



Newsletter

Highwood Primary School Issue no.25

March 2017

'Where Individuals Matter'

Dear Parents/Carers,

The second half of Spring was only six weeks long but as you will read in this edition of the newsletter, your children have been involved in so many exciting learning opportunities in the short space of time. As the term has progressed, each class has been returning to the key questions raised at the start of this term to see what they have learnt since January. The questions each year group have been answering are:

EYFS - Why is the sky blue?

Year 1 - Will we play with the same toys when we are older?

Year 2 - What did Ghandi mean when he said 'Be the change you want to be'?

Year 3 - Can we survive without water?

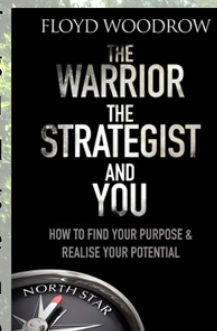
Year 4 - Has the invention of the aeroplane had a positive impact on the world?

Year 5 - What's the fascination with fairgrounds?

Year 6 - Does change always lead to progress?

It has been great to see the children having so much enjoyment with our new curriculum, particularly with their amazing efforts in their home learning that are brightening up our corridors - Thank you for your support with this. Your continued support of our SPLAT events have also been a highlight of the term and I know the children and teachers have really enjoyed the opportunity to involve you.

Like the children, this term has involved a large amount of professional learning for our leadership team. I attended a two day conference with Mrs Kearslake and Mrs Vaux looking at building partnerships and being in charge of our own destiny over the next few years. I am also currently reading a book called *The Warrior, The Strategist and You* by Floyd Woodrow who was one of the speakers on the second day. It is a book about achieving success and not deviating from your desired goals, regardless of any obstacles that are placed in your way. This is a great read in preparation for the challenging times that are on the education horizon and making sure that our vision for Highwood children remains at the heart of everything we do.



As you will be aware, there are many assessments taking place next term. I hope you and your family have a restful Easter break and that your children return ready to build on the progress they have made so far this year. Thank you for your support.

Matt Hickey
Head Teacher
@headhighwood



Foundation News

Mrs Robinson & Mrs Richards

Mrs Walker, Miss Richardson, Mrs Williams, Mrs Leigh,

Mrs Early, Mrs Pulvirenti, Miss Walker

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'. We started by learning the story and using the opportunity of climbing the beanstalk, to look at whether the 'Sky is blue' from up there. The children also had the opportunity to grow their own bean seed and care for and watch it as it grew.



The children were very excited when the 'Planetarium' came to visit. We watched an amazing show, showing us planets, stars, nebulae and the galaxy containing our solar system. Many of the children know the names of the planets in our solar system, that the moon is a satellite and the largest planet is called Canis Majoris.



F1 looked at the Jack and the Beanstalk story and then created their own version. F2 also explored and sequenced this story and looked at lots of different versions. We also looked at the elements needed for a good story.



The FS also joined in the fun of 'Red Nose Day'. A great well done to FS for raising the most money £120.57p and some of the children having the chance to face paint Mr Hickey.

The mud kitchen is now open for business, the children have been enjoying making mud pies, cakes and digging for worms.



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.



Year 1 News

Mrs Vaux and Miss Amor

All of our learning this half term has continued to be focused on our topic question 'Will we play with the same toys when we are older?'

This half term, in literacy, we have been writing to entertain, with the focus on story writing. The main book we have focused on is 'Little Red Riding Hood'. We've completed many tasks around the books including lots of different ways of retelling the story before writing the beginning, middle and end of the story.



When we wrote about the story we broke it down into a clear beginning, middle and end. We created story boards for each part and then every child individually wrote the story. The extra challenge was to include adjectives and time connectives where appropriate.



We continue to develop our phonics knowledge but now there is a large emphasis on spelling. We are encouraging all pupils to carefully consider which grapheme they use for each word. For example spelling like using the i_e split diagraph.

In maths we learned about fractions again focusing on finding a quarter of a shape and then a quarter of a quantity. The children loved exploring this concept and understood that when quartering you must have 4 equal parts that are the same.



