Howardian Primary School

Newsletter: September 2026



Dear Howardian Families,

Welcome back to school following a very warm summer holiday! A special welcome to our new families. I am sure that you will settle into our fantastic, friendly community and be made to feel very welcome.

The school staff have many plans to make our school year exciting for our pupils, with lots of purposeful learning activities and experiences which will support both academic progress and the wellbeing of your children.

Our partnership with you as parents and carers is very important to facilitate this progress. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher with any concerns in the first instance. In the vast majority of cases, any of these concerns can be quickly resolved.

Please take some time to read the information in the September Newsletter below. This may be particularly useful for new families.

I look forward to working with you to ensure that your children have the best possible experience in their primary years. As a Mum of three, I understand how important these formative years are. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any queries or concerns.

Kind Regards,

Mrs Sian Burt (Headteacher)

Staff Structure Autumn Term 2026

Please see below the staffing structure for this term. We welcome Miss Hannah Taylor as one of our Year 4 teachers; she will be covering Miss Sinclair's maternity leave until the summer term. We welcome back Mr Dekland Williams who will be covering Mrs Steele's maternity leave until the summer term. Miss Lataya Mathias will be one of the teaching assistants in reception until Miss Thomas returns in the spring term. Miss Hesp will be in Year 2 for the Autumn term and Miss Blake will be in Nursery .

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 (Miss L Mathias - Autumn term)
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	Miss B Huish 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 A Hesp (Autumn term)
3 Melyn (3M) 3 Porffor (3P)	Mrs K Jones (Senior Leadership Team) Miss G Taylor	
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)	
5 Melyn (5M) 5 Porffor (5P)	Miss N Court / Miss E Davies (Maternity covered by Miss Tesni Brett until Jan 2027) Mrs Z Leonard	Mrs S Aflatoonian Miss L Fowler (0.6)

6 Melyn (6M) 6 Porffor (6P)	Mrs R Martin Miss S Griffiths (Assistant Headteacher)	
THRIVE / Family Liaison HLTA	Miss L Britton Mrs K Lennox	
KS2 Interventions	Miss N Waters, Mrs T Kiff, Mrs L Bennett	
PPA	Mrs C Mathias, Miss L Britton, Mrs K Lennox, senior TAs	
Forest Schools	Mrs C Jones (0.6)	
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	

At times, the needs of the children and classes are subject to change and we may need to re-allocate staff accordingly.

Introduction to the New Academic Year

Teachers will send out presentations including all key details for the following year. Details to follow. If you have any queries around any of the information, please speak with your child's teacher.

Residential Trips September 2026

Our annual residential trips to Llangrannog (Year 5) and Storey Arms (Year 6) were another fantastic success this year, and I could not be prouder of our children. They showed incredible maturity, teamwork, and resilience as they tackled new challenges and stepped outside their comfort zones. A huge thank you goes to our amazing staff, whose hard work, care, and dedication makes these memorable experiences possible for everyone.

Llangrannog















Storey Arms











School Improvement Priorities (SIP)

Following robust self-evaluation, we have identified 5 key areas for our SIP for this academic year. These are as follows:

Priority	Key staff member
1. To improve provision, standards and attitudes towards reading, including those of vulnerable pupils.	David Brind
2. Continue to develop and make changes to the curriculum and provision in line with the Curriculum for Wales.	Kelly Jones
3. To Develop The 'Three Enablers' in order to promote pupil independence and improve standards.	Lauren Hardwick
4. To strengthen pupil engagement and pupil voice in order to promote positive attitudes to learning.	Dean Wheeler
5. Further develop a distributive leadership system across the school.	Sian Burt

Reading / Monster Phonics

Cardiff, the Local Authority, has identified reading as a priority in schools, as has the Welsh Government and Estyn. In line with this, reading will be one of the main school priorities at Howardian this year.

