



**Welcome
to
Highcliffe St Mark Primary School**

Class of 2026 - 2033

What to expect this evening

- ▶ Short talk to help you prepare for your child's first day and to give you some useful information.
- ▶ A chance to visit your child's classroom and meet staff.
- ▶ Teachers and leaders will be available to ask any questions, includes our SENDCo, Mrs Stiles if you have any concerns about your child's development.





Who's Who?

Headteacher: Mrs Barker

Deputy Headteacher: Mr Withey

Assistant Headteacher: Mrs Fuller

SENDCo: Mrs Stiles

Mrs Kingham -Starling class teacher

Miss Robbins - Nightingales class teacher



How we communicate

- Highcliffe Headlines will be e-mailed every Friday and Special editions of the Headlines will be sent throughout the year; please make sure you read these!
- Our school website has lots of useful information
<https://highcliffeprimary.ovw3.juniperwebsites.co.uk>
- Any additional information the office are happy to take your questions via phone or e-mail and will respond within working hours.
- If you have concerns, please don't wait for parents evening, book an appointment with the class teachers.
- In addition, we have an Official Facebook page and Instagram where events are celebrated.

The school day

Morning:

- The children can enter class from **08:45**
- Lessons begin at 8.55 when the register is taken, this is when the gates shut.
- If you are late you need to enter via the office.
- If your child is unwell please telephone us by 09:05 to tell us. Also tell us what type of illness so we can alert the team. E.g. chicken pox

Collection:

- Ensure you are there at 3:10 pm in the Foundation learning garden.
- If your child is regularly going to be picked up by a grandparent please let the teacher know.
- If you are going to be late you must phone the office so we can tell your child you are on your way.
- If somebody different is going to pick your child up you must tell the staff team. We will not let them go without notification, even if your child knows them!



What to bring to school



- ✓ A clearly named water bottle containing water and not squash please.
- ✓ School book bag (we don't have room for backpacks) - named clearly
 - ✓ A coat with a hood - even if it looks sunny! (named!)
- ✓ When staying all day and having packed lunches -a named lunchbox. Please note that we are a nut and sesame free school.
- ✓ If required, a small bag of spare clothing for accidents. We do have plenty of spare clothes in school.

Uniform

Highcliffe St Mark Primary School - Policies

Purchasing branded uniform

The majority of school uniform can be purchased from a retailer of your choice. Please make sure that sweatshirts are bottle green. If you would like to buy uniform with the school logo these can be purchased from PMG Schoolwear <https://pmgschoolwear.co.uk/> and Earth Uniform www.earthuniform.com



PE Kits



- Please don't rush out and buy a PE kit or special bag!
- We will not need a PE bag containing kit in school. Children come into school wearing their PE kits.
- During the first term, the children will have the opportunity to take part in some movement sessions -where they will only need to take off their shoes and socks.
 - *an excellent skill to practise over the summer, along with doing buttons and zipping and unzipping coats!
- We don't start formal PE lessons until after the October half-term. Nearer the time, an email will be sent out detailing the day of the lessons and the kit that will be required.

Lunchtimes

- All Reception children are eligible for a free hot school lunch. These will be ordered in advance using your Arbor account.
- The first three weeks will be ordered during the stay and plays on the 3rd and 4th September.
- Special dietary requirements can be catered for; e.g. coeliac and dairy free. Please get in touch with the school office if you have any questions about special diets and the school menu.
- You may choose to send in a healthy packed lunch. Please note that if sending packed lunches, no fizzy drinks or sweets/ chocolate bars are permitted in school.

We have several children in school who have a nut or sesame allergy which means any contact with nuts/sesame or products containing nut/sesame oil could prove fatal.

Please avoid sending these products into school. Any sent in will be removed.



Snack time

- All children receive a free piece of fruit everyday for snack, this continues until the end of Year 2.
- In addition, your child is entitled to a carton of free milk until they are 5 -you do need to register via the cool milk website.

Cool Milk - the UK's leading school and nursery milk supplier

- Once your child turns 5, there is an option to pay for the milk if your child enjoys having milk during the school day.
- Please only supply an alternative if your child has an allergy.



Screen time

UK children aged 5-10 spend an average of 6 hours and 22 minutes per day on screens.

To put that in perspective:

That's **44.5 hours per week**.

Over a school year, that's more than **2,300 hours** in front of screens.

It's equivalent to spending almost **97 full days per year** looking at a screen.

Early screen exposure is associated with:

- poorer language outcomes
- physical developmental risks
- cognitive concerns that may affect later learning.

