

Newsletter

Highwood Primary School Issue no.38

'Where Individuals Matter'

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to our Summer edition of the newsletter. This term is always quite short, but we have still managed to fit an amazing amount into our curriculum as well as a huge amount of activity in behind the scenes. Our work to secure school improvements continues and our progress has been recognised by the Local Authority. In our most recent meeting:

The Local Authority concluded that the school was making good progress in its work to secure a GOOD outcome at the next OFSTED inspection

Minutes of the meeting on May 8th 2019

This time of year is when our Year 2 and Year 6 classes take their annual assessments (SATs) and we couldn't be more proud with the way they conducted themselves. We simply asked them to do their very best and that is exactly what we got from each and every one of them.

Our INSET day tomorrow is going to be focussed on us evaluating and redesigning our curriculum. We plan to refine our curriculum so that it is completely bespoke to Highwood and focus on what our children need and what our local area and community have to offer in terms of learning and enrichment. It is a really exciting piece of work that I hope parents will be able to contribute to and share their areas of talent and expertise with children at Highwood. Once we have completed the initial design, I will share the content with parents and begin the process of where parents and the community can add value to our children's learning.

This will be Teamwork in its finest form!

Enjoy reading the class updates from this term, and I wish you all a restful half-term break.

Matt Hickey Head Teacher @headhighwood



Foundation 1 News Miss Nunn

Mrs Alleyne, Mrs Vanka, Miss Chaudhary and Miss Mair

We have had a busy start to the Summer Term in F1. We have been exploring our new topic 'how are all animals different?' where the children have had hands on experiences with some different mini beasts and have begun exploring different animals and where they live.

We started this terms topic by learning about zoo animals and then moving onto mini beasts. The children were very excited that they got to be involved in the process of growing our very own caterpillars into butterflies. They were able to watch the caterpillars go through the different stages and are looking forward to setting our butterflies free this week. We also had a visit from SpongeBob the giant snail. We were able to look after him for a few days- cleaning him, feeding him and being very careful to handle him. We are also very lucky to have got our very own ant farm which the children have enjoyed learning about.





As well as learning about all these exciting creatures, we have been on a bug hunt in the garden and creating our own pictures of different animals. We even had a go at designing our own bugs/ mini beasts. We have listened to different stories about zoo animals and mini beasts which the children have been asking lots of interesting questions about. The children have been showing great curiosity when they have been finding different types of mini beasts in the garden and are very careful when handling them and finding them a safe place to live.

This term we have had an interesting addition to our behaviour chart which is the moon. The moon is used for when the adults catch the children making fantastic choices independently. When the children get onto the moon they get the chance to take home our new friend, Snuggles, the rainbow bear. Snuggles enjoyed his first adventure at the weekend and is looking forward to many more adventures with the F1 children.





As the weather is beginning to get warmer, we have also been enjoying lots of water play in the garden. The children have been watering their plants, playing in the water tray and making tea and coffee at the teddy bears picnic.

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 Stroud, Mrs Perrott & Mrs Parker

Mrs Leigh, Miss Rapley,

Mrs Jones, Miss Appleton, Miss Leitch, Miss Walker

Welcome to the Foundation Stage Newsletter for the first half of the summer term! We have been really busy with our exciting new topic "How do we become a hero?" We hope that the children have been telling you all about it!

We started our topic by discussing different heroes within our community. We have explored the role of a nurse, a police officer and a firefighter, as well as finding out about animals who help us. We even had a visit from Spongebob, the Giant African Snail!





The children have enjoyed pretending to be doctors and patients in the role-play area. We often have a long line of children waiting to see the 'doctor', just like real life! There have also been lots of 'police officers' running around catching 'baddies'. Some of the children have really enjoyed making their own police badges.

Following on from this we have explored the topic 'healthy eating' and why it's important to keep our bodies healthy, especially if we want to become a hero. Using iPads the children enjoyed creating a plate of healthy food that they would like to eat. We discussed different ways of keeping healthy and the children were able to suggest different forms of exercise. Our 'wake-up, shake-up was a firm favourite!





