

The Howard NEWSLETTER



February 2023

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

"Though it is the smallest of all seeds, when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches." Parable of the Mustard Seed

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Remember to refer to Class Dojo for daily updates

Dear families

What a fantastic start to 2023! We have hit the ground running with our curriculum for the Spring term. Class 3 have had the opportunity to work with Dr Allen again, constructing 2 race cars ready to race in June. Class 2 have thoroughly enjoyed learning all about the Romans and transferring their knowledge to their English where they have written myths and information texts. Class 1 has embraced the new outdoor area and they continue to thrive. I am particularly impressed with how well they are using their knowledge of phonics to read their Monster Phonics books. Year 1 have enjoyed learning about Space and will be enhancing and consolidating their new acquired knowledge when they visit the Space Centre on the first week back.

See blogs for further insight into life at The Howard <https://www.howard.staffs.sch.uk/news-events/blogs>.

We hope that you have enjoyed Parents' evening and now have a clear understanding of what your child does well and know their targets. We are always happy to help you support your child at home. Please do not hesitate to ask your child's class teacher.

We are delighted to inform you that we have a full and quorate new Governing committee. I was overwhelmed by the support of parents, grandparents and the local community who have pledged to drive the school to provide the best quality education and experience for all our children. We had our first meeting and it was a huge success due to the skill-set of our committee. There are more details in this newsletter. We will send out more information when we get back after half-term.

We now look forward to Spring term 2, where Reception will be able to learn all about 'new life' in Spring where they will hopefully see chicks hatch and get to visit some spring lambs.

In terms of the MAT, there are exciting changes ahead and Mrs Gethin will write to you with the news. We hope that you see these changes as a positive but as always, I am here to help and will answer any questions that you may have.

I look forward to seeing you all upon our return on Monday 27th February 2023 at 8:30am when we will continue with the Spring 2 curriculum. Please see your child's class page for more information about the topics and themes we will be teaching this half term.

Best wishes,

Miss Mills

Message from CEO

Please also read Mrs Gethin's Christmas message- on Dojo and on this link.
<https://www.howard.staffs.sch.uk/parents/letters>

Message from the PTFA
Hi all,

We hope everyone is well as we come to the end of this half term. We've been quiet we know this term, resting from the Christmas season and starting to put plans ahead as weather gets warmer!

Our upcoming events include a reading challenge for World book day (details to follow) but we hope to provide the school with new books as an outcome of this! Then we also have the return of Easter Chocolate Bingo, this year will be even bigger with more prizes and more fun! This marks a year since our first event as a new PTA! We are so so proud of what we have achieved with your help and support. Thank you!

We also want to say a massive thank you to those who have taken the time to fill in our questionnaires to Pentagon play. We are really hopeful that we will receive the lotto funding for the new KS2 play equipment. Massive well done to Dee and Ms Mills for sorting the bid application and giving us the opportunity! Fantastic work! So grateful!

All your fundraising from the Winter term is starting to be allocated too! This term we have promised 1k to Science and 1k to Maths this will be in equipment but also fun workshops. We are also looking at purchasing further Chromebooks for the school books. We have helped with funding the Chinese New Year Celebrations and also helping provide additional art materials. There have also been new football goals purchased from the 'previous classroom project' which I'm sure have brought joy also!

We are really looking forward to seeing what we can achieve this school year, hopefully bringing lots of fun events for the kids to enjoy! As always we always welcome anyone who would like to help as little or often as they can, just grab one of us for more info or send us a message!

On that note happy half term all,
Take Care,
Rachael and Emily xx

Local Governing Committee (LGC)

We are really pleased to announce that we have a full and **quorate** LGC. We have had our induction session, led by Mrs Gethin and had our first LGC meeting, which was a huge success. We will send more details out to you and we will be creating a page specifically for our LGC which will include the minutes to our meetings. However, until then, here is a list of our newly appointed team with their roles and responsibilities.

