



# Newsletter

## Highwood Primary School Issue no.35

December 2018

'Where Individuals Matter'

Dear Parents/Carers,

Autumn 2 is always a really busy term in schools, but also one of the most exciting and rewarding. This was epitomised through our recent Nativity performances, where our children showcased their singing and acting abilities in front of some of the biggest audiences we have seen at Highwood. Since the performance, I have received a huge amount of positive feedback, both verbally and electronically, not only about the standard of the productions, but how our children displayed our school values as individuals but also as a collective group - I couldn't be prouder!

We have also made big strides in our school improvement journey this term. We had a visit from the Local Authority in November and one of the statements quoted in the report reads as follows:

***"The Head, Deputy, and senior staff are totally committed to the school and lead an equally committed staff. There is a determination to achieve a Good judgement at the next Section 5 inspection and the School Improvement Officer considers much good work has been undertaken towards this goal already."***

Receiving this feedback is extremely pleasing as everyone in school is working really hard to make sure that we not only improve standards, but that we do so while still making sure that we stay true to our values and ethos. Your children will always be our number one focus and we will continue to develop them as individuals and not just as pieces of information on a page. I will not waver from this philosophy, irrespective of external pressures, as this is what I would expect for my own children.

On a personal note, I have once again signed up for the Reading Half Marathon. Training is going well (despite a few niggling injuries) and I have chosen my charity to support - Daisy's Dream.

I have taught in the Reading area for 20 years and have unfortunately needed to use the support offered by Daisy's Dream on a number of occasions. When a child you teach goes through the trauma of a family bereavement, knowing there is help and support from professionals is extremely reassuring.

***'At Daisy's Dream...We believe that no child's future should be defined by a death or a life-limiting illness within the family. Given time and support, we believe that children and young people can learn to cope with the changing dynamics of their life and ultimately move forwards in a positive way. Research shows that, without the opportunity to express and explore their grief, bereaved children and young people may be at risk of future health, social and educational difficulties and disadvantages. This is in addition to the impact of the bereavement on their emotional health and well-being.'***

Any money I manage to raise this year will be donated to this valuable service, so they can continue to support children in the Berkshire area during the most unimaginably difficult time of their lives. I will share details of my JustGiving Page in the new year for anyone that wishes to donate.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and I hope you enjoy a safe festive period with your families.

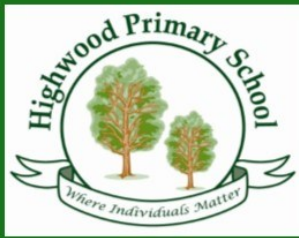
Matt Hickey

Head Teacher

@headhighwood







# Foundation 1 News

## Miss Nunn

### What makes us special?

We have had a very busy second half of the Autumn Term in F1. We have continued exploring our topic '**what makes us special?**' which has allowed us all to get to know each other and explore ourselves as individuals.

As part of this term's topic, the children have been exploring how each individual person is different and unique. We have been very lucky that there have been many opportunities to explore different festivals and celebrations during this half of the term. Firstly, we learnt about Diwali and had the opportunity to engage in lots of Diwali related activities such as making our own lanterns, creating our own Mendi patterns and creating Rangoli patterns in lots of different ways. Children who celebrate Diwali were very excited to share their experiences of this festival with the rest of the class. We have also been learning about Christmas and what Christmas means to different people. The children enjoyed putting up decorations in the classroom and participating in the Nativity play.



We have continued learning about our senses, with a particular focus on sight, smell and hearing. The children have engaged in lots of different activities to really put these senses to the test. We made scented flower pictures, explored different scents in the water tray, created pictures using scented paints and experimented with lots of different musical instruments.

As the weather has turned very wet and windy in this half of term we have been using this as a good, outdoor learning opportunity. As well as participating in our Autumn Senses Welly Walk at the local woods, the children have been exploring the rain water in lots of different ways - making paper boats to float, measuring how much rain water has fallen and exploring the puddles in our welly boots.



Thank you to all the parents that have supported us during the first half of this term and we look forward to welcoming the children back after half term!

Don't forget to follow us on Twitter to see what we are up to each week! @HighwoodPrimFS1





## Foundation 2 News

### Mrs Parker, Mrs Stroud and Mrs Perrott

Welcome to the Foundation Stage Newsletter for this term! We have been really busy continuing with our topic "How do we know that dinosaurs lived on Earth?" and with all our other learning - take a look!



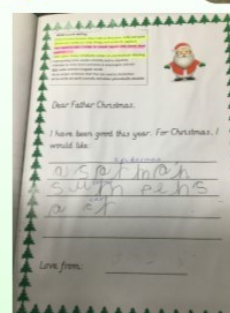
We started the term looking at the different ways that dinosaurs move and we compared animals that we see today who resembled dinosaurs. Our WOW event, which was a fossil hunting day, was thoroughly enjoyable. We also baked dinosaur biscuits!

