

**Friday 20th March 2026**

Dear parents/carers,

## **Attendance**

A Big Thank You for Your Support!

I would like to say a huge thank you to all our parents and carers for your support with improving attendance this week. We are really pleased to share that our whole-school attendance has risen to 95.8% this week which is a fantastic improvement!

This is a real reflection of the strong partnership between home and school and the positive impact it has on our children's learning, confidence and wellbeing.

Now, our focus is on maintaining this momentum. Consistent attendance is key to ensuring every child has the best possible opportunity to succeed and we know that by continuing to work together, we can achieve this.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support — it truly makes a difference.

## **Opening of Beech Hill's Sports Hall**

It was a pleasure to take a group of our Year 6 pupils to the official opening of Beech Hill's new sports hall this week, an exciting development that promises to bring lasting benefits to our wider community. The children represented the school with enthusiasm and excellent behaviour and hopefully they were inspired by the opportunity to see such a fantastic facility in action along with meeting Olympic gymnast Luke Whitehouse. We are very much looking forward to the positive impact this space will have, not only for Beech Hill but across our Family of Learning Trust, as it creates new opportunities for collaboration, physical activity and shared experiences for all our pupils.



## **Well done**

Well done to all our children in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 who approached this week's assessments with such focus, resilience and a positive attitude—we are very proud of your efforts.

Mrs Fiona Pether



**Reminder— you can book a place for your child/children at our free Breakfast Club, running from Monday 13th April to Friday 17th July. Please note that bookings must be made by 12 noon on the Friday before each week.**

# 10 WAYS GAMING CAN SUPPORT POSITIVE OUTCOMES in Children and Young People

Gaming, of course, is phenomenally popular with children and young people. In 2021, for instance, more than three-quarters of teenagers played online games, with almost 70% of primary school aged children doing likewise. If enjoyed in moderation and supported by a healthy routine (staying hydrated, good sleep habits, taking breaks and so on), gaming can actually benefit a person's mental health. As long as we stay alert for potential risks, games can be much more than what we see on the surface: they can be a way to socialise, an avenue for creativity and a route to solving problems. Check out our top ten tips on how gaming online can sometimes work to your child's advantage ...

## THE FEEL-GOOD FACTOR

Gaming is so popular because at the base level, it's enjoyable for the player. Succeeding in any game or contest releases dopamine in our brains: the 'feel-good' chemical that makes us happy or excited. Those emotions can be incredibly beneficial for mental wellbeing – as long as young players don't become reliant solely on playing video games to make themselves feel happy.

## ACHIEVEMENT & PRIDE

A sense of achievement is incredibly important to all of us and can be particularly valuable to someone who's feeling unhappy or distracted. It's easy to get caught up in our thoughts, which can sometimes take a negative turn. So even achieving something small – like finishing a difficult level in a Mario or Sonic game – can feel like conquering Everest and give us renewed optimism.

## PROBLEM-SOLVING PRACTICE

It can be difficult for young people to handle the feeling that nothing is going right or that their problems are insurmountable. Gaming can help alleviate that by presenting challenges to be overcome, either solo or alongside trusted friends. Defeating a powerful monster or solving a tricky puzzle reminds young gamers that even the most daunting obstacles can be faced and conquered.

## THE GREAT ESCAPISM

A certain amount of escapism is fabulous – allowing us to temporarily park some stress while exploring a world other than our own. For children, gaming can be like reading a novel or watching a film: a moment in the day when the fantastical becomes real, firing their imagination and immersing them in a story. Who wouldn't want to venture to the stars? Or battle monsters to save the planet?

## SOCIAL SALVATION

Gaming can be an incredibly social activity. When playing online with trusted friends, what usually start out as chats specifically about the game can often develop into conversations about school and life. Even if they've had a bad day, simply knowing that a friend is there, on the other end of their headset, can provide young gamers with a sense of security and some welcome laughs.

## TEAMWORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK

In many online games, teamwork is crucial to winning. Often, people who are struggling with their mood tend to feel like they fall or let others down a lot. Working as a team with trusted friends or family in a game can reinforce a young person's self-importance: striving for a common goal and succeeding together can remind them that they're an integral part of something bigger.