Reading is central to all areas of learning and experience, and is an essential life skill. In order to become enthusiastic, capable readers, we are committed to promoting a love for reading. Parents and carers can support this by having regular, daily reading sessions at home where families enjoy reading together. Read favourite books including picture books, comics and magazines, non-fiction, recipes…… And most importantly, discuss what you read - this will develop important oracy skills.

Cardiff has committed to a 3-year plan to provide Monster Phonics, a very successful phonics programme, to primary schools across the city. Parents / carers of younger pupils will receive communication related to Monster Phonics and we aim to provide workshops for parents during the year (dates tbc).

In the meantime, you may find the website informative:

https://monsterphonics.com/monster-phonics-for-parents/

How to Raise a Concern

We ask that you raise any concerns you may have as soon as possible, as if things are allowed to build up and escalate, they become less easy to resolve.
In the first instance, please contact the class teacher in order to discuss your concerns. In the rare instance that things cannot be resolved, please contact the school to discuss this with the Assistant Headteacher, Miss S Griffiths, or the Deputy Headteacher, Mr D Brind. If you are still not satisfied, then please contact me. Our Complaints Policy is available to view on our website. (key information - policies)
https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/howardian-primary-school/UploadedDocument/73793b92-8436-4d53-b991-82454324a9a4/complaints-policy.pdf

Uniform

We have a School Uniform and Appearance policy which can be accessed via our website:
https://www.howardianprimaryschool.co.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=70&type=pdf
We support and encourage the wearing of our school uniform and we kindly request that you do so as well. The Welsh Government identifies that school uniform:

- provides a sense of identity, community and cohesion within the school
- supports positive behaviour and school discipline
- ensures that pupils dress appropriately for learning activity
- removes peer pressure to dress in particular fashions
- enables pupils of all backgrounds to share in a common identity
- helps reduce inequalities between pupils and helps reduce some triggers for bullying
- supports and promotes the ethos of the school



Our branded uniform is available to buy from YC sports on Crwys Road, but we are very happy for families to buy non-branded school uniform from other outlets (e.g. large supermarkets). We also have a large supply of pre-worn uniform in our upcycling shed in the Loading Bay at the front of the school. Please help yourselves to this.

We kindly ask that pupils do not wear football kits to school or bring them in for PE lessons as this can lead to disagreements which have a negative impact on learning. We also ask that pupils wear sensible and safe footwear (e.g. not crocs or flip-flops). If your child needs to wear such footwear, please inform us.
For PE lessons, children from Reception to Year 2 come to school dressed in their PE kits on a PE day, but Years 3-6 bring in their PE kit in a labelled bag, to be kept in school for a half term at a time - after which they will be sent home to be washed.
Please put your child's name in every piece of school uniform and PE kit so that lost items can be returned to their rightful owners.

Healthy Schools



Thanks to the hard work of Miss Britton and Miss Thomas, and the support of staff, parents and carers, we are pleased to have achieved our Healthy School Phase 4 award. KS2 children (Years 3-6) may bring a healthy snack (fruit or vegetables) to school for morning break. FP pupils (Reception - Year 2) are provided with fruit snack. There is a small half-termly charge for this. If you wish to opt out, please let the admin staff /class teachers know. No crisps or chocolate please!
Please do not send any nut products or products containing nuts to school. We have children and staff who have severe nut allergies. Please check products to ensure that they do not contain nuts before sending them to school.
If there are any special dietary requirements that mean your child does need to have an alternative snack, please inform the class teacher.
If your child brings in a packed lunch, we ask that this is healthy and balanced. Ideas for healthy lunch boxes can be found on our website:

https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/howardian-primary-school/UploadedDocument/28a90baf-3e5f-412d-bf96-411c4a9360eb/public-health-packed-lunch-wales-a4-sept19-english.pdf

Extra-Curricular Clubs

At Howardian, we run a wide range of extra-curricular clubs after school for our KS2 pupils - years 3-6; for example, Football, Rugby, Dance, Choir, Bookworms and Netball. These clubs will go 'live' on ParentPay at **10am on Wednesday September 16th** (Orchestra will start after half term). These clubs are run by our dedicated staff and we really appreciate their time in providing these opportunities for our children. They cost £1 for the term (payable via ParentPay).

