

Old Town School News

11TH SEPTEMBER 2026

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

Welcome Back

Class structure
and staffing

School notices

FOOTS update

Happy Birthday

Award winners

School notices

Community
Notices

Diary Dates



A warm welcome back to all our families! The pupils have made a fantastic start to the Autumn term.

We give a very special welcome to our new families joining us for the first year at Old Town School. We hope you have settled in well and we hope you enjoy all the exciting events coming up this term.

It was a very busy summer in school with the full heating replacement that took place. The project started the day after we broke up and literally finished the weekend before we came back to school. The contractors did a superb job replacing the boilers, removing all the old pipework and radiators and replacing with new equipment. The pupils returned to lovely new radiators and I am sure we will all be glad of the new boilers as the weather starts to turn cooler. A big thank you to Cheryl for working with the contractors throughout the summer. Thank you also to staff who worked incredibly hard at the end of the holidays and on the training day to ensure that everything was in place and safe for the pupils to return last Wednesday. Thank you also to the Cocker family who helped move the library into its new home next to Reception. Year 1 now have a bigger space in The Nook area when they separate for some lessons from Reception class.

Year 6 have enjoyed working in their new space where the old library was. A new wall and door was put in to the library space over the summer to ensure Year 6 have their own dedicated learning space in the mornings for English and Maths.

On the back page, we have listed events for all of the Autumn Term up until Christmas. We do need to confirm times and dates for a couple of events but these are listed on the page.

Here's to a great Autumn Term!

Staffing Changes

Please see below the structure of the classes this year and staff linked to each class. I apologise for the delay in confirming the class structure for this academic year. I appreciate that waiting for this information can cause uncertainty and we thank you for your patience and understanding.

The delay was necessary to ensure that any recruitment processes were completed thoroughly and most importantly that all appropriate safeguarding checks and procedures were carried out correctly before we confirmed arrangements.

Mrs Pearce has reduced her teaching commitment to Wednesday afternoons. We are delighted that Mrs Pearce will still be leading our Choir and music lessons in all the classes. She will also work with the pupils preparing for events such as the upcoming Harvest Festival and Christmas Service.

Mrs Brown is now teaching Wadsworth class on Fridays. Mrs Brown is an experienced teacher particularly in KS1 and lower KS2. She has covered supply in several schools in the Calder Valley Cluster, most recently covering a maternity leave at Midgley School. Miss Kelly and Mrs Brown met and remain in regular contact to ensure consistency for the pupils in Wadsworth class. Mrs Brown has enjoyed her first couple of days at Old Town. As well as teaching, Mrs Brown loves reading, listening to music and going to the theatre/concerts. She loves walks in the countryside and spending time with her family.

We also welcome Kate Foster and Julie Underwood to the Old Town Team. Kate and Julie join us as support assistants in KS1. Kate works Monday-Thursday and Julie works on Fridays each week.

We thank Chloe for all her work at Old Town and we wish her all the very best for her next chapter!

Class	Teacher	Support Staff	Location
Wainsgate	Mrs Godsman	Jacqui Louisa Kate F Julie	Reception Class as before. For some sessions, Year 1 will go to The Nook where the session is specific for their Year group with either Mrs Godsman or Jacqui
Wadsworth	Miss Kelly Mrs Brown Mrs Loxton	Liz	As before
Chiserley	Mrs Loxton Mrs Hall Mrs Smith	Kate Emily Lisa	As before
Crimsworth	Mrs Hall Mrs Smith		In the room where the library used to be situated

School Notices

- **Harvest Assembly Friday 25th September 2026**

Our Harvest Assembly will be held at the Wainsgate Chapel on Friday 25th September at 2pm. This year we are supporting and raising awareness for Happy Days UK (incorporating SmartMove), a local charity working with people who are homeless or vulnerably housed. To do this we would like to ask the children for donations of non-perishable items, which will then be used to make starter packs for the homeless.

The following items are things the group often run out of for the home starter packs - tea, coffee, canned meat / fish products, cereals, packet noodles, etc that can be made up in a cup and also washing up liquid/ cleaning products, dish cloths, etc for once clients have moved into their accommodation. You can bring these things in as soon as you wish.

