



# Newsletter

## Highwood Primary School Issue no.37

April 2019

'Where Individuals Matter'

Dear Parents/Carers,

This term has been really exciting with many classes having visitors come in to school or the children been on school trips (some for the first time!) As I walked around the school yesterday afternoon, there were children in F2 baking Easter cakes; Year 4's were happily playing the cornets with Berkshire Maestros and Year 2 were learning a Bollywood dance. I then had the great pleasure to watch the Year 3 and 4 production of 'Tuishi Pamoja', which, I am sure parents will agree, was fantastic! It never ceases to amaze me what great opportunities children have at Highwood and how the rich curriculum is helping children progress with their learning.

Staffing Update:

As I mentioned in my recent bulletin, we say goodbye to Mr. Anderson this term. Having worked here for 7 years, Mr Anderson has had a great impact on many children both in and out of the classroom. We wish him luck at his new position which will see him teach at Northern House - a specialist school for children with SEMH needs.

So far, we have successfully recruited two experienced KS2 teachers who will add to our class teaching and PPA capacity. We are also currently recruiting for two Assistant Headteachers, one for EYFS and KS1 and the other for KS2. This will increase the leadership capacity at our disposal and help us to build on the improvements that we have achieved during this academic year. Once all the positions are filled, I will update parents with the teacher structure for next academic year.

I hope parents have enjoyed getting involved in the Big Pedal with their children. Once this initiative finishes, I hope that children scooting and cycling to school continues. I have tried to inspire them by coming into school in full cycling kit and sharing my story of the London to Reading cycle event that I completed in March for the British Heart Foundation. Hopefully this will mean that our brand new covered cycle store will be filled with bikes and scooters - this will also help with the recent parking issues we have experienced because if more families are able to walk or cycle to school, then there will be less cars in and around the area.



Thank you for your support—enjoy your Easter break!

Matt Hickey

Head Teacher

@headhighwood



# Foundation 1 News

## Miss Nunn

We have been continuing to explore our topic 'why do things change?'. The children have engaged in many hands on experiences when exploring this topic to allow them to see changes happen over time.

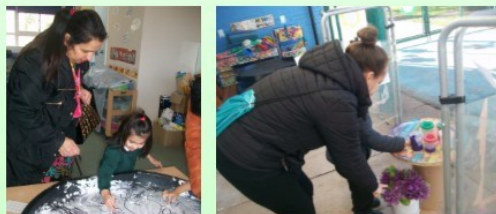
We have focused on the story of 'The Little Red Hen' this half term, which got the children thinking about what it means to be a good friend and also about the process of growing wheat and baking bread. Following on from this, the children joined in to bake their own bread rolls. It was really interesting for them to make the dough and then observe it as it rested and got bigger. They were then able to observe the change as it was then baked. The best bit, of course, was being able to eat their bread to see what it tasted like!



We also had a go at growing our own cress

heads, which the children seemed to really enjoy. They were able to put their cress heads in a sunny place and watch them as they grew taller. They were all fantastic at following the instructions to complete the process independently. Leading on from this, we then learnt about the life cycle of a flower, painted our own pictures of flowers and planted some seeds in the garden! The children are continuing to look after their planted seeds by watering them and making sure they are in a sunny place to help them to grow. While learning about growing we looked at the story of 'Jasper's Beanstalk' and learnt about the process of growing a beanstalk.

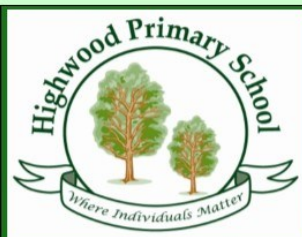
The children have also had a lovely time caring for the babies this half term. They have bathed them, dried them and this then lead to them washing their clothes and hanging them out to dry before dressing them again. They have taken them in the garden for walks in their push chairs and have even been caught reading stories to them in the reading corner.



This half of term is also when we held our Literacy SPLAT morning in F1. It was lovely to see so many parents attend, to engage in their children's learning and get stuck into the daily activities that their children participate with every day. The children were very excited to have their parents/ carers here with them.

