



Newsletter

Highwood Primary School Issue no.24

February 2017

'Where Individuals Matter'

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to another edition of our half termly newsletter. Inside, you will see the next instalment of Key Questions being answered in each year group. The teachers are being encouraged to think of creative ways to link the topics in order to develop the enjoyment of learning. So far, the feedback from children is that our new curriculum is really engaging and making learning even more fun than usual.

Recruitment update - Deputy Headteacher

During the last few weeks I have shown around nine prospective candidates for the Deputy Headteacher position, which has resulted in eight application forms being submitted before the deadline. This is a really positive indicator of the exciting prospects that Highwood has to offer, now and in the forthcoming years. I have been extremely pleased with this level of interest, especially with how the teaching profession is going through recruitment issues particularly here in the South East. It will be a tough process but I am confident we will find the right person to help continue the school's improvement journey.

The governing body will be shortlisting candidates before the end of this term with interviews taking place on Tuesday 21st February.

Expansion Update

The design stage for the expansion has now been completed and the documents are due to go to planning at the end of this month. The Local Authority and architects will be organising a public consultation which will allow all local residents and families from the school to see the finalised plans and ask any questions they may have. The consultation is due to take place on Wednesday 22nd February from 3:30pm until 7:30pm in Highwood's main hall.

Thank you for your continued support - have a great half term break!

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 the half term with F1 going to the Arctic to look at the sky, investigate the ice, they even had their very own igloo! F2 made rockets and then took off in one to land on the moon to see if the sky was blue from space!



The children have been looking at shape and patterns. F2 have been learning how to describe a shape using its properties and have also begun to recognise number patterns. F1 have also been looking at patterns in their maths activities.



F1 looked at rainbows in the sky and then explored 'The Rainbow Fish' story. F2 also explored and sequenced this story and created their own book to take to space to show their alien friend.



The Foundation Stage children have all been practicing Sign2Sing which helps raise money for the 'Deaf Health Charity—SignHealth' The children have really enjoyed taking part!

A huge well done to our VIPs who have won their bronze star for being fantastic pupils and great role models in the school.



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

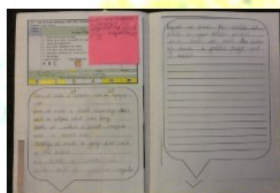
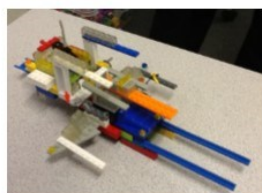


Year 1 News

Mrs Vaux, Miss Amor and Mrs Ashby

All of our learning this half term is 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 inform with the focus on writing to persuade. At the beginning of term we created Lego models in pairs and then we have spent the term writing why Lego models are fantastic.



After this piece of writing we have focused on how to write a letter. We are writing a letter to Lego head quarters persuading them to send us some free Lego to help us with our school project. Throughout all these pieces of writing we have continued to work on having capital letters, finger spaces and full stops in each sentence. However, there has been a huge emphasis on making our sentences more interesting using a wider range of vocabulary. In particular we have focused on using adjectives to describe the noun, time connectives and using the word 'and' to join two simple sentences. We continue to develop our phonics



knowledge with a clear emphasis on spelling words with the correct sounds. For example, before the children may have written the word play like this—plai.

Next term we will build on this by writing to entertain and the focus will be on story writing.

In mathematics the children have improved their number sense by practising counting backwards from 100 and counting in 2s, 5s and 10s. We used music, cubes, our shoes and anything but hands to practice counting by 2s, 5s and 10s. This is still a work in progress but the children understand that counting in 2s, 5s and 10s helps counting bigger amounts faster. We learnt about doubling numbers, odd and even numbers, and fractions. In fractions we have



learnt about half of an object, shape and then amount. The children understand that a half means splitting a whole into two equal parts that

are the same. Next term we will be focusing on quarters and continuing to learn to count in 5s and 10s, along with learning about arrays and money.

