Howardian Primary School

Newsletter: July 2026



Dear Howardian Families,

I don't think many of us can quite believe how quickly this past year has flown. We have delighted in watching your children grow and thrive. On behalf of the staff, thank you for your kind wishes, cards and gifts at the end of this term

I would like to express my gratitude and thank the following people:

- all of the fantastic staff at Howardian who work tirelessly to ensure that your children have the nurture, care, support and guidance which helps them to make progress socially, emotionally and academically
- our committed and dedicated Governing Body for all of their support and guidance during my first year as Headteacher
- all of you, our families, for your ongoing support and encouragement to make sure that your children attend school regularly and on time, and for working with us to ensure that we are providing those close home/school links which are so important
- our amazing pupils who work incredibly hard and embrace every opportunity to learn.

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.

I wish you and your families a very enjoyable summer, making lots of special and precious memories.

Warmest Regards,

Mrs Sian Burt (Headteacher)

Key Events since the last Newsletter

Year 6 transition days	We have been very proud of our Year 6 pupils who have attended transition events in their respective high schools. They have been outstanding representatives of our school. Diolch!

Year 6 Leavers Trip Monday July 6th

Year 6 attended their end-of-Howardian trip to Nantgarw where they enjoyed bowling, karaoke and laser tag. Again, they represented our school incredibly well and the Year 6 staff and myself are incredibly proud of them.







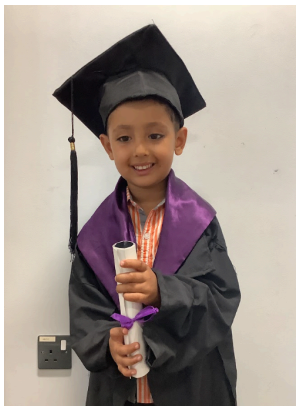
Expressive Arts Celebration Tuesday July 7th

This was a very special event where the families of the choir, dance club and Year 6 instrumentalists were able to enjoy performances from these children. A huge Diolch yn Fawr to Miss Bradleigh, Mrs Kim and Mrs Murphy for leading the choir; to Miss Griffiths and Mrs Steele for teaching the dancers, and to the very talented Year 6 instrumentalists. Expressive Arts is a very important area of learning to us at Howardian and we recognise its importance in developing confidence and supporting wellbeing. I was very proud of them all!





Nursery Graduation Monday July 13th



This was a lovely opportunity for families of our Nursery pupils to celebrate their time spent in Nursery and to look forward to starting Reception in September. Thanks to Mrs Brunker and the Nursery staff for organising this.



Year 6 Leavers Concert Tuesday July 14th

This is always a time of mixed emotions. We are excited for our Year 6 pupils as they embark on their high school adventures, but we feel sorry to wave them off. Their Leavers concert was very poignant and funny at the same time. They are a very talented group of young people. Thanks to all of the staff who supported this event, especially to Miss Griffiths, Mrs Martin and Mrs Atkins.













PTA

I would like to express heartfelt thanks to our PTA team of volunteers. They demonstrate unwavering support, dedication and commitment throughout the year and they have worked incredibly hard yet again to raise invaluable funds for our school. **Your children have benefitted from this.** Projects and resources they have supported include the Christmas pantomimes, Expressive Arts week, Year 3 swimming, our sports day at Cardiff Met for years 3-6, Forest School resources, resources to enhance our learning environments and funds towards the Year 6 leavers party. Some of these events might not be able to take

place without the funding from our PTA. If you are able to participate in any PTA work, please get in touch. Our current team have children in our older classes so their time with us is increasingly limited. The PTA AGM will be held on **Tuesday September 15th at 7pm. Please attend if you can.**

Staffing Updates

We wish Miss Bradleigh all the very best for her wedding day celebrations this summer. She will return to us in September as Mrs Trigg.

Please see below the staffing structure for the 2026-27 academic year.