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

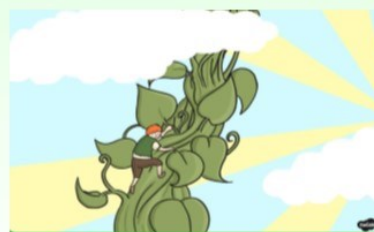


# Foundation 2 News

Mrs Parker, Mrs Stroud & Mrs Perrott

Welcome to the Foundation Stage Newsletter for this term! We have been really busy continuing with our topic "Why is the sky blue?" and with all our other learning - take a look!

We started our term off with 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. The children learnt the story and used the opportunity of climbing the beanstalk, to look at whether the 'Sky is blue' from up there. The children did some great writing of the story and many of the children now know the story by heart.



In maths we have revisited number, looked at shapes and capacity as well as measuring. The children had fun ordering beanstalks by height. They have also planted beans that we hope will grow well in the next few weeks and the children will learn about what a plant needs to grow.



Thank you for attending our SPLAT session, it was a highly successful afternoon. We were really pleased with the high quality learning that took place. We hope that you found the session as useful as we did and we look forward to seeing you at the next one.

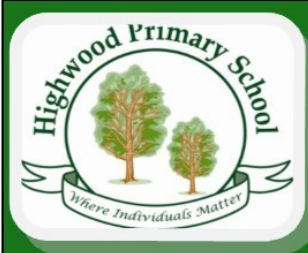


We had a lovely day at the Winchester Science Museum, thank you so much to the parents who helped to make it such a fun day. The children had the opportunity to try lots of hands on science experiments and activities, including pretending they were wearing a spacesuit and making their own rocket! They visited the planetarium show, where we got to look at the stars and learn about constellations and some of the other planets. It was so much fun!



Thank you to all the parents that have supported us this half term and we look forward to seeing you after the Easter break. Enjoy the holidays.

Follow us on twitter @HighwoodPrimFS



# Year 1 News - Spring 2

Mrs Weir & Miss Amor

Mrs Butler, Mrs Turnbull, Mrs Kearney, Miss Rajput

It's been a great term where we have seen the children blossom! They have focussed on improving their writing and making more creative and adventurous word choices. We can definitely see them using all of the School's learning behaviours. We hope that you all have a wonderful Easter break!

## Will we still play with the same toys when we are older?

### Topic

In preparation for our trip to Legoland, we have researched the Lego inventor Ole Kirk Christensen. We also made our own biographies and included some interesting facts, such as Lego means 'play well' in Danish and two of Christensen's sons accidentally set fire to both his house and factory. He initially made wooden toys and products, but was inspired by a British connecting toy and subsequently came up with the idea for Lego bricks. The children then happily shared these facts when we were at Legoland. Our trip to Legoland was the perfect way to end a successful term!



### Maths

We learnt all about fractions this term and the children will now hopefully share their sweets more fairly with their siblings! We have learnt how to find halves and quarters of shape, quantity and number. They really loved using the fraction mats and checking that all groups/parts were equal. They enjoyed explaining their work, such as reiterating that a fraction is a part of a whole.



### English

The children have had great fun writing recounts about their amazing Lego builds and a journey around the school. Finally they put the skills learnt to good use when writing a recount about their adventures at Legoland. They were taught how to use time connectives to help them to sequence events into chronological order. To spice up their writing they used adventurous adjectives such as lava red, sunshine yellow and thunder grey. They were also able to use what they had learnt in Science about senses and included what they could see, hear, feel, smell and taste in their writing too.

Ask your child to explain to you what a time connective and recount are.

Challenge them to use adventurous adjectives to describe their surroundings.

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



@Highwoodprim1 (Mrs Weir)  
@2Highwoodprim1 (Miss Amor)



# Year 2 News

Mrs Eatwell, Mrs Nielson

**'If we all live on the same planet, why are our cultures the same as some, but different to others?'**

Our learning has continued to focus on our topic 'If we all live on the same planet, why are our cultures the same as some, but different to others?'

## SPLAT



Thank you to everyone who was able to attend our SPLAT event this term. It was lovely to see parents reading to their children and taking real enjoyment in this. The children really value the

time that you spend with them in school. It is something they will remember and cherish as they grow older.

