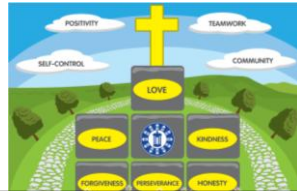


Higham St John's C of E Primary School



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Lancashire
BB12 9EU

Headteacher: Mrs H. Shaw FCCT NPQH

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One more step...
'Let us keep in step with the Spirit.'
Galatians 5:25*

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email: bursar@higham.lancs.sch.uk
website: www.higham.lancs.sch.uk
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Date: Friday 26th June 2026

Weekly Newsletter

- Our Bible quotation for this week is:

1 Chronicles 29:17

I know, my God, that you test the heart and are pleased with integrity. All these things I have given willingly and with honest intent. And now I have seen with joy how willingly your people who are here have given to you.

Year 1 Phonics Screening Results 2026:

A huge well done to our current Year 1 cohort who did very well in their Y1 phonics screening check. This demonstrates how well the school is supporting foundational knowledge and early reading.

The test is out of 40 marks. The pass mark is 31.

- **Of our children taking the assessment, only 2 children without SEND did not achieve the pass.**
- **Of our children who passed the screening, 93% scored $\geq 36/40$ demonstrating they have been gained a firm understanding of phonics.**

These are excellent results – well done, everyone! 😊

Catch-up phonics:

Any children who did not pass will be supported in Y2 with catch up phonics. They will be required to retake the phonics screening check in June 2027.

Your child's teacher will provide additional targeted work for your child to complete at home and over the summer which we strongly recommend you engage with.

Even a few minutes practising every day can make all the difference to your child's learning and progress.

Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check Results:

Well done to all of our Y4 children who took the Multiplication Tables Check recently.

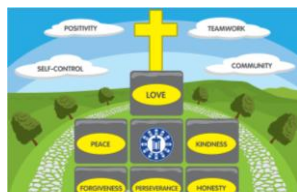
Year-on-year, our children have done very well in this assessment and have achieved well-above national attainment in this assessment. This year has been no exception!

There is no 'pass' mark for this test but **the average mark achieved nationally is 21 out of 25.**

This year only 2 of our children achieved below 21 with most achieving 24 or 25 out of 25! 😊

This demonstrates that the children are gaining the strong foundational knowledge they need to succeed long term in mathematics.

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The importance of reading real books at home every day with your child:

Phonics knowledge alone does not determine whether a child will become a fluent reader – this is just the beginning.

In YR, Y1 and Y2, it is vital you read real books every day at home (not from a screen) with your child in order for them to make expected progress in their reading as they move through the school.

Once they move into Y3, your child should still be reading daily but they should be able to read with more independence with you overseeing their study and asking comprehension questions.

** New Reception Intake: September 2026 ** Second Transition Visit – Monday 29th June

It was wonderful to welcome our new Reception cohort into school on Monday morning. 😊 The children had a lovely time exploring their classroom and the EYFS outdoor area. They hunted for treasure in the pirate sandpit, listened to a story with Mrs Lees, got creative in the construction area and served Mrs Shaw a delicious meal of pizza and cake with a cup of tea in the outdoor kitchen!

We really enjoyed meeting you all and cannot wait until Monday 29th June to see you again.

Next week, we will be seeing more of our school building and outdoor areas including going on an adventure walk down into our woodland area!

