



The Ewyas Herald

Friday 19th September 2025
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Dear Parents and Carers

I hope the newsletter finds you well and after the first few weeks back, the children are settling into their school routines. While being 'back in the old routine', can seem unexciting, it can be a massive help in making children feel comfortable and happy, knowing what is expected and what they need to do. This in turn, can help with attendance and punctuality.

Last year, attendance at school was very good, and, while the children have their part to play, at primary school this is the role of parents to ensure the children are in school on time and as often as possible. We fully appreciate that there are times when children (and adults) get ill and the right place to be is under a duvet getting better. (This link has helpful advice on when your child is too ill for school. [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS](#))

I wanted to share some stats about attendance and how there is a big cumulative impact of time not in school. If a child's attendance is 90%, this means they have missed 100 lessons across the school year, equivalent to four whole weeks. If attendance drops to 80%, this is 200 missed lessons - more than 7 weeks in the school year.

A missed day here and there can be very hard for children. The content of lessons builds on what was taught the day before. For example, a skill learnt on Tuesday will then be applied on Wednesday, or there may be questions to answer about a part of a book that the children read the day before.

Also, the children may miss out on a new game their friends have started playing, putting them on a back foot. As I said, there are days when children are ill and, other than doing our best to keep healthy, there is nothing that can be done to avoid this.

There are lots more statistics (like the fact that missing just one day every two weeks adds up to a whole year missed by the time the children are 16. Or that pupils with higher attainment have lower levels of absence compared to those with lower attainment) but I think the message is clear.

Punctuality is also very important, both because the missed learning time adds up (arriving 15 minutes late every day adds up to 2 weeks absence a year, that's 55 lessons missed), but there is also an impact on the children. Arriving when everyone else is sat and settled on the carpet, or starting their work at the tables, is not an enjoyable experience.

We are here to help. If there are any problems or worries about attendance, lateness or reluctant children please talk to your child's class teacher as soon as possible. There are lots of strategies that can make a big difference and also lots of agencies who are able to support.

I know that by working together we can surpass the fantastic attendance we achieved last year.

Mr R Foster

Governor News

On behalf of governors I'd like to welcome all parents / carers - returning and new - to our school. We hope to get to know you all and for you to know who we are.

Governors' duties are strategic. We work with staff to ensure your children get the very best all-round education and they are happy and safe. We check the finances are secure and the money is being spent in the best interests of the children; we oversee the policies that determine how the school is run; and we oversee children's learning outcomes. Our round of meetings starts soon.

We started very early with some training about Values based Education. We will now work with Mr Foster to shape the values of the school so that our children become thoughtful, kind and responsible young people.

Sadly, we've had to say goodbye to Lauri Lloyd. Many of you will know her; she has been an enthusiastic member of the PTFA as well as a most valued member of our governing board. We will greatly miss her skills, experience and commitment to our school. So we have a parent governor vacancy. We really hope you will consider joining us. It is rewarding and challenging work and I'm happy to give anyone more information about what we do. Please follow [this link](#) for more information or to nominate yourself or someone else.

Your parent governors, currently Rachel Dyson and Keri Pearson, are your link to us, so please get in touch with them about anything of a general nature that you want to bring to our attention. Please be aware though that our role is strategic, not operational, and anything relating to your own child should be discussed in the first instance with school staff.

Many of you will know that we have for a few years been thinking about the future stability and improvement of our school. It is tough for small schools, with their limited budget and fluctuating numbers, and we are actively looking at options to join with other schools. We were planning to join a Multi Academy Trust with other local schools a couple of years ago but this didn't work out. We now think the time is right to look again. It is important that we choose carefully and we will not rush the process. We will be keeping all stakeholders informed as we move forward with this and there will be opportunities to give your views.

Ann Jenner (chair)



Find this newsletter and lots of other useful information on our school website:
www.ewyasharoldprimaryschool.co.uk/

Contact details for Ewyas Harold Primary

Head teacher:

Mr Richard Foster: 01981 240432
admin@ewyas-harold.hereford.sch.uk

Governors:

ajenner@ewyas-harold.hereford.sch.uk



REVEALING OUR ROOTS

**Come immerse yourself
in Viking World!**

Viking Activity Day!
4th October 2025 / 10am-4pm
Ewyas Harold Craft Centre HR2 0EL

Meet Real Vikings with the fearsome Black Crows
Play Viking Games and Handle Incredible Replicas of ancient treasures
Make Your Mark in a vibrant Community Art Project
Get Creative with family-friendly Craft Activities
Hunt for Artefacts with the Herefordshire Searchers
Discover Local History & Geography with Longtown & District Historical Society and the Golden Valley Walking Club

Uncover the secrets of one of Herefordshire's most dramatic and scandalous archaeological discoveries through hands-on replicas and a whole day of creative crafts, thrilling activities, and games!



PTFA Fundraiser

Fancy Dress Halloween Party

FRIDAY
24TH OCT



3:30 - 5 PM

At: Memorial Hall

School and Preschool welcome

£5 for first child **£2 for siblings**
You can prepay on MyChild App
or pay cash on the door

Drinks, Sweets and Glow Sticks
On sale for 50p and £1

After School club will run as normal

Fancy Dress is optional
 Children can get changed at the end
of school into Fancy dress

Parents must accompany children
We will be selling tea, coffee and
cake for parents



TAG RUGBY



- For girls and boys in Reception (from 4 ½ years) and Years 1-3
- Training every Sunday between 10am - 11:30am throughout the season

JOIN NOW mjdir@ledburyrfc.co.uk
 07747 018144 (Bruce Allcock)

Macmillan Coffee Afternoon

Wednesday 24th September 2025
14.45- 16.00

Ewyas Harold Primary School



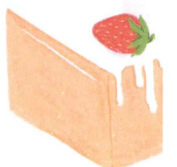
Come along for a cake, a drink
and a natter!



