Issue 6: Friday 9th October

Great Horwood CE School

NEWSLETTER

Updates

Breakfast Club

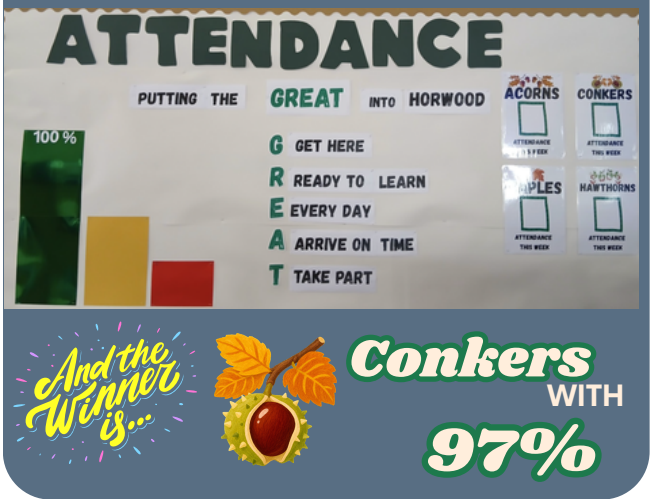
Parents who have signed up for Breakfast club over the last year have already received a letter to let them know that Premier are no longer able to provide the club after half term. But we are able to take over this service and will run Breakfast Club from our Seedlings Nursery from November 2nd as we feel it is imporatnt that we, as a school, can keep the option open for Parents who need it. Please check your inbox for information about how to book via MCAS.

Non Uniform Day

Please see the details below about our Non Uniform day next Friday. Please encourage children to be fairly sensible in what they choose to wear, we want them to be comfortable and safe throughout the school day.
There is no expectation to bring money for the non-uniform day, but we would welcome donations for the Christmas raffle on behalf of the PTFA. Thank you!

This week's attendance data:

We are continuing to improve!
Well done everyone for your attitude towards being in school.



Highlights this week

We are only one week away from completing our first half term. It has gone so quickly!
Firstly, thank you so much to all the parents and carers who attended our 'settling' Parents' Meetings. We appreciated your time and hopefully it reassured you how well your children have settled back into school life, or indeed, how they have begun their school journey. In the Spring term, we will have longer appointments as we discuss the progress and attainment elements alongside their wellbeing and attitude.

If you didn't complete our Parent feedback survey, please feel free to do so via the QR code below. The survey will remain open over the weekend and then I will report back the outcomes in next week's newsletter. I am particularly looking forward to hearing about what you would like us to improve in school. I will be gathering the pupils' views on this too... so you will no doubt need to keep your eyes peeled for a letter commissioning a swimming pool, a zoo or something equally as imaginative!

Here is the QR code for the Parents and Carers survey:



**At Parents' meeting you will have been given a leaflet about joining the PTFA. The email address is on the leaflet if you are able to support in any way.
Thank you!**

A letter from Our Executive Headteacher



Dear families,

I am very pleased to introduce myself as the new Executive Headteacher of Padbury and Great Horwood Schools.

I have almost 25 years' experience in education. I began my career as a classroom teacher, teaching across the whole primary age range, before moving into senior leadership. I joined the ODBST in 2019 and have since held a number of headship roles within the Trust. I am currently the substantive Headteacher of Christ the Sower Ecumenical Primary School in Milton Keynes. My experience has also included headship at Thomas Harding Junior School in Chesham and, more recently, an interim headship at Longwick School in Buckinghamshire.

Throughout my career, I have tried to lead with clarity, warmth and high expectations. I believe that strong leadership is about knowing what matters most, supporting people well, asking the right questions and working together to make sure that every child receives a high-quality education.

At the heart of my work is the belief that every child should feel safe, known, valued and cared for. Children should be encouraged to be curious, supported to grow in confidence and challenged to achieve highly. I believe that high expectations and strong relationships go hand in hand, and that children flourish when they feel a genuine sense of belonging.

I am also a mum to grown-up children, so I understand the joys and challenges of parenthood and the reality of balancing your child's needs with the other demands of family life. My son had special educational needs and went through the Education, Health and Care process. This has helped me to understand school life from both a parent's and a teacher's perspective, and it is something I always bring to the way I work with families.

I have worked closely with the previous Headteachers of both schools over the last seven years, and I worked particularly closely with Mrs Shaw throughout the last academic year. I have therefore already developed a good understanding of both schools. During this half-term, I have also spent time in both schools, getting to know the children and staff, listening to their experiences and developing a deeper understanding of each school's strengths, priorities and individual character.

As Executive Headteacher, my role is a strategic one, providing oversight, challenge and support across both schools. Mrs Gooding and Mrs Carson are responsible for the operational, day-to-day running of their individual schools. I will work closely with them to support their leadership, help to remove barriers and work alongside them to strengthen the schools further. I will also attend governing committee meetings and remain closely involved in the wider strategic direction of the schools.

