Higher Walton C.E. Primary School

'Life in all its fullness'

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

23rd October 2026

Head Teacher's Message

What a wonderful half term it has been. I would like to say thank you to all our children, families and staff for making it such a busy, exciting and memorable few weeks. We have enjoyed football events, biking and scooting, lots of new learning and wonderful opportunities to celebrate Harvest, while watching the seasons begin to change around us. We also had a fantastic, spooky and sparkly school disco, which was a real highlight too. It has been lovely to see our new ClassDojo communication system introduced too, helping us to celebrate the children's achievements and keep families connected with school life. Thank you for all your continued support and encouragement. I hope you all have a wonderful, well-deserved half-term break, and I look forward to seeing everyone refreshed and ready for more learning and adventures in November.

Mrs. Clarke ☺

Class News

Explorers: Explorers class have loved engaging in their final literacy text for the term. We have been enjoying the wonderfully imaginative book '*The Day the Crayons Quit* ' by Drew Daywalt. Reception have been busy creating Wanted posters for the runaway crayons, while Year 1 have been writing their own exciting narratives titled '*The Day the Crayons Escaped'*.

In Art, we have been developing our creative skills by exploring and creating self-portraits. In Science, we have been learning about the changes that take place during autumn. It has been lovely to explore the outdoors, spot the signs of autumn and observe how the weather is changing around us. We have enjoyed seeing the children's creativity and curiosity shine through in all their learning this week!

Well done Explorers, we have had a very busy and successful first half term!

Adventurers: What a fantastic and busy half term we've had in Adventurers! We have enjoyed lots of exciting learning opportunities across the curriculum.

In English, we have written our own versions of '*The First Drawing'* and explored '*Tar Beach'* by Faith Ringgold, creating our own play scripts. We also loved welcoming parents into school for our reading workshop, where we shared the gruesome tale of '*Zombierella*!'. In History, we completed our learning about the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age, taking part in History Bingo and an exciting trading game. In Art, we created our own Stone Age-inspired pictures. During Science, we investigated the human body by creating moving hands and skeletons to help us identify bones and muscles and understand how they work together. In PE, we have been developing our skills using a range of equipment. Our PSHE lessons have focused on collaboration, rewards and consequences, with board games helping us practice taking turns and working together. In French, we have been learning how to say "I'm okay" and describe how we are feeling. We have also been busy learning new songs in preparation for *Let's Go Sing*.

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Of course, there has been plenty of fun along the way, including our fantastic **Spooky and Sparkly Disco**! Well done, Adventurers, for all your hard work, enthusiasm and creativity this half term. We hope everyone enjoys a well-deserved half-term break!

Navigators: Over the past month, we have finished our writing root text, *'The Unhappy Endings'*. We have designed front covers and published our prequels for this story, which provided an insight into what turned the witch from a happy little girl into a bitter, twisted, and cruel witch. The children really enjoyed the story and we got so much out of the text. We also finished *'The Tiger Rising'*. The text gripped the children, and they couldn't wait for the next instalment each time. We learned about Rob's "suitcase" in his head and how he and Sistine almost swapped places emotionally. There were some unfavourable characters who maybe didn't meet the end we, as a class, would have liked.

We have concluded our work on journeys and pilgrimages, where we have produced artwork of famous pilgrimage sites and planned our own journeys. In Geography, we will be wrapping up the topic by creating some models of healthy beaches using materials around school. We explored search engines in Computing and how they work, thinking about which we preferred to use and why. Everyone in school enjoyed the Harvest Festival, including the service in church, and we are all so proud of how well our Year 6s and councillors read.

Happy half term, everyone!

Whole School Worship

This half term, our whole school worship has given us some wonderful opportunities to come together, reflect and learn from one another. We have explored the important themes of gratitude, giving and Harvest, thinking about the many things we are thankful for and how we can show kindness and generosity to others. The children have enjoyed sharing their thoughts, listening to stories and considering how even small acts of kindness can make a big difference. Our Harvest learning has also reminded us of the importance of appreciating the food we have and thinking about those who may not have the same opportunities. It has been lovely to see our children demonstrating such thoughtful, caring and generous attitudes throughout the half term.

School open days

It has been wonderful to welcome so many prospective families to our school during our recent open days for September 2027 admissions. We have loved sharing our fantastic little school, showcasing the wonderful learning that takes place every day and giving families a glimpse of our warm, welcoming and caring school community. If you know a family who is looking for a school place for September 2027, please do encourage them to come along to one of our upcoming open days. We would love the opportunity to welcome them, show them around and let them see for themselves just how special our little school is. We look forward to meeting many more new families over the coming weeks.