In science, At the beginning of the term we continued our materials topic and conducted an experiment about why plastic is the best material for Lego. The children loved this and had lots of fun! The rest of the term is based on animals including humans. So far we have learnt about different animals and the 6 main animal groups. We have been sorting animals into those groups and understanding the characteristics of each group type.



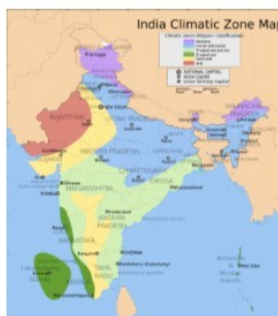
We thank you for your support in reading with your child at home and for helping them to complete their homework. We have had 100% of the class complete their homework every week! More and more children are reading 4 to 5 times a week, This will ensure they continue to make good progress!



Year 2 News

Mrs Eatwell, Mrs Vickery, Mrs Moffat, Mrs Kearney

Our learning this half term is focused on our topic title, 'be the change you want to see in the world'. During this topic we have been looking specifically at India.

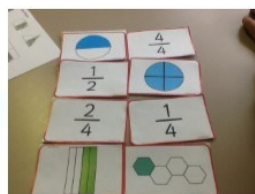


This half term, in literacy we have been writing to inform with the focus on writing to persuade. At the beginning of the term we learnt all about different types of Indian transport. The children looked at the similarities and differences between them and used

adjectives and adverbs to describe them and how they move.

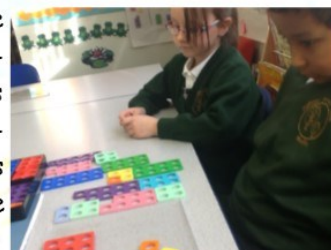
Following on from this, the children have designed their own Indian transport using their ICT skills. They then used what they had learnt to describe their own transport. Using their descriptions, the children wrote persuasive arguments to try and convince me that I should use their transport.

During this work, the children learnt about questions, ex-
clamations and commands as well as how to use conjunctions, such as when, and, but, because. Throughout all these pieces of writing we have continued to work on having capital letters, finger spaces and full stops in each sentence. However, there has been a huge emphasis on making our sentences more interesting using a wider range of vocabulary. We continue to develop our phonics knowledge with a clear emphasis on spelling. We are also doing weekly spellings to teach words that do not use phonics. Next term we will be building on this by writing to entertain and the focus will be on story writing.



In mathematics the children have learnt about doubling numbers, odd and even numbers, and fractions. In fractions we have learnt about halves,

quarters and thirds of an object, shape and then amount. The children understand that when we split a shape or amount into fractions, each part must be equal. Next term we will be continuing to learn about fractions. We will move on to finding multiple fractions of amounts. For example two quarters of 12 instead of one quarter.



In science, the children have been learning about animals and their habitats. So far we have learnt about different animals and four main types of different habitats, including, grasslands, deserts and the polar regions. We have looked at the conditions in each habitat and why it is suitable for the animals which live there. The children have drawn an animal in the correct habitat and explained why it is suitable.

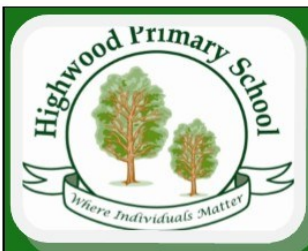


We thank you for your support in reading with your child at home and for helping them to complete their homework. More

and more children are reading 4 to 5 times a week, This will ensure they continue to make good progress! The attendance of the class has been fantastic so far this term and we have won the attendance award 3 weeks in a row!



[@HighwoodPrimYear2](#)



Year 3 News

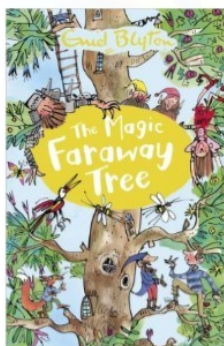
Miss Abbott & Mrs Turnbull

The children are absolutely loving our new topic and showing so much creativity and curiosity as they find out more about the intriguing Ancient Civilisation. They should be so proud of all their hard work this half term.