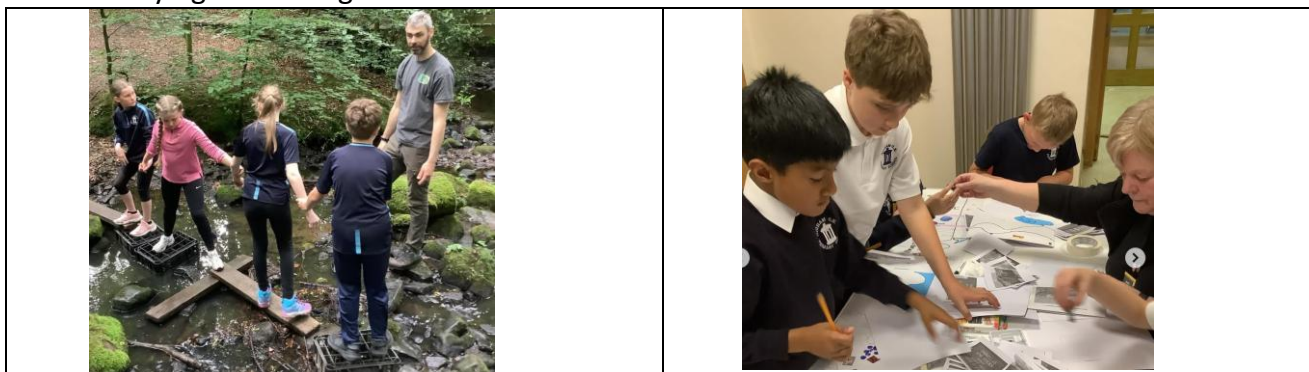
Parents and carers should drop you off at the EYFS gate at 9:30am and pick you up at 11am.

Trips and experiences

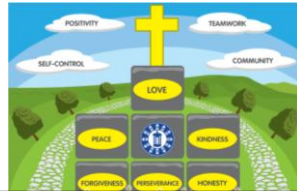
We have enjoyed both familiar trips and some new experiences during 2025/26.

We are reviewing our offer and hope to share our refreshed programme of enrichment events planned with 2026/27 academic year in due course.

Last week, Year 4 and 5 enjoyed their annual trip to Outdoor Elements. And Sycamore Class enjoyed a trip to Towneley Hall where they spent the day with artist Cath Ford taking a tour of the hall and trying interesting art activities.



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Year 6 Enterprise Project

Well done to our Year 6s who raised an **incredible £168** for their chosen charity, Pets As Therapy. They wanted to give back and show support for this lovely charity having benefited from two therapy dogs during their time at Higham St John's.

Thank you to all of the children for their creative ideas and hard work. You are fabulous!

To find out more about the work of the charity, follow this link: [Pets As Therapy](#)

PTA Events

Key Stage 2 are invited to attend a disco on Thursday 9th July, 5pm – 6:30pm. Tickets are now on sale through School Comms priced at £5 each.

Reception and Key Stage 1 will be having a teddy bear's picnic with games, a drink and a biscuit on Wednesday 8th July during the school day.

The PTA will also be present after the Y6 Leavers' service outside the church to offer a celebratory drink, biscuit or cake to our Y6s and their families.

And a huge thank you to our PTA volunteers who have made the children and staff smile this week with their donations of ice pops for the children and an ice cream for the staff. You are marvellous! 😊



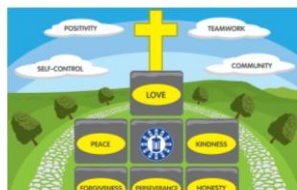
Teaching staff team from September 2026

Next year, the class teachers will be remaining in their current classes. The teaching staff team from September will therefore be as follows:

Elm Class:	Mrs Lees
Ash Class:	Miss Briddon
Birch Class:	Miss Ali
Sycamore Class:	Mrs Whittaker
Oak Class:	Miss Lawson

All teachers are entitled to Planning, Preparation and Assessment non-contact time (PPA) which usually amounts to an afternoon out of class when the class will be covered by another staff member. Mrs Lees and Miss Lawson will also have regular leadership time. Occasional cover is also required to cover staff when they attend training courses.

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Parents will be informed which class their child will be moving into on Friday 10th July when they receive the end-of-year reports.

Could you be eligible for help with childcare costs?

Please read the following information to find out!

There are places available in both out breakfast and after school clubs.

Universal Credit and childcare

You may be able to claim back up to 85% of your childcare costs if you're eligible for Universal Credit. For more information, follow this link: [Universal Credit and childcare](#)

Tax-Free Childcare

Tax-Free Childcare can help with the cost of paying for childcare.

You'll need to set up a childcare account, which both you and the government will pay into. You can then use this money to pay your childcare provider.

For every £8 you pay into the account, the government will top it up by £2.

The total top up you can get for each child is £500 every 3 months (up to £2,000 a year). This goes up to £1,000 every 3 months if your child is disabled (up to £4,000 a year).