We have a representative from [Happy Days](#) UK attending the assembly to tell us all about their work. Happy Days have also shared a Harvest Calendar which includes ideas of other donations that would help.



- **School Photographs – Wed 30th September**

We have Happy Snapz Photography in school next Wednesday 30th September. If you would like to have photographs taken with pre-school children, please be in the hall for 8.30am as these will be taken first. School age children will be photographed with other school age siblings during the school day.

- **Secondary School Applications Closing Date**

Please be reminded that the closing date for secondary school applications for current Year 6 children is **31st October**. Please make sure you apply before the deadline, or your application will be classed as late and your child may be allocated a school that you do not wish them to attend.

- **Playgroup in School Hall on Friday Mornings**

Please let any families you now with pre-school children know that we have a playgroup in the school hall every Friday morning 9-11am - everyone welcome! There is a small £2 fee and this includes a morning of fun and play with a drink and a snack. Next week there will be a play dough session.

- **Lunchboxes and Snacks**

Please be reminded not to send chocolate bars in packed lunches or for snack. Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 have fruit and veg provided by school so do not need to bring a snack. For Years 3 – 6 you can send a snack for playtime. We encourage fruit, veg sticks, raisins, etc. please remember not to send anything with nuts as we have children with nut allergies in school. Thank you in advance.

- **Change of Contact Details**

Please can we remind parents/carers to keep us updated with any changes to contact numbers, addresses, medical information, etc so we can update of records.

- **Paper Letters This Week w/e 4th & 11th September**

All

Gardening Club letter

Art Club letter

Harvest Festival letter

Crimsworth

MyMaths logins

Autumn Spellings

Wainsgate

Baseline Assessment Leaflet (Reception children only)



The Calder Learning Trust

Calder High School

Welcomes prospective students and parents



Year 6 Open Evening
Thursday 1 October, 4:30 - 7pm

Friends of Old Town School (FOOTS) update

FOOTS are excited for another year of fundraising and fun events for our families.

Last year we made an **incredible £14,000** in fundraising and grants, all of which goes directly back to resources and extra-curricular enrichment for our children. Last year we supported the playground improvements, school trips for all classes, the fantastic Kapla workshop, year 6 leaver's hoodies, costumes for plays and much more.

We had our AGM on 8th September and can confirm **your FOOTS committee for this year are:**

Chair: Rosie Duke (Mum to Ingrid Y5)

Vice-chair: Emily Knudsen (Mum to Chet Y5 and Elvi R)

Secretary: Jess Cocker (Mum to Herbie Y4, Ted Y2 and Otto R)

Treasurer: Cat Taylor (Mum to Henry Y4 and Tilly Y2)

Claire Alger (Mum to Sam Y3 and Jessica Y1)

Clary Always (Mum to Errol Y1)

We are always on a look out for new members, fresh ideas and more help so please come and find us if you'd like to be involved. We cannot run these events without your support, and every penny we make goes straight back to school.

Keep an eye out for information about our next events:

- Teddy Bear's picnic – Friday 2nd October 3.30pm for our new reception children and their families. A great opportunity to spend some time together, meet the FOOTS crew and learn a little bit more about how you can support us. Tea and cake provided!
- Calder Valley Fell Runners Castle Carr and C'alf Race Sunday 4th October. We are catering for another CVFR race this year, continuing our long-standing commitment to supplying soup and cakes to the fell runners of West Yorkshire! We will need all hands-on deck so even if you can just spare an hour or two of your time, we'd be very grateful.
The sign-up sheet is here: volunteersignup.org/KR4XT. No previous 'experience' necessary!! We will also be asking for donations of cakes to sell on the day.
- Halloween disco Wednesday 21st October 6pm at Wadsworth Community Centre. Our games and dancing filled night is back for another year! Everyone welcome. Letters to follow shortly.



Birthday wishes for the month of September go to:

Chet, Ted, Nyree, Bea H, Archie, Tristan

We hope you have a lovely day!

