



Newsletter

Highwood Primary School Issue no.41

December 2019

'Where Individuals Matter'

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a busy term we have had! As you will see in this edition of our newsletter, the second half of the Autumn term is always filled with so many events to celebrate. It is great to see the new curriculum we have been working hard on behind the scenes being brought to life in the classroom and having such a positive impact on children's learning. We are also currently in the process of updating our website so that CURRICULUM has its own section for parents to see what your children are learning about in each subject and how they are all linked together under our Key Questions.



Also during this term I have been extremely busy showing many prospective parents around the school. There have been many parents that have come back for a second visit with their children as they have been so impressed with what they have seen. It is great to listen to all their positive feedback about our school and what goes on during the day. Our children are great ambassadors and to see them be so engaged, polite and happy gives the exact impression that we want prospective parents to have.

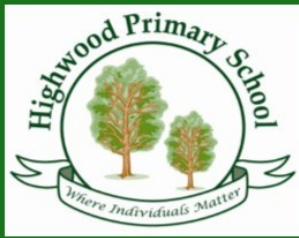
During this term, we have had visits from the school improvement team at Wokingham to externally validate the continued improvements we are making. Here are some of the sound bites from their report:

- *In conclusion the SIO considers innovative and exciting developments are taking place at the school. Areas of learning offered are interesting and challenging, and effective planning exists to underpin this.*
- *The SDP gives clear guidance on development areas, governors can quote this, and know how work is underway to continuously improve.*
- *Challenge is clearly being given to pupils within the key questions being asked.*
- *Practice in Foundation Stage is exemplary and provides a strong starting point for all pupils; setting the scene for how learning will be across the school.*
- *All staff work hard to make the school the inclusive and welcoming environment it is, from front-of-house onwards. The strategically sensible and real delegation of duties across the senior and middle leader teams reaps dividends in achieving an efficient sharing of the work load. LA Review December 2019*

This has been a really positive end to the term and great to have feedback from the Local Authority that recognises and compliments us on the improvements we have secured. This sets us up well to build on this into the new year.

If I don't get chance to see you all before the end of term, can I take the opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Matt Hickey
Head Teacher



Foundation 1 News

Miss Nunn

Mrs Alleyne, Mrs Vanka, Miss Chaudhary, Miss Mair and Mrs Bailey

Welcome to our Foundation 1 News. We have had a very busy second half of the Autumn Term in F1. We have continued exploring our termly topic '**what makes us special?**' which has allowed us all to get to know each other and explore ourselves as individuals. We have been working on developing our confidence in groups and continuing to develop our independence.

After beginning to explore our senses in the first half of this term, we have continued to learn about the other senses which we use every day - taste, hearing and smell. The children thoroughly enjoyed Diwali day where they were able to use these senses to learn all about the festival of light. They made their own Rangoli patterns, tasted lots of yummy Hindi food and snacks and even had a go at doing some Bollywood dancing. We also used our senses to learn about firework night. We spoke about what we could hear and made our own breadstick sparklers to taste.



When exploring taste the children had the opportunity to do some exotic fruit tasting. They also participated in a soup making activity using and exploring lots of different vegetables. We were very proud of all the children for tasting new foods that they hadn't tasted before and talking about the tastes they liked and disliked.

As you are all aware, F1 went on their Autumn Welly Walk! They all had a lovely time and are still talking about it now. The children demonstrated fantastic listening skills during this off-site trip and were a credit to Highwood. This trip really helped the children to see first-hand all the things they had been learning about Autumn. They enjoyed collecting items in their collection bags and completing an Autumn scavenger hunt.



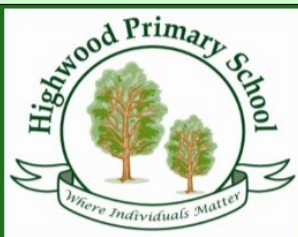
We have seen lots of creativity during this half of term. The children have been busy doing lots of junk modelling, talking about the models they have created and creating some beautiful pieces of art work. We have had lots of different creation from ice cream stalls made of our egg boxes to trains made out of boxes. Thank you to all parents who continue to bring in recycled materials so that the children have lots of things to create with.

