



# HIGH LITTLETON CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Friday, 1st May 2026



**Welcome back:** Welcome back to you all and I hope you had a good Easter break. Since returning to school, we have been busy in so many ways and the next few weeks look to be just as productive as we strive to give the children at High Littleton Primary School the best possible education.

**Headteacher's Award:** Many, many congratulations go to Beatrice (Deer) who on Friday was the proud recipient of last term's Headteacher's Award. This award is in recognition of Beatrice's outstanding behaviour and attitude to all aspects of school life.

**OPAL:** We are incredibly proud to inform you that on Tuesday, we were the recipients of the OPAL Platinum Award for the third successive time. This is in recognition of the incredible outdoor provision for our children. Rachel Murray (OPAL Assessor) left with a smile on her face as she reflected on our outstanding achievement. My grateful thanks to all the staff (past and present) who have contributed and driven this project for the past nine years.

**Y4 Residential Visit:** Thank you to Mr Smalley, Miss Challenger, Mrs Stenner and Mrs Smith who spent last week supporting our Year 4 children as they embarked upon their residential visit to Mendip Activity Centre. The children (and staff) had a great time, throwing themselves into the many challenges which they faced.

Have a relaxing Bank Holiday weekend. Please remember that we return to school next Tuesday, 5th May.



*"Love each other as I have loved you." John 15:12*

# OPAL Report

*"Huge congratulations to High Littleton Church of England Primary School on achieving their third consecutive OPAL Outdoor Play and Learning Platinum Award, earning the prestigious OPAL Honours status. This remarkable accomplishment represents the very highest level within the OPAL programme and has been awarded to only thirteen primary schools nationally. High Littleton now stands proudly amongst the very best primary schools in the country for the quality of their outdoor play.*

*High Littleton's OPAL journey began back in 2018, working alongside OPAL founder and director Michael Follett, and then with Senior OPAL mentor Rachel Murray. Over the years, the school has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to continuous improvement, using play as a powerful driver for whole-school development. Their sustained dedication has ensured that outdoor play is not an add-on, but a deeply embedded and valued part of everyday school life.*

*The school fully recognises children's right to play, as outlined in Article 31 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. More importantly, they have taken meaningful action to bring this to life - carefully organising staffing, budget, space and time to ensure that every child benefits from high-quality play experiences, every single day.*

*This success is rooted in strong and consistent leadership. Headteacher Gareth Griffith and Deputy Headteacher Ian Gunning have been passionate advocates for play throughout the entire journey, including during the challenges of the pandemic. Their vision and determination have created a culture where play is prioritised, protected and celebrated.*

*Over the past eight years, six dedicated members of staff have taken on the vital role of OPAL Play Coordinator. Each has brought their own strengths and creativity, helping to shape and evolve the provision. Sincere thanks go to Sarah Bolton, Rosie, Amanda Woodland, much-missed Jane Meissner, Sinead York and Laura Pitchford for their invaluable contributions to this outstanding achievement.*

*The wider school community has also played a crucial role. Parents have supported the initiative through fundraising, donations of resources, and by ensuring children are equipped with wellies and waterproofs, making year-round outdoor play a reality. Their involvement has enriched the play offer and strengthened the sense of shared purpose.*

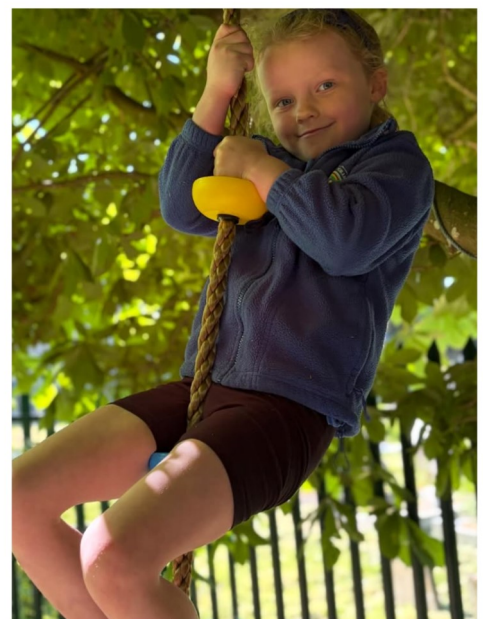
*During the final observation, the playground was alive with rich, varied and engaging activity. Children were dancing on stage, building dens, digging enthusiastically and uncovering real fossils, swinging from trees, dressing up, playing football, and riding swayer scooters. Others were deeply absorbed in imaginative play, including creating a dinosaur racetrack and cooking cherry and chocolate cake in the mud kitchen. The abundance of resources and freedom to explore enabled children to follow their interests and fully immerse themselves in play.*