Old Town Awards

Awards w/e 04.09.26

Wainsgate

Reception Children

Ada

Wadsworth

Sienna

Pupil vote – Zac

Chiserley/Crimsworth

Freya

Pupil vote – Gryffin

Awards w/e 11.09.26

Wainsgate

Tristan

Arcadio

Wadsworth

Scarlett

Pupil vote – Benji

Chiserley/Crimsworth

Luca

Congratulations to pupils receiving awards over the past two weeks. We are very proud to celebrate our award winners who have been working hard, have been kind and helped others. Well done!

• Email Contact With School Staff

Please can we request that if you wish to contact any school staff by email, please use this email: admin@oldtown.calderdale.sch.uk with a title of 'FAO XXXXX (staff members name)'. This is so we can keep track of your email and ensure it gets to the correct person as quickly as possible. Teachers do not routinely access their emails but Mrs Turpin has the admin email open all the time. If the communication is of a confidential nature and/or only senior leadership can deal with it, please send to head@oldtown.calderdale.sch.uk. Please do not use this for general enquiries.

School Notices

- **School Payments – No Longer Able to Take Cash**

We are no longer able to take cash payments in school for dinners, clubs, etc. We can take card payments (physical card only) in the office or payments through School Money. If you need your password resending, please contact the office.

- **Reminder to Log on and Pay Outstanding Monies**

Please can we remind all families to log on and pay all outstanding payments on School Money, particularly long-standing amounts or if your child is leaving us this year. If you need a password reminder, please contact the office. Thank you.

- **Emergency Morning Closures**

On occasions we may not be able to open the school in the morning due to adverse weather, boiler problems, etc. If this should happen, we will text message all parents. We will endeavour to do this by 7.30am at the latest wherever possible. We will then post a notice on the school website. If in any doubt, look at the school website. As you may be aware, Sandy Gate leading to Walker Lane and the road up towards the Hare and hounds are often not gritted or ploughed, therefore, should there be severe snow or frost, the bus routes will be safest.

- **Reminder Regarding Water Bottles and Coats**

Please can we ask all parents to help their child to remember their coat every day. We try to play out whenever possible. Also, children need a leak proof water bottle with them every day. We have a small stock of bottles available for £2.50 or new lids for 50p. Please order on the School Money Shop.

- **Breakfast/Out of School Club Number**

Breakfast/Out of School Club telephone number for contacting them outside of the normal school day - 07759 240998.

- **YourSchoolLottery**

If you would like to sign up to the School Lottery which raises money for FOOTs, click on the following link:

<https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk>

- **Ofsted Parent View**

If you would like to share your view of the school with Ofsted, please use the following link. <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>

School Notices

- Please can we politely remind families that we are a nut-free school as we have pupils with nut allergies in school. Thank you.
- We kindly remind our whole school community to park considerately when parking around school. Please avoid parking on or near junctions, as this can block visibility for both drivers and pedestrians, making the area less safe for everyone– *especially our pupils walking into school. Choosing safe and appropriate parking spaces, even if it means walking a short distance helps to keep our school community safe and accessible. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.*
- [2026-2027 Term Dates](#)

OLD TOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL

HOLIDAY DATES FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2026-2027

Autumn Term – 2026

	School Re-opens:	Wednesday 2 nd September
Half Term	School Closes:	Thursday 22 nd October
	School Re-opens:	Monday 2 nd November
Christmas	School Closes:	Friday 18 th December

Spring Term – 2027

	School Re-opens:	Tuesday 5 th January 2027
Half Term	School Closes:	Friday 12 th February
	School Re-opens:	Monday 22 nd February
Easter	School Closes:	Thursday 25 th March

Summer Term – 2027

	School Re-opens:	Monday 12 th April
May Day	School Closed:	Monday 3 rd May
Half Term	School Closes:	Friday 28 th May
	School Re-opens:	Tuesday 8 th June
Midsummer	School Closes:	Tuesday 20 th July

Staff Training Days (included in the holiday dates above)

Tuesday 1st September 2026
Friday 23rd October 2026
Monday 4th January 2027
Monday 7th June 2027
Wednesday 21st July 2027

MENOPAUSE

information evening

An informal and supportive session
for women to learn, ask questions and
feel more informed about menopause.



You're not alone – let's talk about it.



