



# Newsletter

## Highwood Primary School Issue no.42

February 2020

'Where Individuals Matter'

Dear Parents/Carers,

What another busy term we have had! Hopefully you will have seen in my recent bulletins that we are making great progress in our development journey. During this term, I had requested that the Local Authority conduct some monitoring visits so that we can gain an external perspective as to how well we are progressing. The monitoring that has taken place this term has been:

A SEND Review, which consisted of:

- A review of relevant paperwork and policies
- Discussions with the Headteacher
- Discussions with the Inclusion Manager
- Discussions with relevant Governors
- Discussions with a group of Teaching Assistants
- Paired visits to EYFS, Year 2, Year 4 and Year 6 classrooms
- A discussion with previously identified SEND pupils from Years 2, 4 and 6
- A review of all books belonging to these pupils

A two day whole school Review, which consisted of:

- A review of relevant paperwork and policies
- Discussions with all Senior Leaders
- Discussions with relevant Governors
- Deep Dives into Reading, Maths, History and Geography with relevant curriculum leaders
- Book scrutiny
- A meeting with the school council

The feedback from both of these reviews was extremely positive and identified significant strengths in the work we are doing. Inside this newsletter, you will see how rich our curriculum provision is and the fantastic opportunities that our children have - this was a strength identified by the Local Authority. I would encourage you to read all the pages from each year group so that you can start to build up an understanding of how our 3D curriculum is being built and how your children's learning is being built on and developed each year they are here.

When words like 'unique' and 'innovative' are being used to describe our approach by professionals with no links to the school, it really makes all the hard work that the school has put in worthwhile.

Thank you for your continued support.

Matt Hickey  
Head Teacher





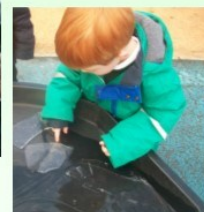
# Foundation 1 News

## Miss Nunn

Mrs Alleyne, Mrs Vanka, Miss Chaudhary and Miss Mair

Welcome to our Foundation 1 News. We have had a very busy first half of the Spring Term in F1. We have begun exploring our new topic which is **'Why do things change?'** and have welcomed a new group of F1 children into the setting.

Having learnt all about Autumn last term, we started this term by exploring the other three seasons in the year. The children participated in lots of different craft and sensory activities to help them to explore and learn about each individual season and what they will experience in each one. For example we had a mini beach sensory tuft tray and explored the ice out in the garden when learning about Winter.



Moving on from learning about the seasons, we have begun exploring planting and growing, which the children have enjoyed very much. We learnt about the life cycle of a plant and the children had a go at planting their very own seeds, which they are now taking care of each day and watching them grow!

While learning about the life cycle of a plant, the children have also been painting and creating their own flowers and even had a go at making their own flowers out of dough during Dough Disco.



The children have also been developing their listening, attention and teamwork skills through activities like parachute games during P.E and ring games during learning zone. These types of activities enable the children to learn how to follow instructions and work together in order to play the game. During P.E, we have also been learning to move in different ways and exploring the different ways our bodies can move.



During this half of term we also celebrated Chinese New Year. It was lovely that we have some children in the class that actually celebrate this festival so they were able to share their experiences and celebrations with us. The children engaged in Chinese themed activities and learnt the story of 'The Great Race'.

In phonics this half term, the older children have been focusing on rhyme which they have really enjoyed. We have made up our own rhyming stories/songs and played lots of different games to expose them to rhyming words. The younger children have been exploring sounds and experimenting with musical instruments and sounds in the environment.



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

Don't forget to follow us on Twitter to see what we are up to each week! @HighwoodPrimFS1





# Foundation 2 News

Mrs Perrott, Mrs Stroud & Mrs Parker

Welcome to the Foundation Stage Newsletter for this term! We have been really busy learning about space as part of our topic: **'How is the World filled with colour'** Take a look!



We started the half term by discovering that a space ship had landed in our outside area! We investigated the clues left behind to work out how it got there. Eventually we had to make a phone call to NASA to see if they were missing one of their rockets!

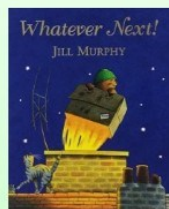


The children have been looking at 'teen numbers' and investigating one more and one less. We have also been learning to add and subtract single digit numbers using concrete objects to help us.

We have completed phase 2 phonics and are working our way through phase 3. The children are becoming really confident with writing words and simple sentences independently.



Recently, we have been enjoying the story 'Whatever Next'. The children enjoyed sequencing the story and they were able to write sentences to match the pictures.