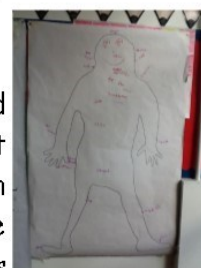
Following on from finding halves and quarters we learnt about directional language. The children learnt the terms, forwards, backwards, half turn, quarter turn and three-quarter turn.



They used the beetbots, directed their partner and created mazes to explore this concept.

Finally we have started to explore the concept of time. We have started by thinking about all of the language around time especially things that are important to the pupils like times in the day (lunch time), days of the week and months of the year. We have only just started this so will continue next term.

In science we have continued to learn about animals. But this half term we focused on humans as animals. We have learnt all about the body parts and explored in detail about our senses.



We wish you a happy Easter break, and will see you during the summer term!



Year 2 News

Mrs Eatwell, Mrs Moffat, Mrs Vickery, Mrs Kearney

Our learning has continued to focus on our topic title, 'be the change you want to see in the world'.

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. I am pleased to say that our Highwood Sharing Stories Project seems to have been a massive success so far, with all of the books being taken in the first week - thank you! We hope you are enjoying the selection of books. Any feedback would be greatly appreciated.



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 shape, Year 2 used song and dance to learn shape names and the properties of 3D shapes. Can they tell you any part of the 3D shapes song? Perhaps you can test

them at home!

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 others to use particular forms of Indian transport. They found out lots of facts about each one before writing their pieces. Many children came to the conclusion that a car may not be the fastest mode of travel and gave excellent reasoning which they supported with persuasive language. Well done! More recently, we have been focusing on a non-fiction text, 'The Flower.'



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 his point of view. Through this text, they produced some of their best work yet!



Science

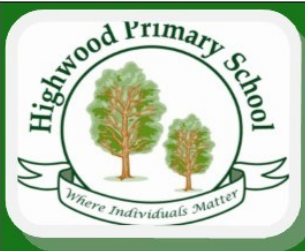
This term we have learnt all about animals and their habitats. The children have learnt about a range of habitats and the sorts of animals that live in them. We have also learnt all about the differences between things that are living, non-living and have never been alive. They can now explain the difference between different types of animals and explain the features of each. 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!



@Highwood
PrimYr2



Year 3 News - SPRING 2

Miss Abbott & Mrs Turnbull

This term has flown by and the children's hard work has been consumed by the Year 3 and 4 production.

We have still managed to squeeze in lots of other learning and the class as always have made me very proud!

Ancient Egyptians - Can we survive without water?

LITERACY

Linking with our topic on rivers, this term we have been looking at shape poetry. The children have looked at features of poems such as alliteration, repetition and similes. We wrote our own animal shape poems and then became poetry thieves as we took ideas from poems about rivers! Using a mind map we then wrote our own short poems about the journey of a river and presented them in the shape of rivers.



To help us answer the 'big question', Year 3 then learnt where water comes from as we found out about the water cycle. The children used drama and then used creative writing to tell 'the story of a raindrop'.



NUMERACY

This term we have focused on multiplication and have been learning how to use arrays to show multiplication and division calculations. The children used our brand new place value counters to make arrays for 1-digit x 1-digit and then began to extend their un-

derstanding to multiplying 2-digit numbers by 1-digit. Some children even began to use the grid method to multiply even larger numbers!



We then used maps to locate major rivers around the world as well as looking more closely at a river to find out about its features such as the source and mouth! Learning about the River Nile, took us right back to our topic and the children used a discussion technique called 'diamond 9' to consider which reasons were the most important for the River Nile.



This production was a huge undertaking and I'm so proud of all the children for all their hard work. Learning so many songs, dances and ac-

tions was quite an effort at times but it was a pleasure to see them taking so much enjoyment from taking part in such a fantastic musical!



TOPIC

To continue our learning about the Amazing Egyptians we used the wonderful Highwood tomb to explore mummification and to imagine we were the famous archaeologist Howard Carter. Discovering a mummy in the tomb helped us to write diary entries imagining we had found the famous mummy of King Tutankhamun!