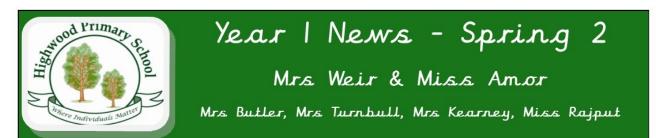
In maths the children have been working on their problem solving skills, taking part in some fun investigations,. Other topics that we have covered have been money, days of the week, time, measure, addition and subtraction.

We have been really impressed with the children's story writing. They used their imagination and creativity to write their own Fireman Sam story. During learning zone, the children have been writing for a variety of purposes including: how to care for a plant, missing posters and letters/postcards.



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

Follow us on twitter @HighwoodPrimFS



It is clear to see how much the children's independence skills have developed. This is encouraging as they are vital as they prepare to move to Year 2 in September. As always, we have been impressed with the progress that they are making, particularly with story writing. We hope that you enjoy the (hopefully) sunny break!

Where do people like to go on days out? English Maths

This half term the children have showcased their creativity by writing their own version of the traditional tale, Hansel and Gretel. Not only have they applied their knowledge of fairy tale language, they have also taken their writing to the next level by making adventurous word choices (adjectives, adverbs, similes, etc.) and by ensuring that they use different sentence starters. It is so wonderful to see them using everything they have learnt so far this year to improve their writing. All the while, the children have been very mindful of the fact that they were writing stories to entertain the residents of The Birches. We are confident that the residents will be blown away by the high standard and creativity of the stories!

Art

We linked our art with our Science topic on

seasons. We have used pastels to create a vivid display of the different seasons within landscapes and wildlife. We also had a fantastic time participating in the Woodley Cluster Tray Garden project—Highwood children were part of the teams which finished third, second AND first!

For regular updates and highlights, please follow us on Twitter: (Mrs Weir) @Highwoodprim1 @2Highwoodprim1 (Miss Amor)

What an amazing interactive time we have had during our Maths lessons this term! We learnt all about measures, including length and height, mass/weight, capacity and telling time. The children used metre sticks and

rulers to investigate the length and height of everyday objects. They also used balance,





kitchen and electric scales to measure and compare the mass of objects found in the classroom. They soon

realised that just because an object is big, it is not necessarily heavy. The recent surry weather enabled us to work outside when



investigating the capacity of different containers. They know that the width of the container is just as important as the height when comparing capacity.

Topic and Science

We looked at many options for a nice day out and how our choice could be affected by the weather. This linked so well with our current Science topic of the weather and seasons. The children thoroughly enjoyed tracking the weather in their weather diaries. Next we are focussing on how to keep ourselves safe whilst out and about.



Year 2 News

Mrs Eatwell, Mrs Robinson, Mrs Neilson

'What is the difference between a cake and a biscuit?'

Not long before it will be your child's final half term in Year 2! The time has absolutely flown.

The children have now finally completed all of their SATs during this half term! The children tried so hard and were excellent at coping without adult support during this time. They definitely deserve the half-term break!

We have begun our new topic "what is the

difference between a cake and a biscuit?" The children started this topic by finding their favourite cakes and biscuits and discussing why



these are their favourite. In DT, they have learnt about hygiene and mixing by baking biscuits. They have then used this in their literacy to write instructions about how to bake biscuits and we will be inviting you in to bake biscuits by following your child's instructions next half term!

In maths we revisited many concepts, includ-

ing time, money, pattern and measurement. At the start of the term, the children learnt how to use a ruler for measurement and when to use mm, cm and m. They could also tell me how many mm in a cm and cm in a m! The children particularly enjoyed revisiting mon-

ey and solved some challenging exercises, such as making 25p ten different ways and solving worded money problems! When



we revisited time, Year 2 learnt the differ-

ence between clockwise CLOCKWISE and anticlockwise. Can they show you which way is clockwise? They were



excellent at showing quarter, half, and three quarter turns going clockwise/anticlockwise when using an arrow.