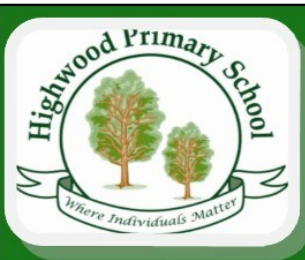
Recently the children have had access to a 'science lab'. They've been putting on white coats and wearing goggles whilst completing experiments! They were thrilled when creating a volcano using different household substances!



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

Find us on Twitter : @HighwoodPrimF2P, @HighwoodPrimF2 LPLS





# Year 1 News - Spring

Mrs Richards & Miss Schlaefli

Mrs Lawrence, Mrs Turnbull, Mrs Kearney, Miss Rajput

We have had a great start to the spring term! We started the term with bike ability. The children showed great perseverance and encouragements for each other.

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

### Topic and Science

We have been investigating lots of different key questions to do with our new topic. We have looked into all the different materials that toys can be made out of and identifying materials we can see around us.

We then moved on to looking at what we thought made a toy old or new. We sorted lots of toys and discussed why it was new or not. We had some interesting discussion about how some toys were made a long time ago but are still



popular now! We were very lucky to have a range of toys from the 1950's and 1960's to look at. We used these toys to compare to toys we have now and identify similarities and differences between the toys. We are just starting our new key question 'How have toys changed' in which we are starting to look at the history of LEGO. If you would like to see what we have learnt, all our hard work is up on our learning loop in the classroom!

### RE

This term we have been discussing all the different people that look after us. We have had some very interesting discussions about who we are looked after by such as by our family, hospitals and doctors and police. We have been learning about different charities that help specific people and animals. To help us think about it we role played the different ways Age UK help the elderly people in our country.



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 learnt how to use a bar model to help us with addition and subtraction. We now know how to find missing numbers. We have been recap-

ping our numbers to 100

too. We have started to look at fractions. We looked at fractions of shapes and are now looking at fractions of numbers. We know how to find  $\frac{1}{2}$  and  $\frac{1}{4}$ .



### English

This term in English we have focused on the story of Dogger. We have looked at all the different feelings the character Dave went through in the story and have been trying to apply these to our own stories. First we thought of lots of different adjectives to describe happy, sad and angry feelings so that we could use a range of language in our writing. We then thought carefully about the structure of our story and came up with a plan of what would happen during the beginning, middle and end. Once we had done our practice of each section we wrote it all out using our best handwriting and thinking carefully about all the writing techniques we have been taught so far. We have got some amazing stories ready to read to each other when we come back from half term!







# Year 2 News - Spring 1



Miss Amor, Mrs Weir,

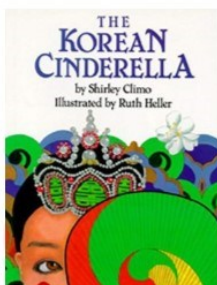
Mrs Anil, Mrs Butler, Mrs Padhi, Mrs Leslie, Mrs Garner

Wow! Yet another half term which has whizzed by! The children have worked so hard during these 6 weeks, and they show no signs of slowing down! Our new key question has gone down a storm and the children are loving packing their backpacks and travelling the world to learn all about different countries and continents. More to explore in Spring 2!

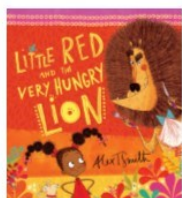
## Where in the world would we like to explore?

### English

To fit perfectly with our theme of exploring the world, Year 2 have written their own international traditional tales using the book *The Korean Cinderella* as a starting point. The use of descriptive language has been mind-blowing as all the children are including wonderfully unique adjectives, expanded noun phrases and similes to describe the characters, the setting and the action. We are sure children in other countries would love to read these super creative stories! Not only that, we have smashed our challenge of using apostrophes to show possession, with many accurate examples such as "Pear Blossom's golden straw sandal" and "Peony's jet black hair". Way to go Year 2!



### Whole Class Reading



We have been reading "Little Red and the Very Hungry Lion" which is set in Africa. It's been really interesting to compare and contrast this story to the original Little Red Riding Hood and the wonderful illustrations have had the children giggling about the lion's glamorous makeover!

### Maths

Fractions, multiplication and division were our main objectives in Maths this half term. The children have worked confidently to develop different strategies such



as sharing and making equal groups to problem solve and we are becoming more independent when choosing our own method to represent these problems, whether it be using concrete resources or drawing pictures.

### Science

This half term has seen us observe the school environment to classify living and non-living things and we had great fun watching Mr Allaway's giant snail SpongeBob in his school habitat! Year 2 are currently hard at work creating beautifully presented woodland habitat fact files to demonstrate our knowledge of what makes a suitable habitat.



