



High Halden Church of England Primary School

Newsletter 9



Spring Term

Friday 9th January 2026

'Rooted in God, we grow together'

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Happy New Year to all our families! I hope you all had a wonderful, restful Christmas break and enjoyed making special memories with your loved ones. It is lovely to see the corridors buzzing with energy again as we kick off the first term of 2026.

We started our first day back with a powerful theme: "New Year, New World." It was a day dedicated to looking outward at our planet and inward at our own well-being. Throughout the day, the children engaged in some fantastic activities: Learning to sign the lyrics to What a Wonderful World using Makaton. Classes compared different continents and countries, exploring the diversity of our planet. Every child made an Eco Pledge, promising small changes they can make to help protect our environment in 2026. We also focused on "The Art of Unwinding." The children practiced strategies to help them relax and stay calm when the world around them feels a little too busy.

A massive thank you to Mrs. Ward's sister, who joined us to lead our workshops throughout the day. The children gained so much from your expertise!



2026



The highlight of the week-without a doubt-was the arrival of a small flurry of snow. If you lived anywhere near the school, I'm surprised you didn't hear the cheers! While it was only a light sprinkle, the pure excitement on the children's faces was the perfect way to welcome the new year.



This is a remarkably short term-we only have five more weeks until the February half-term break. However, you know us here: we don't like to just "plod on!" We have an action-packed curriculum planned and plenty of events to cram into these next 25 days. We are so excited to see what 2026 brings for our school community. Let's make it a year to remember!

Glimmers

In our busy lives, it's easy for both us and our children to get caught up in the "tricky" parts of the day. To help combat this, we will be talking to the children about ✨ "Glimmers." Think of a glimmer as the opposite of a "trigger"—it's those tiny, ✨ blink-and-you-miss-it moments that make you feel a little spark of joy or peace. It could be the first sip of a warm drink, a high-five from a friend, or seeing a robin on the playground. By asking our children, "What was your glimmer today?" instead of just "How was school?", we help them refocus their brains to notice the good stuff. It's a simple, lovely way to help them feel more grounded and positive, even when the world feels a bit loud!

Generosity

Respect



Wisdom

Trust

Hope



Attendance



Whole School: 96.8%

Reception	98.9%
Year 1	96.2%
Year 2	97.1%
Year 3	96.8%
Year 4	96.2%
Year 5	97.3%
Year 6	95.2%
National	95.1%
Local Authority	94.9%

This week, the weather certainly gave us a challenge! We know that when the roads are icy and the temperatures drop, just getting out of the house with school bags, coats, and boots is a feat in itself.

We want to say a huge thank you to all of our parents and carers for the extra effort you made to get the children into school safely this week. Your dedication is the reason our classrooms remained full of energy and learning, despite the frost outside.

By prioritising attendance during difficult weeks, you are teaching your children incredible life lessons.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

World Religion Day - 19th January

In honor of World Religion Day, we are incredibly excited to offer the children the opportunity to visit places of worship (Gurdwara and Synagogue).

These visits are a wonderful way for them to see first-hand the diversity of faiths and traditions we discuss in class, helping them grow into respectful and curious global citizens.

To ensure these trips are a success for the children, we need to finalise our planning and transport and we still have a few outstanding consent forms. If you haven't had a chance to complete yours yet, please could you do so over the weekend?



PE Day

To help the children get the most out of their physical education, please find the schedule for this term below. As a reminder, children should come to school dressed in their PE kits on their designated days.

Bumble Bees - Friday
Butterflies - Friday
Grasshoppers - Monday & Friday
Dragonflies - Thursday (swimming)

To keep our school community looking smart and ready for action, please ensure the children follow the PE uniform guide:

- Top: A plain yellow t-shirt or one featuring the school logo.
- Bottoms: Navy or black tracksuit bottoms, leggings, or shorts.
- Footwear: Suitable trainers or pumps for physical activity.
- Earrings should be removed on PE days

Please ensure all kit items are clearly labeled with your child's name so they can be easily returned if misplaced!



