

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
Education Department

Highworth Combined School & Nursery

HIGHWORTH CLOSE HIGH WYCOMBE BUCKS. HP13 7PH

Tel. (01494) 525534

Email office@highworthcombined.co.uk



Newsletter – 1st February Issue 8

Letters sent home & eSchool messages this week: *French Day, School Closure, Young Voices Concert, Echoes 8 Concert, Swimming (4S), Half-Term Activity (YR-Y4)*

Dear Parents and Carers

At risk of repeating myself, please can I say a big thank you for your understanding and tolerance during the disruption caused by the wintery weather we've experienced this week. Once again, recognition must go to the small band of helpers, known as Snow Force, who did a great job making the road safer for us all. It would be lovely to think that we are through the worst of it, but it might be a bit early in the year for that! Please keep a close eye on eSchools and the Bucks CC website (<https://closures.buckscc.gov.uk/>) for updates as there will not always be someone available to answer your phone calls.

Despite the disruption, teachers are making the most of the Spring Term, when we have fewer events, to motor on with learning. My visits to classrooms this week have shown me that the changes we have made to the curriculum this year are really paying off. It's a great pleasure to see increasing competence being displayed by children in every class.

If the forecast snow arrives this weekend, I hope that it does not cause you too many difficulties and that your children are able to enjoy making the most of the opportunities for the fun that it provides.

Kind regards

Clare Pankhania

ATTENDANCE

The display board at the front of the school shows each year group's weekly attendance.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE TARGET IS 96%

BEST ATTENDANCE: 100% (CLASS 4S)

WELL DONE!!

**OUR WHOLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE IS
JUST ABOVE TARGET AT 96.2%.**

PUNCTUALITY: Gates open at 8.45am and close at 8.55am. Please ensure that your child is in school on time.

Dates for the Diary

Monday 4th February

Year 4 Performance assembly 10am

Tuesday 5th February

English for Health and Wellbeing course for parents – 9.30am

Wednesday 6th February

Triple P Positive Parenting Course – 12.30pm

Friday 8th February

French Day

Year 5 Handball at Holmer Green – 12.45 -2.45pm

Parent Zone

Time out for parents/carers of children with ASD age 3-11.

Do you think that you may have a child who has ASD? (Autism Spectrum Disorder). I have been able to secure some **FREE** training for parents of Highworth pupils who feel they may have a child with ASD (the child does **not** need to have a diagnosis to attend). The course will run for 3 weeks:

Wednesday 20th March 12.30 -2.30pm

Wednesday 27th March 12.30 -2.30pm

Wednesday 3rd April 12.30 -2.30pm.

The course will be held in the Scout Hut at school but places need to be booked via Beccy Hatch. Places will be limited so if you would like to take part then please email me

hatchb@highworthcombined.co.uk

Please see attached flyer for more information about the course.

Volunteer Opportunity

Please see attached a leaflet from Barnardo's Support for Parents who are looking to train some volunteers who work with families in the local area.

NAS South Bucks Newsletter

Please find attached the newsletter from the National Autistic Society. This month they are looking at school exclusions and giving details of up and coming events.

Occupational Therapy talks for parents

Please see attached some information about parent talks that Occupational Therapy are offering.

Kind Regards

Beccy Hatch
Parent Support Worker

PTA Update

The new date for the PTA Quiz is Friday 1st March, 7pm in the school hall.

Our next PTA event will be the Valentine's Disco, to be held on Thursday 14th February, starting at 6.30pm. Put it in your diary! This is a great chance for your children to relax, have fun and enjoy some dancing in the run-up to half-term. (Note that all children must be accompanied by an adult.) We will need some parents to volunteer to help run the stalls – please look out for a separate letter in the next few days.

**Time out for parents/ carers with
Children with ASD
Age 3-11**

A Three week programme exploring.

Session 1 what is ASD?

- What causes ASD
- Interventions and therapies.
- Sensory processing.

Session 2 Understanding the Trait of Impairments.

- Communication difficulties.
- Social Interaction.
- Imagination
- Special Interests.

Session 3 Understanding and managing Behaviour.

- Behaviour that annoy or worry.
- Principles of behaviour management.
- Anxiety
- Oppositional behaviour.
- There is always a reason.

Course run by Leonie Cowlard who works for Wycombe Youth for Christ who's been a trained facilitator since 2011 running courses by a national charity Care for The Family who have been designing courses for over 30 years.

www.careforthefamily.org.uk

SUPPORT 4 PARENTS



Have you ever thought...