You'll usually need to be working (or returning to work) and your child must be 11 or younger (16 or younger if they're disabled).

Your childcare provider must be signed up to the Tax-Free Childcare scheme. Before you apply, you'll need to check with your provider that they're already signed up.

For more information follow this link: [Tax-Free Childcare](#)

Help with childcare while you study ([follow this link for more information](#))

Further education

You can apply for Learner Support to pay for childcare if you're 20 or over and in further education, for example studying for an NVQ, BTEC or PGCE.

You could also get weekly payments through Care to Learn.

Full-time higher education

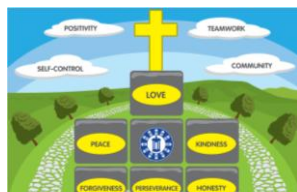
You can apply for a Childcare Grant if you're in full-time higher education to pay for childcare costs for children:

- under 15
- under 17 if they have special needs

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Breakfast and After School Club charges from September 2026

Following a consultation with parents and carers, I can confirm that our breakfast club and after school clubs will continue to run at the same times in September.

Unfortunately, we have had to increase our charges to parents due to rising costs.

We have therefore brought in a 2-tier charging systems whereby parents who only need childcare for the first hour will continue to pay £8 whereas parents who require childcare beyond the first hour will pay £11.

The new charges from September will be:

Breakfast Club (Monday – Friday from 7:30am) - £8 per session

After School Club (Monday – Wednesday)

Part session (until 4:15pm) - £8

Full session (until 5:30pm) - £11

Healthy Eating: guidance for parents and carers

The Eatwell guide helps parents and carers to make the right choices for their children's diet.

Information can be accessed via the following link:

[Eatwell Guide NHS](#)

Children's Commissioner Survey: The Big Future

Dame Rachel de Souza, Children's Commissioner, has launched The Big Future survey. She would like as many children and young people as possible across the country to complete the survey. Details on how your child can participate can be found to the right.

The Commissioner's priorities are: better world; community; children's social care; school; family; jobs and skills; health.

She would like to gather the thoughts and opinions of young people from across the country to find out what the nation needs to do to support future generations.

Further details are available on the official website which can be accessed by following [this link](#).

CHILDREN'S COMMISSIONER
THE BIG FUTURE

The Children's Commissioner, Dame Rachel de Souza, has launched The Big Future survey.

It's your chance to have your say on what it's like to be a child or young person in England today - what you love, what worries you, how you have fun, and the changes you want for a better future.

There are questions about voting, school, your area, online safety, and space for you to tell her what you think is important!

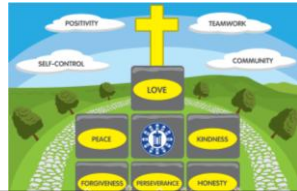
It takes less than 10 minutes to complete the survey.

Take part now:
childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigfuture
#TheBigFuture @childrenscommissioner

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Important Dates this term:

Monday 29th June – New Reception Intake Transition Visit – 9:30am – 11am

Tuesday 7th July – SATs Results published to schools

Wednesday 8th July – 2pm YR, Y1 and Y2 Teddy Bears' Picnic

Thursday 9th July – Sports Cool after school club CANCELLED

Thursday 9th July – Y6 Leavers' Disco – 5pm – 6:30pm (KS2 invited to attend)

Friday 10th July – End of year reports published to parents

w/c Monday 13th July – Transition Week / Leavers' Week

Wednesday 15th July – Leavers' Lunch

Wednesday 15th July – Y6 Leavers' Service – 2:30pm, St John's Church, Higham

Thursday 16th July – Y6 Leavers' Assembly – 2:30pm, school hall

Friday 17th July – School closes at 1:30pm for the summer holidays

'Steps for School': Helping prepare your child for starting primary school

The Government's Best Start In Life website has some great advice for parents and carers on helping to prepare your child for the important first step of starting their first year in school.

There is even a song to help the children remember! Click on [this link](#).

