

The Howard NEWSLETTER



September 2022

Motto: Believe and Achieve Our Values: Love - Respect - Friendship

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Remember to refer to Class Dojo for daily updates

Dear Families

I would just like to say welcome back to what is set to be another exciting year at The Howard. I do hope that you have had a good summer and managed to carve out some great memories. We are finally 'back to normal' and we have embedded our nurturing and enrichment opportunities and got lots planned.

We would like to welcome our new starters and new families to The Howard. I know that they will soon become part of our Howard family and they will be pleased that they have joined our lovely school.

I would like to give thanks to the 'Friends' and the local community for working tirelessly over the holidays to transform the outside of our school. We have been lucky to have two teams of parents working throughout the holidays. One group on the outdoor area and the other with our forest school. It has certainly been a family affair. I really do not know how to thank you all. The school is sparklingly clean, thanks to Mrs Wood and her team. The fencing has had an extreme makeover. The Class 1 area is much improved. We are awaiting new signage, soft pour and an electronic fence. I know that KS2 will be delighted that the trim trail has been fixed and is ready to be used by the children. We are also looking at having an outdoor stage and a few extras for the KS2 outdoor area. All this should be completed by half-term.

Our second team have been busy developing and enhancing our Forest School. They have worked hard and been successful with a match funding bid from Transforming Trent Valley, which has enabled them to purchase a whole host of equipment and resources for our Forest School. I am particularly looking forward to our outdoor classroom which will be going in this week. We also now have a mini allotment, outside the kitchen, so again, if any of you can volunteer to help with the allotment, then please let us know.

This could not have been done without the tenacity and passion of our Howard family- I am so lucky to be the Head of our amazing school.

In school we also have a couple of initiatives to raise the profile of reading, spelling and maths (more details to follow). I have included the information about arrangements and changes in this newsletter. There is some important information regarding our new collection system so please make sure that you read the information carefully so that you and your child are fully prepared.

If you have any questions or queries, however small, then please do not hesitate to contact the office. Remember my door is always open.

Here's to a fantastic and exciting year,
Miss Mills

Friends Update

Here are just a few pictures of the work done at school over the holidays. More details will be shared upon completion. Thank you to everyone who has been part of the transformation. The number of voluntary hours is in the hundreds! We could not achieve our dream without you!

📅 27 August 2022



The Howard Elford @HowardElford · 3m ...
 Over 191 hours of parent, staff and children hours to help transform our Forest school and enhance our outdoor learning. The new outdoor classroom will start 6th September. Amazing! @TSSMAT1 @TheTrentValley



Achievement Assembly
Monday afternoon at
3pm. starting
Monday 19th
September. All families
are welcome to attend.
Please remember to
bring any outside
achievements for us to
celebrate during this
assembly,

Swimming

Swimming for Years 3 & 4 will take place every Friday starting on Friday 9th September. This will be for the entire Autumn term. For more details, please see the letters page of the website. Swimming letter. Please complete the google goggle form if goggles are required.
 Google Goggle Form <https://forms.gle/7Yb19Fb98dYxaipp7>

Standon Bowers

Class 3 will be going on a residential to Standon Bowers on Monday 12th September until Friday 16 September. Please make sure that you have completed the medical forms and handed them in to Mr Challinor. As the coaches are going from Richard Crosse, we ask that the children are dropped off at Richard Crosse at 8:15am and collected from Richard Crosse upon their return on the Friday at 3:30pm appx.

Attendance



Target for
 2022-2023:
 97%

As we are 'back to normal' improving attendance is now a top priority of the MAT. If your child is ill or unable to attend school for any reason, you must let us know by telephone or email the office the first morning of absence. Mrs Moss will telephone you if you haven't contacted her about the absence. Any child absent without an appropriate reason, will be recorded as unauthorised and this may result in a penalty notice being issued by the local authority.

Please be reminded that holidays will not be permitted unless they are exceptional circumstances. You must complete a holiday request form as soon as possible.

We send out letters to parents whose child's attendance has fallen to 96% or below. We hope that you understand that we have a duty to alert parents to their child's attendance.

Ongoing poor attendance (below 90%) will lead to an Attendance Meeting at school. The aim of these meetings is to give school and parents the chance to sit together and look at reasons for absence, the impact this is having, and then discuss ways to improve the situation. Persistent Absences will be referred to our Education Welfare Officer (EWO).

Important!

Please note- collection at the end of the day will now be from the main playground, through the pedestrian gate. We will no longer be using the car park, due to health and safety. As we trial this new procedure, to alleviate congestion, Class 1 will come out at

Collection at the end of the day

the slightly earlier time of 3:25. Please note that the car parks gates will be locked during collection time. We will review this new procedure again at half term. Thank you for your support with this.

