

HIGH ERCALL NEWSLETTER

Be Kind Be Safe Be Ready
Respectful Resourceful Resilient
Reflective Responsible



Headteacher Welcome

It has been another busy and exciting week at High Erccall, and we are delighted with how well all of our children have settled into their second week back at school.

A particularly big well done must go to our Reception children, who have amazed all of the staff with just how quickly they have adapted to school life. They are already becoming increasingly independent, even carrying their own trays at lunchtime and learning our routines for tidying up at the end of activities. These may seem like little things, but they are huge steps when you are just beginning school! What a fantastic start to their High Erccall journey – we are incredibly proud of them.

Across school, all children have now begun learning the curriculum appropriate to their age group. To support this, and to ensure that teaching can be carefully focused on the knowledge and skills needed at each stage, we have organised our Maths teaching into single-age year groups. This allows our teachers to tailor learning more closely to each year group's curriculum and the needs of the children.

Our Maths groups are:

Reception – Mrs Young

Year 1 – Mrs Bane / Mrs Wallace

Year 2 – Mrs Pugh

Year 3 – Mrs Hoggarth / Mrs Jordan

Year 4 – Mrs Blanchard / Mrs Carvell-Shepherd

Year 5 – Mrs D'Angelillo / Mrs Lingham

Year 6 – Mrs Preston

The children are already settling brilliantly into these groups, and it has been lovely to see them getting stuck into their learning!

Exploring Our Emotions with The Colour Monster

Last week, we used The Colour Monster as a wonderful way to explore emotions, feelings and wellbeing across school. Each class has approached the theme in a way that is meaningful and engaging for their pupils, resulting in lots of lovely learning experiences.

In C1, pupils developed their fine motor skills by using different coloured pom-poms to fill their own Colour Monsters, linking colours with different emotions as they worked. In C2, children coloured their own Colour Monsters to represent how they were feeling, providing a lovely visual way to recognise and communicate their emotions.

Over in C3, pupils got creative with LEGO, designing and building their very own Colour Monsters! C4 went wonderfully old-school with some good, messy papier-mâché, creating Colour Monsters while enjoying a hands-on sensory and creative experience.

Finally, in C5, Mrs Preston began exploring how our older pupils may recognise, express and articulate their emotions in increasingly mature ways. Pupils also started to consider effective strategies they can use to understand, communicate and manage those feelings and how they can independently manage these and seek support.

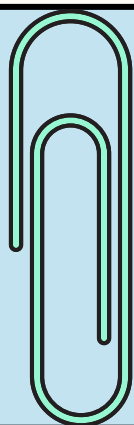
It has been fantastic to see one shared theme interpreted in so many different ways across school, supporting everything from fine motor development and creativity to emotional literacy, communication and self-regulation. Most importantly, we are helping our pupils understand that all emotions have a place and giving them the tools to express how they feel.



What a wonderful second week back – well done, everyone!

Gemma Lingham
Acting Headteacher





KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

AUTUMN TERM 2026

PSHE PARENT CONSULTATION MEETING - WEDNESDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER 3:30PM

We would like to invite parents and carers into school for a Parent Consultation Session regarding our PSHE, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Sex Education curriculum from September 2026.

As a follow-up to the online form sent out during summer term, this session will provide parents and carers with the opportunity to:

- Find out more about what will be taught as part of our PSHE and RSE curriculum
- Understand how learning is adapted to be age-appropriate for each year group
- See some of the resources and materials that may be used to support teaching
- Ask questions or discuss any areas of the curriculum where you would like further information or clarification
- Talk to our PSHE Lead, Mrs D'Angelillo, and individual class teachers about how the curriculum will be delivered

We recognise the important role that families play in helping children understand relationships, health, wellbeing and growing up, and we value the opportunity to work together with our parents and carers.

We hope you will be able to join us. If you have any particular questions you would like us to address during the session, you are very welcome to share these with us beforehand.

We look forward to welcoming you into school and continuing to work together to ensure our curriculum meets the needs of all our children.

MENU CHANGE

On Thursday 1st October there will be a change to the menu - Mrs Bowen will be serving hotdogs - Yippee!



Y5/6 BOYS FOOTBALL

Mrs Jordan is running a lunchtime football club every Friday this term for Y5/6 boys, they just need to turn up with their boots, shin pads and school PE kit. This will be offered to different groups throughout the year!

UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT
Week beginning 21st September	Y6 Bikeability - info sent out
Wednesday 23rd September	C1 parent workshop
Tuesday 20th October	Y5/6 Loudmouth Workshop
Wednesday 21st October	Harvest Festival and Enrichment Day
Thursday 22nd & Friday 23rd October	PD day—staff training
Monday 2nd November	Return from half term break
4th November	Flu immunisations
11th - 13th November	Y6 Pioneer Residential Trip
17th November	C2 / C5 Parent conversations
18th November	C1 / C3 / C4 Parent conversations
Friday 18th December	Break up for Christmas
Friday 8th January	Young Voices concert—Birmingham

CELEBRATIONS AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Our 5R Stars this week are:

- C1 - Roman for being super responsible and a great role model
- C2 - Harry for being an all round 5R Star!
- C3 - Isaac for being responsible in all areas of school life
- C4 - Chloe for being an all round 5R Star!
- C5 - Alaya for being responsible and resilient across school

A Reminder About Parking at Drop-Off & Pick-Up

We would like to remind all parents and carers to please use the parking available at High Ercall Village Hall when dropping off and collecting children from school.

