



## Newsletter – Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021

*Educating 'for life in all its fullness.'*

### Attendance

Week Ending 10<sup>th</sup> September:

Reception	100%
Class 1	98.9%
Class 2	96.3%
Class 3	100%
Class 4	100%
Class 5	96.6%
Class 6	100%

**Overall 98.8%**

**Attendance Champions:**

**Classes R, 3, 4 and 6 -**

**Congratulations**

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



Growth in **SPiRiT**

### Values for Life

This half term in collective worship the children will be focusing upon the value of:

#### **THANKFULNESS**

This week's focus will be:

#### **APPRECIATIVE**

Be joyful always, pray continually, **give thanks in all circumstances**, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

**Thessalonians 5:16-18**

Growth in **MiND, BODy, SPiRiT**

### \*\*\*Dinner Debate\*\*\*

**This week's question to debate with family and friends at home:**

**This half term our whole school curriculum thread is diversity.**



**'Is it good to be different?'**

Dear parents/carers,

*It has been wonderful to welcome everyone back to school and to meet our new children. They look very smart in their uniforms including the active wear uniform which has worked very well and looks great! Thank you all for your support with this.*

*The children have thrived in their new-found freedoms without all of the previous restrictions and it has been wonderful to see how full of enthusiasm they are without them. Especially at lunchtimes outside and in the dining hall during the return of family dining where Year 5 and 6 are enjoying their new responsibilities, fostering positive relationships and good manners throughout the whole school. Belonging within a team and showing respect are values which we believe should be evident at all times of the day, including lunchtimes.*

*18 months it has been since we were all together in the hall as a school and so our worship on Wednesday morning was a very special moment! It was lovely to have everyone back together in one place.*

*I would like to extend a very warm welcome to the children, parents and staff new to our school. We hope that your time at Howard will be happy and successful and we are looking forward to getting to know you all over the coming year.*

*I would also like to extend a big thank you to all of the staff who work at The Howard School who have gone above and beyond to make sure the school was ready for the children's return – thank you.*

*Over the summer a new telephone system has been installed which should resolve some of the issues we had previously, a new server has been fitted to bring this up to date as well as super-fast fibre broadband being connected. You may have also noticed that we have had some work done on a couple of trees on the school site. The tree next to the Makerspace had numerous damaged areas and needed to be topped. This should grow back over the next year which is good as it doesn't look very nice at the moment!*

*Although Covid-19 is still very much here. The new school year brings a new mindset with a return (almost) to business as usual. Should cases escalate then steps will be taken to restrict the spread of the virus. In the meantime, the key focus areas need to be regular handwashing, ventilation and good respiratory hygiene - catch it, bin it, kill it.*

*You will have received the school's Covid-19 information during the summer but here is the link should you need to familiarise yourself with it again:*

[Schools Covid Guidance and Outbreak Management Plan - Autumn 2021](#)



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**BODy, SPiRiT**

### Diary Dates

#### September

- 17<sup>th</sup> – Wakefield Music Service Concert for the Children
- 20<sup>th</sup> – Year 3 and 4 Lifesavers First Aid Training
- 21<sup>st</sup> – Year 5 and 6 Lifesavers First Aid Training
- 23<sup>rd</sup> – School's Community Council Meeting
- 23<sup>rd</sup> – School's Library Service (Training for the Reading Ambassador Pupils)
- 23<sup>rd</sup> – Ackworth School's Community Council Meeting
- 27<sup>th</sup> - Rachel Howard / School Heritage Day
- 27<sup>th</sup> MacMillan Coffee Morning
- 29<sup>th</sup> – Year 4 Wilderness Camp (Overnight)
- 30<sup>th</sup> - School's Library Service (Training for the Reading Ambassador Pupils)

#### October

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Individual Pupil Photos
- 12<sup>th</sup> – Harvest Festival
- 12<sup>th</sup> – The Deep Visit Y2
- 20<sup>th</sup> – Year 3 Class Worship
- 22<sup>nd</sup> – School Closes for October Half Term

#### November

- 1<sup>st</sup> – School Reopens
- 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Y6 Robinwood

### Change of Circumstances

Please remember to inform the school office if you have recently changed your address/contact number or if your child's medical records need updating.  
**Thank you.**



## School Priorities 2021-2022 *Growth in MIND*

We have still been working intensely on our school improvement priorities during the pandemic despite what it has thrown at us. I hope that my weekly newsletters and the website have offered some insight into the work that has been undertaken, particularly in relation to curriculum development.