Follow us on Twitter;

@HighwoodPrim2A @HighwoodPrim2W





## Year 3 News - Spring 1

Mr Allaway and Miss Whight

Mrs Chintagunta, Mrs Nielsen, Miss Garg



# Could we exist without water?

### English

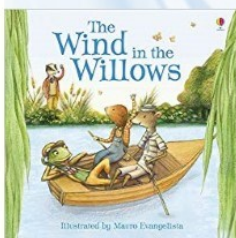
Year 3 have had great fun this term writing narratives to entertain. Our term started off with children creating their own animal character which would fit in perfectly into our whole class reading book 'The Wind in the Willows'. Make sure to take a look at some of these when you come into the school hall.



Inspired by Wind in the Willows, the children have written their own setting descriptions in the latter part of this term. To stimulate Year 3's imagination, we went on a lovely walk around Southlake park to collect vocabulary that could be used in our writing.



### Whole Class Reading



We have begun reading the classic 'Wind in the Willows' this term and already the children can see the differences between each of the character's personalities. There is so much wonderful vocabulary in this

book and the children are enjoying magpying it and using it in their own writing. We've even learnt about personification and used it to write our own class poems !

### Maths

Fractions, fractions and more fractions! This has been our focus so far this term. The children



have been able to bring in their prior knowledge of division to help them find fractions of amounts. They are also a lot more confident at using the bar



model to not only find fractions of amounts but to also find equivalent fractions. It's great to see that more children are moving onto reasoning and problem solving activities within lessons which really goes to show how well they are grasping these new concepts.

### Key Question

We started off our new key question gathering information on the different ways in which water is used daily and worldwide. The children were surprised to see how much of an impact water has on our lives. They also had great fun designing their own boats to introduce the importance of how water can be used as a form of transport. After half term, we will be going on an exciting trip to Henley River and Rowing Museum to find out even more about the importance of water.



Follow us on Twitter;

@HighwoodPrim3A

@HighwoodPrim3W





## Year 4 News Spring 1 Mr Pearce, Mrs Tindall & Mrs Shakeel



### What did the Romans Do For Us?

#### English

This term we have been focussing on writing setting descriptions and then using these skills in the writing of our own Roman myth, based on the narrative of Romulus and Remus - the legendary founders of Rome!

The children have explored how to use the senses to bring places to life and we've had great fun imagining what a foul, dank dungeon might be like!

*Drusilla was enraged! She raced to the palace to save her sister.*

*She managed to sneak through the nasty, foul dungeon. As she snuck through the dark, not so peaceful dungeon, she could smell rotten droppings on the rusty floor nearby.*

*She could see the horrendous corpses as she passed the rusty, thick cells. Some cells were even as dark as a bad's wing! She even kept tripping over revolting rats, that were scurrying under her feet.*

for conquest. We have been using where the Roman Empire spread to identify the countries of Europe - a nice bit of humanities crossover! Furthermore, we have been looking at Roman artefacts and inferring what they tell us about the Roman civilization as well as investigating some of the key dates in the Roman timeline.

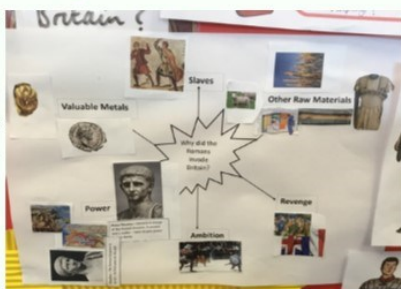
#### Science

This term we have been learning about food chains and the organisms that make up each stage - decomposers seemed to be a popular category! We are now exploring states of matter before looking at how water changes state during the water cycle.

#### Maths

We have finished our multiplication and division and are now exploring fractions and decimals. We have been discussing what a fraction and a decimal are and how we can show them in different ways before looking at fraction & decimal equivalence.

We have also been working on writing our explanations and talking through how to do this so that when we are reasoning, we give high-quality answers.



#### PE

In PE, half of us have been going to Bluecoat school to enjoy a spot of swimming and Mr Edwards reports that the Year 4's have really thrown themselves (not literally!) into their swimming with great effort and enthusiasm!

Meanwhile, back at school, we have been practising our hockey techniques focusing on dribbling, shooting, passing and how to tackle correctly - the year 4's have shown real improvements in their hand-eye coordination and ball control.

#### Music

The children have been lucky enough to have Kevin from Berkshire Maestros come in and teach them how to play the cornet and everyone has been trying really hard to play this tricky instrument - easy to use but hard to master! The pupils have been doing very well and are making some "interesting" music!

