◦ *Resilience* ◦ *Determination* ◦ *Consideration* ◦ *Community Mindedness* ◦ *Responsibility* ◦ *Honesty* ◦

Growing minds for learning, crafting skills for life

Autumn Term Bulletin

Issue 03: Friday, 25th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you have had a lovely week.

Lost Property

Please can we remind all parents to ensure pupils' uniform items have a name label. We have an extensive lost property collection! And parents frequently come into school asking for lost items. Naming your child's clothing ensures it can be quickly returned.

Smart Watches

Please be aware that smart watches are not permitted in school. We find these devices to be very distracting in the classroom, and they also have similar connectivity to smartphones, which poses a safeguarding risk. Any smartwatches or phones that do come into school will be stored in the main office and need to be collected at the end of the day.

Passports

Please be aware that school staff are unable to countersign passport applications or verify passport photographs. Countersigning carries a personal responsibility to confirm someone's identity, and we are unable to offer this as a school service. Thank you for your understanding.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Mrs Manning

Headteacher

Attendance W/C 14/09/2026

Class	Attendance %	Lates
Reception	90	6
Year 1	96.1	6
Year 2	96.3	2
Year 3	97.1	3
Year 4	92.9	3
Year 5	95.3	6
Year 6	96.3	4

Hero—Here Everyday, Ready On time!

100%	Excellent
96-99.9%	Good
90-95.9%	Needs to improve
88.9% or less	Really needs to improve

Coming Up...

Diary Dates 2026/2027		
DATE	**EVENT**	**Year groups**
15.09.2026 (Weekly)	Year 3 Group 1 Forest School Starts	3 (Group 1)
01.10.2026	School Census Day	
01.10.2026	Year 5 Swimming	5
07.10.2026 - 09.10.2026	Year 6 Residential: PGL Marchants Hill (2 nights)	6
15.10.2026	Year 5 Swimming	5
19.10.2026	Year 4 Trip to Verulamium Roman Museum	4
20.10.2026	Year 3 Group 1 Forest School Last session	3 (Group 1)
21.10.2026	Year 5 Swimming	5
October Half Term: 23.10.2026 - 30.10.2026		
02.11.2026	INSET DAY (school closed to all pupils)	
03.11.2026 (Weekly)	Year 3 Group 2 Forest School Starts	3 (Group 2)
09.11.2026	School Photos	
18.11.2026	Flu Immunisations	R-6
26.11.2026	Year 1 Trip to Hughenden Manor	1
08.12.2026	Year 3 Group 2 Forest School Last Session	3 (Group 2)
Christmas & New Year Break: 21.12.2026 - 01.01.2027		
07.06.2027	INSET DAY (school closed to all pupils)	
19.07.2027	INSET DAY (school closed to all pupils)	
20.07.2027	INSET DAY (school closed to all pupils)	
21.07.2027	INSET DAY (school closed to all pupils)	

Letters Home This week:

- Special Dietary Requirement menu choices
- Reception packed lunches
- Year 3 Head Lice
- Year 4 trip to Verulamium Roman Museum
- Year 1 trip to Hughenden Manor
- Year 6 What to bring for PGL residential trip

This Week in School....

Reception

Another busy week in Reception!

This week, the children have shown great focus and attention during our phonics lessons. They have been learning the four new phonemes : i, n, m and d. We have learnt and practised how to write the new sounds and practised writing our name.

In Maths, we have been learning how to subitise numbers to 3. The children have enjoyed looking at groups of spots and quickly recognising how many there are. They have practised matching the number of spots they see to the correct numeral and showing the numbers on their fingers.

On Tuesday, the children were very surprised to discover that the Gingerbread Man had made a big mess in our classroom! There was flour and footprints everywhere! He had hidden himself around the classroom, leaving clues to help us find him. The children had lots of fun searching for him. We have enjoyed listening to the story of The Gingerbread Man, joining in with the repetitive phrases, and acting out the story towards the end of the week.

Another great week, Reception! Enjoy the weekend!

Year 1

We have had another fantastic week in Year 1!

In English, we have been adapting our story of The Three Little Pigs into The Three Little Fish. We have been writing sentences using adjectives and expanded noun phrases to make our writing more interesting and descriptive.

In Maths, we have been learning about one more and one less. We have been practising finding the number that comes before or after a given number.

In Science, we explored our sense of sight. We learnt that we need light to see things. We investigated whether having our eyes open or closed affected our ability to throw a ball into a bucket. We discovered that it was much easier when both eyes were open!

In Art, we practised making a controlled spiral and then used pastels to colour our designs.

In Geography, we explored human and physical features around our school and local area. We used Google Maps to help us identify different features and talk about what we could see.

In PSHE, we discussed how we learn together and thought about the different ways we can help and support each other when learning.

Well done, Year 1, for another brilliant week of learning!

Have a lovely weekend, everyone!

Year 2

Another fantastic week of learning in Year 2!

The children have continued to work incredibly hard and have been developing their confidence across all areas of the curriculum.

In English, we have continued writing our own sentences to adapt our model text. We have also been exploring the setting of a witch's lair, thinking about what it might look, sound and feel like. The children have used their ideas and vocabulary to create some fantastic descriptive sentences.
Our phonics is going really well, and we have continued learning our Year 2 Common Exception Words. Ask your child what a homophone is and see if they can give you an example, such as blew and blue!

