

Our HSA Newsletter

3 Page Spread

24th October 2025

Autumn 1



What's happened

Pictures: Foundation having fun, Lakeside Residential, a visit to the library and special assembly

THIS HALF TERM

This half term has flown by! The new academic year started at a fast pace hasn't slowed down since.

Some of our Y6 children enjoyed an exciting residential trip to Lakeside where they had lots of fun, tried new activities, expanded their friendship groups and, of course, got muddy and wet! The photos were fabulous and really captured the joy and enthusiasm of their experience. It was clear that not only did the children have a wonderful time, but the staff accompanying them also thoroughly enjoyed seeing the pupils challenge themselves, support one another, and make lasting memories. Thank you to Mr Fleckney, Mrs Beckett, Mrs McDonnell, Mrs Twiss and Miss Pugh.

Meanwhile back in the academy, the rest of our Y6 were getting creative and working on a piece of art you could say is synonymous with our town....the illuminations! We can't wait to see the finished pieces.

Speaking of illuminations, our very own 'Switch On' is back! On the 14th November we will be holding our annual community event where our children will perform, there will be fun, food and refreshments and of course the grand 'switch on' of our very own illumination. It's always a wonderful opportunity for our whole community to come together, and we can't wait to celebrate with everyone.

We are also looking forward to announcing our VIP 'special' family who will be randomly drawn to 'flick the switch'!

'It's a chance for us all to come together an we can't wait'

Whilst this half term has been busy with lots of learning, creativity, visits to the library, visits from authors and illustrators, and even a special appearance from *Cinderella* — "Oh no you didn't!" ... "Oh yes we did!" — we have no doubt that the next half term will be just as exciting. It's sure to be jam-packed with activities as we make the sleigh ride into Christmas!

Next half term, we'll be starting a four-week **Family Learning Workshop** for Year 1, why not ask Mrs. Garratt for more details? We'll also have musical performances, the final of our open events for new families, nativity productions, and of course, plenty of learning taking place across the academy. Make sure you're receiving our emails, have downloaded the **Schudio** app, and check our **website calendar** regularly so you don't miss a thing!

Not sure if your details are up to date? You can log in to **Arbor** (logins have recently been resent) to check the information we hold for you. If you have any questions or need help accessing your account, just ask at the academy office, we'll be happy to help.

'Next half term will be jam packed as we sleigh ride into Christmas'

**Deadline to apply for
Secondary Schools
31st October 2025**

Our Values Nominations are in!

CLASS TEACHER NOMINATIONS

KS1: Bobby, Dominic, Deilah and Jude

KS2: Oscar, Rylen, Thea, Liliana, Oliver, Chelsey and Dwayne

'He has the confidence to share his detailed ideas with others and inspire those around him'

See you Monday 3rd November
Enjoy your half term break

Quick links:
[Calendar](#)
[Term Dates](#)
[Latest News](#)

Attendance Matters
[Find out more here](#)



Pictures: Year 6 Topic - Illuminations

What’s happened in

YEAR 6

Our Year 6 children have been busy working on an exciting prohject all about the history of the Blackpool Illuminations and their importance to our town. After all, if you think of Blackpool, you think of the Tower and the lights!

They created a timeline showing key moments in the history of the Illuminations and explored the amazing designs that have contributed to the displays over the years, from the classic tableaux designs to the sparkling ‘string lights’ that hang between the lamp posts.

The children also researched some of the famous *Switch On* events, and we were surprised by a few of the discoveries! Did you know that the legendary Grand National horse **Red Rum** once switched on the lights? We’re sure there was some ‘horsing around’ as he hooved the switch! And even **Kermit the Frog** had the honour one year, though notably without *Miss Piggy*!

During their historical investigations, the children learned why the Illuminations were turned off during the Second World War to protect the country from bombardment by the Luftwaffe. The whole nation fell dark during those war years, and sadly, Blackpool was no different. Due to post-war austerity, the Illuminations didn’t shine again until 1949.

The displays have certainly evolved since their first showing in 1879, when they were described as “*artificial sunshine*”and consisted of just eight carbon arc lamps. Today, the Illuminations feature spectacular additions such as the **Lightpool Festival**, interactive installations, and an extended season, continuing to bring light, colour, and joy to residents and visitors alike.

‘Blackpool really does illuminate up the nights!’

To go hand in hand with their learning the children have designed their own illuminations and creative ‘Switch On’ events. Linking their ideas to the past but embracing the future.

‘The Y6 children lit up the classroom with their inspiring ideas and debate.’