Reminder of end of day procedures

- School finishes at 3:30pm and children should be collected by a known adult from the main playground, unless they are staying for an after-school club.
- Where a person other than the child's parent or carer is collecting a child from school, school must be informed in advance. Teachers **will not** release a child to go with an unknown adult or to another parent without this advance notification.
- Late collection is monitored by Miss Mills.
- Children in Year 5 and Year 6 are allowed to walk home alone once school has received written consent.
- Early Years and Key Stage 1 children will only be released to a sibling older than 16 years of age.
- Key Stage 2 children may be released to siblings over the age of 14 at the request of a parent. Any request made for a Key Stage 2 child to be collected by sibling of high school age but under 14 will be considered in exceptional circumstances.



Care Club

Please complete the google forms to book your Care Club sessions for Autumn 1.

WC 05.09.22 WC 12.09.22 <https://forms.gle/QQkRhw5fGPcqx8HQ7>

WC 19.09.22 <https://forms.gle/yY6o35RPrCrorxMD8>

WC 26.09.22 <https://forms.gle/T6ttMj8mFAd6wsJ16>

WC 03.10.22 <https://forms.gle/LwPffQq4sXqs5jGE9>

WC 10.10.22 <https://forms.gle/t6kxaQbNZJIEY5mho8>

WC 17.10.22 <https://forms.gle/Ah5zcc7SW4G3Wxiu5>

Please Note: Friday after-school hasn't been offered due to lack of interest.

Please contact the office if this is an issue and we will endeavour to assist.

Please complete the relevant forms by 30.08.22

We will always endeavour to provide care for emergencies, you can do this by contacting the office.

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.

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 saved under the E-Safety tab on the school website.

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



Key Instant Recall Facts (KIRFs)

To help develop children's fluency in mathematics, we ask them to learn Key Instant Recall Facts each half term. We would like our children to practise their KIRFs at home and in school.

There are KIRFs for each half term for Y1-6, which the children will complete three times per half term at the beginning, midpoint, and end of each half term.

The KIRFS are organised in line with the new White Rose blocks. For the half-termly KIRFS please visit <https://www.howard.staffs.sch.uk/children/kirf-key-instant-recall-facts>

Please join us at our next forum which will be on **Friday 23rd September at 3pm**. The parent representatives for each class are as follows.

- Mr Sheldrake- Class 1
- Mrs Oakley - Class 2
- Mrs Standerwick - Class 3

We thank them for their time and commitment.

Reading at the Howard

Home Reading – New 50 Recommended Readers- Reading Challenge

Our librarians have been busy getting the new reading challenge set up ready to launch on Friday 23rd September. Look out for the letter on Monday 19th September for the details of how it will run and the rewards your children can achieve. Fridays will be the day to remember for this. <https://www.howard.staffs.sch.uk/children/reading-for-pleasure-reading-challenge>

Spelling Bee

We will be launching our Spelling Bee in October. We will be hosting the termly MAT School Spelling Bee at the end of each term. The aim of the Spelling Bee is to celebrate the effort that the children are making with their spellings.

When will the children be tested?

The children will have until the final week of each term to learn their spellings. The class teachers will quiz the children in the class. All children will have a chance to celebrate their achievements. Children do not have to enter; however, practising these spellings regularly at home may give them confidence to take part. All children who take part in the Spelling Bee will receive a certificate in recognition of their achievement.

At the end of the summer term, a selection of children will be selected to participate in the Cross-MAT Spelling Bee Competition to hopefully win the MAT Spelling Bee trophy for their school. Here is the trophy. I do hope that the Howard will bring it home! Spelling lists will be available in October.

Key dates for 2022-2023

Please see link to website for key dates, <https://www.howard.staffs.sch.uk/events>

Trips and visits will be added once confirmed, but the rest of the year is on there!

I would also recommend subscribing to the website calendar. Scroll down and in a click of a button, the events will be linked to your calendar.

<https://www.howard.staffs.sch.uk/calendar>

4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Back to school				10:30am Year 3 and 4 Swimming Lessons	
11		12	13	14	15	16
	10:30am Year 3 and 4 Swimming Lessons					
	Years 5 & 6 Residential Standon Bowers September 2022					
					6:00pm AGM	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	10:30am Year 3 and 4 Swimming Lessons					
	3:00pm First Achi	4:00pm Meet The			3:00pm Parent Fc	
					6:00pm Back to 5	
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
	10:30am Year 3 and 4 Swimming Lessons					
	International Day of				9:00am Macmilla	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	10:30am Year 3 and 4 Swimming Lessons					
	10:15am Harvest	Black History Month				
		Year 5 Cycling Proficiency			8:30am School Ph	

All

[Help with calendar subscriptions](#)

*“You’re off to Great Places!
Today is your day!
Your mountain is waiting,
So... get on your way!”
Dr. Seuss*



<https://www.howard.staffs.sch.uk/>

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>