

EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AND OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL

UPCOMING



EVENTS

FEBRUARY

Monday 9th	Year 3/4 Football match vs Ipplepen (Away)
Tuesday 10th	Safer Internet Day
Thursday 12th	Magic Show 6:15 - 7:15pm. Please see poster overleaf.
Friday 13th	Year 3/4 Clay Art Workshop
Friday 13th	School closes for the half term break
Monday 23rd	School re-opens
Monday 23rd	All after school clubs start.

MARCH

Thursday 5th	World Book Day
Thursday 12th	Step into NHS day
Friday 13th	Year 5 Decider Skills.
Friday 20th	Year 5 Decider Skills.
Friday 27th	Year 5 Decider Skills.

Spring Term 2026 Friday 6th February

Dear Parents and Carers,

School Improvement and staff training

This week, we have all been undertaking training on Developmental Language Disorder (DLD), led by Mrs Dawn Matthews.

What is DLD?

Developmental language disorder (DLD) is a condition where children have long-term challenges talking and/or understanding words. Children with DLD may have lots of ideas but find it hard to put their ideas into words and understand what other people say to them. Their difficulties can be hard to spot and may be 'hidden' for a long time.

A child can be diagnosed with DLD if their challenges with talking and/or understanding words:

- have a big impact on how well they do at school, or in everyday life;
- are not caused by another condition, such as hearing impairment or autism; and
- are not likely to get better by age five – their challenges are likely to be life-long.

Most children with DLD will need support and changes to the environment at school to help them. Some people with DLD continue to need support when they are adults.



01626 216300

admin@highweekprimary.co.uk

www.highweekprimary.co.uk

www.facebook.com/highweekprimaryschool

[highweekprimary](https://www.instagram.com/highweekprimary)



Do we know the cause of DLD?

We don't know the exact cause of DLD. Scientists think that the part of the brain responsible for development of speech, language and communication skills might be wired a little differently in these children, but the differences are subtle and won't show up on a brain scan. We also know that genes play an important part in DLD because the condition is more likely to run in families, but there is no medical test to see if a child has it or not.

Parents should NOT feel guilty if their child has DLD, as it is most likely due to a range of different factors beyond their control. Children with DLD can do very well in life, but it's important that their needs are understood so that they can be well-supported. Staff talked through strategies as part of our ordinarily available inclusive provision (OAIP) to support children who display signs of Developmental Language Disorder.

School Values

We are all continuing to focus on the value of RESPECT. We are holding doors, walking quietly, and saying please and thank you. Next half term we will be focussing on RESPONSIBILITY.

Snacks- reminder

Children are able to bring a snack in to eat during the morning break.

The following snacks are encouraged at Highweek:

- Whole or sliced fruit
- Vegetable sticks like celery, carrot and cucumber. Some vegetables are naturally baton-shaped which can save you time preparing, for example:
- Sugar snap peas and baby corn
- Bag of plain popcorn (over 5's only)
- Breadsticks
- Rice or corn cakes
- Crackers
- A small sandwich or bagel with cheese, hummus or vegetable filling.

Please DO NOT send your child in with crisps, chocolate items, sweets, cakes and overly processed foods (e.g. sausages, sausage rolls) for snack time. This includes children with EHC plans and those that use snacks for sensory purposes.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Ms Claire Redwood



YOUNG VOICES



We're excited to share some more photographs from our fabulous trip to Birmingham to take part in Young Voices last Tuesday!

Our superstar singing club performed as part of the largest children's choir in the world (5,934 children to be exact!) and had an absolute blast.

We are so proud of all the hard work the children put in during the lead-up to the event and for representing our school so brilliantly throughout the day.

As you can see from the photos, we all had the most amazing, musical time!



We would like to kindly remind you that all school meals must be pre-ordered in advance.

Please also ensure that meal accounts do not accrue outstanding balances, as this may result in the account being temporarily frozen. In addition, we would like to remind you that it is the responsibility of parents and carers to cancel any lunches that are no longer required, for example in the event of pupil absence. Unfortunately, if a meal is not cancelled, charges will still apply for any meals.





Accelerated Readers

100,000 words

Diego Larios Balladares, Alexia Rhodes, Alex Perring,
Harper Stevenson, Oscar Freeston & Freya Hubbard.

