



## Newsletter: May 2026

Dear Howardian Families,

I hope that your children have enjoyed this first half of the summer term. The summer term is always busy and it is delightful to see how much the children have grown since the start of September and are becoming ready for the next chapter of their school journey.

I would like to thank the Howardian staff who continue to work hard to provide exciting learning opportunities for our pupils. I would also like to thank you for your continued support. Working closely together gives our children the best opportunities to make progress socially, emotionally and academically. Most importantly, I would like to thank our amazing pupils; they are full of energy and enthusiasm and it is a privilege to spend time with them.

The aim of my monthly newsletter is to inform families of recent and future events; to celebrate occasions and achievements across the school; to give any staffing updates; to provide information on a range of issues such as applying for free school meal status, attendance & punctuality, safety around the school site and PTA events.

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

#### Monday April 20th:

Thanks to Mr Brind and Mr Gareth Evans, a Year 5 parent, for taking some of the rugby team to the Urdd Rugby 7s Tournament at Pontcanna Fields. The Year 5 and 6 pupils represented the school very well and Year 6 won 2 of their games.



**Wednesday April 22nd:** Urdd Rugby Legacy Festival at Pontcanna Fields. Thanks to Miss Griffiths who took 30 Year 6 pupils to enjoy some fun rugby-based activities in the sunshine.



**Wednesday April 22nd:**

A fantastic experience for some of our Year 3-5 girls who played football at Howell's school in the 'Road to the World Cup' competition. We were very proud of them and delighted that the Year 3 / 4 team were runners-up. Thanks to Mr Wheeler for organising.



**Wednesday April 22nd & Thursday April 23rd**



The netball team enjoyed the experience of playing at netball festival on Wednesday 22nd at the Cathedral School, and of playing a match against St St. Peter's on Thursday 23rd. Thanks to Mr Stuart Broom, parent, who has sponsored the netball kit. Thanks also to Mrs Martin for running the netball team this year.



**Thursday April 23rd & Friday April 24th**

Year 2 class assemblies: the children enjoyed confidently performing in front of their families and friends.

**Wednesday April 29th:**

Year 2 thoroughly enjoyed their trip to SS Brunel in Bristol as part of the launch of their topic, 'Are we there yet?'



**Thursday April 30th:** Year 4 visited the Bristol Aquarium for their topic, 'Blue Abyss.'



**Friday May 1st:** Year 1 enjoyed a day exploring caves and meeting the dinosaurs at Dan-yr-Ogof.



**Friday May 15th:** The netball team took part in a netball festival at Lakeside Primary.



**Wednesday May 20th:** Year 6 visited Techniquest as part of their topic, 'Tomorrow's World.'



**Wednesday May 20th:** Year 3 'Lion King' production.

What a fantastic end to this half term. The Year 3 pupils have been working so hard on their performance of 'The Lion King' and their hard work certainly paid off. The standard of the show was exceptional and to see the children perform with such confidence was a delight to see. I am very proud of each and every one of them.



### **Thursday May 21st**

Following National Bee Day on May 20th, Andy, Wendy and Richard from Gwent Beekeepers Association came to speak with the Year 5 children about pollination as part of their allotment project, and how important bees are to our environment. They brought in bee hives to show the children.



### **Siarter Iaith Gwobr Arain / Welsh Language Charter Silver Award**

Huge llongyfarchiadau (congratulations) to the whole school for being awarded this prestigious accolade.

A special shout out to the fantastic Ciriw Cymraeg who impressed the assessors, and to Mrs Steele for her strong leadership towards this. Da iawn, pawb!



### **Staffing Issues**

This week, we will say a warm farewell to Miss Sinclair and Mrs Steele who will be starting their maternity leaves after half term. We will keep you updated with news of their new arrivals! Miss Hana Abdi will cover Miss Sinclair's class until the end of the summer term, and Miss Lauren Thomas will cover Mrs Steele's. The classes have met their new teachers and the teachers have met together to ensure a smooth transition. From September, Miss Hannah Taylor and Mr Deckland Williams will be the maternity cover teachers.

Congratulations to Mrs Leonard who has been appointed as a teacher at Howardian from September.

As always, you will be informed of your child's new class teacher for September when you receive their annual report on Friday July 10th.

Mr Frost is currently covering Miss Taylor's Year 5 class in her absence.

## Attendance

# Attendance ladder

## How close are you to 100%

100%	Perfection	0 days off school	0 lessons missed
99%	Excellent	2 days off school each year	10 hours of education missed
97%	Good	5 days off school each year	25 hours of education missed
94%	Slight concern	11 days off school each year	55 hours of education missed
90% Persistently Absent	Concerned	19 days off school each year	95 hours of education missed
85% Persistently Absent	Very concerned	29 days off school each year	145 hours of education missed

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.

### **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**

Just a reminder that, from June 1st, the school will be using Arbor as its main form of communication. If you have not already done so, please download the Arbor app so that you can receive messages from school.

Please use this link:

<http://login.arbor.sc>

click on 'forgot password' and set up an account.

School lunches will still need to be ordered using ParentPay as the council's catering department has a contract with this company for the next 3 years.

### **Parent Workshops and Forums**

Mr Brind has organised 2 remaining parent/carer coffee forums, as follows:

- 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.

Thanks to all involved in the recent school discos. Nearly £800 was raised.

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.

### **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>Monday May 25th – Friday May 29th: Half term Children return to school on Monday June 1st</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>Friday June 5th</b>	Reception classes trip to Cefn Mably farm
<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 9:15am &amp; 2pm</b>	Nursery Sports Day - on school site - weather permitting

<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 13th</b>	Nursery Graduation Ceremonies
<b>Tuesday July 14th @ 2pm</b>	Year 6 Leavers' Concert
<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.