Ancient Egyptians - Can we survive without water?

LITERACY

Our literacy unit this term is writing to entertain with a focus on stories set in imaginary worlds. The children have showed lots of curiosity when they questioned 'what makes an effective imaginary world setting' and have demonstrated their creative skills as they designed their own imaginary characters linked to our Ancient Egyptian topic. The class are also enjoying listening to the story of the 'Magic Faraway Tree' as they find out more about features of stories set in Imaginary worlds.



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HISTORY

One of my favourite topics, Ancient Egypt, has allowed the children to delve deep into this fascinating era of history. We started off by consolidating our map skills by using atlases to find out more about the geography of Egypt. Next we used a timeline to find out when Ancient Egypt actually happened. Our first visit to the Highwood Tomb allowed Year 3 to understand more about Ancient Egyptian artefacts as they took on the role of archaeologists searching for old relics in the sand.



Using iPads, the children were able to find out about each item they found and then produced fact files.



Later on the children learnt about Ancient Egyptian society



as well as enjoying hunting for clues about the Gods and Goddesses before they made brilliant learning posters showing what they had found out.



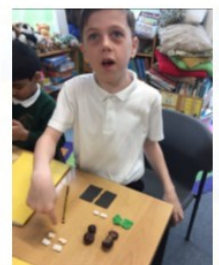
Keep following us on Twitter to find out what we will discover in the Tomb next time as well as all the other exciting things we are doing in Year 3!

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

NUMERACY



The children have worked very hard in Maths this term to understand the tricky concept of fractions. We started by looking at what a fraction is by finding out that they are part of a whole or a group. By using equipment the children had fun experimenting and finding



fractions of shapes, numbers and even jelly-beans! Helping us to understand about equivalent fractions, the children made their own



fraction walls before they then started ordering, comparing and adding fractions! On top of all this super challenging maths, the children have also been learning and recalling all the units of time as well as continuing to recall their times tables facts!



Year 4 News Spring 1 (Team — Mr Anderson, Mrs Tindall, Mrs Anil, Miss Rajput.)



Welcome to the Spring 1 edition of the Year 4 news! It has been a short term but a rather busy one. We have been learning about flight and WW2 with a focus on Douglas Bader.

Literacy - Friend or Foe

This term we have been reading the book 'Friend or Foe' and watched the film 'Goodnight Mr Tom'. There are lots of similarities as they both show what it was like to be a child in the war as well as the kinds of things a child would have to endure as an evacuee. They wrote comparisons as part of their writing to inform, this will lead to the children planning and writing a wartime story after half term which will focus on writing to entertain.

I have been very pleased with the impact of my learning loops display. The children use it regularly to see what their next steps to learning will be and use it to help them gather ideas from others work and the WAGOLL –What a good one looks like.



Maths - Time

In maths we have been learning about 'time'. There are lots of aspects which needed covering, past and to, 12 and 24 hour clock times.

We are using timelines and working our travelling times as well as going through the hour when adding on time, converting analogue to digital as well as looking at Roman Numerals.

The children have also enjoyed many interactive aspects to learning time with the interactive smart board and the classroom Time display.



History

We have been finding out about the invention of flight and discussed the question 'Has the invention of the aeroplane had a positive impact on the world?' The children have discussed the positive aspects as well as the negative ones, which proved to be really interesting, the ideas are still displayed in the classroom. We also looked at the Wright brothers and how they invented flight and we have been writing biographies of local hero Douglas Bader.

Music

In music we have started to prepare for our Lower KS2 production. Miss Abbott is working hard with the children and has auditioned them for their parts. Mr Anderson has been working through a few songs at a time, we would be grateful if you can learn some of them at home as well during the half term.

