



## Newsletter: April 2026

Dear Howardian Families,

I hope that you enjoyed the Easter break and some of the gorgeous springtime sunshine that we were so lucky to have! This is the final term before we break for the summer holidays. It is incredible to think that we are already well into the summer term. I am sure that the children will enjoy all of the learning opportunities and events that the staff will organise for them,

including our Expressive Arts week which we held during the first week back, and our Health and Wellbeing week which will take place after the May half-term (week beginning Monday June 15th). Please refer to 'dates for your diary' below for key dates of sports days for each year group.

In true Howardian style, this half term promises to be very busy. We are all looking forward to the Year 3 Lion King show on Wednesday May 20th, along with a variety of school trips and class assemblies across the school.

I hope you find the content of this newsletter informative and of interest.

Warmest Regards,

*Mrs Sian Burt (Headteacher)*



### Key Events since the last Newsletter

#### Friday March 20th

#### Comic Relief



Thank you to our school Senedd and Miss Taylor for organising our 'do something funny for money' Red Nose day activities. Children were able to come to school with whacky hair; some children were also invited to share their favourite jokes and take part in a dancing session in class.

### Friday March 20th: Year 1 trip to Techniquest

Year 1 had a fantastic trip to Techniquest to finish their 'Muck, Mess and Mixtures' topic.



### Tuesday March 24th: School of Rock

What can I say?!

This performance was absolutely outstanding and we are all very proud of our Year 4 & 5 pupils who performed in 'School of Rock' at The Gate. Every member of the audience thoroughly enjoyed the show, including some of our governors and the Lord Mayor of Cardiff. A huge thank you to the whole Howardian team, but especially to the Year 4 staff - Mr Wheeler, Miss Sinclair, Mrs Aflatoonian, Miss Fowler and Mrs Kim, and to the Year 5 staff - Miss Court, Miss Taylor and Mrs Wyatt. Thanks also to Mr Brind for his support with the organisation of this special event, to Mrs Liddington for all her hard work on ticket sales and to our parent committee who did so much behind the scenes.



### Friday March 27th Spring Bonnet Parade

After a showery start to the day, the sun came out just in time to shine on our spring bonnet parade which was enjoyed by the families who came to watch. This was a lovely way to end the spring term.



### Friday March 27th: Nursery Family Crafts Session

Our Nursery children were very excited to welcome their families into school for some spring crafting. Thanks to all of those who were able to attend.



### April 13th-17th: Expressive Arts Week

What a fantastic way to start the summer term! The whole school was buzzing with the sounds of music and dancing. Classes were immersed in a range of artistic activities and I was incredibly proud of our Year 6 pupils and the way they put together vlogs to showcase the activities throughout the week. These were shared with the whole school on Friday afternoon, and over the next few weeks, the dances learnt from the ever-superb Don-Rae workshops, will be polished and perfected in order to be performed to the school on the last Friday of this half term. A huge thank you to all of the staff for providing such rich experiences for our children, but a special shout-out to Mrs Bruncker and Miss Court for organising and co-ordinating the week.



### Thursday April 16th: Year 2's WOW day

Year 2 launched their new topic, 'Are we There Yet?' with the experience of boarding and spending time on the Titanic! They dressed as passengers and learnt how different classes of people were treated. Mrs Steele and Miss Bradley were the captains of the ship!



### Monday April 20th: Visit from Guide Dogs



Years 3 - 6 were very lucky to meet Jason and Dane, two beautiful and impeccably behaved guide dogs, along with their owners Carole, Lorraine and Jackie. Carole and Jackie taught us all about how guide dogs have a life-changing impact on their owners and give them greater independence and keep them safe.



### Attendance

Huge Llongyfarchiadau to those 107 children who attended school every day during the spring term. 27 of these have not missed a day's school since the start of the academic year.



At Howardian, we are committed to promoting positive attitudes to learning and school in general. Good attendance supports this ethos. Pupils who have low attendance at

school are at risk of a negative impact on their social, emotional and academic development and progress.

In order for our pupils to make the most of every learning opportunity, they need to attend as regularly as possible (aside from illness or appointments that cannot be taken outside of school hours) and arrive at school on time. School starts at 9am and learning starts at 9am, mostly with the class's daily Guided Group Reading sessions.

Please support your child's development by:

- getting them to school on time.
- booking holidays during the school holidays.
- taking appointments outside of school hours as much as possible.
- informing us on your child's first day of absence, giving the reason for that absence.
- get in touch if you need any support.

We do understand that life happens and we are sympathetic to any family or personal circumstances that might affect your child's attendance. We are really happy to engage with you in such situations.

### **Year 5 Allotment**

Every Summer term, our Year 5 children have an 'Allotment' topic where they work on the area above the loading bay to grow fruit and vegetables. These photos are of last year's cohort enjoying the space. However, the area has overgrown and is in desperate need of some TLC. If any of you are green-fingered and able to help with this, that would be hugely appreciated. Please email the school: **FAO Miss Court, Allotment**. Many thanks.



