



PARENT BULLETIN

 @holmfirthhigh @holmfirthhigh_pe @HolmfirthSci

Monday 16th– 27th Friday 2026

Mindful March

The calendar below provided by Action for Happiness is full of daily actions to help us pause, breathe and notice, so we can be more mindful of what's going on around us. We hope you find it useful.

We break up for Easter Holidays on Friday 27th of March at 3.25pm and we return to school Monday 13th of April.

Mindful March 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Set an intention to live with awareness and kindness	2 Notice three things you find beautiful in the outside world	3 Start today by appreciating your body and that you're alive	4 Notice how you speak to yourself and choose to use kind words	5 Bring to mind people you care about and send love to them	6 If you find yourself rushing, make an effort to slow down	7 Take three calm breaths at regular intervals during your day
8 Eat mindfully. Appreciate the taste, texture and smell of your food	9 Take a full breath in and out before you reply to others	10 Get outside and notice how the weather feels on your face	11 Stay fully present while drinking your cup of tea or coffee	12 Listen deeply to someone and really hear what they are saying	13 Pause to watch the sky or clouds for a few minutes today	14 Find ways to enjoy any chores or tasks that you do
15 Stop. Breathe. Notice. Repeat regularly	16 Get really absorbed with an interesting or creative activity	17 Look around and spot three things you find unusual or pleasant	18 Have a 'no plans' day and notice how that feels	19 Cultivate a feeling of loving-kindness towards others today	20 Focus on what makes you and others happy today	21 Listen to a piece of music without doing anything else
22 Notice something that is going well, even if today feels difficult	23 Tune into your feelings, without judging or trying to change them	24 Appreciate your hands and all the things they enable you to do	25 Focus your attention on the good things you take for granted	26 Choose to spend less time looking at screens today	27 Appreciate nature around you, wherever you are	28 Notice when you're tired and take a break as soon as possible
29 Choose a different route today and see what you notice	30 Mentally scan your body and notice what it is feeling	31 Discover the joy in the simple things of life				

ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Happier · Kinder · Together

Reporting an absence

We want to remind all parents and carers that it is essential to inform school before 8.15am if your child is going to be absent due to illness or exceptional circumstances, or if they are going to be late to school. This should be reported every day with full details of the reason. This is a safeguarding priority and we appreciate your continued support. Please report via the study bugs app. You can find the link on our website.



Holiday Requests

Please take a look at the website [Penalty notices for school absence | Kirklees Council](#) and take this into consideration when booking holidays in term time.

Is Your Child Ready to Learn?

Please ensure that your child has the necessary equipment for learning. All pupils should arrive prepared and ready to learn with the required books, pens, pencils and any other equipment and kit necessary for lessons during the day. Thank you for your support.

Parking at Wooldale Community Centre

It has come to our attention that Parents/Carers are using the Wooldale Community Centre carpark to pick up their children after school. Please do not park here or use as a waiting bay this is privately used for clients of the centre and this is causing stress to the community and may cause a hazard.

Nursery Parking

Please do not park in the Nursery drop off area - this is causing parents delays getting to work in the morning.

Disabled Parking

Please be advised that the two disabled parking spaces in front of the school are only to be used by blue badge holders. Parking unnecessarily in these spaces results in those pupils that need to be dropped off as close as possible due to genuine disability having to struggle to get safely into school. Please also note that the turning area in front of the school is only to be used for visitors and should not be used by parents as a drop off area. Thank you for your support.

Safety on Heys Road

Please can we ask all parents to observe the road markings on Heys Road in front of the school gates. Vehicles should not be dropping pupils off or parking on the yellow lines as this creates an obstruction and makes it difficult for pupils to cross the road safely. Please be considerate to our neighbours by not parking across driveways when dropping off and picking

Reminder—School is a No Phone Zone!

Use of mobile phones is not permitted in school. Please ensure that your child switches their phone off before entering the school grounds and doesn't switch it back on again until leaving the site at the end of the school day. Your support is very much appreciated.

Nut Allergy Awareness

Please can we request that the snacks and packed lunches which students bring into school are, wherever possible, nut free. We currently have pupils in school who have severe nut allergies and we would be grateful if you could take this into consideration when planning lunches and snacks for your child. This also includes our bake sales, please make sure it is nut free.



Mobile Phone Policy



You may be aware that the Department for Education recently issued new guidance for schools, stating that all schools in England should be mobile phone-free environments by default.