## REAL-WORLD RELATABILITY

Because many major releases are shooting or action games, when some people hear "gaming" they think of guns, explosions and violence. What's less recognised is how many titles explore relatable issues such as overcoming anxiety or coping with grief. These games allow young players to understand their emotions more deeply and realise they aren't alone in how they might be feeling.

## A DIGITAL COMFORT

Video games can provide a reliable constant. No matter what happens in school or between friends, playing a favourite game is something that youngsters can look forward to all day and can help them de-stress. Let's not forget, games are fun – and, when approached safely, an interactive activity in which the player has a degree of control over what happens next can feel immensely reassuring.

## TRIED & TRUSTED

There can be reassurance in repeating tasks. It often promotes a controlled outcome, which is ideal when life feels overwhelming or out of control. Replicating an experience, such as playing the same level of a game over and over to perfection, gives the player a sense of control and familiarity: it's like listening to a favourite song that always makes you feel happy or confident.

## ENCOURAGING CREATIVITY

Inventiveness is a huge part of many modern games: in Minecraft and Roblox, for example, players regularly dream up amazing structures or new ways to play. Using our imagination to create something (whether digitally or physically) is massively beneficial for the brain; that's why Lego is sometimes used in the medical sector as both a stress reliever and a brain injury rehabilitation tool.

## Meet Our Expert

Daniel Lipscombe is a writer who specialises in technology, video gaming, virtual reality and Web3. Author of 15 guidebooks for children on games such as Fortnite, Apex Legends, Valorant, Roblox and Minecraft, his work has also been published in the likes of PC Gamer, Kotaku, Pocket Gamer and VG247.



#WakeUpWednesday

## Safeguarding Children & Promoting British Values

### Creating a safe, inclusive and respectful environment for all children.

Safeguarding is about protecting children from harm and ensuring they grow up healthy, happy and safe.

- Prevents abuse, neglect and exploitation
- Promotes physical and emotional well-being
- Supports safe, nurturing environments
- Encourages children to speak up and be heard

### The 5 British Values & How They Protect Children

#### 1. Democracy

Children are encouraged to express their views and make choices  
Builds confidence and teaches that every voice matters

#### 2. Rule of Law

Clear boundaries and expectations help children feel secure  
Teaches fairness and respect for rules and laws

#### 3. Individual Liberty

Children are supported in making safe, informed choices  
Fosters independence and self-esteem

#### 4. Mutual Respect

Respect for others is modelled and reinforced  
Reduces bullying and promotes kindness

#### 5. Tolerance of Different Faiths & Beliefs

Diversity is celebrated and differences are valued  
Promotes unity, inclusion and understanding

### When British values are embedded in daily life:

- Children learn how to protect themselves and others
- They feel safe, respected and included
- They develop the tools to thrive in modern British society



# Comic Relief

We had a fantastic time celebrating Red Nose Day at school this year! Everyone got involved by wearing red or dressing up in fun and silly outfits, which brought lots of laughter and excitement throughout the day.

It was wonderful to see such creativity and enthusiasm from all the students and staff, with costumes ranging from bright red outfits to truly imaginative looks. Most importantly, the day helped us come together for two great causes.

Thanks to everyone's generosity and effort, we are proud to share that we raised a total of £241. Half of the money will be donated to Comic Relief, with the other half going to Mothershare. Well done to everyone who took part and helped make the day such a success!





15 & 30 HOUR  
PLACES AVAILABLE!

# APPLY FOR A NURSERY SCHOOL PLACE



A safe and nurturing start to school life!

- ★ Fun indoor & outdoor learning
- ★ Caring, qualified staff
- ★ Healthy meals, free fruit & milk
- ★ Trips, clubs & animal workshops
- ★ Smooth transition into Reception

#### When to Apply

When your child turns 2 years old.

