NEWSLETTER

7.9.26



Educating for 'life in all its fullness.'

Dear Parents/Carers

It was a pleasure to welcome everyone back to school on Thursday, and I hope you all enjoyed a wonderful summer with your families. The children returned looking very smart and have settled quickly into their new classes – thank you to all parents and carers for your support in making the start of term so positive.

Over the summer, I spent some time reflecting on what makes our school so special. Ultimately, it is our people. Our teachers, teaching assistants, leaders, administrators, premises and catering staff, pastoral team, governors, volunteers, families and wider community all play their part in making a difference to the lives of our children.

The Bible reminds us that, "Though it is made up of many parts, they form one body." (1 Corinthians 12:12). This captures our school community beautifully: different people, with different roles and strengths, working together so our children can flourish.

Last year was another fantastic year, filled with achievements we can all be proud of – from excellent end-of-year outcomes, to the development of our pupils' mind, body and spirit through our vision, and the many exciting opportunities and memorable experiences enjoyed across our school community.

As we begin a new academic year, I would like to extend a particularly warm welcome to all our new children and families. We hope your time at Howard will be happy and memorable, and we look forward to getting to know you and sharing the journey.

Finally, a huge thank you to our staff who have worked incredibly hard over the summer to ensure that school was ready to welcome the children back. Their commitment and care are greatly appreciated.

WELCOME

Attendance Matters

Are you ready for the new school year?

Make every day count and aim for 💯 % school attendance.

School attendance matters – see our guide to achieving good attendance 👇

Working Together to Improve Attendance



Punctuality Reminders

Children ***must be in school by 8:50am*** to ensure a prompt start to the day – thank you.



Former Year 6 Pupils

On our last day before the summer break, we had a wonderful leavers' service at St. Cuthbert's Church for the children and their families. It was a fantastic way to bring everyone together and celebrate the children's journey through school.

We are incredibly proud of them and wish them well as they start their journeys into secondary school. Good luck, everyone!



School Calendar

September 2026
18th – Macmillan Coffee Morning
25th – School Heritage Day (193 Years)

October 2026
9th – Harvest Festival
21st- 23rd – Y6 PGL Residential
16th – Open Afternoon
23rd – School Closes for October Half Term

2025-2026 Key Dates Calendar

Values for Life

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

This week's focus will be:
🌿 **RESPECT:**
"Do to others as you would have them do to you." – Luke 6:31
This reminds us to treat everyone with kindness, fairness and respect.

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

PE Days 2026-2027 – Active Wear Uniform Days

Reception: Friday | **Year 1:** Tuesday & Friday | **Year 2:** Monday & Wednesday | **Year 3:** Monday & Wednesday | **Year 4:** Tuesday & Wednesday | **Year 5:** Tuesday (Swimming) & Friday | **Year 6:** Tuesday & Friday

Recent Letters:
School Menu Autumn Term / After School Activity Clubs / School Calendar Key Dates / Y5 Swimming / Y6 PGL Residential

End of Year Statutory Data Outcomes

Below you will find a results summary which illustrates the outcomes of the statutory assessments during the last academic year. You can find further information on our website in the accountability section. You can also find our school improvement priorities for this year here: **LINK**

			School 2026	National 2025	Difference
Early Years (EYFSP)	% Good Level of Development		90%	70%	+20%
Phonics	% Meeting the Threshold		93%	80%	+13%
Key Stage 2	Y4 Multiplication Check	AVG	23.6	20.7	+2.9
Key Stage 2	% Expected Standard and Above	Reading	89%	75%	+14%
		Writing	82%	72%	+10%
		Maths	89%	74%	+15%
		GPS	82%	73%	+9%
		RWM	82%	62%	+20%
Key Stage 2	% Working at Greater Depth	Reading	43%	33%	+10%
		Writing	25%	15%	+10%
		Maths	39%	26%	+13%
		GPS	43%	30%	+13%
		RWM	18%	8%	+10%
Key Stage 2	Average Scaled Score	Reading	109	106.0	+3
		Maths	109	105.0	+4
		GPS	108	105.0	+3

Safeguarding Update



Advice for parents sharing Back to School photos (NSPCC)

Think before sharing:

- Make sure that there isn't anything in the photos or videos which could allow a child's location or identity to be recognised, such as school logos or signs, road names, or names of clubs that your child attends.
- Turn your privacy settings on so that only people you are friends with can view your profile and photos, and turn off your geo-location settings so that your followers can't work out where you and your child live and visit.
- *If you want to upload an image that shows other people's children, make sure that you seek permission from their parents and the child first.*
- *Before sharing an image, think about the first of our PANTS rules – privates are private and children's bodies belong to them so don't post pictures showing body parts that are normally covered.*

Advice for parents sharing Back to School photos (Security Experts)

Security experts have also issued a warning regarding sharing too much information making your home a target for burglaries. Guidance given for posting 'back to school' photos is:

- Turn off location data on your phone and do not to tag your location as this could allow someone to easily find your home. Also, depending on when the photo is posted, this could also show potential thieves that you are not in the house, leaving your property vulnerable.
- Don't show anything that is easily recognisable about your home, such as a unique door or statues outside the house: this information, coupled with an exact home location on social media, could be risky if it ended up in the wrong hands.
- Remove your door number from the image (blur it if possible or avoid taking picture with it in view).
- If the photos are taken inside your home, make sure not to show any security systems that you have inside: if a burglar understands the home security you have in place and the exact setup, this could open you up to crime.

