



## **Newsletter: March 2026**

Dear Howardian Families,

It is truly hard to believe that we are nearing the end of the spring term already. The mornings and evenings are starting to become lighter and brighter and there are definite signs of spring around us. We have had an incredibly busy term and our pupils have experienced a wide range of exciting learning opportunities, as I hope you will see from this newsletter. Thank you for all your support with the various non-uniform days and fundraisers this term.

One of the highlights of this term has been our annual Eisteddfod where the whole school community celebrated Wales and its traditions, language and culture.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, as parents and carers, and our dedicated staff, for all the hard work and commitment that goes into developing our children to be ambitious, capable learners; ethically informed citizens; enterprising, creative contributors and healthy and confident individuals. These are the four core purposes at the heart of the Curriculum for Wales.

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

Warmest Regards,

*Mrs Sian Burt (Headteacher)*

### **Eisteddfod**

Our annual Eisteddfod just seems to get better and better. This year, the talent and standard of work and performances was incredible. The children spent the first week after half term preparing for the various competitions: handwriting, poetry-writing, art, Welsh singing, poetry recitation and musical performances from some of our very accomplished musicians. In addition, the children worked really hard on their half term projects to produce impressive 3-D models and posters to promote the use of the Welsh language. During the Eisteddfod, the children supported their houses very enthusiastically and it was a very close competition from start to finish, with Tenby being the final winners. A special shout-out to Sofia in Year 6 who won the

acclaimed Chair of the Bard award with her winning poem. A huge thank you to all the staff but especially to Mrs Steele for organising this event so efficiently.



## Key Events since the last Newsletter

### Tuesday 3rd March

The rugby team had an amazing experience of playing in the Rugby 10s tournament at Pentrych. Thanks to Mr Brind and Mr Gareth Evans (parent) for giving the children the opportunity to participate in this event.



### Wednesday 4th March

Tree planting at Roath Rec. Seventeen pupils from Years 5 & 6 who are members of our pupil groups – the Senedd, the Criw Cymraeg and the Eco Council, attended.



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| <b>Thursday 5th March</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Paul Leyshon, author, spoke with the KS2 children about his book, Joni Jones and the Ghost Train. Thanks to Miss Sinclair for organising this.                                                                                               |
| <b>Thursday 5th March</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Parents and carers of Eisteddfod winners were invited into school to see their children perform.                                                                                                                                             |
| <p><b>Friday 6th March:</b> World Book Day. Children and staff were invited to dress up as a favourite book character. There was a carousel of activities within year groups to mark this event.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: flex-end;">   </div> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <p><b>Monday 9th March:</b> Nursery pupils went on a local walk and, as part of their social action learning, they did some litter picking. They also had time for fun in the park!</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: flex-end;">   </div>          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Monday 9th March</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Non-uniform day in aid of the Year 4 and 5 School of Rock show. £493 was raised. Thank you to all who contributed towards this event. Thank you also to those parents and carers who have made such generous donations to the show's raffle. |

### Howardian Primary and Social Media

Back in the autumn term, the Governing Body made the decision to stop using 'X' as a social media platform within Howardian. We have been looking at how we can use social media and, in line with the launch of our new website, we have set up Facebook and Instagram accounts. The details for these are as follows:

Facebook: Howardian Primary School

Instagram: howardianprimary

These will be used largely to promote and advertise the school and its events. In order to inform parents of what their children are doing in school, we will use SeeSaw across the whole school. Staff will use this to show pictures of children's activities and events of special interest within class and when on trips. Please ensure that you are able to log into SeeSaw. If you are not able to do so, please contact your child's class teacher and they will be able to sort this out for you.

### **Website**

Our new website is now live! On this, you will be able to access the school's calendar, key information about the school (including policies, information about ALN, how to support your child's learning at home) as well as your child's year group pages where you will find out what your child is learning about in school. Please visit the website to see how this has been updated. Thank you to Miss Griffiths, Assistant Headteacher, for coordinating this piece of work.

