

HWCE SPORTS NEWS



All the latest sports stories from
High Wycombe Church of England Combined School

May - July '26

TIME TO REFLECT

(Looking back on
2025-2026)

(All reports by Mr Burgin)

With it being the end of an era as Mrs Hawkins retires, it is quite emotional looking back on this her final year at the school – especially when thinking of the positive impact she has had on sport and physical education here at HWCE.

There is a considerable amount of equipment at break-times to keep our children physically active with even more variety promised next academic year. The 'Team Mile' – led by our House Captains contributes in almost every morning break.

PE lessons incorporate a wide range of sporting opportunities from gymnastics and dance through to track and field events in athletics and sports such as football, netball, basketball, handball, rugby, hockey, tennis, rounders, cricket and badminton. Then there's 'alternative sports': lacrosse, quidditch (without actual flying broomsticks!), frisbee, archery, crazy-catch and golf. In addition, pupils in Year 4, 5 and 6 have continued to learn how to swim – a valuable life skill.

Of course, we have extra curricular clubs going on – football, multi-sports and coaches from Wycombe Wanderers who visit every Tuesday.

With our Living Streets Walk to School programme, no-one can really argue that we aren't focused on helping our pupils to stay physically fit and healthy.

I haven't even mentioned the highlight of our sporting year – Healthy Heroes Sports Week (more on that below) or the exploits of our school football and swimming teams.



As we bid farewell to our Year 6 pupils, we are saying goodbye to some talented soccer stars in both the boys' and girls' teams who have enjoyed representing our school in competitions. I hope that they can continue to do so in their secondary schools and look forward to hearing of their successes.

Then there are those whose talents are in other sports – running, martial arts, dance, gymnastics – the list goes on.

In my recent speech, at Mrs Hawkins' retirement service, I said that I believed that, we have a very special school when it comes to physical education and sport

and that a lot of that is due to her input and the way she has championed sport and active learning. I stand by this completely. However, it's not just sporting skill that is being promoted – it is a love of sport and the understanding of what makes someone a good sportsman. It is values such as fair play, always giving your best, resilience and humility both in success and in defeat. I think Mrs Hawkins has championed this more than anything else and it shows in all of our pupils.

Yes – sport at HWCE is certainly something worth celebrating.

TOO HOT TO HANDLE!

Record temperatures scupper Healthy Heroes Week.

It always seems to come to pass that our Healthy Heroes Sports Week is bathed in tropical sunshine. This year wasn't just tropical – it was positively desert-like!

The heatwave put paid to most of the planned events of the week which was personally devastating to me after months of planning, devising timetables and booking coaches. But, it was pointless dwelling on things that were out of anyone's control, instead, we had to find that sporting quality of resilience and make the most of what we had.

One of the successes was that we could still go ahead with the 'carousel' morning on the first day – Tuesday - where house teams of children from mixed year groups completed a dodecathlon of events. Basketball, football, javelin throwing, obstacle course, hockey dribbling, ball bouncing, target throwing with bean-bags and velcro balls, jumping, quoit balancing, 'under and overing' and the traditional egg and spoon were the events in question all brilliantly manned by our amazing staff. At lunchtime, we could scarcely believe the children had any energy left – but they did! There were still smiles on faces so they clearly enjoyed themselves (at least that's what most told me). I wish that parents could have been there, but as it was touch and go that we may have to cancel if the mercury rose too high – it seemed an unnecessary trip to make. I hope you enjoy the photographs below instead.

Points for the morning all added up, the rest of the week consisted of outdoor activities in the morning where enough shade could be found before seeking the comparative coolness of the classrooms in the afternoon, until, of course, things became completely unbearable and more suitable environs were found at home when we were forced to close our doors on Friday.



So, no orienteering, no cross-country (an anti-climax for Mrs Hawkins' last year as this is an area in which she has particular energy and expertise – and perhaps most disappointing no coaches for skateboarding, cricket, squash, netball and zorbing! The good news on this front though is that we have some of these coaches returning on the penultimate day of term – photos to come in Autumn's sports report!

What we did have was Dance and Tae-Kwondo coaching – in the shade of the hall and many other opportunities to use a lot of the school's sporting equipment in shady spots.

What we also had (unlike last year) was a full day of races at Wycombe Abbey School on the final day of Sports Week.

Key Stage 2 competed in the morning whilst Key Stage 1 and Reception made the journey for the afternoon.

It was fantastic to see so many parents there supporting the children who all raced their hardest to earn stickers and - perhaps more importantly – points for their house teams. Children participated in running, sack, hoop, egg & spoon, bean bag shuttle, skipping and relay races under the watchful eyes and encouragement of staff (especially Mrs Hawkins who was as full of energy as ever), parent volunteers and our house captains

There was a fantastic atmosphere and it was great to see such friendly competition amongst the children.

Victory went to the team of Skaters. But, would this mean that they would retain the house trophy that they have won for the last few years - or would it be Surfers who won the Carousel Morning the previous Tuesday? Could Riders or even Bikers claw back the deficit to provide a surprise finale? Read on to find out the final scores!