In addition, there are some clubs which require additional costs as they are run by external providers. Some of the links for these have already gone out. These include Art, Minecraft, lego, taekwondo and Spanish. (Some of these are open to younger children in Years 1 & 2 as well as our KS2 pupils).



Sustainable Transport

At Howardian, we are passionate about our pupils walking, cycling or scooting to school wherever possible and our Active Journeys pupil group works hard to promote this. Active travel promotes wellbeing and it also eases the congestion around the school, which is potentially dangerous and detrimental for our children, other road-users and the environment. . Parking is prohibited on the single yellow lines on Hammond Way during certain times of the day, including drop off and pick up. If you are not able to walk/cycle/scoot to school, we ask that, if possible, you park on the streets that are a short walk away from the estate. We also kindly ask that parents and carers show respect to local residents in terms of parking on the neighbouring streets and to not block their driveways. Please refer to our Sustainable Transport policy.

https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/howardian-primary-school/UploadedDocument/4e31ce210d3e46cba11072b3c3a8e0a3/sustainable-transport-policy.pdf

Medicine in school

We are sometimes asked to give children medicine in school. We do this for prescribed medicine only, where a child is required to have 4 doses per day. (Fewer doses can be accommodated at home.) If you require your child to have medicine in school then you need to fill in a medicine request form and hand it in at the office. All medicines need to be clearly labelled with the child's name and instructions for administration.

Attendance

Remember: Miss school: Miss out!!

100% - 98%	Excellent Attendance
97.9% - 96%	Expected Attendance
95.9% - 90%	Risk of under achievement
89.9% - 85%	Serious Risk of under achievement
Below 85%	Extreme Risk of under achievement

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, and informing us on your child's first day of absence, giving the reason for that absence. 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. This year, we

hope to soon have a new School Attendance Officer who will be working closely on a fortnightly basis with our Deputy, Mr Brind, to support any families who need support with attendance.

SHOW RACISM THE RED CARD

Racial Equality: Zero tolerance to Racism

At Howardian Primary School we celebrate our rich cultural diversity and take a zero tolerance approach to racism. We've signed up to the 'Zero Racism Wales' pledge– see our pledge on the school website.

Parent Governor Vacancy

We will soon have a vacancy for a parent governor, due to start in October. A parent governor works as part of a school's governing body to represent the parents and to help with the strategic direction of the school.

The term of a parent governor is four years. The governing body meets every half term on a Tuesday evening, usually at 7pm. Parent governors also have to complete statutory training for their role - this is usually available virtually.

We will be issuing communication around applying for this position very soon.

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, 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 is 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.

PTA



We are incredibly fortunate to have a very hard-working and dedicated PTA. In the current climate, we are increasingly reliant on the PTA to support us with many enriching activities and resources that the school budget just cannot sustain. However, our core PTA group have children who have either left Howardian to go to High School, or who are very close to doing so. Please support their work by attending any meetings or events that you are able to. It is also a great opportunity to mix socially with other parents and carers. The first meeting is the Annual General Meeting (AGM) which will be held in school on **Tuesday September 15th at 7pm.** Hope to see you there!