## Maths

This term Year 2 have explored many different areas of the maths curriculum, including shape, fractions, odds and evens, arithmetic and time. They particularly enjoyed learning about time in recent weeks and seem to have grasped the concept of telling and writing the time with ease! During our work on statistics the children created tally charts, pictograms and block graphs to show their favourite character, animal and more!



## Literacy

Year 2 have blown us away with some of their Literacy work this term! They really embraced our key texts which we used to learn all about India.

They wrote some fantastic pieces to persuade the villagers not to let the vicious tiger out of the cage! More recently, we have been focusing on a fiction text, 'The Tiger and the Wise Man.'



The children loved the simplicity of the story and many realised that complex language does not always make a good book. They explored the character and his emotions and even wrote in role from the Wise Man's point of view. Through this text, they produced some of their best work yet!



## Science

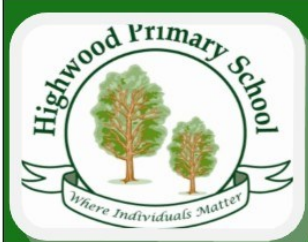
This term we have learnt all about animals and their habitats. The children have learnt about a range of habitats and the sorts of animals that live in them. We have also learnt all about the differences between things that are living, non-living and have never been alive. They can now explain the difference between different types of habitats and the animals which live in them. We have looked at basic food chains. The children can now explain that all plants are producers and those that eat them are consumers.



**Follow us!**



@HighwoodPrimYr2



## Year 3 News

Mrs Hartgrove, Mrs Tindall  
& Mrs Chintagunta

# What did the Romans do for us?

### LITERACY

To start the term we wrote stories about the gladiators fighting in the colosseum. We focused on introducing our setting and character.



Then we looked at writing persuasively by creating adverts

for a Roman Villa.

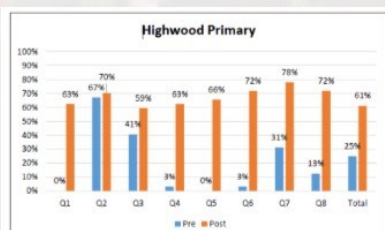
### MATHS

In maths we started by looking at how to multiply 2 digit numbers by 1 digit numbers by partitioning. Then we looked at using times table facts that we know to help us divide numbers outside the times tables.

Then we moved onto statistics and looked at how to create and interpret pictograms and bar charts.

### SCIENCE

Science started with a healthy eating workshop. We learnt about a balanced diet and how much fruit and vegetables



we should be eating. We also learnt

about how much sugar is in our foods and how much we should be having each day.

### TOPIC



We continued our Roman topic and designed and created our mosaic designs. We then looked at what life would have

been like for people in Roman times, thinking about homes, jobs and



schools. We also visited Reading Museum where we got to handle artefacts found on the Silchester site and dress up as Roman people.



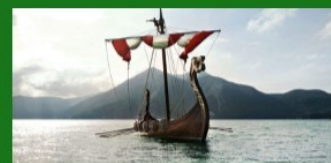
In R.E we had a visit from R.E inspired who helped to teach us about the Easter story and in P.E we have had dance lessons with Miss King.

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





## Year 4 News Spring 2 Mr Allaway and Mrs Anil



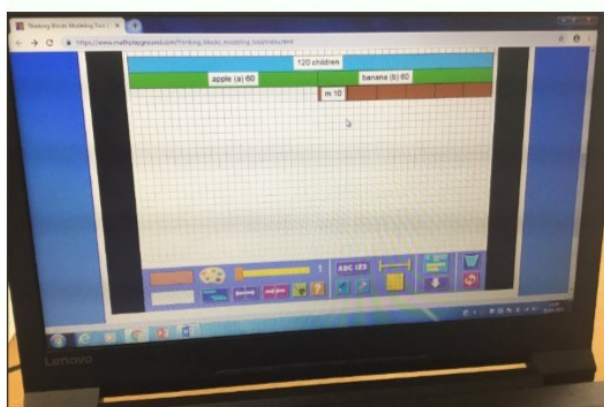
We have continued to explore our question 'What impact did the Vikings have on the world?'

