

The Howard NEWSLETTER

October 2022



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

Message from the Head teacher

Dear families

What an amazing start to the school year we have had. Our new children and families have settled in beautifully as have our wonderful new staff. The school is such a positive and nurturing learning environment where our children are truly thriving, especially now we have such a wonderful outdoor environment. Class 1 have been extremely lucky and have had lots of new learning resources, funded by the 'Friends', which have enhanced their learning.

If you look at the class blogs you will see all the wonderful and enriching learning experiences the children have had so far, from The Class 3 trip to Standon Bowers, Ancient Egyptian day and bread making. During our Well-being week, the children had great fun. I would like to express my gratitude to Miss England and Mrs Tongue for sharing their expertise in yoga and mindfulness. The children really enjoyed it and it certainly enhanced our 'Well-being this week.

Our after-school clubs have been a hit and we will continue to run clubs after-school next term, including a new Choir on a Tuesday run by Miss Lambert (see Clubs section of newsletter for more details).

I would like to thank Miss Carroll for her commitment during her time at The Howard. She will be leaving us on Tuesday 2nd November to pursue a new career as Family Intervention Support Worker for Humankind Charity. We wish her well and know that she will do a great job. Miss Delderfield will join us next half-term for the remainder of the school year and will support Class 1. We look forward to using her creative talents to brighten up the school.

I am really looking forward to the new electronic gates which will be fitted over half term. It will certainly help Mrs Moss and the rest of us get into school! We cannot wait.

When we return, Mrs Oakley and Mrs Wisher have planned a fantastic and exciting outdoor learning day with the support of a large group of parent helpers. There are lots of exciting outdoor events taking place, culminating in the grand reveal at 2pm - when you are all welcome to join us in the unveiling of our wonderful outdoor learning and forest school.

I am truly blessed to have such wonderful children, staff and parents supporting our fantastic school. I am proud and thankful for each and everyone who supports us and goes above and beyond to make our school the best it can be. We have recently decided upon our inspirational quote and our vision for our school and I hope that you agree that it encapsulates the ethos of our unique school.

We have a lot to look forward to next half term but until then, have a lovely half-term and see you all at 8:30 am on Tuesday 1st November.



Message from the CEO- Please see letters section of the website: <https://www.howard.staffs.sch.uk/parents/letters>

Friends Update

As if we are half a term done already?! We hope that Reception class and all those in other year groups who chose to move to our school feel settled and happy.

It's been a big month for the PTA. We held our AGM and had an official change of committee. You now have myself (Rachael) and Emily as co-Chairs, with Dee as your Secretary and Roz (and bump!) as your Treasurer. This is alongside a lush team: Emma, Ev, Fran, Hannah, Julianne, Laura, Lizzie and Sarah, and so many other glorious volunteers. Everyone is always welcome at any of our meetings - if you'd like to come along, we would love to see you!

The previous PTA committee are working hard with the school staff team to finalise the allocation of the classroom funds they raised, which have now been committed to various new additions to enhance outdoor play and learning! A massive thank you to all for their time and commitment over the last few years, heading up and organising events, and putting some fab things in place for all our kids.

We hope your kids enjoyed the Neon Disc-glow! There were certainly some moves! Only The Howard can make wine and cheese with neon rave look like the perfect combo!!!! It was a wonderful evening - thank you for supporting it.

As we move into the second half of the winter half term, we have the following events to come:

- Forest school launch on Wednesday 2nd November with special assembly, cake and coffee (free event)
- Emily's Christmas wreath workshop on Wednesday 30th November and Thursday 1st December
- Christmas Fayre on Friday 9th December
- Electric Avenue Saturday 17th December (a village event at which we will be selling refreshments on)

We're already looking at where to distribute funds raised so far this year, but this term your money has gone towards some final Forest School pieces, equipment for the '50 read launch', spelling shed, timestable rockstars, a £500 contribution to panto tickets and transport, badges for School Council and we've started a scheme to support the teaching team with the 'extra' enriching activities for kids, with each classroom having a 'pot' of money. We are finalising future plans but currently looking at funding football goalposts, STEM and maths equipment and outdoor seating so the children can have lunch outdoors in summer months.

