HOLYPORT NEWS

Love Learning, Love Life...in all its fullness John 10:10

NEWSLETTER 1 - 29TH SEPTEMBER 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I know at the start of term, there is amass of essential communications, and we are all getting to grips with the new MCAS system. So, we have our first newsletter summing up what has been going on, as this busy period begins to calm!

Thank you to all those parents who were able to attend the Meet the Teacher/Curriculum meetings. We hope you have found it valuable to have contact with your child's teacher early in the school year and hear what the expectations are and routines.

In our school newsletter, we share key information and school events, as well as key dates. We also like to celebrate the achievements and experiences of the children beyond school, that we might not know about! So, please remember to send into parents@holyportprimaryschool.co.uk, a photo and a couple of lines if you wish to share a particular achievement or contribution your child has made out of school as well!. We would love to hear if you took part in the Library Summer Reading Challenge, as we no longer receive the certificates in school. Every child taking part will earn an extra 10 housepoints - so please, please bring us your certificate!

Please look out for Parents Consultation Meetings which are taking place on: Tuesday 20 and Thursday 22 October. A letter will follow shortly with the timings and details of how to book these.

We are about to start our Open Morning season. Do you know of anyone looking for a Reception class place for September 2027? If so, please direct them to our website for dates and times of our school talks and tours. They will need to call the office to book on to a tour.

Thank you for your support in getting your child to school on time. Punctuality is important for your child's morning work. We have our kiss and drop for KS2 children, in order to reduce congestion as much as possible. It would be appreciated if families could stick to the one way system at school drop off and pick up times and please do not park or stop on the school yellow zigzags.

Something exciting is we are shortly launching a new website. This will be the same address but is more streamlined. Some of the questions you may have, tend to be located on the website - so when you hear its launched, please have an explore!

Have a lovely weekend!

Mrs. Featherstone

Headteacher

Our Christian Value this term is....FRIENDSHIP

Want to know school dates on the go?

Did you know you can sync our school calendar to your phone's calendar?
On your phone or device, simply go to our calendar page on our school website and click "Subscribe to this calendar"

Click here to go to our calendar



NATIONAL FLU VACINNE

If you would like your child to receive the Nasal Flu vaccine, please remember to complete the online form by **9.00am on Tuesday 20th October** as the immunisation team will be visiting school on **Wednesday 21st October 2026**. Please click **here** for the consent form.

Term 1	
1/10	School Census
1/10 - 9.30am	Reception - My First Class Photograph
5-9/10	Diversity Week
6/10	HSA African Drumming Workshop
6/10	Parent Partnership Meetings
7/10 - 7.30pm	HSA Open Evening
8/10	Year 3 Winchester Science Museum
8/10	Year 1 Superheroes Day
13/10 - 8am	Fellowship Breakfast
13/10 - 9.30am	Open Morning for September 2027 Intake
14/10 - 8.50am	Year 4 Harvest Festival Assembly - Parents Welcome
20/10 - 8.30am	HSA Little Recyclers Collection
20/10	Year 5 Trip to Maidenhead Mosque
20/10	Year 6 WW2 Day
20/10 -3.50-6.30pm	Parents' Evenings
21/10	Reception to Year 6 Flu Vaccination Day
21/10 - 8.50am	Year 6 Show Assembly - Parents Welcome
22/10 - 3.50-6.30pm	Parents' Evenings
23/10 - 3.15pm	Last Day of Term
23/10 - 3.15pm	Year 6 Cake Sale
Term 2	
2/11	Inset Day - School Closed to Children
3/11	Children Return to School

SCHOOL REMINDERS

48 Hour Rule for Sickness/ Diarrhoea

If your child has had sickness or diarrhoea, they should not be returning to school until 48 hours after the last bout of illness.

Nut/Sesame Allergy Reminder

We would like to remind you that we have children in school who have severe nut/sesame allergies. Any exposure to nuts may cause a life-threatening allergic reaction that requires emergency medical treatment.

We are asking for your help to provide all our children with a safe school environment. Therefore we cannot allow any children in school to bring any nut based products into school or in their packed lunches. This includes chocolates, cakes and other foods that may have traces of nuts in.