## Howardian Primary and Social Media

Thank you to those families who are following us on social media. The details for these are as follows:

Facebook: Howardian Primary School

Instagram: howardianprimary

Please also visit our updated website if you have not already done so. The website can be accessed using this link:

<https://www.howardianprimaryschool.co.uk/>

## Communication

Some families have expressed that they would like to receive communication from school in one platform, rather than through a range of different methods. I am pleased to announce that the new MIS system, Arbor, should support us to facilitate this. There will be more news on this very soon.

## Parent Workshops and Forums

This term, we are hosting two 10-week programmes. E-mails were sent out recently with details of both courses. One of these is run by the Local Authority - a **Parenting Nurture** group which started on April 14th. If you missed the first session and would like to find out what's involved, you would be more than welcome to attend a future session. These sessions are held every Tuesday morning 9:15-11:15am.

The other is run by Cardiff and Vale's Family Learning and is entitled '**Science Superheroes.**' These will take place every Wednesday afternoon starting at 1pm.

Mr Brind has organised 3 parent/carers coffee forums, as follows:

- Friday May 1st @ 9am- **PACE: Playfulness, Acceptance, Curiosity and Empathy.** PACE is a way of thinking, feeling, communicating and behaving that aims to make the child feel safe.
- Friday June 12th- time tbc: '**Emotional Coaching**' - An evidence-based strategy to support children to understand their emotions. A Google form was shared in order to identify the preferred time for this session.
- Friday July 3rd @ 9am - The '**The Incredible 5-Point Scale**' - A visual tool for pupils to communicate their feelings.

### Open-Door Policy



Please remember that you do not have to wait for a parents evening to speak with staff about any concerns. We have an open-door policy. We ask that, in the first instance, you contact the class teacher in order to arrange a mutually convenient time to discuss any concerns. In the unlikely event that they are not able to resolve any problems, then you may make an appointment with either Mr Brind (Deputy Head) or Miss Griffiths (Assistant Head teacher). If you are still not satisfied, then you are able to contact myself. For reference, our Complaints Policy is available on our school website. Paper copies can be made available on request.

### PTA

Please contact me if you are able and willing to become more actively involved in our PTA which is a vital part of our school community. Without funds from it, our school would not be able to provide such a rich variety of experiences and resources to enhance our children's learning experiences.

## Join the PTA!



Our annual 'HowieFest' is due to take place on **Saturday June 20th**. This is one of the PTA's greatest fund-raising events and your support will be hugely appreciated. If you can spend any time beforehand to help with preparation, or if you can spare a couple of hours to attend on the day, this will all help to raise much needed funds for our school.

### Punctuality



Please be mindful that the school day and learning begins **promptly at 9am** and the school gates are locked at this time. This first half hour of the day is when the teaching of reading and important literacy skills takes place. Children who are late to school miss out on this incredibly important part of the curriculum. When children are late, not only does this impact their learning but it can also affect their emotional wellbeing, as children who are late often feel that they have missed out on learning opportunities and this can be very unsettling and upsetting for them. In addition, pupil lateness has an impact on the admin staff as they have to lead the younger pupils down to class which disrupts their workload. **If your children do**

**arrive late, please ensure that you escort them onto site and sign them in – for Health & Safety reasons.** Thank you for your support with this.

### **Mobile Phones in School**

Only pupils in Years 5 and 6 are allowed to bring mobile phones into school and **this is only when they are leaving the school site without an adult – i.e. walking home or part of the way home without an adult.** We have strict procedures around this. If children bring a phone to school for the above reason, they are to be handed in to the class teacher as soon as they arrive in class, and the teacher will ensure that it is stored safely for the duration of the school day. At home time, the phones are returned to the pupils and are not permitted to be used until the children are off school site. Please can you make your children aware of e-safety and speak with them about not taking photos of other children without their permission and especially not putting these photos onto social media. There are potential significant safeguarding concerns should this happen.



### **Safe and Considerate Driving and Parking**

Thank you to all our families who are supporting our ongoing mission to make journeys to and from school as safe and as stress-free as possible. Not parking on the yellow lines and zig-zags and parking further away from the school is a huge help towards this, as is parking with consideration for the residents.

### **Is your child entitled to Free School Meals (eFSM)?**

Whilst all primary-school aged pupils are universally entitled to free school meals (uFSM), there are a number of benefits for pupils who apply to receive eFSM status. eFSM pupils receive a discount on their educational and residential trips, group music lessons (provided by the Cardiff and Vale music service) are subsidised by the school, and a free playtime snack is provided to foundation phase children. Pupils who receive eFSM will also be entitled to a uniform grant and other offers from Welsh Government and the council. The school also obtains extra funding for every pupil who is registered as eFSM. This is used to employ staff to run interventions and provide various types of support for the pupils.

