

UCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL  
Education Department

# Highworth Combined School & Nursery

HIGHWORTH CLOSE HIGH WYCOMBE BUCKS. HP13 7PH

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Newsletter: 20<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Issue: 13

**Letters sent home & e-School messages this week:** Support for families during the holidays, e-safety over the festive break.

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the festive season, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on and celebrate the many wonderful contributions from our school community in just one week since my last newsletter!

Firstly, very many thanks to all involved in organising and supporting our very popular Christmas Fayre. I'm not sure we have ever had an event so well attended and I can't wait to find out how much money was raised towards our target of £5000 to purchase new laptops.

A huge thank you must also go to all involved in the Key Stage 1 performance. The children's energy and enthusiasm shone brightly on stage, and the support from staff and parents helped to create a memorable experience for all. Your efforts are much appreciated, and we are so proud of what the children achieved.

I also want to express my gratitude to our fantastic cooks and midday supervisors, who worked tirelessly to prepare and serve 305 delicious Christmas lunches. The joy and excitement in the dining hall were palpable, and it wouldn't have been possible without your hard work and dedication, and that of all the staff who joined in to help. Thank you for making this special occasion memorable for everyone.

A heartfelt thank you goes to Highworth Friends for funding a spectacular party with Mr Marvel. The children were thrilled by the entertainment, and it was a wonderful way to bring festive cheer to the school. Your generosity and support are invaluable to our community.

I must also acknowledge the outstanding efforts of Year 5, whose Christmas Assembly was both moving and uplifting. The staff and children put so much care into their preparation, and the result was a meaningful and inspiring celebration of the season. Thank you for sharing such a special moment with us all.

Looking ahead, we are delighted to welcome Jillian Armiger as our new SENDCO, starting on 6th January. Jillian brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to this important role, and I know (having worked with her before at Highworth!) she will be a wonderful addition to our team.

At the same time, I want to extend my sincere thanks to Beccy Mills and Caroline Day, our interim SENDCOs. They have done an exceptional job not only in holding the fort but also in improving the provision for many children on our SEN register. Their hard work, compassion, and dedication have made a real difference, and I am immensely grateful for all they have done.

Finally, on behalf of everyone at Highworth Combined School and Nursery, I would like to wish you a very happy and healthy Christmas if you are celebrating. Regardless, I hope you enjoy a well-deserved break from the usual routine. Thank you for your continued support, and I look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

School will reopen on **7th January 2025 at 8.45am.**

Very best wishes

Clare Pankhania

## ATTENDANCE

To report your child's absence please phone and leave a message or send an email to:

[reception@highworthcombined.co.uk](mailto:reception@highworthcombined.co.uk)

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE TARGET IS **96%**

BEST ATTENDANCE: **98.7%**

(CLASS 1K)

**WELL DONE**

WHOLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE:

**92.3%**

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

**Mon 6<sup>th</sup> January to Fri 10<sup>th</sup> January**

No After School Clubs this week

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January**

School opens for the Spring Term

## PARENT ZONE

### SIGN OF THE WEEK



### **More**

used to form the comparative of some adjectives and adverbs

*"more interesting"; "more beautiful"; "more quickly";*

Follow this link to see how to sign 'more' in BSL

[British Sign Language BSL Video Dictionary - more](#)

**Christmas services and activities at**  
**St Francis Church Terriers, Amersham Road, High Wycombe**

It is so easy to get caught up in the busyness of the Christmas season and to spend our time rushing around buying presents, decorating the house and preparing special food and to forget the true message of this special season. Why not make some time and space to reflect on what Christmas is really all about, the birth of the Christ child, and join us at St. Francis church for our special Christmas services.

Saturday 21st Christingle Service at 4.00pm – come and support the Children’s Society and make a Christingle to take away with you.

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December – Crib service at 4.00pm – hear the story of the birth of a special baby over 2000 years ago.

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December Midnight Mass at 11.30pm – the first communion service of Christmas day.

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December Christmas morning service at 10.00am

Do join us. All welcome.

# Nurture Programme

## Parenting group

The Nurture Programme is a parenting group that aims to empower parents to:

- build positive relationships
- encourage co-operative behaviour
- develop resilience, empathy, and self-esteem in themselves and their children.

**Places must be booked prior to the course starting.** Contact us or scan the QR code for more details and to book your place.