Dogs on Site Reminder

As much as we love our four-legged friends, we would like to remind families that dogs are not permitted on the school site at any time, including at drop-off and collection times. We understand that many dogs are well-behaved and are an important part of family life. However, this policy is in place to help keep all children, staff and visitors safe and comfortable. Some children may be nervous around dogs, while others may have allergies or additional needs that can be affected by their presence.

If you walk your dog to school, please arrange for another adult to wait with them outside the school gates while you drop off or collect your child.

Thank you for your cooperation and support in helping us maintain a safe and welcoming environment for everyone.

Please note: Assistance dogs are permitted where required.

Secondary School Places 2027

Please remember that Year 6 parents should apply for their child's secondary school place by 31 October 2026. Please visit the link below to make your application:

RBWM Admissions

Keeping you Updated about your child's curriculum..

If you met with your child's teacher for our Curriculum and Meet the Teacher meetings - we hope you found the sessions useful and informative. Presentation slides are available on our website under your child's class page and the Curriculum Newsletters are on the 'News' section of our website.

PARENTS' EVENINGS - SAVE THE DATES!

We look forward to welcoming parents/carers into school for our parent evenings this term. Information will be sent out via MCAS with how to book your appointment. The individual class timings are shown on the second page of the letter and are reflected in the booking system.

The dates are:

Tuesday 20th October - 3.50-6.30pm

Thursday 22nd October - 3.50-6.30pm

STARS OF THE WEEK (11.9.2026)

Reception
Thomas B
Remy

Year 1
Wynter
Isla-Rose
Theo

Year 2
Hananthika
Iman
Franklin

Year 3
Tilly
Annabelle
Scott

Year 4
Freddie
Geogia
Charlie

Year 5
Amalie-Rose
Carys
Natalia

Year 6
Teddy
Isla
Ethan

PE
Thomas B - Year 5

HOUSE CAPTAINS

We are delighted to announce this year's House Captains.
Throughout the year, they will play an important role in leading their houses, encouraging teamwork, supporting school events and serving as excellent role models for their peers. Well done to everyone who applied for these roles. We were incredibly impressed by the high standard of applications and presentations.

Aidan and Alba (yellow)
Isla and Jessie (green)
Amelia and Gaurav (blue)
Lyla and Korey (red)

ACT OF KINDNESS...

We were delighted to hear about a fantastic act of kindness carried out by one of our pupils recently.
Yahya in Year 6 recently showed great kindness by helping a gentleman load equipment into his van. The gentleman, who was a member of a local astronomical society, was so impressed by the thoughtful gesture that he later wrote to Mrs Featherstone and returned to school to let us know and gifted the pupil with a poster as a thank you.
We are very proud of this Yahya for demonstrating kindness, respect and a willingness to help others.
Well done!



IN THE SPOTLIGHT...



Holyport Cricket Club held their Junior Awards evening on Friday, where both Zaky and Josh in Year 5 were recognised for their fantastic contributions to the team throughout the season.

- Josh was awarded U9s Fielder of the Year
- Zaky was awarded U9s Player of the Year

This dynamic duo have both had an exceptional season and development throughout the year. They have continued to progress in training and have also stepped up to play hardball friendly matches, which has been a fantastic achievement for them.
We are incredibly proud of how far they have both come and wanted to share their success with the school.

Over the weekend, Natalia in Year 5 and her mum completed the Twilight Challenge, raising vital funds for the MS Therapy Centre in Reading.
The centre has played an important role in her mum's recovery, so taking part in the challenge together was a special way to give back. The family would like to thank the Year 4 and Year 5 parents who generously sponsored them and offered their support.
We are incredibly grateful for the kindness of our school community. Every donation will help the centre continue its fantastic work supporting people living with MS.
Well done, Natalia!





Reading just got even more exciting, thanks to the generosity and kindness of the Wembley Lions, who donated over 60 brand new books to the school! The books range from early reading and decoding to fascinating non-fiction and adventure and pupil favourite, a copy of 'The Magic Faraway Tree'.
One of the main purposes if the Lions Club is to unite and serve local communities and what a better way than to support our local school than by providing fantastic resources for our children. A special thank you to Janvhi Patel and her grandad, Sanjay Patel who were pivotal in making the connection and ensuring the donation reached our school.
You can learn more about the amazing work from the Lions here:
https://www.wembleylions.org.uk/index.html

HOP MUD KITCHEN

Our Mud Zone has been open for a couple of weeks, and it's already become a favourite with lots of the children!

