23rd October 2026

Highcliffe Headlines

Headteacher's message

As we reach the end of a very busy and successful first half term, I would like to thank all of our pupils, staff and families for their hard work and support. There has been so much to celebrate, from Year 4's fascinating hedgehog visitor and Year 6's wonderful PGL assembly, to our exciting Rocket Man visit and rocket launch, musical performances, celebration assemblies and, of course, all of the fantastic learning taking place in classrooms every day.

We are incredibly proud of everything our children have achieved this half term and the enthusiasm they bring to school each day.

Staff will be very busy on our INSET day as we refresh our safeguarding training, learn more about adaptive teaching practice and begin refining and enriching our English curriculum.

We wish all of our families a happy, restful and enjoyable half-term break, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready for the second half of the autumn term.

Dates for your diary

3rd & 12th November
YR to Y6 Parent Consultations
11th to 18th November
PSHE Life Ed Tent
13th November
Reception Autumn Discovery Day

New Dates

6th November
Whole school; Run for Pudsey

For more please see the calendar on our website.

Attendance Matters

Weekly Winner
Year 3 have last week's top attendance with **97.8%**

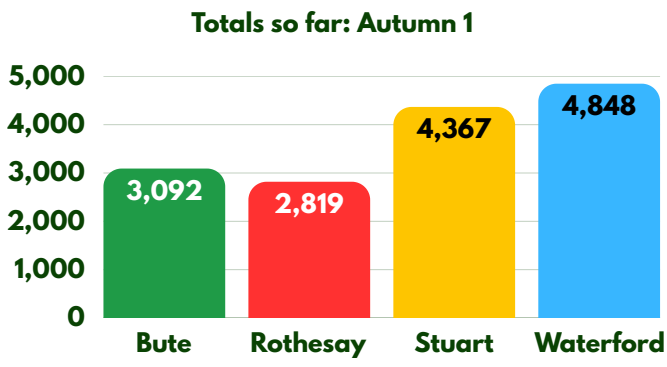
Whole School attendance so far this year is **96.1%**

Our target attendance is 97%+

House Points

Well done Waterford on a fantastic total this half term!

After half term will be **Peacekeepers Week:** Houses gain points for resolving disagreements positively and helping others solve conflicts.



Poppy Appeal

We will be selling paper poppies in school after half term. If you would like your child to donate and receive a poppy please give them money to bring in to school.

Y6 at PGL

From start to finish, the children demonstrated excellent behaviour, resilience and determination. Their willingness to support each other and give every activity their best effort was inspiring. We are extremely proud of the way they conducted themselves throughout the trip.

Here are a couple of quotes from our year group:

William: "There were so many fun activities - such as the Giant Swing, climbing and Archery Tag! I say, if you never go, you'll never know, so push to your limits."

Lucia: "You only go once! I knew I had to do as many of the activities as possible so I could leave with no regrets! I loved the Giant Swing; the feeling of flying is one I'll never forget."



Shoebox Final Call

Thank you so much for all the filled shoeboxes we have received for the appeal. We will have a final collection after half term so if you have forgotten to bring yours in, please bring it in straight after half term.
Reminder to please return any unfilled boxes so that we can give those back to the Rotary Club. Full details are on our website if you need a reminder.

Run for Pudsey

This year we will be supporting Children in Need with a fun event for all our children, please could all children wear PE kit to school on Friday 6th November.
Children's champions will be on the gates in the morning collecting donations.

Rocket Launch

What an amazing time we had at our very own rocket launch! It was such an inspiring day and bought STEM to life.
Unfortunately the camera that was due to record the rocket launch failed, so if you have any footage that you could share with us we would be grateful.

The company that held the workshops has a campagin running to encourage children to put down their screens and asked us to promote their cardboard engineering sets to parents.



Attendance & Communication Policies

We have updated our attendance and communication policies. They are always available on our website and we would ask parents to familiarise themselves with both so that you are clear on both what we expect, and what you can expect from us in return.
As always, if you have any queries please email the office.

Dear Parent / Guardian,

We are very excited to be partnering with Pop-Up Bookshop again to fundraise for new books to benefit all children at **Highcliffe St Mark Primary School.** Last academic year we raised a brilliant **£684 extra books** for school through our partnership reading challenge and author event.

Pop-Up Bookshop is a local, independent children's book specialist. They stock a wide range of children's books from all publishers; **£1 is donated to school** for every book purchased by our school community at their book events, or online 365 days of the year - **free delivery** to BH postcodes!