Year 6 Bikeability

Bikeability cycle training sessions will take place on:

Tuesday 10th February
and
Wednesday 11th February

These sessions are for the children in year 6 who have booked to take part in the course.

Further details regarding the course will be provided as soon as we receive them from KCC.



School Uniform Provider

We are very aware that there have been ongoing challenges with our current supplier, and we know that some families are still waiting on incomplete orders that have carried over since the summer. We understand how frustrating this has been.

Please be assured that we have been listening to your feedback. As a result, we are currently in the process of changing our uniform provider. We are working hard to ensure the new partnership offers a much more reliable and efficient service for all our families. We will share further details regarding the new supplier and how to order very shortly.

Forest School Sessions

We are very much looking forward to welcoming Helen De Georgio from Righteous Oaks to High Halden to lead our Forest School sessions.

This term, Butterflies class will take part in the weekly sessions. These begin on **Wednesday 14th January**

Please ensure your child wears appropriate clothing and footwear for the weather and school environment.



Parent Workshop: Supporting Your Family in a Screen-Obsessed World

We are pleased to share details of an upcoming parent workshop aimed at supporting families in managing screen use in today's digital world.

This 2-hour session will explore:

- The impact of screens on children and family life
- Practical strategies for setting healthy boundaries
- Ways to support positive habits and wellbeing at home

Date: Monday 26th January
Time: 1:00pm – 3:00pm


Places are limited, and the workshop may not go ahead if there are insufficient sign-ups, so we encourage parents to book via the link below as soon as possible.

[Parent pre-enrolment Instruction ASH-1 52110-Q-PF.pdf](#)

(link also available on Class Dojo)



NHS
North East London
NHS Foundation Trust



Kent Emotional Wellbeing Teams
Medway Emotional Support Teams

Online Parent Workshops

Aimed at parents of children in primary school

Understanding Your Child's Behaviour


19/01/2026 10:30 - 12:30pm

*Workshop timings change from term to term

Are you currently experiencing difficulties with your child at home? Would you like to come and meet with other parents and carers and learn about ways to enjoy your time more with your child?

You are invited to a workshop about understanding and communicating with your child. It will help you consider factors which influence behaviour. We also discuss techniques that you can use at home for behaviours that you feel are difficult to manage.



If you would like to join, please **ctrl + click the link below or scan the QR code:**



[Understanding Your Child's Behaviour | Meeting-Join | Microsoft Teams](#)


Our workshops are held on Microsoft Teams. You can create an account for free. You will need access to the internet. If you have any questions please speak to your child's school. Currently, this workshop is only available to parents/carers of children attending an EWT/EST school. Please speak to your child's school or check our website for our list of schools. If you require materials in another language or have any other access needs then please email:

EWTanDESTenquiries@neft.nhs.uk

www.neft.nhs.uk

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Understanding Neurodiversity

24/03/2026 - 10:30 - 12:30pm

*Workshop timings change from term to term

Do you have questions about neurodiversity? Maybe you would like to build on your understanding of children's different ways of experiencing the world. Would you like to come and meet with other parents and carers and learn about ways to support your child?

You are invited to a workshop about understanding neurodiversity. We also discuss helpful strategies that you can use at home to help support your child.



If you would like to join, please **ctrl + click the link below or by entering the Meeting ID and Passcode within Teams:**

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We look forward to meeting you.

www.neft.nhs.uk

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Online Parent Workshops

Aimed at parents of children in school

Understanding Sleep and Autism


Monday 9th March 12:30—13:30pm

*Workshop timings change from term to term

Are you currently experiencing difficulties with your child's sleeping patterns? Maybe your child has received a diagnosis. Would you like to come and meet with other parents and carers and learn about ways to support your child?

You are invited to a workshop about understanding sleeping patterns and autism. We also discuss helpful strategies that you can use at home to help support your child.