In science we are learning about plants and asking the question, what do plants need to grow and be healthy? We have drawn diagrams and learnt the names for different parts of a plant. We have also begun an in-

vestigation into what plants need to grow and survive. During this we have discussed fair test and how to test objectively. We will continue with our investiga-



tions next term. I'm sure they will give us interesting results.

Finally, some children will be retaking the phonics screening check. So, this term we also worked hard on our phonics. The test will be the second week back to school and we need to be ready! The children seem confident and know their sounds well. Please read with them as much as possible, especially over half term to prepare them.



We wish you a nice half term with your family and friends.

Follow us on twitter @HighwoodPrimYr2

ood Primary Year 3 News Mrs Hartgrove, Mrs Tindall & Mrs Chintagunta

What would happen if we ran out of water?

LITERACY

This term we have been looking at discussion texts. We have written about whether it is important to save water. Our focus has been on drafting



and editing and making sure that our writing is suitable for the audience.



MATHS

In maths we started by looking at 2-d shapes and the different sorts of trian-



gles and guadrilaterals. There was lots of new vocabulary but we used songs to help us remember

them. Then we looked at 3-D shapes before moving onto solving multiplication and division problems.



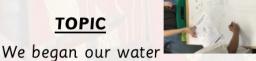
SCIENCE

Science continued our look at humans. We learnt about and named the bones in a human skeleton as



well as thinking about how our muscles help us to move.

TOPIC



topic by learning all about the water



cycle. We sang songs, looked at diagrams and acted out the journey of a rain

drop. Then we looked at how rivers run from source to mouth and the

features they develop along the way. Finally we have been looking at cities that are already close to running out of drinking water.



Follow us on Twitter; @HighwoodPrimYr3





Year 4 News Summer 1 Mr Allaway and Mrs Anil

'Why would someone build a castle here?'

Welcome to the Summer 1 edition of the Year 4 news! We have had lots of cross curricular fun, with Castles and the 'Sir Gawain and the Green Knight' novel.

English - Discussion Text

History - The beginning of Norman Britain

This term year 4 have been learning how to write In history, year 4 learned all about the Battle of discussion texts. We based our work on the fantas- Hastings. They explored who took part, what haptic book 'The Wolves in the Walls' by Neil Gaiman. pened and why it occurred. They created cartoon We discussed the reasons for and against allowing strips depicting the battle and the eventual demise the wolves to inhabit the house instead of the hu- of King Harold. mans.

The children will, before the end of term, be presenting their balanced arguments to the Highwood judges so they can decide the fate of the wolves.

In reading, year 4 have been exploring the text 'Sir Gawain and the Green Knight' by Michael Morpurgo. We have been using the interesting vocabulary to write descriptions of weapons and inferring characteristics from the Green Knight's ac-



Maths - Angles, shape and division

Year 4 have been working hard to understand the features of different

2D shapes, including lines of symmetry, parallel or perpendicular sides and types of angles. They are able to identify, name and order different angles

We have been looking at different ways of dividing numbers this term, such as using the inverse, number

inside polygons.



lines and distributive law. Before the end of term we will be moving onto methods of dividing three digit numbers by one digit numbers using exchanging.



Geography - Settlements

Year 4 have done a lot of work this term on early settlements and why people chose to settle in certain areas. We used google maps to explore differ-

ent castles and looked at the features of the surrounding landscape. The children were then able to explain which sites were best for settling and what the limitations were of each.



We explored the area around the school and decided where would be the best place to build a two person mini castle to defend the site from potential Norman invaders. Then, using our IT skills,



the children took photographs of the locations, air drop them to the teacher iPad and screen shared them to the whiteboard.

Science - States of matter.

In science, the children have been learning about different states of matter. They have learned how everything is made of molecules and how the molecules behave differently in solids, liquids and gases.

Have a lovely half term break from all of the Year 4 Team.

Follow us on twitter @HighwoodPrimYr4



Year 5 News Summer 1 2019 Team: Mrs Raines and Mrs Chaudhary.

'Are Heroes and Villains so different?'