As we are coming towards the end of the term, we are doing all things Christmas! The children have been busy rehearsing for their play- 'The Nativity' and engaging in lots of Christmas/ winter themed activities. We transformed our calm room into a winter wonderland where the children have been engaging in role-play in the igloo and also exploring lots of different winter themed messy plays and craft activities. The children also enjoyed their Christmas lunch!



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

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

Mrs Jones, Miss Walker, Miss Leitch, Mrs Fernandez and Miss Rapley

Hello and welcome to the FS2 newsletter! It has been such a busy and exciting half of term full of creative and engaging learning opportunities. We have continued to explore our overarching topic question, 'Could dinosaurs live in Woodley?' We opened this half of the term learning about dinosaur habitats and their diet. Read on to find out more!



Our topic has encouraged the children to move like dinosaurs, become fossil hunters and compile dinosaur information books. Our WOW event, a fossil hunting day, was thoroughly enjoyable. We baked dinosaur biscuits and even had a visit from Tony the T-Rex!



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 Wednesday 11th March at 1.30pm.

We mustn't forget to mention our visit from Pudsey Bear, this caused quite a stir in FS2! We were super excited to meet him and spend some time in his company.



In preparation for Christmas, we have been writing our letters to Father Christmas. We have enjoyed showing off our phonic knowledge.



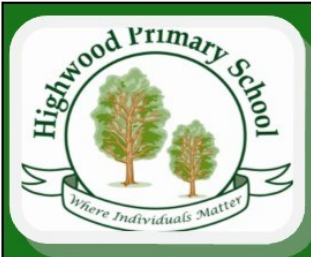
We thoroughly enjoyed tucking into our delicious Christmas lunch whilst wearing our Elf hats.



The children are enjoying the opportunity to show off their singing, acting and dancing during our play, 'The Nativity'. We have now had our final performance and really enjoyed showing off our lovely outfits and performing 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!

Twitter: @HighwoodPrimFSP @HighwoodPrimFSPS



Year 1 News - Autumn 2

Mrs Richards & Miss Schlaefli

Mrs Lawrence, Mrs Turnbull, Mrs Kearney, Miss Rajput

We have had a fantastic Autumn term! We had a very fun and positive SPLAT. Thank you to all the parents who came and made it an enjoyable afternoon!

Where In The World Am I?

Topic and Science

In topic we have been focusing on how Woodley has changed. We looked at how Highwood has changed over the years from William Grey to what the school is like now. The children had fun imagining what the school will be like in the future too!

In science, we have investigated the weather. We set up rain gauges to see how much rain fell in a week and made wind socks to see what direction the wind was blowing. We have also looked at animals. We have learnt about



nocturnal and diurnal animals and why they might sleep at night. The children have been fascinated finding about different habitats of animals and what special adaptations they have to help them survive. Towards the end of the topic our focus has been on local wildlife. We have been busy writing fact files about what we have learnt.

RE

This term our focus has been how Christians celebrate Christmas. The children have been finding out about the importance of advent and the different ways it may be celebrated. Re inspired joined us to tell us all about Christingles and the Christmas story. The children were excited to make our very own Christingles to keep in school.



Check out our Twitter feed to keep up to date!

@HighWoodPrimR (Mrs Richards)

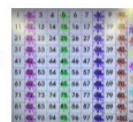
@HighWoodPrimS (Miss Schlaefli)

Maths

In maths we have been diving deep into numbers! We have been pattern spotting when counting in 1's, 2's, 5's and 10's. We have discovered what the number ends in and what patterns appears on a 100 square



when counting in these steps. We have also been practicing partitioning numbers. Practice saying and making how many 10's are in a number and how many 1's are in a number. We have been putting all these skills together to find one more and one less, putting numbers in order and finishing number sequences. Its been a full on term in maths but everyone has persevered and it shows!



English

This term in English we have focused on the story of The Three Little Pigs. First we practiced retelling the story using puppets so that we could remember the details of the story. Next we looked at character descriptions. This allowed the children to build on their learning from the previous term. We focused on choosing powerful adjectives to build a picture in the readers head. Then we planned and wrote the beginning, middle and end before putting it together ready to read to F2.