Thank you to all those parents who came to our SPLAT session. It makes a real difference to the children when they can work alongside their parents. We hope you attend the next one on Monday 11th March at 1:30p.m

In maths the F2 children have been learning about sequencing. They have been using unifix cubes to make a 2 colour repeated pattern and a 3 colour repeating pattern! We introduced Numicon and the children have been practising their addition. The children have also been learning about measuring, they have measured their feet and comparing the length of different items found around school.

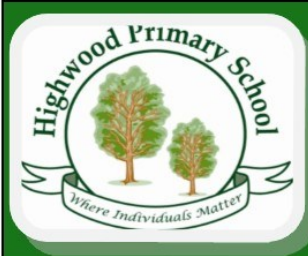


In topic, the children also got the opportunity to write a letter to Father Christmas, we are hoping for a reply before the end of term. There were some interesting presents requested! The children have also written a list of yummy food they would like for a party.



The children had the opportunity to show off their singing, acting and dancing during our nativity 'A Little Bird Told Me'. They all looked lovely in their outfits and were amazing in the hall in front of all the parents! We definitely have some future stars in the making!

Thank you to all the parents that have supported us this half term and we wish you a very Merry Christmas and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year!



# Year 1 News - Autumn 2

Mrs Weir & Miss Amor

Mrs Wildey, Mrs Turnbull, Mrs Kearney, Miss Rajput

Our move into the new building was successful and seamless, and we all feel very much at home now. All the children have worked incredibly hard and should be very proud of their efforts, especially with their fantastic Nativity performances. Now, time to relax, unwind and enjoy the festive break!

## What adventures could we have with our bikes?

### Topic and Science



What a highlight our Tour of Highwood was! The children showed off their great jersey designs and their impressive scooter/bike

skills. The cheering supporters kept all the participants focussed and ready to compete!



Our Spring topic is all about toys: 'Will we still play with the same toys when we are older?'

Perhaps this could be something you talk about when you open your Christmas presents?

### SPLAT

November saw the first SPLAT session of the year. It was



wonderful to see so many parents attend! The children loved sharing their knowledge of how to use

resources and strategies to represent numbers and solve problems. We look forward to seeing you at our English and PE SPLAT sessions.



For regular updates and highlights, please follow us on Twitter:

@Highwoodpriml (Mrs Weir)  
@2Highwoodpriml (Miss Amor)

### Maths

We continued to represent numbers, but this time we increased the number range all the way up to 100. They also learnt how to partition two digit numbers into tens and ones. The children



impressed us with their ability to count in 2s, 5s and 10s.

This is the first step to learning their times tables and recognising number patterns. We continued to challenge them by asking

them to prove their answers using more than one resource and explain their thinking. Lastly, we looked at ordinal numbers. What fun they had putting objects in the correct order!



### English

This term we have been reading The Jolly Postman and have thoroughly enjoyed the adventures he had whilst delivering letters and postcards. We rounded off the term by writing our 'hot' book reviews. This is where the children have the opportunity to write independently and showcase what they have learnt during the term. Why don't you ask your children what they thought of the book? Perhaps you could read a book during the holidays and create your own book review together?







## Year 2 News

Mrs Eatwell, Mrs Neilson, Mrs Butler

### ***Was the Great Fire of London a total disaster?***

7 weeks have whizzed by. A lot has happened this half-term.



But first things first, a big thank you to all the parents who helped our Nativity play to be a success by providing the children's costumes. All the children looked fantastic. They worked hard over the last four weeks to make the play a success and persevered with their singing and acting.

The children have persevered this half term to learn all about the Great Fire of London and continue to build upon their knowledge. They now have a secure understanding of the events and how the fire impacted on Britain. In ICT the children have recreated the events of the Great Fire of London on a storyboard. The children have learnt many facts about the Great Fire of London and have used them to support them with their homework.

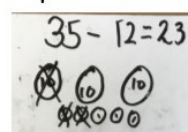


We continued to learn about animals, including humans and what we need in order to survive and thrive. We also explored the importance of exercise. The children have learnt about a range of offspring and have matched them to the adults. They have also learnt about different types of animals. Thinking about themselves, the children have learnt what humans need in order to survive. They were shocked to find out that toys are not es-

sential for survival! Linked to this, the children have learnt about which foods they should eat often, some of the time and very little.