School football

A huge well done and thank you to our fantastic KS2 children who have represented our school so brilliantly at the local South Ribble football tournaments this half term. We have been incredibly proud of the enthusiasm, teamwork and sportsmanship they have shown both on and off the pitch. They have played with determination, encouraged one another and, most importantly, demonstrated what it means to be a great team and wonderful ambassadors for our school. Thank you to all the children for giving their very best and representing us with such pride — you have made us very proud.

Class Dojo

We are also very excited to have introduced ClassDojo this half term as an additional way to strengthen communication between home and school. ClassDojo will give us another opportunity to share the wonderful learning, achievements and experiences happening across school, while helping families to feel even more connected to their child's school life. We hope that you will enjoy seeing the children's successes and celebrating their progress with us. Thank you for your support as we introduce this new way of communicating, and we look forward to making the most of ClassDojo together. Please see letter attached for more information.

Remembrance Poppies

Poppies will be available after the half term break. We would appreciate a minimum donation of 50p to support the work of the Royal British Legion.

Primary and Secondary Admissions 2027

Lancashire parents/carers can now apply for primary and secondary school places for children starting school in September 2027 at:

https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-admissions/apply-for-a-school-place/

Deadlines are as follows:-

Primary applications: 15th January 2027
Secondary applications: 31st October 2026 – Deadline approaching!

Our next school open day visits are Monday 9th November and Tuesday 1st December at 10.30am, 2pm and 5.00pm and each session will begin with an introductory talk from Mrs Clarke. We are really looking forward to showing our wonderful school to new prospective Reception families for September 2027 or Nursery families for a January or April 2027 start. If you do know anyone who is looking for a school, please recommend us and pop into the school office for a leaflet.

School Photographs

Tempest Photography will be visiting school on Wednesday 4th November at 9am to take individual and family photographs. Full smart school uniform please! If it is a PE day for your child, please send their kit into school for them to change into afterwards.

Siblings will be photographed together unless you let us know otherwise.

If you have a younger child not at school, they are welcome to have their photo taken with their sibling. Please let Mrs Rourke know before the 4th November if you will be bringing younger children and come to the office at 8.50am.

Coats!

A little reminder for parents/carers: As the weather is becoming colder and wetter, please ensure your child brings a suitable coat to school every day and wears appropriate shoes for wet weather. The children will continue to go outside at break and lunchtime, weather permitting, so please make sure they are dressed suitably for the rain and changing weather.

Weekly awards

Awards in October 2026				
	Star of the week	**Values VIP**	**Star reader**	**Man/Woman of the Match**
2.10.26	Imogen and Freya	Thea, Oliver, Cody, Jessica and Mischa	Delilah and Madyson	Theon and Cody
9.10.26	Lena, Jack and Willow	Abel, Zander and Max	Evie, Raine and Olivia	Mischa
16.10.26	Nicholas, Blake and Jessica	Elsie, Louie and Charlie	Lucas, Isobel and Cody	No match played
23.10.26	Libby, Arlo and Archie	Thomas, Dylan and Luna	Isaac, Teddy and Henry	Olivia and Luna
TT Rockstars – Mischa			**Numbots** - Filip	
Walton le Dale High School open day award (Horrible Histories) - Jessica				

Attendance

Attendance October 2026	Explorers 26 on roll	Adventurers 25 on roll	Navigators 22 on roll	Whole school 73 on roll
Attendance	96%	94%	92%	94%
Lates	2%	3%	2%	2.5%
Well done Explorers class with the highest percentage attendance this month!				

This month's reminders

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

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.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and support.

Newsletter attachments

The following documents will be sent with the newsletter:-

- Class Dojo letter
- All Saints Church light party flyer
- Open Days poster

The following documents will be sent by separate email:-

- Active Camps half term events flyer
- Taekwondo flyer
- Special Educational Needs flyer
- St Catherine's Hospice Ashton Bookshop flyer
- FUNDA half term holiday clubs flyer
- Lancashire Family Hub flyer

Diary dates

You can now find all the diary dates and holiday lists on our website as well as the newsletter.