This term we have been encouraging the children to reflect on their work making sure it was neat and that it made sense! They have all worked so hard and should be proud of their amazing stories!





Year 2 News - Autumn 2



Miss Amor, Mrs Weir,

Mrs Anil, Mrs Taylor, Miss Burrows, Mrs Butler, Mrs Padhi, Mrs Leslie

It's hard to believe that another 7 weeks have whizzed by. All the Year 2 children have continued to display an excellent work ethic and this was showcased in our Nativity called *Busy, Busy Bethlehem*. We are truly grateful to all the parents for helping to make our Nativity a success by providing the costumes.

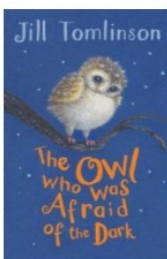
Was The Great Fire of London a total disaster?

English

We kick started the half term by writing poems about Bonfire Night. We used this opportunity to introduce the children to onomatopoeias. With the greatest of ease, the children started including these words in their other writing too! We then moved onto writing our own versions of the book *Toby and The Great Fire of London*. By incorporating adjectives, expanded noun phrases, similes, onomatopoeias and even adverbs, their stories were entertaining to say the least. We are very proud of the progress that they are making with their writing.



Whole Class Reading



We were really excited to read our first chapter book during whole class reading (WCR). We have enjoyed exploring new vocabulary and ways in which to effectively answer comprehension questions.

Maths

We continued to focus on improving our mental maths skills. The children faced a wonderful challenge of solving daily 'Barvember' worded problems during the month of November. This complemented our unit on solving worded problems by using bar and part-whole models perfectly. We then moved onto investigating shape where we learnt about symmetry, regular/irregular shapes and quadrilaterals.



Science/DT

After our thoroughly enjoyable DT Day in which we made Tudor houses, we took some time to reflect upon our designs and what worked well and what we would do differently next time. We learnt about many different inventors who made many prototypes before finally being successful.



Follow us on Twitter;

@HighwoodPrim2A @HighwoodPrim2W



Year 3 News

Miss Whight, Mr Allaway, Mrs Chintagunta, Mrs Nielsen

What did pre-historic people yabba dabba do?



Reading and Writing

Year 3 have enjoyed reading Clive King's 'Stig of the Dump' in whole class reading sessions. The children have been using their creativity to explore how they could create modern amenities using rubbish, just like Stig. In writing we have been looking at writing recounts of our trips to Blue Coats this term. These will be published ready for next year's classes to read before they venture off on the same trips. We will be moving onto humorous poetry for the last weeks of term.



Maths

This has been another busy term in maths, focussed mostly around addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. The children have been learning to use mental and written methods to answer increasingly complex problems involving all these operations. Parents who attended our SPLAT event will have seen this learning in action.



Science

This term we have been looking at nutrition and healthy eating. The children have been learning all about the different food groups and how to create a healthy, nutritious meal. They have been learning how different foods are used by the body by using ICT resources to research them.



Topic

This term we have been on two different trips linked to our prehistoric topic. We visited Blue Coats to learn how to survive in the wild. The children learned how to build fires by selecting the best pieces of wood they could find and arranging them in a triangular fashion. They also learned how to create small, weather proof A-frame shelters by laying large sticks on a frame before covering them in moss and leaves. In our second trip, the children visited a Geology department to learn more about different types of rocks. They were able to study them under the microscope, create plaster casts of fossils and even taste the saltiness by licking a few! This linked to our history learning where we looked at different prehistoric artefacts made from materials such as rocks.



Follow us on Twitter;

@HighwoodPrim3A

@HighwoodPrim3W



Year 4 News Autumn 2019 (Mr Pearce, Mrs Tindall and Mrs Shakeel)



What is More Precious—water or gold?

Welcome to the Autumn edition of the Year 4 news!

English - Newspaper and Instruction Writing

We began the term finishing off our newspaper writing from the last half term, pretending to be journalists covering the story of Howard Carter breaking into Tutankhamun's tomb. Following this, we looked at the mummification process and then wrote a set of instructions designed to help a novice Ancient Egyptian priest mummify a corpse! These instructive steps involved giving precise guidance so that steps were done carefully - such as how to take a brain out through a nose with care!

