



The weekly newsletter of

Highdown School and Sixth Form Centre

w/c 12 December 2022 Week B

HOUSE POINTS

Caversham	58373
Grove	56164
Mapledurham	56512
Rosehill	55807

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Term dates can be found here:

[2022/23](#)

All Week: Year 11 PPEs

Mon 12 Dec Y13 Art/Textiles PPEs

Tues 13 Dec Y13 Art/Textiles PPEs

Wed 14 Dec Y13 Art/Textiles PPEs

Thurs 15 Dec Y13 Music Practical

Dance Company 2023 Auditions

Thursday 19th January 2023
3.15-4.15 DR1
 All Welcome!
 Bring dance / PE kit to change
 Workshop Audition Years 7-13
 Further Info ask Mrs Hawkins
pahawkins@highdown.reading.sch.uk

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE END OF TERM

Term 2 ends on Tuesday 20 December and students will be able to leave school at 12.25pm.



Follow us



Information

Collection of School Photographs

Please be advised the School Photographs have arrived. Any students in Years 7, 9 and 11 who ordered school photographs can now collect them from the Finance Office.

Absence Reporting

Please notify us if your son/daughter is unable to attend either online or onsite lessons due to illness or other reason.

Please report all absences using the Class Charts app rather than by telephone, email or ParentMail. We hope parents will find this route much more straightforward and efficient. You can find out more here:

<https://www.highdown.reading.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=1803&type=pdf>.

Lost Property

We have a large quantity of coats in lost property that need to be claimed.

If your student has misplaced their coat/jacket, please ask them to come to the pupil's reception to have a look and hopefully find theirs.

Problems with Class Charts

If you are experiencing issues with accessing your Class Charts account, please contact

Latest News



Please download our mobile website app to ensure you receive all the latest news. Click this [link](#) for further information.

POPPY APPEAL 2022



A big thank you from the Royal British Legion for helping with their appeal.

A total of **£286.40p** was collected by the Highdown community.

"Without your help, we would be unable to continue our vital welfare and benevolent work"

Menu option for Thursday 15 December 2022 Lunch time

Christmas lunch £3.00

served with cranberry sauce and gravy

Turkey , Yorkshire pudding, stuffing, sausage, roast carrot, roast potatoes

*Mock duck, Yorkshire pudding, stuffing, sausage, roast carrot, roast potatoes
(vegetarian)*

Mains meal £2.70

served with gravy and apple sauce

Honey roast gammon, stuffing, roast potatoes, red cabbage, carrot in flat bread

*Honey roast Quorn, stuffing, roast potatoes, red cabbage, carrot in flat bread
(vegetarian)*

Metro £2.20

Turkey, brie and cranberry hot baguette

Stuffing, brie and cranberry hot baguette

Pudding £1.10

Warm minced pie with cream or custard

Christmas cake will also be available all next week and short bread, ginger bread,.....



Job Vacancies

Join Us

We currently have the following vacancies. Please follow the link [here](#) to the school website to find out more information.

Cleaner Required

We need cleaners for our school, could this be a fit for you? We are looking for local, reliable people who can support our housekeeping team in creating a safe and welcoming environment to promote learning for our students! Ideally, you would be able to work before and/or after school hours 2 or more days a week, however, we can be flexible for the right candidates. £10.53 per hour. Training will be provided. For more information on how to apply, please visit our website at: <https://www.highdown.reading.sch.uk/vacancies>

If you require a hard copy of the application form, please contact the school office.

0118 901 5800

office@highdown.reading.sch.uk

Academic Mentors

We are looking for part time Academic Mentors for Mathematics and English.

The positions are part time and we welcome applications from mentors with or without Qualified Teacher Status. For further details please click the link [here](#)

Health and Wellbeing

Scarlet fever & Strep A advice

There are several sources of information about scarlet fever and strep A which you may find useful:

[Scarlet Fever and Invasive Group A Strep-advice for parents from the UK Health Security Agency/BOB ICB](#)

[5 ways to protect your under 5s this winter –UK Health Security Agency \(blog.gov.uk\)](#)

[Group A Strep-What you need to know-UK Health Security Agency \(blog.gov.uk\)](#)

[Scarlet fever: managing outbreaks in schools and nurseries-GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Snapchat is a photo- and video-sharing app through which users can chat with friends via text or audio. Images and videos can be shared with specific friends, or as a 'story' (documenting the previous 24 hours) that is visible to a person's entire friend list. In the guide below, you will find tips on a number of potential risks such as sexting, visible location and strangers.