We really hope you are happy with the plans but we are always open to feedback about events, spending or general thoughts! So please get in touch with myself or Emily, as you wish.





Let's get Christmas planning!!!! (In October!!!!!!!)
All the best
Rachael and Emily

Achievement Assembly

Achievement Assemblies will now take place on a *Monday afternoon at 3pm*. The first assembly back will be held online on Monday 14th November. 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.

Attendance



Well done to Year 2 and Year 4! for their AMAZING attendance!

A letter has been sent out to families whose children are deemed as persistently absent in order to raise the concern and offer support if needed. It is more important than ever to attend school regularly as missed learning does negatively impact on children. We understand that illness can't be helped but we want to make sure that if children are well, they are in school. For this half term we are slightly above our target of 97%- thanks you for supporting us with this!

Whole-School
Attendance for
Autumn 1
97.6%

Reception	98.78%
Year 1	94.46%
Year 2	100%
Year 3	97.95%
Year 4	99.09%
Year 5	98.21%
Year 6	97.60%

Target for
2022-2023:
97%

Care Club

Reminder to complete the Care Club booking forms. The paper forms appear to be working really well and Mrs Aminu is doing a fantastic job at making sure that Parent Pay is constantly updated and up-to date. Thank you for your support in completing these forms and helping us to plan for the Care Club.



Reception Parents...

Calling all Reception Parents- We would love to get feedback about how well your child has settled into life at The Hosettled into School life. We hope you are as pleased as we are with how quickly the children have settled but would like to hear your opinion.

Please could you take 5 mins to complete our settling in questionnaire as we would love your feedback. click the link below:

<http://perspective.angelsolutions.co.uk/diagnostics/Survey.aspx?link=4218521e-cc2d-46cf-be5e-5fd9b5663695>

Thank you for your support

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.



Extra-Curricular Clubs

After half term there will be the following clubs available to our children. They must be booked by contacting the office to confirm your place. We will no longer use the google form and request you contact Mrs Moss via email, Dojo or phone instead.

Club	Day	Time	Year group	Cost
Choir	Tuesday	3:30-4:15	All year groups	£30 for remainder of the year (Autumn 2 - Summer2)
Lunchtime Football Club	Thursday	12:45-1:15	Y2, Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6	Free
Dodgeball	Thursday	3:30-4:30	Y2, Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6	£35 for 7 sessions (includes last week of term)
Art Club	Friday	3:30-4:30	All year groups	£30 for 6 sessions. (Please note that there is no Art Club the last week of this half term).

ESafety

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.

This year, we are really excited and lucky to have both *Progressive Sports* and *Stoke City*, enhancing our sports provision this year. I hope that this provision increases our chances of winning the *Quad Federation* events and events against other Tamworth Schools! Let's bring home the trophies!

Swimming

Swimming for Years 3 & 4 this will take place every Friday starting on Friday 4th November and will continue for the entire Autumn term.

For more details, please see the letters page on the website. [Swimming letter](#). Please complete the google goggle form, if goggles are required. *Google Goggle Form* <https://forms.gle/7Yb19Fb98dYxaipp7>

Parent Forum

Please join us at our next forum which will be on **Friday 4th November 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

We love reading at the Howard so to engage a love of reading we are changing our home reader system. Thanks to the help of our amazing Friends we have been able to purchase 50 Recommended Reads for each year group. These books are amazing and cover different genres, themes and text types. What better way to ignite a child's passion for books! Our parent Librarians are busy creating an exciting initiative to inspire our children to read all 50. That's 350 quality texts read throughout their time at The Howard...AMAZING! More details to follow the first week back!

Here is the link to the page: <https://www.booksfortopics.com/yeargroups>

We actively encourage children to regularly read at home. It has such a positive impact on all areas of your child's learning and confidence. Little and often is best. Please sign the Home Reading planner each time your child reads. We will continue with our '**5 times a reader**'. If your child reads **five times a week** and their planner is signed, they will be entered into the weekly draw. The winner will be announced during the weekly achievement assembly and they will receive a prize of a book.

Spelling Bee

We will be hosting the termly 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! 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 !



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



VISION

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