*There was a joyful, inclusive atmosphere across the school grounds. Pupils moved confidently between spaces, whether seeking energetic physical challenges or quieter areas for rest and reflection. The school's commitment to adventurous play is underpinned by a thoughtful risk-benefit approach, in line with guidance from the Health and Safety Executive, allowing children to develop resilience, confidence and independence.*

*Achieving OPAL Honours status is an extraordinary accomplishment and a true reflection of long-term vision, dedication and teamwork. High Littleton Church of England Primary School should be immensely proud of what they have achieved.*

*Congratulations to the entire school community on this exceptional success."*

*Rachel Murray, OPAL Senior Mentor West of England*

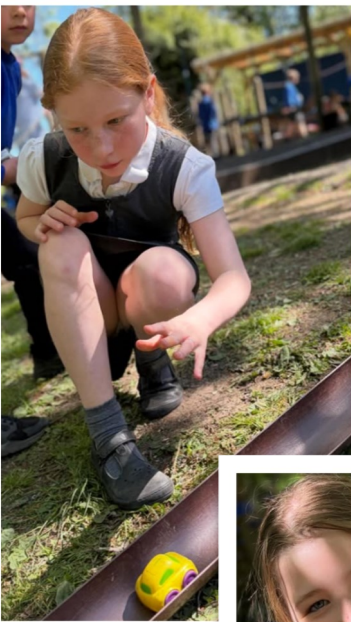


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## Play



# Year 4 Residential



# Thought of the Week

## Thought of the Week

**'When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.'** (1 Corinthians 2:1-2)



From a manuscript of Lancelot and the Holy Grail (c. 1406)

Lots of people are inspired by the legend of King Arthur and his knights. Glastonbury is visited by thousands of people every year in search of evidence of this legendary king.

One of the reasons I believe the story is loved so much is because of the image of the round table. Kings and leaders have often put themselves above their subjects and seen themselves as better than them. But in the story of King Arthur, he sits with his knights at a table where no one is the head. The king sees himself as an equal with the rest of his people and the table means that no one is seen as being better than anyone else. The table becomes a leveller.

In today's verse, Paul is writing to the church in Corinth. This was a difficult church at the time and there was confusion over truth and conflict between its members. There was jealousy in the church and those who were in leadership or seemed to know more were behaving arrogantly towards others. Not a good advert for the church - then or now!

Paul focuses instead on the Good News of Jesus. Unlike the world that often focuses on wealth, popularity, education or appearance, Jesus lived and died for all, regardless of their status in society.

Like King Arthur's table, Jesus is the great leveller. It doesn't matter how the world views you, the Bible says that all have missed the mark and everyone needs God's forgiveness. No amount of money, likes, followers, botox or post-nominal letters will get you any nearer to being accepted by God. The wonderful news is that everyone can be accepted and valued equally in God's eyes because of Jesus' sacrificial love and death on the cross.

The Last Supper by Leandro Bassano (c.1578)

When I look at the image of the round table, I like to imagine that it is Jesus sitting there, surrounded by his followers. None of their wisdom, wealth or popularity matters, all that counts is that they are loved and accepted by him. All of us are equal at the foot of the cross.



"For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified."

1 Corinthians 2:2

## OPAL Resources

It's that time of year again when we are asking for donations of loose parts to further enrich the children's outdoor learning experience. High Littleton is a platinum awarded OPAL school. The aim of OPAL is to enrich the children's outdoor playtime by encouraging free and imaginative play, reinforcing social skills and allowing a safe environment for the children to assess their own risks.