ICT - The Children have been using the Hour Of Code software to work through tasks set by Mr Anderson. This will lead to the children being confident



when we use the Scratch coding software as it has similar aspects to that of the Hour to Code.

PE

In PE we have been learning lots of gymnastics moves and have been improving our routines both as individuals and as part of a group. We have been performing gym moves on the mats and on the gymnastic apparatus.

Outside we have been playing hockey and learning the various skills to control the ball and the key skills of defending, attack and positioning.

We have also had the opportunity to join Miss McNulty for Zumba dance each week, so as you can see the children have had lots of exercise despite the bad weather.

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

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



Year 5 News

Miss Baker, Mrs Payne & Mrs Chaudhary

What's the Fascination with Fairgrounds?

All the fun of the fair

To begin answering this term's key question, we decided to immerse ourselves in what it is like at the fair! We used fairground images and sounds to role play a day at the fair, taking our friends on guided tours of the different attractions. We used this as inspiration to create our own fairground-themed classroom! We



have carousel horses, pink candy-floss and brightly-coloured bumper-cars. We have also begun our fairground construction, building models of Ferris wheels to learn about how they work.

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Fairground poems

A big part of our English learning this half term has been around poetry. We have learnt about different poetic techniques, such as similes, metaphors and onomatopoeia. We have learnt different poems to recite by heart with actions and appropriate volume and intonation. Have you heard of a haiku poem? We created our own Haikus, following the 5, 7, 5 syllable pattern. You can see them displayed in our classroom!

After this, we looked at a poem about a roller-coaster ride. We used a video to make it look like we were on our very own roller-coaster inside the classroom! It didn't seem as fast as in real life though. After analysing the poem, we used it as

inspiration to write our own, longer compositions, tying together all the poetry skills we had acquired. Trying to learn these by heart was more tricky, but we still shared them as a class with some very entertaining performances!

Cool Carousels!

Although there is LOTS more fairground model construction to come after half term, we began our work in Design & Technology by making moving models of carousels, which were controlled by string and used cotton reels to provide vertical rotation. The task required the use of many learning behaviours, especially team work and perseverance. It was fantastic to see different people working together to achieve success - and then see these people supporting others. All of these skills can be refined and re-applied to the next model design!



Funfair at Highwood

An important date for your diary: We would like to invite all parents and families to our very own Highwood Funfair. It will be held on the afternoon of Thursday 30th March. Times and further details will follow closer to the date. We hope to see as many of you there as possible!

Follow us!



@Highwood
PrimYr5



Year 6 News

Mrs Raines & Mrs Haden

Changes: Does Change Always Lead to Progress?

English



We started the term reading, learning and studying 'Pandora's Box', and how Pandora's deed changed humanity for ever. We thought how we would behave if we were given a parcel but were told not to open it. Although most of the children were tempted to open it, they were then very unforgiving of Pandora when she opened the box!



We used the story to inspire our writing. We retold the story from Pandora's point of view; we wrote a character description of Epimethius; we pretended to be Epimethius and wrote a letter to Pandora either forgiving her for her deeds, or (in the case of most of the children) demanding a divorce!

We held a book-tasting session, when we tried different books just to see if we could make a change to what we usually read.



Maths

In maths we have continued to practise our arithmetic and have improved the speed and accuracy of our calculations. We then moved on to learning about fractions (fractions of numbers, equivalent fractions, adding and subtracting).

Topic—The Industrial Revolution



Before we started to study the industrial revolution, we looked at what Britain was like before. We looked at paintings of the English landscape before

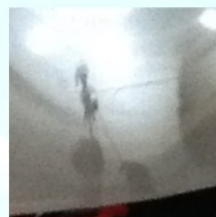
1750, and used these to create our own landscape pictures.