Every day, we are seeing children busy mixing mud, creating imaginative recipes and working together in the outdoor space. It has been lovely to watch so many children enjoying the freedom to explore, play and learn outdoors.

I'd like to say a big thank you to Guy for building the fencing and the Jaggs family for the mud kitchen donation. Also a huge thank you to Ms Rasul for running the zone.

All donations of kitchens, pots and pans, wellies and overalls are really welcomed and please remember if your child is regularly playing in the mud zone they can bring wellies and overalls in.







KS2 BOWLS FESTIVAL

On Tuesday 22nd September, a team of 9 year 3 pupils participated in a KS2 bowls skills festival. The children were very excited and happy to be representing the school at the event. They followed instructions really well and took part brilliantly.



The event took part place at Desborough Bowls Club, which boasts an international standard indoor. The bowls club are putting on junior sessions on Saturday mornings, which is completely free.

SEN AT HOLYPORT

I am Miss Prothero and I just wanted to re-introduce myself as the schools new Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO). I have worked at the school for a number of years and am excited to bring that experience to a new role while still working as an assistant head. I work closely with pupils, staff and families to support and help every child feel valued and happy. If needed, please do email me or come and speak to me at the gate and we can arrange an appointment.

Parenting/Carer Support

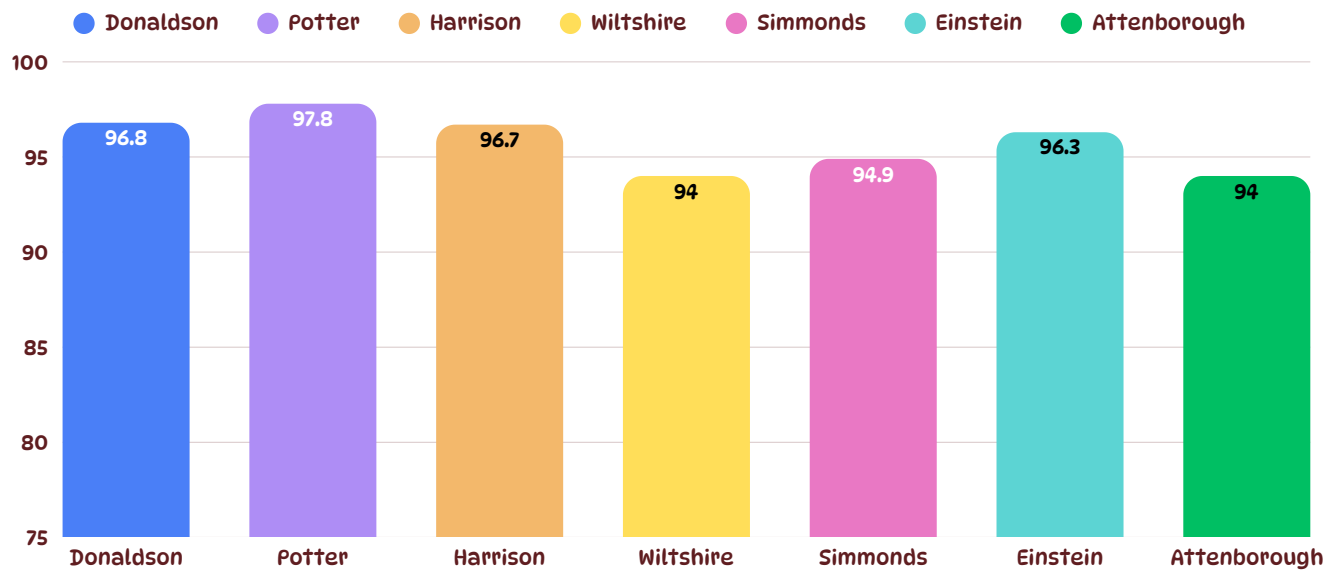
SEND Information Advice – links to support https://www.ias-rbwm.info/resources

Support Events for Parents and Carers – event which are open to all parents and carers in RBWM. All events are free and can be booking via https://www.ias-rbwm.info/events

Gems are passionate about creating a community where autistic and ADHD children and young people and those who care for them feel understood, valued and supported - https://www.gems4health.com/



ATTENDANCE MATTERS!