### English—Viking narratives

This term we continued with the theme of Vikings with new narratives linked to a short animation we watched. The children then planned a class narrative based on the animation so we could explore the story together.



This term, year 4 focussed on adding in correctly punctuated speech, creating a plot through character development and implementing skills already taught, such as fronted adverbial phrases, to engage the reader. The use of descriptive language this term has been absolutely fantastic.



### Maths - Fractions and problem solving

In maths we have been spending a lot of time exploring how to solve problems involving fractions. We looked at adding and subtracting fractions, finding missing fractions and solving word problems using bar models. The children then used

online bar models to help them understand the problems, identify the missing information and create strategies for finding a solution.

### Music

In music the children have been learning to play the Cornet with Mr Ransom from Berkshire Maestros, this will be continuing next term. It has been fantastic to see the children so excited to use the instruments and they are slowly moving from just noise to tuneful performances.

### Topic - Saxons and Vikings

One of the most interesting parts of our topic that we looked at this term was the Saxon legal system and their punishments. The children were initially horrified by how barbaric the punishments were. However, they then had a go at creating their own versions and they let their creativity fly. I won't go into detail about the terrifying and blood curdling punishments they created, just be sure never to let them become judges!

### Tuishi Pamoja

The main event this half term which involved both Years 3 and 4, was that of the musical production. The children performed on three occasions, once as a dress rehearsal to the school, then an afternoon performance on the Thursday and an evening one on the Wednesday.

The children worked hard to learn all of the lines and all of the songs, and I'm sure you will agree it was a huge success. Thank you to all the children for their phenomenal effort.

Next term we will be starting a new topic, 'Why would someone build a castle here?' The children are already very excited about the residential trip to Swanage and Corfe Castle.

Follow us on twitter @HighwoodPrimYr4



# Year 5 News

Mrs Raines, Mrs Chaudhary  
& Mrs Payne.

## What's the Fascination with Fairgrounds?

### Part 2.

#### SPLAT

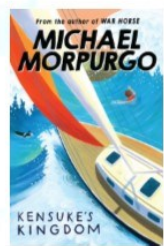
Thank you to everyone who was able to attend our SPLAT event this term. I hope it gave you all an insight into the expectations we have of the children, and provided you with some ideas that you can use when reading at home.

#### English



We have worked extremely hard with our writing this half term. We built on the success of our Robin Hood stories and used a short animation with a 'voyage and return' structure to inspire stories about a

visit to a fantasy fairground. More recently, we have been writing to persuade. We investigated a variety of advertising leaflets for tourist attractions and analysed their content, presentation and language. We then designed and wrote our own leaflets to advertise Carter's Steam Fair.



Our class book has been 'Kensuke's Kingdom.' The children have completely immersed themselves in the story and have enjoyed using the book as a means to study Geography (plotting Michael's voyage), History (WW2 and the dropping of the atomic bomb on Nagasaki), and Biology and Conservation.

With Mr Anderson, we have been learning, performing and writing fairground poetry.

#### Science

In our learning about forces, we have been designing our own investigations to test air resistance and gravity. We designed different helicopter spinners, each with a different variation and then tested them to see which was the most effective. Some people tested the size of the propellers, some tested the weight, some tested the height from which the helicopter was dropped - there were all sorts of different investigations. We were then able to apply our understanding of forces in our design of fairground rides.

#### DT

As part of our topic focus on Fairgrounds, we have been working extremely hard in making our own Fairground models. We started by looking at different mechanisms and how they are used. We then built models using K'NEX which helped us to understand what designs provide the most stable structures, and how to get the rides to rotate.



We were lucky to have a visit by Georgina Carter from 'Carter's Steam Fair'. She talked about the vintage rides and how they worked and a little bit about what life is like working on a travelling fairground. All the children asked excellent questions and showed amazing listening skills. They were truly fascinated by Fairground life!

#### Maths

For most of this half-term we have been learning about fractions. We are now all able to find equivalent fractions and convert improper fractions to mixed numbers (and vice versa). Of course, our times tables knowledge came in very handy to help us with this! We have also been relating fractions to decimals.

*Have a great Easter holiday from all of us in Year Five. Don't forget to log on to Time Table Rockstars and Athletics.*

Follow us!