In Maths they have learnt a range of concepts including, representing numbers, addition and subtraction, solving missing number problems and investigating shape. Our next step will be to focus on

multiplication and in particular division. Any support you can give at home with teaching multiplication and division facts would be a huge help to your child.



In literacy, Year 2 have been looking at writing to entertain. We have continued our work on Toby and the Great Fire of London.

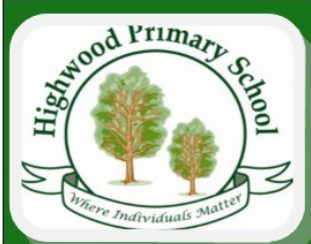


The children rewrote the story in their own words, thinking carefully about their beginning, middle and end. We have also been exploring their use of language this term, making sure that every word they use makes sense and is used to improve the quality of their writing. In the last two weeks, Year 2 have used what they have learnt about story writing to create their own anthology of Christmas stories.

Wishing you all an enjoyable Christmas holidays.

Twitter: @HighwoodPrimYr2





## Year 3 News

**Mrs Hartgrove, Mrs Tindall  
& Mrs Chintagunta**

### Could you survive in pre-historic times?

#### LITERACY

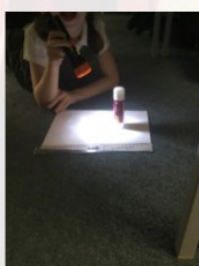


In literacy this half term we looked at information texts. We planned and wrote our own information text all about pre-historic times. Next we typed them up ready to be made into a class book.

#### MATHS

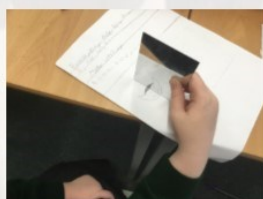
In maths we have been doing lots of work with our written methods and solving number problems. Now we have moved onto identifying right angles and understanding clockwise and anti-clockwise turns

#### SCIENCE



Light was our topic this half term and we have explored how light reflects, what causes shadows and how rainbows are formed. We

have taken our knowledge of shadows to create shadow puppets.



#### TOPIC

We started the topic this half term by visiting Bulmershe school to learn about shelter building and campfires



in order to

better understand pre-historic living. We have then learned more about the Bronze Age, what life would have



been like for children and then the Iron age and the hillforts they would



have built. Children also had the

chance to research their own area of pre-historic times.



In R.E. we finished our topic on Hinduism and started to look in more detail



at the Christmas Story.

We had great fun in P.E learning some traditional country dances.

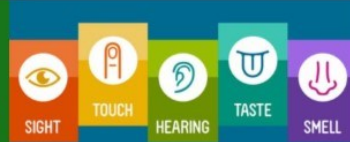
Follow us on Twitter; [@HighwoodPrimYr3](https://twitter.com/HighwoodPrimYr3)





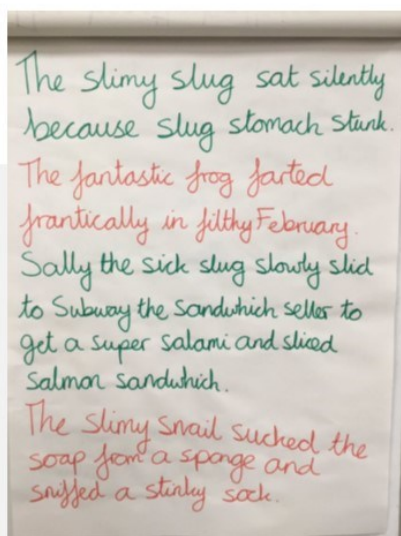


## Year 4 News Autumn 2018 (Mr Allaway, Mrs Anil and Mrs Shakeel)



Which of our senses is the most important?

# Welcome to the Autumn edition of the Year 4 news!



### English - Poetry writing

This term we focussed on the senses as our main driver across the curriculum. We have been focussing on different ways to multiply numbers, both mentally and written methods. We wrote free verse poems based on the creative poem 'The Magic Box' by Kit

subtract 4 digit numbers using written methods. The children then used this knowledge to solve multi step word problems involving bar models. Those of you at the SPLAT afternoon would probably agree that the children's use of skills and knowledge was quite impressive.



### SPLAT

The year 4 SPLAT afternoon was very successful, we had a good turn out of parents and it was lovely to see parents working alongside all the children. They were presented with a maths challenge where they had to use the skills covered this term. All the children had a enjoyable time, especially when they got to show off to their parents.

### Topic - Writing in the style of an author

This term we had a visit from Adam and Charlotte Guillian who told us all about the interesting picture books that they create. Year 4 were so inspired that we decided to spend our afternoons creating picture books in the same style for Foundation Stage. The children have spent a lot of time creating interesting stories full of (gentle) peril and interesting characters to hook their audience. They have also drawn and coloured some fantastic pictures linked to their writing to help the younger audience.