The bottom of the school drive becomes extremely busy at these times, with lots of children and families walking in the area. Additional vehicles can make this particularly congested and potentially dangerous, so we really appreciate everyone's help in keeping our children safe.

Please remember that vehicles should not be driven up the school drive or into the school car park unless this has been agreed with the school in advance.

We also ask everyone to park safely and considerately, being mindful of our neighbours and ensuring that access to the church and surrounding properties is not obstructed. Thank you for helping us keep drop-off and pick-up times safe for our children and considerate for our wider village community.



A Quick Snack Safety Reminder

We would like to remind parents and carers that if grapes are sent into school as a snack for children in KS1, please ensure they are cut safely into quarters lengthways before being packed in your child's snack box.

Whole grapes can present a choking risk for young children, so taking a few moments to prepare them appropriately helps us to keep everyone safe while enjoying their healthy snack. Thank you for your support in helping us keep snack times happy, healthy and safe!

Book of the Week

This week's Recommended Read is **The Neverland Thieves by Katherine Rundell**. A thrilling adventure inspired by the magical world of Peter Pan, this story takes readers back to Neverland – but perhaps not quite as they remember it! Filled with adventure, mystery, danger and imagination, it is a fantastic choice for children who enjoy stories that transport them to extraordinary new worlds. With plenty of twists and excitement along the way, The Neverland Thieves is sure to keep young readers turning the pages.

Why not make it your next family read and discover what adventures are waiting in Neverland?



OTHER NEWS



Menu wb 13.9.26



Week 3	
Monday Meatballs served in a Rich Tomato Sauce or a Tasty Gravy Farm Assured Meatballs Mac 'n' Cheese Macaroni Pasta and Quorn in a Chef's Creamy Cheese Sauce V Pasta Twists, Seasonal Vegetable Selection, Seasonal Salad Selection, Bread Swirl Mousse Early Years options: Natural Yogurt with Fruit or Fresh Fruit Salad or Cheese and Crackers	Thursday High Ercall Wrap Day – Ham, Tuna, Cheese Vegetarian Sausage V Potato Wedges, Big Seasonal Salad Selection, Seasonal Salad Selection, Wholemeal Bread Chocolate Brownie Early Years options: Natural Yogurt with Fruit or Fresh Fruit Salad or Cheese and Crackers
Tuesday Minced Beef lightly Spiced Tacos Farm Assured Minced Beef in a Chef's Mild Spiced Sauce Cheese and Tomato Pizza V Pasta Twist, Boiled Rice, Seasonal Vegetable Selection, Seasonal Salad Selection, Wholemeal Bread Cake and Custard Early Years options: Natural Yogurt with Fruit or Fresh Fruit Salad or Cheese and Crackers	Friday Jumbo Fish Finger White fillet of Fish coated in Breadcrumbs or Battered Fish White fillet of Fish coated in a Light Batter or Salmon Fishcake Star Cheese Pastie Creamed Potato and Mixed beans, Grated Cheese encased in Puff Pastry V Chips, Garden Peas, Baked Beans, Seasonal Salad Selection, Bread Iced Muffins Early Years options: Natural Yogurt with Fruit or Fresh Fruit Salad or Cheese and Crackers
Wednesday Traditional Roast of the Day Farm Assured Sliced Meat served with a Rich and Tasty Gravy Vegetarian Enchiladas V Roast Potatoes, Creamed Potato, Broccoli, Carrots, Seasonal Salad Selection, Bread Fruit Jelly or Golden Shortbread Early Years options: Natural Yogurt with Fruit or Fresh Fruit Salad or Cheese and Crackers	FUN FOOD FACT Broccoli contains more protein per calorie than steak. You would have

Staff News

We are delighted to share some very exciting news – Mrs Preston, our C5 teacher, is expecting her first baby!

We are all absolutely thrilled for Mrs Preston and her family as they prepare for this very special new chapter, and we know you will join us in sending them lots of love and congratulations.

We also want to reassure our C5 families that we are already in the process of recruiting maternity cover for Mrs Preston. Our priority is to ensure a smooth and carefully planned transition for the children, with continuity in their learning, routines and support throughout her maternity leave.

For now, we are simply enjoying sharing this lovely news and are super happy for Mrs Preston and her growing family!

A Reminder – We Are a Mobile Phone-Free School

We would like to remind families that High Ercall is a mobile phone-free school and children should not routinely bring mobile phones onto the school premises.

We do recognise that there may be exceptional circumstances where an older child needs to have a phone with them, for example if they have permission to walk home independently. In these circumstances, we ask that a parent or carer informs a member of staff in advance that their child will be bringing a phone to school.

On arrival, the phone must be handed in and will be securely stored in the school office for the duration of the school day. It will then be returned to the child as they leave the school premises at the end of the day.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us maintain a safe, focused and phone-free environment for all of our children.

School Holiday dates

Thursday 22nd / Friday 23rd Oct 2026 - PD days (staff only)

26th - 30th Oct 2026- Half term

21st Dec 2026 - 1st Jan 2027 - Christmas holidays

Monday 4th Jan 2027 - PD day (staff only)

15th - 19th February 2027 - Half term

26th March - 9th April 2027 - Easter holidays

3rd May 2027 - Bank Holiday

31st May - 4th June 2027 - Half term

Monday 7th June 2027 - PD day (staff only)

22nd July - 3rd September - Summer Holidays