Keep following us on Twitter to find out what other exciting things we are doing in Year 3!

[@HighwoodPrimYear3](https://twitter.com/HighwoodPrimYear3)



Year 4 News Spring 2 (Team — Mr Anderson, Mrs Tindall, Mrs Anil, Miss Rajput.)



We have been continuing to learn about flight and WW2 with a focus on writing and our question 'Has the invention of the aeroplane had a positive impact on the world?'

Literacy - WWII Story

This term we have been continuing with the WW2 theme and we have linked literacy to the History topic work, which has focussed on the Blitz and Evacuee children. The children then used the model text maps and learning loops to help them to plan, edit and improve their written stories. The children really thought hard about what it must have been like to live during these times as an evacuee, drawing upon last half terms book study and film. We are going to make a WW2 story book which anyone is welcome to come and read. The children have finished off the topic looking at and designing their own Propaganda War posters. We have looked at the meanings of the posters, their importance during this time and how they influenced people to join the war effort.

Maths - Fractions and decimals

In maths we have been learning about 'Fractions and decimals', there were lots of aspects which needed covering and the children have used many practical ways including the use of money to help them to understand the concepts of decimal places, tenths, hundredths and how they then link to fractions as parts of a whole. We have had a big push on the multiplication this half term and already we are seeing significant improvements. They also helped the children to grasp fractions and even simplify the fractions.

Science

In Science this half term we have been learning about the digestive system, looking at the role of the different teeth which we all have. We have learnt it as a journey of food and in the final week of the term the children will create their own digestive systems in order to make that end toilet product. Weirdly enough, the children have been excited about this all term. I will post photos on Twitter and the class page on the school website.

Music

In music the children have been learning to play the Trumpet with Mr Ransom from Berkshire Maestros, this will be continuing next term.



Joseph

The main event this half term which involved both Years 3 and 4 was that of the Joseph production. It took a real team effort, from support staff behind the scenes making scenery, costumes and helping to support with the singing.

We performed on three occasions, once as a dress rehearsal to the school, then an afternoon performance on the Tuesday and an evening one on the Wednesday. The children worked extremely hard to learn their words, some of the main roles had lots of songs to learn, but they pulled it off in true Highwood style and made everyone very proud indeed.



Miss Abbott and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who were involved no matter how small a part you took. Without your support the production would not have been possible, so thank you again!

Thanks also has to go to the parents for all of their support at home, learning lots of words and I'm sure those who came to watch the performances would agree that the children were fabulous and a true reflection of the dedication and wonderful attitude our children at Highwood have.



I would also like to mention the Flight homework this half term. The children have really taken pride in their homework and you only have to take a look at the art area just before the library to see the fantastic creativity and ideas which have taken place.

I look forward to seeing what our year 4 designers come up with next half term with the theme of castles.



We are looking forward to continuing with the 'Flight' topic next half term. Have a lovely Easter break.



Year 5 News

Miss Baker, Mrs Payne & Mrs Chaudhary

What's the Fascination with Fairgrounds? Part 2.

SPLAT

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend our SPLAT event this term. It was great fun to see such great creativity, team work and powers of persuasion - I was impressed by what was produced. All models will be on display in our DT gallery at the Highwood Fairground this week!



STEM

We had a fantastic opportunity to visit UTC Reading, attending a workshop which gave us a really interesting introduction to STEM (ask a



Year 5 pupil to tell you what this stands for)! The pupils worked in teams to complete different activities, including a pipe-works challenge run by Thames Water.



Later in the term, we were then visited by two engineers who came to talk to us about their jobs and to tell us more about engineering. The first, who was called Vicky, works for AWE and the second, whose name was Rory, works for Thames Water. They gave really interesting talks and we were able to ask them questions. Then, we created our own new inven-

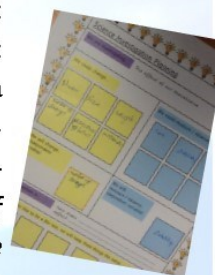


tions to be sent off to a Young Engineers competition. We can't wait to see if any of our entries are winners - keep your fingers crossed!



