High Ongar Primary School Newsletter

Friday 20th November 2026

Welcome from the Head of School

It has been a another busy and enjoyable week at High Ongar as we continue to embed our school values of **Be Kind, Be Resilient** and **Be Respectful** through the learning of our core routines. Across the school, children have been working hard to understand our expectations and develop the positive habits that create a calm, purposeful and respectful environment where everyone can thrive.

I am delighted that Tapestry is now being actively used across the school, allowing us to share many wonderful examples of the children's learning and acheivements with families. We hope you are enjoying this window into school life. If you have not yet been able to activate your account, please contact the Office.

This week, children have enjoyed a wide range of exciting learning opportunities. Reception have enjoyed a minibeast hunt, developing their curiosity about the natural world, while other classes explored how Diwali is celebrated and the importance of this special festival.



As the weather becomes colder and children begin bringing additional layers into school, please ensure that all items of clothing are clearly named. This helps us to return any misplaced items quickly and ensures they find their way back to the correct owner.

This week also marks the depature of Mrs Lockett, who is leaving High Ongar to take up a new role in another school. On behalf of the entire school community, I would like to thank Mrs Lockett for her hard work, dedication and support during her time with us. We wish her every success and happiness in her new position.

Best wishes for a wonderful weekend,
Mrs Kilbey
Head of School

Important Dates

27th Nov - Friends Playground Tuck
28th Nov - Tree Lighting at St Mary's 3.30pm to 4.30pm
30th Nov - Non Pupil Day
1st Dec - Rock Steady Launch Day
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 Lunch
16th Dec - Christmas Panto
17th Dec - Friends Christmas Disco
18th Dec - Christmas Assembly at St Mary's - parents welcome
18th Dec - School finishes at 1pm
4th Jan - Children return to school
15th Jan - Non Pupil Day
27th Jan - Challenge Day
28th Jan - Sports Hall Athletics
4th Feb - NSPCC Numbers Day
4th March - World Book Day

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School Updates and Celebrations

Ofsted Success

We are delighted to share the outcome of our recent Ofsted inspection, which took place on 29th and 30th September.
This report recognises the significant progress we have made and reflects the dedication, hard work and commitment of our entire school community. We are incredibly proud that the inspectors found our school to meet the expected standard in all areas.

What Inspectors Recognised

- Safeguarding standards are met, ensuring that all pupils feel safe, supported and well cared for.
- A calm, welcoming and positive school environment.
- Strong relationships between staff and pupils.
- An ambitious curriculum that helps children learn and achieve well.
- Strong phonics teaching that supports pupils in becoming confident readers.
- Inclusive provision that enables pupils with SEND to thrive.
- Opportunities that help pupils develop confidence, independence and responsibility.



This outcome belongs to everyone who contributes to the life of our school. We would like to thank our dedicated staff, supportive governors, trust colleagues, families and, most importantly, our wonderful pupils. Every member of our community plays a role in making High Ongar Primary School such a special place to learn and grow.
We will continue to build on our successes, strengthen our provision and work together to provide an exceptional experience for all pupils.

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School Updates and Celebrations

Remembrance





On Wednesday 11th November, we laid a wreath made with our handprints to remember those who fought and died in the war. We stood there for the two minutes silence whilst we thought about the people who fought to protect our country and sacrificed their lives in the war. We shall remember them.

Leili and Will S (Maple Class)



Achievements and Adventures



Grace has had an amazing first Karate competition!
It was her first competition where she achieved two silver medals - one in Kata, and one in Kumite. She showed incredible resilience throughout the competition. We are all incredibly proud of you, Grace!





Bonnie and Blake have shown great community spirit. They attended the Christmas Wrapping Service that involved them helping with the setting up all the boxes ready for delivery.
Great job, girls!



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School Updates and Celebrations

Headteacher Award Winners

Congratulations to our Headteacher Award Winners this week!

Week Ending: 13th November

Ash - Frankie & Henry
Beech - Tommy & Mia
Elm - Hartley & Oakley
Maple - Holly & Reiss
Willow - Darcy & Ronnie

Week Ending: 20th November

Ash - Henry M & Mila
Beech - Jesse & Ivy
Elm - Taylor & Jude
Maple - Anna & Teddy H
Willow - Ava & Amber



Attendance

Congratulations to our attendance champions over the past two weeks!



Week Ending 13th November:

Ash - 100%

Whole School - 91.5%



Week Ending 20th November:

Elm - 96.3%

Whole School - 94.4%

These classes have earnt a piece of their attendance puzzle:



Elm Class

Ash Class

Maple Class

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Reminders

Attendance

8.35am Gates Open
8.40am Classrooms Open
8.45am School Starts
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 - Wednesday and Thursday
Beech - Thursday and Friday
Elm - Tuesday and Friday
Maple - Monday and Tuesday
Willow - Monday and Wednesday



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THE FRIENDS OF High Ongar Primary School

November Newsletter

Hello November!

We hope everyone had a lovely half-term break! We've got lots of exciting things coming up at High Ongar, and the Friends have been busy planning some wonderful events for the children and families to enjoy!

Our School Is Getting Festive!

Thanks to your amazing support, we've now been able to purchase new Christmas trees and decorations for the school! We can't wait to see them bringing a little festive magic to the classrooms this Christmas.

