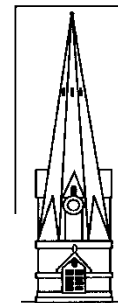


Higher Walton C.E. Primary School

'Life in all its fullness'



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

Friday 16th May 2023

Head Teacher's Message

Good afternoon. This term is going by very quickly and I can't believe that at the end of next week we are already at the end of summer term 1! We have been very lucky to have had such a run of good weather and the children have been able to fully enjoy the fantastic grounds that we have in school. It is great to see the field being used every day and we just have to keep our fingers crossed for good weather next Thursday for Sports Day. We have continued to look at inspirational Christian people in whole school worship and this week focussed on Hannah Moore who was determined to support those who were less fortunate than herself. Learning determination and the skill of 'not giving up' is something that we teach to all of our children at Higher Walton – our Y6 have been testament to that this week in their determination towards their assessments.

Wishing you a lovely sunny weekend again and we look forward to welcoming as many families as possible to Sports Day on Thursday, Mrs. Clarke ☺

Class News

Explorers: Our RE lessons are focusing on Special Places. We took a trip to church and Reverend Danny showed us some special places in the church: font, pulpit, lectern, grave yard. In Science, we continue to find out more about plants and we can now name the different parts. In Literacy, Nursery have started a new story this week called: *'The Three Billy Goats Gruff'*. They had fun acting it out. Reception are making great strides in learning to read and write. Last week they created their own characters for our revised version of *'Hairy Maclary from Donaldson's Dairy'*. Please continue to practise reading as often as you can at home with your child.

Let's talk: Can your child name the different parts of a plant?

Discoverers: This week in Discoverers we have busy learning about different measurements including capacity and temperature. Year 1 have enjoyed using the water tray to measure in millilitres and litres. We have continued reading our book *'The Sea Saw'* by Tom Percival and have drawn a map of the bear's journey.

Let's talk: Can you find objects around your house that are measured in litres and millilitres?

Adventurers: Adventurers this week have learned about how and where the Anglo Saxons settled in England. In English and guided reading lessons we have enjoyed finishing our class read on the Pied Piper. Children have produced some lovely pieces of work over the past few weeks.

Let's Talk: What are decibels?

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Navigators: This week in Navigators we've been enjoying '*Robot Girl*' as our class read and using expanded noun phrases to describe the settings in the story. In maths, we've been focusing on angles, working hard to measure them accurately. Our science lessons took us into the fascinating world of amphibians, exploring the stages of their life cycles. In computing, we learned how to program the Micro:bits to take a poll, and we're excited to use them during our upcoming geography trip next week.

Let's talk: How many degrees are there on a straight line?

Pathfinders: Pathfinders have worked hard during SATS's week and have been determined to do their very best. We are very proud of all their efforts and we celebrated with a party on Friday which involved making a sweet salad bowl, decorating a canvas, playing parachute games and watching a film.

Let's talk: Why not ask them about their favourite part of the party? They had a super time!

Nursery funded places

We have places available in our nursery provision for September 2025. If you're eligible, you can start claiming a funded place from the term after your child's 3rd birthday. The table below shows when you can access a place and when to apply so your child can start as soon as they are eligible.

Childs birthday	When you can access a place	When you can apply from
1 April – 31 August	1 September (autumn term)	1 April
1 September – 31 December	1 January (spring term)	1 September
1 Jan – 31 March	1 April (summer term)	1 January

Application forms are available from the school office.

For further advice and to find out more about hours and restrictions, check out the following guide <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/early-years-childcare-and-family-support/paying-for-childcare/funded-childcare-for-3-and-4-year-olds/>

SATs

Well done to all of our Year 6 children who have completed their SATs tests this week. We are very proud of their positive attitudes and how hard they have worked. The tests reflect learning from throughout the children's KS2 school journey, not just Year 6 and we know that they were prepared and ready to take on the challenge! They have enjoyed a well-deserved break today with a super celebration party.

Sports Day

It is Sports Day next Thursday on the school field (weather permitting!). KS2 children will be competing from 9.15am and KS1 in the afternoon at 2.15pm. Everyone is welcome and please bring some change for our PTFA who will be selling refreshments.

Tots on Tyres event

At the beginning of May, a group of our infant children enjoyed a Tots on Tyres event at Walton le Dale High School. Photos will be uploaded to our Facebook page soon so you can see what they got up to!

Book Fair

Thank you to all of the families that came into school for the annual Scholastic Book Fair. The children were very excited to be able to have a look at all of the books and were even introduced to some new stories and authors too. As a school, we benefit from families purchasing the books from the fair and look forward to selecting some new book titles to add to our school library.

PTFA Movie Night

Thank you to our school PTFA and staff who supported the school's Movie Night last week. The children were fantastic and enjoyed a night of film watching and having treats. The PTFA will also be selling refreshments at next week's Sports Day – please have a chat with them if there is anything that you would like to be involved with in the future or if you would like to join the team.