Science

In our learning about forces, we have been designing our own investigations to test air resistance. We designed 3 different parachutes, each with a different variation and then tested them to see which was the most effective. Some people tested the material, some tested the length of the string, some tested the size of the parachute - there were all sorts of different investigations. It was rather tricky to keep it a true fair test, ensuring that each parachute only had one difference - a true test of our science and maths skills! We enjoyed testing them from the wall bars in the hall! Come and ask what makes the most effective parachute.



Author Talk

More recently, we have been over to Bulmershe to meet the author, Joseph Delaney. He wrote the Spook's Apprentice series. Some children got a book signed by him too!



Have a great Easter holidays!

Follow us!



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PrimYr5



@HighwoodPrimYear6



Speech and Language Resource News

Mrs Godfrey, Mrs Kearslake & Mr Bevan
Mrs Eales, Ms Richardson, Mrs Wright & Mrs Henry

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 we have our own Twitter account @HighwoodPrimR if you want to keep up to date with everything that we're doing. Have a lovely Easter break and see you next term!

Willow News

Literacy



Calling all superheroes!

KS1 Resource have been using their creativity learning behaviour to write about their teddies, superheroes and our exciting trip to Legoland!

We have had lots of fun in guided reading this term including ordering stories and answering comprehension questions. We have even made popcorn along with Mum, Biff, Chip and Kipper.

Maths



Shape Detectives

In maths we have been identifying 2D and 3D shapes and giving directions using a Be-Bot. We are now confident with counting in 2s, 5s, and 10s with a 100 square and knowing some number facts for doubles and halves.



Maple News



Literacy

Literacy this half term has been all about writing letters for different purposes. We have written letters for entertainment and information, our latest venture being to write letters of persuasion. We have written to some of our parents asking for outrageous things, for example sleep overs and parties! We have also written to Mr Hickey asking for amongst other things a year 5 residential trip. Next term we will be moving on to adventure stories.

Maths



KS2 Resource have been working really hard again in Maths this half term and its all been really paying off! We've been learning all the names of the 2D/3D shapes and also making sure we can talk about their properties. Our times tables continue to improve with everyone managing to increase their score in our weekly "5 minute times table challenge"!

We're moving on to fractions after Easter if you want to start practising!



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 already but the summer term will be the best! Our topic for this term 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 will be looking at lots of non-fiction books and our role play area will be a doctors surgery. In science we will be 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 we will be looking at fictional superheroes. If you have any books or toys that we could use please send them in.



Year 1



We are just about to head into the final term of Year 1. The year has gone so fast and it has been fantastic to see how much the children have progressed. The whole of the summer term will be focused on 'Where do families and people go on days out?' Our literacy will focus on different books about outings to the seaside and the park, including the book 'When the crayons came home' by Drew Daywalt and Oliver Jeffers. In maths we will continue to learn about time and then learn about money. In science we will be learning about plants and weather. We are hoping to make a garden with flowers and vegetables, which we will hopefully eat (the veggies!) by the end of Summer 2 with a nice outdoor picnic.