Children start nursery in the term after their 3rd birthday:

- ★ Turns 3 between 1 Sep – 31 Dec → Start January
- ★ Turns 3 between 1 Jan – 31 Mar → Start April
- ★ Turns 3 between 1 Apr – 31 Aug → Start September

APPLY NOW FOR  
A SEPTEMBER  
PLACE

APPLY AT THE SCHOOL  
OFFICE OR CALL 01422

258258

ATTENDING OUR NURSERY PROVISION  
HELPS TOWARDS SECURING A PLACE  
IN OUR RECEPTION COHORT

## SEND White Paper – Parent Consultation

The Department for Education has published a new SEND White Paper outlining proposed changes to support for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

Parents and carers are invited to share their views as part of the national consultation. If you would like to find out more or take part, please visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/send-reform-putting-children-and-young-people-first>

The consultation is open until **18 May 2026**. Parents and carers are welcome to contribute their views if they wish. Please note that the proposals are currently in consultation and there are no immediate changes to current SEND provision.



## Easter Raffle



We are excited to launch our Easter Raffle 2026! We have some fabulous Easter Eggs to be won.

To be in with a chance of winning please return the slip handed out this week, along with your payment.

Tickets cost **£1.00 per strip**. Raffle tickets will be sent home, please keep them safe. No ticket no prize.

**The raffle will close on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March.**

**Good Luck!!**



## Week commencing Monday 23rd March 2026

| 2               |   | Monday   | Tuesday                            | Wednesday                              | Thursday                              | Friday  |
|-----------------|---|--|------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|---|
| Hot Meal Option |   | Chicken Burger 5, 12<br>(served in a bun 5, 14 with lettuce & Mayo 12) | Butter Chicken<br>Rice             | Fish Bites<br>2, 5                     | Roast Chicken Dinner<br>Gravy         | Pizza 5, 10<br>(various toppings - margherita/vegetable/spicy beef) |
|                 |   | Quorn Dippers<br>5   | Vegan Hot Dog 4, 5, 8<br>bun 5, 14 | Macaroni Cheese 5, 10<br>Dough Balls 5 | Quorn Sausage<br>5                    | Vegetable Biryani   |
| Vegetables      |   | Chips<br>Beans   | Potato Puffs<br>Peas<br>Broccoli   | Wedges<br>Peas & Sweetcorn             | Roast Potatoes<br>Broccoli<br>Carrots | Chips<br>Beans  |
| Served Daily    | Jacket Potatoes with various fillings<br>Salad Bar<br>Selection of Sandwiches<br>Fresh Fruit, Yoghurts & Fruit Cocktail |  |                                    |  |                                       |   |
| Dessert         |   | Selection of Fresh Fruit<br>or Choobs 10                               | Sponge and Custard<br>5, 10, 12    | Iced Cake<br>5, 10, 12                 | Sponge and Custard<br>5, 10, 12       | Chocolate Milkshake<br>10<br>& Cookie 5, 10, 12                     |
|                 |   | Assorted Ice Cream<br>10   | Raspberry Jelly                    | Meringue Nests<br>10, 12               | Angel Delight<br>10                   | Assorted Ice Cream<br>10  |

### CALDERDALE LIBRARIES

# Easter Activities

| Date   | Activity Details  |
|--|---|
| Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> March  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HAF pop-up library - Ash Green 10:30am</li> <li>Faraway Tree craft - Rastrick Library 10:30am</li> <li>Faraway Tree craft - Elland Library 2pm</li> <li>Highway Rat craft - Beechwood Road Library 2pm</li> <li>Easter craft - King Cross Library 2pm</li> </ul>   |
| Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> March   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anne Lister Festival crafty activities - Central Library &amp; Archives, Halifax 10:30am-2:30pm (free drop-in)</li> <li>Easter craft - Todmorden Library 10:30am</li> <li>Easter craft - Sowerby Bridge Library 2pm</li> </ul>   |
| Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> April  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lego - Central Library &amp; Archives, Halifax 10-12 (free drop-in)</li> <li>Easter craft - Rastrick Library 10:30am</li> <li>Drop-in activities - Hebden Bridge Library 10:30-4</li> <li>Lego - Todmorden Library 1:30-3:30pm (free drop-in)</li> </ul>   |
| Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Baby Bounce and Rhyme - Brighouse Library 10:10am</li> <li>Drop-in activities - Akroyd Library 10:30-3:30</li> <li>Highway Rat craft - Brighouse Library 11am</li> </ul>   |
| Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> -Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> April - all libraries closed for Easter weekend |   |
| Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> April  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meet the Author: Ashley Thorpe - Central Library &amp; Archives, Halifax 10:30am (free, bookable)</li> <li>Lego Spike - Akroyd Library 2pm</li> </ul>  |
| Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> April  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lego Spike - Elland Library 10:30am</li> <li>HAF pop-up library - Lee Mount School</li> </ul>  |
| Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> April   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lego Spike - Central Library &amp; Archives, Halifax 10:15am, 11:30am and 1:30pm</li> <li>Faraway Tree craft - Mixenden Library, 10:30am</li> <li>Highway Rat craft - Sowerby Bridge 10:30am</li> <li>Faraway Tree craft - King Cross Library 2pm</li> <li>Highway Rat craft - Northowram Library 2pm</li> </ul> |
| Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> April  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Faraway Tree craft - Todmorden Library 10:30am</li> <li>Highway Rat craft - Central Library &amp; Archives, Halifax 10:30am</li> <li>Highway Rat craft - Hebden Bridge Library 2pm</li> </ul>  |