@HighwoodPrimYr5



# Year 6 News

Mr Pearce, Mrs Haden and Mrs. Render

## Does Change Always Lead to Progress?

This half-term, we have been focussing very much on the Industrial Revolution and the changes that it brought about - both the positive and the negative. In response to the question "Does Change Always Lead to Progress?", we have considered, researched and discussed, the impact of the advances in science and technology that occurred during the Victorian era. We have also reflected on the changes brought about by the British Empire and whether those changes attributed to progress. We then discussed current changes going on and whether or not we felt they were leading to progress.

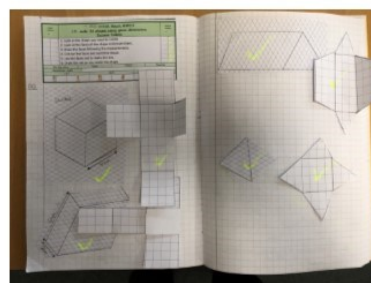
### English

In English, we finished our narrative unit based on the short film 'The Lighthouse' where we worked on building atmosphere and painting vivid and poetic descriptions of setting. We also looked at how we could use sentence structure to create tension and quicken the pace for the reader to reflect urgency and high drama! I was extremely proud of the progress the pupils made with their writing when doing this and their pieces showed great creativity! Currently, we are working on explaining how a fictitious invention works based on Wallace and Grommit's Crazy Contraptions. The pupils have each designed a "Student Saver" that helps pupils combat the trials and tribulations of the classroom - many diagrams reveal a device called a "Teacher-Shusher"...can't imagine why...

### Maths

In maths we have continued to practise our arithmetic and have improved the speed and accuracy of our calculations. We have successfully navigated the murky waters of algebra and formulae and investigated the properties of 2D and 3D shapes as well as looking at some brain-teasing puzzles involv-

ing building and drawing nets of shapes. Currently, we have just completed our study of area, perimeter and volume and have started looking at ratio. Up next and just before SATs we will be looking at interpreting graphs, charts and measures!



### Art

In Art, we created our own art work inspired by the industrial landscape paintings of L.S. Lowry. We copied

his colour pallet and tried to create a sense of perspective, light and shadow.

### Science

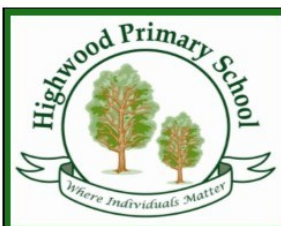


In science, we have begun to find out about electricity and how circuit diagrams are drawn. We investigated the idea of resistance and why wire length affects the brightness of a bulb in a circuit. Towards the end of the term, we have been looking at the properties of light and what the concept of reflection is before attempting to build our own periscopes.

### SATS

This year, the tests will run from Monday 13th May to Thursday 16th. Pupils can revise Maths using Mathletics online and we will be sending some practise material home for Reading and Grammar practise. We really do recommend that pupils have a restful Easter break and do revision "little and often". It is important pupils feel rested as well as prepared for the tests when they come back!

**Follow us on Twitter @HighwoodPrimYr6**



# The Orchard Speech and Language Resource News Mrs Godfrey & Mr Bevan Mrs Payne, Mrs Wright, Mrs Jenkins and Mrs Pithiya

Another term draws to a close and it's been nice to finally see some Spring weather too! All of the children continue to make us proud with their efforts in lessons as well as in Speech Therapy sessions. I'm sure you've been able to see the progress from the start of the year. Don't forget to check in to the See-Saw APP regularly to see what your children have been up to, as well as checking the messaging facility if you need to ask anything. We hope you all have a lovely Easter break and we'll see you next term!

## Literacy— How Do you Write Instructions?



The children have used paragraphs and time connectives to write instructions on how to make pancakes and a mother's day card, which they then made into a film! We look forward to presenting this to you at the next coffee morning.



## Maths— Multiplication, Division and Statistics



We devoted the first few weeks of this term to counting in multiples and doing multiplication and division calculations using arrays, repeated addition and written methods. We have moved on to completing a survey of colours of cars and showing this data as a tally chart, frequency table and bar chart. Our younger children have been comparing measures of length, mass, capacity and time.