As before, we're asking for items off the list below. Whilst we will thoroughly check all items to ensure their safety, it would be appreciated if you could check that the items are safe enough to play with i.e. pockets, bags should all be cleared out, cables cut-off.

Natural Loose Parts	Fabricated Loose Parts
Bulbs/seeds/plants	Astro Turf Off cuts
Logs	Bed linen
Pea Gravel	Boards, Old Cabinet Doors, Panels
Pine cones	Bread, milk, bottle and grocery crates
Play Bark/ Woodchip	Brief cases
Tree stumps that can be used as seats	Buggies, push chairs
Sea Pebbles	Cable drums
Shells	Decking that can be made into planters
Varied aggregates, slate, flint, clay	Event shelter/old tents
Wood offcuts	Fabrics – Preferably parachute type materials and as colourful as possible.
	Hoses and pipe
	Netting - fishing, cargo, football
	Old clothes, jackets, overalls, hats, bags
	Suitcases/Briefcases of all sizes
	Treasure that can be buried - crystals, rocks, coins, foos gold, mini dinosaurs etc



## Nut-Free School

Please can I remind you that we are **NUT FREE SCHOOL**.

Please can you also ensure you do not provide SESAME items. We are asking all parents to bear this in mind when sending lunches and snacks to school.

Thank you for your co-operation.

# Progressive Kids



DO YOU NEED  
CHILDCARE BEFORE OR  
AFTER SCHOOL?

YOU CAN BOOK ODD  
DAYS, A WEEK OR A  
FULL TERM!

SCAN THE QR CODE  
BELOW TO GO TO OUR  
BOOKING SITE



OR CONTACT US BY TEXT/EMAIL  
07789997375

[j.mctiernan@progressive-sports.co.uk](mailto:j.mctiernan@progressive-sports.co.uk)



# Golden Rules

We are gentle



We are kind and helpful



We listen



We are honest



We work hard



We look after property



# Attendance

Please see below attendance for each class since the beginning of the academic year:

Owl	96.5%
Hedgehog	97%
Fox	98%
Badger	96.7%
Otter	96.8%
Robins	97.9%
Deer	97.4%
Total	97%



Please check out the website - Click on the [link](#).

Follow us on Instagram high\_littleton for the latest news and information about the school.



## Dates for your Diaries 2025-2026

*Please click on the link below to take you to the 'Diary Dates' page and scroll down to see Club dates!*

['Diary Dates/Clubs'](#)

High Littleton Primary School is committed to working towards race equality, promoting positive approaches to difference and opposing all forms of racial prejudice and discrimination. Language or behaviour, which is racist or potentially damaging to any ethnic or racial group, is not tolerated and will always be challenged. We recognise that British society is made up of people from many different racial, cultural, linguistic and religious backgrounds and that all pupils must be fully prepared to live in such a diverse society.

HIGH LITTLETON PTA PRESENT...

# BREAK THE RULES DAY!

FRIDAY 22ND MAY 2026

1. BRING A NON FRUIT SNACK
2. WEAR NON SCHOOL UNIFORM
3. TEMPORARY TATTOOS
4. CRAZY HAIR
5. BRING A TEDDY / TOY (NON ELECTRIC)
6. WEAR NAIL POLISH
7. WEAR ODD SOCKS
8. WEAR TRAINERS

£3 TO BREAK AS MANY  
RULES AS YOU LIKE!

PLEASE PAY VIA THE PTA WEBSITE

LETS GO CRAZY!

FOR  
THOSE WHO  
WISH TO NOT PARTICIPATE  
PLEASE COME  
TO SCHOOL IN  
UNIFORM



# DYNAMOS CRICKET



**AGES**

**8-11**

**GIRLS  
ONLY!**

**FREE**

**DATE:**

**FRIDAYS STARTING 1 MAY  
FOR 8 WEEKS**

**TIME:**

**6-7PM**

**VENUE:**

**TEMPLE CLOUD CRICKET CLUB,  
FARMBOROUGH RECREATION  
GROUND, FARMBOROUGH BA2 0BE**

**USE CODE:**

**6E69Y**

