



Halifax Herald

September 2025

Aspiration

Collaboration

Helping each other to aim high

Nurture

Curiosity

A Warm Welcome to the New School Year

I am delighted to welcome all our families back to Halifax Primary School for the start of a new academic year, and an especially warm welcome to those joining us for the very first time. We are so pleased that you are part of our school community and we look forward to working in partnership with you throughout the year.

The children have made a fantastic start to the term. It has been wonderful to see them coming into school with such enthusiasm, settling so quickly into their new classes, and already embracing new routines and learning opportunities. Thank you to all parents and carers for the support you have given to help make this transition so positive, it really does make such a difference in helping the children feel confident, happy, and ready to learn. We hope you enjoy reading this edition and finding out about the learning that has been taking place.

This term, we're excited to share two fantastic achievements that show the hard work of our school community.

First, our work on Oracy - communication skills - has been recognised nationally. With support from the charity Voice 21, our children have been learning how to actively listen, use new vocabulary, share their ideas, and respect the views of others. We're proud that Halifax has now been named an Oracy Centre of Excellence, a huge achievement that will help our pupils grow in confidence and succeed both in school and beyond.

We're also proud to have received the School Games Gold Mark for sport. This award celebrates our commitment to keeping children active, whether through the Daily Mile, playground leaders, class competitions, or local tournaments. It's all about teamwork, fair play, and living healthy, active lives. Both awards are a wonderful celebration of our school values and of everything our children have achieved.

A Wonderful Start in EYFS

The children in EYFS have made a fantastic start to their time at Halifax! Over the past four weeks, they have been busy settling in, making new friendships, and exploring lots of exciting activities. They've already begun learning their letter sounds and even joined in with their first Friday Book Card assembly.

We are so proud of everything they have accomplished in such a short time and look forward to seeing all the amazing progress they will continue to make this year.



Year 1 Explore Significant People

Year 1 have started their new topic all about *significant people*. To launch their learning, the children enjoyed a special dressing-up day, arriving at school as someone they consider significant. Their choices ranged from family members and teachers to famous figures from both today and history.

This exciting start has really helped the children to understand what the word *significant* means and why certain people have an important impact on our lives.

A big thank you to all our parents and carers for supporting this activity and for the wonderful, imaginative costumes, you made the day extra special!



significant



Important or special.

Year 2 Experience Seasonal Changes

Year 2 have been busy exploring seasonal changes during their time in Forest School. The children have enjoyed using natural resources such as acorns, conkers, and pine cones to create their very own creatures.

They also learned how to identify a *blackthorn bush* and carefully picked some sloes, making sure to leave plenty behind for the local wildlife. Miss Charbonneau is going to wash them and pop them in the freezer... stay tuned to find out what we do with them next!



Year 3 Explore North America Through Volcanoes

Year 3 kicked off their new topic on North America in spectacular style, by becoming volcanologists! To spark their curiosity, the children worked in teams to design and build model volcanoes before bringing them to life with an explosive science experiment.

Armed with cola and Mentos, the young scientists eagerly watched as their volcanoes erupted, sending frothy 'lava' cascading down the sides of their structures. The excitement was palpable as the chemical reaction brought their creations to life! This hands-on experience encouraged collaboration and problem-solving, while also giving pupils a memorable insight into the dramatic volcanic landscapes found in parts of North America.



Year 4 Step Back in Time with the Anglo-Saxons!

Year 4 had an amazing day immersing themselves in the world of the Anglo-Saxons. We were delighted to welcome special visitors from Ipswich Museum, who brought our topic to life in a truly memorable way.

The children loved dressing up in Anglo-Saxon costumes, designing and making beautiful brooches, and even handling real artefacts – some of which were discovered beneath the Buttermarket in Ipswich!

In the afternoon, the fun continued with traditional Anglo-Saxon dancing and games, before finishing the day by making our very own shields. Our visitors commented on how polite and enthusiastic the children were throughout the day.



Year 5 Scientists Investigate Forces

In Science this half term, Year 5 have been busy working as scientists by carrying out experiments and using their findings as evidence to support scientific theories.

Over the last four weeks, the children have explored the effects of gravity, air resistance, and water resistance on different materials and objects. They investigated how the shape of an object can change how it moves, the distance it travels, and even the direction of travel.

Through these hands-on investigations, pupils have been developing their scientific skills, making predictions, testing ideas, and drawing conclusions from their results. Their enthusiasm and curiosity have shone through, as they discover more about the invisible forces that shape the world around us.