250,000 words

Archie Hopkins, Isaac Allen & James Fagan.

500,000 words

Clay Ellison, Ben Palmer & Logan Simmons.

750, 000 words

Sam Palmer.

The next Friends of Highweek
(PTFA) meeting will be held on
Tuesday 24th February at 9am.

We will also be holding
the AGM on
Monday 23rd March at 9am.

Both meetings will be held
in the main school.

Would you like to join our friendly PTFA
(Friends of Highweek), or know someone
who might be interested? We'd love to
welcome you to our next meeting, where
new faces are always warmly received.



Refreshments available

Friends of



Highweek
Primary School



Well done to our Friday Flyers.
Our Friday Flyers promote our work around developing Growth Mindset and a can do attitude.

Find lessons and inspiration in the success of others

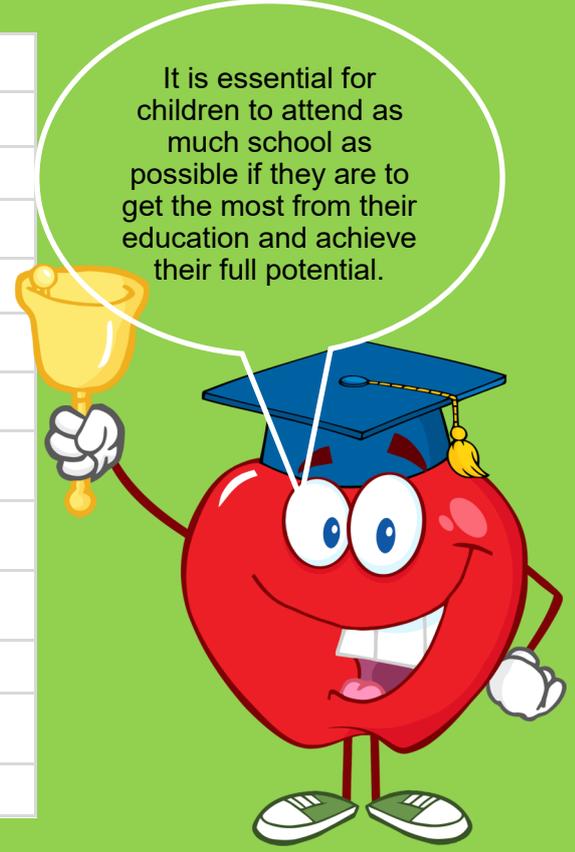
Theme	Learning From Feedback		Friday 6th February	
Date	Friday 30th January		Friday 6th February	
Bovey	Betzy Boddington-Pearce	Hazel Rouse	Koa Dymond	Jack Barr
Dart	Niamh Stancombe	Riley Atkinson	Leo Steer	Maia Roome
Exe	Khalid Shaibu	Madison Smith	Rowan Cole	Rose Green
Mardle	Lola Bligh	Henry Pratt	Marnie-Rae Jennings	Arlo Stephens
Plym	Paisley Hamlyn	Samuel Heywood	Evelyn Wilkes	Riley Daniels
Tamar	Brody Williams	Florence Smith	Albie Hagger	Tommy Walton
Tavy	Ravenna-Rae Spence	Jack Wilkes	Lexi Daniels	Franklin Owen
Teign	Oliver Barr	Jessica Bendzala	Rose Liju	Christina Madley
Torridge	Alfie Mitchell	Joel Atkinson	Oscar Estlick	Tilly Cameron-Davies

Well done to **Exe** class who had **100%** attendance for the period of **19th - 23rd January 2026**

Well done to **Teign** class who had **96%** attendance for the period of **26th - 30th January 2026**

Remember our whole school attendance target for the year we are working towards is 96.2%.

Class	W/C 19th January 2026	W/C 26th January 2026
Taw	71.6%	85.5%
Mini Mole	88.2%	82.1%
Mole	84.1%	87.1%
Mardle	96.5%	92.6%
Bovey	94.7%	88.8%
Tavy	93.5%	93.5%
Dart	87.9%	94.8%
Plym	96.3%	85.8%
Exe	100%	84.1%
Torridge	90%	94.6%
Teign	93.6%	96%
Tamar	95%	86.3%



Why Attendance Is So Important?