#### History

We have been learning all about the Roman invasion of Britain and why the Romans found Britain so irresistible



Have a lovely Half Term.

[Follow us on twitter @HighwoodPrimYr4](https://twitter.com/HighwoodPrimYr4)





## Year 5 News

Team: Miss Majer, Mrs Haden and Mrs Render

### Is Invasion Ever Justified?

Welcome to the third edition of the Year 5 news! I am pleased to say that we've had lots of exciting opportunities and lots of new learning going on. Please read on to find out more!

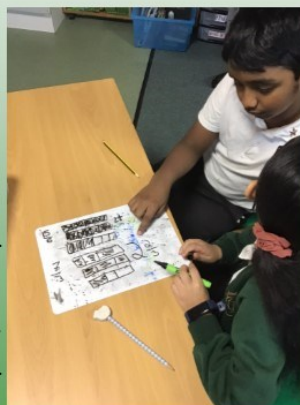
#### English

All our English this term has been around the story of Beowulf, the Anglo Saxon hero who saved a sister town from the perilous death that Grendel was spreading! We've spent a long time analysing the text and collecting crucial vocabulary. After this, we created our own, vile monsters for Beowulf to defeat, using character descriptions to create wanted posters for the town of Heorot. During the final week of term, we've been writing our own Beowulf saga using these creatures too!



#### Maths

Our focus in maths this term has been fractions. Throughout the term, we have used bar models to look at equivalent fractions, converting mixed/improper fractions, as well as ordering and comparing fractions with different de-



nomators. It has been a tricky process for us, but by using our times tables and division facts to find equivalent fractions to help us along our journey.

#### Key Question Lessons



Our key question for this term is 'Is Invasion Ever Justified?', where we are basing our learning all around The Vikings and The Anglo-Saxons. To kick off our topic, we started by completing our very own archaeological dig where we dug

for Anglo Saxon artefacts and asked historical questions to try and learn more about the civilisation. Through the topic, we have also looked at what physical and human geography features might come into play when deciding on why you would invade a country, learnt about the town names we have now that derive from the Anglo Saxons and learnt about how the country was split into six key kingdoms.



*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

We have been considering our question, **What Would a World Without War Look Like?**

## What is War?

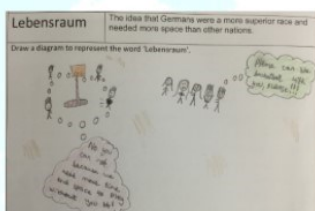


We started the topic by thinking about what we understood by war and what a world with war is like. We then drew pictures to show what a world without war might look and feel like. We have also looked

at war from the view point of different religions and of Christians in particular.

## Why War Does War Happen?

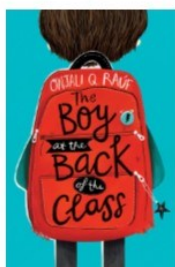
Using WW2 as an example, we thought about the causes of war. We learnt about concepts of fascism, ideology, and lebensraum.



We thought about the reasons Hitler invaded the countries that neighboured Germany and

why Great Britain declared war when it did.

## Which Parts of the World Does War Affect?



The stimulus for this question, was our class book, 'The Boy at the Back of the Class' which is a story about a Syrian refugee. In order to understand what Ahmet (the child in the book) had experienced, we learnt about the civil war in

Syria and the plight of refugees. We were incredibly lucky enough to have a visit from the CEO of skt welfare, a charity that helps Syrian refugee children in camps on the Turkish border.



## How Does War Affect the Lives of Families?



For much of this term, we have learnt about the effects of war (and WW2 in particular) on families. So far, we have concentrated

on Great Britain (we will be making comparisons with Germany next half term). As authors, we have written some powerful description of The Blitz. As historians,

we have evaluated the reliability of different sources when finding out about the mixed experiences of evacuees. We then role-played these different experiences in order to empathise with

the children of WW2. We also found out about the role of women in WW2, and the legacy this had for the role of women in today's society.

More recently we have found out about rationing and assessed its importance to morale. We couldn't believe that sweets had been rationed!



## 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 gymnastics, we have concentrated on body management and balances.

