

Howardian Primary School

Newsletter: November 2026

Dear Howardian Families,

As we enter the second half of November, the children continue to experience lots of exciting learning opportunities and the Foundation Phase Christmas concert practices have started with gusto.

As we head into the winter months, please ensure that your child always brings an appropriate coat to school - be it warm or waterproof or both, as we try to get the children out as much as possible at break and lunch times , even if it is slightly drizzly, as we recognise the positive impact that being outdoors has on their wellbeing, and consequently on their learning and progress.

Every year, we take our children from Reception to Year 6 to see a Christmas production. This experience of live theatre is greatly enjoyed by our pupils. In order for these visits to take place, we ask that parents and carers contribute to the cost of the tickets. Our PTA are able to fund the cost of the transport. Unfortunately, unless contributions are made towards the cost of the pantomimes, we may have no alternative but to cancel them. We would really like to avoid this, so any financial support would be greatly appreciated. Payments can be made through ParentPay.

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

Kind Regards,

Mrs Sian Burt (Headteacher)

We have had a busy few weeks in school:

Thursday October 15th: ShwMae Day

Pupils and staff wore red to support the Welsh language and culture.



Friday October 16th: Wear Red for Show Racism the Red Card



All children and staff were invited to wear red to support 'Wear Red for Show Racism the Red Card.' Each class spent some time on activities and discussions which highlighted the message of anti-racism.

Year 6 Trip to the Royal Welsh Museum













Year 6 had a fantastic day in the Royal Welsh Museum in Brecon where their learning about World War 2 came to life. They dressed up in 1940s style clothes and experienced the challenges of the era, such as rationing and evacuation.

Remembrance Day



Diolch yn fawr Blwyddyn 6 - thank you very much to Year 6 for doing such a fantastic job promoting and selling poppies and remembrance merchandise in aid of the Royal British Legion.
We held a Remembrance assembly and observed a minute's silence. The children

were incredibly sensible and respectful - I was very proud of them.



Diabetes Awareness Day- November 12th

It was lovely to see the school community coming together wearing blue to raise awareness of diabetes. We have 4 pupils in our school who have Type 1 diabetes, and as aType 1 diabetic myself, I was very proud to lead an assembly to Years 3-6 with them. They taught the children about the condition, how they manage their diabetes and of the symptoms to look out for. These are 'The Four Ts.'



- **Toilet:** Weeing more often, bedwetting, or heavier nappies.
- **Thirsty:** Unquenchable, unusual thirst.
- **Tired:** Extreme fatigue and lack of energy.
- **Thinner:** Losing weight or looking noticeably thinner without trying.

If your child has any of these symptoms, please make an appointment with the GP.

Tree Planting Thursday November 12th

Coed Caerdydd is a 10 year programme to increase the number of trees in Cardiff, supporting the city's One Planet climate change strategy. They came into school to plant a number of trees at the back of the school. One of Mrs Jones's Year 4 Forest School groups enjoyed the experience of tree planting.











Children in Need - Friday 13th November

Thank you to all those families who donated to this very worthwhile charity. At the time of writing, we raised £450 through donations for wearing non-uniform and a further £222 was raised in the Senedd's cake sale. Thank you to those families who donated or purchased cakes, and a very big thank you to Miss Taylor and our Senedd for organising this event. The children enjoyed a carousel of Pudsey-related activities throughout the day.





PTA

The recent school discos raised £986 for our children.

The PTA will hold a Winter Celebration straight after school on **Friday November 27th**, until 5pm.

The PTA's funds will pay towards the pantomime trips for Reception up to Year 6. Please support this lovely community event if you can, either by helping out for an hour or two, donating items and /or by attending on the day.



WE NEED YOU

- *We need your preloved Christmas jumpers - please bring unwanted washed jumpers to the school office by 23rd November*
- *We also need donations for the chocolate lucky dip. Please leave chocolate donations with the school office by 23rd November*
- *Please also bring non perishable food items to the school office for our bumper hamper stating it is for the PTA hamper by 23rd November*
- *We also need volunteers to help set up on the day, run stalls and tidy up on the day. If you are available on the day, please request to join the PTA*

volunteers WhatsApp group (30 min slots available, volunteer for as little or much as you can)

Staffing

- We look forward to welcoming Mrs Murphy back on Monday December 14th following her Maternity leave. She will teach in 1 Melyn on a Monday and a Tuesday; Mrs Hardwick will continue to teach the class from Wednesday to Friday.
- Miss Davies will return from her maternity leave after Christmas. She will teach in 5 Melyn on a Thursday and Friday; Miss Court will continue to teach the class from Monday to Wednesday.

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.

Tours of the School

If you know of any families who are considering a primary school in the area for their children, (any age), please inform them that they would be welcome to attend a tour of the school on a Thursday at 4pm. These are held on a monthly basis. Please contact Mrs Curran or Mrs Liddington in the office to arrange a date.

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, 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.
A school attendance officer, Mrs Cody, has just started working with us. She will be in school every Wednesday morning and her role is to support families to improve the attendance of their children. If anyone wishes to speak with her about any attendance issues, she will be very happy to meet with you. Please contact school to arrange an appointment.

Punctuality

Please ensure that your children arrive in school on time. Lateness has a negative impact on your child's progress, as reading takes place from 9am most mornings. It also affects your child's emotional wellbeing as children who are late often feel that they have missed out on learning opportunities and this is very unsettling and upsetting for them.

Considerate Parking

We kindly ask that parents and carers show respect to local residents in terms of parking on the neighbouring streets and not to block their driveways or park on yellow lines. It is really important that we foster positive relationships within our community, thus setting an example to our children.

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.cardiff.gov.uk/article/2357/Free-school-meals

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 rest of this term are:

Friday November 20th	Year 4 trip to The Egyptian Museum, Swansea.
Friday November 27th @ 9am	Supporting Early Reading at Home - meeting for parents / Carers
Friday November 27th 3:30-5pm	PTA Winter Celebration
Monday November 30th (2 weeks)	Year 5 swimming lessons begin; there will be no swimming lesson on Dec 7th due to the pantomime.
Monday November 30th	Year 2 and 3 Pantomime at The Riverfront Theatre - Cinderella
Wednesday December 2nd	Our annual visit from the donkeys and a Nativity puppet show
Thursday December 3rd	Year 2 visit to Rumney Chapel for a Christmas workshop
Monday December 7th	Year 4, 5 and 6 Pantomime at The Riverfront Theatre - Cinderella
Monday December 7th	Nursery Christmas concerts 10am and 2pm
Tuesday December 8th	Reception Christmas concerts 10am and 2pm
Wednesday December 9th	Year 1 Christmas concerts 10am and 2pm
Thursday December 10th	Year 2 Christmas concerts 10am and 2pm
Thursday December 10th	Christmas Jumper Day in aid of Save the Children. Donations via ParentPay.
Friday December 11th	Reception and Year 1 pupils to see Pinocchio at The Sherman Theatre.
Tuesday December 15th @ 6pm	KS2 Carol Concert at St German's Church

Thursday December 16th	Christmas Parties - children may wear non-uniform / party clothes to school. They may also bring party food (no nuts) on a labelled plate - this will be in addition to their lunch.
Friday December 18th	Last day of term.
Tuesday January 5th	Children return to school (INSET day on Monday 4th)

INSET days 2026-2027 - Staff training: school closed to pupils

Spring Term: Monday 4th January

Summer Term: Thursday 6th May Monday 19th July Tuesday 20th July

Thank you for your continued support. If you have any queries or concerns, please contact your child's teacher in the first instance.