



NEWSLETTER

29.9.25



Educating for 'life in all its fullness.'

Dear Parents/Carers,

It was wonderful to welcome Nathan Heath, Service Director for Education and Inclusion, into school last week. Together we engaged in rich discussion and toured the school, where we saw fantastic learning and a very positive atmosphere.

Our value this week is unity — and we certainly saw this in action during our Macmillan Coffee Morning on Friday. A huge thank you to everyone who donated such an extraordinary range of treats, the staff and parents who helped run the event, and all the adults and children who contributed. We are delighted to share that an astounding £965.40 was raised!

This is another exciting week: we will celebrate our school's history on Howard Heritage Day this Friday, and Howard's Hub will be complete by the end of the week, with the new sensory room being fitted today and tomorrow.

Looking ahead, preparations are underway for our Harvest Celebration. Each class is learning about the harvest and practising songs in worship. Our Harvest Worship (Reception–Year 6) will be at 9:15am on Friday 10th October, and parents are welcome to join us.

As in previous years, we are supporting Pontefract Community Kitchen by collecting donations of tinned food and essential store-cupboard items, which can be dropped off at school prior to the 10th October. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Attendance

Week Ending 26.9.25	
Reception	98.0%
Year 1	94.3%
Year 2	95.0%
Year 3	98.3%
Year 4	95.2%
Year 5	97.0%
Year 6	96.0%
Overall	96.3%

Attendance Champions: Year 3
Well Done!

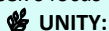
Our school attendance expectation is 97%.
Well done to everyone who achieved this.

Cumulative (2025-26) total so far – 96.6%

Values for Life

This half term in collective worship we are focusing upon the value of: **FRIENDSHIP**

This week's focus will be:



UNITY:

"How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!" – Psalm 133:1

This reminds us that being united—working and playing in peace—is something that brings joy to God and to us.

Global Citizenship Thread

This half term our whole school Thread is **DIVERSITY**



Howard Heritage Day

We are excited to celebrate Howard Heritage Day this Friday, marking 192 years of our school!

This year's theme, "Howard School and the Outdoors," reflects both our school's history of developing a conservation area (now our Forest School) and the children's love of outdoor learning today.

We would love families to share their memories of school life, especially play and outdoor learning, which will inspire children's artwork on the day. Stories can be submitted via our Microsoft Forms link ([LINK](#)). Children are welcome to dress in historical school uniform (Georgian, Victorian, or even your own schooldays!) or simply wear their current uniform. Families are also invited to view some of our school's historical documents in the hall between 8:50–9:10am.

For further information, please see last week's newsletter ([LINK](#)).



School Calendar

October 2025

- 3rd – School Heritage Day (192 Years)
- 8th – Flu Immunisation Reception – Year 6
- 10th – Harvest Festival
- 15th – Global Handwashing Day
- 15th– 17th – Y6 PGL Residential
- 17th – Early Years Little City Workshop
- 20th – Skipathon
- 21st – Photo Day
- 22nd – Spooky Disco
- 24th – Open Afternoon
- 24th – School Closes for October Half Term

[2025-2026 Key Dates Calendar](#)



Recent Letters:

[West Yorkshire Playhouse KS1 and Rec / Northumberland Residential 2026 / N&R Little City Workshop](#)

Support us in Talking PANTS...



We use 'Talk PANTS' which helps children understand that their body belongs to them, and they should tell someone they trust if anything makes them feel upset or worried. Please support us in these conversations with your children at home to reiterate key messages:

[NSPCC Talk PANTS](#)



Teacher Vacancy

As Mrs Thompson prepares for her maternity leave, we are excited to be recruiting a new member of staff. A part-time teaching post, starting in January, is now live. Full details can be found here: [Teaching Post Advert](#)



Polytunnel Awe and Wonder

Our polytunnel is bursting with life! From giant sunflowers to huge pumpkins, cherry tomatoes and fresh lettuce, the children are loving growing, picking, and tasting their own food. Breaktimes are now filled with opportunities to nurture plants and experience awe, wonder, and curiosity—an important part of our spiritual development offer.



Exploring Charcoal

Year 3 have been developing their art skills using charcoal. They experimented with shading, smudging and blending to create different effects, learning how artists can use tone and texture to bring drawings to life. (And they didn't mind getting a bit dusty along the way!)



Celebrating Diversity

In reading, Year 6 explored our global citizenship theme of diversity. After learning about different disabilities, they created thoughtful posters on how schools can be more inclusive, celebrating the importance of kindness, fairness and respect.



Maths and Science Superstars

Year 1 have been working hard in Maths, learning to compare numbers using greater than, less than, and equal to symbols. In Science, they explored their senses—finding out what they could see, hear, touch, and smell through practical activities.



Colour Detectives

Nursery children enjoyed a colour hunt around the classroom, finding objects and sorting them into the correct colour jars.



What Makes Me, Me?

Reception explored the story *What Makes Me a Me?* and thought carefully about what makes them special and unique. They looked closely in mirrors before drawing detailed self-portraits. They also continued their work on sorting, thinking of their own criteria such as colour and size.



Imagining Journeys

Year 4 have been planning their independent writing based on Aaron Becker's *Journey*. Using their inference and prediction skills, they considered what might happen next in the story. Their ideas are setting the stage for some exciting writing ahead!



Governors' Meeting Update

Last week, our Governors' School Development Committee met to review key areas of school life. Alongside routine procedural items, we looked closely at last year's end-of-year data and discussed our School Improvement Plan for the year ahead. Governors also approved our Pupil Premium Strategy, which is now available on the school website.

We confirmed our ongoing membership of the All Saints' Partnership, ensuring continued collaboration and support across local schools. In addition, I delivered training on our new Howard's Hub, which will also be shared with staff so that we can make the very best use of this exciting new provision for our children.

Outdoor Art and Scientific Enquiry

Year 2 had a wonderful time creating art outdoors, inspired by Alice Fox and Rosie James, using natural objects to make their own designs. They also became mini scientists, investigating how different materials change shape by bending, stretching, squashing and twisting—and making fantastic predictions along the way.



Dinner Debate

Linked to our Christian value of Unity and our focus on spiritual development (Self, Others, World & Beauty, and Beyond)

How can we help bring people together?

This question helps children think about what it means to build unity—finding ways to work, play, and live peacefully with others. It connects to Self and Others by encouraging children to reflect on how their choices can restore friendships, create harmony, and make everyone feel they belong. It also links to World & Beauty and Beyond, as living in unity helps us care for the world together and reflect God's joy when people live side by side in peace.

You might want to share a time when you helped bring people together after a disagreement, or when someone included you and made you feel part of the group.