## Maths

Arithmetic has continued to be a priority as we have persevered to better our own weekly arithmetic scores. We have also revisited fractions. This time, finding the equivalents between decimals, fractions and percentages. We have also used our knowledge of factors and multiples to find equivalent fractions and to simplify fractions in the most efficient way. **Follow us on Twitter @HighwoodPrim6R**





# The Orchard Speech and Language Resource News

Mrs Godfrey & Mr Bevan  
Mrs Payne, Mrs Wright, Mrs Pithiya & Miss Bishop

*It's quite exciting to already be at the halfway point in the year and we've been delighted with the progress that we've seen from the children up to this point! The children always work so hard so it really is great to see them becoming more confident week by week. Thank you again for your continued support.*



## Literacy KS1 - Instructions

KS1 children have been writing instructions for jam sandwiches, squash and fruit kebabs. We just HAD to celebrate by inviting KS2, Mrs Catchpole

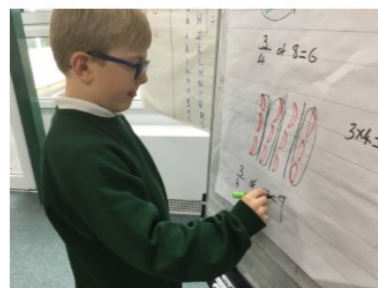
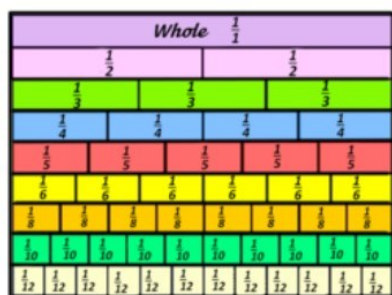
and Miss Whitwood to a tea party. We used our fractions knowledge to cut up the pizzas into equal pieces!

## Literacy KS2 - Biographies

KS2 wrote biographies of Roald Dahl together and then chose their own celebrities to research and write biographies for. Guess who they chose?



## Maths - Reasoning with Fractions and Solving Number Problems



For Reasoning with fractions, KS1 and KS2 have been finding fractions of shapes, objects and amounts. The older children went on to explore equivalence and working with tenths and hundreds as decimals. We have also been solving number problems with multiplication and division and will continue with this next half term.

TUESDAYS ROCK STARS

Follow us on Twitter @HighwoodPrimR





# PE/Sports News

## Sports coach: Mr Edwards

**Welcome** to the first "PE & Sports News Page" of 2020. 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**, lunch & after school clubs plus of course the future sports dates.

### PE Lessons:

This half term the children have been learning about the games of Hockey & Basketball and really honing our hand eye coordination and strategy.

Over the last 6 weeks we have been developing our skills especially Key Stage 2, getting into full games by the end of the programme. We have seen some great work over all of the school years especially our FS2 class who have all completed their pass & receive task.

Year 1 have also had their extra session taking part in Dance lessons with Miss Coleman working on routines that continue challenging even our "funkiest" dancers.

A few selected children from years 1 & 2 have enjoyed some focused gymnastics with Mr Westwood & Miss Head in preparation for the competition that you will read about later in the newsletter.

What has also been a highlight of this half term has been the effort and enthusiasm from many of the children. This is visibly noticeable in the many pictures and videos we have taken during the lessons then shared on the PE twitter page.

This half term has also seen the turn of half of the year 4s taking part in swimming lessons. This truly is a fabulous opportunity for Highwood Primary and its pupils. We cannot thank Reading Blue Coat School enough for their support on this. The progress and fun the children have had is amazing.



### Lunch & After School Clubs:

This term we have had:-

**Tuesdays:** KS1 Multisports lunch & afterschool club

**Thursdays:** Lunchtime Interhouse Competitions & KS2 Racquet club.

### Spring 1st Half Term Matches & Tournaments:

#### Wokingham Primary School Team Gym Competition.

This year we have been lucky enough to have a few weeks of input from Mr Westwood & Miss Head in preparation for this. It certainly has paid off! The KS1 competition is for "Non Gymnasts" only, to encourage a level playing field.

The children have to compete 3 different disciplines, Vault, Tumble & Trampet. They are marked on shape, execution & streaming. All participants completed their routines really well being our most successful year yet. We have been competing in this competition for 9 years and never quite managed to place with a medal. This year our fabulous gymnasts achieved a silver medal and came runners up in the whole competition. This is a fantastic result and one to build on for the future.







# PE/Sports News

## Sports coach: Mr Edwards

### Wokingham Primary Schools NAK (New Age Kurling) Competition.

Highwood over the years have been pretty successful at this competition but in most part it has been due to our fair play and playing by the rules that has helped us progress in the past. Well this year, we still very much played by the rules but we were up against 19 other school teams in a bid to gain a place in the county finals in July. We started in a pool of 5 teams of which we came runners up so we progressed through to the Semi finals. We swept past a very strong and determined Addington team who have represented Wokingham schools at county finals many times then headed into the final up against St Pauls. An incredibly tight game ensued



with Highwood coming out victorious with a score of 3-1. Gold medallists and very deservedly so. Such a great team spirit which we are looking

to take to Bisham Abbey for county finals in July.  
**Next Half Term**

**PE Lessons:-** Golf & Tennis

**Competitions:-**

**WPSFA Yr 5/6 Sheild (Round 2):-**

Playing the winners between Bearwood Primary and Colleton.

