



Friday 17th
July 2026

High Down Schools

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NEWSLETTER 18

Dear Parents/Carers,

It's been an action packed term in so many different ways and one that certainly seems to have flown by. I can't quite believe we're coming to the end of another school year, though the thought of a holiday isn't entirely unappealing. I hope that this is a really good opportunity to take a moment to consider just how much all the children have grown this year; they have all shown that they are more than ready to take their next steps forward (but not before that aforementioned long Summer holiday I might add!). They should all be very proud of how far they have come, as I'm sure you are too.

I'd like to say a few specific words about our wonderful Y6s who have been real superstars this year. They are about to take a slightly bigger step into new pastures, and will be bidding a farewell to High Down in a matter of days- but they really are all set to take on the myriad opportunities, challenges and fun that secondary school will no doubt provide. They were in Y3 when I arrived at High Down and it has been a real joy to see them grow into the well-rounded, interesting and interested people that they are. They were an absolute delight on our recent residential (despite the occasional earlier than early start to the day) and were up for giving everything a go. They were supportive and kind and respectful, and their enthusiasm was brilliantly unrelenting (even if some of them did a slightly too thorough job of launching me off a paddle board). And my word have they thrown themselves into the Y6 play, performing it with such gusto and genuine joy; I don't know if I've ever seen a year group giving it so much welly. Magnificent stuff! You have been wonderful members of our school and we will miss you all next year. Good luck one and all!

I'd also like to say a huge thank you to our PSA for a phenomenal Summer Fair; it was yet another moment to feel lucky to be a part of such a kind and generous community in such a beautiful setting – seeing so many smiles on so many faces (not to mention much needed money being raised!). Thank you to everyone who lent a hand to make such a successful event possible. Thank you too to Mr Sage and Mrs Biggins, and all the other staff involved for such an enjoyable set of sporting activities this week. A lot of fun was clearly had and a whole heap of sports completed too which was great to see and hear about from the children.

We have just three more days till the summer holidays begin. I hope that when they do, everyone has a really lovely break.

All the very best

Matthew Welsh
Executive Deputy Head

High Down Singing Sensations!

On Tuesday, a selection of Y4 and 5 children enjoyed a memorable trip to Bristol Beacon, where we spent the day celebrating music, teamwork, and creativity. From the moment we arrived, there was a real sense of excitement as singers from different schools came together to rehearse and perform. Throughout the day, we took part in a variety of singing sessions led by an inspiring musician who helped us improve our confidence, vocal skills, and performance techniques. It was amazing to hear so many voices joining together to create powerful harmonies, and everyone gave their best effort – especially as over 900 children took part! The atmosphere was friendly, encouraging, and full of enthusiasm, making it a memorable experience for every child.

As well as learning new songs, there were plenty of fun music themed activities that kept everyone entertained. We enjoyed interactive music games and opportunities to learn more about rhythm and performance in creative ways. During lunch, we explored the venue (stopping a few times to spot the famous names on the steps of people who have performed there over the years!). The trip was a fantastic chance to develop our musical abilities while creating lasting memories. By the end of the day, everyone left Bristol Beacon feeling proud of what they had achieved and inspired to continue singing. A huge well done to the children as their behaviour and attitude were brilliant and they did an excellent job of representing High Down in such a large gathering of so many schools. Thank you too to Mrs Kent and our parent helpers for your assistance on the day.

Well done singers – you can be proud!

Mr Fullan



Year 6 Residential

We once more returned to the Mendip Activity Centre for a week of brilliant activities. The children got to have a go at paddle boarding, tobogganing, rock climbing, active archery (this was a particular highlight!), team building skills, a very muddy assault course, bushcraft skills and so much more besides. There were some standout moments – including some very impressive tent inspections – but above all what amazed me was how the children kept challenging themselves, kept being willing to step outside of their comfort zones and kept on smiling! It was an amazing week but not one that happens through mere circumstance. A huge thank you to all the staff who were there for going above and beyond to make it such a successful experience for the children. Lots of memories hopefully made that will last a lifetime.

What a great week!