Governor	Type	Responsibility	Term of Office End
Helen Robertson (HR)	Community - Chair		01.02.2027
Carolyn Gavin (CGa)	Community – Vice Chair	SEND, Vulnerable Groups, Pupil Premium, Wellbeing	01.02.2027

Rachel Mills (RM)	Headteacher		Ex-officio
Harriet Jennings (HJ)	Staff	SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural) Wellbeing, British Values	01.02.2027
Chris Billingham (CB)	Community	English & EYFS (Early Years)	01.02.2027
Jackie Tyler (JT)	Community	Early Years & SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural) Wellbeing, British Values	01.02.2027
Lesley Bovington (LB)	Grandparent/Community	Finance, Health and Safety, Premises, Sports Premium	01.02.2027
Polly Embury (PE)	Grandparent/Community	Curriculum	01.02.2027
Matthew Morgan (MM)	Parent	Maths	01.02.2027
Andrew Sheldrake (AS)	Parent	Safeguarding, Prevent, e-Safety, Attendance	01.02.2027

Achievement Assembly

The first Achievement Assembly of the half term will be on Monday 6th March at 3pm. All parents are welcome to attend. Please remember to bring in any outside achievements for us to celebrate during this assembly.



School Uniform

Please make sure that all uniform and resources are CLEARLY LABELLED with your child's name. You would not believe the amount of lost uniform we have due to it not being labelled correctly. Please minimise this by using a label or by writing your child's name on the tag with biro. You can purchase branded School uniform from S.K School uniforms SkSchooluniforms.co.uk

We are aware of the costs so it is not a necessity

New Menu

Please find the link to our Spring menu. [Menu Spring Term 1](#). Upon our return we will start with week 1.

Attendance



Government guidelines on attendance

Full attendance (100%) should be the standard expected.

Attendance of 97% or above is very good.

97-95% is good.

95-90% is poor

Below 90% is a serious cause for concern.

A letter will be sent to those children whose attendance is deemed poor or below. It is also important to get your children to school on time. Again, we will send out a letter to inform you about the number of lates your child has received.

Whole-School

Attendance to

13/02/23

95.66%

Target for

2022-2023: 97%

Reception	95.57%
Year 1	94.09%
Year 2	98.62%
Year 3	95.90%
Year 4	94.40%
Year 5	95.96%
Year 6	96.75%

ATTENDANCE MATTERS!			
ATTENDANCE DURING ONE SCHOOL YEAR	EQUALS APPROXIMATE DAYS ABSENCE	WHICH IS APPROXIMATELY WEEKS ABSENCE	WHICH IS APPROXIMATELY LESSONS MISSED
95%	9 days	2 weeks	40 lessons
90%	19 days	4 weeks	80 lessons
85%	29 days	6 weeks	120 lessons
80%	38 days	8 weeks	160 lessons
75%	48 days	10 weeks	200 lessons
70%	57 days	11 ½ weeks	230 lessons
65%	67 days	13 ½ weeks	270 lessons

GETTING YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL REALLY DOES MATTER

DID YOU KNOW...?

In a school year, if your child is late every day by...

5 minutes	3 days from school	12 lessons
10 minutes	6 days from school	24 lessons
15 minutes	9 days from school	36 lessons
20 minutes	12 days from school	48 lessons
30 minutes	18 days from school	72 lessons

PLEASE ENCOURAGE PUNCTUALITY TO MAINTAIN ATTENDANCE

Care Club



Extra-Curricular Clubs

After half term there will be the following clubs available to our children. These clubs will run from 3:30-4:30pm. When you book, you will need to book for the 5 week package which is £25, we cannot do a weekly booking system. A booking form has been sent out and you can also contact the office to confirm your place.

Monday- Street Dance

Tuesday- Gymnastics

Wednesday- Football

Thursday- Nerf Wars

Friday- Drama Club for production

We will also offer Care Club 4:30-5:30 Monday to Thursday. Please complete the booking form or contact Miss Moss to book these sessions.

Lunchtime Clubs

Monday- Sports Club led by SH Active Coach & Gardening Club & Eco led by GC
Thursday- Sports Club led by SH Active Coach & Gardening Club & Eco led by GC

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

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



P.E.

Children will need the correct PE kit. Remember jewellery is not allowed to be worn including earrings, and long hair must be tied up. Some of our children are wearing the Howard tracksuits. These are not compulsory, but they are good quality and the children look extremely smart. As we come to school in our PE kit, it is a good investment. Contact the office if you would like further details.