Thank you to all of the parents who supported us for this event. Because of its suc-



cess, there will be more to follow, so if you missed the first SPLAT, then you will be more than welcome to join us for the next one.

### Maths - Problem solving and arithmetic

In maths year 4 have been learning how to add and

From all of year 4, we hope you have a wonderful Christmas.

Twitter: [@HighwoodPrimYear4](https://twitter.com/HighwoodPrimYear4)







## Year 5 News Autumn 2 2018 Team: Mr Anderson, Mrs Raines, Mrs Chaudhary & Mrs Payne.

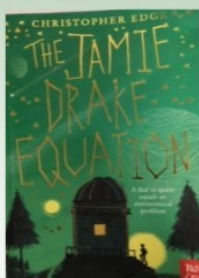
### Has the Earth finished growing? - Space

Welcome to the Autumn 2 edition of the Year 5 news! I am pleased to say that we've had a fantastic term with lots of exciting opportunities and lots of new learning going on. Please read on to find out more!



#### Literacy - Writing to Inform

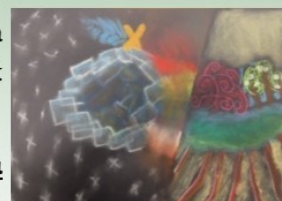
This half term our writing has been inspired by our whole class guided reading book (The Jamie Drake Equation by Christopher Edge). We used the idea of extra-terrestrials to create and write a report about our own alien world. Our next piece of writing was an information poster about life on the International Space Station. We watched videos made by British astronaut Tim Peake and learned a lot from our class book as the dad in the story was an astronaut on the ISS.



sents, the sounds and then creating abstract artwork from this.

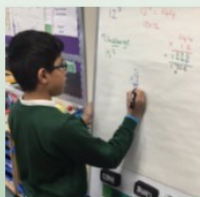
#### PE - Hockey and Zumba

This half term the children have been improving their netball skills with Miss Rowse. The children have been fortunate to have Zumba lessons from professional dance teachers, they have been developing their dance moves and building on them each week.



#### Maths

Our maths lessons this half term have helped us to develop our arithmetic skills. We have learned formal methods for addition, subtraction and multiplication and have enjoyed learning how to use the bar model to help us to solve multi-step problems.



We have continued to learn times tables using the new Time Table Rock stars software, together with regular paper tests to improve our average time to answer each question. Remember you can further improve by logging on at home.

**Music and Art** In music we have been listening to a variety of pieces and songs inspired by Space. Christopher Edge compiled a play list to accompany The Jamie Drake Experience and we have been using this to enhance our understanding of the story. We have been listening to Holst's Planet Suite and studying Pablo Picasso to inspire our artwork. We have thought carefully about what the music repre-

#### Topic/Science - Has the Earth finished growing ?

This half-term started off with our very exciting visit to Winchester Science Centre and Planetarium where we took a trip into our Solar System. Since then we have been using our learning behaviours to undertake our own projects about space. As a class, we have created poetry, written newspaper reports, made informative posters, invented alien species and constructed debates!



Well done, Year 5, on making this topic so incredibly interesting and thought-provoking. We hope you have learnt as much as we have!

*We would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year We look forward to continuing this hard work after the Christmas break.*

Mr Anderson, Mrs Raines, Mrs Chaudhary  
and Mrs Payne





# Year 6 News

Teachers: Mr Pearce, Mrs. Haden and Mrs. Render

## "How do we shape the world and how does the world shape us?" Part 2

### PGL—Marchant's Hill.

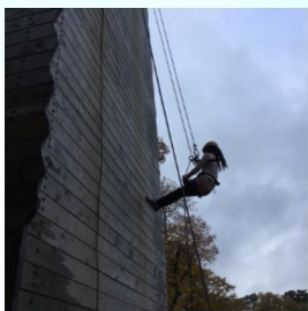
Many of us ventured into the new half term with a visit to PGL Marchants Hill. It was clear from the days building up to the trip that there



was a lot of excitement and a little bit of trepidation: being away from home for four nights; tackling challenges involving heights and putting up with Mr. Pearce for a whole solid week were just some of them. However, I have to admit that, as a whole, the Year 6s tackled every challenge with enthusiasm and a real team-spirit. What I personally enjoyed most about the trip was seeing strengths in pupils that I hadn't seen in the classroom: incredible climbing skills, fearless determination and being worryingly good with a bow and arrow! It was an extremely enjoyable trip and the pupils were great ambassadors for their school and families.