Topic - Science, Geography, History and DT

As scientists, we have been comparing animals native to the UK to animals native to Egypt and exploring how these organisms are adapted to their environment. We then looked at the habitat change facing hedgehogs and how human and environmental factors are impacting on the species. After that, we began our study of the human digestive system. At this very moment in time, we are writing a diary entry as a piece of food that has passed through the digestive system!

As geographers, we located where in the world the River Nile was and then investigated the stages of a river before then labelling a diagram and creating some dance moves to help us remember the stages!

In history, we investigated the mummification process to help us write our instructions before revising the importance of the Nile to the Ancient Egyptians in prepa-

ration for writing our Explanation Text in the final week.

Finally, in DT, we examined solid structures from history and evaluated how they were designed to be solid before designing and building our own structures.



Maths - Problem solving and arithmetic

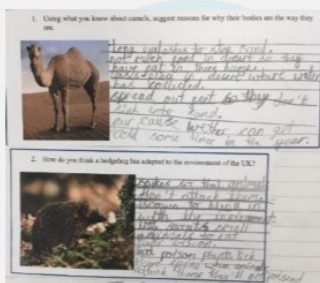
In maths year 4 have been learning how to add and subtract 4 digit numbers using written methods. We then went on to look at representing problems with bar models and using the inverse to check answers - that means no marking for Mr. Pearce! Well, not quite! Before this, we tackled the very tricky subject of commutativity and finding factors as well as practising our times tables every day!

Visits from Parents

I would like to say a massive thank you to all the parents that were able to make it to our Maths SPLAT day - I hope you all got a good insight into the demanding Maths the children are engaging with and watching them work impressively! I would also like to say a huge thank you to those parents who have joined us on Tuesday afternoons to read with your children. Unless there is a large whole-school event (like SPLAT), every Tuesday is an open invitation to parents and carers to drop in and read with your children so please feel free to come along if you haven't done so already at 15:00!

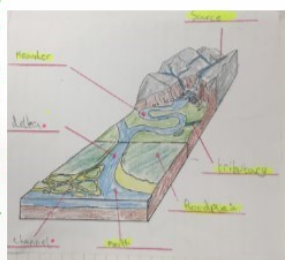
From all of year 4, we hope you have a wonderful Christmas.

Twitter: [@HighwoodPrimYear4](#)



1. Using what you know about camels, suggest reasons for why their bodies are the way they are.
Camels have humps to store fat. They have long legs to help them walk on sand. They have long eyelashes to keep sand out of their eyes. They have thick skin to protect them from the sun. They have a long neck to reach up to eat leaves. They have a long tail to swat away flies. They have a long nose to sniff out food. They have a long mouth to chew food. They have a long tongue to lick water. They have a long back to carry loads. They have a long head to see far. They have a long body to stretch out. They have a long neck to reach up. They have a long tail to swat away flies. They have a long nose to sniff out food. They have a long mouth to chew food. They have a long tongue to lick water. They have a long back to carry loads. They have a long head to see far. They have a long body to stretch out.

2. How do you think a hedgehog has adapted to the environment of the UK?
Hedgehogs have spiky skin to protect them from predators. They have a long nose to sniff out food. They have a long mouth to chew food. They have a long tongue to lick water. They have a long back to carry loads. They have a long head to see far. They have a long body to stretch out. They have a long neck to reach up. They have a long tail to swat away flies. They have a long nose to sniff out food. They have a long mouth to chew food. They have a long tongue to lick water. They have a long back to carry loads. They have a long head to see far. They have a long body to stretch out.





Year 5 News

Team: Miss Majer, Mrs Haden and Mrs Render

Has our Earth finished evolving?

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

English

During the second part of the Autumn Term, we focused on writing newspapers, linked to the moon landing. We looked at all the features first, introducing a new idea of relative clauses, before doing lots of drama and interviewing key players in the landing. Finally, we published our articles like real journalists do on the computer!

THE READING TIMES BACK FROM SPACE WITH A ZOOM!