We are now beginning to carry out our own research on an aspect of change in the industrial revolution. The children are working on a variety of projects including: changes in technology and transport; the effect of change on housing and cities; the lives of children who worked in factories.

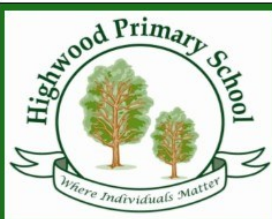
Science



In science, we began the term by learning about light: how it travels, how shadows are formed, how we see reflected light. We then used our knowledge to create shadow puppets which we used to retell the story of Pandora's Box.



[@HighwoodPrimYear6](#)



Speech and Language Resource News

Mrs Godfrey & Mrs Kearslake

Mrs Eales, Ms Richardson, Mrs Wright & Mrs Henry

We are not officially half way through the school year! What a scary thought! I really enjoy this term each academic year as you get to see the children really starting to build on their learning from the Autumn term and become much more confident in class. Thank you to all those parents who were able to drop in for our coffee morning. If you missed it don't worry as there will be another one in the summer term.

Willow news

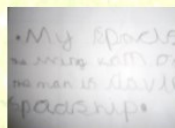
Literacy



Perseverance and Independence have been the name of the game in literacy as we have been working hard to find 'special friends' (2 or more letters that make one sound) in words for phonics, reading and writing. Can you find the special friends in these words:

light, coat, rain, leek?

We have been using our sounds to produce some brilliant writing about The Gingerbread Man and Lego. Next half term we will be writing about superheroes and teddies.



Maths



In Maths we have been counting everything in 2s! We counted 2p coins to pay for things in our

class shop. We have also been finding half of junk boxes, shapes and numbers.

Maple news



Literacy

Buy your delicious burgers here!!!

Be sure to ask your children what they did their advert on. We used our ICT skills to design an advert for a juicy burger or a delicious pizza. We used some descriptive words for 'tastes nice' ending up with words such as yummy, scrumptious and mouth watering!



We also attempted to put our best friend up for sale thinking about what makes a good

friend and the attributes they need. I hope you have seen some of their work as they printed one off to take home!!

Problems Problems Problems...!

This half term has been very much based on problem solving in our maths lessons. It's an area that can often be really challenging for all children so I was especially pleased with the attitudes of all the children when working on this.

We've started to learn about the 'Bar Model' approach to problem solving as well which is a really good strategy once the children understand how powerful it can be in helping them understand the question!



PE/Sports News

Sports coach: Mr Edwards

Welcome to the first "PE & Sports News Page" of 2017. I will 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 game of Hockey.

Over the last 5 weeks we have been developing our skills in this game especially Key Stage 2 using the flat side of the stick to better use. We have seen some great work over all of the school years especially our FS2 class who have found their introduction to hockey incredibly exciting.

Year 4 have also had their extra session taking part in Zumba/Dance with Miss McNulty.

I am also continuing to teach the indoor PE to years 1, 4 and 5 which has included gymnastics. This has given me the opportunity to assess all children in their balance, strength, shape and agility. There has been some incredible progress throughout the age groups. I have also introduced a little "Freestyle" into the lessons to add a new dynamic and challenge. What has also been a highlight of this half term has been the effort and enthusiasm from many of the children.

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 later this term and next term.

Wednesdays: Zumba dance lunch club for KS2

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

Fridays: The "first come first serve" 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.

Spring 1st Half Term Matches & Tournaments:

Wokingham Primary School Football Association.