We remain proud to be a Wakefield Local Authority and Leeds Diocesan school and value the support and challenge from our partners within these organisations and other local networks that we trust and value.

Each year we write our School Improvement Plan which is informed by various things such as stakeholder views, analysis of assessment and other data, in school monitoring, training needs and external quality assurance and influences. The plan is fluid and evolves during the year to respond to ongoing developments and actions taken.

As the year goes on I will provide more information about our developments but in summary our priorities this year are:



**MIND**

1.1 How can we sustain curriculum improvement in order to build upon crucial content and ensure impact?

1.2 How can we continue to raise standards of academic attainment returning to and moving beyond pre-pandemic levels?

1.3 How can our approach to teaching early writing be enhanced to address the impact of Covid-19?

1.4 How can we build on existing practice and improvement in mathematics in order to continue to raise standards?

2.1 How can we address the impact of Covid-19 on children's mental health and wellbeing?

2.2 Can we strategically and sustainably improve the quality of play opportunities?

3.1 Can understanding of the distinctive Christian vision be enhanced and can the biblical narrative behind John 10:10 and spiritual development be explored and made explicit to all stakeholders?

3.2 How can pupils be given further opportunities to identify and act on the issues that concern them, locally, nationally and globally and become articulate courageous advocates for change?

3.3 How can pupils' opportunities to plan, lead and evaluate worship and wider spiritual encounter be further developed?



**BODY**



**SPIRIT**

## Early Help and School Support *Growth in BODY, SPIRIT*

Some children maybe experiencing a variety of emotions in response to various influences including the COVID-19 pandemic. We have re-structured our Inclusion Team and increased the capacity in which they can support any emerging needs. As a result of this, we have updated our [Early Help](#) document.

## Go Read – Virtual Reading Record *Growth in MIND, SPIRIT*

We have been reviewing the way in which we continue to work together in partnership with you to instil a love of books and enable each child in school to fulfil their potential as they become fluent and confident readers.

This year we are excited to introduce a new online resource/app called 'Go Read' which will replace our reading record books. Go Read is a digital reading record which is designed to build up a full reading record across your child's entire journey through school and can be accessed both at home and in class. You can access Go Read on any electronic device and can now begin to add comments to the reading records. Our school code is 60839 and you should have also now received your child's unique code. You can find further information and support by visiting <https://www.facebook.com/UKGoApps/> or contacting school.

On our website you can find some example comments which may help you when using Go Read to describe how your child has read to you at home. To build a realistic picture and encourage your child appropriately, it is essential for both parent and teacher to have an open and honest dialogue and as such, it is important to record both positive and developmental comments. You can find this guide on our website: Go Read – [Comment Crib Sheet](#)

### School Places

We currently have a limited number of places in school available for children to start now:

Year 2 - 3 places

Year 3 - 3 places

Year 4 - 1 place

Year 5 - 1 place

If you know anyone interested, please pass this information on. Any interested parents are welcome to visit school.

### Activity Clubs

We have arranged a number of after school activity clubs. A letter was distributed about this which can be found on our website – [Activity Club Letter](#)

### School Lunch Menu

The autumn 1 menu can be found here – [School Lunch Menu](#)

### Apply for a Secondary School Place

For the school year starting in September 2022, the Closing Date for applications for Year 7 places is 31 October 2021.

The online application system is now open.

[Online Applications – Wakefield Council](#)

## Musical Mindfulness

On Friday Richard Hale from Musical Mindfulness joined us to deliver class workshops designed to support children's mental health and wellbeing through music and sound adventures.

The workshops delivered to each class were the perfect way to end the first week offering opportunities to reflect, be calm and explain the importance of mindfulness.



*Growth in MIND, BODY, SPIRIT*

## Curriculum Development 2021

We have reviewed our curriculum building on what has been developed over the last 18 months and invite you to visit our website to view this year's Curriculum Brochure, Curriculum Rationale, Whole School Curriculum Threads, Subject Essentials, Class Long Term Plans and What Are We Learning... Autumn 1 documents:

<https://www.ackworthhowardschool.co.uk/curriculum>

*Growth in MIND, BODY, SPIRIT*

**Thank you for your continued support, take care and have a lovely week.**

Mr Michael Walker - Headteacher

Proud of our partnership with Mshikamano (Solidarity) Primary School -

Bega Kwa Bega (Shoulder to Shoulder)

