



Higher Walton C.E. Primary School

'Life in all its fullness'

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

Friday 25th September 2026

Head Teacher's Message

It has been lovely to welcome everyone back to school after the summer holidays. The children have settled back into their school routines wonderfully and it has been fantastic to see them working hard, learning with enthusiasm and playing so nicely together. We have already had a busy and happy start to the new school year, with lots of exciting things happening across school. Please keep an eye on the school diary for details of upcoming events and important dates. We are looking forward to a wonderful year ahead together!

Have a lovely weekend, Mrs. Clarke ☺

Class News

Explorers: We have had a busy and exciting first few weeks, with lots of learning, exploring and special experiences planned for the children. We enjoyed our Superhero Day, where the Explorers class dressed up as their favourite superheroes, linking wonderfully to our current topic. We have also loved reading the books 'Super Milly' and 'Superworm' where Reception have been busy learning their initial sounds and developing their early phonics skills. During our RE lesson, we were delighted to meet Miss Marsden's granddaughter, helping us to explore our topic of creation and understand how we are all special and unique. In Geography, Year One have recently completed their first piece of fieldwork, exploring and observing our school grounds to then make a map. It has been a fantastic start to the new school year, and we are looking forward to all the learning and excitement still to come!

Adventurers: The Adventurers have had a fantastic start to the half term and have been working hard across all areas of the curriculum! In English, we have been enjoying the wonderful story 'Tar Beach' by Faith Ringgold. We have explored the characters, setting and themes within the story and are now putting our ideas into practice by writing our own playscripts. We have been learning how to use dialogue, character descriptions and stage directions to bring our stories to life. In Science, we have been learning about the human skeleton and discovering how our bones protect important organs and help us to move. We have enjoyed identifying different bones in the body and learning about the important jobs they do. In RE, we have been exploring how people from different religions pray. We have looked at different places, objects and practices associated with prayer and have discussed the similarities and differences between them. It has been a busy and exciting start to the half term, and the children have shown great enthusiasm and curiosity in their learning!

Navigators: We have settled into the school year really well. So far this year, we have recapped place value, consolidated our understanding of written methods for addition and subtraction, and developed our mental arithmetic strategies using the compensation method and partitioning. In English guided reading, we read the poem 'The Listeners' and discussed the use of old colloquial language and how inference allows us to build a picture. Our main text has been 'The Lost Happy Endings', which has allowed for many writing opportunities, such as diaries written in the role of 'Jub'. More recently, we held a trial for the witch where the children constructed arguments for both her defence and her guilt. We began our Geography topic, 'Why Our Oceans Are Important', and discussed how human impact is causing issues.

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We have also performed body percussion in Music and enjoyed an Art lesson dedicated to dots. In RE, we helped Bishop Phillip on his journey, looked into the different journeys we take in life, and linked them to pilgrimages. So far, a great start to the year, Navigators!

Whole school worship

This half term, our whole school worship has focused on our school values and, in particular, the importance of generosity. The children have enjoyed sharing their thoughts and ideas about what generous giving means and how we can show generosity in our everyday lives. We have explored how generosity is not only about giving money or possessions, but also about giving our time, kindness, help and encouragement to others. It has been wonderful to hear the children's thoughtful ideas and see how they are beginning to recognise the many ways we can make a positive difference to those around us.

Attendance

Attendance at school is incredibly important for children's learning, friendships, wellbeing and development. The Department for Education states that "attendance is everybody's responsibility" and that being in school every day helps children stay connected to their learning, their friends and the wider life of school. We therefore ask all parents and carers to make sure that children attend school every day that they are well enough to do so. We monitor attendance carefully and, where we have concerns about a child's attendance or are unable to make contact with a family, we may make a home visit. These visits are intended to ensure that children are safe, to understand whether there are any barriers to attendance and, where appropriate, to offer support. We really value working in partnership with our families and appreciate your continued support in helping your child make the most of every school day.

Curriculum meetings

Thank you to the families who were able to attend our recent curriculum meetings. We appreciate that family life can be busy, and we had moved the meetings to a later time this year following feedback from last year, with the hope that this would make them more accessible. These events are a lovely opportunity to find out more about what children are learning in school and to strengthen the communication between home and school. We really value these opportunities to work together and look forward to welcoming more families to future events throughout the year.