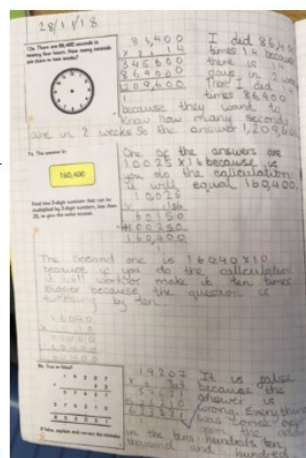
### English

As you would expect from Y6 English, it has been a lot of hard graft in our pursuit of grammatical accuracy and control of formal language through our coverage of writing a discussion text. We started looking at the environmental impact of palm oil production (in keeping with our key question) and trying to present both sides of the argument for its on-going manufacture before we then went on to focus on a topic democratically voted for by the pupils: Should Pets Be Allowed In School? I was very impressed by the logical points they came up with for allowing pets to be part of the classroom and they impressed me with their ability to maintain a formal voice throughout their writing.



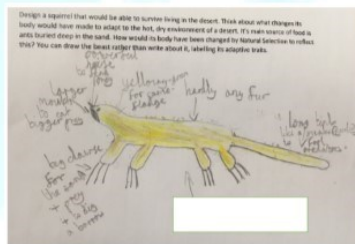
### Maths

We've smashed into formal methods of multiplication and division this term and all of the mental strategies that go between. The pupils have been working on their application of bar modelling to worded problems as well as their ability to reason mathematical equations. I have been really impressed by the quality of work produced. Fractions and percentages is coming up after Christmas which we have revised in our arithmetic sessions so I'm looking forward to seeing how well they can apply their reasoning to these more challenging areas of mathematics!



### Science

In science, we concluded our study of classification and delved into the subject of inheritance and adaptation with a focus on how Darwin observed finches and concluded that adaptations allowed certain species to thrive. The pupils then started to design a squirrel that would have evolved to adapt to living in deserts and explain the features that the beast had inherited that allowed it to thrive in that environment.

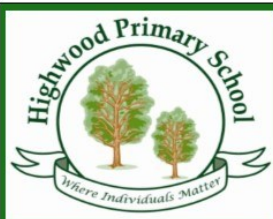


### SPLAT

I cannot thank the family members who made it to our SPLAT day this half term enough for helping to make it the energetic, engaging and focused event that it was! The bar modelling challenges were exactly that: challenging! However, eventually, the pupils managed to work as a team with our parent volunteers and create success!

Find us on Twitter: @HighwoodPrimYr6





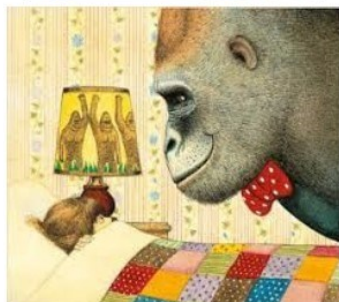
## Speech and Language Resource News

**Mrs Godfrey & Mr Bevan**

**Mrs Payne, Mrs Wright, Mrs Jenkins and Mrs Pithiya**

I'm pleased to announce that our new teaching area is now complete and we are moving in as quickly as we can over the last few days of term. The purpose built area will really transform our flexibility when it comes to teaching the children and I look forward to inviting you all to see the new area yourselves. We will also be renaming "The Resource" to something more meaningful to the children and it's place at the heart of the school. More news on this will follow in the new year. I hope you and your families have a restful break and wish you a happy new year.

### **Literacy - Does a story have to have a happy ending?**



Along with phonics, baking gorilla biscuits and acting out scenes from 'Gorilla' by Anthony Browne, the children in Resource have been writing, writing, writing! They now have a bank of good story starters, adjectives, sentence starters and endings to use in different stories. They have been kind but fair in reflecting on each other's writing and discovered that capital letters, full stops and finger spaces remain very important for the reader to understand their ideas.

Some children thought that a story does have to have a happy ending because it makes them feel good, but some have come to the conclusion that a sad or cliff hanger ending is sometimes more interesting.

### **Maths—Generalising Arithmetic and Exploring Shape**



This half term, the children in Resource have been using their knowledge of number to solve word problems. They discovered that using a bar model was useful to work out whether the calculation would be an addition or subtraction. In the photos above, the children are finding right angles, guessing the 3D shape based on their properties and showing horizontal and perpendicular lines.

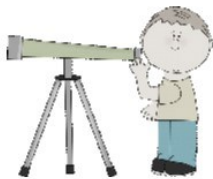




# Hot Off The Press...

Here is a sneak preview of our curriculum for the term ahead. It is sure to be jammed packed with exciting and engaging learning opportunities.