Christmas Raffles – Fantastic Prizes!

RAFFLE TICKETS

Tickets for our Christmas Raffle and Nativity Front Row Seats Raffle will be on sale at school pick-up on the following dates:

Monday 23rd, Tuesday 24th & Wednesday 25th November
Thursday 3rd & Friday 4th December

Elfridges Christmas Shop

Wednesday 9th December

Our Elfridges Christmas Shop is back! The children will have the opportunity to choose some special gifts for their loved ones. More details coming soon!

Christmas Disco

Thursday 17th December

Get those dancing shoes ready! Our Christmas Disco will take place on **Thursday 17th December**. More information about timings and tickets will follow soon!

Christmas Cards That Give Back!

Keep an eye out for your child's Christmas card fundraising order form, coming home soon! For every card or gift ordered, the school receives **20% back!**

November Tuck Shop

Friday 27th November

Our next Tuck Shop will take place after school on **Friday 27th November**. Come along for some tasty treats!

Happy School Bag Collection

A huge thank you for your support – we raised **£105.20** from our Happy School Bag collection!

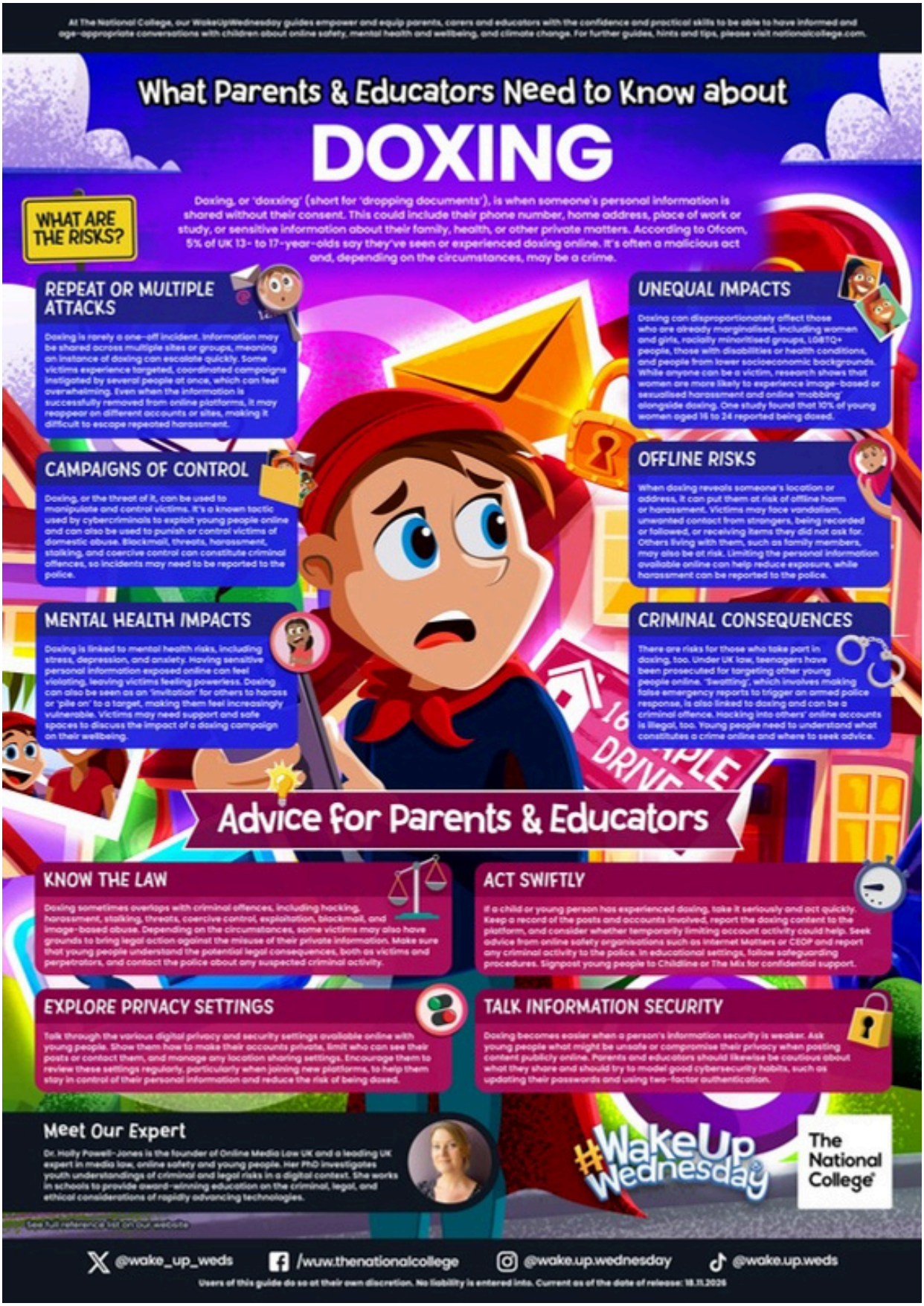
Can You Lend a Hand?

We're looking for volunteers to help at Elfridges Christmas Shop and our Christmas Disco.
If you can spare a little time, please speak to a member of the Friends or let the school office know.

Thank you for your continued support!

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