The website can be accessed using this link:

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

### **School of Rock**

Our annual Year 4 / 5 show (this year it is School of Rock) will take place on Tuesday March 24th at The Gate Arts Centre, Keppoch Street, Roath. It is promising to be an incredible event. The children and staff have worked incredibly hard and I would like to thank the parents and carers who have helped behind the scenes with props and programmes, among other things.

### **School of Rock raffle - Message from Year 5:**

*In order to raise funds, we have decided to organise a raffle. Each entry will cost £2 and is now available for you to purchase on parentpay. Family members who are not on parent pay will also be able to purchase raffle tickets on the day of the show in cash. Each £2 paid will equate to 1 entry into the raffle. You can choose any donation amount to make your probability of winning greater e.g. £10 would equal 5 entries into the raffle. The raffle will close on Tuesday 24th March and will be drawn on Wednesday 25th March. Please see below some of the incredible prizes available. We would like to thank the 'Parent Show Committee' for their hard-work organising this amazing raffle! We would also like to thank all of the local businesses and*

*parents who have given such generous donations. Prizes include: Restaurant Vouchers; Wok to Walk Voucher x2; Beans to Coffee £20 Voucher; WRU Branded Merchandise; Stationery Gift Set; £100 Skin Care Voucher; Weeks David Lloyd Family Pass; Family of 4 Cineworld Tickets; Bottles of Wine; Jewelry Gift sets; Free MOT; Family of 4 Foot Golf Passes X3; Slug and Lettuce voucher, and much more! We are extremely appreciative of your ongoing support. It really does make a huge difference to the opportunities we can offer our pupils across the whole school.*

### **Management Information System**

Management Information Systems (or MIS) are the way that we store and access data about our pupils – names, dates of birth, addresses, contact details, any medical information, etc. The council has recently migrated from a system called SIMS to one called ARBOR. This migration has been a huge process of change and has involved a lot of training and extra work for our admin team – Mrs Curran and Mrs Liddington. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them. I would also like to thank those families who have experienced some difficulty around this for their patience and understanding. The recent parents’ evenings were a particular challenge and led to families having to cancel initial appointments and make new ones. This was beyond school’s control and again, thank you to Mrs Curran who was able to resolve any issues. I am aware that there are still teething problems for some families, and I hope that these will be rectified as soon as possible.

### **Parent / Carer Questionnaires**

Thank you to those 61 families who have completed the recent parent / carer questionnaire. Your feedback is a really important tool that we use to improve our practices within the school. I will be collating the responses and will feed back to you in the summer term. If you have not yet completed the questionnaire and would like to do so, you are still able to access it using this link, or the link that was texted out recently. Please ensure you complete this before the end of term.

<https://forms.gle/UPHrUkZpC4u12JMY8>

### **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

### Join the PTA!



Here are recent funds raised by our dedicated PTA:

Elfradiges £612

Winter Festival £410

Alphagraphics Xmas £332 (the christmas items with the childrens pictures)

Feb Cinema £934

The PTA funds are increasingly important to support our school budget. Many activities and events may not be sustainable without their support (e.g annual pantomime trips, Year 3 swimming lessons).

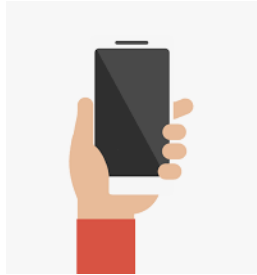
This year, the PTA will be funding activities in our Expressive Arts week, along with resources for our outdoor learning environments. Please support PTA events so that these funds can be maintained.

Our current PTA committee have children who are nearing the end of their primary school days and we desperately need new faces to take over. Please contact me if you are interested in taking a more active role within the PTA.