All proceeds go to Macmillan Cancer support



WORLD'S BIGGEST
**COFFEE
MORNING**
MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT



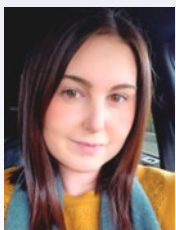
Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope this letter finds you well. As we begin another exciting school year with the children all settling back in we are thrilled to introduce you to our Parent-Teacher-Friends Association (PTFA) and invite you to meet the new team that will be supporting and enhancing our school community.

The PTFA plays a vital role in fostering a positive relationship between the school, parents, and the local community. We work hard to organize events, raise funds, research grants so we can create opportunities for our students to thrive. We have been so lucky to have had the PTFA over many years providing funds for things like the new school mini bus so the children can go swimming and additional funding so no child has to miss out on a school trip, transport to the annual Christmas panto and many other enrichment opportunities.

Whether you are new to the school or a returning parent, grandparent or friend, we encourage you to get involved and help to keep making a difference.

Meet the New PTFA Team We are excited to introduce our newly elected PTFA team members who are passionate about supporting the school and working together with families to build a welcoming and thriving environment for all the children. The new team committee members include:



Stacey Preece
Chair



Jessica Powell
Vice Chair



Elena Williams
Secretary



Rachel Evans
Treasurer



Melanie Cosham
Social Media
Communications

PTFA Meeting

To kick off this new school year, we will be holding an informal PTFA meeting on the 8th October at 6pm in the school hall. This will be a great opportunity to:

- Get involved with our first event the Halloween disco!
- Meet the new PTFA team members
- Learn more about how the PTFA supports our school and how you can get involved.
- Share your ideas and suggestions for future events and initiatives.
- Ask any questions you may have.

We strongly encourage all parents and guardians to try and attend, whether you're interested in volunteering your time, donating resources, or simply supporting the PTFA's efforts in future events or want to stay up to date with what's going on.

Get Involved! Your involvement, whether big or small, has a tremendous impact on our school community. From organizing events like fun runs and bake sales to helping with wider community events or fundraising efforts, every bit of support is appreciated.

If you're unable to attend the meetings but would like to get involved or learn more about the PTFA, please feel free to reach out to us via our PTFA school Facebook page, drop an email to the school office or catch one of us on the school run; we're just school mums too we don't bite!

We look forward to seeing you at a meeting and working together to make this school year the best one yet for our children.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the past PTFA committee for all the funds that you have raised this past year bringing opportunities to all the students so they can grow and succeed at our school. The memorable events and supported initiatives have truly made a difference from all of your collective efforts and I hope that you will continue to be a part of our school community and that your experience with the PTFA remains a rewarding one.

Thank you for your continued support!

Warm regards,

Stacey Preece

PTFA Chair

Your PTFA Committee needs your help

For the **Halloween Disco** we need help from you lovely parents with the following:

- the loan of lights
- a DJ preferably with own DJ equipment (speakers etc)
- help to set up the disco at 3pm (you can still do school pickup)
- help clearing up until 5:30pm
- help creating the sweet bags on the 23rd October 6pm

If you can help with any of these things please let us know ASAP to help with planning. You can let one of the PTFA members know when you see us at pick up or join our Ewyas Harold PTFA facebook group and send us a message on there.

Business Sponsorship for a school calendar

If you work for or own a business that would like to sponsor the school calendar for 2026, please let us know. The calendar will include artwork from the children. You will get your logo printed on the calendar and the amount you donate is up to you but we are suggesting around £50. Please email your business logo in a pdf format to ehschoolptfa@gmail.com with the heading sponsorship before the 1st October to be included.

Thank you we cant do this without all your help and its very much appreciated.



Ewyas Harold Primary School calls out for votes to get a share of Tesco's Stronger Startsfund

The primary school is bidding for a cash boost from the Tesco Stronger Starts scheme.

Stronger Starts provides grant awards of up to £1,500 to local community projects, with a particular focus on children and young people.

Three groups in every community have been shortlisted to receive grant awards and Tesco customers can vote for the group they think should take away the top award in their local Tesco store. Ewyas Harold Primary School is one of the groups on the shortlist in Hereford to purchase a mini bus to help the children and community at Ewyas Harold Primary school access wider opportunities.



PRICE INCREASE

It is with regret that the prices for school meals will increase to **£2.60** per meal after the October half term week.

Well done to Monnow Class with their impressive 98.96% attendance so far this year.

Percentage attendance with authorised and unauthorised absences for each class for the year to date		Authorised Absences	Unauthorised Absences
Class Monnow	98.96%	4.17	0.35
Class Dulas	96.26%	0.00	0.0
Class Severn	96.01%	8.70	0.91
Class Wye	91.51%	11.11	5.86
Total Percentage	95.70%	8.11	2.54

Free School Meals

Even if your child is in Yr R, 1 and 2 they can still be entitled to Free School Meals (not just the Universal Free School Meals that every Yr R, 1 & 2 child gets). The benefits of being eligible for FSM are great - including money vouchers from the government over holidays and more funding to the school. There are also the fabulous grocery boxes to help during the holiday. If you are not sure please do ask or apply. We have a national return to complete at the beginning of October which will determine our funding for the following year, so please do not leave it.

[You can find out more or apply here.](#)

School Diary

SEPT	23rd	18:00	Full governing body meeting
	24th	14:45-16:00	MacMillan Coffee Afternoon - All welcome
	25th	AM	School Photographer for individual and sibling photos
OCT	3rd	PM	Harvest Festival in school hall for children only
	15th	AM	Flu vaccinations - whole school
	27th -31st		Half term week