

# Higher Walton C.E. Primary School

**'Life in all its fullness'**

**Friendship • Forgiveness • Creativity • Courage • Respect • Responsibility • Trust • Tenacity**

**30<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

Welcome back, this is our first newsletter of the new year! We hope all our children and families enjoyed a happy, restful Christmas break filled with special moments together. It has been wonderful to see the children return with smiling faces, ready to learn and reconnect with friends. We are looking forward to an exciting term ahead, full of new learning, opportunities and successes, and we thank you for your continued support as we begin the new year together.

Mrs. Clarke ☺

## Class News

**Explorers:** The children in Explorers Class have been thoroughly enjoying their topic on traditional tales. Reception children have focused on '*Little Red Riding Hood*' and '*The Three Little Pigs*', while Nursery children have explored '*The Gingerbread Man*' and '*Goldilocks and the Three Bears*'. Through these stories, the children have developed a love of storytelling and familiar characters. Reception are now writing short captions linked to the stories, showing great progress in their early writing. Nursery children have been refining their mark-making and early writing skills by drawing and talking about characters from the tales. We have also been lucky to welcome Reverend Hannah into our class, who visited to read her favourite Old Testament story. In Computing, the children have enjoyed programming Bee-Bots and learning how to give simple instructions. During Geography and History lessons, we have been learning about our houses, school, Higher Walton and Preston and their locations on a map. We also enjoyed our trip to Chester Zoo and loved seeing all the different animals.

**Discoverers:** Discoverers Class have had such a busy month. In History, they explored toys from the past and compared them with the toys we enjoy today, sparking lots of curiosity and thoughtful discussion. In English, the children shared the story '*I Want My Hat Back*' by Jon Klassen and then wrote their own fantastic stories, showing great imagination and growing confidence as writers. In Science, they have been learning about life cycles and how to keep healthy, developing a better understanding of how living things grow and how we can look after our bodies.

**Adventurers:** We have had a great month in Adventurers class. In English, we have just completed '*The Winter's Child*' and the children have created excellent extended stories based on this text. In Science, we have been learning about the digestive system and why our teeth are so important to support digestion. We are also finishing off the unit next week with a toothbrush investigation. In Geography, we have been learning about the Amazon Rainforest and why it is so important for our planet.

To support reading at home, we have launched 'Star Books' in Adventurers class. Every time your child reads at home and has this signed by an adult, they will receive an entry into the draw, the draw will run every two weeks.

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119393**

Reminder: If your child has completed any curriculum homework please ensure it is sent into school no later than Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February, so it can be shared in class.

### **Please note our class PE days have changed to Mondays and Thursdays from w/c 2.2.26**

**Navigators:** This week Navigators have read to the end of our class text '*Kaspar - Prince of Cats*' and wrote newspaper reports about the sinking of the Titanic. We have been finding out how highway robbery and smuggling were crimes in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. Why not ask your child what goods were smuggled into Britain by the smugglers? We also had a lot of fun learning the dance for our class worship on Thursday this week.

### **School worship**

In whole school worship, our children have taken part in thoughtful discussions about setting new goals and the challenges of being tempted along the way. Through the sharing of bible stories, children explored how making positive choices can sometimes be difficult, especially when distractions or temptations arise. We talked about the importance of perseverance, self-control and asking for help when needed, linking these ideas to everyday situations in school and at home. The worship encouraged us to reflect on our own goals and reminded us that making the right choices helps us to grow, learn and be the best versions of ourselves.

### **Parent's evening**

Please note the **change of date** for Parent's Evening which will now take place on **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March**. Further details will follow after the February half-term break.

### **Bingo**

We are also having to change the date for the school's Easter Bingo due to a clash of dates with the Let's Go Sing concert on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March. The PTFA will now running the Bingo Night in the summer term. More details will follow after the Easter break.

### **Home reading**

We continue to encourage all children to read at home **at least three times a week**, as regular reading plays a vital role in developing fluency, vocabulary and a love of books. Just a short reading session can make a big difference to children's confidence and progress in class. Listening to your child read, asking them questions about the story, or sharing a book together all help to build strong reading habits. Please sign their reading records so that we can keep track of readers in school and reward those children who are really trying to make the effort at home.

Thank you for your ongoing support in helping us foster a positive reading culture both at school and at home.

### **Reading in school – volunteers needed!**

We are looking for volunteers to come into school to hear the children read on a regular basis. If you would like to help, please speak to the office.

### **Website**

We continue to add new content to our website and we hope you find this useful. The calendar and diary date summary have been updated for this term.

## Weekly awards

Awards in January				
	Star of the week	Values VIP	Star reader	Times Table Rock Star and Numbots
9.1.26	Louie, Charlie and Theon	Billy, Delilah, Dylan and Willow M	Kian, Zander, Eli and Ava	Autumn and Jack R
16.1.26	Explorers Class, Raine. Blake and Mischa	Malacai, Bobby-Jo, Jamie and Navigators Class	Thomas, Teddy, Erin A and Chloe	-
23.1.26	Noah, Filip, Isobel and Madysen	Nora, Izzy and Cody	Jack, C, Noah, Imogen and Sophia-Rose	-
30.1.26	Evie, Arlo, Mason and Sofia	Astoria, Delilah, Amelia and Eddie	Elsie, Nathaniel, Jimmy and Reeva	Nathaniel and Autumn

## Attendance

Attendance January 2026	Explorers 17 on roll	Discovers 12 on roll	Adventurers 23 on roll	Navigators 29 on roll
Attendance	89%	94%	95%	94%
Lates	4%	6%	3%	3%
<b>Well done Adventurers 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.

- Please ensure that you respond to any forms, payment requests or other communication sent out via ParentMail in a timely manner to avoid additional work being placed on the office staff in chasing these up.

## Newsletter attachments

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

- Active Camps poster – February half term activities
- All Saints Church Pancake Party poster
- All Saints Church Kingdom Kids poster
- All Saints Church Youth Group poster
- Stitch Design school uniform sale details

## 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
2.2.26 – 6.6.26		Interfaith Week in school
5.2.26	2pm	Athletics Competition, Hutton – invited children
9.2.26 – 13.2.26		Mental Health Week in school
10.2.26		E-Safety Day in school
12.2.26	3.30pm	PTFA Valentine's Disco – <b>details to follow</b>
13.2.26	9 am	Parents Workshop – <b>details to follow</b>
13.2.26	3.30pm	School closes for the half term break
23.2.26	8.50am	School re-opens – Spring term 2
4.3.26		Parents Evening – <b>rearranged from 11th March</b>
13.3.26	9am	Mother's Day Service – <b>details to follow</b>
18.3.26	6pm	Let's Go Sing Concert – Blackburn Ice Arena
18.3.26		PTFA Easter Bingo – <b>Cancelled due to Let's Go Sing concert. A new date will be released soon.</b>
25.3.26		Y3/4 Easter Performance – <b>details to follow</b>
26.3.26	2.45pm	Rocksteady Concert – all welcome
27.3.26		Higher Walton Book Day – <b>details to follow</b>
27.3.26	3.30pm	School closes for the Easter break
13.4.26	9 am	School re-opens – Summer term 1
15.4.26		Y3/4 swimming starts – <b>details to follow</b>