Literacy - Myths and Legends

Our topic is focussing on Heroes and Villains but with an Ancient Greek slant. We have read a variety of Greek Myths in order to understand how the structure and the language



entertain the reader. In particular, we have been enjoying 'Theseus and the Minotaur' and learning how to write a description of a hero who impresses with his brilliance and a beast that terrifies and disgusts!



In the afternoons, we have used our research skills to find out about Ancient Greek warfare and about the differ-🛿 ences in culture between Athens and Sparta. This

led to a lively debate about whether the children would have preferred to have been an Athenian or a Spartan.

Maths

In Maths, we have been working on finding equivalence. We are able to convert fractions so that they share a common denominator and convert mixed numbers to improper fractions and vice versa. We are now able to use this knowledge to add and subtract fractions. We are also able to express fractions as decimals and percentages. Arithmetic has continued to be a focus and we have begun a daily practice of our calculation skills PE as well as continuing to improve our times tables. As you can see, we have worked very hard!

Science

During science we have been learning about lifecycles, comparing them and learning what makes each lifecycle unique. We have investigated Highwood school grounds Have a great Half Term. in order to find examples of living organisms at different stages in their life cycles. We used our scientific skill of observation to draw different stages of the life cycle. Follow us on Twitter: @HighwoodPrimYr5

We planted a variety of seeds and are taking regular measurements of their growth (stem length and number of leaves). We have been learning about plant reproduction. We dissected flowers in order to identify the male and female parts and learnt about



the processes of pollination and fertilisation.





This term we have been improving our fitness and athletic skills with Mr Edwards. And of course, we have thoroughly enjoyed being able to go swimming at Reading Blue Coat School.



Year 6 News

Mr Pearce, Mrs Haden and Mrs. Render

'What is the secret to success?'

It has very much been an intense mental workout for the Year 6 pupils this half term: SATs has dominated, as it has nationally for pupils at this time of year. However, the Y6 pupils worked incredibly hard to prepare themselves for the "big week" and tackled the tests with focus and calm. Mrs Haden, Mrs Render, Mr Hickey, Mrs Vaux and myself are extremely proud of how they handled the pressure of the tests. At one point, some people seemed to be excited, some even said they enjoyed it! I truly feel that every child gave the tests their best effort which is all we can ask of our pupils.

English

Alongside revision for SATs, the Year 6 pupils have been utilising their buzzing imaginations in lots and lots of writing. They began the term by writing persuasively - writing a persuasive letter to Mr Hickey to try and convince him to NOT go ahead with his fictitious plan (not that I told the Y6s!) to ban

P.E. - we looked at the health benefits of physical exercise, both mentally and physically and then used this information to inform our argument.

Currently, with the "excitement" of SATs now behind us, they are busy planning a narrative



Have a great half term. Mr. Pearce

piece based on our novel last half term whereby a cruel and wicked schoolmaster of a workhouse is described alongside the tense and chilling atmosphere he creates!

Science

As mentioned previously, in science, we have been looking at the benefits of exercise, both mentally and physically and used research to inform our persuasive writing where the pupils argued for their right to a P.E. lesson. We have also re-visited our understanding of light in order to showcase our explanation writing skills as we explain, as scientists, how a periscope works.

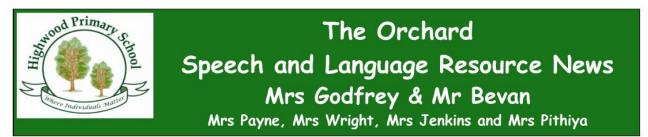
Art

To alleviate the pressure of SATs and to allow the pupils to hone their observational skills, we have been developing a series of sketches inspired by the Highwood environment which we will soon turn into a series of paintings.

After the half term, we will be studying the minimalist pop-art stylings of Andy Warhol and creating our own inverted-colour pastel illustrations of the iconic soup cans before we then paint our own Warholinspired "mundane packaging".