**1/2 Tag Rugby Festival:-**

@ Reading Rugby Club Tuesday 3rd March

**Wokingham Schools Yr 5/6 In2Hockey**

Thursday 12th March @ Sonning Hockey Club

**Woodley Schools 3/4 Girls Football Tournament:-**

Friday 20th March @ Woodford Park

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

We have worked very hard right across the school in this short half term!

Many of my newsletters focus 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 days in January and February that had frost but still there were children out in just shorts and t-shirts especially Foundation children. With a colder forecast for later in February the need will be greater! There has also been an increase in children having their ears pierced during the academic year. Please be reminded that the only time we recommend ears being pierced is the first week of summer holidays otherwise you will be asked to remove them as per the school policy. This is for your child's safety!

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

As I am sure many of our parents agree that the physical education is as important as the academic. They both work hand in hand to help progress each other. Studies have found that children will experience greater ability to learn in the academic arena if they have had the physical stimulus. This is one of the reasons that we take the physical education seriously to give the children the best opportunities during their school career.

To know exactly what the children are learning via comments, pictures and videos, please follow the **PE Twitter which is @HighwoodPrimPE** as I feel this is an essential tool to follow the children's learning.

Have a great half term break and I look forward to seeing you all again for another fun filled PE Spring term 2.

Mr Edwards

### Earrings

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







# 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!



The coffee mornings have now become coffee afternoons! They will be held once every half term and Friends of Highwood will also be there running a second hand uniform sale. The doors will open at 3pm so there is time to pop in before the children finish school.

We have had a parenting course running on a Thursday morning and it is continuing next half term. It is called 1-2-3 magic and the parents who signed up have been speaking really positively about the course. If we get enough interest we will be looking into running the course again so please come and speak to me if you would like to know more about the course.

We have also had an ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) course and a Helping children with Maths course running this term. These have been run by Wokingham Adult Education and have been well attended. The ESOL course is continuing after half term.

**If you are interested in attending a course run by Wokingham Adult Education you can come and speak with me or you can contact them directly on 0118 9743797 or by email on: [adulteducation@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto: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.







# FRIENDS OF HIGHWOOD



Friends of Highwood

Hello everyone,

Friends of Highwood has been busy getting ready for the school disco this half term. We hope that the children have a wonderful time.



As you may be aware FoH are trying to reduce the amount of paper we issue out to parents with details of our events. We would like to thank those of you who have already signed up to the page. If you have not yet done so, please visit [www.pta-events.co.uk/foh](http://www.pta-events.co.uk/foh) and select marketing emails to receive the latest news on our next event. We are also on facebook and Twitter.

Look out for information on our pages for our next event Cake Wars!!

We had a very successful second hand uniform sale and coffee afternoon on the 30th January in the Family Centre. Lots of bargains were had with some of the uniform with the old logo being free. We will be running a further sale after half term. Please keep a look out for further details. You can contact us on [ChairFOH@highwood.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:ChairFOH@highwood.wokingham.sch.uk) to find out what stock we have.



Details regarding our Easter Event will come out after half term.

We hope you have a lovely half term and we will see you all soon.

Friends of Highwood (FOH)





# Our School APPs

Please see details of our school APPs and how we use these to communicate with parents and enable parents to pay for various items in school.



## ParentMail

ParentMail is used for the following;

- Urgent messages to parents and club cancellations
- Reminders and copies of important letters
- Weekly bulletin
- Parents can use the APP to advise of child's absence

ParentMail is both web and APP based. You will receive a link to set up Parent-Mail when your child starts school. Please note that changes of telephone numbers must be accepted on the APP to ensure you continue to receive messages.

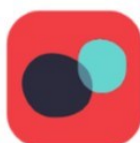


## SIMs Parent APP

This is our newest APP and is used for the following;

- Parents can update their children's information
- Parents can view their child's attendance data
- Parents can see important dates in the school diary

SIMs Parent is both web and APP based. We hope to eventually enable parents to book clubs and see homework and achievement information. A link will be sent to parents again who have not yet set up the APP.



## SCOPAY

Connecting parents to school

★★★★★ 9



## SCOPAY APP

This is our payment APP and is used for the following;

- Payment of school dinners
- Payment for breakfast and after school club
- Payment of wraparound care
- Payment of trips
- Ordering and payment for school uniform
- Booking of Parents evenings

SCOPAY is both web and APP based. Please contact the school office for your child's link code to set up the APP.