We already have a clear policy for this in place, which states that mobile phones should not be seen at any time anywhere on the school site, and should be switched off and in bags at all times (not in pockets).

We appreciate some students need to use their phones to access a bus pass or to pay their bus fare at the end of the school day. As such, students are permitted to switch their phones on for this purpose when stood at the bus stop and the bus is approaching. Their phones should not be used for any other purpose without express permission from a member of staff.

For further information, our mobile phone policy is available to view on our website.

Thank you for your support with this.

Holmfirth Bursary Plan

Our Holmfirth Bursary plan is designed to allow stakeholders who would like to contribute to supporting pupils from all economic backgrounds going on trips and residential the opportunity to do so.

We would like you to consider whether you would be willing to contribute £5 per month to the Holmfirth Bursary fund (roughly the cost of a posh coffee!). You may be wondering the difference this would make.

Given the large number of families in our school community, if 500 families were willing to donate the cost of one posh coffee per calendar month, we would raise a staggering £30,000 to put towards these transformative experiences.

Alternatively, there is also the option to make a one-off donation in support of the Bursary Fund.

How do I sign up?

If you would like to support the Holmfirth Bursary Fund, you can either use the details below to submit a one-off donation or set up a standing order as per the instructions detailed.

You can set up a Standing Order on your online banking using the following details:

School Bank: Lloyds Bank

Account Name: Holmfirth High School Fund Account

Sort code: 30-94-43

Account number: 04243785

Payment amount: £5 (or a different amount at your discretion)

Frequency: Monthly

First payment date: Preferred date in February 2026

Quote reference: Please provide your full name followed by HBP

NOTICES





SEND Information Coffee Morning

Chiomah Akanwa, our fabulous Art Therapist, will lead this half term's session which is focused on **'Understanding how creative activities can support emotional regulation.'**

9am - 10am Tuesday 24th March 2026

Barson Charity Day raised an amazing £2116 for Candlelighters and the Ray of Sunshine NHS children's charity! Thank you to everyone involved!

Parent Governor Election!

We have a vacancy for a Parent Governor. Please could any interested party contact the school(n.daly@holmfirthhigh.co.uk) to find out more about the role.

Uniform Exchange

We are running low on Girls uniform in the uniform exchange cupboard. Please could you help by donating any old uniform to reception. Thank you



The Midnight Memory Walk By Scarlett R-D Year 10:

This is a special challenge where I will walk through the night to raise awareness and support for people affected by cancer. Walking at midnight represents the long and difficult journey many individuals and families experience while living with this unfortunate illness.

I am taking part in this walk to honour my dad and those who have been affected by cancer and to help raise funds that support research, care, and support services. Every step I take is a way to remember loved ones, stand with families facing this condition, and contribute towards a future where cancer can be better understood and treated.

This walk is not just about distance — it is about remembrance, awareness, and hope. By supporting the Midnight Memory Walk, you are helping to make a difference for people living with cancer and those who care for them.

Kind regards,

Scarlett 10W1

Here is the link to the support page. [The Kirkwood: The Kirkwood Starlight Walk](#)

ICT

Holfmirth High School are proud to announce that we have been given a Silver Award from **CyberFirst**.

We have been recognised for the provision within the curriculum, extra-curricular and whole school activities that encourage young people to get involved with the Cyber Industry.



CyberFirst is a National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) program in the UK designed to inspire and prepare young people aged 11–17+ for careers in cyber security and technology. The Computing department has been working with CyberFirst, and has gathered evidence to support the award. This achievement reflects the dedication of both staff and students in embracing innovative learning opportunities and championing excellence in cybersecurity education."

A Week of Creativity, Chaos and Celebration: STEM House Competition 2026!

Last week, the Science Department hosted an action-packed STEM House Competition—five days of ingenuity, teamwork, friendly rivalry, and plenty of laughs. Each year group was put through a unique challenge designed to test their problem-solving skills, creativity, and resilience. By Friday afternoon, the hall was buzzing with energy as we crowned this year's champions... after a dramatic tie-break! Here's a look back at a brilliant week:



Monday – Year 7 Egg Drop Challenge

Armed with only a handful of simple materials and a very fragile egg, Year 7 set out to defy gravity. After three different drop tests—and much anticipation—two heroic eggs survived the ultimate plunge from the top window of the Science Block to the playground below! **Paxman House** soared to victory on Day 1 with some truly egg-cellent engineering.