Reported by: Holly
During the dark hours of yesterday on the 19th of July 2009-10 27pm, American astronaut Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin landed on the moon after a long three days in the Saturn V, Neil, who was the first man to step on the moon, was the 250th American, (Brian Jones King).
Prior to his landing, Neil was in a lifeboat in the ocean, the crew trained for many long years (over 100), taking special classes and preparing for any gravity. They were launched into space at JPL airport, Cape Kennedy, Florida with over 10 million citizens watching from launch. Buzz recently told reporters in the Earth's atmosphere that he felt very important and lucky to have such a supporting crew. Following in the Saturn V rocket, the 100th in 100 years around three to four days before eventually landing on the moon.
After landing on the moon's rocky surface, Neil made a small step, not knowing it would inspire many people. "One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind," Neil responded. During the moon landing, the Eagle malfunctioned because it was heading towards a large crater unexpectedly. Ignoring this malfunction, they safely made it on the moon, with no worries.
Within the time on the moon, the two were taking some of their time collecting individual samples of moon dust to return back to Earth. (Showerheads, Buzz and Neil couldn't enter the metal pads, missing the American flag. With a lot of perseverance, they finally and safely managed to place the flag. He wrote on the pad that was Neil Armstrong's Eagle (scientifically named the Lunar module) to head back to Earth safely and sound.
This is the first ever on the moon. But during the time, Neil really missed from his astronaut work but, he was determined to show his great passion. He became a professor. Also, the second man on the moon, also known as Buzz Aldrin, also visited from NASA for Neil, but continued to work as a manager for the US Air Force. Adding to that, Aldrin has also played an active role for two episodes of The Simpsons. The Big Bang Theory and in Transformers: Dark of the Moon. "I am so proud at my team for trying so hard, thank you, thank you for the change in our world!"



Science and Key Question Lessons

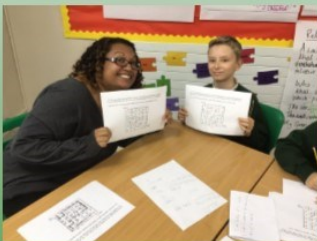


Continuing on with our Key Question of 'Has Our Earth Finished Evolving?' we moved on to look at space. We

spent a long time learning all about the planets, as well as how we get night and day and the Luna Cycle. Throughout our learning, we used practical resources to show our understanding and using what we learnt practically to write our explanations on how things

Maths

We've been looking at the four operations this side of half term, including looking at 'special numbers', such as prime numbers and factors. In nearly every lesson, we've used place value counters or multi-link to show our understanding pictorially first, before moving onto more concrete methods.



Our Maths SPLAT was also a massive success and everyone who came seemed to enjoy themselves!

worked, using scientific explanation. Our toughest debate on whether we thought the Earth was flat or spherical,



cal, but in the end we were able to make solid conclusions that the Earth is spherical, using real, scientific evidence.

It has been a super start to the year. We look forward to continuing this hard work after half term

Follow us on Twitter @HighwoodPrim5M



Year 6 News

Teachers: Mrs Raines and Mrs Chaudhary

Looking back over this Autumn Term, I can't believe how much we have learnt and done. We have continued to address our question '**Does Change Always Lead to Progress?**' through English, History, Science and the Arts. Year 6 would like to wish a Happy Christmas to all our families and friends.

PGL

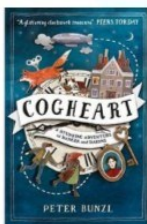


This half-term started off with the much anticipated trip to PGL Marchant's Hill. The children had a fantastic time enjoying the wide range of challenges. They were a pleasure to take away.

The children who stayed at Highwood, enjoyed a range of activities organised by Mrs Chaudhary. I was very impressed by their wonderful sewing.



English



We are thoroughly enjoying our whole class reading book 'Cogheart' by Peter Bunzl. It is an exciting adventure story that includes themes such as: what it means to be human; trust and betrayal; friendship and kindness.

In writing, we have used our knowledge of the Industrial Revolution to write biographies about influential men and women of the time, how their lives contributed to their successes, and how we benefit from their legacies today.

Maths

We have continued to hone our arithmetic skills and use them to solve mathematical problems. We loved learning about the order of operations, and were able to use BODMAS to solve number problems.

