18 SEPTEMBER 2026

@higherlaneprimary
www.higherlaneprimary.co.uk

HIGHER LANE'S WEEKLY

NEWSLETTER



Mr Tetlow's Update

It has been another busy and positive week at Higher Lane. It was lovely to welcome a number of parents into school for our Phonics sessions, and we were also pleased to host a local SEND Community of Practice event, bringing colleagues together to share good practice and support inclusion across our community.

From this week, we will also be introducing regular safeguarding updates within our newsletter, including useful information and advice around areas such as online safety, to help us continue working together to keep our children safe. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Remember that you can stay up-to-date with important messages by checking your emails and via our website.
Find out what your child has been learning about this week on Instagram
https://www.instagram.com/higherlaneprimary/
If you need to speak to a member of staff, please call the school office on 0161 766 2005 or email: office.higherlane@visionmat.com or drop in.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS



This week's Attendance

Nursery	98%	4A	96%
RF	93%	4B	98%
RG	99%	5A	97%
1A	98%	5B	98%
1B	94%	6A	96%
2A	97%	6B	97%
2B	96%		
3A	98%		
3B	98%		



Events from this week





EYFS

During focus groups this week, EYFS have been working hard on their matching skills.

The children have been matching objects together based on their shape, colour or name, developing their ability to recognise similarities and differences.

The children have enjoyed exploring the objects and explaining why they think they belong together.





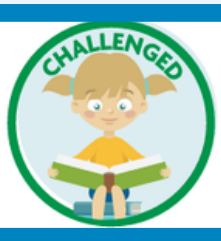


Forest School

On Monday, the children enjoyed a fantastic Forest School session, getting creative while learning about sustainability. They made their very own biodegradable plant pots using recycled cardboard. The children tore the cardboard into small pieces, added water and then got stuck in with their hands, mixing, squishing and moulding the mixture into pots. The children loved getting hands- on while learning how everyday materials can be reused and transformed into something useful!











Parental Feedback

Keeping You Informed About Your Child's Learning

Thank you to all the parents and carers who completed our surveys at Parents' Evening events last year.

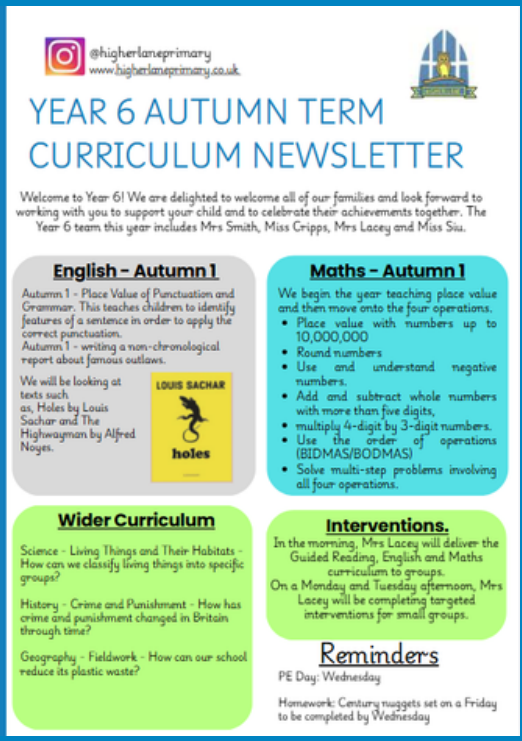
Your feedback is really important to us and helps us to identify ways in which we can continue to improve.

One area highlighted through the surveys was that some parents would like to know more about what their child is learning in school.

We have listened to this feedback and are introducing some additional ways to keep you informed.

What we already do...

- Parents' Evenings twice each year
- Meet the Teacher at the beginning of the school year
- Curriculum maps on our school website
- End-of-year reports summarising your child's progress and attainment
- In EYFS, parents can regularly see and share in their child's learning through Tapestry
- Share photographs and examples of learning through our Instagram page – please follow us to see more of what is happening in school!





What we are adding...

- Termly Year Group Curriculum Newsletters - Autumn newsletters for Years 1–6 were sent via Arbor during the first week of this school year. Spring & Summer newsletters will be sent during the first week of each term.
- A new weekly curriculum feature in this newsletter – each week, we will focus on a different curriculum subject and share a simple one-page guide explaining what that subject looks like across school. Look out for features such as "What is Science?" and many more over the coming weeks.

This week's Stars are...

HIGHER LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Cookie Jar

CELEBRATION CAFE



























At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about GENERATIVE AI SAFETY

Generative AI tools – such as ChatGPT – are now commonly used by children. In fact, 3 in 4 pupils in the 2024 Annual Literacy Survey reported using generative AI, up from just 2 in 5 the previous year. While these tools can boost learning and creativity, they also raise concerns around misinformation, privacy and overuse. This guide explores the key risks and how to support safe use.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

MISINFORMATION AND ACCURACY

Real
Fake

Generative AI can sometimes produce false or misleading content. Children – and even adults – may assume the information is accurate and trustworthy. This can affect learning and understanding of important topics. It's vital to teach children to critically assess all information, even when it comes from AI.

EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

CENSORED

Because generative AI is trained on vast datasets from across the internet, there is a chance it may occasionally generate harmful or inappropriate content. Without supervision, children could encounter disturbing or unsuitable material. Active monitoring and clear usage boundaries can help reduce this risk.

PRIVACY AND DATA SECURITY

Some AI tools ask for personal details or store users' interactions. If privacy settings are not correctly configured, children's personal data could be exposed or misused. Teaching good digital hygiene and setting strong privacy controls is essential for protecting children online.