Tuesday – Year 8 Bridge Building

Next up, Year 8 swapped eggs for architecture in the 50cm Bridge Challenge. Using art straws, string, Blu-Tack and newspaper, they had to construct a bridge capable of holding as much weight as possible. Two teams achieved a staggering 2kg load, proving that lightweight structures can achieve heavyweight success. The impressive designs earned **Taylor House** the win for Day 2.



Wednesday – Year 9 Dirty Water Filter Challenge

Year 9 faced a murky mission: transform extremely dirty water into something drinkable—or at least, less swamp-like. Using sand, gravel, filter papers, and a selection of improvised materials, teams turned questionable brown sludge into... slightly less questionable liquids. Despite the challenges, clever use of layers and filtration methods secured a well-deserved Day 3 win for **Wainwright House**.

Thursday – Year 10 Science of 2050 Presentations

Thursday took a futuristic turn as Year 10 imagined the world of science in 2050. From innovative medical breakthroughs to eco-tech solutions, the presentations were creative, bold and forward-thinking. The scoring was incredibly tight between Taylor and Paxman, but **Taylor House** edged ahead for their inspiring vision of the future.

Friday – The Big Taskmaster Finale!

The grand finale brought everyone together in the school hall for a full-on Taskmaster showdown. With Mr Stitchman starring as the ever-serious (and occasionally bewildered) Taskmaster, teams from all Houses competed in a chaotic flurry of challenges, including:

- Making the silliest sound imaginable,
- Launching tea bags via homemade contraptions,
- Constructing potato-holding bridges,

The audience roared with laughter, competitors scrambled and strategised under very tight time constraints, and with double points available, every moment counted.

When the dust settled and the points were tallied... Taylor and Paxman were tied. But a tie is not allowed in STEM Week tradition—so officials counted back through second and third-place finishes.

By the narrowest of margins... **TAYLOR HOUSE** were crowned the overall STEM Competition Champions!

Every student who took part demonstrated teamwork, creativity, resilience and brilliant scientific thinking. From flying eggs to murky water to futuristic ideas, it was a week packed with fun and inspiration. We can't wait to see what next year's STEM Competition brings!



ParentPay – 98% of parents are now using ParentPay. If you require your activation codes for ParentPay, then please contact Mrs Bale j.bale@holmfirthhigh.co.uk.

EQUIPMENT CHECKS- At equipment checks, your child will be given any stationery item(s) if they are missing them. These will then need paying for via ParentPay if you would like your child to keep the item. If not, please return it to Mrs Beatson as soon as possible. All charged items will have a balance in RED and will need to be paid for.

We appreciate your cooperation with the Be Ready to Learn Scheme.

Whole School Items/Information:

- Stationery Packs @ £8.00
- Stationery Items – Pens/Markers/Highlighter/Rubber/Pencil/Sharpener/Glue stick
- Scientific Calculator @ £11.00
- School Ties – House colours @ £5.00

YR7: Items/Trips Available to purchase

Year 7 KS3 Science Revision Guide 2025-26 @ £3.00

YR8: Items/Trips Available to purchase

- Year 8 KS3 Science Revision Guide 2025-26 @ £3.00
- NEW YORK OCT 2026 – Next instalment of £360.00 is due 03/04/2026
- PERU 2027 – The deposit of £500.00 is due 15/04/2026

YR9: Items/Trips Available to purchase

- Year 9 KS3 Science Revision Guide 2025-26 @ £3.00
- NEW YORK OCT 2026 – Next instalment of £360.00 is due 03/04/2026
- MADRID 2026 – Next instalment of £150.00 is due 27/03/2026
- PERU 2027 – The deposit of £500.00 is due 15/04/2026

YR10: Items/Trips Available to purchase

- Year 10 Revision Guides/Workbooks & Flashcards are available to purchase on ParentPay
- Exam Stationary Packs @ £4.50
- NEW YORK OCT 2026 – Next instalment of £360.00 is due 03/04/2026
- MADRID 2026 – Next instalment of £150.00 is due 27/03/2026
- HORNSEA FIELDTRIP 17 & 18/03/26 – Single payment of £20.00 is due TODAY!
- NETBALL MATCH 24/04/26 – Single payment of £18.00 is due 17/04/2026