The Importance of Good Attendance

At Holyport, we place great importance on good school attendance. Being in school every day helps children make steady progress, build confidence, and stay connected with their friends and teachers.

We understand that children can become unwell from time to time, and in those cases they should of course stay at home. However, even one or two days of absence each term can quickly add up and may affect learning.

How Parents Can Help Improve Attendance

Here are a few simple ways families can support strong attendance:

- Establish a good morning routine: Preparing bags and uniforms the night before helps mornings run more smoothly.
- Aim for early bedtimes: Well-rested children find it easier to get up and be ready for school.
- Arrive on time: Being punctual helps children feel settled and ready to learn from the start of the day.

Please be aware that the school or local authority can fine parents for the unauthorised absence of their child from school, where the child is of compulsory school age. The decision on whether or not to issue a penalty notice may take into account:

- The number of unauthorised absences occurring within a rolling academic year
- One-off instances of irregular attendance, such as holidays taken in term time without permission

We understand that there can be tricky times and we offer our full support with any attendance issue... keeping us in the loop is the key. If there are problems, we will do everything that we can to make attending school as simple as possible whilst ensuring your child is happy and reaches their full potential. If there are ever any problems, please talk with Mrs Featherstone at the earliest opportunity and we will do everything that we can to help and support.

HSA EVENTS

🏊 Make a splash with the HSA! 🌊

Sign up for the Maidenhead Lions Swimarathon.
We're excited that Holyport Primary School will once again be taking part in the fantastic Maidenhead Lions Swimarathon on Sunday, 10 January 2027, at Braywick Leisure Centre.

We're inviting pupils from Years 1–6 to join us for this fun event, open to children of all ages and swimming abilities. It's not about winning – it's about having fun, working as a team and raising money for our school and local community. Parents and carers are welcome to get in the pool to support our youngest swimmers, too.
We're hoping to enter five teams of up to eight swimmers, with each team swimming a 50-minute relay, taking turns to complete single lengths. Each team will also have a non-swimming captain (a parent or child).

📅 Date: Sunday, 10 January 2027 (exact time TBC)
📍 Location: Braywick Leisure Centre, Braywick Road, Maidenhead, SL6 1BN
📝 How to sign up: If your child would like to take part, please let your HSA class rep know, including your child's full name, by Friday 23 October.

Once teams are confirmed, the HSA will share a JustGiving link so families can start fundraising with friends and relatives.

This will be our third year taking part and the children always have a brilliant time! Last year, we raised £1,850, split between the school and our local community.
🌊 Let's make our biggest splash yet! 🏊

🎁 Can you help make Christmas magic? 🎄

Preparations are already underway for our much-loved HSA Christmas Raffle and Silent Auction and we'd love your help to make this year's event truly spectacular!
Do you own, work for, or have a connection with a local business that might be willing to donate a prize?

We're looking for gifts, vouchers, hampers, services, experiences or anything else that could make a fantastic raffle or auction prize. Every donation, big or small, will help us raise much-needed funds to support and enrich our children's experiences at Holyport.
If you, or someone you know, might be able to donate, please get in touch with Kristina Anderson on 07971 794357 or email the HSA team at holyporthsa@gmail.com.

Thank you for your support – we couldn't do it without you!

LOCAL EVENTS

Pet's Thanksgiving Service





SUNDAY 4th October 2.30pm

Bring your pets for a short (30 MINS) Pet Blessing service:

Hymns, readings, blessing of pets and a moment to remember pets we have lost.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

St Michael's Church, Bray

01628 633713 stmichaelsbray@gmail.com https://www.braystmichael.co.uk/

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SUNDAY 4th October 10.00 am

Bring your harvest gifts – non perishable food items that we will donate to Maidenhead Food Share

Hymns, readings, Harvest Thanksgiving talk (child friendly!)

About 1 hour

ALL ARE WELCOME!