Science

In Science, we started off finding out about Darwin and how he developed his theory of evolution. We investigated how the different beaks of finches had adapted over many generations so that they were better able to survive on the food that grew on different islands of the Galapagos. We also studied the peppered moth, and how it adapted to the environmental changes of the industrial revolution.

Recently, we have begun to build on our knowledge and understanding of electricity. We have learned the scientific symbols for electrical components, and how these can be combined to make a circuit.



History

As historians, we studied the impact that railways had on the people of Britain. And asked, whether they were a change for good or bad?

PE

In PE with Mr Edwards, the children have been learning about fitness and how important it is to exercise as well as learning how to coach others in ball skills. In dance, we have been exploring what work was like for poor children during the Victorian Era.



Music

Through listening to John Adam's composition, A Short Ride in a Fast Machine, we learned how a piece of minimalist music uses repeated patterns to create effects. We then created our own class composition using a variety of pitched and percussion instruments.

Follow us on Twitter @HighwoodPrim6R



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

So another exciting term comes to a close in the Orchard! For those of you who were able to attend the coffee morning, I'm sure you'll have enjoyed the children sharing their work just as much as I did! I'd like to thank the staff for all their hard work across the term as well as thanking you as parents for supporting us in the work that we do to support your children. I wish you all a restful holiday and we'll see you all in 2020! Mr Bevan

Literacy KS1 - The Gruffalo



The KS1 children have enjoyed reading 'The Gruffalo' story and writing their own versions with an interesting selection of characters! We hope you enjoyed hearing their big book at coffee morning and sharing the Gruffalo crumble.

The KS2 children have continued the theme of Roald Dahl from last half term with 'The Twits.' We think you will agree they did a great job of reading out their character descriptions and acting out some of the tricks at the coffee morning!



Maths - Generalising Arithmetic, Exploring Shape, Reasoning with Measures



For Generalising Arithmetic, we have been able to mix groups to practise fluency, like matching numbers to make 20 and using bar models to solve word problems. The Y1s have enjoyed spotting shapes around the school while the older children investigated lines of symmetry and explored how to classify 2D and 3D shapes.



Follow us on Twitter @HighwoodPrimR



PE/Sports News

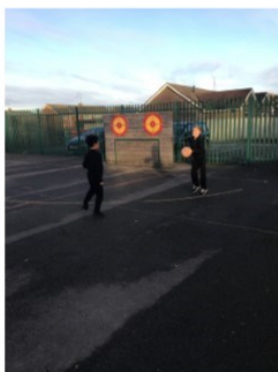
Mr Edwards & Miss Rowse

Welcome to the final half term "PE & Sports News Page" of 2019. 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 Six Nations Tag Rugby league and House matches. The development that has occurred this term in all lessons has been fantastic.



Year 2A have also had an extra session taking part in Dance lessons with Miss Coleman. 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.

This half term has seen the year 5s taking part in an extra PE session learning how to swim or improve existing skills in the pool. This has been a superb success with many children learning to swim several meters for the first time, all thanks to the amazing Mrs Hope. The behaviour and the bravery of the children has been impeccable. A huge thank you to Blue Coat School for continuing to support this vital life skill.

Lunch & After School Clubs:

This term we have had:-

Mondays: KS2 Netball with Mrs Majer

Tuesdays: KS1 Multisports lunch club and After school club with Mrs Inwards. KS2 Boys & Girls football club and KS2 Hockey Club with Mrs Weir after school.

Thursdays: House Competitions at Lunch, of which Falcons have just been crowned champions for the House Football completed last week. and KS1 & 2 gymnastics 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: Football.

Huge congratulations to the Falcons House for clinching the Football House Games title. With rain postponing a lot of the games, it took a little longer to complete. It was a close run league coming down to results in the last round.



Wokingham Primary School Football Association.

This half term we have been competing in the Wokingham District football league. We are currently in "League 3" battling with 3 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 working really hard to get a win against St Nicholas Hurst and a very close loss to Emmbrook.



We have also taken part in the 5/6 6 a side tournament with Reading Football Club. The boys had a very tough first league having to grind out results. In the afternoon, our second league proved a bit more of a level playing field. We were 30 seconds away from winning the league when a well hit shot from the opposition went in and we had to settle for runners up.