This half term we have started our campaign within League 5 of the Wokingham District football leagues. We have now completed 3 out of the 5 games that we need to complete by the end of term. Each fixture that has been arranged I have always invited our opposition to bring along a B team so that I can give as many of the footballers as possible a match. Unfortunately not all of the schools have a B team. The good news that came from the WPSFA committee meeting last week is that there is to be a "Development team tournament held at the Madjeski pitches in the near future. I have of course stated our interest in attending this event. So far our results have been:-

Highwood A Vs Aldrynton A 2-1 Win

Highwood B Vs Aldrynton B 1-5 Loss

Highwood A Vs Lambs Lane A 2-3 Loss

Highwood A Vs St Teresa's A 0-6 Loss



Wokingham Schools New Age Kurling:

One of my favourite events of the year is the New Age Kurling competition. This is always one of the most exciting games and never disappoints to deliver a competition played in a brilliant atmosphere. Highwood players took part in a game they had never played before. I was immensely proud that they came in 3rd place out of 6 schools who had clearly played the game before. However, we may go better next year due to our latest purchases that are highlighted later in the newsletter!





PE/Sports News

Sports coach: Mr Edwards

Next Half Term

PE Lessons:- Basketball, Golf & Tennis

Competitions:-

WPSFA League 5:-

Friday March 3rd Grazeley A Vs Highwood A 3.30pm KO

Thursday 30th March Highwood A & B Vs Sonning A & B
3.30pm KO

Six Nations Tag Rugby:-

Friday 24th February @ Winnersh Primary 2pm KO Friday
10th March @ Highwood Primary 2pm KO Friday 24th
March @ Beechwood Primary 2pm KO

Wokingham Schools Yr 5/6 Hi-5 Netball Qualifying

Monday 27th February @ Bulmershe School Starts
1.30pm

Fundraising results. A huge thank you!

With the government placing such a huge emphasis on sport since the Olympics of 2012, it is so important that we continue to give the children the best possible opportunities to experience as many different sports within their time at Highwood. I am very passionate about this and my company philosophy is that we ensure the children experience a broader range of sports than any other primary school. Not every child is a footballer, athlete or rugby player. There are many more games to play.

However, to achieve this, you need the equipment which is very expensive. This led to an idea of fund raising which is where you and the Team GB Athlete Kola Adedoyin came in. The children loved his assembly, they loved working out with him in the circuits and I loved seeing the final total that was raised from that day! As a school we raised a total of £687.90. This was a phenomenal amount of which I am so very proud. This has enabled me to investigate and purchase new kit which can be used by all

children including children with disabilities and requiring extra support. This is of upmost importance when looking at increasing our participation rates for children in sport. Thank you for your support.



Mr Edwards Message For The Term.

We have crammed a lot in this short half term! I am pleased to announce that both Mia & Mahak from year 5 have made their debuts in the Woodley United Girls team. Ethan, their coach, has told me how well they are both playing with Mahak getting player of the match only last week.

Please also look out for the PE grades and comments that are within your child's reports.

My last newsletter focused on the children having the correct PE kit and thank you to parents there has now been a large increase in tracksuits being worn in the lessons. However, there were many days in January that had frost and snow but still there were children out in just shorts and t shirts. With a colder forecast for February the need will be greater!

PE Kit required:- Shorts, Highwood Green PE T-Shirt, Black Plain Tracksuit, trainers. (Gloves and beanie style hat recommended) No Earrings!

We are continuing my "Model of the day" where I select children with 100% perfect kit on, take their photo in a model pose and give house points. I thank you again for taking the time to read my newsletter and I look forward to seeing you all after the half term break.

Mr Edwards



Highwood ICT News



Welcome to the Spring edition of ICT news at Highwood school. The aim is to give you some advice regarding ICT at our school and to keep you informed of the latest developments.

Phone App

I have included information about the phone app for a second time for those new parents to the school.

Highwood Primary School has a mobile app! It is designed to keep you well informed about your child's education and life in general at school. You can find out about the latest news, events, curriculum information and contact details all from the comfort of your smartphone or tablet. It has been developed with the smaller screen in mind and is very easy to use and navigate around.

If you have any questions regarding the app, or any features you feel would enhance it, please leave your ideas with the school office.

