



The Howard Primary School

Newsletter December 2021

Our Motto: Believe and Achieve

Our Values: Love - Respect - Friendship

Email: howardoffice@tssmat.staffs.sch.uk website: <https://www.howard.staffs.sch.uk/>

Twitter: [@HowardElford](https://twitter.com/HowardElford) Telephone: 01827 383292 **Remember to refer to Class Dojo for daily updates**

Dear parents and carers

Well...what a term! It has certainly been challenging but I hope that you agree that the children have enjoyed their time in school this term. We have welcomed back our specialist teachers Mr Challinor, Mrs Parkes, Mr Walker and Madame Elliott and we have participated in a wide range of enrichment and fundraising activities. We have certainly not allowed Covid to hinder our children's experiences.

The children continue to work hard in their lessons and there continues to be quality learning taking place every day. Thanks again to my amazing team, who go out of their way to provide these exciting opportunities for learning.

This half term, with your support and vigilance, we have managed to minimise the spread of Covid-19 in our school. Your support regarding LFT and PCR testing has helped to stop an outbreak and keep everyone safe! So thank you.

Communication is key and I do think that Class Dojo has been a great way to communicate between school and home. Please provide any feedback about this means of communication to the Parent Forum Reps, who will give feedback during our next meeting (see Parent Forum information below).

I would like to express my gratitude to the 'Friends of Howard' who have ensured that our children have had a Christmas to remember with the Christmas Craft bag day, raffles and the 'Santa in the Park' experience. All of these opportunities have enriched the school experience for our children.

All that is left to say is that I wish you all a very merry and safe Christmas time with your loved ones and we look forward to welcoming you all back at 8:30am on Wednesday 5th January 2022.

Here's to a happy and positive 2022!

Best wishes,
Miss R Mills
Headteacher

Congratulations-Bromford Christmas Card Winner!

A huge well done to Toby, in Class 2, for winning the Bromford Christmas Card Competition. Toby was a worthy winner as mum said that he was meticulous when planning, drawing and colouring in his card.

His card will be printed and used by Bromford Housing as their company Christmas Card. Toby will receive £25 of vouchers.

Well done to all who entered. Look out for the press release in the local paper!

Charity Support-Donations

Thank you for your support with our Children in Need fundraiser. We raised a whopping £178 for a very worthy cause. We also managed to raise £41 on our Christmas Jumper day for St Giles Hospice. Thank you for your continued generosity.

During the last week of term, the children in KS2 went to sing outside in the gardens of Stubby Leas' Nursing Home. Our visit was enjoyed by all. Due to your generosity, we donated over 30 shoe-boxes filled with lovely gifts for the residents. Again, thank you!

I would also like to say thank you to the Village Hall who have raised £100 for school as a thank you for our carol singing. We will update you on how the money will be spent in the new year.

Staffing Update

As you may be aware, Mrs Dyer will be leaving us at the end of this term to pursue a career in a Secondary Alternative Provision. We thank her for her hard work this term and wish her the best of luck for the future. Mr Challinor will take on the role of Class 3 teacher from January.

In terms of Music provision, Mrs Parkes will be joining Richard Crosse as an EYFS teacher and in her place we welcome Miss Lambert from St. Mary's, who will take over the teaching of music across the academy. Madame Elliot will continue to teach French and Mrs Lowe, will also return as part of the National Tutoring Project, to support targeted children in KS2.

This week also say goodbye to our secretary, Claire Grainger. She has worked for the academy for over six years and we thank her for her hard work and commitment to our school. She will be greatly missed and we wish her all the best for the future!

In the meantime, Mrs Sharon Jevons will be in the office from 8:15-12:15. I will update you accordingly if there are any further developments.

Parent Forum

Please join us at our next forum meeting which will be on **Friday 18th February at 3pm.**

Mr Sheldrake and Mrs Oakley are the representatives for Class 1 and Class 2. We are still on the lookout for a Class 3 Rep. Please contact me if you can join us and would like to be Class 3's rep.

It is an informal meeting and good way to bring ideas, suggestions and queries to my attention. The ultimate aim is to make sure the school is the best it can be for all of our children.



Volunteers

We would like to thank our volunteers this term, whose help has been greatly appreciated.

If you have any time on any afternoon and would like to come in and listen to readers, then please contact the office for more details.

Morrisons Tokens Update



Thank you for your support with this initiative. We have managed to collect 2286 grow tokens which have gone towards some new gardening equipment! We look forward to using this new equipment during the Spring term!

Attendance

Autumn Term: 95%

Target: 96.5%



Thank you for all of your support during these challenging and worrying times.

