



Newsletter: November 2025

Dear Howardian Families,

I hope that you are all keeping well and that your children are enjoying all the exciting learning opportunities that our school provides.



Christmas concert practices have started with gusto; it is amazing to think we are already quickly approaching that time of the year!

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.

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

Kind Regards,

Mrs Sian Burt (Headteacher)

Here is a taster of what each year group has been learning about in school so far this term:

Meithrin / Nursery	This term in nursery has been full of rich learning experiences and joyful exploration! The children have been busy developing their early writing skills through mark making and practising writing their names, learning that they begin with a capital letter. We talked about the people we love and expressed our feelings through creative activities, including baking heart-shaped biscuits which we decorated with pink and red icing. Our biscuits were yummy! Autumn has been a key theme, with children exploring seasonal patterns, matching colours and shapes, and describing pumpkins using describing words. In Forest School, we immersed ourselves in the changing season and even created our own Leaf Man after voting for our favourite version of the story. We helped a poorly squirrel feel better by carefully counting and applying the correct number of plasters to his cuts, supporting our early maths skills. Language development has been a focus. We practised Welsh phrases about the weather and our feelings, and re-told the story of <i>The Three Billy Goats Gruff</i> with great enthusiasm. We explored our favourite colours, took turns using the feely bag
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	<p>and dice to talk about autumn objects and our favourite colours. The nursery boys and girls have taken part in music sessions where they explored tempo and played a variety of instruments. It's been a wonderful half term of learning, sharing, and growing together!</p>
<p>Derbyn / Reception</p>	<p>Autumn 1 was the children's first half term at big school. We had 3 lovely settling-in days where the children enjoyed exploring the classrooms and getting used to the school routine. Our topic this term is 'You've got a friend in me' which focuses on making friends and developing positive friendships with peers and adults. We have also been learning about our feelings and how to express ourselves. We kicked off our topic with a WOW Day where the children came to school dressed as someone in their family or as someone they'd like to be when they grow up. All the children have settled into Howardian life and are looking forward to continuing our topic in Autumn 2.</p>
<p>Blwyddyn 1 / Year 1</p>	<p>The children have settled very well into their new Year 1 classes. They have enjoyed starting our Autumn Term topic "Superheroes". We loved the Supertato story and discovering the crime scene of captured vegetables in our classroom. The children made some fantastic predictions about what had happened and most blamed Evil Pea! Both classes loved the immersion day, taking part in lots of fun activities about the "real life superheroes" who help us. The children were able to sort fantasy and real life superheroes and could describe the qualities of their chosen superhero. The children also made a thank you card for the people who help us in our everyday lives. We have been learning about how fruit and veg keep our bodies healthy and made delicious vegetable soup in the cookery room. We enjoyed eating it and even did our own washing up!</p>
<p>Blwyddyn 2 /Year 2</p>	<p>Blwyddyn 2 have had a wonderful start to our Greatest Show topic. We started with our Wow day where we had a visit from Tom the clown who taught us how to spin plates, juggle and perform slapstick comedy. Kinetic carried out a workshop where we learnt a dance to 'The Greatest Show' music and we played lots of fun Drama games. We have painted clown faces using water colours, created our own Circus Posters using Pic Collage and have led our own learning with our exciting Mr Must Dos.</p>



**Blwyddyn 3
/Year 3**

In the Autumn Term we started our topic 'Invaders' with an immersion day that allowed us to explore Romans in more detail. The children took part in lots of practical activities that included making Roman coins, creating mosaics and playing Ludus. Throughout the half term the children developed their knowledge of Roman soldiers and became familiar with Roman numerals. We have learnt the process for instructional writing and used this to make a Roman shield, which we used to reenact shield formations outdoors. To consolidate this half term's learning the children visited the Roman museum in Caerleon, where the children became familiar with Roman medicine, the Roman bath house, the Amphitheatre and the barracks.