At Highweek we believe every school day counts. Regular attendance is vital for children's learning, social development, and overall wellbeing. Missing even a few days can disrupt progress, confidence and academic achievement.

Attendance Targets & Impact Our school attendance target is **96% or above**.

Here's why it matters:

95% attendance = 9 days missed per year

90% attendance = 19 days missed (almost 4 weeks!)

80% attendance = 38 days missed (over 7 weeks!)

Even short absences can add up and affect learning outcomes.



Penalty Notice Costs

National rules were introduced to all schools regarding unauthorised absences and term-time holidays. These changes are part of a national framework introduced by the Department for Education to improve school attendance across England.

- A fine **must be considered** when a child has missed 10 or more sessions (equivalent to 5 school days) for unauthorised reasons.
- This includes absences due to **term-time holidays not approved by the school**, or if a child continually arrives late after the registration period has closed

What are the possible fines?

Paid within 21 days		
	Total for parent 1	Total for 2 parents
1 child	£80	£160
2 children	£160	£320
3 children	£240	£480
Paid within 28 days		
1 child	£160	£320
2 children	£320	£640
3 children	£480	£1440

- If a **second fine** is issued for the same child within **3 years**, it will be **£160 with no discount**.
- A **maximum of 2 fines per parent per child** can be issued within a 3-year period. After that, **prosecution or other legal action** may be considered.
- In court, fines can reach up to **£2,500**, along with possible parenting orders or community service.

Let's Work Together

We appreciate your continued support in helping every child thrive. If you have questions about attendance or exceptional leave, please contact the school office or speak with our Attendance Officer, Claire Joint.



Wraparound Care at Highweek February 2026

HIGHWEEK
Primary School

Costs: 3:30pm - 4pm £4.50 3:30pm - 5pm £7.00 3:30pm - 6pm £8.50

Date	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2nd Feb	Rock Buns Free Play	Crackers/Dips Crafts	Trifle Games	Naan Bread Pizza Movie Night	Rock Buns Free Play
9th Feb	Lasagne Free Play	Bagels Games	Sandwiches Movie Night	Crumpets Games	Lasagne Free Play
23rd Feb	Cup Cakes Free Play	Wraps Movie Night	Toasties Games	Bagels Crafts	Cup Cakes Free Play
Outdoor Activity	Tag Rugby 	Football 	Dodgeball 	Archery 	Multi-Sports 

3:30pm - 3:45pm Registration
3:45pm - 4pm Snack
4pm - 5pm Chosen activity
5pm - 5:45pm Indoor play
5:45pm - 6pm Tidy up

Please note:
A £10 fee applies to late collections.
All cancellations are non-refundable.

Contact: Mrs Carole Rogers

Number: 07968 891535

Email: carogers@highweekprimary.co.uk



MAGIC SHOW

MAGIC JAMES IS RETURNING TO HIGHWEEK PRIMARY WITH HIS NEW MAGIC SHOW.

The show is on **Thursday 12 February** from 6.15pm until 7.15pm.

Those who saw Magic James on his last visit a couple of years ago will be keen to find out what new tricks he has conjured up for us in this brand new show, and for those who haven't seen him yet, both children and parents are in for a magical treat.

Tickets will cost £5 per head and be available at the door on the night.





Ways to Wellbeing

Spring 26 Issue #3

Place2Be's

CHILDREN'S
MENTAL HEALTH
WEEK

9-15
FEB
2026

This is my place

9-15th February is national Children's Mental Health Week. The focus is "This is my place" & how important it is for children and young people to feel that they belong.

When we feel that we belong, it empowers us to contribute to the world and make a real difference.

What do you think that 'belonging' means?
Have a chat with friends or family - there are no wrong answers!

So, what can 'belonging' look like for you? Think about...

- Where do you feel safe and comfortable?
- Where can you really be yourself?
- Who do you feel comfortable around? Why?
- How does it feel when you don't feel safe or comfortable?
- How can people help you when things are feeling tricky?
- How can you show other people that they belong with you or in your community?

If you want a fun activity to explore belonging - have a go at making your own map!

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/media/4jspevya/this-is-my-place-art-project-childrens-mental-health-week-2026.pdf>



If you need support for your mental health, please talk to a trusted adult at school or home.

Call 111 and select option 2 for mental health. In an emergency, call 999.