Boccia Team



PE/Sports News

Sports coach: Mr Edwards

Wokingham Schools 3/4 & 5/6 Sportshall Athletics.

This year we entered both the 3/4 and 5/6 event selecting 36 children in total. These children were selected based on their attainment in athletics in the summer term. All of the children worked so hard in their events which comprised of track and field events. We placed first in many of these. Unfortunately, due to the rules stating that if you attend without the minimum necessary athletes, you are disqualified! This was a shame as would have come 9th overall out of 22 in the 5/6 event and 15th out of 22 in the 3/4 event. The 5/6 boys would have actually placed 4th overall and the 3/4 boys 5th overall. A superb effort from all involved.



Wokingham Schools "Pan Disability Games"

My favourite event of the year saw 3 of our pupils playing Boccia at Bohunt School against 18 other schools, split into 3 leagues. Sammy, Ali & Jacob were inspirational in their efforts demonstrating superb accuracy and true professionalism which earned them 2nd position. We were absolutely thrilled.

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

Spring Term School Games

Hockey, Netball, Football etc friendly matches.

Outside School Achievements

Luci in year 5 has been competing in the UK dance finals with her dance crew "Urbanstylez". Luci has placed really well beyond all expectation with her solo placing 5th overall. Amazing achievement and we wish her well with her dance career moving forward. Hopefully she will be a champion next year!



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 all of the staff that help out offering extra curricular clubs to our pupils. We continue to provide the children with many opportunities within the PE/Sports curricular and extra curricular activities, it makes me very proud that we are able to do this. I would like to see more children involving themselves in the competitions and feeling pride that they have been selected to represent their school. It should be seen as an honour and a great fun opportunity outside of the normal day. Too many times have we suffered disqualification from events due to not having sufficient numbers but still taken part and tried our very best. The children make me proud everyday.

PE Kit.

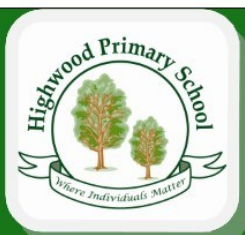
PE Kit required: - Shorts, Highwood PE T-Shirt, Black Plain Tracksuit, trainers.

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!

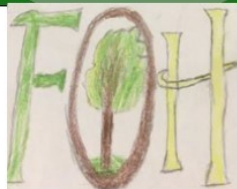
Please ensure your child has a plain black tracksuit consisting of both long trousers and a long sleeved top as it is too cold for them this time of year to be dressed in shorts and a t-shirt!

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





FRIENDS OF HIGHWOOD



Friends of Highwood

It has been an extremely busy half term for Friends of Highwood.

This half term was by far our busiest yet.

Have you seen the new benches in the KS1 playground? FoH donated towards the cost of the three. We hope in the spring and summer term the children will enjoy using them.



Every year FoH has always bought crackers for the children's Christmas dinner day. We wanted to reduce the amount of plastic waste that can occur from crackers. FoH and the school agreed that the children could make paper hats instead and we would fund the materials. We were so pleased that the children enjoyed making their hats this year for their Christmas dinner on the 4th of December. The end results were so impressive.

Our Jolly Jam Jar competition proved to be very successful this year. Well done Year 2W for donating the most Jars. We hoped you enjoyed the treats we sent to you. Look out for our next class competition in the new year.



A huge thank you to everyone who helped/came to our Winter fair this year. We raised over £1800!! The atmosphere in the school was wonderful and everyone appeared to be having a marvelous time. We are sorry that Santa had to go back to the north pole a little early this year. We will do our best to make sure he can stay for the whole event next year.



WE know that Foundation class still have their Christmas party to come. FoH have donated the funds to help Santa deliver the children a present this week.

Finally we would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas. FoH are taking a short break over the holidays to recharge. We will see you all in the new year. Look out for our next event.

Friends of Highwood (FOH)





Family Centre



It's been another busy term in the Family Centre.

The weekly stay and play sessions are running every Thursday morning from 8.55 - 9.30am. It would be lovely to welcome some new faces. If you would like to come along please just turn up and join in the fun!



There is also the monthly coffee morning and second hand uniform sale held on the first Monday of every month. After Christmas the first coffee morning will be held on 13th January. The Family Centre doors will be open and you can pop in once the children are in class.