# 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



Wow can you believe we have reached the summer term already? We have had so much fun and the children have come a long way, but the summer term will be the best! Our next topic will be 'How to be a superhero?'. We will begin by looking at every day heroes including the police, fire service and doctors. In literacy we will be looking at a variety of non-fiction books and our role play area will become a doctors surgery. We will be building on our scientific knowledge by looking at how to keep our bodies healthy, including what we eat. Our maths work will focus on consolidating our number knowledge including doubling and halving and number facts. After half term, during topic, we will be looking at fictional superheroes. Please continue to read with your child regularly and practise putting the key words into sen-



Year 1



As the warm weather approaches, we will be looking into our key question of, 'Where do people like to go on days out?' We are continuing to study the seven continents and different countries around the world. We will also be using the summer months to help with our scientific study of plants and seasonal changes. In English, we are going to be studying numerous fairy tales and using these as inspiration to write our own. We are planning to visit The Birches Retirement Home again to share our stories. Maths will see us learn multiplication, weights and measures as well as consolidating our place value knowledge. A big emphasis is on the upcoming phonics screener test and so any extra practice at home will prove invaluable! The year has flown by and we are all so proud of the progress the children have made!



Year 2







It is hard to believe that we are about to be in the final term of the year! The start of this term will be largely based around SATs practice and ensuring that the children are fully prepared for the papers they will sit in May. We will do some practice papers beforehand to ensure that the children know exactly how to sit and behave during the tests. You can help at home by reading with your children and doing their number bonds with them everyday for ten minutes each. This will prepare them for the reading and arithmetic tests. In between SATs, we will be asking the question 'What is the difference between a cake and a biscuit?', with a particular focus on Huntley and Palmers. This learning will allow us to focus on instruction writing and writing to entertain. During this topic we will also be learning about measures and at the end of the first half-term we will use what we have learnt to do some baking! In Science the children will begin to learn about plants. We will plant our own seeds and keep a record of their progress.



# 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>What would happen if we ran out of water? This term we will be exploring all things water. In English we will be looking at writing discussion texts and story writing. We will look at the water cycle and start thinking about rivers. We will look at how rivers impact our lives and how we have an impact on rivers. To answer our key questions we will look at some cities that are already close to running out of water. In relation to rivers we will look at the importance of the Nile on the Ancient Egyptians. In Science we will be looking at the impact of water on plants. In Art we will be exploring paintings and trying to use watercolours to recreate some river scenes.</p>
<p>Year 4</p> 	<p>In the last term of year 4 we will be exploring the question, 'why would someone build a castle here?'. In writing we will be creating discussion texts where the children will be able to debate problems. We will then be writing fantasy stories set in or around mythical castles. We will be exploring what life was like for people living inside castles and which castles still house people to this day. In science we will be looking at how electricity works and how different materials change state. The children will be continuing with their cornet lessons, which they seem to be enjoying and they are beginning to show real progress. The big focus of the term though will be our residential trip to Swanage where the children will be able to experience a castle first hand, explore different locations and take part in fun activities with their friends!</p>
<p>Year 5</p> 	<p>Our question for this term is, 'Are heroes and villains so different?' We will strive to answer this question by studying the Ancient Greeks. We will look at the roles villains and heroes played in Greek mythology and how they have been represented in art. In Whole Class Reading, we will be reading a variety of traditional Greek Myths before studying modern interpretations such as Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief. We will also look at how ancient Greece has influenced the western world. In Science, we will learn about living things and their habitats, and we will study the life cycles and reproduction of some plants and mammals. We will also start to learn about some of the changes that occur as humans develop to old age. In Maths, we will use our understanding of fractions to solve problems before moving on solving problems with time and measure. We are also looking forward to going swimming in the first half of the summer term.</p>
<p>Year 6</p> 	<p>The beginning of the summer term will see us knuckle down, focus as we prepare the best we can for SATs week (13th–16th May). Our first weeks back will be mainly focussed on revision of maths, grammar and spelling, as well as practising reading comprehension techniques. We will make a start on our topic, "What is the Secret to Success?" by looking at what it means to be successful, and how we can take responsibility for leading a healthy and happy life. We will study the lives of successful entrepreneurs and we will start to think about what projects we could do to become more enterprising and how to write a "pitch" or promotional text. In Science, we will look at how our bodies work and how we can live a healthy lifestyle by eating a balanced diet and exercising.</p>



# PE/Sports News

## Sports coach: Mr Edwards

**Welcome** to the last newsletter of the Spring term. As usual 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 Basketball, Tennis & Tri-Golf. This has been working very much with their hand eye co-ordination, teamwork and targets.