REDUCED CRITICAL THINKING

Relying too heavily on AI-generated responses may reduce children's willingness to think independently. If they consistently use AI to solve problems or complete tasks, it could impact their ability to reason, analyse and form their own ideas. Encouraging thoughtful reflection is key.

DIGITAL DEPENDENCY

Regular use of generative AI can contribute to increased screen time and less real-world interaction. If left unmanaged, it may affect physical activity levels, sleep, and social development. Striking a healthy balance between online and offline activities is important for wellbeing.

UNCLEAR ETHICAL BOUNDARIES

Children may not fully understand the ethical implications of using AI to complete homework or creative tasks. This can lead to unintentional plagiarism or dishonest academic practices. Conversations around responsible use and academic honesty are crucial.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ESTABLISH CLEAR GUIDELINES

Set clear, age-appropriate rules for when and how generative AI can be used. Reinforce these regularly to help children develop a healthy, respectful and informed relationship with the technology.

ENCOURAGE CRITICAL EVALUATION

Help children to question the accuracy of AI-generated information and seek out additional trusted sources. This builds essential digital literacy skills and supports better decision-making.

PROMOTE ACTIVE SUPERVISION

Keep an eye on how the children in your care use AI tools. Check in regularly to ensure they're using them appropriately and be ready to step in if something doesn't feel right.

ENHANCE PRIVACY AWARENESS

Talk to children about the importance of keeping personal information private. Make sure privacy settings are in place and explain how data shared with AI tools could be used.

Meet Our Expert

Brendan O'Keeffe, Deputy Headmaster and Director of Digital Strategy at Eaton House Schools, has extensive expertise in digital safety, safeguarding, and generative AI in education. As an author and speaker on digital literacy and online safety for institutions such as The National College, Brendan guides parents and educators in creating safe digital learning environments.



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

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WHAT IS GEOGRAPHY?

IN THE PRIMARY NATIONAL CURRICULUM



In Primary school, we develop geography skills to help us:

- EXPLORE places and environments
- INVESTIGATE people, places and patterns
- ANALYSE information and draw conclusions
- UNDERSTAND how the world works
- CARE for our planet and make a positive difference



YEAR 1

- Where in the world do I live?
- My local park
- Our School Environment







YEAR 2

- My Local Area
- Comparison between the UK to Tulum, Mexico
- Exploring weather phenomena







YEAR 3

- Geographical features of the UK
- Facilities to attract people to the North West
- Creating a Bee friendly environment







YEAR 4

- Comparing the North West with Campania, Italy
- A local area study of Bury
- Exploring weather phenomena









YEAR 5

- Features of a local river
- Trees, plants and animals in the local ecosystem
- The NW compared to Western USA







YEAR 6

- Reducing plastic waste
- Economic activity and sustainability in the UK







26-27 CALENDAR AUTUMN TERM

SEPTEMBER

Wednesday 16th September
Phonics Parent Session – 9.00–9.45am

Friday 18th September
PTA AGM Meeting – 9.00am

Monday 28th September
Scholastic Book Fair starts

OCTOBER

Thursday 8th October
Year 5 trip to Museum of Science and Industry

Friday 9th October
Year 4 Multiplication Check Parent Session – 8.30–9.00am
Children's Mental Health Awareness Day – Wear something yellow

Thursday 15th October
Year 3 Stoneage Visit

Friday 16th October
KS1 Stay & Learn – 9.00–9.30am

Tuesday 20th October
Year 5 & 6 Parents' Evening – 3.30pm–6.15pm

Wednesday 21st October
Nursery, EYFS, Year 1 & Year 2 Parents' Evening – 3.30–6.15pm

Thursday 22nd October
Year 3 & 4 Parents' Evening – 3.30–6.15pm

Friday 23rd October – Half Term holiday begins – 3.30pm



NOVEMBER

Monday 2nd November
School reopens after Half Term

Wednesday 4th November
EYFS Open Day

Thursday 5th November
RG- Phonics Stay & Play – 9.00–9.45am

Friday 6th November
RF- Phonics Stay & Play – 9.00–9.45am
Immunisations

Monday 9th November
Individual Photographs

Friday 20th November
KS2 Maths drop in – 9.00–9.45am

Tuesday 24th November
KS1 Stay & Learn – 9.00–9.30am

Thursday 26th November
KS1 Performance at School

Friday 27th November
KS2 Parent Reading Session – 9.00–9.45am



DECEMBER

Wednesday 2nd December – Upper School Music Concert – 2.15pm
Thursday 3rd December – EYFS Christmas Performance – 2.00pm
Friday 4th December – EYFS Christmas Performance – 9.15am
Monday 7th December – Lower School Music Concert – 9.00am & Rock Steady Concert 2.15pm
Wednesday 9th December – KS1 Christmas Performance – 2.00pm
Thursday 10th December – KS1 Christmas Performance – 9.15am
Friday 11th December – KS2 Pantomime – Victoria Halls, Bolton
Monday 14th December – Year 5 & 6 Christmas Party
Tuesday 15th December – Year 3 & 4 Christmas Party
Wednesday 16th December – Nursery & EYFS Christmas Party
Thursday 17th December – Year 1 & 2 Christmas Party
Friday 18th December – Christmas Jumper Day, Christmas holiday begins 3.30pm, No OOSC afternoon session



Children's Mental Health Day

To help us recognise Children's Mental Health Day, we would like to invite all children to wear

one item of yellow clothing or an accessory

on Friday 9th October.

This is a lovely opportunity for us to come together to raise awareness of children's mental health and show our support for their wellbeing.

