



Downholland Haskayne CE Primary

Newsletter No: 15

Contact: bursar@haskayne.lancs.sch

Date: 08/01/2025

Phone: 0151 526 0614

Website: www.haskayne.lancs.sch.uk

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Wednesday Weekly

I am delighted to be writing my very first Wednesday weekly as headteacher of Downholland Haskayne. I hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas and new year.

This week has been really enjoyable so far, a huge thank you to all the parents, children and staff who have made me feel so welcome in my first week. I worked closely with Mr Chapman in the time before I officially started my role. I am sure you will all join me in thanking Mr Chapman for all his hard work in the Autumn term, his hard work and thorough hand over has left me and the school well-prepared for the rest of the school year. We wish Mr Chapman well as he returns to Little Hoole and hopefully he does come back to visit sometime soon.

I would also like to welcome Mrs Cook to school as teacher of Oak class. Mrs Cook has had many years of experience teaching covering a variety of roles and I am sure will be a welcome addition to the team. She has been made to feel really welcome this week by the children, please do feel free to come and say hello to her at the end of the day.

Following Miss Grant's departure, I will be taking on the SENDCO role, this is something I am familiar with having undertaken the role for a number of years, as well as having experience in working in special schools. Please do feel free to make contact with me to discuss your child/ren at any time.

The weather has taken a turn for the colder this week, with one of my very first jobs being official gritter for Downholland Haskayne school site. Please do ensure that you take care to and from school particularly on the school grounds, I will make all possible efforts to make sure the site is safe, however there may be some patches of ice that linger. We will still aim to enjoy our outdoor space as much as possible so please do send the children with a warm coat, hat and gloves.

If for any reason it is not safe for school to open due to the weather, we will inform you as soon as possible and provide learning for the children to complete at home. I hope this isn't the case as I'm sure we all had enough of home school in the recent past.

Finally, I am really looking forward to get to know you all over the upcoming year, please do come and say hello if you see me around before and after school. If you do want to come in and have a chat please do get in touch and we can arrange a suitable time for us to meet with a brew and biscuits.

Take Care

Mr Swindells



Star of the week

Elijah



The following Children received Haskayne Values Awards in Assembly today
Maya, Adelie, Halle, Riley, Adelie (again), Noah, Tobee & Mason

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'LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE WITH JOY'

Dates for Diary

22nd January – Friends of Haskayne School Meeting.

30th January – Bonanza Creative Co2 Workshop

4th February – Height & Weight Reception children only

5th February – Visit from Bishop John

11th February – Last Forest School

12th February – Last Swimming

17th February – 21st February Half Term

6th March – World Book Day

DfE changes to Penalty Notices

The Department for Education have recently announced national charges to penalty notices issues for unauthorised absences in term time, these came into effect on the 19th August 2024.

- Penalty notices issued for the offence after the 19th of August 2024 will be charged at the new rate of £160.00 however if paid in 21-days this reduces to £80.00.
- Any second penalty notice to the same parent for the same child in a rolling 3-year period will be issued at the rate of £160.00 to be paid within 28-days with no option for a discount.
- Penalty notice threshold is 10-sessions equivalent to 5-days of unauthorised absence in a rolling 10-school week period.
- Maximum of 2-penalty notices may be issued for the same child within a rolling 3-years period, so at the 3rd or subsequent offence another course of action will need to be considered such a prosecution or one of the other attendance legal interventions.

Easy Fundraising Link

<https://www.easypfundraising.org.uk/causes/odownhollandhaskayneschool/?searchSessionId=82da24c8-1c2b-4c47-8bac-263ffaa6110a>



Thank you to the following businesses who have donated to the Christmas Fair

- **Rotary Club** – Santa and his Sleigh
- **Ukeloonies** – performance during the fair
- **Icing Queen Cakes** – Donations of Brownies and other sweet treats