**WEDNESDAY
SEPTEMBER 30TH**



15:30



**IN THE
SCHOOL HALL**



Childcare available through
the after school club
if you need it.



**REAL
CONVERSATION
PRACTICAL
SUPPORT**

With

Dr Lauren Robson

(mum of Eira and Bobby)



EVERY WOMAN'S EXPERIENCE IS DIFFERENT.

Let's navigate it together.



Want to play Music?



9 week Brass course

Starts

4pm, Thursday 1st October

Hope Chapel,
Hebden Bridge

£30

Ages 7 - 11

scan QR code or email
hebdenbrass@hotmail.com



www.hebdenbridgejuniorband.co.uk

Community Notices



HELEN WILMAN
— SCHOOL OF DANCE —

-NEW- ♥
JAZZ

Students Welcome! ♥

→ AGES 8 - 18 ←

*Energetic. Stylish. Expressive.
Be yourself. Dance your way.*

Join our Jazz classes and develop your technique, performance skills and confidence in a fun and supportive environment.

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS
5-6PM

AGES
AGES 8 - 18

WATERSIDE GYM
VALLEY ROAD
HEBDEN BRIDGE

BUILD TECHNIQUE & STRENGTH

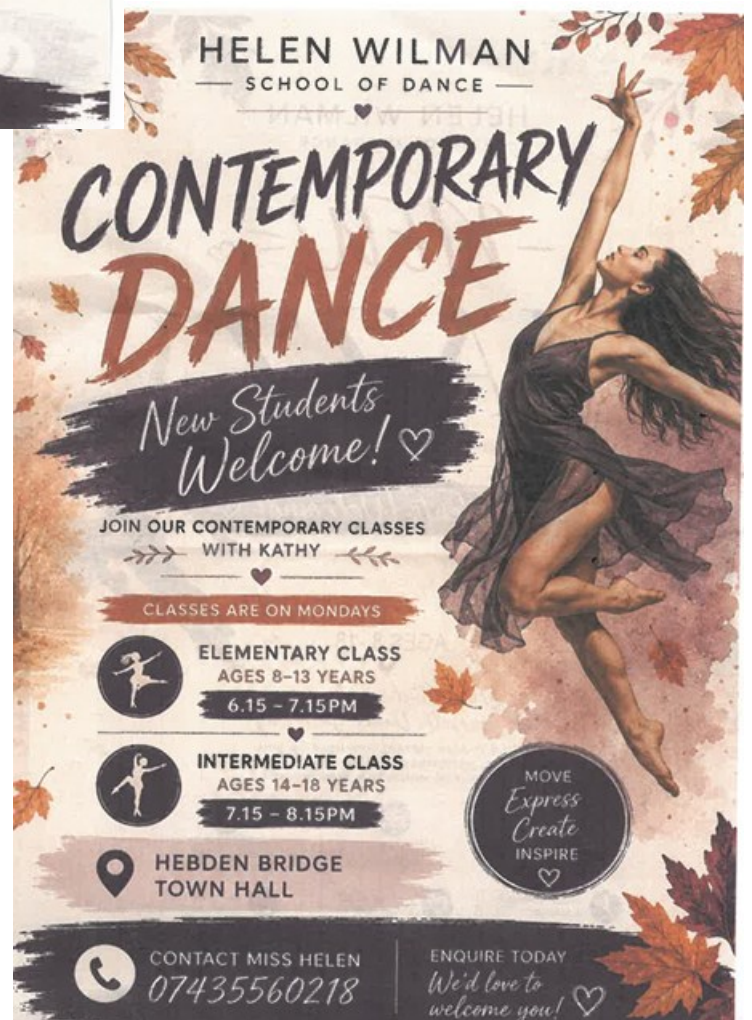
EXPRESS YOURSELF & HAVE FUN

MAKE FRIENDS, GAIN CONFIDENCE

♥ Move • Learn • Grow • Shine ♥

CONTACT HELEN
07435560218

FOR MORE INFORMATION ♥



HELEN WILMAN
— SCHOOL OF DANCE —

CONTEMPORARY DANCE

New Students Welcome! ♥

JOIN OUR CONTEMPORARY CLASSES
WITH KATHY

CLASSES ARE ON MONDAYS

ELEMENTARY CLASS
AGES 8-13 YEARS
6.15 - 7.15PM

INTERMEDIATE CLASS
AGES 14-18 YEARS
7.15 - 8.15PM

HEBDEN BRIDGE
TOWN HALL

MOVE
Express
Create
INSPIRE

CONTACT MISS HELEN
07435560218

ENQUIRE TODAY
We'd love to welcome you! ♥

Calderdale and
Huddersfield
NHS Charity



NHS

Calderdale and Huddersfield
NHS Foundation Trust

YOU ARE INVITED TO A FAMILY

HALLOWEEN PARTY

IN AID OF THE RAY OF SUNSHINE CAMPAIGN

Tickets include a hot dog, cordial, and a small packet of
sweets for every child.

£6.99 per child | Adults go FREE

Family discounts available

OCTOBER

FRIDAY

23

6-9PM

BAINES HALL, ELLAND CRICKET
CLUB, HX5 0QY

For more information contact:
CHFTFundraising@cht.nhs.uk



BOOK NOW





SINGING

MUSICAL THEATRE

FOR AGES 4+

FREE TASTER SESSIONS

 **Story Magic**
THEATRE SCHOOL

Tuesday 8th September at Tod Social Club (next to B&M)
4:30 - 5:00 EYFS/KS1 Drama
5:00 - 6:00 KS2/Year 7 Drama
6:00 - 7:00 Mixed age Musical Theatre

Free places at classes are available for anyone who needs it via our access fund.
Any questions please call Katrina on 07973 444875 or email katrina@storymagictheatre.com

LAMDA

arts
award

IDTA

CDMT
Recognised Awards Scheme Recognised Teacher

 Find us on
Facebook

Community Notices



