9th October 2026

Highcliffe Headlines

Headteacher's message

Our school was buzzing today, even more than usual, as we enjoyed our amazing Rocket Day! It was wonderful to see children (and adults) building, sticking, cutting, working as a team, problem solving and also laughing and having fun!

At HSMP, we are always working hard to enrich the children's learning through days like today and we are thrilled to be receiving vital funding from Friends fundraising again this year for our WOW days. Teachers are busy planning and booking visitors and activities and we look forward to sharing these with you when they happen.

I enjoyed an insightful evening with our Parent Rep Group on Wednesday night and it was wonderful to have a good cross section of parents from across the school attending. We talked, and debated, Houses and House Points and, as always, the parents had great ideas and thoughtful responses. We are keen to develop our approach to Houses and the points system this year and would therefore like to thank our Parent Reps for giving their time and engaging in the discussion about this.

Dates for your diary

12th - 14th October
Y6 Residential PGL

13th October
Y4 Celebration Assembly

15th October
School Nurse Drop-in

New Dates

21st January
Y1 Visit from Crazy Creatures

For more please see the calendar on our website.

Attendance Matters

Weekly Winner

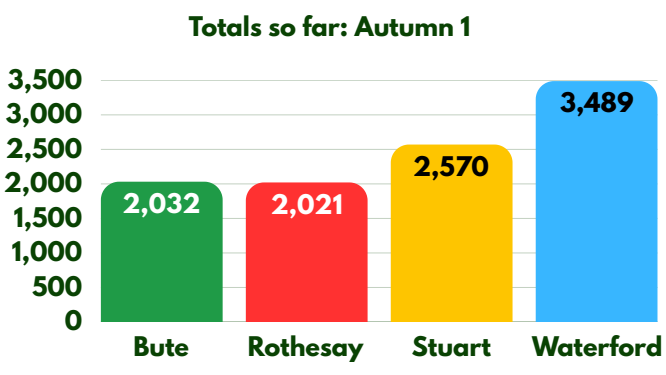
Year 3 have last week's top attendance with **99.0%**

Whole School attendance so far this year is **96.2%**

Our target attendance is 97%

House Points

This week we are focusing on living compassionately, with the story of the Good Samaritan. We will be rewarding acts of kindness with house points.



Foodbank Feedback

We are delighted to share a lovely message from Christchurch Foodbank thanking us for the donation we made last week:
"Thank you so much for your amazing donation...Normally at this time of year (after the Summer holidays) our shelves are empty and we begin to panic about Christmas, however all the donations we have received, including St Mark Primary has given us a little bit of extra stock and a good start for the Christmas demand, Thank you so very much".
We would like in turn to thank you for all of your donations, it is lovely to hear the difference it makes.



Shoebox Appeal

Reminder that the deadline for returning filled shoeboxes is 22nd October. We do have a few boxes left at school if you would like to take part, and full information is on the leaflet on our website .
Please could we ask that you return any unused shoeboxes. Each box costs the Rotary Club £1 to produce so they are keen to have them back.

School Nurse

The School Nurse will be in school on 15th October and can discuss and give advice on any medical concerns you may have about your child. Please email the office if you would like a 10 minute slot.

Ofsted Parent View

Ofsted places significant emphasis on the views and experience of parents and you can provide feedback on our school at any time using the Ofsted Parent View website. Whether you would like to comment on learning, wellbeing, support or opportunities, it all helps to give an understanding of our school.
Thank you for your time and support of our school.

Safer School Inspection Outcome

This week, we were visited by our BCP Health and Safety inspector. Scrutinising and exploring many many different aspects of this very important area, Rachel left no stone unturned! We were very pleased that she was very satisfied with our policy and procedures. Keeping our community safe is a real team effort and we are pleased this has been recognised. Well done to Mr Boynton, Mr West and Mr Ottewill who are key to our success in this area.

A Superstar Start for Reception

What a fantastic first half term we have had in Reception! As part of our 'Superstar Me!' topic, we have been learning all about what makes us unique and special, while also celebrating the people who help us shine, including our friends, families and school community.

The children have settled beautifully into school life and have grown tremendously in confidence. As their understanding of what it means to be ready, respectful and safe has developed, they have embraced new experiences with enthusiasm. They have proudly shared photographs of their families with the whole class and have enjoyed taking part in our school worship, which is always a highlight, especially when they get to see their older siblings! Maeve shared, "It is important to keep our friends safe. We look after each other and have to be kind." Ethan explained, "We are like a family in Starlings. We have to help each other learn and always take turns."

We are now excitedly preparing for our very first visit to St Mark's Church in a couple of weeks' time and are looking forward to proudly sharing our learning and singing our hearts out!

Year 2 Investigates!

Year 2 have been investigating the strange discovery of a young boy who was found flattened under the class flipchart board on Monday. Predictions have been flying around as to where he came from and what happened before he was found in this unfortunate position.

“Its very useful being flat!” Bea

“He’s been moving around at nighttime.” Josie

“He got flattened by a bulletin board.”

“Flat Stanley is a helpful boy, like when his Mum lost her ring and Stanley found it.” Rosie

“We enjoyed making predictions.” George S

The children have also had a new challenge presented in class this week – designing a chair for baby bear. They have learnt about the strength of different shapes.

“Cylinders are very strong” Smithy

“You need a big ‘circle’ because its stronger.” Stan

“We tested the cylinder last and it held 15 books!” Olive

“Another shape we tried was a triangular prism but that wasn’t as good.” Sam



Learning, Creativity and Achievement in Year 4

Over the past few weeks, Year 4 have been working incredibly hard across the curriculum and have shown a fantastic attitude towards their learning. In Maths, the children have been developing their understanding of place value and are now moving on to column addition and subtraction, where they have been applying their knowledge with increasing confidence.

In English, we have been writing an innovative narrative inspired by Arthur and the Golden Rope. The children have truly showcased their imagination and have worked hard to enhance their descriptive writing by including fronted adverbials, ambitious adjectives and effective adverbs. Violette shared that she was especially proud of her work, describing it as the best piece of writing she has ever written!

In Music, Year 4 have thoroughly enjoyed their Samba drumming sessions, where they have been mastering the skills of keeping in time and following rhythmic patterns while playing the surdos, tamborims, shakers, caixa and repiniques. The children have shown great teamwork, focus and enthusiasm, and they are incredibly excited to share some special surprises with their parents during next week's Celebration Assembly. We can't wait to share some examples of their hard work and achievements!

