High Wycombe Church of England School
FORTNIGHTLY NEWSLETTER

25 Sept 2026 • Autumn • No. 2

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



HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Dear Families,
Thank you to everyone who attended our Meet the Teacher sessions last week. We hope you found them informative and helpful. The teachers and I greatly appreciate you taking the time to work in partnership with us to support your children's learning and development.

Please keep an eye on the Class pages, where you will find updates about timetables, activities and the exciting learning taking place in school. These updates can provide a great starting point for conversations with your child about their day and may help you get a little more detail than the usual response of 'nothing' when you ask what they have been up to!

Thank you for your continued support of our school.

Mrs Beverley Accastello
Headteacher

IN THIS ISSUE

Learning • Celebrations • Faith & Values • Community • Dates

CELEBRATE • INFORM • CONNECT

ATTENDANCE

Regular school attendance and arriving on time strongly links to a child's progress and attainment. According to Ofsted, good school attendance is expected to be 95% or higher. Here are this week's attendance figures for each class.

Year R	94.6%	Year 4	90.64%
Year 1	95.66%	Year 5	96.89%
Year 2	95.42%	Year 6	94.78%
Year 3	93.28%	Total	94.51%

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Learning across our school

Regular Reading



Reading regularly improves brain health, lowers stress and expands knowledge. Building consistent reading habits with your children offers powerful physical and mental advantages so please encourage your children to read regularly at home. Reading to your child is just as valuable as listening to them read to you.

Mental and Brain Health - Reading creates new neural pathways which keeps your brain active, supporting both attention span and concentration. Reading also boosts memory by supporting your ability to recall information and retain details.

Stress and Sleep - Getting lost in a good book can lower the heart rate and help muscles relax. Reading a book at bedtime encourages good sleeping habits because it helps your body to unwind and signals that it is time to rest.

Personal Growth - Reading supports the development of vocabulary and knowledge which improves oracy and writing skills. Reading also helps children experience different scenarios which develops the ability to understand other people's feelings better.

Black History Month

This year's theme, 'Honouring Our Communities' invites us to recognise the individuals whose everyday contributions shape, support and sustain our local communities. The children will be participating in lots of interesting learning opportunities through music, worship and creative projects. If you would like to come in and share your culture, heritage or family history with the children as part of our Black History Month celebrations, please email the school office.



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Celebrating success

Peer Mentors

Our Year 5 and 6 Peer Mentors have been busy completing their training and are now ready to make a difference across our school! They explored different scenarios through role play, watched a clip from *Inside Out* and talked about practical strategies for looking after our mental health and supporting others. They were enthusiastic, thoughtful and full of fantastic ideas and are excited to put their new skills into action. Our Peer Mentors will be on the playgrounds next week, helping to spread kindness, encourage positive friendships and make our school community an even happier place to be!







The Celebration Box

We value children's achievements from outside school as well as in school. If your child has received recognition for any out of school activity, please bring in the certificate/trophy/medal/award so it can be placed in our Celebration Box and shared with the whole school during Friday's Celebration Collective Worship.



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Faith, values and wellbeing

BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS

We have been thinking about our School Vision, 'Be Strong and Courageous' and how this helps us demonstrate our Christian value of Hope and our behaviour for learning, being motivated. In collective worship we thought about Joshua and David, recognising how they were both strong and courageous when faced with a challenge.

Although we are faced with different challenges to both Joshua and David, we thought about how we can demonstrate strength, courage, hope and motivation in our every day lives. The children shared how 'always trying your best' and 'never giving up' were great examples of this, which can be demonstrated both in and out of school.



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WELLBEING - SENDCO UPDATE

The education of every child is our highest priority. Equally important is their wellbeing, as happy children are best placed to learn and thrive. We are committed to understanding and meeting each child's needs so that every pupil feels supported to achieve their potential and flourish.

We are still currently recruiting for a SENDCo and until this appointment is finalised, I am undertaking this role. If you have any concerns about your child, please speak with their class teacher in the first instance.

HELLO YELLOW – WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY 9th OCTOBER

All children are invited to wear one item of yellow (t-shirt, socks, hairband, etc) as well as their school uniform to school on 9th October to support World Mental Health day.

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Safeguarding and Community

SAFEGUARDING

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE SAFE PLACES SCHEME

The Bucks Safe Places scheme aims to provide reassurance to an individual when they are feeling particularly vulnerable. An individual can approach a 'safe place' for help-whether this be directions, time out and a sit down or calling someone they trust. You can find a list of safe places here:
https://familyinfo.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/advice-and-support/family-safety/safe-places-scheme/

Friends News



The Friends AGM is Thursday 1st October 3.30-4.15pm in school. Please come along if you can, everyone is welcome!

Supporting the Friends directly enriches our children's school experiences. Last Academic year an impressive £6706 was raised which supported the purchase of resources and experiences, like the School Street Party. The Christmas Fayre is on Saturday 28th November. Please save the date! We are looking for offers of help and support to make this event successful.

The Friends are always looking for more people to join the team. If you are interested, please speak to Liz Kanu, Emma Harwood or Emma Crotty. Alternatively please contact the team by emailing chairofhwcefriends@gmail.com

Food Safety

Due to the introduction of new allergy legislation, we kindly ask that children do not bring sweets or other food treats into school when celebrating a birthday. This will support us in ensuring the safety of all pupils with allergies.

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Dates and useful information

MON 28 SEPT	Phonics Workshop — Years 1 & 2, 2:45pm
THU 1 OCT	Harvest Festival — Whole School, 2.00pm All Saints Church
FRI 9 OCT	Wear something yellow for Mental Health Day
FRI 9 OCT	Transfer Test results-Year 6
WED 14 OCT	Open Morning for Prospective Parents-9.30-11.30am
THU 15 OCT	Yr 3 Chiltern Open Air Museum trip

LATER DATES

23 OCT — Break up for half term
02 NOV — School reopens for start of the second half of Autumn Term

USEFUL LINKS

Website: www.hwce.co.uk
Calendar: News & Events → Calendar

Thank you for your continued support

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