Please contact the school office if you have any questions regarding any of our APPs.



# Updating Our Report Template

After Half term, parents will be receiving their child's mid-year report. We have slightly modified the template for this year's reports to achieve the following outcomes:

- **Increased focus on each child as an individual**
  - ⇒ Achieved by a greater focus on the teacher comment which will still include the language of our Learning Behaviours.
- **Reduction in teacher workload.**
  - ⇒ Achieved by individual subjects being graded rather than each subject / Learning Behaviour having a generic comment.

## Front Page

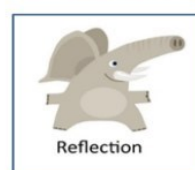


Highwood Primary School

Report 2019-2020

Class: Year XX

Name: Kokan Elephant



Child's Comment:

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## Main Text

**Teacher's Comment:**

Kokan is friendly and well-mannered member of our class. Her confidence has grown, but she can still be a little shy when in a large group or in front of the whole class. **Perseverance** is Kokan's strongest learning behaviour. Although she has found many tasks tricky, giving up has never been an option that she will consider. This is particularly evident in the progress that she has made with her handwriting. Kokan takes on board any advice given and she immediately uses it to help her to improve. She has started to be able to **reflect** on her work and make independent improvements where necessary.

Kokan is very **curious** and loves to learn about new words and this is particularly evident during Phonics lessons. She is very quick to ask what a word means and she then tries to make links to her existing vocabulary. Being creative is something that Kokan thoroughly enjoys. She finds it easy to be **creative** when writing and during Art lessons. During the Autumn term she came up with fantastic ideas of what Mrs Armitage could add to her bicycle and her creative flair for writing is also clear to see in her latest written tasks.

Kokan has many skills and qualities and it has been a real joy to see her thrive in PE, especially gymnastics, where she is always incredibly keen to demonstrate her abilities when using different pieces of equipment. Kokan's impeccable manners and diligence mean that she sets a great example to her peers and that she also consistently upholds all the Highwood Values.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

**Contribution to whole school community:**

Kokan represented the school as part of the KS1 Gymnastics team. She is an enthusiastic member of her House and works hard to earn house points. In December, Kokan lovingly made cookies and Christmas decorations for the residents of The Birches Retirement Home. During our visit, she listened attentively to the residents while they shared their stories, and treated them with respect and kindness. Kokan also took part in all the KS1 Nativity Performances.

**Next Steps for Learning:**

- To reread my sentences slowly and carefully to check that they make sense.
- To continue to work at improving my handwriting so that each letter is legible.
- To use connectives to link information and ideas.
- To be able to solve problem solving tasks in Maths independently.

**How parents can help:**

- To practise her lower case letter formation – follow letter rhymes and letter formation sheet provided.
- Daily reading and questioning to develop a deeper understanding of the text.
- Practise learning how to spell the Year 1 common exception words.
- Completing problem solving mathematical activities – See KIRFs in her Homework book.

## Back Page

### Curriculum Subject Overview

Grading Key	A	Above Average / Above Expectation	
	B	Average / As Expected	
	C	Below Average / Below Expectation	
	F	Inconsistent	
Subject	Attainment	Progress	Effort
English – Reading	B	B	A
English – Writing	B	B	A
Maths	B	B	B
Science	B	B	B
ICT	B	B	B
Music	B	B	A
PE	B	B	A
Art	B	B	A
DT	B	B	B
RE	B	B	A
History	B	B	B
Geography	B	B	B

Headteacher's Comment:

Kokan continues to be an asset for Highwood. Her attitude towards all aspects of school is exemplary and she has therefore made good progress in her learning. It has been wonderful to see Kokan's confidence and independence continue to grow, which has had a positive impact on the work she produces. I am confident that if Kokan continues to try her best that she will achieve her potential and continue to be an excellent role model for others. Well done Kokan.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_





# Governing Body News

Dear Parent and Carers,

Spring term has been very rewarding for Highwood! Well done to all the children and the staff for positive progress we have seen throughout the year so far, which was echoed by a recent visit from the Local Authority last week. The Headteacher's bulletin summarised the key points, but in particular the governors have really been impressed by the Highwood children and their love for learning. Every time we visit the school, the children are keen to talk to us about what they are reading and sharing their interesting facts – we learn something new on each visit!