Over the past year, the Friends of Pecket Well Playground have been working hard to save this lovely space for our community



Thanks to the support of our local community, Wadsworth Area Community Assets (WACA) and Wadsworth Parish Council, we have already achieved a great deal, including:

- ✓ Raising £1,000 through the fantastic pub quiz and raffle held at our local pub, The Robin Hood Inn
- ✓ Securing a grant from  in collaboration with WACA which, together with a generous private donation and funds raised from the pub quiz, enabled us to install four brand-new swings
- ✓ Organising two successful Community Clean-Up events to help maintain the playground and its access path



While we're proud of what we've achieved so far, there is still much more to do. Without further funding and community support, the future of the playground is uncertain, and it risks falling into further disrepair.

We're now looking ahead to Phase Two of the project, and your ideas are vital in shaping its future. Whether you use the playground regularly or simply value it as an important community space, we'd love to hear your views.



Please take a few minutes to complete our short survey. Your feedback will help us to develop our plans, strengthen future funding applications, and ensure the playground reflects the needs and wishes of our community

If you'd like to find out more:

- ✓ search for us on Facebook
- ✓ or get in touch by emailing us at FoPecketWellPlayground@gmail.com

Thank you for your support





- Thursday 17th September—KS2 Cross Country Event at Calder High School 3.50pm
- Friday 25th September—Harvest Festival at Wainsgate Chapel 2pm
- Wednesday 30th September—Photograph Day (Please arrive for 8.30am for pre-school siblings photos)
- Wednesday 30th September—Menopause talk with Dr Lauren Robson in school hall 3.30pm
- Friday 2nd October 3.30-4.30pm—Teddy Bear's Picnic for Reception pupils
- Sunday 4th October—FOOTS catering at community centre for Castle Carr Fell Race Event
- Tuesday 13th October 8pm—FOOTS meeting at Vocation, Hebden Bridge
- Wednesday 21st October—Halloween Disco 6pm at Community Centre
- Thursday 22nd October 3.30pm School closes for October half term
- Friday 23rd October—Inset Day—school closed to pupils
- Monday 2nd November—School reopens
- Wednesday 18th November—Parents' Evening
- Friday 11th December 2pm—Reception and KS1 Nativity at school
- Friday 18th December—Christmas Carol Service –Wainsgate Chapel 2pm
- Friday 18th December—school closes for Christmas holidays 3.30pm
- Tuesday 5th January 2027—School reopens