



# Newsletter – Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024

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

Striving for 100%

### Attendance

Week Ending 15.3.24:

Reception	92.7%
Class 1	96.0%
Class 2	98.7%
Class 3	87.6%
Class 4	95.7%
Class 5	99.0%
Class 6	96.0%

Overall **95.1%**

**Attendance Champions:  
Year 5 - Congratulations**

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

### Growth in MIND, BODY, SPIRIT Values for Life

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

This week's focus will be: **THOUGHTFULNESS**



**Romans 2:15:**

*"Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others."*

*This quote emphasises the importance of considering the needs and concerns of others, not just focusing on one's own interests. It encourages selflessness and compassion towards others, promoting a sense of community and empathy.*

### Global Citizenship Thread

This half term our whole school Thread is **HEALTH AND WELLBEING**



### Share the News...

We currently have two posts advertised on Wakefield Council's recruitment website.

Playleader [Recruitment Link](#)  
Caretaker [Recruitment Link](#)

Dear parents/carers

Growth in MIND,  
BODY, SPIRIT

### Consultation – School Hours

We recently conducted a consultation regarding proposed changes to the school hours for the academic year 2024/25. This initiative was prompted by updated government guidance requiring schools to offer a minimum of 32.5 hours per week by September 2024.

Throughout the consultation period, we sought input from the school community on the proposed adjustments and feedback was considered and informed our decision-making process.

After careful consideration and discussion with the governing body, we have decided to extend the school day by an additional five minutes, with the end time changing to 3:20pm. This change will come into effect from the start of the new academic year in September 2024.

We want to thank all members of our school community for their participation in the consultation process.

Please note that there will be no changes to Nursery hours as a result of this decision.

### Staffing Update

Mrs. Hazelgrave will be leaving us at Easter as she embarks on a new chapter outside of school life. We extend our heartfelt best wishes for success in her future endeavours.

Additionally, we express our gratitude to Miss Munday, who will be leaving us on Friday. Her dedication to Year 4 has been invaluable, providing much-needed stability during her brief time with us. We thank her for her contributions and wish her all the best.

After Easter, we are excited to welcome Mrs. Thompson to her new role as a class teacher in Year 2, alongside Mrs. Albaya following her maternity leave. Additionally, we welcome Miss Major, who will be taking up the substantive post in Year 4, and Miss Tolson, who will be teaching Year 1 during Miss Delemere's sabbatical to Australia. We wish Miss Delemere well on her travels and look forward to hearing more about her adventures in the coming year! Good luck, Miss Delemere - you will be missed!

### Governors Meetings

Last week's full governing body meeting covered updates on school affairs, including the Headteacher's report. We addressed the consultation on school hours, procedural matters, and approved the new Early Years policy. You can access the new policy through the provided [LINK](#). Our Finance Committee the week before highlighted positive impacts on the school's financial position as a result of short and long term actions taken in this financial year.

### Calendar



#### March

- Mon 18<sup>th</sup> – Non-Uniform Day (Children's Behaviour Award)
- Thu 21<sup>st</sup> – Easter Bonnet Parades and the Great Egg Race
- Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> – Y3/4 Easter Production (St. Cuthbert's 9:45am)
- Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> – School Closes for Easter

#### April

- Mon 8<sup>th</sup> – School Reopens (Summer Term)

### Key Dates 2023-24

#### INSET Days

INSET Days have been set for the next academic year in line with the Wakefield Council's School Calendar 2024/25.

The dates in which school will be closed to pupils include:  
Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept 24'  
Tue 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept 24'  
Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> June 25'  
Mon 21<sup>st</sup> July 25'  
Tue 22<sup>nd</sup> July 25'

IMPORTANT

Recent Letters – [HSA Easter Hamper Raffle](#)







## Easter Events 2024

Our Easter events take place this week – weather permitting.

- Children are asked to submit any decorated egg entries on Thursday morning.
- The Easter Bonnet Parade (Nursery – Year 2) and the Great Egg Race (Key Stage 2) will take place on Thursday on the front playground – parents are welcome to attend - 2:30pm – Easter Bonnet Parade / 2:45pm – The Great Egg Race.
- The Year 3/4 Easter Production will take place at St. Cuthbert's Church on Friday morning, commencing at 9:45am. Reception-Year 6 will walk to Church and Year 3/4 parents are invited to attend. Reverend Karen has informed me that doors will not open to the church until 9:30am and has asked me to remind parents to park considerately if driving – thankyou.

 Hoping for a Special Visitor! 

Egg-citing news, everyone! Rumour has it that we might have a special visitor hopping by later this week... Yes, you guessed it – the Easter Bunnv!!



## Ackworth Howard is posting on X...



**Ackworth Howard CofE School**  
@AckworthHoward

All ready to go for the @f1inschoolsUK National Finals!!!

Good luck to Robotic Racers, you've worked so hard and deserve this experience.

From the late great Niki Lauda: "Winning is one thing, but out of losing I always learned more for the future".

[#ackworthhowardDT](#)

9:49 AM · Mar 12, 2024



**Ackworth Howard CofE School**  
@AckworthHoward

Happy Mother's Day  

Howard Schools Association:

"On Wed, we held our Mother's Day sale and what a wonderful morning it was. The children put so much thought into their choices.

It's an event that we put so much time & thought into & we hope that you all love your gifts."

