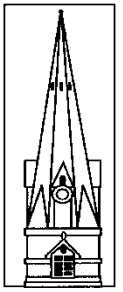


# Higher Walton C.E. Primary School



**'Life in all its fullness'**

- Friendship ● Forgiveness ● Creativity ● Courage ● Respect ● Responsibility
- Trust ● Tenacity



**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2026**

## Head Teacher's Message

Thank you to all our children and staff for such a positive, enthusiastic start to the summer term. It has been a real pleasure to welcome everyone back into school and to see the children settling so quickly, ready to learn and take on new challenges. Your continued support at home makes a huge difference, and we are very grateful for the strong partnership we share.

This term promises to be a busy and exciting one, with plenty for everyone to look forward to. Highlights include our Sports Day, where we will celebrate teamwork and determination, as well as our Adventure Days, which are always a fantastic opportunity for our Y5/6 children to build confidence and try new experiences. We are also excited to be relaunching Forest School, giving pupils the chance to learn outdoors and connect with nature.

In addition, we are also looking forward to introducing a new gardening club to KS1, where children will be able to develop their skills and enjoy working together to grow plants and care for our outdoor spaces. Our school choir will also continue this term, and we look forward to hearing their wonderful singing as the weeks go on.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support. We hope you all enjoy a relaxing and enjoyable Bank Holiday weekend, Mrs. Clarke ☺

## Whole school worship

In our whole school worship this term, we have been exploring the theme "God is...", encouraging the children to reflect on different qualities of God and what these mean in their own lives. The discussions have been thoughtful and inspiring, helping to deepen our understanding of spirituality and faith across the school. We are especially thankful to Reverend Danny and Tash for their continued support, as they regularly join us in school to lead worship and work alongside our children, guiding them in their spiritual journey beyond these special gatherings.

## Whole school attendance

We have recently noticed an increase in holidays being taken during term time and would like to remind families of the impact this can have on childrens' education. Even short absences can disrupt learning, make it harder for children to keep up, and affect their overall progress and confidence. As a school, we follow local authority guidance, and any absence of more than 10 sessions across two terms may result in a penalty notice being issued. Our current whole-school attendance is just below 94%, which is below the national target of 96%. We kindly ask for your support in helping us improve attendance and ensure all children have the best possible opportunity to succeed. Thank you for your continued support.

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## Class News

**Explorers:** The children have made a wonderful start to our new topic, *Spring into Life*. They have been busy exploring a range of plants, flowers, and vegetables through hands-on activities and outdoor learning. This has linked closely to our current literacy texts, with Reception enjoying '*Errol's Garden*' and Nursery exploring '*Oliver's Vegetables*'. The children have loved making connections between the stories and real-life plants, developing their understanding of how things grow. In addition to this, we have begun our Computing lessons all about the different parts and functions on a laptop. The children have been learning how to use keys on a keyboard carefully and have been typing their name. We were especially excited to log in to our school laptops for the very first time! We have also been learning about our E-Safety rules and how to use technology safely and responsibly.

**Discoverers:** The Year 1/2 class have returned with fantastic enthusiasm and have already immersed themselves in a range of exciting new topics this term. In History, the children have been learning about the first achievements in flight, exploring the inspiring stories of pioneers such as Bessie Coleman and the Wright Brothers. In English, their imaginations have taken flight through our new text '*The Magic Bed*', where they have written wonderful setting descriptions inspired by Georgie's journey. In RE, the class have been learning about the story of Jesus' baptism, showing thoughtful understanding and curiosity during discussions. It has been a brilliant start to the term, and we are so proud of the children's engagement and creativity.

**Adventurers:** This term has started positively, with pupils showing great enthusiasm and confidence in their swimming sessions. Inspired by '*The Last Garden*' by Rachel Ip, the children wrote their own imaginative stories, filled with thoughtful ideas and vivid descriptions. In music, the children have been fabulous with their recorders, successfully learning and playing the notes A, B, C and G with growing confidence. It has been a wonderful start, showcasing teamwork, creativity and developing new skills.

**Navigators:** In Navigators, the children have been working hard on our World War II topic. We have been reading Poems from the Second World War and a historical text about Anne Frank. We have been looking at evidence to find out about the impact of The Blitz and how children were evacuated to keep them safe. We had lots of fun during our Golf Day and have been enjoying our cricket lessons. Y6 are trying really hard with their preparation for SATS and we are really proud of the level of effort they are showing. We are really looking forward to our Evacuee Day on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May when we are all dressing up for the day.

## Pol-Ed workshop

Thank you to all the parents and carers who attended our recent police workshop. Your support plays an important role in helping us keep our Year 4, 5 and 6 children safe and well-informed. The session was both engaging and informative, encouraging our pupils to understand their role as responsible citizens within our local community. It also contributed positively to their personal development, helping them build confidence, awareness and a strong sense of responsibility. We greatly appreciate your continued partnership in supporting our children's growth and safety.

## Crown Green Bowling Competition

Congratulations to our fantastic school bowling team for their incredible achievement in winning the South Ribble Schools' Competition for the third year running! This is a wonderful accomplishment and a testament to your teamwork, dedication and skill. We are extremely proud of each and every one of you for representing the school so brilliantly - well done!