The 'Steps for School' are:

- Using the toilets and washing their hands
- Getting dressed independently
- Eating independently
- Communicating their wants and needs
- Listening to and following simple instructions
- Interacting happily with others
- Paying attention for short periods of time (note: not to a screen!)
- Sharing and taking turns
- Sharing and taking turns
- Beginning to recognise and talk about feelings
- Beginning to spend time away from you

Musical instrument lessons

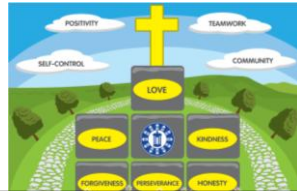
Well done to the children who performed in our special end-of-year music assembly this week. You really inspired everyone with your musical talents!

Watch MC Grammar's 'Steps for School' song with your child for a fun way to start to practise everyday skills together.



Steps for School: skills to practise together

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There will be some places for guitar, keyboard and woodwind lessons in the autumn term when our current Year 6 cohort have left. If your child is interested in learning a new instrument, please contact the school office for more information about costing and how to sign up.

School Sports Kit: Sponsorship Request

Our PTA would like to purchase a new sports kits for our upper key stage 2 children. After our success as the worthy runners up in this year's small schools football tournament, we think it is only right that part of the legacy of this success is that we provide a new, high-quality kit for our future teams!

If you or your business would like to sponsor our team and help us to purchase the much-needed kit, please contact the school office.

The sponsor's company name or logo will be printed onto the shirts of the kit in recognition and thanks for the donation.

Please note: company sponsorship will only be accepted from suitable ethical and age-appropriate companies (i.e. no alcohol, gambling, or other similarly adult-themed companies or products and companies must be politically neutral).

We are seeking to raise between £150 - £200 for our new sports kit.



Ofsted inspection report: parental feedback

We are keen to engage with our parents following the recent publication of our Ofsted inspection. For a brief conversation, please feel free to approach me at the school gates.

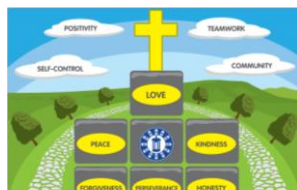
If you would like to ask a few questions or share some comments, please email me at the following dedicated address: inspection@higham.lancs.sch.uk

This system is helping us to manage the feedback we are receiving and plan for how we can best respond. Every email is being read and we are listening. We have some ideas already in terms of how best to keep parents informed of progress towards our development plans moving forward. We welcome any suggestions our parents may have in terms of how we can strengthen this communication.

Thank you to those parents and carers who have taken the time to ask how the staff team are. This is greatly appreciated and demonstrates what a caring community we have built at Higham St John's. 😊

And whilst we completely understand that parents may have questions and concerns, it is also heartening to hear so many of you tell us that aspects of the report as it is written do not chime with your own and your children's experiences of our school.

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East Lancashire Young People's Mental Health: Drop in advice sessions for parents and carers

Please see information on the flier to the right. Parents and carers can follow the QR code and join any of the drop-in advice sessions to speak to a mental health practitioner about any concerns they may have for their child.

Weekly Attendance:

Elm Class	99.3%
Ash Class	94.7%
Birch Class	93.4%
Sycamore Class	98.3%
Oak Class	93%
Whole School	95.6%

Term Dates reminder for 2026/27:

Tues 1st Sept: staff INSET

Wed 2nd Sept: staff INSET

Thurs 3rd Sept: YR until 1:30pm, Y1 – Y6 full time

Fri 4th Sept: YR until 1:30pm, Y1 – Y6 full time

Mon 7th Sept: All year groups in full time

For full term dates, please refer to the school website under the 'parents' tab.

Best wishes
Mrs H Shaw
Headteacher

East Lancashire Young People's Mental Health

**Concerned about your Mental Health?
Are you under 18 or concerned about
someone under 18?**

Advice sessions are available on-line via
'Attend Anywhere'
Delivered by CYPMH East
tinyurl.com/ELCAS-LSCFT

Enter the word "CYPMH East" as the first name and "drop in" as the second name followed by your date of birth. You will then enter our virtual waiting area where we will collect you.

Wednesday 1 st July 2026	1pm – 3pm
Wednesday 8 th July 2026	3pm – 5pm
Wednesday 15 th July 2026	5pm – 7pm
Wednesday 22 nd July 2026	1pm – 3pm