## 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.

### **Staffing**

- We are very pleased to announce that Mrs Steele in Year 2 and Miss Sinclair in Year 4 are both expecting their first babies (both boys) in June. I will contact the parents and carers of the children in the classes nearer the time to inform them of the cover arrangements, but rest assured that the teachers who take over will be very committed to the school and to the wellbeing and education of the pupils that they teach.
- Mrs Brunker, our Nursery teacher, is recovering from her second round of foot surgery. Her absence is being covered by the very capable Mrs Mathias, and I would like to thank her for the fantastic care that she provides for our Nursery pupils.

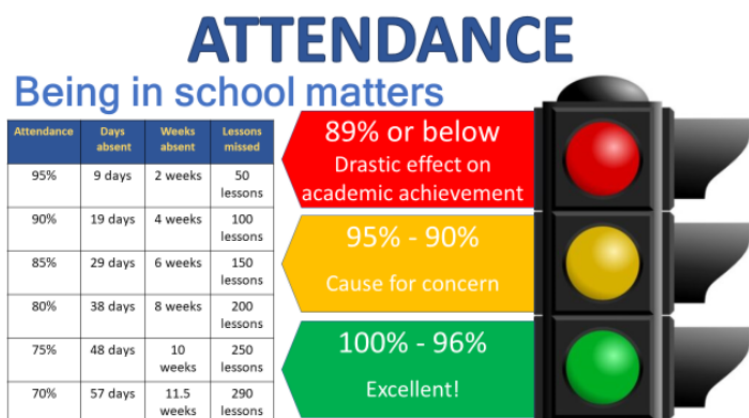
### **Food Bags**

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.



### Attendance

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.

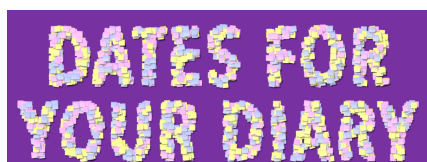
In order for our pupils to make the

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.



### 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 coming weeks are as follows:

|                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Friday March 20th:</b>                                                                                         | Comic Relief (Red Nose Day). The School Senedd have decided that they would like to support this year's 'Take Yourself Funny for Money' by dressing up in as 'whacky' a way as possible, with 'crazy hair.' This is totally optional. Any donations can be made via ParentPay.                                                                               |
| <b>Friday March 20th:</b>                                                                                         | Year 1 trip to Techniquet. Year 1 pupils to wear school uniform; they can wear Red Nose Day outfits on Thursday March 19th if they wish.                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Tuesday March 24th:</b>                                                                                        | Year 4/5 show at The Gate.<br>Performances at 2:30pm and 5pm.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Friday March 27th: 2:45pm</b>                                                                                  | Spring bonnet parade (Nursery to Year 2 pupils)<br>Pupils can bring in spring or Easter bonnets from home to parade around the playground (weather permitting) at 2:45pm. Families will be welcome to observe this event.                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Thursday March 26th:</b><br> | Eid Parties. Eid will be on the 19th or 20th March. We wish our Muslim families a very happy Eid - Eid Mubarak! We will celebrate this important festival on Thursday March 26th. Children may bring in a labelled plate of party food (no nuts). This will be in addition to normal lunch arrangements. Children may also wear non-uniform / party clothes. |
| <b>Monday March 30th – Friday April 10th: Easter Holidays</b>                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Monday April 13th – Friday 17th:</b>                                                                           | Expressive Arts Week. Please inform us if you have any expertise in this area that you would be willing to share with our children.                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

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|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Friday April 17th @ 9am:</b>                     | Parent Forum – Supporting Children who Appear to be Anxious |
| <b>Thursday April 23rd<br/>@ 9:15am:</b>            | 2 Porffor (Miss Bradley's) class assembly                   |
| <b>Friday April 24th<br/>@ 9:15am:</b>              | 2 Melyn (Mrs Steeles's) class assembly                      |
| <b>Monday May 25th – Friday May 29th: Half term</b> |                                                             |

**INSET days 2025–2026** – Staff professional training: school closed to pupils

**Summer Term:** Thursday 7th May and Monday 20th July

I hope that you all have a very happy spring / Easter holiday and that you are able to spend some quality time with your families and friends, hopefully in the sunshine!

