



Newsletter: June 2026

Dear Howardian Families,

Thank you for all of your understanding and support with the recent extremely hot weather. Despite the very warm conditions, the children were very sensible and kept as cool as they could. Please continue to send your children to school with sunhats, water bottles and sunscreen applied whenever the weather is warm.

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

Thursday 4th & Friday 5th June

Year 1 performed excellent class assemblies for their families and friends.

Friday 5th June

Our Reception classes enjoyed a trip to Cefn Mably Farm to enhance their 'Animal Adventures' topic.



Tuesday June 9th

As part of their 'Predators' topic, Year 3 had a great day at the zoo at The Wild Place in Bristol.



Friday June 12th

Year 6 Enterprise Morning.

This event was to raise funds for the Year 6 trip at the end of term. The children decided to run a cafe and a car-washing service. The learning that went into this project was purposeful and engaging for the children. They had to learn about budgets and risk assessments; they were also interviewed by Mrs Curran for the jobs involved. They applied for resources from local shops and they went shopping for their ingredients. They raised nearly £500 profit towards their end-of-year trip.



Monday June 15th–Friday June 19th: annual Health and Wellbeing Week

This is our annual week where we focus on healthy lifestyles and relationships. This is one of the 6 areas of learning and experience on the Curriculum for Wales and aspects of this are taught regularly throughout the year. However, this week provides an opportunity for the children to experience different activities (e.g. taekwondo, tennis) that they may not have tried before. We also taught the children about railway safety and we have used the nspcc resource: 'Speak out, Stay Safe' – a safeguarding programme that aims to equip children with the knowledge they need to stay safe from abuse and neglect. This week was also Refugee week – the theme was Courage; this fitted in nicely with our Health and Wellbeing week, so all classes carried out an activity to teach children about the challenges faced by refugees and how they can be supported.

We also held our annual sports days during this week. As usual, the KS2 sports day was held at NIAC (Cardiff Met). Tenby was the winning house. The Foundation Phase sports days all went ahead, despite a couple of postponements, and the children gave 100% in all of their activities. Da iawn, pawb!

Thank you to Mrs Jones for organising the activities throughout the week.



Saturday June 20th	HowieFest: our annual PTA event. Message from the PTA: Thanks to your generosity we raised £1,910! Thanks to all the families and children who attended HowieFest on Saturday. Thanks to your generosity, the event raised £1,910 profit which will be used to directly benefit children at our school. Thanks also to those families who were unable to make it, but who kindly purchased a ticket as a donation. Special thanks to all the parent and staff volunteers who came to help set up, run stalls and tidy up afterwards. It was wonderful to see so many new faces coming to join the small army of people needed to safely run our annual summer fair. We also thank all the families who donated soft toys, something for the rainbow raffle, and their time in making such a delicious array of cakes and savoury treats. The home made goods are a fantastic fundraiser and we were able to sell everything. We look forward to enjoying good, wholesome home made treats again. The raffle draw will take place this week and winners will be notified by Friday. Thank you all once again for all your generosity and kindness in helping us make HowieFest happen, your support makes a difference to the learning experiences for all children at Howardian Primary School.
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Staffing Updates

A huge Howardian Congratulations to Mrs Steele who had her beautiful baby – George – on June 5th. Also to Miss Sinclair who also had a beautiful baby boy – Harry – who was born on June 21st.

Water Safety

During warm summer weather, it is important to be aware of the dangers around cold water shock in rivers, lakes, and reservoirs and of swimming and jumping into open water. In 2024, there were 54 water-related fatalities in Wales and during the recent May half term and bank holiday heatwave, at least 14 people lost their lives in water-related incidents across the UK. These tragedies largely involved children and teenagers.

Water Safety Wales, Welsh Water, Cardiff Council and National Resources Wales frequently share river safety messaging across their social media accounts, please refer to the link below.

<https://www.watersafetywales.org.uk/advice-hub>

Attendance

We have a number of families who are taking their children out of school to go on holidays. This can have a negative impact on the social, emotional and academic progress of the children. I politely ask you to consider making alternative arrangements wherever possible. Thank you!

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.

Communication

Just a reminder that we are trying to move towards using Arbor as our 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 1 remaining parent/carers coffee forums, as follows:

- 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.

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 take 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

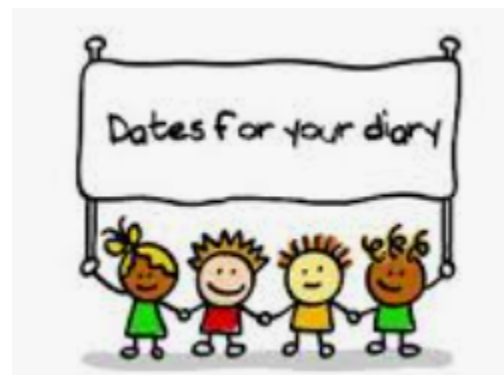
We have a good stock of food which is available to support families should you wish to receive food bags. All requests will be dealt with sensitively and discretely. Please contact the office or myself directly to arrange collection.

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:



Friday June 26th @ 9:15am	Miss Jones's class assembly (Reception)
Tues June 30th @ 9:15am	Mrs Turner's class assembly (Reception)
Tuesday June 30th @2pm	Welcome Meeting for Families (Reception classes from September 2026)
Thurs July 2nd @11am	Welcome Meeting for Families (Nursery classes from September 2026)

Friday July 3rd @ 9am	Parent forum: 'The Incredible 5-Point Scale' – A visual tool for pupils to communicate their feelings.
Friday July 10th	Annual reports sent home; your children will find out their new class teachers.
Monday July 13th	Nursery Graduation Ceremonies
Tuesday July 14th @ 2pm	Year 6 Leavers' Concert
Thursday July 16th (a.m.)	Most classes will spend the morning with their new teachers in their new classrooms. Some classes may have this on a different date due to staffing issues.
Monday July 20th	INSET day – school closed for staff training
Tuesday July 21st – summer holidays begin	
Tuesday September 1st	INSET day
Wednesday September 2nd	Children will start back to school: Nursery and Reception classes will have staggered starts.

Thank you for all of your support.