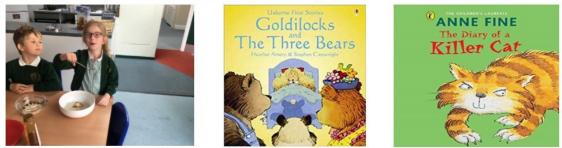


Follow us on twitter: @HighwoodPrimYr6



We really can't believe that there is just one half term left of this academic year! This term is always quite short but it certainly feels like the time has flown by! As you'll read below, the children working in The Orchard have had a great time whilst they've been learning. I'm sure you've heard all about it! We'll be having our usual end of year celebration in the second half of term, so look out for the date. We look forward to seeing you all then.

Literacy— How Do you Write a Diary?



Our Year 1s have been reading and re-writing the Goldilocks story, working towards writing a diary from baby bear's point of view. They also made porridge just like the 3 Bears and wrote about why their porridge was the best! The rest of the children in The Orchard have read the whole of 'The Diary of a Killer Cat', answering questions along the way and finding apostrophes in the text. Some have decided that Tuffy is innocent and some have come to the conclusion that he is a very suspicious cat. What do you think?

Maths— Visualising Shape and Exploring Change



Highlights have included making skeletons of 3D shapes with spaghetti and marshmallows, ordering the months of the year into a calendar, drawing and sorting with different types of triangles, printing with the faces of 3D shapes and making 3D shapes from multilink cubes. We are, of course, continuing to revisit our number work from the autumn and spring terms as we go.

Follow us on Twitter: @HighwoodPrimR



PE/Sports News Mr Edwards

Welcome to the first summer term "PE & Sports News Page". The summer term is always very exciting due to it being jam packed with many different PE & Sporting events.

PE Lessons:

This half term I have been testing the children's overall strength, agility, speed and fitness via a "quadkids" style programme. This has been through sprints, standing long jump, Vortex throws and a long distance run. They have been scored against national average statistics and I have been pleased with many of the results. I would like your support to continue to encourage your children to participate in sports out of school so that we can improve on these results. It is very important that children keep active as much as they can.

Year 4 & year 6 have also been playing rounder's which has been great fun and certainly helped many prepare for the house games.

We have also started a "pilot" of teaching swimming to year 5's. They have shown much improvement even in 4 weeks. Next half term will be year 6s. We are hoping to continue this next academic year giving all children from years 1—6 swimming lessons. A huge thank you to Blue Coat School for supporting this, transporting our children back and forth plus free use of their pool and lifeguards.

Year 1 have also had an extra session taking part in Dance lessons with professional dancer Miss King. Lunch & After School Clubs:

This term we have:-

Tuesdays: KS2 Running breakfast club, Year 1 & 2s Summer sports Lunch & KS2 Athletics after school Club.

Thursdays: Year 3,4,5 & 6s Rounders House Competition lunch & 3,4,5 & 6 Summer Sports after school club.

Fridays: Years 1-6 Dance Club at Lunch, KS1 Summer Sports & KS2 Cricket after school club.

Inter-House Competition

After last half terms successful hockey house competition, this half term we have started playing rounders. Congratulations again to the house captains for organising their teams.

Spring Term Matches & Tournaments:

5/6 Wokingham Primary Schools "Tennis Orange" qualifier.

4 very excited pupils attended this years qualifier at the Cantley Park Tennis Centre. The event was fantastic fun, really well organised and some key skills were learnt. Despite Highwood managing to win several matches, we didn't quite manage to qualify for the main tournament. A huge well done to Shaika, Megan, Josh and Luc who took part.

Schools Sports Week.

At the time of print, we will be in the middle of the 2019 Woodley Schools Sports Week. This is a fantastic week full of opportunities for many children in Woodley schools.

Monday:

Opening Ceremony/Dance Festival

This years theme is Disney Films. Highwood performed a fantastic dance from "The Little Mermaid" called "Under The Sea" complete this year with costumes & under the watchful eye of Miss King.







PE/Sports News Mr Edwards

5/6 "Cecil Trembath" Kwik Cricket

The boys first outing of the year was a great test to gauge where we have strengths and areas of development required for our league games coming up after half term. They played really well showing some great batting and bowling skills. However, we really need to work on our catching! We managed to reach the 3rd place play off losing that game to South Lake.