YR11: Items/Trips Available to purchase

- Year 11 Revision Guides/Workbooks & Flashcards are available to purchase on ParentPay
- Exam Stationary Packs @ £4.50
- MAN CITY GAME 17/03/26 – Single payment of £70.00 is due TODAY!
- PROM 2026 24/06/2026 – Final installment of £10.00 is due 24/04/2026

Donations & Contributions:

- D&T CONTRIBUTIONS 2025-26
- ART CONTRIBUTIONS 2025-26
- WAINWRIGHT CHARITY DAY 20/03/2026

ACTIVITY WEEK – 2026

RESIDENTIALS:

- PARIS – The next installment of £120.00 is due TODAY!
- LAKES – The next installment of £100.00 is due 27/03/2026
- CAYTHORPE – The next installment of £90.00 is due 27/03/2026
- LONDON – The next installment of £60.00 is due 27/03/2026

DAY TRIPS:

- ZIP, PADDLE & SPLASH – The next installment of £50.00 is due 27/03/2026
- THRILL SEEKERS – The deposit of £100.00 is due 27/03/2026
- FULL THROTTLE – The deposit of £100.00 is due 27/03/2026
- CHILLY ADVENTURE – The deposit of £75.00 is due 27/03/2026
- JUMPING ADVENTURE – The deposit of £75.00 is due 27/03/2026
- CULTURE VULTURE – The deposit of £50.00 is due 27/03/2026
- SPECTACULAR SCIENCE – The deposit of £30.00 is due 27/03/2026
- CODE BREAKING – The deposit of £75.00 is due 27/03/2026
- MULTI ACTIVITY SURPRISE – The deposit of £20.00 is due 27/03/2026





JOIN OUR MEMBERSHIP

FITNESS SUITE

ONLY £15 PER MONTH
OR JUST £5 PER SESSION

01484 222448
communitysc@holmfirhigh.co.uk



HIRE OUR HALL

For your child's

BIRTHDAY PARTY

Make your child's party unforgettable by hosting it in our versatile hall! Perfect for all kinds of celebrations, it's the ideal spot for exciting activities like Nerf Gun battles, football fun, and more.

BOOK NOW!
01484 222448
communitysc@holmfirhigh.co.uk



BOOK NOW!

BADMINTON COURTS

Holmfirth Community Sports Centre

GETINTOUCH
communitysc@holmfirhigh.co.uk
call us on 01484 222448

We have four large courts available in our Sports Hall for £12.50 per hour
We also have one court available in our smaller gym with a lower ceiling for £5.00 per hour

EMLEY AFC

END OF SEASON



V HEATON STANNINGTON
SATURDAY 14 MARCH
3PM KO / GATES 1PM

V REDCAR ATHLETIC
SATURDAY 4 APRIL
3PM KO / GATES 1PM

V NORTH FERRIBY
SATURDAY 11 APRIL
3PM KO / GATES 1PM

V NEWTON AYCLIFFE
SATURDAY 25 APRIL
3PM KO / GATES 1PM

CHECK OUT OUR VISITORS' GUIDE ON OUR WEBSITE
EMLEYAFC.CO.UK
SCAN THE QR CODE

JODA

30TH MARCH - 2ND APRIL



FOOD & ART SESSIONS

9.30-1.30PM

Globe 1, Holme Mills, Marsden

FUNDED & PAID PLACES

Fun art activities plus hot food made in our kitchen

Department for Education

School's Out!

www.globearts.org.uk/schools-out-art-sessions

COOPERS YARD

FOOD HALL & SOCIAL

ENTRIES OPEN 1ST - 18TH MARCH

Children's Poetry Competition

At Coopers Yard

SUBMIT EITHER AT THE BAR OR EMAIL ABI@COOPERSYARD.CO.UK
Winners can come down to perform their poems on 22nd & collect their prizes. Followed by poetry open mic - open to all - 3pm onwards - top of O'Briens.
Free to watch & participate

#COOPERSYARDHOLMFIRTH

Read

Online Safety Newsletter

March 2026

YouTube Safety Update: New Parental Controls

YouTube have published their latest update on how parents can support their child on YouTube. YouTube will now allow parents to set the amount of time viewing Shorts – this can even be set to zero. YouTube Shorts are short videos, usually less than 60 seconds long, which when continuously watched, can lead to excessive screentime. Furthermore, parents will also be able to set bedtime and ‘take a break’ reminders. You can find out more here:

<https://blog.youtube/news-and-events/updates-youtube-supervised-accounts-teens/>

If you would like to find out more about supervised accounts on YouTube, then this article explains the different settings available:

https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/10315420?hl=en-GB&ref_topic=15279060&sjid=15225282118002181205-EU

Would you like to read this newsletter in a different language? You can use the translate tool on our web version:
<https://www.knowsleycitycs.org.uk/march-2026/>

Mobile phones: do you know the risks?