Although my role is strategic, I will be a visible presence in both schools on the days that I am there. I will continue to spend time getting to know the children, staff and families, and I am very happy for parents and carers to come and introduce themselves or speak to me when they see me. I value open and honest communication and want families to feel that they can approach me.

I am looking forward to working with the children, families, staff and governors across both school communities. I feel privileged to be taking on this role and am excited about working with Mrs Gooding and Mrs Carson to build on the strengths of both schools and help them to flourish in the years ahead.

With very best wishes,

Mel Nugent Executive Headteacher

MEET THE PTFA TEAM:

Introducing your 2026-2027 PTFA Committee

Rosanna Edmans
Chair



Mummy of Pia (Y5) & Haydon (Y3). Works full-time as a Specialist Nurse. Volunteers as a rugby 1st Aider and likes gardening.

Ben Jones
Treasurer



Daddy of Sophia (Y4) & Oscar (Y1). Works full-time as a financial Controller. Enjoys playing sports & running.

Leigh Thornton
Secretary



Mummy Of Ophelia (Y5) & Demelza (Y2). Retired forces officer & volunteers as St Nicholas church secretary. Enjoys outdoor sports & immersing in nature.

Laura Askew
Committee member



Mummy of Jack (Y3). Runs a cyber-security firm full-time. Likes pottering in the garden & is a Trustee for SSNAP

Jade Jones
Committee member



Mummy of Sophia (Y4) & Oscar (Y1). Works full-time as a local government officer and volunteers to run Brownies & Guides

Suzanne Pemberton
Committee member



Mummy of Imy (Y2) & Ava (Y1). Works part-time as a Learning Tech Consultant. Enjoys tea & pretending she has it all under control!

Alison Atkinson
Committee member



Mummy of Seb (Y1) & Hattie (Seedlings). Works part-time as a teacher. Enjoys going on long walks in the countryside.

OUR NEXT EVENT!

PLEASE SUPPORT US!

NON-UNIFORM DAY

Friday 16th October

Only sensible footwear.
No open-toed shoes.
No football boots

PLEASE MAKE A TOMBOLA DONATION

Please drop your donation at the table in the front playground, or into the school office

SUGGESTIONS:

- Bottles
- Chocolates
- Biscuits
- Toiletries
- Candles
- Unwanted gifts
- Craft kits
- Books
- Toys

Please make sure all food/drink items are in date

We have a VACANCY

Info has been emailed out...

Please check your inbox!

JOIN US ! Parent Governor

We have a position available for a parent governor.

We are looking for a parent governor who is committed to helping shape the future direction of the school. You do not need educational experience.

We welcome parents from all backgrounds who can bring skills, enthusiasm, sound judgement and a willingness to work strategically for the benefit of all children.



office@ghw.odbst.org

01296 712 622

Starting school in September?

Open Day

Contact us:

01296 712622

office@ghw.odbst.org

9.30am
Wednesday 14th October
Friday 6th November
Tuesday 1st December

Great Horwood School






We're a small school with a big heart!

COME & MEET US
see what we're all about!

Enriching curriculum
small, friendly school
Experienced staff
Wrap around care
Great location

Looking for
SOMETHING TO DO?

WYCOMBE MUSEUM

Half Term Events

Sun 11th Oct - Sun 1st Nov



Pumpkin Hunt Trail

Hunt our gardens for pumpkins to win a prize!
Best for age 3 - 11. Pre-book or drop in. £3.15 per child.
Please note museum is closed Mondays & Saturdays.

Sun 25th Oct



Halloween Ghost Hunt

Come dressed up and ready to scare in this after-dark Halloween experience. With spooky crafts, biscuit decorating and ghoulish games.
Best for age 4 - 11. Pre-book. £7 per child.

Tue 27th & Wed 28th Oct



Discover & Make: Nature's Wind Chimes

Craft a natural wind chime using pine cones, feathers, twigs and twine. Best for age 4 - 11.
Pre-book. £4.50 per child.

Book at wycombemuseum.org.uk

01494 957210 info@wycombemuseum.org www.wycombemuseum.org.uk

Holiday

CLUB

Autumn themed with SPOOKY ACTIVITIES

19TH - 23RD & 26TH - 30TH

£35 DAY

8.30AM TIL 3.30PM

OPEN TO ALL CHILDREN

BOOK THROUGH MCAS



Autumn term diary dates. Please speak to your child's class teacher if you need clarity on any of these events.

Date	Event
Friday October 16th	PTFA Non - Uniform Day
Friday 16th October	End of half term
Monday 2nd November	Autumn 2 Term begins
Wednesday 11th November	Remembrance Worship 10.40am
Friday 13th November	Children in Need & GHS Talent Final

December



Date	Event
3rd December	Dressing of the tree, 2pm School Hall
4th December	School Christmas Fete
8th December	Acorns & Conkers Nativity Performance 10am
9th December	Acorns & Conkers Nativity Performance 2pm
11th December	PTFA: Elfridges!
17th December	Christmas Carols 2pm, School Hall
Friday 18th December	Last day of term

Still to be confirmed...

School Christmas Dinner