Wednesday

Year 3 Polybat Tournament

Several members of staff will take 10 specially selected pupils to Addington School to play a really exciting new game. The children will have a fantastic time playing against other Woodley school pupils.

Next Half Term

PE Lessons:- Athletics continued, Ultimate Frisbee, Cricket & swimming for year 6.

PE Kit required:-Shorts, Highwood PE T-Shirt, Black or Navy Plain Tracksuit if cold, trainers. **No Earrings!**

Competitions

Athletics:- Wokingham Schools Quad Kids

Wokingham Schools Cricket League Matches.

Sports Activities out of school Gallery.

If you would like your picture in the newsletter taking part in your sport outside of school, please email to aedwards@highwood.wokingham.sch.uk

We are again running our "Summer Water Bottle" fundraiser. Thank you to all of the children and parents that have bought one already, especially as the sun is due to start shining any week now we hope! If you don't already have one then please purchase one from the office. There are still some left.



Please make a date in your diaries for this years Sports days.

Key Stage 2 - Tuesday 25th June AM F2 & Key Stage 1 - Thursday 27th June AM F1 Nursery - Wednesday 3rd July AM





If you didn't know already, you can follow what your child is up to in my lessons and how our teams are getting on in various tournaments by following my twitter posts on @HighwoodPrimPE

Have a great but safe half term holiday.

Mr Edwards.



Family Centre



I'm writing this and can't quite believe it is May half term! I'm hoping we have lovely weather for the week off school.

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! The next one is on Monday 3rd June.

I have been in touch with adult education and we are looking to run another course of English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL). Once plans have been finalised I will send out a letter.



During this last week we have been taking part in Walk to School week. Thank you to everyone who has taken part.



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. The family centre is a wonderful resource to have in our school and it would be wonderful to see it in constant use!

Michelle







FRIENDS OF HIGHWOOD



Friends of Highwood



We have tried to start to sell ice lollies on a Friday at the end of school, but unfortunately the weather has not been kind to us! However, hopefully next term will be warmer and sunnier! What a bargain they are at only 50p each. Look out for us by the trees between the new building and foundation.





We have more interest in our second hand uniform and it is great to see it helping out so many families. Remember to hand in any uniform that your child has outgrown, as we are beginning to run low on stock of certain items, especially girls' cardigans and PE kits. You can hand in uniform at the school office, who will pass it on to us. If you would like to buy some, then you can either come to a sale at

the Children's centre or email us with your request and we will endeavour to get back to you once we have checked the stock.



Next half term, we are looking forward to the family picnic on Thursday 18th July where we will be running a few stalls, such as tombolas and hook a duck, to help entertain everyone during this fun event. We would love it if anyone would be able to do a 20 minute stint on a stall during this - the more volunteers the less we all have to do! If you are able to volunteer we would be ever so grateful. Please contact us either in person or via our email