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one app of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION 13+

Snapchat is a photo- and video-sharing app which also allows users to chat with friends via text or audio. Users can share images and videos with specific friends, or through a 'story' (documenting the previous 24 hours) visible to their entire friend list. Snapchat usage rose during the pandemic, with many young people utilising it to connect with their peers. The app continues to develop features to engage an even larger audience and emulate current trends, rivaling platforms such as TikTok and Instagram.

CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

Even if your child only connects on the app with people they know, they may still receive friend requests from strangers. Snapchat's links with apps such as Wink and Hoop have increased this possibility. Accepting a request means that children are then disclosing personal information through the Story, SnapMap and Spotlight features. This could allow predators to gain their trust for sinister purposes.

EXCESSIVE USE

There are many features that are attractive to users and keep them excited about the app. Snap streaks encourage users to send snaps daily, Spotlight Challenges give users the chance to obtain money and online fame, and the Spotlight feature's scroll of videos makes it easy for children to spend hours watching content.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some videos and posts on Snapchat are not suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's Discover function lets users swipe through snippets of news stories and trending articles that often include adult content. There is currently no way to turn off this feature.

SEXTING

Sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat. The app's 'disappearing messages' feature makes it easy for young people (teens in particular) to share explicit images on impulse. While these pictures do disappear – and the sender is notified if it has been screenshotted first – users have found alternative methods to save images, such as taking pictures with a separate device.

DAMAGE TO CONFIDENCE

Snapchat's filters and lenses are a popular way for users to enhance their 'selfie game'. Although many are designed to entertain or amuse, the 'beautify' filters on photos can set unrealistic body image expectations and create feelings of inadequacy. Comparing themselves unfavourably against other Snapchat users could threaten a child's confidence or sense of self-worth.

VISIBLE LOCATION

My Places lets users check in and search for popular spots nearby – such as restaurants, parks or shopping centres – and recommend them to their friends. The potential issue with a young person consistently checking into locations on Snapchat is that it allows other users in their friends list (even people they have only ever met online) to see where they currently are and where they regularly go.

Advice for Parents & Carers

TURN OFF QUICK ADD

The Quick Add function helps people find each other on the app. This function works based on mutual friends or whether someone's number is in your child's contacts list. Explain to your child that this feature could potentially make their profile visible to strangers. We recommend that your child turns off Quick Add, which can be done in the settings (accessed via the cog icon).

CHOOSE GOOD CONNECTIONS

Snapchat has recently announced that it is rolling out a new safety feature: users will receive notifications reminding them of the importance of maintaining connections with people they actually know well, as opposed to strangers. This 'Friend Check Up' encourages users to delete connections with users they rarely communicate with, to maintain their online safety and privacy.

KEEP ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

Profiles are private by default, but children may make them public to gain more followers. Your child can send Snaps directly to friends, but Stories are visible to everyone they have added, unless they change the settings. If they use SnapMaps, their location is visible unless 'Ghost Mode' is enabled (again via settings). It's prudent to emphasise the importance of not adding people they don't know in real life. This is particularly important with the addition of My Places, which allows other Snapchatters to see the places your child regularly visits and checks in. Additionally, it's important to be cautious about Shared Stories as this allows people who are not on your contact list access to the post.

TALK ABOUT SEXTING

It may feel like an awkward conversation (and one that young people can be reluctant to have) but it is important to talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting. Discuss the legal implications of sending, receiving or sharing explicit images, as well as the possible emotional impact. Emphasise that your child should never feel pressured into sexting – and that if they receive unwanted explicit images, they should tell a trusted adult straight away.

