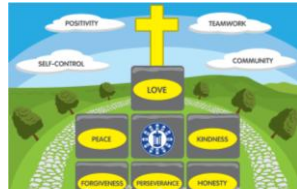


Higham St John's C of E Primary School



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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Date: Friday 17th July 2026 - **Weekly Newsletter**

REMINDER: school will close at 1:30pm today for the summer holidays! Have a wonderful summer, everyone! Best wishes, Mrs Shaw

A Fond Farewell to our Year 6s! 😊

We have enjoyed watching our Year 6s grow and flourish over the past 7 years. Whilst we are sad to see them go, we wave them off with confidence knowing that they are ready for the next stage in their learning journey. You have made us proud every day. We know you will do the same for your new teachers! 😊 Good luck! 😊

Key Stage 2 SATs Results:

Yesterday, the Key Stage 2 SATs results were released to schools. These have been shared with the children and parents and we are very proud of everyone!

Thank you to all of the children, staff and parents for your hard work and support over the past 7 years.

The results are not published nationally until they have been validated so whilst we are keen to share our percentages, we will have to wait to celebrate these publically!

What I can say is that our results are the best we have seen and reflect the hard work and dedication of all concerned.

We are proud of our high academic standards and believe this is something to celebrate. But of course, this is the product of so much more. We are committed to educating the 'whole child' with a focus on happiness, wellbeing and a strong sense of belonging. The children learn every day the importance of living out our Christian values in all they do, showing respect to everyone including those of different faiths and different backgrounds.

All are welcome, celebrated and loved at Higham St John's. 😊

Our class groups and adults for next academic year are as follows:

Elm Class: YR and Y1 - Mrs Lees (4 days) Mrs Briggs (0.5 day) Miss Howard (0.5 day)

Ash Class: Y2 – Miss Briddon (4.5 days) Mr Taylor (0.5 day)

Birch Class: Y3 – Miss Ali (4.5 days) Mr Taylor (0.5 day)

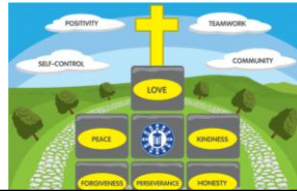
Sycamore Class: Y4/5 – Mrs Whittaker (4.5 days) Mrs Schillaci (0.5 day)

Oak Class: Y5/6 – Miss Lawson (3 days) Mrs Briggs (2 days)

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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 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.

Great British Summer Saving!

From the 25th June to the 1st September, the government is temporarily cutting VAT from 20% to 5% on children's meals in restaurants, children and family tickets to cinemas, theatres, concerts and exhibitions, and admission to a wide range of attractions. Combined with free bus travel during August for children aged 5 to 15 in England, families and young people will be able to enjoy a wide range of experiences to make summer special.

Follow this link for more information: <https://summersavings.gov.uk/>

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

Important Dates this term:

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 – **New date for return of Key Stage 2 SATs Results**

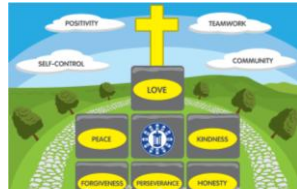
Thursday 16th July – Y6 Leavers' Assembly – 2:30pm, school hall

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

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Changes to Free School Meals eligibility from September:

A letter has gone out to parents via School Comms explaining the changes to Free School Meals eligibility from September. If your child is already receiving Free School Meals, there is no action for parents as the Local Authority holds your child's details and will automatically check their eligibility. If your child has not previously received Free School Meals and you think your circumstances have changed, please consider making an application. Contact the school office for further details.

Weekly Attendance:

Elm Class	- 100%
Ash Class	- 95.8%
Birch Class	- 95.8%
Sycamore Class	- 92%
Oak Class	- 94%
Whole School	- 95.5%

Whole School Attendance 2025/26: 95.1%

The importance of regular school attendance:

Nationally, school attendance has fallen since before the Covid-19 pandemic.

Whilst our attendance is broadly in line if slightly above national, it reflects this trend.

The drop in our attendance is particularly impacted by families choosing to take holidays during term time. We urge parents and carers only to book holidays during the 13 weeks of school holidays as absence during term time negatively impacts on your child's education and wellbeing.

In 2018/19, our attendance was 97.7%

In 2025/26 our attendance was 95.1%.

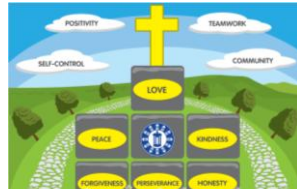
The difference between 97.7% attendance versus 95.2% attendance equates to over 1000 additional missed school sessions over an academic year!

Teachers cannot reteach this many lessons for children who miss them!

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Post-Ofsted Communication Strategy with Parents:

Following the publication of our recent Ofsted inspection report, we have been asked by parents how they will be kept informed of progress towards our targets. Further information will be shared with parents and carers in September and our plan is to have half-termly town hall meetings, plus regular drop-ins and coffee mornings to keep parents informed.

We are committed to driving the necessary school improvement – but as you can see from our SATs results, the children at Higham consistently achieve well over time at our school!

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.

Activities for Families over the Summer:

