



Newsletter – Tuesday 3rd September 2024
Educating ‘for life in all its fullness.’



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

I would also like to express a big thank you to all the staff at The Howard School who have gone above and beyond to ensure the school is ready for the children’s return on Wednesday – thank you.

Growth in SPIRIT
Values for Life

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



This week’s focus will be:
THANKSGIVING

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever."
Psalm 107:1

Global Citizenship Thread

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



Growth in MIND, BODY, SPIRIT

*****Dinner Debate*****

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

‘Where do you think you will be and what do you think you will be doing in 10 years?’

Dear parents/carers,

Growth in MIND,
BODY, SPIRIT

I am looking forward to welcoming everyone back to school tomorrow and hope that you have all enjoyed a wonderful summer with your families.

Over the summer, it has been a pleasure to reflect on our school community and the positive journey we have been on together. Last year was particularly fantastic, with many highlights that we can all be proud of.



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 this week. Good luck, everyone!

Olympic Challenge Competition

Over the summer, we launched our Olympic Challenge to coincide with the Paris Olympics. The aim was to encourage children to get active and try as many different sports as possible.

We have thoroughly enjoyed seeing all the amazing activities that have taken place and are delighted to see children participating in sports they had never tried before. So many ticks on the competition entry sheets – well done!

Staffing

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Miss Munday to our Howard family as Class 1 teacher and Miss O'Brien as cleaner. Their enthusiasm has really shown through over the summer and they have quickly become part of the team.

Calendar

September
Mon 2nd / Tue 3rd – School Closed
 INSET Days
Wed 4th – School Opens for the 2024/25 Academic Year
Fri 20th – School Heritage Day (191 Years)
Fri 27th – Macmillan coffee Morning

October
Fri 4th – Individual School Photos
Fri 18th – Harvest Festival / Reception to Y6 Flu Immunisation
Wed 23rd – Spooky Disco
Fri 25th – Open Afternoon / School Closes for Half Term

School Calendar Document Link:
[Key Dates 2024-25](#)



Are you ready for the new school year?

Make every day count and aim for 100% school attendance.

#SchoolAttendanceMatters – see our guide to achieving good attendance

[Working Together to Improve Attendance](#)



Attendance

As you may be aware from the communications sent out during the last academic year and the changes to government legislation I informed you about in the summer term, the Government has made school attendance a high priority. The new directives that took effect on 19th August may require us to adjust some of our approaches this year.

Monitoring of attendance will begin in the first week of term. It is vital that children attend school from the start of the year – thank you for your cooperation.

Our approach prioritises support first. We understand that there may be situations where additional support mechanisms are needed to help pupils attend school regularly, and we are committed to working with families in these instances.

Attendance is generally strong at our school, and we appreciate your ongoing commitment to ensuring your child's regular attendance. However, we have noticed that a small number of pupils are absent more frequently than others for reasons that may not always warrant it. If you need guidance on when it is appropriate to keep your child at home, the NHS website offers valuable advice. [LINK](#)

Every day your child spends in school is crucial to their educational journey, and your support in prioritising their attendance is invaluable.

Please be reminded that the new National Framework for Penalty Notices, effective from 19th August 2024, introduces important changes. These are outlined in the linked poster ([LINK](#)), and we encourage everyone to review this information, as it may impact several of our families.

Thank you for partnering with us to help your child reach their full potential.

Reminders and Important Information

Uniform Reminders

It's important for children to wear a smart, comfortable, and practical school uniform, which helps them feel a sense of belonging to the Howard school community.

At Ackworth Howard, we strive to encourage children to reach their individual potential within an atmosphere of harmony and shared community values. To support this, we maintain high standards of dress and appearance.

Our uniform policy can be found here:

<https://www.ackworthhowardschool.co.uk/parents/school-uniform>

Please ensure your child's name is in all items of clothing.

No jewellery is to be worn except for watches. Earrings are not to be worn in school.