Year 3 have also had an extra session taking part in Dance with professional dancer Miss King. They have been working on fabulous routines each week linking with this terms topic. This is still proving to be a fantastic hit with the children of all ages, boys and girls, so we are pleased to still be able to offer this opportunity to the children of Highwood.

We are also working hard in Yr 4 with their gymnastics development which concluded this week with a class competition. After being judged on Vault, Trampet, Tumble and Floor routines, it was group 1 that bagged the "Gold Medal" position.

Year 1JW have also been learning badminton and Boccia & Kurling using the equipment bought with the money raised with our team GB athlete.

### Breakfast, Lunch & After School Clubs:

This term we have had many more clubs thanks to our teachers Mrs Weir, Miss Amor, Mrs Hartgrove, Mr Anderson & Mr Allaway.

**Mondays:** KS2 Table Tennis After School Club

**Tuesdays:** Year 1 & 2s Multisports lunch club. KS1 Gymnastics and KS2 Basketball after school.

**Wednesdays:** KS2 Running Breakfast Club.

**Thursdays:** Lunchtime Interhouse Competitions. KS1 Football after school.

**Fridays:** KS2 Badminton after school club.

### Matches & Tournaments:

#### WPSFA 5/6 Football.

Highwood have continued their football within division 6 of the Wokingham League. This half term we have played all 3 of our matches against, Rivermead, Westende & St Sebastians. The boys worked really hard but came away in 4th position in the league.

#### WPSFA Year 3/4 Football Tournament.

Seven year 4 children also had a great opportunity to play football in a tournament run by Reading Football Club. This was held at the Madjeski 4G Pitches and was a fantastic day with the children gaining lots of vital experience. In our league we played 6, won 4 & lost 2. A very good result, narrowly missing out on the finals. Definitely building for the future.

#### Crosfields Year 4 Boys Tag Rugby Festival.

8 boys from year 4 got to play in a fabulous afternoons rugby at Crosfields school. This was supported by London Irish Rugby Team where the children got to meet "Digger" the mascot and professional player, Mike Coman. They played incredibly well winning all of their games except one. Khabab Ibrahim, voted player of the day by his team mates got to receive the presentation ball from Mike.





# PE/Sports News

## Sports coach: Mr Edwards

### **Year 5/6 In2Hockey Tournament.**

9 children consisting of 6 boys and 3 girls took part in this years Wokingham Schools Hockey tournament. They played 6 games altogether and the girls that represented had to play every single game due to the rules stating that "at least 3 girls and 3 boys must be on the pitch at all times". They kept going despite being exhausted. The team were constantly complimented by other teams staff for their sheer resilience which made Mrs Weir very proud.

### **6 Nations Tag Rugby Play Off Finals.**

After a very successful autumn term league, Highwood were promoted to the top league for the play off finals. This was incredibly tough but our team dug in, grinding out some impressive results against very experienced teams. We are looking forward to next year where we may go even better. I have been so proud of their results and team ethic this year.

### **Next Half Term**

**PE Lessons:-** Athletics & Cricket

### **Competitions:-**

Yr 3/4 Tennis Red

Yr 5/6 Tennis Orange

Woodley Schools Sports Week (Dance, Cricket, Multi Skills, Tennis, Swimming Gala, Athletics & Disability Games.

Wokingham Cricket League

Invitational Games (Athletics)

Rounders & Tennis

### **Mr Edwards Message For The Term.**

This half term seems to have been even shorter! We have crammed a lot in this term and this will be no different going forward.

I have been encouraged this term by many children that have told me about participation in activities outside of school. This is great as it will help with overall health and wellbeing plus, accelerate the improvement of their sporting ability. If you have any photos of the children taking part, please email them in as I will include them in our following section.