BE READY TO BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger does connect with your child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, pressure to send explicit images or by sending explicit images to them, your child can select the three dots on that person's profile and choose report or block. There are options to state why they are reporting that user (annoying or malicious messages, spam, or masquerading as someone else, for example).

CHAT ABOUT CONTENT

Talk to your child about what is and isn't wise to share on Snapchat (e.g. don't post explicit images or videos, or display identifiable details like their school uniform). Remind them that once something is online, the creator loses control over where it might end up – and who with. Additionally, Snapchat's 'Spotlight' feature has a #challenge like TikTok's: it's vital that your child understands the potentially harmful consequences of taking part in these challenges.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

www.nationalonlinesafety.com @natonlinesafety /NationalOnlineSafety @nationalonlinesafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Amended: 04.07.2022

Parents/carers can register for free, as members of the Highdown community, to National Online Safety (www.nationalonlinesafety.com) to access a wide range of similar guides, webinars and courses to help them stay up to date with potential online risks and harms their child may face.

HIGHDOWN SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM CENTRE



TERM DATES 2023/24

Term 1 2023 **Monday 4th September 2023 – Friday 20th October 2023**

Professional Learning Day 1: Friday 1st September 2023

Monday 4th September 2023 – Induction Day for Year 7 and Year 12

Tuesday 5th September 2023- Term starts for all year groups

Professional Learning Day 2: Friday 6th October 2023

(School holiday: Monday 23rd October 2023 to Friday 27th October 2023)

Term 2 2023 **Monday 30th October 2023 to Wednesday 20th December 2023**

(School holiday: Thursday 21st December 2023 to Wednesday 3rd January 2024)

Term 3 2024 **Thursday 4th January 2024 to Friday 9th February 2024**

Bank holiday: Monday 1st January 2024

Professional Learning Day 3: Wednesday 3rd January 2024

(School holiday: Monday 12th February 2024 to Friday 16th February 2024)

Term 4 2024 **Monday 19th February 2024 to Thursday 28th March 2024**

Bank holiday: Friday 29th March 2024

(School holiday: Friday 29th March 2024 to Monday 15th April 2024)

Term 5 2024 **Tuesday 16th April 2024 to Friday 24th May 2024**

Professional Learning Day 4: Monday 15th April 2024

Bank Holiday: Monday 6th May 2024

Term 6 2024 **Monday 3rd June 2024 to Friday 19th July 2024**

Professional Learning Day 5: Friday 28th June 2024

** Professional Learning Days – School closed to students*

Boys football team success

Prior to the school football season starting, Highdown year 7 boys were invited to the annual JMA 5-a-side football tournament.

After a slow start and some tricky group games, the boys came from behind against their final opponent to secure a place in the Plate competition and avoid elimination.

A strong performance against Prospect in the Semi-final then set up a Plate final against Denefield. Despite being on top, Highdown were held to a draw which saw the final settled on penalties. Two great saves from our goalkeeper led to Highdown winning the shootout, and becoming the Plate winners!!

Congratulations to the team:

Harry Friday
Nathan Crozier
Rex Bingley
Liam Tietema
Lewis Smith
Felix Laver
Lewis Bridge

Girls U12 football team success

Big congratulations to our Year 7 girls football team! The girls played in the U12 Reading Schools football league and came 2nd.

Please congratulate them if you see them around the school. Full list of the names of the girls that contributed to this result are:

Isabelle Bonnett
Kaja Colyer
Leah Fothergill
Freya Gooddy
Cressida King
Libby Hasell
Marley Ifill
Charlotte Mackie
Tula Matthews
Ava Piercy
Evie Sills
Margot Smith
Esme Waugh



My thanks to Mr Norris for stepping in during my absence and taking the girls yesterday to play the finals and to Ms Clark for helping out on a fixture.

Well done!

Mrs Adam

Wheelbarrow making in STEAM



Book Donations to the Hive

Are you having a clear out of books over the Christmas holidays? If you are, please consider donating any books to the library at Highdown. Books need to be age appropriate for the students at Highdown and in good condition.

You never know, that book you have on the shelf may just be the book we are missing from a series, it could replace a book that has seen better days or provide an additional copy of a popular book. Quite often newer additions have brighter and more attractive front covers. It could even be a book that we haven't yet got in the library!