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Eco Club's Day Out to Watercress Farm!

Children from the Eco Club enjoyed a fantastic day out at Watercress Farm in Wraxall. The farm is a beautiful rewilding project dedicated to encouraging wildlife and restoring natural habitats. We took part in a range of exciting workshops with local experts who taught us about the vital role pollinators play in our environment. Members of the Bristol Naturalists' Society also showed us how to catch, identify and classify moths safely and humanely, while explaining why these fascinating insects are so important to local ecosystems. The children were also taught about the importance of bees and shown beekeeping equipment by a local 17 year old beekeeper! We were lucky enough to meet the farm's ancient breeds of wild cattle, which roam freely

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through the woodland. We learned how these animals help maintain healthy habitats and support biodiversity. To finish the day, we shared a presentation with other schools about how we care for the environment at High Down and enjoyed hearing about the inspiring work other schools are doing too. It was a wonderful day of learning, collaboration and sunshine!



Portishead in Bloom winners

Well done to everyone who took part in this wonderful event and a special congratulations to our worthy winners. Well done to you!

1st Place: Phoebe G 5HD – Bluebell Woods



2nd place: Jacob 3L

3rd place: Honey 5T



Summer Reading Challenge returns once more!





READ to the BEAT

Help Your Child Discover the Joy of Reading This Summer!

This summer, give your child the chance to fall in love with reading! The Summer Reading Challenge, created by The Reading Agency and delivered in partnership with public libraries, is a FREE, fun-packed way to keep kids reading and learning all summer long.

This year's theme, **Read to the Beat**, and is powered by Universal Music Group UK. The Challenge will celebrate the joy of music and the power it has to move, inspire, and connect us – all through the magic of reading. The Challenge is being brought to life with illustrations by award-winning author and illustrator, Harry Woodgate.

Why join?

- It's FREE! Available at local libraries and online
- Inspires a lifelong love of reading
- Boosts confidence, creativity, and imagination
- Earn rewards, certificates, and prizes
- Fun for the whole family. Visit your local library together
- 95% of children said they read more after joining!
- Children choose their own books to read, collect rewards over the summer and receive a certificate or medal when they complete the challenge.





Visit your local library or go online at
summerreadingchallenge.org.uk
to get started from 4 July 2026.

Help your child start their reading adventure today!

Year 6 Performance Perfection!

They were amazing! Well done to absolutely everyone involved! Superstars!



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Brilliant Buddies – thank you all!

Here are just a few things that the Y6 Buddies said about their time helping in the Infants.

“It was one of the best experiences ever”

“My buddies felt like siblings so thank you to all of them”

“I have loved buddies soooo much!”

“I had an amazing time – thank you so much!”

“I loved buddies so much!”

“Thank you for this amazing opportunity!”

Infant School Celebration Service:

Friday 10th July

Robins: Zinnia, Evie and Rosie; **Parrots:** Dylan and Isabel; **Penguins:** Alfie and Robin; **Swans:** Alfred and Huxley; **Falcons:** Finley and Oliver B; **Puffins:** Ethan and Maisie

Junior School Golden Book winners:

Friday 3rd July

3AB Charlie and Henry, **3L** Gabby and Otto, **4D** Lola and Jimmy, **4G** Joel and Rupert, **4W** Kian and Noah, **5T** Oscar and Richie, **5HD** Oscar and Lyra, **5S** Una and Ru, **All of Y6**

Well done to you all!

Key Diary Dates-

Tuesday 21st July

Wednesday 22nd July

Thursday 3rd September

Friday 4th September

Monday 7th September

Tuesday 8th September

Year 6 Lido trip

End of term – Summer Holidays!

INSET day – school closed for children

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Term 1 begins

Meet the Teacher Sessions at 3:30-4:00 for Y1,
Y3 and Y5 (classrooms)

Wednesday 9th September

Meet the Teacher Sessions at 3:30-4:00 for Y2,
Y4 and Y6 (classrooms)

Monday 26th-Friday 30th October

Half Term

Friday 18th December -Monday 4th January

Christmas Break



HAPPY
SUMMER
HOLIDAYS