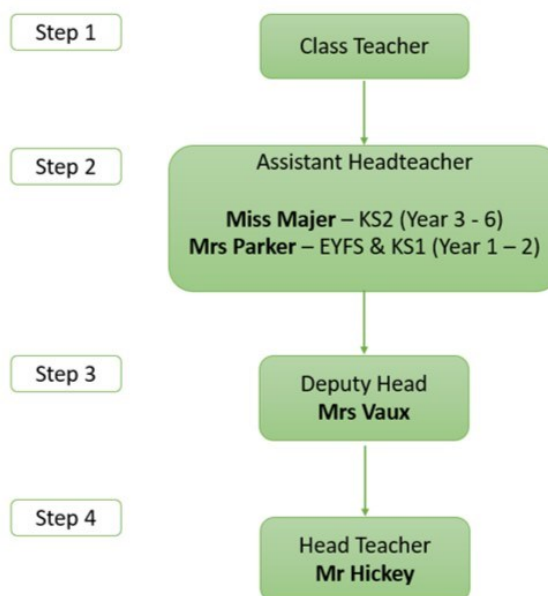
*"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."* – Dr. Seuss

The governors are working on a new **Communications Policy** to help parents and carers know the correct route if they have a concern they wish to raise about their child or even a general query about the school and/or education. We hope to publish this document later this term and to kick things off, we've created a simple flowchart to show where to start if you have a concern.

If you have a concern or query, please raise it with the class teacher in the first instance.

The majority of queries are normally resolved at this step. However, if this is not the case, the teacher may refer you to the relevant Assistant Headteacher.

Depending on the outcome and the nature of the query, it may require the Deputy Head or Headteacher to resolve the concern.



## Next Term

We are looking forward to Governors day on 27<sup>th</sup> March. We will be in school to see the curriculum in action and hope to talk to parents during morning drop off to answer any questions you have.

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](mailto:governor@highwood.wokingham.sch.uk)

Have a great half term break!

Highwood Governors





## Reading Together At Home: Our Top Tips!



### Quality Time

Pick a time of day where you can both devote all your attention and time to each other and reading. Five minutes of quality reading together, on a regular basis, is far better than reading for longer when you both are distracted. Make this time a special time!

### Talk!

Before you read, chat about what has happened so far. What have you both liked? Who is your favourite character and why? What do you expect to happen next? Does this story remind you of a film or another book you've come across?

### It's Only Words...

- If your child is struggling to read a word, get them to "sound it out" and break the word into its component sounds e.g. "playing" would be "p l a y i n g" then you blend it together.
- Explore words your child doesn't know together – tell them the meaning and put it in a sentence or even refer to a dictionary!

## It's just like what we do at school...

We are constantly asking your child questions about what we are all reading and here are some that you could try at home when reading together to replicate the level of thinking we practise in school – why not try sharing your answers to them too?

Who is your favourite character and why?

What words has the writer used to make this place seem scary/exciting/magical?

Based on what we've read, what do you think will happen next?

How do you think the author wants you to feel after reading this sentence? Why is that?

What word would you use to describe this person/place? Why is that?

What has just happened on this page? Can you summarise it for me?

### Beyond a book!

- **Reading Role Models!** Children are great imitators (as we all know!). Why not let them catch you reading for pleasure at home? It doesn't have to be a novel; it could be a recipe book, a non-fiction book, a newspaper or magazine!
- **Visit The Local Library!** If you're not already a member, why not sign up at your local library and make regular trips together there to try out new books or magazines? Libraries are great places to relax, unwind and discover a new story!
- **And Finally...** why not find out about other books by an author your child likes? If there is a film version of a book, why not watch it together before sharing the book?



# Reminders

## ABSENCE

Please contact the school by 9.30am either through the ParentMail APP or by phone on 0118 9265493 if your child is not well and please state the illness.

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



## ATTENDANCE

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

## PARKING

There is no parking on the school site unless you have been authorised to do so. This includes dropping off children late as well as dropping off items that have been forgotten.

Please be considerate to our neighbours in Carrick Gardens and Kingfisher Drive by not parking on pavements, grass verges, across driveways and single yellow lines.

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

## MEDICINES

Only prescribed medicine in the prescribed container may be administered by school staff. No medicines will be accepted if not in the prescribed container. A form must be completed at the school office.



## EARRINGS

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



## *Nut-free school.*

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



# Diary Dates



DATE	EVENT	TIME
Thursday 13th February 2020	FOH Disco	FS & KS1 - 3.25 to 4.05pm KS2 - 4.15 to 5.15pm
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 2020	Year 3 Trip to the River & Rowing Museum	
Monday 2nd March 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
Tuesday 24th March 2020	Year 1 Trip to Legoland	
Friday 31st March 2020	Year 5 Trip to Ufton Court	
Wednesday 1st April	Year 3/4 Production	6pm – 7pm
Thursday 2nd April	Year 3/4 Production	2pm to 3pm
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