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 this half term are:

Tuesday 15th September	PTA Annual General meeting @7pm in school
Friday 18th September	'Jeans for Genes' charity event. Children may wear jeans to support this very worthwhile charity. Contributions to be made via Parent Pay.
Thursday 1st October	Tempest Photography (individual photos)
Wednesday 7th October 9:15am	5 Melyn Class assembly (Miss Court / Miss Brett)
Thursday 8th October 9:15am	5 Porffor class assembly (Mrs Leonard)
Friday 9th October	Year 3 Caerleon trip
Tuesday 13th & Wednesday 14th October	Parents/Carers Evenings
Wednesday 14th October	Pupils' Flu Vaccinations
Friday 16th October	Wear red to support Show Racism the Red Card
Tuesday 20th - Thursday 22nd October	Year 6 Travel Training
Wednesday 21st October	Year 5 trip to West Midlands Safari Park
Friday 23rd October	INSET day: school closed to pupils for staff training
Monday 26th October - Friday 30th October	Half term

INSET days 2025-2026 - Staff training: school closed to pupils

Autumn term:	Monday 1st September	Friday 23rd October	
Spring Term:	Monday 4th January		
Summer Term:	Thursday 7th May	Monday 19th July	Tuesday 20th July

School Trips

In order to enhance and enrich every child's learning experiences and bring their learning to life, we have a very strong culture of taking the children on school trips. With the increasing pressure on our school budget, we ask for voluntary contributions in order for these to go ahead. We are also aware of the financial pressures on some of our families. For those families in receipt of Free School Meals, we usually offer to pay half of the contribution. I am also very sympathetic and approachable if any families wish to discuss challenging financial circumstances. However, unfortunately, if there are not sufficient contributions to cover the bulk of these trips, then these trips may have to be cancelled. We will aim to let you know of upcoming trips as soon as we can so that regular installments can be made rather than having to pay in one payment.

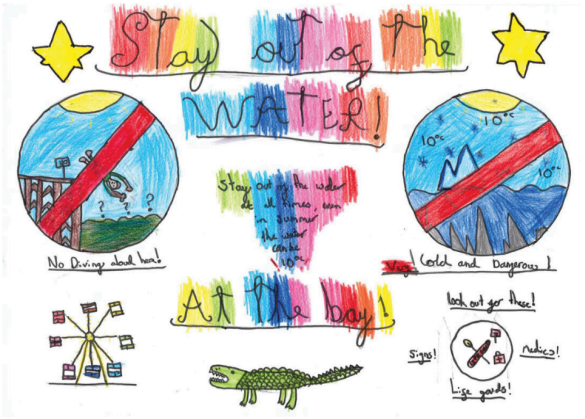
Cardiff Bay Harbour Authority Water Safety Posters

Congratulations to many of our Year 5 and 6 pupils from last year whose water-safety posters were displayed at Cardiff Bay. Pupils were invited to design banners communicating the important message that people should not swim in the Bay. The competition encouraged young people to think about the dangers associated with unauthorised swimming and convey this potentially life-saving information through creative and eye-catching designs.

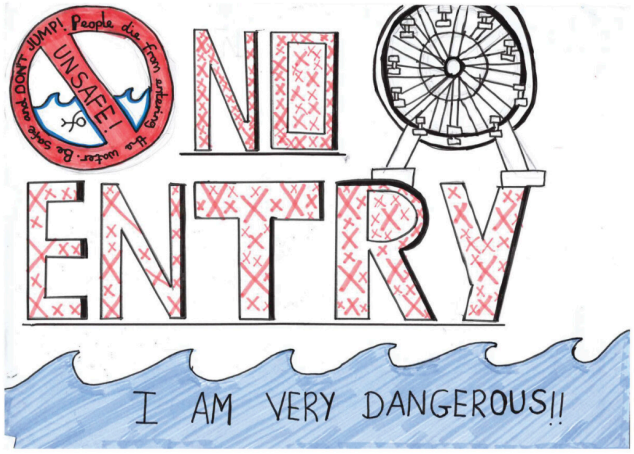
Some of the winning entries are shown below, but all can be viewed on the website: https://www.cardiffharbour.com/water-safety/



Sofia S-J, Ysgol Gynradd Howardian - Howardian Primary School



Tommy B, Ysgol Gynradd Howardian - Howardian Primary School



Gwen F, Ysgol Gynradd Howardian - Howardian Primary School



Alys V, Ysgol Gynradd Howardian - Howardian Primary School

Thank you for your continued support.