### Get in touch

01296 383293  
familyhubgroups@  
buckinghamshire.gov.uk



**High Wycombe**  
(3-day course)  
Thursdays

16 to 30 January 2025  
9:30am to 2:30pm



**Aylesbury**  
(5-day course)  
Wednesdays

26 February to 26 March 2025  
9:45am to 12:30pm



**Burnham**  
(3-day course)  
Wednesdays

12 March to 26 March 2025  
9:30am to 2:30pm

## Courses start January 2025

Proud to be part of  
**Family Hub**  
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# Keeping your child in mind

## Healthy parent relationships

This programme works with parents or carers who have different parenting styles, changes or breakdowns in relationships.

It aims to help you understand how your relationships impact your children and how working with positive, respectful communication can support your child to reduce the impact.

For more information and to book your place scan or press the QR code.

**4-week and 1-day courses available.**



### Contact us

01494 776 786



earlyhelpduty@

buckinghamshire.gov.uk



**Youthspace Centre**  
**High Wycombe**  
Thursdays

**16 January to 6 February**  
**4-week course**  
10:30am to 12:30pm



**Amersham**  
**Family Centre**  
Thursday

**30 January**  
**1-day course**  
10am to 4pm



**Castlefield**  
**Family Centre**  
Thursday

**12 March**  
**1-day course**  
10am to 4pm

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# Wellbeing matters

For 7 to 11 year olds

A one-day workshop during the February half-term for primary-aged young people.

Topics will include your wellbeing, emotions, self-esteem, resilience, and relationships with others.

**Spaces are limited, secure your place now!**

Scan/press the QR code to secure your place or for more information

If you need help completing the form or registering your interest please email:

**[familyhubgroups@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:familyhubgroups@buckinghamshire.gov.uk) or call 01296 383293.**



**Berryfields Family Centre**

**Monday 17 February 2025 | 9:30am to 2:30pm**



**Mapledean Family Centre Plus**

**Wednesday 19 February 2025 | 10am to 3pm**

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# Buckinghamshire Family Information Service

Age 0 to 19 (25 SEND)



The **Buckinghamshire Family Information Service (BFIS)** provides information and advice on family matters, childcare and things to do locally.

We support parents, parents-to-be and children and young people from birth to 19 (up to 25 with SEND).

## You can find

- Support with family issues
- Family centres
- Support for children with SEND
- Childcare and early years providers

## Get in touch

☎ 01296 383293  
✉ familyinfo@  
buckinghamshire.gov.uk

For more information please visit  
<https://familyinfo.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/>

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# Messy play and explore

Free play sessions for children aged 0 to 5 years



Come along for lots of fun including arts, crafts, toys and outside play at one of our Wycombe Family Centres. **Dress for a mess!**



**Mapledean  
Family Centre +**

Mondays and Fridays  
9:45am to 11:15am



**Hampden Way  
Family Centre**

Mondays  
9:30am to 11:30am



**Hithercroft  
Family Centre**

Tuesdays  
9:30am to 11:30am



**Risborough  
Family Centre**

Wednesdays  
9:30am to 11:30am



**Marlow  
Family Centre**

Thursdays  
9:30am to 11:30am



**Castlefield  
Family Centre**

Fridays  
9:30am to 11:30am



**Buckinghamshire  
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Mental Health Support Team  
Buckinghamshire



**FREE**

**FOR PARENTS  
AND CARERS**

# LIVE WEBINARS

**CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH**



**DATES:**  
VARIOUS



**TIME:**  
6PM - 7.30PM

To register, scan the QR codes on the next page!

03000 903565

buckamhs@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk

\*PLEASE NOTE: YOUR ONLY MEANS OF CONTACT WILL BE YOUR EMAIL FOR ALL OF THE WEBINARS. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, PLEASE CONTACT US.

## SCAN THE QR CODE TO SECURE YOUR PLACE:

Topic	Date	School Age	QR
Introduction to Mental Health	16th October 2024 6pm - 7.30pm	Primary	
Introduction to Mental Health	22nd October 2024 6pm - 7.30pm	Secondary	
Childhood Anxiety	6th November 2024 6pm - 7.30pm	Primary	
Adolescent Anxiety	13th November 2024 6pm - 7.30pm	Secondary	
Understanding Child Behaviour and Development	22nd January 2024 6pm - 7.30pm	Primary	
Supporting your child with Exam Stress	6th January 2025 6pm - 7.30pm	Secondary	
Low Mood and Depression	26th February 2025 6pm - 7.30pm	Secondary	
Understanding Adolescent Development and Behaviour ( teenage brain)	13th March 2025 6pm - 7.30pm	Secondary	
Change and Transition	2nd April 2024 6pm - 7.30pm	Primary	
Supporting your child with Exam Stress	20th April 2025 6pm - 7.30pm	Secondary	