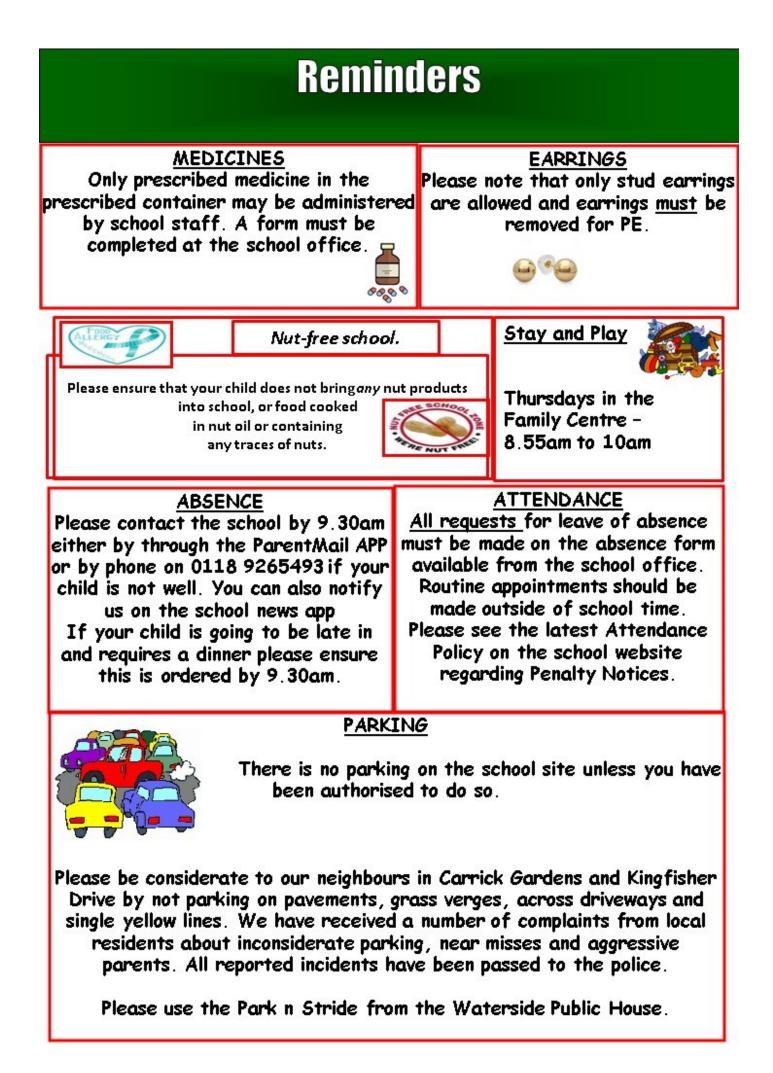
foh@highwood.wokingham.sch.uk We look forward to seeing you all there.

From everyone in Friends of Highwood we hope you enjoy half term.











Diary Dates



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

Friday 24 th May 2019	INSET DAY – School closed for staff training
Monday 27 th to Friday 31 st May 2019	HALF TERM
Monday 3 rd June 2019	Start of second half of term
Tuesday 4 th June 2019	Millers Ark visit F1 children
Saturday 8 th June 2019	Woodley Carnival
Monday 10 th June 2019	Foundation SPLAT
Monday 10 th to Friday 14 th June 2019	Year 1 doing phonics tests
Wednesday 12 th June 2019	Class photos and Year 6 leavers
Thursday 13 th June 2019	KS1 SPLAT
Monday 17 th June 2019	KS2 SPLAT
Tuesday 25 th June 2019	KS2 Sports - morning
Wednesday 26 th June 2019	Year 6 Secondary Transition Day
Thursday 27 th June 2019	F2 & KS1 Sports - morning
Monday 1 st July 2019	New to F2 parent meeting – 9.30am to 10.30am
Wednesday 3 rd July 2019	F1/Nursery Sports morning
Wednesday 3 rd to Friday 5 th July 2019	Year 4 trip to Swanage
Wednesday 10 th July 2019	Year 5 Fishbowl day at Bulmershe School
Friday 12 th July 2019	Highwood Helpers Tea - afternoon
Monday 15 th July 2019	Children visit their new classes
Tuesday 16 th July 2019	Year 5 & 6 Production - afternoon
Tuesday 16 th to Friday 19 th July 2019	Learning reviews take place
Wednesday 17 th July 2019	Year 5 & 6 Production - evening
Thursday 18 th July 2019	FOH Summer Picnic – time TBA
	Vear 6 Leavers Party evening
Monday 22 nd July 2019	Year 6 Leavers Party - evening F2 Graduation - afternoon
Tuesday 23 rd July 2019	Last day of term – school closes at 1:30pm
	Last day of term – school closes at 1.50pm
Wednesday 24 th July to Monday 2 nd September	Summer holidays
Tuesday 3 rd September 2019	INSET DAY – School closed for staff training
Wednesday 4 th September 2019	School starts for the Autumn Term for Years 1 to 6
Wednesday 4 th to Friday 6 th September 2019	Foundation F1 & F2 closed for home visits
Monday 9 th September 2019	Foundation F1 & F2 open
	• F2 children start – staggered start
	Existing F1 children return