## Foundation Stage 2



Our key question for the Spring term will be 'Why is the sky blue?'. We will be learning about the amazing topic of space. We hope to be able to take the children to visit a planetarium at the end of the term. In literacy we will be continuing to put our phonics into practice by beginning to read and write simple sentences. In maths, we will be learning to describe 2D and 3D shapes and we will be developing their confidence with numbers to 20. During topic lessons, we will investigate different materials and we will also be exploring our creative side by making space rockets!



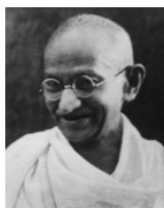
## Year 1



Our topic for the Spring term will be focused around this question: "Will we still play with the same toys when we are older?". We will have a large focus on LEGO which will include a trip to Legoland at the end of the Spring term. This will involve learning about the creator of Lego; Ole Kirk Christiansen. In Maths we will continue to learn about number facts and then start to learn about fractions and the different coins and notes and their value. We will also learn about doubling and halving, which will then lead onto one step multiplication and division. In English we will be writing to entertain and inform. The children will be encouraged to use adventurous words and write for effect. In History we will look at how toys have changed over time. This will involve looking at toys with which the children's parents used to play. We will then consider whether the children's current toys will still be used when they are older. As part of our Science topic, we will learn about different animals, and in Art we will create sculptures and models of different creatures.



## Year 2






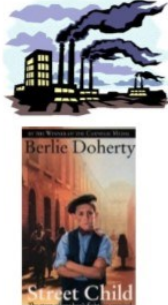
Our theme for next term is 'how are our cultures different to some but the same as others?'. In Literacy we will be focusing on writing to persuade. The children will be thinking about which changes they would like to see in the school and possibly in wider society. We will write a persuasive argument with the aim of making these changes happen. Within this topic we will be learning about Mahatma Gandhi and his influence on India. In Maths we will continue our work on multiplication and particularly division and begin to focus on arrays. Eventually, we will move on to fractions, first looking at finding fractions of shapes before moving on to objects and numbers. As part of our Science Topic we will learn about living things and their habitats by comparing native UK and Indian animals. In Art we will recreate rangoli patterns from India using a range of resources.





# Hot Off The Press...

Here is a sneak preview of our curriculum for the term ahead. It is sure to be jammed packed with exciting and engaging learning opportunities.

<p>Year 3</p> 	<p><b>What did the Romans do for us?</b></p> <p>Continuing on from learning about the Iron Age people, we will look at the invasion of Britain. We will learn about the military tactics of the Romans and then how they built roads, invented central heating and use maps to find the locations of Roman settlements. Linking with our Roman topic we will look at the story of Boudica in English and spend the first half-term writing to entertain. After half-term we will look at writing to persuade. In maths we will be looking at solving problems with money and then at fractions. Our science topics this term will cover magnets and healthy eating. Spring is also the term where we get ready for our production at the end of the term.</p>
<p>Year 4</p> 	<p><b>What impact did the Vikings have on the world?</b></p> <p>During the next topic, year 4 will be looking at the Viking raids and invasions in Britain. We will be exploring how this affected the political landscape of the time and the lasting impact it has had on the country. We will be delving into their culture, entertainments, gruesome laws and punishments, as well as understanding how they gained their fearsome reputation as warriors. We will be writing narratives set in Vikings times and looking at how they developed their language. In science, year 4 will be looking into teeth and the human digestion system.</p>
<p>Year 5</p> 	<p><b>What is the fascination with fairgrounds?</b></p> <p>In this exciting topic, we will be exploring many different aspects of what fairgrounds are, why people go to them and how the mechanics behind the rides work. The topic will focus largely around Design and Technology: making models of rides, using circuits to make them work and testing out the models using figurines. We will also be looking at poetry and art related to fairgrounds and the rides. In science, we will study forces, paying particular attention to how forces affect how fairground mechanics work. The topic will culminate in the exciting 'Highwood Fair', where you will be able to see the pupils work and take part in some of the more traditional fairground attractions. Prepare to be won over by our convincing persuasion posters too!</p>
<p>Year 6</p> 	<p><b>Does change lead to progress?</b></p> <p>We shall see! Our key question this term will be focused through a study of Britain during the Industrial revolution. We will look at the history behind the industrialization of Britain and its social and technological impact on Britain as a nation. In Art, we will look at the landscape of Britain through the works of L.S. Lowry. In Literacy, we will be writing to explain and entertain: our writing to entertain will be inspired by our reading of <i>Street Child</i>—a novel set in the Victorian era that follows the adventures of Jim, a street urchin; our writing to explain will look at fictitious inventions and how they work.</p>





# PE/Sports News

## Mr Edwards & Miss Rowse

**Welcome** to the final half term "PE & Sports News Page" of 2018. I will endeavour to continue to keep the children and parents informed about our recent achievements in sports tournaments, what we have been learning in PE, **PE Kit required**, after school clubs and of course the future sports dates.