PE Timetable

Here are the days classes will undertake PE during this academic year. On PE days, children should wear the correct Active Wear uniform:

- Reception – Friday
- Year 1 – Wednesday and Friday
- Year 2 – Tuesday and Thursday
- Year 3 – Tuesday and Wednesday
- Year 4 – Wednesday and Thursday
- Year 5 – Monday and Tuesday (Swimming)
- Year 6 – Monday and Friday

Punctuality Reminders

School hours change this year, with the day running from 8:50am to 3:20pm. This does not affect Nursery session hours.

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

School Meal Menu

Our lunch menu for the autumn term is available on our website. [LINK](#)

Please order and process payment for school meals online. If you have any problems with the system, contact school.

Help and support

We return to a world that is continuing to demonstrate a high degree of turbulence and significant challenges for families and schools. Sadly, there are no immediate solutions other than to re-iterate our commitment to working with you in the best way that we can and to be strong advocates for our families. There are many ways in which we are able to support families. Please explore our website, Family Library or come and speak to us. We are happy to help.

Support
Friendship
Trust
Generosity

PENALTY NOTICE FINES FOR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE ARE CHANGING!

With the introduction of the New National Framework for Penalty Notices, the following changes will come into force on 19th August 2024.

PENALTY NOTICES WILL BE ISSUED FOR

Term time leave: Penalty Notice Fines will be issued for Term Time Leave of 5 or more consecutive days

10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10 week period: A Penalty Notice may be considered/issued when a pupil has had 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10 week* period.

*School Week's

PER PARENT/PER CHILD

Penalty Notice Fines will continue to be issued per parent per child.

For example: 3 Siblings absent for term time leave, would result in each parent receiving 3 separate fines.

FIRST OFFENCE

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for a Term Time Holiday or Irregular School Attendance the Penalty Notice will be charged at:

£160 per parent, per child if paid within 28 days of issue, reducing to £80 if paid within 21 days**.

SECOND OFFENCE (within 3 years of the First Offence)

Where it is deemed appropriate to issue a second Penalty Notice to the same parent for the same pupil within 3 years of the first notice, the second Penalty Notice will be charged at:

£160 if paid within 28 days (no reduced fee for paying early).

(**Unpaid Penalty Notice's after 28 days may result in a parental prosecution)

THIRD OFFENCE (within 3 years of the First Offence)

On the third time that an offence is committed for either a Term Time Holiday and / or Irregular Attendance a Penalty Notice will not be issued, the case may proceed straight to Parental Prosecution under the Single Justice Procedure. If found guilty of the offence of 'Failure to send a child to school' the Magistrates can impose a fine up to £1000.



COMMUNICATION PROCEDURES

At Ackworth Howard, we are committed to ensuring that the communications parents/carers have with the school are handled robustly and effectively. As such, we continually review our communications and complaints procedures with the Governing Body. Our procedures are designed to ensure your communications are addressed promptly by the person most appropriate to handle your query.

Please review these procedures in conjunction with the Home School Agreement signed by parents/carers, the school's complaints policy, and the parent code of conduct.

The school office can be contacted between 8:30 am and 4:00 pm on weekdays during term time. Outside of these hours, a voicemail system is in operation.

Postal Address	Telephone	Email
Ackworth Howard CE School Station Road Ackworth Pontefract West Yorkshire WF7 7HH	01977 612124	admin@howard.wakefield.sch.uk *This is the only email address that communications will receive a response from. We endeavour to respond by the end of the next working day (term time).

