognise the difference between past and present in their own and others' lives
- Know and recount events and people including Floella Benjamin who has contributed to our world and who has much to teach us about resilience and respect.



On the 12th of October, please send in a photo of a favourite memory your child has for an upcoming history lesson.

Art- Portraits

We will be learning about the artist James Rizzi and the children will be creating a Big Piece inspired by his pop art style, linked to our Science and History learning.



PE

For PE at home activities go to **Get Set 4 PE** and click on **'Active Families'**, no login required
https://pe.getset4education.co.uk/ResourceBank/ResourceCategory/1002?publicaccesstoken=fe0G5E72Q%2bmX9HnJIAi6hHOOmEE7Xl3YYwer7epgj%2bo%3d

In our PE **fundamentals** and **ball skills** lessons we will be learning:

Fundamentals: Pupils will explore the fundamental skills of balancing, running, changing direction, jumping, hopping and skipping. Pupils will work collaboratively with others, taking turns and sharing ideas.

Ball skills: Pupils will explore and develop their fundamental ball skills such as throwing and catching, rolling and dribbling with both hands and feet. Pupils will have the opportunity to work independently, and collaboratively in pairs and small groups. Pupils will be able to explore their own ideas in response to tasks.

RE

The children will be learning about Christian beliefs about God. We will learn the Creation story and understand how to care for the world and our neighbours. We will also consider kindness and helping others and reflect on our own beliefs and values.

Our Big Question is:

What do Christians believe about God?

P.S.H.E- 'Being me in my world'



This half term, the children will explore:

- Feeling special and safe
- Being part of a class
- Rights and responsibilities
- Rewards and feeling proud
- Consequences
- Owning the Learning Charter

Computing



We will be learning about digital art to create our own emoji avatar using Keynote. We will learn to select and use different shapes. We will practise resizing, rotating and changing the colour of our shapes. Then we will group our shapes together creating our own avatar emoji. As part of our e-safety learning we will be focusing on keeping ourselves safe while using an iPad.

Music

Aquarium and Autumn Rhythms

Inspired by 'Aquarium' from *The Carnival of the Animals* by Camille Saint-Saëns, we will compose our own musical aquarium. We will begin by listening to the piece and responding to it through movement,
before experimenting with percussion instruments to create aquarium-inspired music. To record our ideas, we will draw a simple graphic score. We will then learn a sea-themed song and combine it with our own compositions.

School Trips

Trips and enrichment activities planned for Year 1 include Whipsnade Zoo, Windsor Castle and History Toy Day.
More details will follow nearer the time.