### PE Lessons:

This half term the children have been learning about the games of Tag Rugby and Netball so a huge focus on "Hand-Eye Co-ordination".

Over the last 7 weeks we have been developing our skills in these games in preparation for the continuation of the Six Nations Tag Rugby league and House matches. The development that has occurred this term in all lessons has been fantastic.

Year 5 have also had an extra session taking part in Dance lessons with both Miss King and Miss Coleman (whilst Miss King is performing in panto). This is still proving to be a fantastic hit with the children of all ages, boys and girls plus they have been learning a new Christmas themed dance.

What has also been a highlight has been the effort and enthusiasm from many of the children.

Both Miss Rowse & I have also been working to deliver CPD for Mrs Weir & Miss Amor in teaching gymnastics. This is to help continue the high quality delivery of PE indoors and out from all staff within Highwood. The children have been learning some great new skills plus developing core strength and balance.

### Lunch & After School Clubs:

This term we have had:-

**Mondays:** KS2 Tag Rugby Club with Mr Allaway & KS2 Netball with Mrs Hartgrove

**Tuesdays:** KS1 Multisports lunch club and After school club with Miss Amor. KS2 Boys & Girls football club with the assistance of Mr Anderson & Mrs Allen.

**Thursdays:** House Competitions at Lunch, KS2 Hockey Club with Mrs Weir and KS1 Boccia & New

Age Kurling Club after school.

As ever, these clubs attract large numbers and long waiting lists, remember, if children sign up for a club they must persist for the whole term.

### Final Autumn Half Term Matches & Tournaments:

#### House Games: Tag Rugby.

Huge congratulations to the Falcons House for clinching the Tag Rugby House Games title. It was a close run league coming down to results in the last round. A gutsy performance from the Eagles, holding Red Kites to a draw ensured the Falcons victory.

### Wokingham Primary School Football Association.

This half term we have seen the conclusion of the Wokingham District football. We are currently competing in "League 3" battling with 5 other schools to see which league we compete in next term for the district championships. We have had some great games over the last few weeks with the boys showing great team ethics and perseverance.

#### Invitational Six Nations Tag Rugby.

We have been really pleased to have been invited back this year to compete in what is arguably the best standard rugby competition in the county. After last years results I was keen to get our latest boys and girls out for this years tournament. Playing 5 games in a row over 2 rounds we have had a great time in League 2. We have had some incredibly close games with very strong opposition. We are still awaiting the final league results but going into the final round we were joint 2nd on points. A mixed set of results may have cost us 2nd place but the children were amazing as ever. Truly professional!





# PE/Sports News

## Sports coach: Mr Edwards

### Year 1 Mixed Football Festival.

Chelsea Football Club again put on a great festival at Piggott Secondary School encouraging our youngsters to play football. It was a great festival atmosphere and despite the heavy downpours, it didn't dampen the children's enthusiasm (however, it might have dampened Miss Amor's for future help with competitions!) A huge thank you to Miss Amor and parents for their help and support with this event.

### Next Half Term

**PE Lessons:** - Hockey and Basketball.



### Next Term Competitions:

**Interhouse Hockey & Netball**

**Six Nations Rugby Play Off Finals**

**WPSFA 5/6 Football League**

**WPSFA Year 2 Mixed Football Festival**

**Spring Term School Games**

**Hockey, Netball, Football etc friendly matches.**

### Mr Edwards Message For The Term.

This half term has been no different from any other in the fact that I have seen some amazing performances and achievements. This has been largely due to the children's enthusiasm and working to task. Thank you to those parents who came to see me at parents evening. I hope that you found it informative, helpful and I was very pleased to see you.

### PE Kit.

**PE Kit required:** - Shorts, Highwood PE T-Shirt, Black Plain Tracksuit, trainers.

**No Earrings! Please remember 1st week in summer holidays only for new piercings just in case it's on your list you have sent to Santa!**

Please ensure your child has a plain black or navy tracksuit consisting of both long trousers and a long sleeved top as it is too cold for them this time of year to be dressed in shorts and a t-shirt!

We have reintroduced my "Model of the day" where I select children with 100% perfect kit on, take their photo in model pose and give house points. Here are 2 of our "models" so that you can see what we require.



It just remains for me to wish you all a very happy and safe Christmas break. Mr Edwards.