Message, Queries, Concerns...	Person to Contact
If you would like to report a safeguarding concern.	Please contact a member of the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead Team by emailing the school email address, phoning school or by making an appointment. School DSL Team (Mr. Walker, Mrs McConnell, Mrs Tordoff and Mrs Albaya)
If your child is absent from school.	Please notify the school office each day of absence by 9:10am either by telephone (where you can leave a message) or in person. Please note that this notification does not guarantee that absences will be authorised.
If you have a quick message for your child's class teacher about things such as collection, medical appointments, home learning, lost uniform/equipment etc.	Please inform the office who can pass on your messages at a convenient time for the teachers. You can also fill a message form out at the office if you prefer this to be confidential. Teachers are also available on the playground after school during the week for informal conversations if appropriate.
If you would like to talk about your child's learning and progress etc.	Make an appointment with your child's class teacher through the office.
If you are concerned about social behaviours or bullying etc.	Make an appointment with your child's class teacher through the office or our Inclusion Team, who can support you with these concerns.
If you would like to discuss your child's special educational needs and/or associated provision.	Make an appointment to meet with the SENDCo through the office.
If you would like to find out about or have a query about extended schools provision (breakfast club, after school club and activity clubs).	Check the school website for information (www.ackworthhowardschool.co.uk). Email or speak to the school office or a member of the wrap around team.
If you have an administrative query such as the online payment system.	Please contact the school office.
If you have a query related to Health and Safety.	Please contact the school office.

If a satisfactory resolution has not been achieved through the initial processes, you may wish to have your concerns considered further. In such cases, please contact the school office.

Following this, any concerns will be treated as a formal complaint in line with Stage 2 of our complaint's procedure.

School Development Plan Priorities 2024-2025

Target 1 – Development of the MIND

Build on current systems to develop a professional learning system that enables 'great teaching.'

Why?

An evidence-based culture is embedded with opportunities for teachers to reflect, identify areas to develop, and build expertise. There is a need to enhance this further to ensure consistency and rigor, and to build and share adaptive expertise. A professional learning system that has a demonstrable impact and is based on pedagogical knowledge and skills will foster a culture of continual improvement.

Target 2 – Development of the MIND

Identify in the curriculum the essential 'ready to progress' core knowledge pupils, including those with SEND, need to know and remember.

Why?

The curriculum is ambitious and well-sequenced from early years to Year 6. The next step in curriculum development across the wider curriculum is to identify the essential knowledge that all pupils, including those with SEND, need to know and remember. This will ensure that teachers are clear on which knowledge is most important when planning activities.

Target 3 – Development of the MIND

Ensure the foundations of writing are instilled in pupils to enable more accelerated progress and develop fluent, accurate writers.

Why?

By the time pupils leave school, their writing is above the national expectation. However, there are some specific areas that need attention as pupils move through school. There is a need for a more robust approach to developing the foundations of writing in younger pupils so they can progress more rapidly from their starting points.

Target 4 – Development of the MIND

Enhance opportunities to enable more children to achieve greater depth within the wider curriculum and writing.

Why?

Writing attainment across the school is lower than in reading and maths, with fewer children working at greater depth. While most pupils make expected progress in wider curriculum subjects, there is a need to accelerate the progress of more able pupils. Increasing the number of children achieving greater depth in a range of subjects will support overall improvement.

Target 5 – Development of the MIND and BODY

Continue to work towards being a fully trauma-informed school, ensuring provision focuses on a relational approach to working with children.

Why?

Research strongly advocates viewing children's difficulties through various trauma lenses and ensures all staff work with neurodiversity in mind. Significant actions have been taken to develop and embed these approaches. This now needs consolidating and sustaining into a long-term culture to ensure lasting impact.

Target 6 – Development of the SPIRIT

Ensure the religious education curriculum for world faiths, other than Christianity, supports pupils in understanding them as diverse, living faiths.

Why?

RE has a high profile within the school, and pupils enjoy the chance to learn more about different beliefs and views. Pupils are supported by a detailed, progressive curriculum that provides them with a secure knowledge of Christianity. The school has thought carefully about how to promote the idea of Christianity as a living faith with diverse beliefs, and this now needs extending to include other world faiths.



Healthy Start Scheme

Growth in MIND,
BODY, SPIRIT

👤 All children deserve a healthy start in life. With the NHS Healthy Start scheme, you could get help towards the cost of healthy fruit, vegetables, milk, infant formula milk and vitamins 🧠.

Find out if you're eligible by visiting www.healthystart.nhs.uk

The advertisement features a blue background with the NHS logo in the top right corner. In the center, there are five cartoon characters: a red apple, a green broccoli, a blue Healthy Start card, a yellow tin of infant formula, and a blue carton of milk. Below the characters, the text reads: "We can help your family stay healthy". At the bottom, it says: "Apply for your prepaid Healthy Start card now at: www.healthystart.nhs.uk".