How to download the app

You can get the app if you have an Apple or Android phone and/or tablet. There are two ways:

1. Click on one of these links in an email or text on the device itself:

[Highwood Primary School app \(Android\)](#)

[Highwood Primary School app \(Apple\)](#)



2. Or visit the Apple app store or Google Play on your device and search for "Highwood Primary School".

You may download the app onto multiple devices but will need to install separately on each one.

Coding club

Coding club has been a great success, 20 children meet with Mr Anderson every week to learn about various aspects of coding. It has proved so popular that we have enough pupils to fill another session on the waiting list. There will be an opportunity next term for those children who are still expressing an interest at that time.

I would also like to welcome our new 'Digital Leaders' from year five, they were involved in many aspects of coding last year from the club to that of the Cluster coding day at Bulmershe which will be going ahead for the current Year Four pupils later in the year. There will be details to follow next term.



We will be continuing our relationship with the Bulmershe School ICT department. There will be opportunities for the children in the coding club to join children from Beechwood Primary, to receive further support from Bulmershe students, as well as a hands on approach to using some of the latest technology control units, such as the BBC Micro bit.

Parents Coding Evening

As part of our school commitment to supporting parents, I would like to hold a session one evening in March in supporting parents with coding. There will be both an explanation of how we use code in school both on the PC's and iPads and there will be an opportunity to try out some of the software for yourselves.

Both myself and Kat Belcher have decided that this is an area of schooling that wasn't available previously due to the technology available then.

We hope parents will sign up for the hour long session as this will help you to provide support at home and have an understanding as to why it is taught in schools.



Twitter

The teachers at Highwood are very proactive with their class Twitter accounts. You can keep up to date with what is happening in your child's class, messages, work, photos and events.

You don't even have to be a member of Twitter to access this either. You can go to the school website and following the tabs to your child's class page you can click on the Twitter feed which is embedded into it and click on what you are interested in.



It is another great way of keeping informed and up to date on what is happening in each class. There are photos of work, video and even comments by the children about their work.

Search **HighwoodPrimyr__** and type in the number of the class after yr. e.g. **@HighwoodPrimYr1**

For foundation type FS.



FRIENDS OF HIGHWOOD



This has been a quieter half term for the Friends of Highwood after a busy Christmas term! We enjoyed hosting a film night that over 80 pupils came to. Thank you to all those who came and we hope you had fun watching Finding Dory with all your friends.



We are in the process of arranging a Mother's Day project. The children are designing a mug within school. These designs will be sent home with an order form. If you would like to purchase one of these lovely personalised mugs for Mother's, Grandmother's or anyone else then send in the form with your payment and we will order the mugs to arrive in school before Mother's Day.

Following last year's success we will again be running the Easter Trail. The children run around trying to find all the pictures then are rewarded with a yummy chocolate treat. This will be going ahead after school on Friday 17th March. Pre-booking is required for this fun event so please look out for the form.



We are also planning to hold cake sales on the 3rd March, 28th April and 11th June. Our last sale raised just over £50.

The money we raised has sponsored the rugby team by supplying the new kit for them to wear to matches. Doesn't it look great!



We will also financially support the Foundation Stage Mother's Day project and the Year 3 & 4 play next half term.

Thank you for your continued support. We hope you have a good half term holiday and look forward to seeing many of you at our events next half term.

Friends of Highwood





Family Centre



As usual we've had a busy half term in the Family Centre. As well as our usual Tuesday morning stay and play sessions, we've had drop ins, craft sessions and our English course.

We have lots more coming up too. As the English course comes to a close, we are very pleased that Bracknell and Wokingham college will be able to run this free 15-week accredited course again, or an extension of the course that has been running. For more information, please attend our assessment and information session on Tuesday 21st February from 9am - 11am.

We will also soon be running a free 10 week accredited Maths course – please keep your eye out for details of our information and assessment morning.