Twitter: @HighwoodPrimPE







# Family Centre



What a busy term it has been! The weekly stay and play sessions have been running every Tuesday morning. These are free to attend and refreshments are provided. After Christmas Stay and Play will be changing to a **Thursday morning 9-10am**. If you would like to come and join in please just turn up! It would be lovely to see some new faces. There is also the monthly coffee mornings held on the first Monday of every month. The Family Centre doors will be open and you can pop in once the children are in class.

On Wednesday mornings Adult Learning have been running an ESOL course in the family centre. ESOL stands for English for Speakers of Other Languages. It will be continuing after Christmas. If you would like to attend please come to the school office to get more information.

In November we held a 'Wheels Breakfast.' This was for anyone who came to school that day on a bike or scooter. It was well attended and Wendy Measures from My Journey spoke with families and showed them how to wear a bike helmet safely. The families who attended this found the information very helpful so we will be organising another time next term for Wendy to come in again to do another session.



In February Adult Learning are going to be running some sessions on how to help your child in Maths and English. Further details will be sent out in the new year.

On a final note, if there are any groups or sessions that you would like to be held in the Family Centre please do come and chat with me and I will see what I can do!







# FRIENDS OF HIGHWOOD



FOH Autumn Term 2018

At time of writing this we are very busily getting ready for the Winter Fair. Thank you for your generous donations for the tombolas. The children really seemed to enjoy a day at school in their pyjamas and onesies.



Well done to Year 2 who won the jolly jam jar competition. I'm sure they will enjoy their prize. With everyone's support, we are sure that the Winter Fair will be a roaring success.

This term we have donated money to the school for several projects. Each class has been provided with a new wet play box, with lots of activities for them to do when they are not able to go outside for playtime. These include lego (even Harry Potter lego, which I know has been popular in Year 5!), colouring equipment, puzzles and board games. Hopefully your children have been talking about these as much as ours! The remaining money donated, will be used, in the new year, for equipment during outside lunchtimes.



We also bought squash and all the crackers for the school Christmas lunch to make it that little bit more special for all the children.

As usual we sponsored 'the big man' for the Foundation Stage Christmas parties. We're sure the children will all enjoy their books.



Next term we are looking forward to a disco just before half term. Look out for the letter early in the new year.

We wish you a very merry Christmas and look forward to seeing you all in the new year.

FOH (Friends of Highwood)





# PHOTOS

## The Nativity





# PHOTOS

**Author visit**



**Remembrance**



**Year 3 Bushcraft**



**Year 6 Helmets**



**Athlete visit**







# Reminders



## PARKING

There is no parking on the school site unless you have been authorised to do so.

Please be considerate to our neighbours in Carrick Gardens and Kingfisher Drive by not parking on pavements, grass verges, across driveways and single yellow lines. We have received a number of complaints from local residents about inconsiderate parking, near misses and aggressive parents. All reported incidents have been passed to the police.

## ABSENCE

Please contact the school by 9.30am either by text on 0786 000 5083 or by phone on 0118 9265493 if your child is not well. You can also notify us on the school news app

If your child is going to be late in and requires a dinner please ensure this is ordered by 9.30am.

## ATTENDANCE

All requests for leave of absence must be made on the absence form available from the school office. Routine appointments should be made outside of school time.

Please see the latest Attendance Policy on the school website regarding Penalty Notices.

## MEDICINES

Only prescribed medicine in the prescribed container may be administered by school staff. A form must be completed at the school office.



## EARRINGS

Please note that only stud earrings are allowed and earrings must be removed for PE.







# Diary Dates



Please see some of the forthcoming dates for the next few terms.

Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December 2018	Last day of term – school finishes at 1:30pm
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2018 to Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January 2019	School Holidays
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> & Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2019	INSET DAYS – School closed for staff training
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> January 2019	First day of the Spring Term
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> February 2019	Year 4 Literacy workshop – 3.30 to 4.30pm
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> February 2019	INSET DAY – School closed for staff training
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> to Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2019	HALF TERM
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> March 2019	Book week – Book fayre in school
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> March 2019	Year 5 Literacy workshop
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> March 2019	KS1 SPLAT – pm Year 4 maths workshop – 3.30 to 4.30pm
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> March 2019	Foundation SPLAT
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> March 2019	KS2 SPLAT - pm
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> April 2019	Last day of term – school finishes at 1:30pm
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> April to Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April 2019	EASTER HOLIDAYS
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April 2019	School starts for the Summer term
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> to Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> May 2019	Year 6 SATs week
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> to Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2019	HALF TERM
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> June 2019	Foundation SPLAT
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> June 2019	Class photos and Year 6 leavers
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> June 2019	KS1 SPLAT
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> June 2019	KS2 SPLAT
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> to Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> July 2019	Year 4 trip to Swanage
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July 2019	Last day of term – school closes at 1:30pm
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> July to Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September 2019	Summer holidays