If only I knew then what I know now..?

Now you can help in a really practical way.

We're looking for volunteers to work in a structured way with families in your area who are struggling to parent children under 8.

If you are interested in working with families and have experience in looking after children, you can make a difference.

If you can spare about 3 hours a week, we'll train you in how to pass on your precious skills and knowledge and we'll support you in doing a really worthwhile job.

Want to know more?

Telephone Barnardo's Support 4 Parents for an informal chat on 07715 428 690

Or email support4parents@barnardos.org.uk

Dear all,

On 17 January the NAS South Bucks welcomed Andy Cutting, NAS School Exclusions Officer to host a seminar on 'Steps to encourage inclusion and avoid exclusion' – he was excellent. While being an engaging speaker he also had a wealth of information. Andy has kindly let us share his PowerPoint presentation which is – there is a lot of information and links to help you.

Two other links you may find useful are:

1. The link to the NAS School Exclusions Service is here: <https://www.autism.org.uk/services/helplines/school-exclusions.aspx>
2. And the Education Rights Service here: <https://www.autism.org.uk/educationrights>

We also filmed the event – when that has been edited we will share it with you.

Next Speaker:

- **Hillary Harvey, South Bucks PDA Society (Pathological Demand Avoidance)** Hillary will talk to us about PDA and also handling violent and challenging behaviours in Autism– with or without PDA.

8pm - Thursday 28 February

St Teresa's Parish Centre

40 Warwick Road

Beaconsfield

HP9 2PL

Please book free tickets here through Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/speaker-event-violent-challenging-behavior-and-a-chat-on-pda-tickets-55160869646>

Quiz Night:

Friday 1 March – 8pm, Fitzwilliam Centre, Beaconsfield, £5pp and 6-8 People per team.

Malcolm Corden (James' Dad) is our Quiz Master for the evening.

Would you like to bring a team – or come along, meet new people and make up a team?

A superb raffle. Cash bar. Nibbles and soft drinks included in ticket price.

Please register for tickets through the link below. Money will be taken via cheque or bank transfer. Please register the number tickets for the people who will be on your team or if you want to join a team the number of tickets you would like.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/nas-quiz-night-tickets-52954650786>

Support Us!

Please consider becoming a regular supporter of our branch from £1 a week, through joining the Wycombe Lotto with the chance to win up to £25,000 each week.


<https://www.wycombelotto.co.uk/support/national-autistic-society-south-buckinghamshire>

Best wishes


Kelly

NAS South Bucks

Volunteer branch of the National Autistic Society



Children and Young People's Occupational Therapy Training Talks for 2019



The Children and Young People's Occupational Therapy Department is offering informative talks to parents, staff working with children and staff supporting parents. We will cover the following three topics:

Transition to Secondary School


- ☺ **Wednesday 24th April (6 - 8pm)**
The Oakridge Centre, 240 Desborough Road High Wycombe HP11 2QR
- ☺ **Wednesday 1st May (7 - 9pm)**
Rayners Hedge, Croft Road, Aylesbury HP 21 7RD
- ☺ **Tuesday 7th May (6 - 8pm)**
Amersham Hospital, Education Centre
Conference Room 1 HP7 0JD

Understanding Sensory Techniques & the 'Alert Principle'

- ☺ **Monday 17th June (6 - 8pm)** Amersham
Hospital Education Centre, Conference Room 1 HP7 0JD
- ☺ **Wednesday 9th October (7 - 9pm)** Rayners Hedge, Croft Road, Aylesbury HP 21 7RD
- ☺ **Tuesday 12th March (6-8pm)**
The Oakridge Centre, 240 Desborough Road High Wycombe HP11 2QR

Tips for Developing Handwriting Skills

- ☺ **Wednesday 6th February (7 - 9pm)**
Rayners Hedge, Croft Road, Aylesbury HP 21 7RD
- ☺ **Wednesday 9th October (6 - 8pm)**
Amersham Hospital Education Centre,
Conference Room 1 HP7 0JD
- ☺ **Tuesday 18th June (6-8pm)**
The Oakridge Centre, 240 Desborough Road High Wycombe HP11 2QR



All of our talks
and workshops
are **FREE!**

Please call or email to book your place or for more details of the above talks
Telephone: 01296 566045 Email: buc-tr.cyptherapytraining@nhs.net
Visit our website www.buckshealthcare.nhs.uk/CYP

Safe & compassionate care,

every time