On Thursday 16th March from 5.30pm - 6.30pm, Mr Anderson will be running a coding workshop for our parents and carers. Coding is an important part of the school curriculum and this session is aimed at demystifying coding and giving you ideas and ways of supporting your children at home with coding.

In addition, we have a session in March on identifying and supporting your child with anxiety. This session is run by trained counsellors and is aimed at identifying anxiety and strategies of how you can support your child to successfully manage anxiety.

Adult learning will be running a programme for us in June on preparing your child and supporting them with the transition to secondary school. This programme covers a wide range of topics on how to support your child emotionally and practically in the transition to secondary and we are very excited to have the opportunity to run it at Highwood.

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.





Governing Body

Rehan Kamal - Co-opted Governor

As part of a continued drive to make the school's governing body more visible and accountable to parents, I wanted to let you know a bit more about how the governing body operates and my specific role within it.

I've been a governor for just over a year, and it was actually something I've wanted to do for a long time. I enjoyed my time at primary school (what I remember of it!) and at one point wanted to become a teacher myself. My mum was a primary school teaching assistant for about 25 years, my dad was a primary school governor and I married a primary school teacher, so I guess something like this was always on the cards! As for Highwood, my wife taught at the school for 10 years and we have a son in Year 2, so I've had a strong connection to the school for quite a while.

I currently act as Chair of the Resources Committee. The committee is in place to ensure the school's resources are managed efficiently and effectively, in order to enable the school to provide the best possible education for every child. By "resources", we primarily mean the school's finances, but also its buildings and facilities. Both of these factors will take on an even greater importance over the next couple of years as the school goes through its expansion.

The committee also plays a role in promoting the well-being of every member of the school community, as well as promoting a positive image of the school to parents and the local community.

Chairing the Resources Committee in my first year as governor has been a little daunting, but also a challenge I'm really enjoying. I have a fair few years of finance experience to call upon as a qualified accountant, so hopefully this experience will serve the school well. It's also been great working with our school's Business Manager, Mrs Edwards, who herself has plenty of experience in directly managing the school's finances and budget.

If you would like to get involved with the governing body of Highwood, whether you feel you have skills or contacts that could benefit the school, or even if you have any questions or concerns, then please don't hesitate to talk to us if you see us or email us at governor@highwood.wokingham.sch.uk

In the meantime, enjoy your half-term - hopefully it will be a little less cold and wet when school returns!

Rehan Kamal

Chair, Resources Committee - Highwood Governing Body





Diary Dates

Friday 10 th February 2017	INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED
Monday 13 th February to 17 th February 2017	HALF TERM HOLIDAY
Monday 20 th February 2017	Start of second half of term
Wednesday 1 st March 2017	Year 1 & 2 Joint Class Assembly – 2:30pm (new date)
Thursday 2 nd March 2017	FS & KS1 SPLAT (parents into school) day – afternoon
Friday 3 rd March 2017	Reports to be sent home Foundation Stage Cake Sale
Monday 6 th March 2017	KS2 SPLAT (parents into school) – afternoon
Wednesday 8 th March 2017	Year 5 class Assembly – 2:30pm
Thursday 16 th March 2017	Coding workshop for parents – 5.30pm to 6.30pm
Friday 17 th March 2017	FOH Easter Trail
Tuesday 21 st March 2017	Year 3 and 4 Production – afternoon performance
Wednesday 22 nd March 2017	Year 3 and 4 Production – evening performance
Thursday 23 rd March 2017	Year 2 trip to the Gurdwara in Reading
Friday 24 th March 2017	Year 1 Trip to Legoland Comic Relief/Red Nose Day
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 the Summer Term

Significant Forthcoming events

Tuesday 27th June 2017 – KS2 Sports Day – morning

Thursday 29th June 2017 – KS1 Sports Day – morning

Wednesday 12th July 2017 – Year 5 and 6 Production – evening

Thursday 13th July 2017 – Year 5 and 6 Production – evening **(new date)**

