

THE HOWARD PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dear Parents/Carers,

We are pleased to announce that our new website is now live at <u>www.howard.staffs.sch.uk</u> Following last year's communication review, in which many of you participated, we have been looking at our communication channels.

We are moving towards using our new website as the main communication channel between school and parents, a one stop shop where you will find all the information you require. This reduces the amount of channels we currently use, which was a main concern of parents. In future, the majority of communication will be through the website and associated app. We would encourage you to look for any information you require on the website first, before contacting the school office, particularly as the school office is not staffed full time.

All school information will now be on the website for you to view. This includes all school dates, events, class activity, homework, notices, term dates, parent handbook and so on.

The website has a section named "Children", which includes all information regarding classes, clubs, and care club. Each class has their own page, which will include information on what they've been up to during the week, spellings for each half term, and any homework given.

In the "Parent" section you can find all the information you require as a parent. This will include letters sent home from school, term dates, uniform information, information on what to do regarding attendance and absence, forms you may need to fill in, how to use ParentPay, our Parent Handbook, PTA information, all of our policies and so on.

Information on school events and dates will be in the News, Events & amp; Calendar section. Achievements will be announced here. As events change (particularly after school sporting events), we will update the website accordingly, and send a notification via the website app as we receive information.

Parents/Carers are advised to check the website/app regularly to keep up to date rather than phoning the office. This calendar can be synced to other electronic calendars, including Google and Outlook, to help keep you updated.

The new website also has a Blog section, which is new to us. We will be filling this with activities across the school, and we hope to get pupils to write blogs themselves. Look out for more information on this as it develops.

We are moving away from using Teachers2Parents, and would ask those of you who use the app to delete it, replacing it with the website app. All communication from school will now be via phone, letter (sent via email), or through the website and it's app. Notifications previously sent through Teachers2Parents or text concerning your individual child (Star of the Week, bumped head etc.) will now be via email. General notifications will all be sent through the website app.



To download the website app, please search for Schudio in your App Store. As you download it, it should offer you the nearest schools to your location. Alternatively, you can search for the school. Tap on the school to select it as yours. All notifications will in future be sent via the app/website so please ensure you have downloaded it.

If you have any questions about this, or other areas of our communication, please let us know. As the websites are new, we would also welcome any feedback you'd like to give us on it.

Yours sincerely,

Miss R Mills Head Teacher