



Telephone: 01494 524220
E-mail: office@highwycombecombined.bucks.sch.uk
School Replies/Communication:
schooladmin2@highwycombecombined.bucks.sch.uk
Website: www.hwce.co.uk
Headteacher: Mrs C Hawkins BEd (Hons), NPQH

*Be strong and
courageous.....for
the Lord your God is
with you*

17th April 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

Year 4 Science Trip ~ Black Park
Wednesday 17th June 2026

Year 4 will be learning about Habitats in Science, Sculpture in Art and how to care for the environment for our Courageous Advocacy Project in the spring term and summer terms. In order to enhance the children's learning we will be visiting Black Park to undertake a Woodland Workshop and Self-Guided tour. This trip provides the children with a wealth of different learning opportunities:

- Plant identification
- Habitat Identification, protections and enhancement
- Protecting habitats
- Using Woodland Materials for sculpture
- Den building
- Sawing and disc decoration

The trip will take place on **Wednesday 17th June 2026** and the children will travel there by coach.

The coach will be leaving school promptly at 9.00 am and will arrive back at school by 3.15pm.

As these activities are outside there is a high chance they will get dirty/muddy. The children should wear old clothes and bring a spare pair of wellington boots/old trainers to change into at Black Park. Please provide a carrier bag for dirty footwear. Please ensure that your child's arms and legs are covered, due to ticks in the grass and woodland. They will also need to ensure they have a waterproof coat with them. Waterproof trousers are also encouraged. If the weather is hot, please also ensure your child has a sun hat and sun cream applied before coming to school.

Myself and 1 other member of staff will be accompanying the children on the trip and we also need 1 additional adult to come with us. If you are available on that day and would like to come and support the class, please let me know via the school office by **Monday 4th May**.

Your child will need a Packed Lunch for this trip. **If you want a Packed Lunch from Fresh Start for this school trip, please make sure you have chosen the Packed Lunch replacement option & ordered any meal BEFORE 9am Thursday 11th June. If you do not do this you will need to supply your own packed lunch for the trip.** As we are out in a park and woodland, there may be limited access to bins, so packaging and food wastage may be brought home

The cost of the outing will be **£17.10** per child and therefore we are requesting this as a voluntary contribution. Please can we request that voluntary payment for this trip be made via Parent Pay. Please do not send in cash or cheques; this payment will be set up on your Parent Pay account. We would ask that payment is made as soon as possible and by the



latest **Monday 4th May 2026**. If you do not currently hold a Parent Pay account, please visit the school office so that we can reissue you with a letter containing your login details.

Please be advised that we will only be able to go ahead with the trip if there are sufficient voluntary contributions. If you anticipate any difficulties in making a contribution, please contact the Head teacher; the matter will be dealt with in the strictest confidence.

Yours sincerely,



Miss Collins
Year 4 Teacher

Requesting financial contributions for educational visits

School Trips – Voluntary Contributions

It has been brought to the schools attention that perhaps some parents are unsure why schools ask for a voluntary contribution but then contact parents when they have not contributed. Our letters are written in a way that does not exclude a child because a parent is unable or unwilling to pay for a trip. Below is an explanation as to why we promote school trips but also why we ask for voluntary contributions.

The value and importance of educational visit:

Learning outside the classroom is widely recognised as a valuable and effective means of extending pupil knowledge, enriching pupil understanding, and promoting personal and social development. Ofsted also acknowledge the importance of quality learning experiences outside the classroom for raising pupil attainment. Consequently, this school promotes and encourages the organisation of educational visits for all its pupils, and it is hoped that parents will also recognise the value and importance of these visits, and give their full support.

Cost of the Visit:

The school believes wholeheartedly in the value of these experiences, and subsidises the cost of all visits as much as possible in an attempt to ensure that these opportunities are accessible and affordable to all. However, the school seldom has the financial resources to pay the full costs. Consequently, a voluntary contribution is normally requested from parents/guardians to make up the shortfall. This contribution is genuinely voluntary, and neither you nor your child will be treated differently if you are unable or choose not to contribute. However, please note that without all such voluntary contributions, visits may have to be cancelled, as the school is not in a position to provide further financial support.