Below is a list of books that we are on the lookout for to complete some series:

Harry Potter Book 2: The Chamber of Secrets – JK Rowling

Murder Most Unladylike Book 3: First Class Murder – Robin Stevens

Murder Most Unladylike Book 5: Mistletoe and Murder – Robin Stevens

Murder Most Unladylike Book 7: Death in the Spotlight – Robin Stevens

Alex Rider Book 5: Scorpia - Anthony Horowitz

Alex Rider Book 12: Secret Weapon – Anthony Horowitz

The Enemy Book 1: The Enemy – Charlie Higson

The Enemy Book 3: The Fear – Charlie Higson

Young Bond Book 2: Blood Fever - Charlie Higson

Young Bond Book 4: Hurricane Gold – Charlie Higson

Young Bond Book 5: By Royal Command – Charlie Higson

If you would like to check whether we could use any books before sending them in please email librarian@highdown.reading.sch.uk

Thank you!

Library: The Hive

Have you enjoyed a book recently? Do you want to share your thoughts on a book or author?.....Then come to the Hive and pick up a Book Review Card. P points will be awarded for completed reviews!



Thank you to those students who have already completed a book review card - P Points have been awarded to you and your review cards are on display in The Hive with the book you reviewed!



Stars of the Week

7C Oscar McQuillan
7D Vedant Jaiman
7E Zoë Krecek
7F Leo Clark
7G Libby Hasell
7H Lily Jackson
7J Beau Perry
7K George Sheppard
7L Rex Bingley

8C Ava Cordingley
8D Marley Hormigo
8E Sonia Vetsko
8F Kaya Bell
8G Phoebe Hatcher
8H Asha Chowdhury
8J Henry Hawkins
8K Zara Bacon
8L Rowan Bain

9C Prithvi Anandkumar
9D Freya Clements
9E Azaan Hussain
9F Therene Kejang
9G Harry Jenkins
9H Imogen Rosewell
9J Anna Hoang
9K Shlok Varma
9L Theo Bingley

10C Millie Anderton-Bell
10D Olivia Mather
10E Sophia Ng
10F Mia Corbin
10G Rory Collier
10H Joey Burke
10K Josie Murphy
10K Ruby Tiwana
10L Ariseen Miah
10M Madison Folley

11C Freya MacBeth
11D Celian Karki
11E Cassia Carter
11F Ollie Williams
11G Kimberly Tappern
11H Freeman Chung
11J David Fiddes
11K Isaac Pottage
11L Francesca Soriano Marte

Excellence Club



Excellence Club



This club is a friendly and supportive environment where KS3 students can work through their academic concerns and achieve excellence in their studies. Help will be available with homework, subject content and test revision.

The club will run every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday after school in CR1 until 4pm from Tuesday 10th January.

If you would like your child to attend, please email Miss Pattison hlpa@highdown.reading.sch.uk with your child's full name and mentor group.



LITERACY CHALLENGE

What letter can you put somewhere into each of these words to make a new word?

BAR

NIGHT

LIE

WIN

TAN

<https://www.nytimes.com/games/wordle/index.html>

Word of the week: **Altruistic**

showing a disinterested and selfless concern for the well-being of others; unselfish.

NUMERACY CHALLENGE

Folding paper to reach the moon

A piece of paper is thin, about 0.1mm thick.

If you fold it in half it will be twice as thick.