A child can learn far more from: talking with an adult, playing with peers, building with blocks, reading with a parent, than from passively watching content for the same amount of time.



Sharing things from home



- We love to share exciting things from home with the children such as celebrating swimming and dancing awards.
- Your child will have an opportunity to share their learning achievements via our 'Proud Clouds'-which will be sent home at the start of each term.
- Each week we will have a class VIP. During this week they will have the opportunity to bring one item from home to show to their friends.
- Children should not bring anything else such as toys from home as it's a disaster if they get lost at school!

Toileting and accidents

- It is a reasonable expectation that unless your child has a special need that they are fully toilet trained.
- Some children will have accidents from time to time though!
- Let us know if your child is likely to find toileting difficult. The ERIC website below has some great tips!

<https://www.eric.org.uk/top-10-potty-training-tips>



Pupil Premium



- Pupil Premium is extra government funding given to schools to help children from disadvantaged backgrounds get the support they need to succeed.
- We use our PP funding in many ways including subsidised trips, uniform grants, subsidised music tuition and pastoral support for children and families.
- If you feel you are eligible for this funding, please complete the short application process.

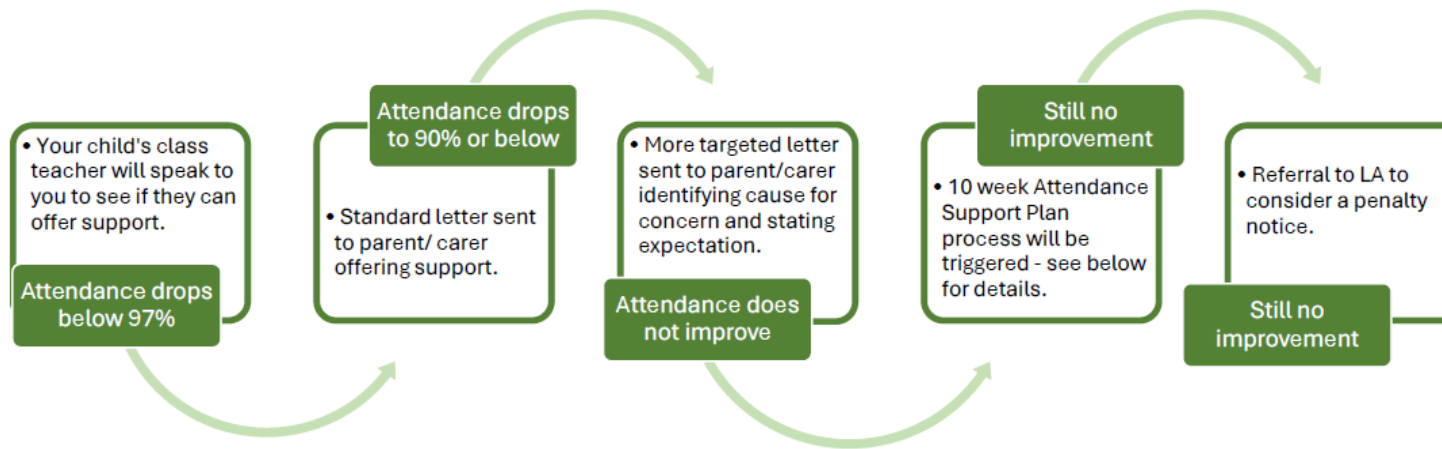
[Free school meals | BCP](#)

- All families as of September 2026 will need to apply annually for this funding.

Attendance

What happens if the school is concerned about my child's attendance?

Your child's attendance will be monitored weekly as soon as their attendance drops below 97%.



The 10 week attendance support plan consists of an initial meeting between parents, class teacher and a member of the leadership team to draw up an action plan with clear targets. There will then be a follow up meeting after 5 weeks to review the impact of the plan and make any adjustments needed, and another meeting at 10 weeks to review the process.

Breakfast and after School Club

Children in Foundation can use our Breakfast Club and Afterschool Club after the end of their first week, if you need this sooner, please speak to us.
Spaces are limited and we prioritise working parents.

<https://www.highcliffeprimary.dorset.sch.uk/after-school-club-and-breakfast-club-info/>



Friends
(our PTA)



Highcliffe St Mark Primary School - FRIENDS

- Please ensure you have accessed Arbor before your child starts in September to complete emergency contact information.

Finally, we have a short transition document for you to fill out with your child. Please return this to us by the **1st July**, you can drop it into the office or bring it with you to the 'Bear Hunt'!

We look forward to meeting you on our 'Bear Hunt' event!