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 Palmer. This learning will allow us to focus on instruction writing, comparative writing and writing to persuade. During this topic we will also be learning about measures and at the end of the year 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>The Stone Age is our summer topic, as we think about why Stonehenge was built? We will use maps to locate the famous stone circle and even enjoy a visit to the incredible site later in the summer term. As we find out more about the Stone Age we will discover how the ancient people lived and found food as well as how they chose settlements in order to survive. Linking to our science topic, the children will investigate and find out more about different rocks and soils as well as understanding light and shadow. In DT we will be creating our own puppets based on a Neolithic theme! In Maths, the children will be learning about shape and statistics. We will be looking at adventure stories in Literacy and then later on writing explanation texts about prehistoric animals!</p>
 <p>Year 4</p> 	<p>In Year 4 we will start with the question 'Why would someone build a castle here?' In Literacy we will be reading the book 'The Iron man', this will link nicely with Castles and armour and warfare, we will have debates on what the iron man should do and whether or not a castle should be build near to a village/town and choosing its best location, convincing each other that the castle should be built there.</p> <p>In maths we will be learning about shape and space, again this will have links to our topic, though designing castles. We will be making 3-D models of castles using area and perimeter and using our knowledge from last term on decimals and measuring.</p> <p>In D/T we will be making clay models of the Iron man using descriptions from the book.</p> <p>In music we will be collecting metallic objects from home to create a 'Stomp' style of music, composing music using tone from the different metals.</p> <p>In PE the children will be learning the rules and skills of cricket and athletic events, now that the weather has started to improve. In Science we will be looking at electricity and circuits again with a link to our Iron man and life in a castle without power.</p>
 <p>Year 5</p> 	<p>Our final topic of the year will comprise of many different subjects that will aim to answer the question: Are heroes and villains so different? We will study the play <i>Macbeth</i> by William Shakespeare, looking at how different characters are portrayed. We will create our own heroes and villains based on the story and write our own stories around them. We will also look at the poem <i>The Highway Man</i> and debate whether he was a hero or a villain. In history, we will learn about the Ancient Greeks, looking at the roles villains and heroes played in Greek mythology. Towards the end of the topic we will also look at how ancient Greece has influenced the western world. In science, we will learn about living things and their habitat 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</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 (8th May). Our first 3 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, "Who wants to be a millionaire?" 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. 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 Gymnastics, Basketball, Tennis & Tri-Golf.

Over the last 6 weeks we have been developing our skills in these games in preparation for upcoming tournaments. We have seen some great work over all of the school years and I am optimistic about Highwood Primary and their potential in these tournaments.

Year 3 have also had an extra session taking part in Zumba/Dance with my instructor Miss McNulty. 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 still working really hard in years 4 and 5 continuing the gymnastics development. The finale will be their "Gymnastics Show" where they are performing both floor and vault routines.

This half terms sporting stars in these lessons have been Falak & Alayna from year 3 Amelia in FS2, Adrian in year 5 & Hurun in year 4.

Lunch & After School Clubs:

This term we have had:-

Tuesdays: Year 1 & 2s Multisports lunch club. KS2 Tennis Club and Netball Club. A huge thank you to Miss Zmuda for her help running the Netball club. Both of these after school clubs are in preparation for competitions next and later this term.

Wednesdays: Zumba dance lunch club for KS2

Thursdays: Lunchtime Interhouse Competitions. KS2 Tag Rugby/Football Training after school.

Fridays: The "first come first served" lunch club where anyone can join in and play different games every week. KS1 Multisports after school club

I am continuing the "3 strikes" rule but a strike will only occur if there is not a valid reason for not attending the club.

Matches & Tournaments:

WPSFA 5/6 Football League.

Highwood have continued their progress within division 5 of the Wokingham League. This half term we have played Grazely Primary and narrowly lost 4-3 on what was a difficult pitch due to the previous nights downpour. We are due to play Sonning in our final game of the league on Thursday 30th March with both A & B teams in action. Please come along and support the children.

5/6 Netball Vs Hawkedon.

Our girls and boys that have been attending Miss Zmuda's after school club had the chance to pit their skills against Hawkedon. Refereed by Mrs Lappin the game was played out over 4 X 10 minute sessions with Hawkedon running out as winners and going through to the Wokingham Netball tournament. They get another go on Tuesday 28th at the Beechwood Festival Of Sport. We are sure they will do Highwood proud.

6 Nations Tag Rugby League.

This half term we have been involved in the next round of the Tag Rugby competition. The other teams in our tier are Emmbrook, Winnersh, Lowbrook, & Hawkedon.

The first round was played at Winnersh Primary where we came away with 2 wins and 2 narrow defeats. Our game was improving all of the time.

The next round was played on home turf at Highwood. This time our defensive and handling errors let us down but I was really encouraged by our girls.

We have the Playoff finals at Reddam on Friday 24th March. Fingers crossed for a good day.