**Blwyddyn 4
/Year 4**

Blwyddyn 4's Autumn topic is 'Wonders of the world'. The children began their topic by looking at where Wales is located on a map. They examined some of the great 'wonders of Wales' including Pistyll Rhoadr (a waterfall) and Snowdon. The topic then looked at the seven wonders of the world and the children researched and presented facts about their chosen wonder. Finally, we zoomed in and looked at the Great Pyramids of Giza and the ancient Egyptians. The children

had a topic dress-up day and experienced life as an ancient Egyptian! They had a go at writing their name in hieroglyphics, created their own Egyptian nemes (headdress) and had a go at mummifying each other while learning about the ancient Egyptian mummification process. The children also enjoyed taking part in their class assembly at the end of the half term, in which they presented their knowledge about Cleopatra and Egyptian rhoteps using drama, music and dance.



**Blwyddyn 5
/Year 5**

Blwyddyn 5 have had a great start to the year! They have been on an exciting adventure to Llangrannog where they had the opportunity to be independent, take responsible risks, develop their Welsh skills and, most importantly, to have fun! Upon their return, they wrote their own class assembly all about their trip and did a superb job performing this to their families. They also went on another fantastic trip to the theme park at West Midlands to immerse themselves into the topic of 'Scream Machines!'

They used this experience to support their story writing and science and technology lessons back at school.



**Blwyddyn 6
/Year 6**

Many children kick-started the year with their Storey Arms residential, and they took part in exciting activities such as caving, gorge walking, canoeing and walks in the Brecon Beacons. We have been engaging in our current topic, A Child's War, focusing on WW1. Our key text this term has been 'War Horse' by Michael

Morpurgo - the children have enjoyed reading the book and creating their own narrative writing based on the story. We have explored the causes of WWI, rationing and the life in the trenches. We also learnt about a key figure from the war, Walter Tull, who was the first black commander of white troops.

Wednesday October 15th: ShwMae Day

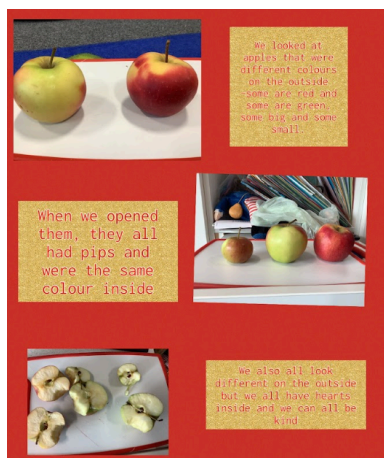
A very successful ShwMae day - pupils wore red to support the Welsh language - our Criw Cymraeg led an assembly in the afternoon. Diolch yn fawr iawn i Mrs Steele am drefnu'r diwrnod! (huge thanks to Mrs Steele for organising the day).

Criw Cymraeg are also very actively supporting our SIP priority of developing Welsh across the school and further improving standards. They have prepared this report for us:



Croeso, We are the Criw Cymraeg and we will be sharing a snippet into what our role is in school. Our job is to help our school achieve the next Starter Iaith award. We currently have the Bronze and our mission is to achieve Silver by the end of this year. We have 10 targets that we need to collect lots of evidence for in order to achieve this award. On October 15th we held our first whole school assembly of the year, which was about Shwmae day. This is a special day in Wales, where everyone is encouraged to greet each other by saying 'Shwmae'. In School we wore red, green, white or Welsh clothing and carried out different activities in our classes. We are looking forward to helping Mrs Steele to further develop Welsh throughout the school and we have lots more activities to carry out. Diolch. Criw Cymraeg 2025-2026

Friday October 17th: 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: e.g. Nursery looked at different coloured apples and cut them open to see that they all look the same on the inside.

Reception and Year 1 shared the book "We are all different" and discussed what makes us all special. Reception children then drew and coloured their self portraits celebrating all their similarities and differences. Year 1 made a poster with the slogan: "We are all different. We are all friends"

In Year 2, one of our parents (our Equalities governor) came in to have a discussion with each year 2 class about how we are all different and how this is celebrated at Howardian.

Year 3 discussed celebrating differences and children created acrostic poems using the word RESPECT.

Year 6 learnt about the story of Walter Tull's life (one of the first Black professional footballers in Britain who became an officer in WWI despite the rules stating that he couldn't.) They discussed in what areas of his life he may have faced racism and thought about why might this have been. They created a timeline of the key events in his life.



Remembrance 2025

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.