Reading Rewards

We are now working with Pop-Up Bookshop to deliver book **discount vouchers** to support school Reading Rewards. To encourage children to develop **consistent reading habits** at home and a love of reading for pleasure, our Reading Rewards celebrate reading at home milestones with **fun prizes**, including **stickers, bookmarks** and **badges!** Check out our school page on the Pop-Up Bookshop website: https://popupbookshop.net/highcliffe-st-mark-primary-school

We help monitor home reads at school and provide the children with the prizes. When your child reaches each Reading Reward milestone, **claim the Pop-Up Bookshop discount vouchers via the online form** on our school page: https://popupbookshop.net/reading-rewards We will also send your child home with a sticker containing a QR link to this form at each milestone. **Keep up the great reading efforts!**

Parents Evening Book Fairs

Families have the chance to shop for books and contribute to school book fundraising. Visit the Pop-Up Bookshop book fair to browse a wide selection of fiction, non-fiction, and activity books:

Tuesday 3rd November - KS1 Front Foyer
Thursday 12th November - KS2 Corridor Near Main Hall
3.30pm - 6pm
Cash & contactless payments accepted | National Book Tokens accepted
Reading Rewards discount vouchers accepted

www.popupbookshop.co.uk

Follow us! @popupbookshopuk

info@popupbookshop.co.uk 01202 835380

The First CHRISTMAS MARKET OF THE SEASON!

At St Mark's Church

Faith Community Hope Together at Christmas

A FESTIVE DAY FOR THE WHOLE COMMUNITY



Saturday
7th November 2026
10.30am until 3.00pm

St Mark's Church
Hinton Wood Avenue
Highcliffe BH23 5AA

Enjoy

- Craft & Art Stalls
- Musical Entertainment
- Refreshments Including Mulled Wine
- Santa's Grotto
- Christmas Gifts & Seasonal Crafts

FREE ENTRY

Everyone Welcome!

Bringing our community together to celebrate the joy of Christmas.



Half Term activities in BCP Libraries



Drop in during opening hours*

Boscombe Library: Dancing spiders craft

Branksome Library: Pumpkin craft and Halloween treasure hunt

Broadstone Library: Game time! Make your own board game and get a star for Library Legends

Castlepoint Library: Gruffalo craft, treasure hunt and activity sheets

Christchurch Library: Halloween badge maker, pumpkin suncatchers, cobwebs and spiders, and treasure hunt

Creekmoor Library: Gruffalo treasure hunt and craft activities

Ensbury Park Library: Rocking Fox Craft

Hamworthy Library: Drop-in Gruffalo activities all week

Highcliffe Library: Halloween hunt and takeaway activity sheets

Kinson Library: Torch craft and treasure hunt

Oakdale Library: Make a jellyfish!

Parkstone Library: Halloween-themed children's craft activities and colouring

Rossmore Library: Treasure hunt

Southbourne Library: Halloween treasure hunt, colouring and craft

Springbourne Library: Halloween crowns and spooky character craft

Westbourne Library: Paper plate Gruffalo craft, autumn leaf craft and treasure hunt

West Howe Library: Autumn treasure hunt and Halloween decoration colouring

Winton Library: Make a monster headband, learn to draw a spider web, hunt for Halloween characters

***Check individual library opening times before visitng**

<u>Friday 23rd October</u>

Winton Library: Gruffalo pumpkin carving demonstration 15:00 - 16:00

<u>Monday 26th October</u>

Broadstone Library: Welcome Gruffalo Granny! Listen to a reading of the new book followed by Gruffalo activities. 14:00

Canford Heath Library: Pat's French for all the family! 14:15 - 15:15 **booking required**

Highcliffe Library: Junk model monster 12:00- 16:00

Tuckton Library: Meet children's author, Rachel Bright. Games, drawings and Rachel will be chatting about her books. (Ages 3-8)

<u>Tuesday 27th October:</u>

Rossmore Library: Gruffalo stories and colouring 10:30

Canford Cliffs Library: Gruffalo story time followed by activities 14:30

Creekmoor Library: Gruffalo Granny story time 11:00

Oakdale Library: Explore Learning - A Knight's Journey workshop 11:00 - 12:00 (ages 5-9) **booking required**





Wednesday 28th October

- **Broadstone Library:** Drop-in microscopy session. Lots of interactive microscope actvities to have a go at.
- **Canford Cliffs Library:** Gruffalo story time followed by activities 14:30
- **Rossmore Library:** Halloween crafts 11:00 - 17:00

Thursday 29th October

- **Boscombe Library:** Bat Craft with Upon County Park **11:00- 12:00**
- **Canford Heath Library:** Gruffalo Granny story time , treasure hunt and craft 10:30 start
- **Tuckton Library:** Free street dance workshop by by Mad4Dance 15:00 - 16:00 (ages 5 - 10) **booking required**
- **West Howe Library:** Spooky Stories and scavenger hunt 10:00 - 11:00
- **Winton Library:** Gruffalo Granny Toddler Time 14:15

Friday 30th October

- **Canford Cliffs Library:** Gruffalo story time followed by activities 14:30
- **Canford Heath Library:** Brilliant bats with Upton Country Park. Join in for bat facts and make your own flapping bat. 11:30 - 12:30
- **Castlepoint Library:** Gruffalo story time 14:30
- **Highcliffe Library:** Decorate your own Halloween wreath 12:00- 16:00
- **Westbourne Library:** Gruffalo Granny story time 10:00

Saturday 31st October

- **Canford Heath Library:** Halloween drop-in craft 10:00- 12:00
- **Highcliffe Library:** Monster mask making 10:00- 12:00



All activities are FREE!

