

High Ongar Primary School Newsletter

Friday 11th September 2026

Welcome from the Head of School

It has been wonderful to welcome back our existing families and to extend a particularly warm welcome to those who have joined our school community this year. We are delighted with how well our new pupils and families have settled into school life and are already becoming part of the High Ongar Primary School family.

The new academic year has begun in a positive and purposeful way, with children returning eager to learn and quickly settling into their new classes and routines. This time of year is always significant, as it provides the foundation for a successful year ahead.

One of the highlights of the first few days has been seeing the children enjoying our new sensory equipment. It has been wonderful to watch the pupils developing their creativity, coordination and social skills whilst having great fun together.



We are incredibly proud of how well our pupils have embraced the start of term and are excited about the opportunities, achievements and experiences that lie ahead this year. We would also love to celebrate achievements that take place beyond the school day. If your child has a success, award, certificate or special accomplishment from a club, sport, hobby or community activity, please share a photo and a short sentence explaining the achievement by emailing the school office. We hope to include some of these achievements in future newsletters and celebrate the many talents of our pupils both in and out of school.

Best wishes,

Mrs S Kilbey
Head of School

Important Dates

- 14th Sept - Clubs start
- 17th Sept - Meet the Teacher Evening 5pm - 6pm
- 18th Sept - Individual Photos
- 24th Sept - Flu immunisations
- 29th Sept - EYFS Intake Tour
- 12th Oct - Shoebox appeal
- 14th Oct - EYFS Intake Tour
- 16th Oct - Clubs finish
- 22nd Oct - Friends Playground Tuck
- 23rd Oct - Non Pupil Day
- 2nd Nov - Clubs restart
- 9th Nov - Yr6 Resilience Workshop
- 11th Nov - Parents Evening
- 12th Nov - EYFS Intake Tour
- 12th Nov - Parents Evening
- 27th Nov - Friends Playground Tuck
- 4th Dec - Clubs finish
- 8th Dec - EYFS and KS1 Nativity 9.30am
- 9th Dec - Friends Christmas Shop
- 10th Dec - EYFS and KS1 Nativity 2.15pm
- 16th Dec - Christmas Jumper Day
- 16th Dec - Christmas Panto
- 17th Dec - Friends Christmas Disco
- 18th Dec - School finishes at 1pm

In this issue...

- Welcome Message
- Staffing Updates
- New House Teams
- Celebrations
- Friends Updates

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Friday 11th September 2026

School Updates and Celebrations

Staffing Updates

We are delighted to welcome two new members of staff to the High Ongar Primary School team this year. Each brings a wealth of skills, experience and enthusiasm, and we know they make a positive contribution to school life and support our pupils to thrive.

As always, we remain committed to providing the very best education and care for every child, and we are excited to have these new colleagues join us on that journey.

Please join us in giving a warm welcome to:

Miss Meehan - Ash Class Teacher

Mrs Humm - Willow Class Teacher (Thursdays)

New House Teams

We are excited to introduce our new house names that have been voted for by the children. The house system is designed to encourage teamwork, leadership, responsibility and a sense of belonging. Throughout the year, children will earn house points by showing kindness, putting in their best effort and making positive contributions to school life.

Our four new houses are:

- Earth
- Water
- Fire
- Air

Children will remain in the same house colour team that they have been part of previously, ensuring continuity and maintaining the strong sense of belonging that has already been established. To support family connections, siblings will also continue to belong to the same house team. We hope this will strengthen opportunities for families to celebrate achievements together and encourage children to take pride in representing their house throughout their time at High Ongar Primary School.

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School Updates and Celebrations

Headteacher Award Winners

Ash - Lily B

Beech - Sophia S & Charlotte M

Elm - Vinnie E & Nailah A

Maple - Queenie B & Jack D

Willow - Ethan S and India-Blue

Well
done!

Attendance

Ash - 98.9%

Beech - 94.8%

Elm - 99.5%

Maple - 98.5%

Willow - 93.9%

And the
Winner
is...

Elm

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Reminders

Attendance

8.35am Gates Open
8.40am Classrooms open
10.30am Morning Break
10.45am Morning Break ends
12pm Lunch starts
1pm Afternoon learning
begins
3.10pm Gates open
3.15pm End of day



To make sure that all children are as safe as possible, we operate a system of first day contact. When your child is absent, please contact the School Office on 01277 363761. Please give:

- Your child's name
- The reason for absence
- When you expect your child to return to school

You must call the school every day your child is absent.

PE Days

Ash - Monday and Wednesday
Beech - Thursday and Friday
Elm - Tuesday and Friday
Maple - Tuesday and Thursday
Willow - Monday and Wednesday



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Welcome! ♥

A very warm welcome back to all our families and a very special **welcome to our new Reception parents** – we're so happy to have you as part of our High Ongar school community!

Friends of High Ongar is a group of parents, carers and teachers who work together to raise funds for the school and organise fun events for the children. We're looking forward to a fantastic year ahead!

Same amazing school community, new adventures ahead! ♥



WHAT WE ARE CURRENTLY FUNDRAISING FOR ♥♥

We're raising money for some exciting improvements for our school:



NEW CHRISTMAS TREES

Helping to make the school feel extra special and festive.



UPGRADE TO FOREST SCHOOL

Supporting enhancements to our Forest School area for even more outdoor learning opportunities.



WHOLE SCHOOL WELLY RACK

A much-needed welly storage solution for the whole school!

More projects to follow – watch this space! ♥

CHRISTMAS PANTO

We're excited to let you know the Christmas pantomime **has been booked** and will be funded by the Friends of High Ongar!

We hope it will be a magical treat for all the children.

Oh yes we have! ✨

UPCOMING EVENTS ♥



Friday 25th September

After-School Tuck Shop



Thursday 22nd October

Pumpkin Competition
More details to follow!



After-School Tuck Shop

COULD YOU HELP? ♥

We'd love to get more parents involved!

There are lots of ways to support Friends of High Ongar – whether you can join the committee, volunteer at an event, help behind the scenes, donate items or simply share your ideas.

Even a small amount of time can make a big difference! ♥

Many hands make light work ♥

INTERESTED? GET IN TOUCH!



Contact Krystle
07831696537



Chat to a committee member



Or speak to the school office



♥ Thank you for being part of our school community ♥