In Maths, we have continued our work on place value, focusing on number lines and exploring how the intervals can change from counting in ones to counting in tens. We have also been comparing numbers using the greater than (>) and less than (<) symbols and explaining how we know which number is greater or smaller.

In PSHE, we have been learning about our rights and responsibilities as members of our class and school community. We discussed why it is important that everyone contributes and how our actions can help to make our classroom a happy, safe and positive place for everyone.

Well done, Year 2, for another brilliant week of learning!

Year 3

This week in Year 3, we have been busy learning and exploring across the curriculum!

In English, we have become text map experts and have really enjoyed practising writing sentences using emotive verbs and prepositions. In Maths, we have been exploring the number line to 1,000 and developing our estimation skills by placing numbers accurately on a number line.

In History, we have begun placing the Stone Age on a timeline and have been learning about what happened after this fascinating period. In Art, we have been exploring how artists use different types of line work to create effects in their artwork.

Finally, in Music, we listened to David Bowie's Ground Control to Major Tom as a ballad and had lots of fun creating our own maps of the song. It has been another fantastic week of learning! Have a restful weekend.

Year 4

Year 4 have been exploring the Roman Empire this week using maps and written evidence from emperors to describe what it was and how far it spread. Imagining foreign lands high in the treetops has been our writing focus in English this week as well, following our characters as they travel through a new and mysterious portal.

Matching the mood with descriptive language and using personification to bring the setting to life have been our targets. In Maths, we have been completing, reading and estimating with number lines to find missing numbers. While in PSHE, we have been thinking about how to include everyone in our class team and thinking about how we can bring some peaceful moments to Ash Hill during our assembly. In Science, Year 4 have been classifying animals using a key and asking closed questions. With our class book hotting up as Lila approached the volcano, the only question is: will she make it?

Please make sure you are all reading together at home over the weekend and during the week. TT Rockstars is also fully set up and ready to go with a new challenge starting next week.

Have a great weekend everyone.

Year 5

It has been another busy week of learning in Year 5.

In Science, the children designed their own investigation to measure air resistance, while in Maths they have been developing their skills in rounding numbers. They have planned their ideas for an exciting story about defeating a lava monster and created music using body percussion and hieroglyphs.

In Geography, we have begun learning about how mountains are formed, and in Art, the children have created prototype zines.

We are very proud of the enthusiasm and creativity Year 5 are showing across all areas of their learning!

Year 6

It's been a full on week in Year 6.

We have already completed our first Maths unit on place value and this week have been thinking about addition and subtraction. We have also started a new unit in English focusing on writing a warning tale. This week we have been describing settings using precise adjectives and personification.

In Science we have been grouping organisms based on their features. We have had thoughtful discussions in RE about worldviews and how these can be based both on our personal experiences and our religious beliefs.

Please check your Parent Mail for the final details about our residential trip.

I hope that you all have an enjoyable and restful weekend.

Community Events

Dear Parents and Carers,

Please find attached a flyer for a great new opportunity to meet other children and carers for play sessions at ParkPlau at the Melbourne Play Area in Micklefield.

The first session is on Saturday 3rd October at 10am. This is being run by WCA, a separate organisation to school but is being shared as it may be of benefit to local children and families in the Micklefield area.

We hope you enjoy and would love to know how it goes if you attend!

For more information please see the flyer or get in touch with WCA.

Half Term

Premier Education | INSPIRING ACTIVITY

Please also find attached a flyer from Premier Education regarding their holiday club offering that runs at The Downely School Monday-Thursday

For Year 6: Secondary School Open Events

The Highcrest Academy

Ofsted Rated Good

Open Evening on Thursday 8 October 2026

With Principal's speeches are at 5.30pm and 6.15pm in the main hall.

Open Morning on Friday 16 October 2026

Tours every half an hour from 9am to 12 noon.

Year 6 Parents - please book a Banding Test NOW!

www.highcrestacademy.org.uk

We are holding our Open Evening on Thursday 8 October from 5pm – 8pm, with the Principal's speeches at 5.45pm and 6.15pm.

Come and see us on a working day on Friday 16 October for tours every half an hour from 9am - 12 noon.

Please scan these QR codes to access:

Banding Test Information *Find out all you need to know about our Admissions Policy and how to book your child's Banding Test*	**Our Promotional Video** *Hear from our staff and students about what it's like to attend The Highcrest Academy.*
Our Prospectus *Have a read of our prospectus, which will give you a brief insight into our ethos and our work*	**Our Open Evening Survey** *For your comments after the event.*

Holmer Green Senior School Year 7 Entry for September 2027

Open Evening - Thursday 8 October 2026

Holmer Green Senior School is delighted to invite prospective families for 2027 entry to our Open Evening on 8 October 2026.

Doors open at 4.30pm with Headteacher talks at 4.45pm; 5.45pm and 6.45pm

There will be opportunities to meet our staff, see the curriculum in action, participate in science experiments, browse displays of trips and activities, sample our food, listen to live music and much more.

Please book your place by visiting: Holmer Green Senior School Open Evening Booking

Kindly note that due to popularity and capacity on site, we can only allow 2 tickets per family.

We are also unable to offer parking on site so request that all visitors with cars park away from Parish Piece, legally, safely and respectfully of our neighbours. Parking on Parish Piece will cause congestion and gridlock which we aim to avoid.