Football

It has been fantastic to see our football teams working so well together at the start of the new school year. The children have shown great teamwork, determination and a real willingness to support one another, both on and off the pitch. We have already celebrated some fantastic results, including draws and wins, which is a huge achievement for a small school and something they should be very proud of. Their courage and tenacity have really shone through, and it has been wonderful to see them representing our school with such enthusiasm and team spirit. Well done to all our players - we are looking forward to seeing how they continue to grow and develop throughout the season!

Parent governor

We are always looking for parents and carers who would like to play a part in helping our school continue to grow and thrive. Our governing body plays an important role in supporting and challenging the school, helping to shape our priorities and ensuring that we continue to provide the very best opportunities for our children. You do not need to have previous experience of being a governor or any specialist knowledge – enthusiasm and commitment are what matter most. If you would like to find out more about becoming a parent governor and making a positive contribution to our school community, we would love to hear from you. It is a rewarding opportunity to have a voice, work alongside staff and other governors, and help make a difference to the children and families in our school.

Lost property

Last call for lost property! There is a huge amount accumulating outside the office. Please come in and have a look if you are missing any items of uniform, coats, lunch boxes or water bottles. We will keep this available until 3.30pm Wednesday 30th September before uncollected items are disposed of.

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 www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools. Deadlines are as follows:-

Primary applications: 15th January 2027

Secondary applications: 31st October 2026

Our school open day is going to be held on Thursday 1st October 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.

Weekly awards

Awards in September 2026				
11.9.26	Jack C, Noah C, Olivia, Noah F, Autumn. Blake, Freya, Madyson and Mischa			
18.9.26	Thiago, Christopher, Hallie, Filip, Autumn, Jamie, Theo, Max and Erin Man of the Match: Theo			
	Star of the week	Values VIP	Star reader	Man of the Match
25.9.26	Malaca, Mason and Jack A	Evie, Jimmy and Jennifer	Myles, Dylan and Cody	Max

Attendance

Attendance September 2026	Explorers 26 on roll	Adventurers 25 on roll	Navigators 22 on roll	Whole school 73 on roll
Attendance	94%	95%	92%	94%
Lates	2%	4%	2%	3%

This week'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 have been included in the newsletter email:-

- Sunrise Walk poster
- Active Camps – October half term activities

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
Monday 28 th September	Afternoon	Y6 Bike Fix - no bike needed
Monday 28 th September	Morning	Reception children – Tots on Tyres – helmet needed if you have one
Tuesday 29 th September	9am	Rocksteady introduction assembly
Tuesday 29 th September	5pm	Year 6 SATs parents meeting
Thursday 1 st October	10.30am, 2pm and 5pm	Open Day for prospective families
Friday 2 nd October	9am	Phonics parents workshop – all welcome
Monday 5 th October	Full day	Y6 Bikeability – bring bike and helmet
Friday 9 th October	9.15am	Harvest Service – All Saints Church – all welcome
Friday 9 th October	1.30pm	Nasal flu vaccinations – whole school (not nursery)
Monday 12 th October	Full day	Y6 Bikeability – bring bike and helmet
Monday 19 th October	Afternoon	Reception children – Tots on Tyres – helmet needed if you have one
Wednesday 21 st October	3.30pm	PTFA Autumn Disco
Friday 23 rd October	9am	Reading parents workshop – all welcome
Friday 23 rd October	3.30pm	School closes for the half term break
Monday 2 nd November	8.50am	School re-opens for autumn term 2
Friday 13 th November	TBA	Maths parents workshop – all welcome
Monday 16 th November	Full week	Anti-Bullying Week
Wednesday 18 th November	2pm onwards	Parents Evening
Friday 27 th November	9am	Adventurers Class worship – all welcome
Tuesday 1 st December	TBA	Open Day for prospective families
Thursday 3 rd December	3.30pm	PTFA Christmas Fair
Thursday 10 th December	9.15am and 4pm	Nativity
Tuesday 15 th December	TBA	Christingle Service – All Saints Church – all welcome
Tuesday 15 th December	12 noon	Pantomime visit – whole school
Friday 18 th December		Wellbeing Day
Friday 18 th December	TBA	PTFA Santa Dash
Friday 18 th December	3.30pm	School closes for the Christmas break
Spring Term 2027		
Monday 4 th January	INSET DAY	School closed to pupils
Tuesday 5 th January	8.50am	School re-opens for Spring term 1
Monday 11 th January	Full week	Interfaith Week
Tuesday 26 th January	3.30pm	PTFA Movie Night
Monday 1 st February	Full week	Mental Health Week
Friday 5 th February	9am	Navigators Class worship
Tuesday 9 th February		E-Safety Day
Wednesday 10 th February	3.30pm	PTFA Valentine's Disco
Friday 12 th February	3.30pm	School closes for the half term break
Monday 22 nd February	8.50am	School re-opens for Spring term 2
Friday 5 th March	TBA	Mother's Day service – All Saints Church – all welcome
Monday 8 th March	Full week	Science Week
Wednesday 10 th March	TBA	Parents Evening
Wednesday 17th March	TBA	Let's Go Sing Concert **NEW**
Tuesday 23 rd March	TBA	Easter Performance
Thursday 25 th March		Higher Walton Book Day
Thursday 25 th March	3.30pm	School closes for the Easter break