There will be two courses running in the family centre in January. Both of these will be run by Wokingham Adult Education.

On a Tuesday from 9.30-11.30 will be an ESOL course. ESOL stands for English for Speakers of Other Languages. It starts on Tuesday 14th January and will run up to half term.

On a Wednesday from 9.30-11.30 will be 'Helping children with maths.' It starts on Wednesday 15th January and will run up to half term.

If you are interested in attending one of these courses you can come and speak to myself at school or you can contact Wokingham Adult Education on 0118 9743797 or by email on: adulteducation@wokingham.gov.uk

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 or pop your ideas into the family centre suggestions box, which will be in the office after the Christmas holidays, and I will see what I can do!





Governing Body News

Dear Parent and Carers,

Autumn term has been very busy!

This term the governors have:

Agreed a new co-opted governor, Kay Bridges. Her background in education is a great addition to the Governing Body.

Reviewed the school's actions against the School Development Plan (SDP) through the committee meetings.

Renamed the Teaching, Learning and Assessment committee to Quality of Education (QE), to reflect the change in Ofsted's focus.

Helped out at the Winter Fair. It was great to see everyone having a great time and we really enjoyed it too!

Update from Quality of Education Committee

The QE committee formed a project group to focus on 3 main areas in the SDP:

- Enhance the teaching of reading, to build on children's successful prior attainment in phonics
- Further develop writing at Greater Depth
- Strengthen mental arithmetic

The project governors have visited the school on many occasions and have also worked alongside the Local Authority during a recent book look exercise. This opportunity has given an insight into how the children's work evidences the continuing progress being made at Highwood. The Governors are also tracking a group of readers across the school this year to ensure progress is being made and the reading strategy is working. The governors are really enjoying listening to the children read, and their inquisitive questions during their chat afterwards.

Next Term

Moving into Spring term, we are planning for the next Governors day on 27th March.

We are really looking forward to this and we will keep you posted with our plans as we progress.

If you want to find out more information or have any questions, just check our page on the school website or email governor@highwood.wokingham.sch.uk

Have a wonderful Christmas break!

Highwood Governors

Diary Dates



DATE	EVENT	TIME
23rd December 2019 - 3rd January 2020	Christmas holidays	All day
Mon 6th January 2020	INSET DAY - SCHOOL CLOSED	All day
Tue 7th January 2020	Start of the Spring Term	8:45am
Thurs 16th January 2020	F2 Writing Workshop	3.30 - 4.30pm
Mon 20th January 2020	F1 Prime Areas Workshop	3.30 - 4.30pm
Thurs 23rd January 2020	Year 4 parent meeting for Swanage 2020	3.30 - 4.30pm
Thursday 13th February 2020	FOH Disco	Times to be advised
Friday 14th February 2020	INSET DAY - SCHOOL CLOSED	All day
Monday 17th to Friday 21st February 2020	HALF TERM - SCHOOL CLOSED	All day
Monday 24th February 2020	Start of second half of term	8:45am
Friday 28th February to Friday 6th March 2020	Book Fair in school	
Thursday 5th March 2020	World Book Day	
Friday 6th March 2020	Reports out to parents	
Tuesday 10th March 2020	KS1 SPLAT	1:30pm to 3:10pm
Wednesday 11th March 2020	F1 SPLAT (Nursery)	10:00am to 11:30am
Wednesday 11th March 2020	F2 SPLAT	1:30pm to 3:10pm
Tuesday 17th March 2020	Lower KS2 SPLAT (Years 3 & 4)	1:30pm to 3:15pm
Wednesday 18th March 2020	Upper KS2 SPLAT (Years 5 & 6)	1:30pm to 3:15pm
Wednesday 1st April	Year 3/4 Production	6.00 – 7.30pm
Thursday 2nd April	Year 3/4 Production	2.15 – 3.30pm
Thursday 2nd April 2020	FOH Easter Trail	After school TBA
Friday 3rd April 2020	Last Day of Term school closes at 1:30pm	1:30pm
Monday 6th to Friday 17th April 2020	EASTER HOLIDAYS	All day
Monday 20th April 2020	Start of the Summer term	8:45am