

Our HSA Newsletter

Friday

30th January 2026

Spring 1



What's happening

Pictures: Brianna, Year 2, working hard, Mandarin class in action, and Year 2 discovering multiplication

YEAR 2

In Year 2 Design and Technology lessons, the children have been exploring textiles and their practical uses in everyday items. They have been investigating purses and wallets, thinking carefully about how their designs make them fit for purpose such as holding money and credit cards. Something we use every day can actually include many clever design features, including pockets, hinges, folds and fastenings. Who knew so much thought went into a purse or wallet?

Over the next couple of weeks, the children will be practising different ways of joining materials, including using a running stitch and stapling.

'The future belongs to those who learn more skills and combine them in creative ways'

Robert Greene

During maths lessons, Year 2 have begun their work on multiplication and division. The children have been learning how to make equal groups and are using this understanding to begin writing simple multiplication number sentences.

Throughout their lessons, the children are working very hard and demonstrating excellent active listening skills. Keep it up, Year 2!

MANDARIN

Recently, we welcomed visitors from Lancaster University and the Confucius Classroom Institute, who were extremely impressed with everything they saw across our academy. They commented particularly on the respect shown by our children, as well as the high-quality learning they observed during Mandarin lessons.

The visitors also praised how well our children have engaged with extracurricular Mandarin opportunities, including the YCT examinations and the National Calligraphy competitions.

As a modern foreign language, Mandarin undoubtedly threads through the academy—you may have noticed this on our website and throughout the school environment. This commitment is reflected in the passion of our Mandarin teachers and passed on to the children, where lessons are not only engaging but also offer real-life richness, developing fluency and a deep appreciation of another culture. Whether learning in the Confucius classroom or in their own classrooms, the children's understanding and use of Mandarin is evident. Even a simple "Nǐ hǎo" exchanged between children and adults shows how Mandarin is part of our everyday school life.

One of our Mandarin teachers will soon be leaving us to return to her home country and begin a new role at a school in China. Once she is settled, we hope to develop links with her school, leading to exciting project work and potential pen-pal opportunities for our pupils.

Finally, in Years 5 and 6, 32 children are currently preparing for the YCT Level 1 and Level 2 examinations. They will be sitting the various levels of the YCT exams, and we have no doubt that their hard work and dedication will shine through.

Our Values

Nominations are in!

CLASS TEACHER NOMINATIONS

KS1: Anthony, Harvey and Stanley

KS2: Loki, Luca, Erin, Saxon, Oliver, Maddison and Mickey

'He treats others with kindness and fairness, works cooperatively with peers, and takes ownership of his learning and actions.'

Quick links:

[Calendar](#)

[Term Dates](#)

[Latest News](#)

Don't forget we have some fun and informative events coming up:

Pop Disco's

Opal Event

Musical Showcases

SAT's Information Evenings

Plus, more

Refer to letters sent home or use the Schudio app events and calendar for more information. Alternatively, just ask at the office!



Special Feature

FOCUS ON MISS WADDUP

Each week, we have a 'special feature' on one of our Hawes Side team members. This week, it is Miss Waddup Learning Support Apprentices.

Here's what we asked Miss Waddup.

If you could travel anywhere in time, where would you go and who would you like to meet? Miss Waddup would like to travel back in time to the period of the Witch Trials to meet the so-called Pendle witches. She would be fascinated to learn about their lives, how they were persecuted, and why.

It must have been a frightening time, with neighbour set against neighbour, and suspicion and fear spreading through communities—particularly affecting women, both young and old. Sadly, this is not dissimilar to more recent times, where communities can become divided through misunderstanding and misinformation.

'They say people who don't learn from history are destined to repeat it' Susan Mallery

Pendle has become closely linked to this part of history, and many people today visit the infamous hill to take in the spectacular views. While there, it is hard not to reflect on the past and consider how deeply this community was affected by the trials and the fate of those involved.



[CLICK HERE TO BOOK](#)

Farmer Parrs Prize Draw

Do you want to be in with a chance to win a *free family ticket to Farmer Parrs?*
Letter sent home with all the information

Celebrating Success

COMPETITION WINNER

We are so proud of Frankie in Year 3! She has recently won the Young Writers Competition, earning the exciting opportunity to have a piece of her writing published. She wrote the winning piece at home, and it will now be shared with a much wider audience to enjoy.



Mrs Randles, who is passionate about books, has been very impressed by Frankie and cannot wait to read all the stories she has to tell. Could we have a new Dame Jacqueline Wilson or Cressida Cowell here at Hawes Side?

Book at Bedtime for Year 3, have you signed up on ParentPay to join in?

Streamlining Comms

YOUR FEEDBACK

This half term we have been trying a 'letter approach' to events that we are holding in the academy. **We would love to hear your feedback** and ask you to submit your thoughts by using this link
<https://forms.office.com/e/DFeb3HQ3x>
 (form closes 4th February at 9am)

Your comments will help us review the way we communicate with home.

A message from our Principal

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



**CAROLINE
BOOTHROYD**

It is hard to believe that we are already at the end of January, this month has flown by! It has been a productive and busy time in school, with lots of exciting things happening and the children fully engaged in their learning.

Some of our children recently enjoyed a preview of the Schools Alive performance and were very impressed with what they saw so far. We have some fabulous singers, and we cannot wait for the children to perform at the Winter Gardens on 12th February.

We have also been continuing our work on developing OPAL play. Mrs Twiss, our OPAL Lead Teacher, is excited to share our progress so far at our open event on **Tuesday 3rd February**.

Mrs Twiss will also be keen to speak with parents and carers who may be able to help us further develop this important play initiative.

**'Alone we can do so little;
together we can do so much'**
Helen Keller

In the meantime, have a lovely weekend, and we look forward to seeing everyone on Monday.