### CALDERDALE LIBRARIES

# Easter Activities

Meet the Author: Ashley Thorpe

**THE BOY TO BEAT THE GODS**

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April, 10:30am  
Central Library and Archives, Halifax  
Free - booking required

Anne Lister Festival Crafty Kids' Activities

Free drop-in session  
Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March,  
10.30am-2.30pm  
Central Library and Archives,  
Halifax

Easter Craft and Story Sessions

A mix of exciting themes - check Ticketsource for details

Pop-up libraries as part of HAF programme

Multiple dates

education

Build Lego models and control them with code

Multiple dates

Scan here or go to [www.ticketsource.co.uk/calderdalelibraries](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/calderdalelibraries) for full details and event booking

National Year of Reading 2026

## DIARY DATES

| DATE                 | EVENT                        |
|----------------------|------------------------------|
| Tuesday 24th March   | Reception Swithens Farm Trip |
| Wednesday 25th March | Year 1 Manor Heath Trip      |
| Friday 27th March    | Dean Field's Got Talent      |
| Monday 30th March    | School Closes                |
| Monday 13th April    | School Opens                 |

**REMINDER:** All school fees, dinner money, extended provision and Nursery fees need to be paid in advance.  
We do not offer any credit and there are no exceptions.  
Please pay fees on time.

**REMINDER:** We are a nut free school and we would appreciate that any lunchboxes do not include nut products to protect the children in school with nut allergies.



**REMINDER:** If your child has asthma please ensure they have an inhaler in school and you have filled out a medical form at the school office. Thank you.

**This half term's focus value is ...**

# Caring

"Spread love  
everywhere you  
go. Let no one  
ever come to you  
without leaving  
happier."

- Mother Teresa



## TTRS and Numbots Stars of the Week



**TTRS Star of the Week  
(Minutes played)**

**Tommy in Year 4**



**NumBots Star of the Week**

**Kristopher in Year 2**

### This Week's Attendance

Congratulations to **Poland** class who had the highest attendance in the school this week. Well done to **Kenya** class for coming second. **All classes above 96% continue to receive £5 for their jars; well done China, Poland, Kenya and Brazil!** We have fallen below 96% this week and we need to get back there or above! I am seriously concerned of classes who are below 96%. Meetings with parents of children who are of concern will occur.

If your child is absent from school please contact the school office on 01422 258258 before 9.00am.

It is important we are aware of the reason for your child/children's absence. It becomes a safeguarding concern if parents do not inform school when their child/children are absent. Please contact the school office on the first day of absence before 9am stating reasons for any absence. This will avoid absences being recorded as unauthorised.

If you have any concerns or questions surrounding your child/children's attendance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Many thanks,  
Loraine Stansfield, Pastoral Manager

| Group        | % Attendance |
|--------------|--------------|
| Mexico       | 92%          |
| China        | 96.8%        |
| Australia    | 94.5%        |
| Poland       | 98.9%        |
| Kenya        | 98.3%        |
| Brazil       | 96.7%        |
| Ireland      | 93.7%        |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>95.8%</b> |