



Newsletter: October 2025

Dear Howardian Families,

I cannot believe that we are already in the middle of October and that we have been in school for more than 6 weeks – the Summer seems like a distant memory! The children have all settled well into their new classes and there is a lovely buzz around the school which reflects the enthusiasm they have for their learning. Thank you to all the parents and carers who have given me such a lovely welcome to the new role of Headteacher. Your support is very much appreciated.

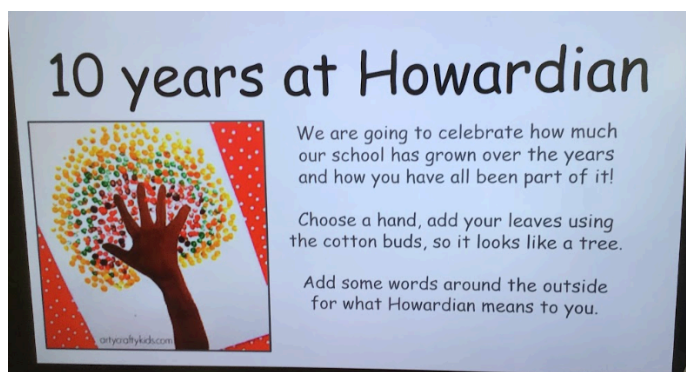
I hope you find the information in this newsletter informative and of interest.

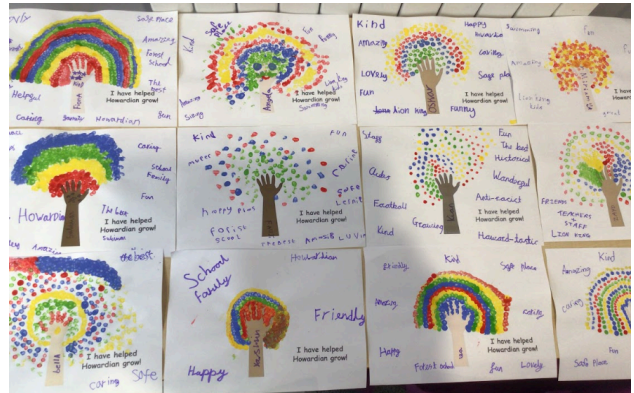
Kind Regards,

Mrs Sian Burt (Headteacher)

Ten-year Anniversary Celebrations

What a fantastic day we all had on September 26th, celebrating the history of our amazing school and its community. Throughout the day, classes experienced a carousel of Howardian-related activities including art, dance, mime, code-breaking, quizzes, rapping and writing poetry. Each year group learnt a song and facts about one of the years from 2015 and we came together in the afternoon to perform these in front of the whole school including some of our Governors.





Jeans for Genes

Thank you to those families who supported this very worthwhile charity on Friday 19th September. £393 was raised in total.

Harvest

Thanks to your generosity, Cardiff Food Bank gratefully received enough food donations to feed 11 people for 3 days.

APÊL DIOLCHGARWCH
CEFNOGWCH BANC BWYD CAERDYDD

HARVEST APPEAL
HELP SUPPORT CARDIFF FOODBANK

Thank you

Howardian Primary School

You have collected 122.4 kg as part of our harvest appeal.
This will provide 11 local people with a three day
emergency food parcel.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT



Food Bags

In recent years, we have helped families who need support during challenging financial times by giving them food bags. We hope to be in a position to do this again very soon. Please contact me should you wish to receive these.

Llangrannog & Storey Arms

The children who attended these residential trips had the most amazing time, making lifelong memories, developing important life skills and having lots of fun! Once again, a huge thank you to all the staff who organised and attended these: Mr Brind, Mrs Steele, Mrs Murphy, Miss Taylor, Mr Williams, Miss Griffiths, Mrs Martin, Mr Wheeler, Mrs Liddington, Mrs Leonard and Mr Jones. Year 5 also performed excellent class assemblies on the 9th and 10th of October which showcased some of their favourite moments.





Parent Governor Elections

Thank you to our parents who stood for the recent parent governor vacancies, and thank you to those who voted. As has already been communicated, the successful candidates were Mrs Hadiel Kulab and Miss Liz Webb. Congratulations to you both.

Priorities for School Improvement Plan 2025–26

Please see below the priorities for this academic year. These have been set in response to our self-evaluation processes and to national priorities.

In order to create a calm, orderly and safe environment where all pupils feel secure and can thrive in terms of their wellbeing and academic excellence, we are trying to address the way that pupils move around the school and how they interact in class.

We are also promoting positive relationships and the importance of kindness and empathy. If you are able to support us by chatting with your children about this, that would be much appreciated. Home/school partnerships are so beneficial to our pupils.

Priority	Key staff member
1. Further review and develop the Teaching and Learning in Welsh to continue increasing standards in Welsh Language Development	Tania Steele
2. Continue to develop and make changes to the curriculum and provision in line with the Curriculum for Wales.	Kelly Jones
3. To address the gap in learning for vulnerable pupil groups	David Brind
4. To create a calm, orderly and safe environment where all pupils feel secure and can thrive in terms of their wellbeing and academic excellence; to promote healthy relationships where pupils support each other in terms of their wellbeing and learning.	Dean Wheeler
5. Further develop a distributive leadership system across the school	Sian Burt

Tours of the School

The deadline for primary school applications (Reception places) in Cardiff for September 2026 is **Monday, January 12, 2026**. You can apply online through the Cardiff Council website **starting from Monday, November 10, 2025**. It is recommended to apply online by the deadline to avoid the late application process.

