



NEWSLETTER

29.9.25



Educating for 'life in all its fullness.'

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been an exciting and inspiring week in school. With the completion of Howard's Hub and the celebration of Howard's Heritage Day, we've been reminded of the importance of belonging and how our shared history continues to shape who we are today. These moments bring us closer together as a community — echoing this week's value of understanding, which reminds us to listen, care, and deepen our friendships with one another.

Looking ahead, we are preparing for our Harvest Festival this Friday. As in previous years, we are supporting Pontefract Community Kitchen with donations of tinned food and essential store-cupboard items, which can be dropped off at school before 10th October. Thank you in advance for your generosity in helping those in need.

We are also looking forward to exciting events such as our upcoming Skipathon — you can read more about this later in the newsletter.

I hope you have a wonderful week,

Attendance

Week Ending 3.10.25	
Reception	98.7%
Year 1	98.0%
Year 2	97.3%
Year 3	100%
Year 4	97.9%
Year 5	99.7%
Year 6	92.0%
Overall	97.7%

**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 – 96.8%

Values for Life

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

This week's focus will be:

UNDERSTANDING:

"Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry." – James 1:19

This reminds us that good friends listen, try to understand each other, and stay calm, even when things go wrong.

Global Citizenship Thread

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

Playground Reopening

It was a pleasure to attend the reopening of the Low Ackworth play area last week, accompanied by members of our School Council who had the honour of cutting the ribbon as part of the ceremony. The children were proud to represent their peers across Ackworth and valued the responsibility entrusted to them. The play area has been refreshed with exciting new equipment thanks to investment from Ackworth Parish Council, and I am sure many of our pupils have already enjoyed exploring the new features.



School Calendar

October 2025

- 8th – Flu Immunisation Reception – Year 6
- 10th – Harvest Festival (**Donations now being accepted**)
- 14th – Governors Finance Committee Meeting
- 15th – Global Handwashing Day
- 15th- 17th – Y6 PGL Residential
- 17th – Early Years Little City Workshop
- 20th – Skipathon
- 21st – Photo Day
- 22nd – Spooky Disco
- 23rd – Word Fest Event
- 24th – Open Afternoon
- 24th – School Closes for October Half Term

November 2025

- 3rd – School Reopens (Autumn 2)
- 6th – Wakefield Museum Workshop
- 10th-14th – Antbullying Week
- 11th – Y5 Attending Remembrance Service (War Memorial)
- 14th – Children in Need

[2025-2026 Key Dates Calendar](#)

Recent Letters:

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



Howard's Hub – Now Open!



We are delighted to share that **Howard's Hub** is **now complete and already being used by pupils and staff**. This has been a real team effort, and I'd like to thank everyone who has helped us bring this vision to life so quickly — from our staff and governors to Wakefield Council, Rompa (who installed the sensory room), MINT IT support, and members of the community who gave their time and skills.



Howard's Hub is our dedicated space for inclusion, emotional wellbeing, and support. Named after our school's bear mascot, it is a safe, calm, and purposeful environment where every child can feel seen, supported, and ready to return to learning. With spaces such as *The Haven* (sensory and regulation), *The Nest* (group work), *The Nurture Kitchen*, and *The Sanctuary* (staff reflection and planning), the Hub is both a sanctuary and a springboard — helping children regulate, re-engage, and flourish.



Staff have now received training in our unique shared language, ensuring the Hub is fully connected to daily school life. You can find more detail, including our Strategic Guide, on the school website [\[LINK\]](#).

Howard's Hub is an exciting new chapter for our school, and we can't wait to see the difference it will make for pupils, families, and staff.



Howard's Hub Skipathon – Friday 20th October 🏃💎

We are excited to announce our first **sponsored Skipathon Challenge** to raise funds for **Howard's Hub**, our new inclusion and wellbeing space. This event will not only support the development of the Hub but also promote healthy and active lifestyles across our school.

On the day, each year group will take part in their own skipping session, contributing to our **whole-school challenge**:

➡ **10,000 skips in just 5 minutes!**

Sponsorship

Every child will bring home a sponsorship form. Sponsorship is completely optional — we understand not all families are able to give, and all children will take part in the Skipathon regardless. If your child does collect sponsorship, please support them with this; children should not be going door-to-door or asking for donations on their own.

Prizes

There will be prizes to celebrate effort and achievement on the day, so that every child feels part of the challenge.

What to wear

Children should come to school in their **active wear** ready to skip!

Parents – fancy joining in?

The hall will be open after morning drop-off and again at 3pm for parents to skip for 5 minutes should they wish to! This is a great chance to add to our total skips and enjoy a fun workout.

Thank you in advance for your support — together we can raise funds for Howard's Hub and give our pupils a challenge to remember!