Weekly awards

Week ending 9 th May 2025		
	Star of the Week	VIP
Explorers	Bobby-Jo	Louie
Discoverers	Isobel	Raine
Adventurers	Lochlan	Erin A & Ava
Navigators	Arthur	Eva
Pathfinders	Mia	Riley

Week ending 16 th May 2025		
	Star of the Week	VIP
Explorers	Thomas	Olivia
Discoverers	Amelia	Dylan
Adventurers	Jennifer	Henry
Navigators	Sophia-Rose	Evie-May
Pathfinders	Whole class	Riley

Attendance

Good school attendance is of vital importance in order for children to be able to thrive and flourish in school. Good school attendance is **96%** and above and our school policy is in line with government guidance to help us achieve this target for our children at Higher Walton. If your child is struggling to come to school for any reason please do speak to us in school and we will do what we can to help and assist.

Week ending 9 th May 2025	Explorers 12 on roll	Discovers 19 on roll	Adventurers 27 on roll	Navigators 20 on roll	Pathfinders 17 on roll
Attendance	98%	85%	96%	98%	90%
Lates	8%	3%	3%	1%	1%
Well done Navigators class with the highest percentage attendance this week!					

Week ending 16 th May 2025	Explorers 12 on roll	Discovers 19 on roll	Adventurers 27 on roll	Navigators 20 on roll	Pathfinders 17 on roll
Attendance	94%	91%	95%	94%	92%
Lates	7%	2%	3%	1%	1%
Well done Adventurers class with the highest percentage attendance this week!					

This week's reminder

On each newsletter we will now 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.

Diarrhoea and vomiting - We follow the Health Protection Agency guidance with regard to infection control in schools. Therefore we must insist on the '48 hour rule' regarding diarrhoea and vomiting. This means that children should not return to school until a clear 48 hours have passed since the last episode.

Absence reporting: For illness absences we cannot accept the reason as 'unwell' or 'ill' and need the **full** details of the illness for recording, monitoring and infection control purposes.

Useful information

- Link to NSPCC Keeping children safe online. We all have a part to play in keeping children safe online. Find out how with these online safety guides: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>
- Link to Royal Life Saving Society UK water safety - <https://www.rlss.org.uk/Listing/Category/splash-safety-at-your-pad> Drowning is preventable, and the campaign, Splash Safety at your Pad, has been created to help provide young families with advice, hints and tips around how to enjoy water safely at home.

Diary dates to the end of the year

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

DIARY DATES TO THE END OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR Updated 16.5.25	
Thursday 22 nd May 2025	Sports Day – 9.15am – Years 3 - 6; 2pm Nursery to Year 2 Parents welcome to come along to support the children
Friday 23 rd May 2025	Year 5 and Year 6 geography field trip
Friday 23 rd May 2023	School closes for half term break
Monday 2 nd June 2025	Inset Day – school closed
Monday 2 nd June 2025 9am	Deadline for final Borwick Hall residential payments
Tuesday 3 rd June 2025	Summer term 2 begins
Thursday 5 th June 2025	Sports day reserve date
Friday 6 th June 2025	PTFA wear own clothes day – please donate chocolate items and unwanted gifts (infants) and bottles (juniors) for tombola prizes – details to follow
Monday 9 th June 2025	Tempest – class photos (full, smart uniform please)
Thursday 12 th June 2025	Year 1/2 class worship – parents welcome
Friday 13 th June 2025	Fathers' Day breakfast – details to follow
Monday 16 th – Wednesday 18 th June 2025	Borwick Hall residential – children not taking part should attend school as normal
Monday 16 th June 2025	Infants tennis roadshow (in school, children to wear PE kits)
Tuesday 17 th June 2025	New intake parents meeting (Nursery and Reception) – 4pm
Friday 20 th June 2025	PTFA funky hair day – please donate items of a certain colour (to be advised) for tombola prizes – details to follow
Thursday 26 th June 2025	PTFA Summer Fair – details to follow
Friday 27 th June 2025	Dance from the Heart roadshow – details to follow
Monday 30 th June to Friday 4 th July 2025	New intake pre-school sessions (Nursery and Reception) 1.30pm to 3.25pm
Tuesday 1 st July 2025	Year 3/4 Cuerden Valley river studies visit – details to follow
Wednesday 2 nd July 2025	Parents' lunch – details to follow
Wednesday 9 th July 2025	School reports sent home
Thursday 10 th July 2025	Year 5/6 performance – details to follow
NEW – 15 th July 2025	Drop in parents evening (report discussions only) 3.45pm-4.15pm
Thursday 17 th July 2025	EYFS class worship – parents welcome
Thursday 17 th July 2025	Rocksteady summer concert 2.45pm – parents welcome
Friday 18 th July 2025	Year 6 leavers service 9.30am All Saints Church - details to follow
Friday 18 th July 2025	School closes for the summer break
Tuesday 2 nd September 2025	Autumn term 1 begins