PE/Sports News

Sports coach: Mr Edwards

Year 3/4 Tag Rugby Vs Lambs Lane

The year 3/4s that attend my after school club had their first match against Lambs Lane. We had a very enjoyable joint training session then a match to finish. Lambs Lane fielded 4 children that currently play rugby for a club and you could see from their running and handling that they were good. However, our Highwood children played really well and our defensive work was fantastic. It was a close match with Lambs Lane being the eventual winners 5-3. They will get to play again on Tuesday 28th at the Beechwood Festival Of Sport. I have high hopes for this team. Special mention must go out to Jodie in year 4 and Scarlett in year 3 for representing the school so well.



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 am pleased to announce that both Mia & Mahak from year 5 have been playing for the Reading AFC Girls team who are now in the cup final. We are all cheering them on to win the trophy.

I want to take a moment to mention to the children and parents about the value of representing the school. I feel this is a very important part of our make up and what makes us proud. We offer our children at Highwood more opportunities to represent their school than many other schools. Whether it be in sports, choir, fund raising, dance, stage performances and academic challenges. Lately we have noticed a drop in participation for representing the school which should be an honour to be asked. Going forward I am asking for parental support in encouraging the children to want to represent Highwood. I want a "have a go" attitude as I feel this will be rewarding for the children in the future. So come on girls and boys, "lets have a go"!

Next Half Term

PE Lessons:- Athletics & Cricket

Competitions:-

Yr 3/4 Tennis Red

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

Wokingham Cricket League

Invitational Games (Athletics)

Rounders & Tennis



Participation in activities outside of school is also important. Here is a picture of Rose in Year 2 who is an excellent climber and recently won an award.



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.



FRIENDS OF HIGHWOOD



Here we are at the end of another term. This half term we held a cake sale, thanks go to foundation for all the yummy donations. This is always a popular event, so look out for our next one on Friday 28th April.



We hope that all the Mums and Nans out there who received the mother's day mugs are just as pleased as we were. What beautiful artwork the children created for the mugs, and I'm sure you'll agree that they looked fantastic.

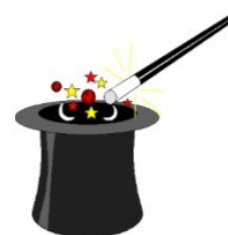
The Easter trail was successful again. The weather was not quite as warm and sunny as last year, but everyone enjoyed themselves just as much. It was lovely to see almost 100 children running around having fun. Plus all the children went home very happy with a chocolate bunny!



In total this term we have raised around £500, which I'm sure you'll agree is fantastic. We are pleased to have been able to use some of this to pay for the Foundation stage's Mother's Day celebration. We also sponsored the Year 3/4 production of Joseph and the Technicolour Dream Coat, by donating money for the license and costumes. I'm sure everyone who went to watch will agree that this was a fantastic show.



Next term we have booked an entertainer. His fun-filled 45 minute show will be a brilliant mix of hilarious comedy, circus stunts, puppets and amazing magic. Definitely one not to miss!



Thank you for your continued support.

We hope you have a fun and chocolate filled Easter!

Friends of Highwood





Family Centre



We have lots of different workshops and sessions coming up over the next term in the family centre.

Alongside our 15-week English classes, of which another has just started, we are very pleased that Bracknell and Wokingham college have offered us a 10 week Maths course for parents. As well as the brushing up on Maths course, this is a great way to support your child with their Maths work at Highwood.

We have our regular stay and play on a Tuesday morning 9-10.15am. This is for any parents or carers who have younger preschool children and includes toy, craft, a snack and a song session. It is a great introduction to the school for young children who will be attending in the future.

On 16th May we have a workshop for parents with supporting their child with anxiety. All children (and adults) experience anxiety or nerves at different points in their lives. This is a perfectly normal response to some situations, but can get out of hand sometimes. Come to our workshop run by trained counsellors and find out ways of supporting children when it can get a little out of hand and learn some strategies for helping children cope.

In May we will also be running some workshops for parents and carers on supporting children on preparing your child and supporting them with the transition to secondary school. Letters will be going home to all year 6 children after Easter which contains more information so please keep an eye out for these.