**CALLING ALL CRAFTERS,
CHARITIES AND GROUPS**



SANTA DAY CRAFT FAIR

**BELL LANE COMMUNITY
CENTRE**

**Saturday 6th and
Sunday 7th December**

**For an application form and further
information please contact
projectsmanager@ackworthparishcouncil.gov.uk**



Football

Well done to our Year 3 and 4 pupils who braved torrential weather at Badsworth for their football match. Despite the conditions, they showed great teamwork, determination and impressive skill throughout the game.



Wakefield Libraries

As part of WordFest, Wakefield Libraries will be hosting two amazing workshops with Chris Mould!

Chris is talented artist, who has illustrated adaptations of classic stories, including 'The Iron Man' and 'War of the Worlds'.

Come and learn how to draw with him in their libraries:
- 27 October, 10am-12pm, Normanton Library (bookable from 13 October)
- 27 October, 2pm-4pm, Featherstone Library

Booking essential,
visit: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/wakefield-libraries/e-jogxxo>



Pumpkin Weigh-in

Join us and Brackenhill Allotment Association for our annual Pumpkin Weigh-in. Friday 10th October at 4pm



Refreshments and crafts available. At Brackenhill Allotments. Bring your home-grown pumpkins and join in the fun.

Howard's Heritage Day 2025

On Friday, we celebrated **Howard's Heritage Day**, an annual event that has been part of our school's culture for generations. This tradition helps us reflect on our long history while deepening our sense of belonging as a school community.

This year's theme, "*Howard School and the Outdoors*," inspired children to explore the importance of nature and play in school life — past and present. From the Forest School area created in the 1980s, to our Peace Garden, to today's focus on play and our flourishing polytunnel, the outdoors has been a source of inspiration for Howard pupils across the decades.

It was wonderful to see children dressed in a variety of school uniforms from different eras, and to share in activities and stories that brought our history to life. Thank you to the families who shared their own memories of school life — these were a delight for the children to hear.

As is tradition, we also enjoyed a birthday cake for the school (now 192 years old!) with Year 6 leading the celebration by cutting and sharing the cake. We ended the day with a joyful worship, giving thanks for our school, its history, and the many enriching experiences we continue to share together.

Nature and Feelings

Nursery children explored our school grounds, collecting natural objects and pausing to notice the blue plaque for Rachel Howard. They used their finds to create beautiful school wreaths. In class, they continued their work on emotions, drawing pictures of the things that make them feel happy.

Wreaths and Teamwork

Reception enjoyed gathering autumn treasures to make Heritage Day wreaths, developing their fine motor skills with hole punches, threading, tape and scissors. They also worked collaboratively with loose parts and natural resources to build large outdoor trees, showing great imagination and teamwork.

Rachel Howard's Legacy

Year 1 looked fantastic in their heritage costumes. They learned about Rachel Howard and her role in founding our school in 1833, helping them to connect to the roots of our shared story.



Vacancies

A part-time teaching post, starting in January, is now live. Full details can be found here: [Teaching Post Advert](#)

At October half term, we will be saying a fond farewell to Karen Cleland, who is leaving after many years of service to our wrap-around after-school care provision. We thank Karen for her commitment, care, and the positive difference she has made to so many children and families over the years. We wish her every happiness for the future.

As a result of Karen's departure, we now have a vacancy within our wrap-around care team. Further details of the role and how to apply can be found here:

[Wrap Around Care Team Member](#)



Peace Garden Sketches

Year 2 explored how our outdoor spaces have changed over time, thinking about conservation and the importance of the environment. They sketched the Peace Garden using hatching and midtone techniques, producing some thoughtful and detailed work.



Forest School in Focus

Year 3 stepped back to 1989, when our Forest School area was first created. After a leaf hunt and tree identification, they made charcoal rubbings on sugar paper, inspired by Stone Age cave art. A hands-on morning linking nature, history and creativity!



History Through Art and Geography

Year 4 illustrated the story of Howard School through history in their own artistic styles, inspired by watercolour landscapes, and added explanatory captions for their audience. In Geography, they studied latitude and longitude, exploring the Tropics and creating weather reports for different countries.



Typographic Treasures

Year 5 combined heritage, outdoor learning and their art topic on typography to design creative lettering for display. Each letter reflects something special about our school environment — from nature and play spaces to history and community.



Artistic Heritage

Year 6 have been developing their shading techniques in art, exploring methods such as cross-hatching and spiralling. For Heritage Day, they applied these skills to create detailed, atmospheric drawings of our school building — capturing its character beautifully.



Dinner Debate

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

Why is it important to listen to others?

This question helps children think about how listening shows care and respect, and helps us understand how others are feeling. It reflects the Self and Others strands of spiritual development by encouraging children to notice that when we listen, we learn more, avoid arguments, and show kindness. It also connects to World & Beauty and Beyond, reminding us that understanding each other helps us to live in peace and reflect God's love.

You might want to share a time when listening carefully helped you understand a friend or family member, or when someone listened to you and made you feel valued.

