



Newsletter: January 2026

Dear Howardian Families,

I hope that you all enjoyed the Christmas break. It has been lovely to welcome the children back to school and to see how smoothly they have eased back into the routines of school and their learning activities. I am sure that, with your continued support, 2026 will bring a wide range of opportunities which will enable your children to develop their skills in order to develop socially, emotionally and academically. I hope you find the content of this newsletter informative and of interest.

Warmest Regards,

Mrs Sian Burt (Headteacher)

STEM week (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths)

Whilst STEM week is usually marked later on in the spring term in most parts of Britain, it has become a Howardian tradition that we celebrate STEM week during the first week back after Christmas. This provides the children with a more fun and interactive start to the term which seems to ease them into their learning in a very purposeful way. The theme for STEM week this year was: '*Curiosity: What is your question?*' A huge thank you to all of the staff for organising such fun and educationally beneficial activities for the children, but especially to Miss Bradley for co-ordinating the week and for organising various workshops across the school. Also, a very big thank you to the parents / carers who gave up their valuable time to come in and deliver workshops to the children. We have a huge amount of expertise within our school community, ranging from geologists, civil engineers, microbiologists, doctors, polar explorers and economists.

I'm sure you'll agree that the following photographs from across the school demonstrate that a lot of learning and fun was had by all, including the staff!



Safe and Considerate Driving and Parking

Unfortunately, despite regular reminders on this issue, a few adults who drive to school to drop off or collect their children continue to park on the yellow lines or zig-zags and to drive in a way that compromises the safety of our children and school community. A recent email was sent out to all families asking you to abide by the traffic measures that are in place to keep us all safe. Please support us to do so.

If possible, if you do need to drive your children to school, please park a short distance away from the neighbouring streets and walk the remaining 5-10 minutes.

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.

Staffing

- Congratulations to Mrs Murphy and her husband who welcomed their beautiful baby girl, Sylvia, to the world at the end of December. I am sure you share our very best wishes to their new family.
- We welcome Miss Court back from maternity leave.
- We also welcome Miss Brett to the Howardian team; she will be teaching 3 Porffor alongside Mrs Leonard whilst Miss Davies is on maternity leave. To date, there is no news of the arrival of Miss Davies's baby girl. We'll keep you posted.

Parent / Carer Coffee Morning and Workshop: Emotional Regulation: Friday January 16th @ 9am

Mr Brind has organised the above event to assist families who may appreciate information and strategies which could help them to support their child/ren's emotional regulation. The session will be led by one of the specialist teachers from the Local Authority's Emotional Health & Wellbeing team. Thank you to those parents and carers who have signed up for this event. If you would like to attend, please sign up at your earliest convenience using the link that was emailed to you on Tuesday

January 6th:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfUsb1AL5HWclAdaQi4UAjkcIli4lqKylzmaI9zLnUI69455g/viewform?usp=publish-editor>

Love Learning About Money Workshop

This very useful and informative session is booked for Wednesday January 28th 9:15-11:15am. Please contact school if you wish to attend.



LOVE LEARNING ABOUT MONEY

What is Love Learning about Money?

- Love Learning about Money is a short programme designed to help families talk and learn about money together.
- Learn about money management in a fun and creative way, in a supportive environment with friendly facilitators.
- Equip your children with the knowledge and skills they need to effectively manage money now and, in the future, as well as spending and saving from an early age.

How the course helps:

- Helps us look at the importance of talking to children about money.
- Ideas for dealing with peer power and needs and wants. We also look at making memories without spending money.
- Learning through play and having fun.
- Activities to help us plan and involve our children in managing and saving money.

Where & when?

Onsite.
Wednesday January 28th 2026
From 9.15 am

For more information or to book onto the 3 week programme please call or text –
Bea: 07966173629 or Rachel: 07813458137

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.

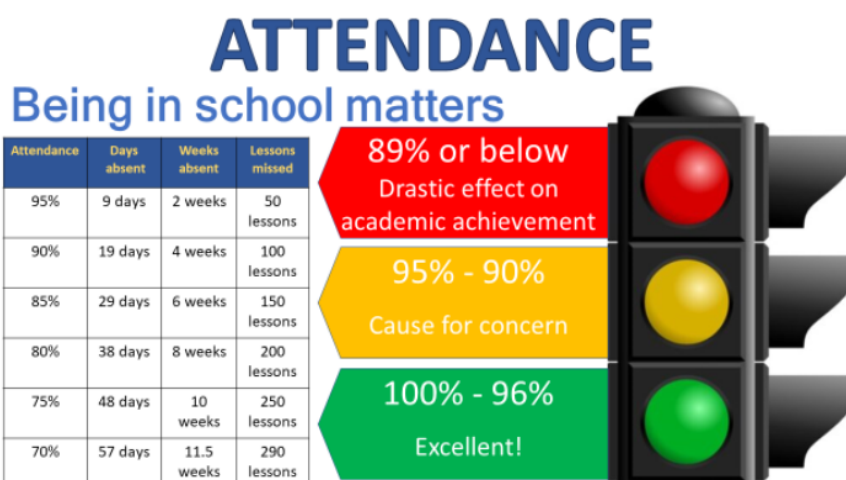
Please support your child's development by:

- 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.

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.

Primary (and secondary) school pupils will get free school meals if their family receives:

- Income Support
- Income Related Employment Support Allowance
- Income Based JobsSeeker's Allowance
- Guarantee Element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit with an income less than £16,190 or
- Universal Credit if the net household earnings are less than £7400.

*Families who get Working Tax Credit do not qualify.

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.

If you have not yet subscribed to the school calendar, please do so at your earliest convenience so that you do not miss key events.

Key events for the first half term in January/February are:

Monday 12th– Friday 16th January: 5P – Miss Taylor, Cycling Proficiency week

Monday 19th– Friday 23rd January: 5M – Miss Court/Mrs Wyatt, Cycling Proficiency week

Friday January 16th: Supporting Children with Emotional Regulation – Parent workshop in the school hall (9am)

Monday January 26th – Friday February 6th: Year 3 swimming lessons at NIAC

Wednesday January 28th 9:15–11:15am: Love Learning About Money session

Tuesday February 3rd & Wednesday February 4th: Parents' Evening

w/b Monday 9th February: Children's Mental Health Week

Thursday 12th February: Year 3 Melyn (Mrs Jones) class assembly

Friday 13th February: Year 3 Porffor (Mrs Leonard / Miss Brett) class assembly

Monday February 16th – Friday February 20th: Half Term week

After Half Term:

Tuesday 24th March: Year 4/5 show at The Gate

Monday 30th March: Easter holidays begin

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

Spring Term: Monday 23rd February

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

Thank you for your continued support and for working together with us to ensure that your children strive to achieve the Welsh curriculum's four core purposes, – to develop as:

- ❖ ambitious, capable learners;
- ❖ ethical informed citizens;
- ❖ healthy and confident individuals;
- ❖ and enterprising, creative contributors.