10:16 AM · Jan 5, 2023



**Ackworth Howard CofE School**  
@AckworthHoward

Year 1 and Year 4 have enjoyed their buddy reading today. Year 4 really take pride in helping the Year 1's become more fluent readers. [#ackworthhowardreading](#)

1:13 PM · Mar 15, 2024



**Platinum Award**  
2023 - 2025

### In other news...

As a school, we are committed to promoting excellent play as an integral part of a joyful and healthy childhood. Your feedback during our OPAL process indicates that parents highly value this focus for their children. Our investment in regular forest school sessions, a longstanding practice, underscores our commitment to offering experiences beyond the classroom. Recognising the adverse effects of the pandemic, we prioritised enhancing play opportunities to counteract the impact of lockdowns and increased screen time on children's physical, emotional, and social well-being. This effort significantly contributed to the positive outcomes observed in our school. We are immensely proud of the transformative effect on our pupils, evident in newsletters, social media updates, and your participation in parent play sessions. Our achievement of the 'platinum award' was a testament to this dedication. For more details about our approach to play, including the OPAL method, parent resources, and our play policy, visit our website's dedicated page. **We are thrilled to hear that OPAL representatives launched the Plan for Play report at the House of Commons, further elevating the importance of play nationwide.** Stay tuned as we plan to expand our offerings - think botanical gardens and a nature reserve. Exciting times ahead!



**Parents Meetings**  
Thank you to everyone who attended our parent meetings. It was great to have such a huge turnout. If you were unable to attend and would like to see your child's class teacher, please contact school to make an appointment.

Growth in **MIND, BODY, SPIRIT**

**Digital Wellbeing**

*Digital wellbeing is a local issue that we work hard to address in school, particularly focusing on ensuring children are aware of both the risks and benefits of accessing social media and other online platforms. This topic is of utmost importance as our children prepare for secondary school.*

*I recently came across a Digital Wellbeing Family Guide produced by Google, which I believe is worth sharing with you. It is divided into sections such as:*

- Deciding when and how to use devices
- Finding positive content
- Determining when children are ready for devices
- Using social media meaningfully and responsibly
- Making gaming a positive experience
- Balancing offline and online activities

*You can access it by following this link: [Google – Digital Wellbeing and Family Guide](#)*



**F1 in Schools National Finals**

Huge well done to the children who recently competed at the F1 Nationals! They elevated every aspect of their project and even broke the allusive 2 second barrier with their car.

Growth in **MIND, BODY, SPIRIT**



**Ackworth Schools Easter Service**

Wonderful service led by St. Cuthbert's Church on Friday. Our Year 2 children worked alongside the other schools in Ackworth showing great community spirit and a celebration of Easter.

Growth in **MIND,**



**Bikeability**

Year 5 enjoyed their Bikeability sessions learning essential skills to keep themselves safe.

**BODY**



**Andy's Man Club**

Thank you to Jacob from Andy's Man Club who delivered an inspiring presentation on the importance of men's mental health. Attendees at the end of the session all agreed that spreading the message of the presentation was now a priority.

Growth in **MIND,**

**BODY**



**Delicious Soup**

Reception class really enjoyed working together, to make vegetable soup. It was delicious!

Growth in **MIND,**

**BODY**



**Responsibility**

Thinking about this terms value, 'Be Responsible', Year 2 have been thinking about how their conscience helps them to make the right choices. Jimminy Cricket came into school to help them!

Growth in **MIND,**

**BODY, SPIRIT**



Growth in **MIND, BODY, SPIRIT**

**Comic Relief**

What an incredible Comic Relief we had, supporting children both locally and globally. Our school was buzzing with excitement as we embraced the spirit of giving back.

Activities included a vibrant non-uniform day, a pupil-led bake sale that was a huge hit, and the highlight of the week, 'Howard's Got Talent' where our children showcased their remarkable skills, including singing, dancing, magic, and even a never-before-seen chicken act with some impressive tricks!

Thanks to everyone's generosity and enthusiasm, we raised a remarkable **total of £509.75**, our highest ever for Comic Relief:

- Children's Bake Sale: £102.85**
- Non-uniform Day: £155.90 (split 50/50 between Comic Relief and our Tanzania partnership fund)**
- Red Nose sales: £250**



**Speak up. Stand up. Stop Exploitation**

Identify, disrupt and prevent Child Exploitation in the Wakefield area.



Visit the new Knowledge Hub #SpeakUpStandUp

Wakefield Safeguarding Children Partnership

Growth in **MIND, BODY, SPIRIT**

**Howard Family Celebration Worship**

**Gathering Together and Encouraging One Another**

The following children have been recognised for their:

- Outstanding achievements through the school week: Arnie (Rec), Hollie (Y1), Class 2, Raven (Y3), Phoebe (Y4), Fraser and Max D (Y5), Joe (Y6)
- Living our Christian values: Sara (Rec), Jaxon (Y1), Eleanor (Y2), Lottie (Y3), Sylvie (Y4), Lewis (Y5), Neive (Y6)
- Living our school vision: Jack (Rec), Vivienne (Y1), Mia (Y2), Millie (Y3), Enson (Y4), Year 5, Faye (Y6)
- Living our school vision and flourishing / **Charlotte C – Role model behaviour including her contribution to the wellbeing ambassador role.**
- Golden (Play) Welly Award: **Oliver A – Showing great responsibility during unstructured times.**
- Reading Class Champions:
  - Year 2



**Have a lovely Easter Everyone!**

**Stay safe, well and keep the faith – your support is greatly appreciated**

Michael Walker – Headteacher

Proud of our partnership with Mshikamano (Solidarity) Primary School



Bega Kwa Bega (Shoulder to Shoulder)



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

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

**Why is service to others such an important value?!**