YOU ARE INVITED TO A

DINNER DANCE

HOSTED BY

LOW ACKWORTH COMMUNITY CENTRE

Welcome drink | DJ | 3 course meal

At Darrington Golf Club

25 September 2026 - 7pm

£48 per person

To book visit:

www.bookwhen.com/lowackworthcentre

or scan the QR code

2026-2027 School Calendar - Key Dates

September 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

October 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

January 2027

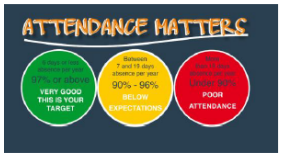
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

February 2027

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

Key Events 2026-27

25th Sept	*School Heritage Day (193 Years)*
20th Oct	*School Photo Day*
9th Oct	*Harvest Festival*
21st - 23rd Oct	*Y6 PGL Adventure Residential*
16th-20th Nov	*Anti-Bullying Week*
9th/11th Nov	*Parents Evening*
30th Nov	*Pantomime - Cinderella*
11th Dec	*Christmas Dinner*
15th/16th Dec	*Christmas Productions*
18th Dec	*KS2 Carol Concert - St.Cuthbert's*
1st-5th Feb	*Children's Mental Health Week / Online Safety Week*
4th Mar	*World Book Day*
15th/17th Mar	*Parents Evening*
25th Mar	*Easter Events*
25th Mar	*Y3/4 Easter Production*
19th May	*Class Photo Day*
18th Jun	*Sports Day and Family Fun Event*
23rd-25th Jun	*Y5 Northumberland Residential*
9th Jul	*Annual Reports Issued*
14th Jul	*Y6 Summer Production*
21st Jul	*Y6 Leavers Service - St. Cuthbert's*



STATUTORY NATIONAL TEST DATES

September 2026	Reception Baseline
Wk Beg. 14th June 2027	Y1 Phonics Screening
Wk Beg. 7th June 2027	Y4 Multiplication Tables
10th - 13th May 2027	Key Stage 2 SATs

Children should attend school during these dates.

March 2027

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

April 2027

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

May 2027

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

June 2027

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

July 2027

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

August 2027

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Class Worship

1st	Dec	Year 6 Class Worship
8th	Dec	Year 3 Class Worship
26th	Jan	Year 2 Class Worship
9th	Feb	Year 5 Class Worship
5th	May	Year 4 Class Worship
7th	Jul	Year 1 Class Worship
13th	Jul	Reception Class Worship

How well are my children doing? How can I support my children?

September	Stay & Learn
16th Oct	Open Afternoon
January	Stay & Learn
12th Feb	Open Afternoon
21st May	Open Afternoon

See 'Key Dates' for Parents Evenings/Reports

Supporting Charity/Raising Awareness

18th Sept	Macmillan Coffee Morning
20th Nov	Children in Need
22nd Jan	Big Me Day - Action Aid
11th Dec	Christmas Jumper Day - Save the Children
19th Mar	Comic Relief

INSET Days · Bank Holidays · School Holidays

Welcome to Our Team

We are delighted to welcome two new members of staff to the Howard team this year. Miss Charlie Johnson joins us as our Nursery Teacher, covering Mrs Bloomer's maternity leave, and Rachael Walker joins our Wraparound Care Team.

We hope they both settle quickly into life at Howard, enjoy being part of our school community and wish them every success in their new roles.





Summer Improvements

It has been a busy summer improving our school environment ready for the new academic year.

Our Year 2 classroom, one of the original parts of our historic 1800s building, has undergone a full refurbishment, including a new ceiling, extensive damp treatment and remedial works, complete redecoration and finishing works. The transformation is fantastic and has given this historic space a fresh new lease of life.

A number of other classrooms and areas across school have also been refreshed and redecorated.

We were also delighted to secure a grant from the Archbishop Holgate's Hospital Educational Foundation to further develop Reception's outdoor provision. The new area is already a huge hit with children and staff! In addition, a large new sandpit has been created to further enhance outdoor play and exploration next to our Polytunnel, which we hope to open shortly.

A huge thank you to everyone involved in getting these improvements completed over the summer.



Dinner Debate

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

How can showing respect help everyone to feel valued and that they belong?

"Do to others as you would have them do to you." – Luke 6:31



Respect means recognising that **every person matters** and treating others with kindness, fairness and consideration, even when they are different from us or we disagree.

You might talk about what respect looks like — listening when others speak, valuing different opinions, cultures and beliefs, looking after our school and the world around us, using kind words, respecting personal space, including others, or standing up when someone is being treated unfairly.

Proud of our partnership with Mshikamano (Solidarity) Primary School Bega Kwa Bega (Shoulder to Shoulder)

"Thank you for your continued support; it is greatly appreciated."
Michael Walker – Headteacher

Educating for 'life in all its fullness.'