We continue to enrich our sports provision by using both *SH Active Sports* and *Stoke City*. Thanks to Mr Challinor, we are starting to take part in more competitive events. Some children in Class 3 have participated in the Tamworth Schools Athletics competition and did well competing against larger schools. We look forward to a Quad girl's football competition at The Howard on *Wednesday 8th March*, after school, so please come along and show your support to the home team.

Parent Forum

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

Our Reading Challenge continues. There is still time to read a few more books ready for the Spring Term certificates and prizes. Remember that those who reach the year group target will be entered into a raffle and get a chance to win a £5 Waterstones prize and visit Waterstones in Lichfield in July.

Spelling Bee

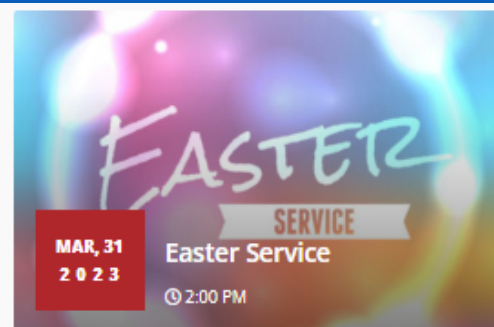
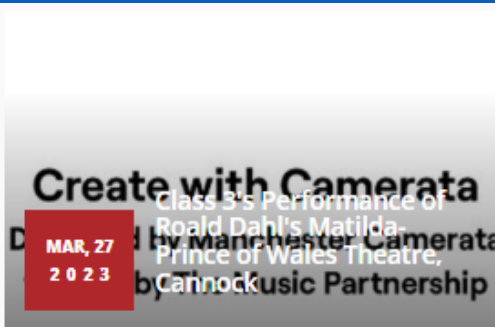
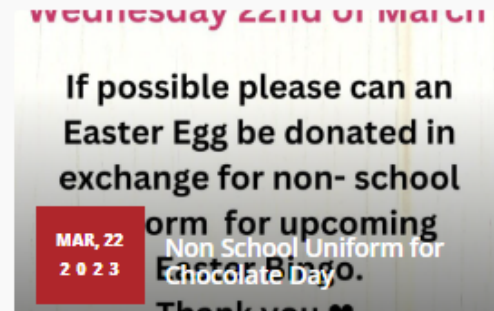
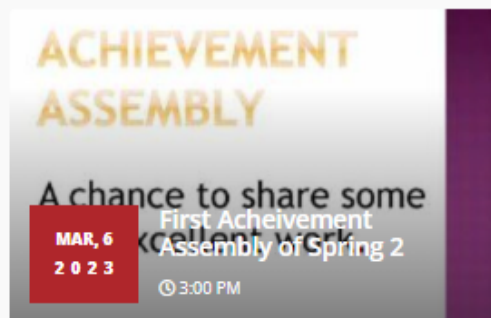
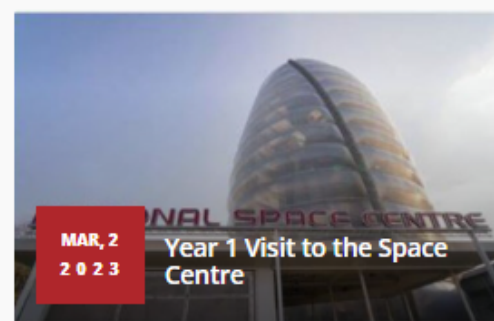
At the end of this half term, we will host our Spring Spelling Bee for children in Year 3 to Year 6. Remember to practise the key words with your children at home. 'You've got to be in it to win it!'

See the website for more details <https://www.howard.staffs.sch.uk/children/spelling-bee>

Key dates for 2022-2023

Please see link to website for key dates for the year, <https://www.howard.staffs.sch.uk/events>
Trips and visits will be added once confirmed, but the rest of the year is on there!

Upcoming Events



On behalf of all the staff, we would like to wish you and your children a happy and relaxing half term and look forward to welcoming you back on Monday 27th February at 8:30am.



[HTTPS://WWW.HOWARD.STAFFS.SCH.UK/](https://www.howardstaffs.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](https://www.howardstaffs.sch.uk/news-events/blogs)