### **Sporting News & Gallery outside of school.**



Huge congratulations to Joseph Dell who this year picked up the awards for both, "Most Developed Player" and "Clubman of the year" for his club "GB Scorpions"

and he certainly proved that today at the 3/4 tournament for Highwood. A great result and we are very proud.

I would also like to encourage all parents to please follow both myself and the classroom teachers on Twitter as this is a great tool to keep up with what your child is learning, including pictures and videos. My Twitter address is @HighwoodPrimPE

### **Reminders:**

**Please ensure your child's PE kit is kept in school every day.**

I thank you again for taking the time to read my newsletter and I look forward to seeing you all after the Easter break. Mr Edwards.



# Family Centre



I'm writing this and can't quite believe we are nearly at the Easter holidays! Stay and play sessions are continuing to run on a Thursday morning. These are free to attend for any parent at Highwood who has younger children not yet at school. If you would like to come and join in please just turn up! It would be lovely to see some new faces.

On the first Monday of every month I also hold a coffee morning. This runs from 8.45- 9.15am. Alongside this Friends Of Highwood also run a second hand uniform sale. The Family Centre doors will be open and anyone from the school is welcome, including younger siblings as there are plenty of toys to play with!

This term adult education have held a 'How to help your child with maths' course. We have had 8 families attending and the feedback has been very positive. We are looking into running similar courses again over the summer term.



Over the last 2 weeks we have been taking part in 'The Big Pedal.' This is an inter school competition which encourages the children to walk, cycle or scoot to school and there are prizes available for the schools that take part. If we are successful I will update you in my next letter.



Last Wednesday, Wendy Measures from Sustrans travel came into school and held a bike helmet surgery. 20 children attended and now have safely fitting helmets!

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!

Michelle





# FRIENDS OF HIGHWOOD



Friends of Highwood

Here we are at the end of another term. At the time of writing this, we are eagerly looking forward to the Easter trail. Fingers crossed that the weather stays dry and it is another success. It will be lovely to see almost 120 children running around having fun. Plus we're all sure that there will be lots of smiles from happy children as they leave with their chocolate bunny!



We continue to run our second hand uniform stalls at the family centre open mornings (first week of each month) and we also take orders via email. This is not only great for the wallet, but also the environment! However, we can only continue to run this if we have donations of good quality uniform. We are particularly short on girls' cardigans and PE kits, especially in smaller sizes. Please could you donate any unneeded uniform to us, either by handing it to one of us or giving it into the school office who will pass it on.

We are still planning events for next term, and hope to run some exciting events.

Thank you for your continued support.

We hope you have a fun and chocolate filled Easter!

Friends of Highwood



# Reminders

## 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.



## *Nut-free school.*

Please ensure that your child does not bring any nut products into school, or food cooked in nut oil or containing any traces of nuts.



## Stay and Play



Thursdays in the Family Centre - 8.55am to 10am

## ABSENCE

Please contact the school by 9.30am either by through the ParentMail APP 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.

## 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.

Please use the Park n Stride from the Waterside Public House.

# PHOTOS

## Official opening



## Blue Coat Colour Run



# PHOTOS



Year 3 & 4 production





# Diary Dates



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

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 6 <sup>th</sup> May 2019	Bank Holiday
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> to Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> May 2019	Year 6 SATs week
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> to Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May 2019	Woodley Schools Sports Week
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May 2019	INSET DAY – School closed for staff training
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> to Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2019	HALF TERM
Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup> June 2019	Woodley Carnival
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
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> June 2019	KS2 Sports - morning
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> June 2019	Year 6 Secondary Transition Day
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> June 2019	F2 & KS1 Sports - morning
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2019	F1/Nursery Sports morning
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> to Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> July 2019	Year 4 trip to Swanage
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> July 2019	Children visit their new classes
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> July 2019	Year 5 & 6 Production - afternoon
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> to Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July 2019	Learning reviews take place
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> July 2019	Year 5 & 6 Production - evening
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> July 2019	Year 6 Leavers Party - evening
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	Summer holidays
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2019	INSET DAY – School closed for staff training
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> September 2019	School starts for the Autumn Term