## Lancashire County Council - SEND

Lancashire County Council is asking all parents and carers of children and young people with SEND to share their views on Short Breaks in Lancashire. Parent carers' experiences are vital in helping us improve the Short Breaks offer and ensure it meets the needs of children, young people and their families. You do not need to be using the Short Breaks service to take part. We would welcome feedback from:

- Families who currently use the service
- Families who have used the service in the past
- Families who chose not to use the service

Your feedback will help shape future improvements to Short Breaks in Lancashire. Please complete the online questionnaire by 5th May here [Short Breaks Service Review - Parent Carers Survey April 2026](#)

## Summer weather

Now we are beginning to enjoy regular sunny days, please ensure your child has a hat and suncream with them. Children who suffer with hayfever should also have their medication before school.

## PTFA Beetle Drive

We would like to say thank you to our PTFA for their hard work and dedication in organising this event. It was fantastic to see our families come along to support, take part and lots of fun was had by all. Events like these make a big difference to our school, and we truly appreciate everyone's efforts and enthusiasm. We are already looking forward to planning another enjoyable 'Beetle drive' together in the autumn term!

## Weekly awards

Awards in April 2026				
	Star of the week	Values VIP	Star reader	Times Table Rock Star and Numbots
13.4.26	Nora, Zander, Theon and Sofia	Nicholas, Raine, Willow C and Millie	Olivia, Bobby-Jo, Dylan and Madyson	Henry
20.4.26	Isaac, Jack R, Amelia and Cody	Esmee, Jorgie, Henry and Reeve	Kian, Bobby-Jo, Luna and Ella-Mae	Adventurers class and Discoverers class
27.4.26	Noah, Zander, Max and Sophia-Rose	Malacai, Filip, Eli, Olivia and Theo	Hallie, Nathaniel and Vanessa	-

## Attendance

Attendance April 2026	Explorers 18 on roll	Discovers 13 on roll	Adventurers 22 on roll	Navigators 28 on roll	Whole School 81 on roll
Attendance	98%	88%	96%	96%	94.93%
Lates	2%	2.5%	1.5%	4%	1.54%
<b>Well done Explorers class with the highest percentage attendance this month!</b>					

## This month's reminder

On each newsletter we will focus on a specific reminder which is having an impact on school or our children, and would ask for your support in helping with the smooth running of our school.

We appreciate your support in helping us keep communication running smoothly. Responding promptly to forms, payment requests, and messages sent via ParentMail really helps reduce additional follow-up and allows our office staff to focus on supporting the school community.

To make things easier, **please ensure your ParentMail notifications or alerts are switched on** so you don't miss any important updates.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and support.

## Newsletter attachments

The following documents have been sent with the newsletter this month:-

- Fun Fest poster – May half term holiday clubs
- Family Treasure Hunt and Barbecue poster

## Diary dates

You can now find all the diary dates and holiday lists on our website. Reminders and updates are as follows:-

DATE	TIME	EVENT
4.5.26		INSET day – school closed to pupils
5.5.26	9am	Parent workshop – online safety and safe use of devices <b>CANCELLED</b>
6.5.26		Y3/4 swimming
7.5.26	9am	Year 1/2 class worship – <b>parents welcome</b>
11.5.26 – 14.5.26		SATs for Year 5/6
13.5.26		Y3/4 swimming
19.5.26	9.am	Tots on Tyres event – <b>invites will be sent out on ParentMail next week</b>
20.5.26		Y3/4 swimming
21.5.26		Sports Day – <b>details to follow</b>
22.5.26		Year 5/6 Evacuee Day – <b>details sent by email this week</b>
22.5.26		School closes for the May half term break
1.6.26		INSET day – <b>school closed for pupils</b>
2.6.26		INSET day – <b>school closed for pupils</b>
3.6.26		Y3/4 swimming
4.6.26		Sports Day - <b>reserve date</b>
8.6.26		Forest School Day – <b>details to follow</b>
9.6.26		Reception vision screening – <b>information sent home this week</b>
10.6.26		Y3/4 swimming
11.6.26		Y5/6 adventure day at Rock and River
15.6.26		Tempest Photography – class photos
16.6.26	4.30pm	New intake evening – <b>details to follow</b>
17.6.26		Y3/4 swimming
19.6.26	8.30am	Fathers Day breakfast – <b>details to follow</b>
24.6.26		Y3/4 swimming
24.6.26		Parents to Lunch day – <b>details to follow</b>
26.6.26	10.30am	Dance from the Heart roadshow – <b>details to follow</b>
29.6.26 to 3.7.26	PM	New intake afternoon sessions – <b>details to follow</b>
1.7.26		Y3/4 swimming
1.7.26	3.40pm	PTFA summer fair – <b>details to follow</b>
8.7.26		Y3/4 swimming – <b>last session</b>
8.7.26		School reports out
9.7.26		Y5/6 performance – <b>details to follow</b>
14.7.26	3.40pm	Drop in parents evening – <b>details to follow</b>
15.7.26		Transition day in school
16.7.26	2.40pm	Rocksteady Concert – <b>parents welcome</b>
17.7.26	9.30am	Leavers Service – All Saints Church – all welcome – <b>details to follow</b>
17.7.26		School closes for the summer break
1.9.26		INSET day – <b>school closed for pupils</b>
2.9.26		School re-opens for autumn term 1