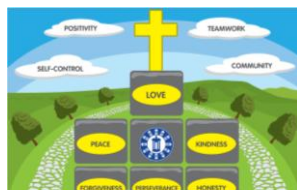


# Higham St John's C of E Primary School



Headteacher: Mrs H. Shaw FCCT NPQH



*One school family rooted in God's Love  
One more step...  
'Let us keep in step with the Spirit.'  
Galatians 5:25*

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website: [www.higham.lancs.sch.uk](http://www.higham.lancs.sch.uk)  
Instagram: @highamstjohnsschool

Date: Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2026

## Weekly Newsletter

### Letter Join Handwriting Scheme:

During the spring term, we introduced a new handwriting scheme called Letter Join. Parents have today been sent a letter which includes details of how to log into the Letter Join Home Access enabling you and your child to recap, revisit and practise the handwriting joins they are learning in class.

[This link](#) will take you to an introductory video which explains the progression of Letter Join

### 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.

### 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.

### PTA Events

Key Stage 2 are invited to attend a disco on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

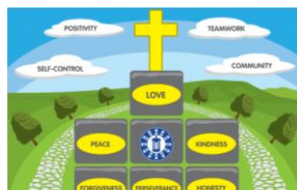
**Year 6 Leavers' Disco**  
Thursday 9 July 26

To mark this very special occasion, the PTA are arranging a leavers disco for our amazing Year 6 children.

All Key Stage 2 children are invited!

Tickets will be on sale soon through the School Gateway app at £5 per child. (inc drink and snack)

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## Delayed Return of Key Stage 2

Year 6 parents are advised to refer to a letter which was published yesterday informing you that your child's Key Stage 2 results will now not be returned to the school before Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2026. This is a national issue and is due to issues with the marking and assessment this year.

## National Heatwave Alerts

Just to reassure parents, there is no forecast Heat Health Alert for our region. Temperatures are forecast to reach the mid-20s next week.

We therefore do not anticipate any operational disruption. Parents are still advised to send children into school on warm, sunny days with a water bottle, sunhat and with sun cream already having been applied. Thank you.

## England Football Match – 1am – 3am Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July

Whilst we appreciate that excitement is building ahead of the scheduled World Cup knock-out match against Mexico on Sunday night / Monday morning, children are required to attend school on Monday as usual. If they do not attend or arrive later than 9:30am, this absence will be recorded as unauthorised.

Please follow our absence procedures and telephone the school office leaving a message on the answer phone before 8:30am on any day when your child will be absent. Thank you.

## 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:

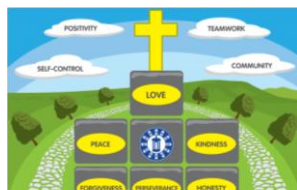
Elm Class:	Mrs Lees
Ash Class:	Miss Briddon
Birch Class:	Miss Ali
Sycamore Class:	Mrs Whittaker
Oak Class:	Miss Lawson

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

## PTA Membership:

All parents and carers are eligible to join our PTA. If you would like further information on how you could contribute to our team, please contact Janet Crossley using the following email address: [j.crossley@higham.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:j.crossley@higham.lancs.sch.uk)

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## 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.

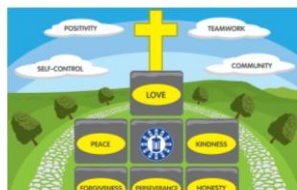
You could also get weekly payments through Care to Learn.

### 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!

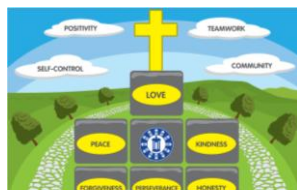
**It takes less than 10 minutes to complete the survey.**

**Take part now:**  
[childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigfuture](http://childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigfuture)  
#TheBigFuture @childrenscommissioner

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## Important Dates this term:

~~Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July – SATs Results published to schools~~ **DELAYED! See separate letter**

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

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July – Sports Cool after school club CANCELLED

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

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July – End of year reports published to parents

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

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July – Leavers' Lunch

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

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July – **New date for return of Key Stage 2 SATs Results**

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

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> 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

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

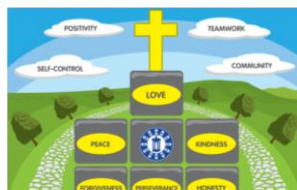


**Steps for School: skills to practise together**

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## 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 - 98.4%  
Ash - 92.5%  
Birch - 95%  
Sycamore - 94.5%  
Oak - 94%

Whole School - 94.7%

### Term Dates reminder for 2026/27:

Tues 1<sup>st</sup> Sept: staff INSET  
Wed 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept: staff INSET  
**Thurs 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept: YR until 1:30pm, Y1 – Y6 full time**  
Fri 4<sup>th</sup> Sept: YR until 1:30pm, Y1 – Y6 full time  
Mon 7<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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 <sup>st</sup> July 2026	1pm – 3pm
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> July 2026	3pm – 5pm
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> July 2026	5pm – 7pm
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2026	1pm – 3pm