We know that children having access to a smartphone can expose children to risks including:

- Viewing inappropriate content
- Excessive screen time/use, which in turn can affect their mental health and sleep pattern.
- Contact from inappropriate people/grooming
- Cyberbullying
- Spending money on in-app purchases/scams

What effects do mobile phones have on children’s mental health?

Compass discuss the research around this important topic, outlining the positive and negative effects that mobile phones have:

<https://compass-uk.org/services/compass-changing-lives/online-resources/what-effects-do-mobile-phones-have-on-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health/>

EE Online Safety Hub

EE has published age guidance for smartphone usage to improve children’s digital wellbeing. In summary, they recommend that children under 11 should use non-smart devices, for children aged 11-13, they advise that if a smartphone is used, then parental controls should be enabled and access to social media restricted. Finally, for 13-16-year-olds they still recommend that parental controls are implemented and appropriate restrictions set up. You can read the full guidance here:

<https://ee.co.uk/internet-online-safety>

Could you delay when your child is given a smartphone with Smartphone Free Childhood?

The premise behind this movement is that all parents/carers of a class all agree not to give their children smartphones (therefore the level of peer pressure is reduced) for a set time or until a specific age:

<https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org/>

What device?

When you think it is the right time for your child to have a phone, then ‘Which?’ provide an overview of some options available:

<https://www.which.co.uk/reviews/mobile-phones/article/buying-a-first-mobile-phone-best-dumb-phones-and-smartphones-for-kids-aA03C3Y8aTzr>

Virtual Private Networks

A Virtual Private Network (VPN) helps make your connection between a device and the internet more secure and can help protect personal information and add privacy. However, whilst a VPN has benefits, it is important that you are aware that if your child is using a VPN, they may be able to get round Wi-Fi restrictions, access blocked or restricted websites and bypass parental controls. It may also mean that their browsing history is hidden.

The NSPCC provides a helpful overview of VPNs, plus top tips and conversation starters here:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/vpns-and-online-safety/>

Social Media Algorithms

What is an Algorithm?

Algorithms influence what we see on social media platforms and predict what type of content we are most likely to interact with, thereby keeping us online for longer. The algorithm uses information such as who you follow, what you have searched for and what you have watched, liked or shared to determine what it thinks most interests you. It will then show you this content more, for example, in the explore tab on Instagram.



What do I need to know?

Whilst there are benefits to algorithms, for example it means we tend to see content that does interest us, unfortunately there are negatives as well. They can lead to increased screentime as we continue to see things that interest us. Secondly, it can lead to users being shown large amounts of inappropriate content which can for example, exacerbate negative body image or heighten access to misogyny content. It can also lead to 'echo chambers' where you are only seeing content that relates to your opinion rather than seeing a balanced viewpoint.

Further information

- <https://cybersmarties.com/behind-the-screen-how-algorithms-shape-what-kids-see-online/>
- The BBC discuss algorithms in this article about doomscrolling: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zwnk3qt>

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Five Nights at Freddy's

Five Nights at Freddy's is a horror game designed to frighten players with jump scares or creepy characters. It can be accessed from several places, for example on an Xbox (PEGI rating of 12) and on the App store (age rating of 13+). There is merchandise available, which may suggest that it is child friendly. We would recommend that you preview the game first to ascertain its suitability for your child. You can view Bark's review here:

<https://www.bark.us/content-review/five-nights-at-freddys-review/>

Screen time and online harms

The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health have created a page that brings together key resources on screen time. Find out more here:

<https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/resources/screen-time-online-harms-resources-members>

New government campaign: Is your child influenced by toxic content?

The Government have launched a new campaign providing guidance to parents on safety settings, conversation prompts and advice for tackling misinformation and harmful content. It also includes a quiz to help you and your child spot misleading or unreliable information online. You can find out more here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/is-your-child-influenced-by-toxic-content-new-government-campaign-supports-parents-to-talk-about-harmful-online-content>