



Newsletter – Monday 30th September 2024

Educating ‘for life in all its fullness.’

Striving for 100%

Attendance

Week Ending 27.9.24:

Reception	98.5%
Year 1	95.3%
Year 2	98.7%
Year 3	95.5%
Year 4	96.1%
Year 5	100%
Year 6	95.7%
Overall	97.1%

Attendance Champions:
Year 5
Well Done!

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

Cumulative (2024-25) total so far – 97.1%

Growth in MIND, BODY, SPIRIT Values for Life

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



This week’s focus will be: **RESPONSE**

"I will praise the Lord, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me."

Psalm 16:7

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:

‘What makes something special?’

Dear parents/carers

Growth in MIND,
BODY, SPIRIT

It was wonderful to welcome our families into school on Friday for such a fantastic cause! We were overwhelmed by your support during our coffee morning for Macmillan Cancer Support. A huge thank you to everyone who donated an extraordinary range of treats, the staff who helped run the event, and all the adults and children who contributed. Our Junior Headteacher and Junior Deputy Headteacher even put their maths skills to the test, helping calculate the total raised. We are thrilled to announce an astounding £864 was raised!



Calendar



September
Fri 27th –
Macmillan
coffee Morning

October
Fri 4th –
Individual
School Photos
Tue 15th -
Finance
Committee
(Governors)

Thu 17th – Year
3&4 Football V
Badsworth

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](#)



School Development Committee

The School Development Committee met last week and discussed several agenda items, including the outcomes from the last academic year, this year’s School Development Plan, the Pupil Premium and Sports Funding plans, our school vision, curriculum updates, and approved the updated Attendance Policy. You can find the newly approved documents by following the links below, which will direct you to our website.

[Pupil Premium Strategy 2024-2025](#)
[Sports Funding Strategy 2024-2025](#)
[Attendance Policy](#)

Attendance

As mentioned in previous newsletters, attendance remains a government priority. We are now following the August 2024 statutory directives in the Working Together to Improve School Attendance guidance. Key updates to our policy include revised procedures, updated penalty notices for term-time absences, information on ‘notices to improve,’ and the statutory designation of a Senior Attendance Champion.

Stay and Learn Session – Reading

We are excited to be running our upcoming 'Stay and Learn' sessions focused on reading. These sessions are designed to give parents an insight into how reading is taught throughout the school, helping you to feel more confident in supporting your children at home. You can view the letter sent to parents [[here](#)].

School Gate Parking

Wakefield Council’s Road Safety Team recently revisited the school gate parking initiative. A big thank you to everyone who completed the parking promise. The council is also working to improve traffic safety outside schools across Wakefield, including reviewing existing "School Keep Clear" markings. We have requested that these restrictions be extended to 4:30pm for the safety of our families.





Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) – Safety Alert

OPSS has issued a safety alert for a product commonly known as 'water beads' (<https://www.gov.uk/product-safety-alerts-reports-recalls/product-safety-alert-water-beads-psa7>), alongside a news story (<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/opss-issues-safety-alert-to-warn-of-the-risks-of-water-beads>).



Water beads are marketed to fulfil a variety of different purposes, which can include being used as a toy, or in crafting, home décor, floristry and even the possibility of 'baby personal protective equipment (PPE)' type products.



The alert highlights the harms caused by the dehydrated bead/s when swallowed that can expand post-ingestion, causing a blockage along the gastrointestinal (GI) digestive tract requiring surgical removal. Additionally, a hydrated or dehydrated bead can cause asphyxiation from aspiration if swallowed.

If you or anyone you know is aware of any incidents relating to this product type, please contact: OPSSIncidentManagement@businessandtrade.gov.uk



Celebration of Movement Day

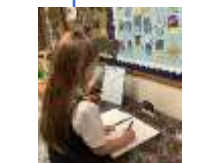
On Thursday we celebrated movement as part of the Wakefield District's 'Our Year - Movement Festival'! The whole school joined in an action-packed Zumba session alongside other schools as part of Wakefield Council's 'Our Year' programme. We also enjoyed extended play opportunities and introduced exciting new activities at lunchtime, which were a big hit with everyone! A fantastic day of fun, fitness, and learning about the importance of movement.



New Displays

Take a look at our exciting new display celebrating the "50 Things to Experience Before You Leave Howard"! The display highlights the many opportunities available as children move through the school, and they've already started sharing their reflections and responses to the display's questions in a special book. We can't wait to see how this inspires even more personal growth across the school!

Following our Howard School Heritage Day, we have also created the 'Ackworth Howard Living History' display, featuring examples of work from Nursery to Year 6. This display also includes cherished memories about school life from parents, grandparents, and even great-great-grandparents! Thank you for all your contributions. We hope you enjoyed viewing this during the Macmillan Coffee Morning on Friday.



Search Engines

Growth in MIND

Year 5 have continued to develop their computing skills, comparing a range of search engines and refining their searches to ensure they find specific information. Excellent team work year 5!



Hello to Miss Delemere...

Growth in MIND

Year 2 were excited to talk to Miss Delemere in Australia last week! They used their geography skills to make a journey line of possible routes to Oceania and had lots of questions to ask.



Digital Devices

Growth in MIND

In computing, Year 3 have been learning about digital devices. They've recreated some school Heritage Day artwork using a laptop. They evaluated the pros and cons of using a digital device versus creating art on paper.



Peer Support

Growth in MIND,

BODY, SPIRIT

Year 1 really enjoyed some of the children from Year 6 visiting them. They did an excellent job of showing them how to log on to the laptops for the first time.



Electrical Circuits

Growth in MIND

Year 4 enjoyed creating and exploring electrical circuits in their science lesson!



Marvellous Me

Growth in MIND,

BODY

Reception are enjoying their Marvellous Me topic. Last week the children tried really hard to draw a self-portrait. They tried to include features such as eyebrows and eyelashes to add detail to their work.



Environmental Sounds

Growth in MIND,

BODY

Nursery have been working really hard listening for environmental sounds in their classroom and outdoor area. They enjoyed creating their own 'listening ears' to take home and see what sounds they could hear at home.



The Good Shepherd

Growth in SPIRIT

Rev. Karen visited school last week to deliver a worship about the Good Shepherd. She shared how this story connects to our lives and supports our school vision of nurturing and guiding each child towards 'life in all its fullness.'



"A big thank you to the Howard School Association (HSA) for funding our new walkie-talkie system! This will greatly enhance communication, safeguarding, and safety throughout the school."

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)