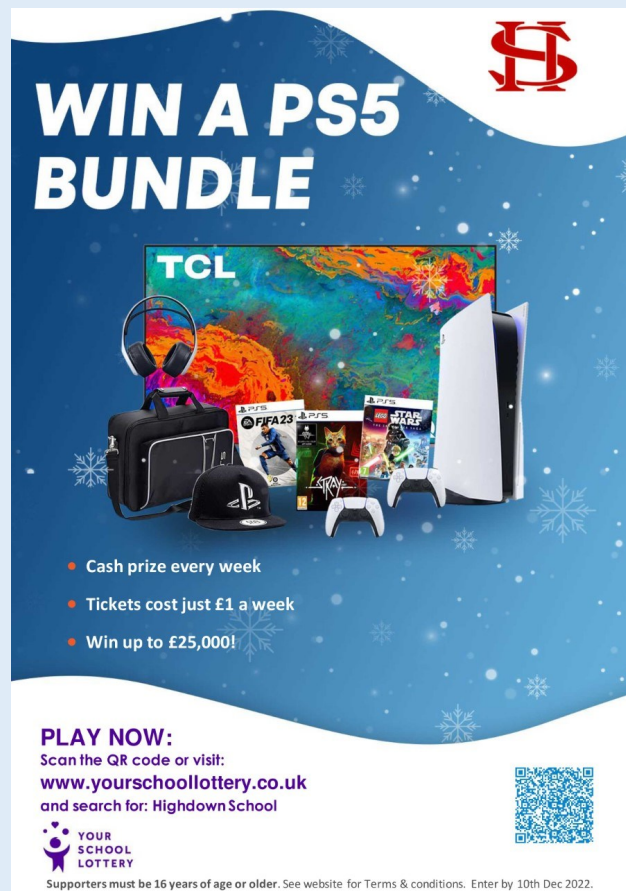
How many times will you need to fold it so it is so thick it would reach the moon?

Write some guesses down.

The moon is 384,400km away

Would that help you make more accurate guesses?

The Draw for this astounding PS5 bundle is **tomorrow** ...10 December, just in time for Christmas!



WIN A PS5 BUNDLE

- Cash prize every week
- Tickets cost just £1 a week
- Win up to £25,000!

PLAY NOW:
Scan the QR code or visit:
www.yourschoollottery.co.uk
and search for: Highdown School

YOUR SCHOOL LOTTERY
Supporters must be 16 years of age or older. See website for Terms & conditions. Enter by 10th Dec 2022.

You could win:

- Cash prizes up to £25 000
- This week's draw features a PlayStation 5 (disc edition) with 3 highly-rated games (FIFA 23, Lego Star Wars, Stray), an extra controller, PS Pulse gaming headset, loads more goodies – AND a 43" 4K Ultra HD TV to play it all on!

You can only win by entering Your School Lottery for Highdown on the following link!

<https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/highdown-school-and-sixth-form-centre>

The best part is, not only are you standing the chance to win, but you are also helping us raise funds for the school!

PwC Flying Start Degree Event - Degree Apprenticeships and Work Experience

Are you interested in Business Management, Accountancy or Technology? Are you undecided on whether to choose going to university or opting for an apprenticeship?

On **Wednesday 14 December** we will be hosting an event with PwC **from 5:00pm—6:00pm** as they take us through all of their different Flying Start degree apprenticeship programmes in Accounting, Technology and Business Management.

PwC recruit hundreds of apprentices and graduates every year and are hosting this upcoming webinar meeting to help inform and inspire the next generation of young professionals into careers within professional services and allow you to ask any questions you may have to their student recruitment team.

With PwC's Flying Start degree programmes, you do not have to decide between university or an apprenticeship as you will get the best of both worlds.

PwC's apprentices get to work with world-class clients and be part of their highly skilled teams, whilst still being able to enjoy that university lifestyle experience. You will gain a degree, and hopefully impress PwC enough to secure a job after completing the programme.

If you would like to find out more about PwC's student offerings click the following link to register for this online event: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/STSQ2GQ>



Apprenticeship with British Airways for students in years 11 and 13

Could you see yourself inside an engine hangar fixing parts of a plane, or perhaps flying out to the furthest parts of the world to repair a broken-down plane that desperately needs to get back up into the skies? Or maybe you fancy a role in head office making key strategic decisions to help the continued success of the airline.

Across all the eight different apprenticeship schemes that British Airways has to offer there is something for everyone. With a fantastic starting salary and world class training from day one, you will be working for one of the world's most recognisable brands. With considerable employee benefits, ample opportunities to grow your career as well as getting involved with a number of charity and giving back days throughout your apprenticeship, this really is a fantastic way to kick start your career after school.

If you want to find out more then click the link below to discover all available opportunities and apply to the right one for you. Applications close on 21 December 2022 so if interested please do apply as soon as possible.