HEALTHY HEROES

We thought you would enjoy seeing some photographs of the highlights of Healthy Heroes Sports Week. Obviously, with so much going on, this is just a snapshot, but we hope it gives you an idea of the variety of events and the fun that was had by all.









HWCE SPORTS STARS



JULIAN BOXES CLEVER!

Julian in Year 5 recently received his green belt in Juniors Advanced Kickboxing. He said, "There is nothing that is not cool about kickboxing! I really enjoy it!" He pointed out that he could quite easily kick Mr Burgin in the head – I'm just glad that he's not going to!



HARRISON DOES SWIMMINGLY!

Having passed his learn to swim Stage 3 award (huge congratulations). Harrison now has his sights fixed on swimming greater distances. He said, "I can swim 10 meters, my next target is double that!"



ANOTHER AWARD FOR MATTHEW

This time, our multi-talented sports star from Year 5 picked up the coaches award in hockey at the end of season ceremony. Matthew said, "I'm going to focus on tennis this summer." So watch this space for even more awards!

RUGBY STARS TOUR DEVON



At the beginning of May, over 250 players, siblings and adults from High Wycombe Minis Rugby went on tour to Devon; 9 of whom were from our school - Mr Smith as a parent, Sonny, Elliot, Josh, Matthew, Ellis, Isla and Jude as players, and Claudia as a supportive sibling. They stayed at a PGL site, took part in fun activities and played some great rugby!

STAFF SPORTS STAR MRS HAWKINS



Left & above - Mrs Hawkins – then Miss Houston – in athletic form on the volleyball court.

There was only one choice for Staff Sports Star for this edition and that had to be our fantastic retiring headteacher – Mrs Hawkins!

Having asked her for details for her sporting prowess for many editions, she finally gave in and submitted this photo and details. She writes:

Many of our children know me as Mrs Hawkins, Headteacher, but before becoming a teacher I was Celine Houston, and volleyball was a huge part of my life.

I first discovered volleyball while studying in Reading between 1983 and 1987. I played for the Women's First Team, and we competed against colleges and universities from across the country at the annual British Colleges National Championships.

After leaving Reading, several of us formed Henley Ladies Volleyball Club, where we played in the National Volleyball League competing against teams from across the South of England. It was an exciting time, and we enjoyed many successful seasons. I recently rediscovered some



Elliott, & Sonny (top) & Isla (above right) all won 'Spirit of Rugby' awards on the tour for showing rugby's core values.

newspaper cuttings featuring our team (and me) in action which brought back lots of happy memories.

Unfortunately, my playing career came to an end after I tore my cruciate ligament during a match. Although I could no longer play competitively, my love of sport never faded.

That passion has shaped my career as a teacher and Headteacher. Throughout my time at High Wycombe Church of England School, I have always believed that every child deserves the opportunity to experience the benefits of sport. That's why we have invested in competitions, clubs, coaching and sporting experiences, giving as many children as possible the chance to discover a sport they love.

As I retire this year, I hope one of my lasting legacies will be the strong sporting culture we have created together.

Sport gave me confidence, resilience, lifelong friendships and memories that I will always treasure, and I hope that, in years to come, many of our pupils will be able to look back and say exactly the same.

HOUSE TO HOUSE ENQUIRIES

Latest House- point Scores

Reception – Wrens – Cornhole



1st Skaters, 2nd Riders, 3rd Bikers, 4th Surfers

Year One - Robins – Standing Long Jump



1st Bikers & Riders, 2nd Skaters, 3rd Surfers

Year Two – Swallows – Egg & Spoon Race



1st Surfers, 2nd Riders, 3rd Bikers & Skaters

Year Three – Kites – Tennis Skills



1st Skaters, 2nd Bikers, 3rd Surfers, 4th Riders

Year Four – Hawks – Basketball



1st Riders, 2nd Bikers, 3rd Surfers, 4th Skaters

Year Five – Eagles – Target Throwing



1st Riders, 2nd Surfers, 3rd Bikers, 4th Skaters

Year Six – Owls – Dance



1st Skaters, 2nd Surfers, 3rd Riders, 4th Bikers

HOUSE-POINT FINAL TOTALS

1st		9835 points	HOUSE CAPTAINS – JONATHAN & AMARA 
2nd		9579 points	HOUSE CAPTAINS – JOEL & LUCY 
3rd		9242 points	HOUSE CAPTAINS – KAEDON & ESHAAL 
4th		8997 points	HOUSE CAPTAINS – LOIS & WILLIAM 

The House Competition is done for this year. Skaters were the resounding winners – pulling further away during Sports Week thanks to a fantastic points tally on Races Day. The trophy is theirs yet again. Perhaps next year one of the other teams will finally take the title?

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our fabulous house-captains for leading their teams so well. I hope next years' captains can maintain the standard set. They've certainly been set a tough target.



Jonathan & Amara, House Captains of Skaters, receive the Winners Shield.