If you would like to join, please **ctrl + click the link below or by entering the Meeting ID and Passcode within Teams:**





[Autism and Sleep | Meeting-Join | Microsoft Teams](#)

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Online Parent Workshops

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Supporting Your Child with Worries & Fears


02/02/2026 - 10:30 - 12:30pm

*Workshop timings change from term to term

Are your child's worries and fears starting to impact their day to day life? Would you like to come and meet with other parents and carers and learn about ways to support your children so they can manage their concerns and enjoy themselves more?

You are invited to a workshop which focusses on understanding what anxiety is, the symptoms you may notice in your child and some techniques to help manage this anxiety.

If you would like to join, please **ctrl + click the link below or by entering the Meeting ID and Passcode within Teams:**





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We look forward to meeting you.

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School Dinner Price Increase

We would like to remind families that the price of school meals for children in (KS2) has now increased to £2.85 per day.

- This increase does not apply to children in EYFS or KS1 as these meals continue to be free of charge
- It also does not apply to any children entitled to Free School Meals
- In line with our current school meals policy, all meals must be paid for in advance
- Payments can be made by cash, card, or BACS

If you have any questions regarding school meal payments, please contact Mrs Prebble, who will be happy to help.

Coffee Morning

We would like to invite EYFS and KS1 parents to a coffee morning taking place on **Monday 9th February**, straight after morning drop-off.

Please join us for coffee, tea, and cake, and a chance to relax and chat with other parents. Younger children are very welcome to come along if needed.

We will be joined by **two speech and language therapists**, who will be available to talk about the importance of play, how to extend children's play, and ways to support language development. This will also be a great opportunity to ask questions and have informal conversations with the therapists.

We hope you can join us for what promises to be a friendly and informative morning.

We look forward to seeing you there.

FOOD FESTIVAL
LET'S EXPLORE!
15th January

Campfire Smokey BBQ Cowboy Pie and Sweetcorn

Or

Veggie Campfire Smokey BBQ Cowboy Pie and Sweetcorn

And

Chocolate Brownie

Drama Workshops with
East Sutton Community Youth Theatre

The High Halden Drama Class

Fridays from 3.15 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.
Spring Drama term starts Friday 9th January 2026

School Years 2 to 6
Drama with Mike Dyer-Ball.

Mike has been teaching the Drama for nearly 30 years, He is a Professional actor, who trained at the Central School of Drama, appearing at many Repertory Theatres, including the Marlowe, the Vaudeville Theatre in the West End, and in T.V. drama, such as Casualty. Formed ESCYT in 1993.

Productions, Scenes, Drama Exercises ["Suspension of Disbelief"] such as *Outdoor Survival*, *Hotel Fabuloso*, *Haunted House*, and a host of other activities. Confidence building/imagination/FUN!!
COST for the 11 Drama weeks, only £65.00

☺ It is loads of fun ☺ Why not give it a try.

Please don't miss this golden opportunity!
Brochure and Enquiries, please 'phone/email:
Mike Dyer-Ball on www.escyt.co.uk and
01622 844321 / 07885 790 781/mike@escyt.co.uk

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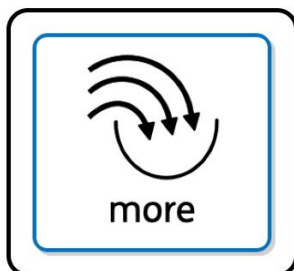
Hope

Makaton Sign of the Week

help



more



Diary Dates



Date	Event
Monday 19th January	EYFS/KS1 Trip to Synagogue KS2 Trip to Gurdwara
Monday 26th January	Parent Workshop: Supporting Your Family in a Screen-Obsessed World
Monday 9th February	SEND Coffee Morning - EYFS/KS1
Tuesday 10th and Wednesday 11th February	Bikeability Cycle Training Course - Year 6
Friday 13th February	Last Day of Term 3

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