Should you know of any families who are considering Howardian for their children who will be Reception or Nursery school age, please inform them of the school tours that are scheduled for

Thursday November 6th and Tuesday 11th November at 4pm. Also, I run regular tours throughout the school year (these are held monthly on Thursdays at 4pm). If you know of any families who are looking for school places in any year group, please ask them to contact the school via email or telephone to arrange a visit. Diolch!



Current Year 6 – Applying for Secondary School

Parents / Carers of Year 6 pupils should have received information about how to apply for secondary school. We strongly advise that you include your top **five** schools as part of your application process. Some parents/carers think that just putting their 1st choice will guarantee them a place at their chosen school, but that is not the case. We also strongly recommend that you submit your application by the **17th November** so that you have the best chance of getting a place in your top chosen schools.

Monday 22 September 2025	Application process for starting Year 7 in September 2026 begins.
Monday 17 November 2025	Closing date for applications. After this date, you will need to complete a late application form.
December 2025 to February 2026	All applications are processed and assessed against the Admission Criteria. We will check and verify your address and any supporting information you have given us.
Monday 2 March 2026	Offer day. We will send you an email or a letter if you have asked for your offer to be sent by post. Decisions can also be given over the phone after 10am on the offer day.
Monday 16 March 2026	Closing date for you to accept or refuse the place we have offered. We reserve the right to withdraw offers that have not been responded to by this date. This is also the closing date for late applications.
April 2026	Second round (late) applications processed and assessed.
May 2026	Second round results sent out via post. All following rounds are processed on a monthly basis from now on. Waiting list positions available.
September 2026	Children start secondary school.

Uniform

I recently shared with you our new School Uniform and Appearance policy, which can be found on our website: <https://www.howardianprimaryschool.co.uk/policies/>

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. **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.**

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. This year, we have a new School Attendance Officer, Mrs Anna Lehal, and she will be working closely with our Deputy, Mr Brind, to help and advise any families who need support with attendance.

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 every morning. 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.

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.

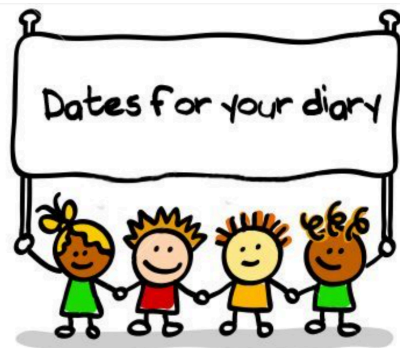
*Families who get Working Tax Credit do not qualify.

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 rest of this term are:

Tuesday 14th & Friday 15th October: Parents/Carers Evenings.

Wednesday 15th October: Shwmae day: wear red to promote the Welsh language.

Friday 17th October: Wear red to support Show racism the Red Card.

Friday 17th October: Year 5 trip to West Midlands Safari Park.

Wednesday October 22nd: Year 3 trip to Caerleon Roman Museum.

Thursday 23rd October: 4P class assembly (Mr Wheeler).

Friday 24th October: 4M class assembly (Miss Sinclair).

Monday 27th October – Friday 31st October: Half term

Monday November 3rd: back to school.

Friday November 7th: flu vaccinations for Reception to Year 6 pupils.

Friday November 14th: Children in Need: details to follow.

Friday November 21st: Wear blue for Diabetes awareness.

Thursday November 27th: Years 4 & 5 Pantomime – the Riverfront, Newport.

Friday November 28th: Year 6 Pantomime – the Riverfront, Newport.

Thursday December 4th : Years 2 & 3 Pantomime – the Riverfront, Newport.

Monday December 8th: Nursery Christmas concerts.

Tuesday December 9th: Year 1 Christmas concerts.

Wednesday December 10th: Reception Christmas concerts.

Thursday December 11th: Reception and Year 1 to see 'The Frog Prince' at The Sherman.

Friday December 12th: Christmas Jumper Day: donations via ParentPay to Save the Children.

Friday December 19th: break up for the Christmas holidays.

Tuesday January 6th: children back to school for the spring term.

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

Spring Term: Monday 5th January Monday 23rd February

Summer Term: Thursday 7th May Monday 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. The pantomime trips later this term are enjoyed very much by our children. Nothing beats the experience of live theatre and the PTA very kindly fund the transport for these trips. However, if there are not sufficient contributions to cover the bulk of the ticket costs, then these trips may have to be cancelled.

PTA

Thank you to the PTA for organising very successful discos for our pupils on Thursday October 9th and for those families and staff who supported this event. As always, the discos were very much enjoyed by those who attended.



Thank you also to those parents and carers who attended the PTA meeting on September 30th and the coffee morning on October 10th. It was lovely to see so many at the coffee morning and their ideas were very welcome. The PTA are hoping to help the school to improve the outdoor learning areas for our children, so your support at PTA events will be really appreciated.

I hope that your children enjoy the rest of this half term and that you have an enjoyable and relaxing half term break.

