



Year 2 Curriculum Newsletter – Autumn 1 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to Highwood.

We hope you had a good summer break. We are delighted to share with you the content of the Year 2 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.

If you require further detail about what skills and knowledge will be taught in each subject, please have a look at the curriculum page on our school website. Follow us on Twitter (@HighwoodSchool) where we will be sharing the excellent learning that happens at Highwood. If you have any questions about our curriculum, or any concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Many thanks,

Miss Marriott, Mrs Coggon, Miss Hibberd

Reminders

PE lessons are on:
Beech 2 - Monday
Birch 2 - Friday



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 day.



Forest School sessions will take place on:
Birch 2 – Monday
Beech 2 – Tuesday



Library – Wednesday (for both classes)
Reading book - hand in on Wednesday

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

Home Learning



Home Learning book hand in on Tuesday and return on Thursday.

Please see home learning grid for further details.

Daily Home Learning

- Reading daily.
- Practise letter and number formation

English



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



- Here We Are by Oliver Jeffers
- The Bear Under the Stairs by Helen Cooper
- The Bear and the Piano by David Litchfield

They will be producing the following pieces of written work linked to the key texts:

Leaflet, Information text about bears and Own narrative

Maths



- Numbers to 100: counting, place value, ordering and comparing
- Securing fluency to twenty
- Place value – making tens and some more
- Place value and regrouping two-digit numbers
- Counting on and back in ones and tens from any number
- Representing, ordering and comparing numbers to 100 and quantities for measures
- Estimation and magnitude

Science: Animals including humans



- Know that animals including humans have offspring which grow into adults
- Find out about and describe the basic needs of animals including humans for survival.
- Describe the importance for humans of exercise, eating the right amounts of different types of food and hygiene.
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Geography – London



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

Why visit London?

- Use simple compass directions (North, South, East and West) and locational and directional language (for example, near and far; left and right), to describe the location of features and routes on a map.
- Use aerial photographs and plan perspectives to recognise landmarks and basic human and physical features.

Forest School



We are delighted to have Mr Pratt leading whole class Forest School session this half term. Forest School aims to promote students' confidence, social skills, sense of self-worth and emotional well-being in an outdoors environment. A sample of the activities on offer will include using hand tools, making items from natural materials, games, treasure hunts and fire lighting skills to name but a few. Please ensure your child comes to school dressed appropriately for these sessions.

DT- Freestanding Structures

We will be learning techniques for assembling freestanding structures. They will be using a variety of joining techniques and learning about stability, to produce our big piece:

A new landmark for the London skyline.



RE



The children will be investigating how Christians might follow Jesus' example of being kind to people. Exploring the parables of the Good Samaritan and Zacchaeus the Tax Collector and how Christians might follow the teaching of "Love your neighbour".

Is it possible to be kind to everyone all of the time?

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



This half term, the children will explore:

- Hopes and fears for the year
- Rights and responsibilities
- Rewards and consequences
- Safe and fair learning environment
- Valuing contributions
- Choices
- Recognising feelings

Computing



We will be learning about simple photo shopping and digital art and then use the skills of photo editing to create our own art work.

As part of our **e-safety learning**, we will be focusing on how to stay safe online and the importance of passwords and avatars.

PE

Team building



In our PE lessons, we will be learning the following key skills when participating in a variety of activities:

- Team work
- Communication
- Problem solving
- To reflect on ideas and strategies
- Consider safety
- Mao skills

For PE at home activities go to **Get Set 4 PE** and click on '**Activity Families**', no login required
<https://pe.getset4education.co.uk/ResourceBank/ResourceCategory/1002?publicaccesstoken=fe0G5E72Q%2bmX9HnJIAi6hHOOmEE7Xl3YYwer7epgi%2bo%3d>

Music

Animal Sounds



We will explore timbre through a range of games and activities. We will listen to and analyse a range of classical pieces about selected animals to discuss timbre and rhythm and how they can be used to convey meaning in a piece of music. We will represent animals using a variety of percussion instruments. We will turn phrases about our animals into rhythms representing these as graphic scores before choosing appropriate instruments to play our compositions.

Read Write Inc.

The 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.

Guided reading

Children who have completed Read Write Inc. will take part in daily guided reading sessions. This will include, reading comprehension, spelling, grammar and punctuation. These children will come home with two reading books of their choice that will be changed every Thursday.