Summer Term 2027		
Monday 12 th April	8.50am	School re-opens for Summer term 1
Tuesday 13 th April	11am	Year 2/3/4 swimming starts – kits needed **NEW**
Tuesday 20 th April	11am	Year 2/3/4 swimming starts – kits needed **NEW**
Tuesday 27 th April	11am	Year 2/3/4 swimming starts – kits needed **NEW**
Friday 30 th April	TBA	PTFA games night
Monday 3 rd May	Whole day	School closed for May Day bank holiday
Tuesday 4 th May	11am	Year 2/3/4 swimming starts – kits needed **NEW**
Friday 7 th May	TBA	Parents Workshop – all welcome
Monday 10 th May	Full week	Key Stage 2 SATs
Tuesday 11 th May	11am	Year 2/3/4 swimming starts – kits needed **NEW**
Thursday 13 th May	TBA	Sports Day
Tuesday 18 th May	11am	Year 2/3/4 swimming starts – kits needed **NEW**
Tuesday 25 th May	11am	Year 2/3/4 swimming starts – kits needed **NEW**
Friday 28 th May		Parents to lunch day
Friday 28 th May	3.30pm	School closes for the half term break
Monday 7 th June	INSET DAY	School closed to pupils
Tuesday 8 th June	INSET DAY	School closed to pupils
Wednesday 9 th June	8.50am	School re-opens for Summer term 2
Thursday 10 th June	TBA	Sports Day reserve date
Tuesday 15 th June	11am	Year 2/3/4 swimming starts – kits needed **NEW**
Tuesday 15 th June	5pm	New intake parents meeting
Friday 18 th June	8.30am	Father's Day Breakfast
Monday 21 st June – 23 rd June		Borwick Hall residential
Tuesday 22 nd June	11am	Year 2/3/4 swimming starts – kits needed **NEW**
Monday 28 th June	Week of afternoons time TBA	New intake afternoons
Tuesday 29 th June	11am	Year 2/3/4 swimming starts – kits needed **NEW**
Friday 2 nd July	TBA	PTFA Summer Fair
Tuesday 6 th July	11am	Year 2/3/4 swimming starts – kits needed **NEW**
Thursday 8 th July	2pm and 5pm	Navigators Class Summer performance
Tuesday 13 th July	11am	Year 2/3/4 swimming starts – kits needed **NEW**
Wednesday 14 th July		School reports sent home
Thursday 15 th July		Transition Day
Friday 16 th July	TBA	EYFS Graduation
Monday 19 th July	TBA	Parents Evening – drop in
Tuesday 20 th July	TBA	Leavers Service – All Saints Church – all welcome
Tuesday 20 th July	3.30pm	School closes for the summer break
Wednesday 21 st July	INSET DAY	School closed to pupils

Whilst we have planned ahead for another exciting academic year, please be aware that some dates may be subject to change due to events/circumstances out of our control.