Once you submit an application, you will be notified in writing of the outcome. If you are eligible for free school meals, we will be notified so that we can update our records.

Please click the link below to apply for eFSM.

<https://www.cardiffcouncilforms.co.uk/article/1684/>

Mrs Curran (Senior Admin Assistant) is able to provide support with your application if needed.

### **Food Bags**

We have a good stock of food which is available to support families should you wish to receive food bags. All requests will be dealt with sensitively and discretely. Please contact the office or myself directly to arrange collection.

### **School lunches**

A huge thank you to our families who pre-order lunches on a weekend ready for the week ahead. This is an incredible help to Mrs Marshall, our cook, as she is able to order and prepare stock accordingly. Please could you all ensure that your child/ren's lunches are ordered at least a day in advance. For those pupils who have not ordered a lunch, some find this upsetting and they are not always able to have the choice that they want due to the availability of meals that are left against what has already been ordered. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

### **Dates for your Diary**

We strive to include all key dates on the school calendar. Schools are very busy places and dates may be subject to change, or events might be communicated at relatively short notice, but we will endeavour to communicate such changes as soon as we can. You are able to access the school calendar via our new website where you have the option to add this to your own personal Google Calendar if you have one so that you do not miss key events. Dates to note for the summer term are as follows:



<b>Thursday April 23rd</b> <b>@ 9:15am:</b>	2Porffor (Miss Bradley's) class assembly
<b>Friday April 24th</b> <b>@ 9:15am:</b>	2Melyn (Mrs Steele's) class assembly

<b>Wednesday April 29th</b>	Year 2 trip to SS Brunel, Bristol
<b>Wednesday April 29th 1pm</b>	Cardiff and Vale Family Learning 'Science Superheroes' parent/children workshops begin. 10 week course. Please contact the school if you wish to attend.
<b>Thursday April 30th</b>	Year 4 trip to Bristol Aquarium
<b>Friday May 1st</b>	Year 1 trip to Dan-yr-Ogof caves
<b>Friday May 1st @ 9 am</b>	PACE coffee morning for parents / carers <b>Playfulness, Acceptance, Curiosity and Empathy.</b> PACE is a way of thinking, feeling, communicating and behaving that aims to make the child feel safe.
<b>Monday May 4th</b>	Bank Holiday Monday - school closed
<b>Thursday May 7th</b>	INSET day - school closed to pupils for staff training
<b>Monday May 11th</b>	Year 4 visit to a local care home as part of their social action learning
<b>Monday May 18th</b>	Class photographs
<b>Wednesday May 20th</b>	Year 3 Lion King show -performances at 2pm and 6pm
<b>Monday May 25th - Friday May 29th: Half term</b>	
<b>Thurs June 4th @9:15am</b>	1 Porffor (Mrs Wyatt/Mrs Hardwick) class assembly
<b>Friday June 5th @ 9:15am</b>	1 Melyn (Mrs Reeves) class assembly
<b>Tuesday June 9th</b>	Year 3 trip to the 'Wild Place Project,' Bristol.
<b>Friday June 12th, time tbc</b>	Parent forum: 'Emotional Coaching' - An evidence-based strategy to support children to understand their emotions.
<b>Monday 15th - Friday 19th June: Health &amp; Wellbeing Week</b>	
<b>Monday June 15th (morning)</b>	Year 3 -6 sports day at the National Indoor Athletics Centre (NIAC): Cyncoed Campus, 9 Cyncoed Rd, Cardiff CF23 6XD
<b>Tuesday June 16th</b>	Nursery Sports Day - on school site - weather permitting

<b>9:15am &amp; 2pm</b>	
<b>Wed June 17th 9:15am</b>	Reception Sports Day - on school site- weather permitting
<b>Thurs June 18th 9:15am</b>	Year 1 Sports Day - on school site- weather permitting
<b>Friday June 19th 9:15am</b>	Year 2 Sports Day - on school site- weather permitting
<b>Wed June 24th @2pm</b>	Welcome Meeting for Families (Reception classes from September 2026)
<b>Thurs June 25th @2pm</b>	Welcome Meeting for Families (Nursery classes from September 2026)
<b>Thurs June 25th @ 9:15am</b>	Reception Melyn (Mrs Turner) class assembly
<b>Fri June 26th @ 9:15am</b>	Reception Porffor (Miss Jones) class assembly
<b>Friday July 3rd @ 9am</b>	Parent forum: 'The Incredible 5-Point Scale' - A visual tool for pupils to communicate their feelings.
<b>Friday July 10th</b>	Annual reports sent home
<b>Monday July 20th</b>	INSET day - school closed for staff training
<b>Tuesday July 21st - summer holidays begin</b>	

Thank you for all of your support.