For more information about these, or any other sessions happening at the Family centre, please pop in or leave a message via the school office.

Please follow me on twitter – @HighwoodPrimPSA As well as keeping up to date with the latest sessions, I also often post up links to different ideas and activities to do with children.



PHOTOS

FS gardening equipment



Easter Assembly



FS/KS1 parents into school



KS2 parents into school



Comic Relief raised £500.06



Year 3 & 4 Joseph production





Reminders



ABSENCE

Please contact the school by 9.30am either by text on 0786 000 5083 or by phone on 0118 9265493 if your child is not well.

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



PARKING

No parking is allowed on the school site unless you are authorised to do so.



EARRINGS

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



MEDICINES

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



DOGS

No dogs are allowed on the school site.

Thank you.

ATTENDANCE

All requests for leave of absence must be made on the absence form available from the school office. Please see the Attendance Policy regarding Penalty Notices on the school website.

CYCLING

Please ensure that if cycling to school your child wears a bicycle helmet.



Mobile Phones

We currently have a significant increase in the number of mobile phones coming into school.

The guidance in the equipment section of our Uniform policy states:

Mobile phones should not be brought into school without the permission of the Head teacher



If you feel there is a need for your child to bring a mobile phone into school, please could you make a written request for Mr Hickey to consider.

Thank you for your understanding with this matter.

School Car Park



As you are aware, Highwood is expanding over the next few years and as a result there will be a significant increase in the number of staff working at the school. In preparation for this increase, we are reviewing parental access to the school car park.

In order to be transparent, we have devised a set of criteria that we will use to judge individual applications. If approved, parents will be allocated a parking permit which will need to be shown to our site controller when access to the school site is required.

Car Park Permit Criteria

Disabled badges	Parents will be permitted to access the car park, providing the person that is named on the badge is in the vehicle.
Volunteers	Any school volunteers will be allowed to use the car park on the day they are volunteering - a list will be kept in the school office of the agreed days for each volunteer.
Medical Needs	Children or adults that are temporarily incapacitated or experiencing medical issues can apply for a permit. The school will require confirmation from a medical professional that car parking assistance is required.
Breakfast Club / After-school Club	Parents accessing either facility outside of school hours have permission to park on the school site. This will be permitted prior to 8:30am and after 4pm
Exceptional Circumstances	This will be granted for circumstances approved by the Headteacher.

Unfortunately, parents requiring access due to having children in different schools, will no longer have access to the car park - This will include families accessing the Speech and Language Resource.



Diary Dates



Friday 31 st March 2017	Last day of the Spring Term
Monday 3 rd April to Monday 17 th April 2017	EASTER HOLIDAYS
Tuesday 18 th April 2017	Start of Summer Term
Friday 28 th April 2017	Year 1 & 2 Cake sale
Tuesday 2 nd to Friday 5 th May 2017	Children's Book week
Friday 5 th May 2017	Non-uniform day for book week
Monday 8 th to Thursday 11 th May 2017	Year 6 SATs week
Monday 15 th May to Friday 19 th May 2017	Walk to School Week
Friday 19 th May 2017	FOH Magic Show – more details to follow
Monday 22 nd May to Friday 26 th May 2017	Woodley Schools Sports Week
Monday 29 th May to Friday 2 nd June 2017	Half Term Holiday
Monday 5 th June 2017	Inset Day – School closed for staff training
Friday 16 th June 2017	Year 3 & 4 Cake Sale
Tuesday 27 th June 2017	KS2 Sports Day - morning
Thursday 29 th June 2017	KS1 Sports Day - morning
Wednesday 12 th July 2017	Year 5 & 6 Production - evening
Thursday 13 th July 2017	Year 5 & 6 Production - evening
Tuesday 25 th July 2017	Last day of the Summer Term
Wednesday 26 th July to Friday 1 st September 2017	Summer Holidays
Monday 4 th September 2017	INSET DAY – School closed for staff training
Tuesday 5 th September 2017	INSET DAY – School closed for staff training
Wednesday 6 th September 2017	Start of Autumn Term