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Friday 23rd October	3.30pm	School closes for the half term break
Monday 2nd November	8.50am	School re-opens for autumn term 2
Wednesday 4th November	9am	NEW - Tempest Photography – individual child photos
Monday 9th November	10.30am, 2pm and 5.00pm	NEW - Open Day for prospective families
Thursday 12th November	9.30am	NEW - Reception and Year 6 Height and Weight Measurement checks
Friday 13th November	9am	Maths parents workshop – all welcome
Monday 16th November	Full week	Anti-Bullying Week
Wednesday 18th November	2pm onwards	Parents Evening
Friday 27th November	9am	Adventurers Class worship – all welcome
Tuesday 1st December	10.30am, 2pm and 5.00pm	Open Day for prospective families
Thursday 3rd December	3.30pm	PTFA Christmas Fair
Tuesday 8th December	1pm	NEW - Adventurers and Navigators classes – Lancashire Fire and Rescue safety talk visit
Thursday 10th December	9.15am and 4pm	Nativity
Tuesday 15th December	9.30am	Christingle Service – All Saints Church – all welcome
Tuesday 15th December	12 noon	Pantomime visit – whole school
Friday 18th December		Wellbeing Day
Friday 18th December	TBA	PTFA Santa Dash
Friday 18th December	3.30pm	School closes for the Christmas break
Spring Term 2027		
Monday 4th January	INSET DAY	School closed to pupils
Tuesday 5th January	8.50am	School re-opens for Spring term 1
Monday 11th January	Full week	Interfaith Week
Tuesday 26th January	3.30pm	PTFA Movie Night
Monday 1st February	Full week	Mental Health Week
Friday 5th February	9am	Navigators Class worship
Tuesday 9th February		E-Safety Day
Wednesday 10th February	3.30pm	PTFA Valentine's Disco
Friday 12th February	3.30pm	School closes for the half term break
Monday 22nd February	8.50am	School re-opens for Spring term 2
Friday 5th March	TBA	Mother's Day service – All Saints Church – all welcome
Monday 8th March	Full week	Science Week
Wednesday 10th March	TBA	Parents Evening
Wednesday 17th March	TBA	Let's Go Sing Concert
Tuesday 23rd March	TBA	Easter Performance
Thursday 25th March		Higher Walton Book Day
Thursday 25th March	3.30pm	School closes for the Easter break
Summer Term 2027		
Monday 12th April	8.50am	School re-opens for Summer term 1
Tuesday 13th April	11am	Year 2/3/4 swimming starts – kits needed **NEW**
Tuesday 20th April	11am	Year 2/3/4 swimming starts – kits needed **NEW**
Tuesday 27th April	11am	Year 2/3/4 swimming starts – kits needed **NEW**
Friday 30th April	TBA	PTFA games night
Monday 3rd May	Whole day	School closed for May Day bank holiday
Tuesday 4th May	11am	Year 2/3/4 swimming starts – kits needed **NEW**

Friday 7th May	TBA	Parents Workshop – all welcome
Monday 10th May	Full week	Key Stage 2 SATs
Tuesday 11th May	11am	Year 2/3/4 swimming starts – kits needed **NEW**
Thursday 13th May	TBA	Sports Day
Tuesday 18th May	11am	Year 2/3/4 swimming starts – kits needed **NEW**
Tuesday 25th May	11am	Year 2/3/4 swimming starts – kits needed **NEW**
Friday 28th May		Parents to lunch day
Friday 28th May	3.30pm	School closes for the half term break
Monday 7th June	INSET DAY	School closed to pupils
Tuesday 8th June	INSET DAY	School closed to pupils
Wednesday 9th June	8.50am	School re-opens for Summer term 2
Thursday 10th June	TBA	Sports Day reserve date
Tuesday 15th June	11am	Year 2/3/4 swimming starts – kits needed **NEW**
Tuesday 15th June	5pm	New intake parents meeting
Friday 18th June	8.30am	Father's Day Breakfast
Monday 21st June – 23rd June		Borwick Hall residential
Tuesday 22nd June	11am	Year 2/3/4 swimming starts – kits needed **NEW**
Monday 28th June	Week of afternoons - time TBA	New intake afternoons
Tuesday 29th June	11am	Year 2/3/4 swimming starts – kits needed **NEW**
Friday 2nd July	TBA	PTFA Summer Fair
Tuesday 6th July	11am	Year 2/3/4 swimming starts – kits needed **NEW**
Thursday 8th July	2pm and 5pm	Navigators Class Summer performance
Tuesday 13th July	11am	Year 2/3/4 swimming starts – kits needed **NEW**
Wednesday 14th July		School reports sent home
Thursday 15th July		Transition Day
Friday 16th July	TBA	EYFS Graduation
Monday 19th July	TBA	Parents Evening – drop in
Tuedsday 20th July	TBA	Leavers Service – All Saints Church – all welcome
Tuesday 20th July	3.30pm	School closes for the summer break
Wednesday 21st July	INSET DAY	School closed to pupils