COMMUNITY

FREE UNDER 16'S
HOLIDAY SWIM

MOOR PARK
MONDAY 1:30-2:30PM
TUESDAY TO FRIDAY
1-2:30PM

PALATINE
MONDAY TO FRIDAY
1-2:30PM

All swimmers must bring their leisure card with them

Blackpool Council

ActiveBlackpool.co.uk

SUPPORT A GREAT
CLAUS at

Santa Dash

Walk, jog or run on Blackpool Promenade
Free Santa suits and medals for participants

Join us...
SUNDAY 7TH
DECEMBER
2025

Brian House
Children's Hospice

REGISTER ONLINE AT www.blackpoolsantadash.co.uk

Our Playtimes

OPAL

We’re making the most of our fantastic field, with playtimes now taking place there regularly. The children are loving the extra space to run, play, and enjoy the fresh air!

But we need you...

As the weather gets wetter, we need **wellies**! Children will need them to access the field, keeping their feet warm and dry and their school shoes mud-free. If you have any spare wellies, from little sizes up to adult sizes, we’d be very grateful for donations. It’s also helpful if your child can keep a **named pair** of wellies in school.

We are also looking for some donations for our small world and fancy dress. We are really hoping for something like:

- toy vehicles (cars, trucks etc)
- Barbie type dolls
- baby dolls
- fancy dress from age 5 up to age 12/13 (our older children LOVE to dress up too)
- dinosaurs
- superhero figures
- roadways/railway tracks
- toy animals
- building blocks

All donations greatly received to class or to the office.





Special Feature

FOCUS ON MRS TWISS

Each week we have a ‘special feature’ on one of our Hawes Side team members. This week it is Mrs Twiss, year 4 class teacher.

Here’s what we asked Mrs Twiss.

Thinking about our uniform colour, red. What does the colour red make you feel? Undoubtedly the colour red has so many connotations linked to it but when I think of the colour red, I think it is bold, adventurous, has excitement and energy.

It reminds me of various seasons, whether it is the red of roses in summer (or Valentines) or the red of Santa’s suit! For me though, red reminds me of Autumn. Walking through the shedding leaves from the trees. The crunch and glow of the red leaves on the floor, standing out against the browns and oranges. Walking is one of my favourite things to do so this time of year, walking through the changing landscape that Autumn brings, to me is magical and brings a rosy red glow.

‘The crunch and glow of the red leaves on the floor, standing out against the browns and oranges’

What is your favourite colour and why? Funnily enough red is actually my favourite colour and for so many reasons, not just its link to Autumn.

As a child I remember my mum wearing red and thinking how beautiful she looked. It is one of my favourite memories of my mum and looking back, she really did suit the colour.

The colour red is intrinsictly linked to Christmas.....red ribbons, baubles, holly and of course Rudolph’s nose! Christmas is my favourite holiday and you can’t have Christmas without thinking of the colour red.

Red makes me feel warm inside and allows me to feel confident with a splash of love thrown in!

Family Learning in Year 1 Blackpool Rocks!

This is a free 4 week course
starting 4th November.
1pm - 3pm

Book your place by filling in
the form at:
<https://bit.ly/FLBR25>

Diwali

4S

This week 4S made Diwali lanterns to celebrate the ‘festival of light’.



GBBO

YEAR 2

It was like the Great British Bake Off (GBBO) arrived in Year 2! They had a special visitor who helped them make their creations and follow the recipe. *Thank you Mrs Morgan.*



A message from our Principal

Our values: Resilience, Respect, Responsibility, Reflection and Relationships



**CAROLINE
BOOTHROYD**

It has been a brilliant half term, and the children have been truly wonderful. We are so proud of how they continue to live out our school values each and every day. These past weeks have been full of exciting opportunities to come together as a school community. It has been wonderful to open our academy doors and welcome so many of you to take part in events and activities. Seeing so many families during parents’ evening this week was especially lovely, our partnership with you is such an important part of ensuring success for all our children.

As we reach the end of this half term, we say a fond farewell to Mrs Craig. We would like to thank her for her dedication and hard work as our Vice Principal over the past year. She has made a positive impact on our school and leaves a lasting impression on both staff and children alike. She is leaving us to emigrate to Australia, and we wish her every happiness as she embarks on this exciting new adventure. Following a successful recruitment process, we are delighted to be welcoming Mrs Kitching in January as our new Vice Principal. We also send our very best wishes to Mrs Francis as she begins her maternity leave

‘She has made a positive impact on our school and leaves a lasting impression on both staff and children alike’

As we head into the half-term break, we hope you all enjoy a well-deserved rest and we look forward to seeing everyone back, refreshed and ready for another exciting term ahead. Thank you, as always, for your support.