2024-2025 School Calendar - Key Dates



Key Events 2024-25

20th Sept	School Heritage Day (191 Years)
4th Oct	School Photo Day
18th Oct	Harvest Festival
13th - 15th Nov	Y6 PGL Adventure Residential
11th-15th Nov	Anti-Bullying Week
18th/20th Nov	Parents Evening
2nd Dec	Pantomime - Snow White
12th Dec	Christmas Dinner
17th/18th Dec	Christmas Productions
20th Dec	KS2 Carol Concert - St. Cuthbert's
13th Jan	Languages Day
3rd-7th Feb	Children's Mental Health Week / Online Safety Week
6th Mar	World Book Day
17th/19th Mar	Parents Evening
4th Apr	Easter Events
4th Apr	Y3/4 Easter Production
TBC Jun	Class Photo Day
20th Jun	Sports Day and Family Fun Event
2nd-4th Jul	Y5 Northumberland Residential
11th Jul	Annual Reports Issued
16th Jul	Y6 Summer Production
18th Jul	Y6 Leavers Service - St. Cuthbert's

ATTENDANCE MATTERS



STATUTORY NATIONAL TEST DATES

September 2024	Reception Baseline
Wk Beg. 9th June 2025	Y1 Phonics Screening
Wk Beg. 2nd June 2025	Y4 Multiplication Tables
12th - 15th May 2025	Key Stage 2 SATs

Children should attend school during these dates.

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

October	Stay & Learn
25th Oct	Open Afternoon
January	Stay & Learn
31st Jan	Open Afternoon
May	Stay & Learn
16th May	Open Afternoon

See 'Key Dates' for Parents Evenings/Reports

Supporting Charity/Raising Awareness

27th Sept	Macmillan Coffee Morning
15th Nov	Children in Need
21st Jan	Big Me Day - Action Aid
12th Dec	Christmas Jumper Day - Save the Children
21st Mar	Comic Relief

September 2024						
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 2024						
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 2024						
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 2024						
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 2025						
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 2025						
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	

March 2025						
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 2025						
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 2025						
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 2025						
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 2025						
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 2025						
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

3rd Dec	Year 6 Class Worship
10th Dec	Year 3 Class Worship
28th Jan	Year 2 Class Worship
22nd Jan	Year 5 Class Worship
13th May	Year 4 Class Worship
17th Jun	Year 1 Class Worship
8th Jul	Reception Class Worship

INSET Days School Holidays
Bank Holidays

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](#).

			School 2024	National 2024	Difference
Early Years (EYFSP)	% Good Level of Development		83%	68%*	+15%
Phonics	% Meeting the Threshold	Year 1	90%	80%*	+10%
		Year 2	97%	89%*	+8%
Key Stage 2	Y4 Multiplication Check	AVG	19.7	20.7*	-1
Key Stage 2	% Expected Standard and Above	Reading	93%	74%	+19%
		Writing	80%	72%	+8%
		Maths	87%	73%	+14%
		GPS	87%	72%	+15%
		RWM	73%	61%	+12%
Key Stage 2	% Working at Greater Depth	Reading	40%	29%*	+11%
		Writing	10%	13%*	-3%
		Maths	23%	23%*	=
		GPS	47%	31%*	+16%
		RWM	7%	8%*	-1%
Key Stage 2	Average Scaled Score	Reading	106.4	105.0	+1.4
		Maths	105.4	104.1	+1.3
		GPS	107.9	105.0	+2.9

*Relates to an estimated national figure as 2024 data is not yet available.

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 by underwear.*

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.



Help keep communities safe.

Learn about different safeguarding concerns and take action at wakefieldscp.org.uk



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

Mr Michael Walker – Headteacher

Proud of our partnership with Mshikamano (Solidarity) Primary School

Bega Kwa Bega (Shoulder to Shoulder)