Year 6 Launch WWII Topic with Trip to Duxford

Year 6 launched their new history topic with an exciting visit to the Imperial War Museum at Duxford. Last year, the children explored how World War II affected everyday life in Britain. This year, they are building on that knowledge by learning about the major events that shaped the conflict itself.

The trip gave pupils the chance to experience history in a hands-on way. They saw a wide range of aircraft and discovered how developments in air warfare influenced the course of WWII. The exhibitions helped them to understand the scale of the conflict and the importance of technology in determining its outcome.

The children also explored the story of flight more broadly, boarding Concorde, where they could imagine what it was like to travel on the fastest passenger plane in the world.



Our Teachers

Reception & Year 1

Learning Leader

Mrs Hough

Bluebirds

Mrs Mortimer

Robins

Mrs Hough

1AD

Miss Davis

1SS

Mrs Stankiewicz &
Mrs Seaman

Year 2 & 3

Learning Leader

Mr Fenn

2PF

Mr Fenn

2ZC

Miss Charbonneau

3EB

Miss Bishop

3ID

Miss Dawson

Year 4 & 5

Learning Leader

Mr Harvey

4FB

Miss Binge

4GH

Mr Harvey

5AA

Miss Allard

5MB

Mr Burch

Year 6

Learning Leader

Mr Doyle

6EC

Mr Cook

6MD

Miss Dade

Contacting the School

At Halifax, we believe good communication between home and school is essential, and we are always happy to talk with parents and carers.

If you have a question or concern, the class teacher should be your first point of contact. Teachers are available at the end of the school day once children have been collected, or you can send a message via Class Dojo. Please note that teachers may not be able to respond straight away, and we ask that you allow 24 hours for a reply. If you are not connected to Class Dojo, please contact your child's teacher.

For any urgent messages about absences, illness, or changes to collection arrangements, please contact the school office directly so the information can be passed on quickly.

In addition, each phase of the school has a Learning Leader, who is part of our Senior Leadership Team. They are also available to support with questions and concerns, should you wish to speak to someone beyond the class teacher.

We want to reassure you that we value your input and encourage you to raise any questions or concerns at an early stage. Working together in this way helps us to respond promptly and positively, ensuring the best outcomes for all our children.

Safety on the School Grounds

A gentle reminder to all families that bikes and scooters should not be ridden on the school grounds. We are pleased to let parents and carers know that there are now bike and scooter racks in KS1 for safe storage during the day.

We also ask that parents and carers keep children with them at all times when arriving and leaving school. The front of the school can be busy, and there are potential hazards such as parked cars and steep slopes.

Thank you for your support in helping us to keep our school community safe.



Diary Dates

Please visit our calendar on the school websites for important dates for the year ahead including Parents Consultations, fundraising events, Christmas performances, Sports Day and much more.

It's time for a Macmillan Coffee Morning and you're invited

Let's do whatever it takes to support people living with cancer.

Place: Halifax Primary School

Date: Friday 17 October

Time: 9—11AM

Contact: Mrs Seaman/school office

Tel: 683932

If you would like to contribute cakes, cookies etc for sale please contact the above.



Macmillan Cancer Support, registered charity in England and Wales (24107), Scotland (SC039907) and the Isle of Man (366). Also operating in Northern Ireland. MAC29933_mcrhschool



FRIENDS OF HALIFAX SCHOOL

Autumn Disco
 Thursday 23rd October 2025
 KS1: 3:30pm - 4:45pm
 KS2: 5:00pm - 6:15pm
 Book your tickets via Arbor by Friday 17th October

If you can help us on the day please contact the office on 683932

Christmas fayre & shopping Event

FRIENDS of HALIFAX

HALIFAX PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOVEMBER 27TH THURSDAY 3:30 - 6:30PM

COME & MEET SANTA
 Games & Raffle Draw
 Jewellery
 Perfume
 Cakes
 Stocking filler toys
 Xmas wreaths
 Sand art
 Chocolate bouquets
 Glitzy faces

Please help us on the day, contact the office 683932

Friends of Halifax Supporting Our School Community

We are very fortunate to have a dedicated Friends of Halifax Association, who work hard to support the school through fundraising and by organising exciting events for our children and families. Their efforts help provide extra opportunities and resources that make a real difference across the school.

This term, there are lots of great events to look forward to, including the Macmillan Coffee Morning, the School Disco, and the Christmas Fayre – please see the flyers for more details.

If you would like to find out more about what the Friends of Halifax do, or if you are able to offer some of your time to get involved, we would love to see you at the Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 7th October, held at school. Your support, big or small, is always valued and helps us to continue making Halifax a fantastic place for our children to learn.