If your child has any of the following symptoms, please do not send them into school. If a child displays these symptoms while in school, we will contact a parent and ask the child to be taken home.

Symptoms:

- A new, continuous cough
- A high temperature
- A loss or change in sense of taste or smell

If your child is feeling unwell, please take a Lateral Flow test before bringing them into school.

However, it is still essential that children attend school regularly and maintain a pattern of good attendance throughout their school career.

Online Safety Newsletter

E-Safety News

As a school, we recognise the ever-changing world of technology around us. Therefore, to support us, we have signed up for a monthly newsletter that will offer information and support on the latest trends and safety advice. These will be emailed to you and also saved under the E-Safety tab on the school website. There is also some important advice in regards to technology at Christmas and some useful helpline numbers. It is worth a read!

<https://www.howard.staffs.sch.uk/parents/e-safety>

<p>Excellent attendance, where possible, at school is important to allow a child or young person to fulfil their potential.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Care Club</u></p> <p>If you require before or after school childcare, please make sure you book in advance. We cannot guarantee a last minute place as both before and after school are becoming very popular. Thank you Miss Rowland and Mrs Aminu for making Care Club an enjoyable place to be!</p> <p>Please contact the office for more information or check out the website.</p>
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Quad Federation

We have been able to participate in a few Cross-Federation events against our sister schools. A few weeks ago, our Year 5 and 6 children went over to St Mary's to participate in a netball and football competition. Both teams did well and we were commended for our 'team spirit'. Well done Class 3 and thank you Mr Challinor for arranging these events.

<p><u>PE and Sports</u></p> <p>This week will be the last swimming for Class 2. We will provide swimming lessons in the Summer term for those children in KS2 who cannot swim competently, confidently and proficiently over a distance of at least 25 metres.</p> <p>For Spring 1, Class 2 and 3 will take part in 'Beyond Black Belt' Karate lesson and Class 1 will continue to have Mr Challinor for specialist sport's provision.</p>	<p><u>Class 3- Goblin Green Power</u></p> <p>We are pleased to welcome back Dr Allen for another year of Green power racing. Dr Allen will work with Class 3 every other Monday from January until Race day on the 8th June. Further details have been sent to Class 3 on their Dojo Class Story.</p>
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Help your kids keep everyone safer this **Christmas**

Encourage them to take a test before seeing friends and family, let fresh air in when meeting indoors and get their vaccinations.



Upcoming Dates and Events-2022

Please check our website for constantly updated information: <https://www.howard.staffs.sch.uk/events>

Please also continue to check Class Dojo for regular updates.

4th January- INSET

5th January - All children return to school at 8:30am

8th February- Safer Internet Day

15th February-Parents' Evening

18th February- 3pm in the hall

21st-25th February- HALF TERM

28th February- All children return to school at 8:30am

3rd March- World Book Day

3rd March-4th March- Class 3 Visit to York-Viking Focus

18th March- Red Nose Day

25th March- Mother's Day Service at St Peter's church 2pm

8th April- Easter Service at St Peter's church 2pm

11th April-22nd April- Easter Holidays

25th April-All children return to school at 8:30am

2nd May- Bank Holiday Monday

9th May-12th May-[KS2 Sats Week](#)

16th May-20th May- [KS1 SATS \(Year 2\)](#)

18th May- May Queen Celebrations and singing around the village- details TBC

23rd May-3rd June- Whitson Holidays

6th June-All children return to school at 8:30am

6th June-10th June- [Year 1 Phonics Screening Check](#)

6th June-10th June-[Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check](#)

8th June- Year 6 Green Power Race Day

7th July- 9:30am Whole-School Sports Day (first choice)

14th July- 9:30am Whole-School Sports Day (second choice if rained off from previous week)

18th July- 5pm Year 6 Leavers Play at Village Hall

Please Note: These dates and events are subject to change and will take place inline with Covid-19 guidelines and restrictions

School trips to be added once confirmed.

Class blogs

Don't forget that each week you can see what your children have been up to in their classes by visiting their class blogs.

<https://www.howard.staffs.sch.uk/news-events/blogs>

Phunky Foods Initiative



In January, Ms Carter and the Phunky Foods pupil group will be looking at raising the profile of healthy eating in School. We will be conducting a food review in school looking at break times, school lunches and Care Club as well as taking part in a trial for Phunky Foods. I will keep you posted when I have more details.

Please support us by ensuring that snacks brought into school are healthy and predominantly fruit or raw vegetables as opposed to processed foods and snacks.

On behalf of all the staff we would like to wish you and your children a....



Thank you all for your continued support over this term. We are lucky to have such supportive parents.