CLASS/ROLE	TEACHER	TEACHING ASSISTANTS
Nursery a.m. - Meithrin Melyn (MM) p.m - Meithrin Porffor (MP)	Mrs R Brunker	Mrs S Kim Mrs U Kauser
Derbyn Melyn (DM) Derbyn Porffor (DP)	Mrs J Turner Miss S Jones	Mrs G Noaks (Mon-Thur) Mrs C Jones (Fri) Miss H Thomas
1 Melyn (1M) 1 Porffor (1P)	Mrs G Murphy (Maternity covered by Mrs N Wyatt until Jan 2027) / Mrs L Hardwick- (Senior Leadership Team) Mrs S Reeves	Mrs K Lennox Mrs E Edwards
2 Melyn (2M) 2 Porffor (2P)	Mrs T Steele (Maternity covered by Mr D Williams until summer term 2027) Miss H Bradley	Mrs S Saridaki Miss B Huish
3 Melyn (3M) 3 Porffor (3P)	Mrs K Jones (Senior Leadership Team) Miss G Taylor	KS2 intervention TAs - see below
4 Melyn (4M) 4 Porffor (4P)	Miss P Sinclair (Maternity covered by Miss H Taylor until summer term 2027) Mr D Wheeler (Senior Leadership Team)	KS2 intervention TAs - see below
5 Melyn (5M) 5 Porffor (5P)	Miss N Court / Miss E Davies (Maternity covered by Miss T Brett until Jan 2027) Mrs Z Leonard	Mrs S Aflatoonian Miss L Fowler (0.6) KS2 intervention TAs - see below
6 Melyn (6M) 6 Porffor (6P)	Mrs R Martin Miss S Griffiths (Assistant Headteacher)	KS2 intervention TAs - see below
THRIVE / Family Liaison HLTA	Miss L Britton	
KS2 Interventions	Miss N Waters, Mrs T Kiff, Mrs L Bennett	

Forest Schools	Mrs C Jones
Deputy Head teacher/ ALNCo	Mr D Brind
Head teacher	Mrs S Burt
Site Manager	Mr J Ellaway
Senior Administrator Tuesday- Friday	Mrs L Curran
Admin Assistant Monday - Thursday	Mrs A Liddington
Mid-day supervisors	Mrs M Ruiz-Gutierrez Mrs R Choudhry Mrs S Hewings

Farewells
We say a very fond farewell to Mrs Atkins who has been with us at Howardian since December 2023. We will miss her terribly as she has become a very much valued member of our Howardian community. We wish her all the best as she moves to Cardiff High school.

We also bid a very warm goodbye to our amazing Year 6 cohort. They have brought so much to our school; kindness, energy, enthusiasm, humour and courtesy. They will be heading off to around 14 different high schools in total. We know that they will continue to thrive and always be Howardian Superstars at heart, wherever their destinations. Please keep in touch and pop back and visit us! You will be missed.

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 & Punctuality

Well done to our Howardian Superstars who have attended school every day during the summer term:









And a massive congratulations to those in the photos below who have attended school every single day for the whole academic year!





You are able to use the Arbor app to track your child's attendance at any time.

Attendance below 95% could have a negative impact on your child's progress.

Please try to avoid holidays during term time and keep us updated of any issues which may affect attendance.

Learning begins as soon as the children walk through the door in the mornings. Please ensure that children arrive at school punctually. Persistent lateness can affect their emotional wellbeing as well as their academic progress.

We have been working with other local schools to create an Attendance policy which will be shared with you in due course. Moving forward, no holidays for any of our pupils (Nursery through to Year 6) will be authorised unless there are exceptional circumstances.

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.

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.

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 Autumn term are as follows:

Tuesday September 1st	INSET day
Wednesday September 2nd	Children will start back to school: Nursery and Reception classes will have staggered starts.
Wed 2nd-Friday 4th September	Year 5 residential to Llangrannog
Monday 7th- Friday 11th Sept	Year 6 residential to Storey Arms
Tuesday September 15th 7pm	PTA AGM (Annual General Meeting).
Friday October 9th	Year 3 trip to Caerleon
Wednesday October 14th	Flu vaccinations for all pupils in Reception - Year 6
Tues 13th & Wed 14th Oct	Parents Evenings
Tues Oct 20th-Thurs Oct 22nd	Year 6 streetwise travel training
Friday October 23rd	INSET day
Monday October 26th-Friday October 30th: Half Term	
Monday November 2nd	Children return to school
Friday December 18th	Break up for the Christmas Holidays

INSET days
These are days when school is closed to pupils for staff professional development and training.
INSET days for the next academic year are as follows:

- Tuesday September 1st 2026
- Friday October 23rd 2026
- Monday January 4th 2027
- Friday April 30th 2027
- Monday July 19th 2027
- Tuesday July 20th 2027

Term Dates 2026-2027

TERM	TERM BEGINS	HALF TERM BEGINS	HALF TERM ENDS	TERM ENDS
Autumn Term	Tuesday 1st September 2026	Monday 26th October 2026	Friday 30th October 2026	Friday 18th December 2026
Spring Term	Monday 4th January 2027	Monday 8th February 2027	Friday 12th February 2027	Friday 19th March 2027
Summer Term	Monday 5th April 2027	Monday 31st May 2027	Friday 4th June 2027	Tuesday 20th July 2027

Thank you for all of your support.