Application Link

<https://careers.ba.com/search-jobs/emerging%20talent/22348/1>



Spotlight UK registered charity 1129258

**Become a
Youth
Ambassador**



ARE YOU AGES 8-16 AND WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

**Why don't you take part in Spotlight UK's Youth Social Action
Project and become Spotlight UK Youth Ambassadors!**

All youth ambassadors will get the chance to take part in:

FREE paddle board sessions in April 2023,

FREE Inflatable water park in 2023

FREE tickets to our youth ambassadors fun day

FREE unlimited use of inflatables/bouncy castles all day in
May 2023.

Each Youth Ambassador will help by :

**Volunteering in their community or helping with Spotlight events locally.
Fundraising for Spotlight UK to enable us to support more children, young
people, families, elderly residents in their community.**

Campaign and raise awareness across the area of Spotlight's work.

**Bronze Certificate - 10 hours volunteering, 10 hours Fundraising, 10 hours
Campaigning**

**Silver Certificate - 20 hours volunteering, 20 hours Fundraising, 20 hours
Campaigning**

**Gold Certificate - 30 hours volunteering, 30 hours Fundraising, 30 hours
Campaigning.**

E -

I mollie@spotlightuk.org

P: 07804880072

www.spotlightuk.org/

BERKSHIRE
Maestros

**FREE
TASTER
SESSION**

Piano Club!

30 minute group lessons
with 3 - 5 students!

£9 per lesson

Instrument hire
available from
Berkshire Maestros

To book your FREE taster session please email admissions@berkshiremaestros.org.uk
or visit www.berkshiremaestros.org.uk



Berkshire Maestros are offering students
30 minute group lessons for £9 per session

If any parents are interested in a taster
session please email

admissions@berkshiremaestros.org.uk or
visit www.berkshiremaestros.org.uk

BERKSHIRE
Maestros

**FREE
TASTER
SESSION**


Keyboard Club!

30 minute group lessons
with 3 - 5 students!

£9 per lesson

Instrument hire
available from
Berkshire Maestros

To book your FREE taster session please email admissions@berkshiremaestros.org.uk
or visit www.berkshiremaestros.org.uk





The poster is for a Nike Football Camp at Highdown Secondary School. It features a black background with a grey diamond pattern. At the top left is a 'KICKOFF' logo with a robot character. The main title 'NIKE FOOTBALL CAMP' is in large white letters, with 'SUPPORTED BY FRAN KIRBY' underneath. A large red circle with a white center contains '95%'. To its right is a Santa hat icon. Below the hat, 'CHRISTMAS' is in green and 'READY?' is in blue. Below that, 'HIGHDOWN SECONDARY SCHOOL' is in white. Five yellow stars are shown above the text 'FIVE STAR REVIEWS'. A red stamp with 'SOLD OUT' in white is tilted. At the bottom left is a blue button with 'REGISTER NOW!' and a double arrow. At the bottom right is the website 'KICKOFFLTD.CLASS4KIDS.CO.UK' in blue. Nike swooshes are scattered in the background.

KICKOFF

NIKE FOOTBALL CAMP
SUPPORTED BY FRAN KIRBY

95%

**CHRISTMAS
READY?**

HIGHDOWN SECONDARY SCHOOL

★★★★★
FIVE STAR REVIEWS

SOLD OUT

**REGISTER
NOW!**

KICKOFFLTD.CLASS4KIDS.CO.UK

NIKE FOOTBALL CAMP
Highdown Secondary School
21 & 22 December
5 - 14 Years Old / 9am - 3pm

Glow-In-The-Dark football sessions included.

Delivering engaging sessions that challenge players to improve. Providing exciting full days that keep children busy, active, and returning home, happy and tired out. Providing players with high quality coaching that parents can trust. Offering a supportive environment that encourages personal development and confidence.

Secure your spot now!
Kickoffltd.class4kids.co.uk

Answer to the literacy puzzle:

The letter K

Answer to the numeracy puzzle:

42 times

It is a lot smaller than you might expect.
When you double numbers they grow
very quickly.

HAPPY WEEKEND