Staffing

- Ms Tesni Brett will join us after Christmas to take over Miss Davies's duties and cover her Maternity Leave in 3 Porffor. Ms Brett will be covering various classes in the school in the lead-up to Christmas so she will get to know the children and the school routines well before she starts teaching in Blwyddyn 3.
- We look forward to welcoming Mrs Hardwick back on November 26th following her Maternity leave. She will teach in 1 Melyn for 3 days and Mrs Wyatt will continue to teach in there for the other 2 days.
- Mrs Brunner is making a good recovery following her foot surgery during half term. Mrs Mathias will continue to cover her until she returns.
- Mrs Murphy will leave us on Friday December 5th to begin her Maternity leave. Ms Brett will cover her class until after Christmas when Miss Court and Mrs Wyatt will teach in 5 Melyn.
- We are delighted that Miss Sarah Griffiths has been very successfully appointed as our new Assistant Headteacher.
- Huge congratulations to Mrs Chantelle Mathias who attended the Food and Fun 10 Year Celebratory Awards with Mrs Cherie Marshall, our school cook. Mrs Mathias won the winning category for the Outstanding Contribution Award, a brilliant achievement for her and the school and all the staff who have worked so hard on this initiative over the last few years.



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.

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.

Uniform

Thank you to those families who support our School Uniform and Appearance policy, which can be found on our website:

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

The wearing of school uniform promotes a sense of identity and belonging within the school community. **Please do not allow your children to wear football kits to school, including for PE lessons.**

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.

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. I am aware that residents sometimes behave inappropriately towards our Howardian families. 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.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:

Friday November 14th: Children in Need: children are able to wear non-uniform. Parents may make donations to this very worthy cause via ParentPay. In addition the Senedd have organised a cake sale for parents on Friday morning; 9-10am in the small hall, accessed via the main entrance. Cake donations welcome, but no nuts please!

Monday November 17th: 6 Melyn (Mrs Martin) visit the Royal Welsh Museum, Brecon



Wednesday November 19th: 6 Porffor (Miss Griffiths) visit the Royal Welsh Museum, Brecon

Friday November 21st: Girls Netball Tournament

Friday November 21st: Wear blue for Diabetes awareness month.

Friday November 21st: just after morning drop-off. Mr Wheeler, who is leading our school priority on Behaviour, will deliver a presentation to parents on how we are addressing this area of improvement across the school. Parents are welcome to attend and express their thoughts and opinions. Please come along and enjoy a cuppa and a biscuit or two! Please note that specific concerns cannot be addressed at this event due to time constraints. If you do wish to discuss any issues within your child's class, please contact the class teacher in the first instance and, should you seek further information or require further discussion or clarification, please arrange a meeting with Mr Brind (Deputy).

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

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

Friday November 28th: PTA Winter Celebration 3:30-5pm. Come along and listen to the school choir, sip a non-alcoholic mulled wine and enjoy a mince-pie whilst raising much-needed funds for the PTA.

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

Thursday December 4th: Year 5 visit the Gurdwara, Pearl Street, Splott (provisional)

Friday December 5th: Annual Christmas puppet show and visit from the donkeys!

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.

Thursday December 11th: Year 2 Christmas concerts

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

Tuesday December 16th, 6pm: KS2 Carol Concert in St German's Church

Thursday December 18th: Christmas parties: children may wear party clothes / non-uniform and bring a labelled plate of party food - NO NUTS

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



Panto season is upon us. These panto trips are truly magical and enjoyed very much by our children. Nothing beats the experience of live theatre and the PTA very kindly fund the transport for these trips. With the increasing pressure on our school budget, we ask for voluntary contributions in order for these to go ahead. However, if there are not sufficient parental contributions to cover the bulk of the ticket costs, then these trips may have to be cancelled and we will need

to consider very carefully whether they can go ahead in future years.

We are, however, 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. If you are in a position where you can support the school and some of our families, there is an option on ParentPay to make an additional contribution for trips. Any support you can give will be greatly appreciated. Thank you!



PTA

Thank you to those families who have supported the recent PTA Winter Fundraiser. The PTA will also hold a Winter Celebration straight after school on Friday November 28th, until 5pm.

The PTA's funds will pay towards the pantomime trips for Reception up to Year 6.



Thank you for all of your continued support. It is through working closely together that we can provide the best opportunities for our children to thrive and make progress socially, emotionally and academically.