



Newsletter

Highwood Primary School Issue no.23

December 2016

'Where Individuals Matter'



Dear Parents/Carers,

It's beginning to look (and feel) a lot like Christmas! With successful events from our Winter Fair to our Nativity plays this term, the festive mood has been building in school and the children are very excited. In our assemblies, we have spent time focussing on the meaning of Christmas and promoting the joy of giving, as well as receiving - the children have understood this concept and responded to it really well.

'Giving' is an area where you, as parents, have played a key role this term. Your generosity with supporting school events has been amazing and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all of your contributions. I look forward to sharing with you in the New Year, all the things we have been able to purchase for your children from your kind donations.

This has been our first full term using our revamped curriculum and I am sure you will agree, from reading in this newsletter, that all the activities and opportunities your children have had this term have been a huge success. The staff have looked at innovative ways of engaging your children in learning both inside and outside the classroom and they have been extremely creative in the ways that they have linked all the subjects together under one theme. The quality of work being produced has been very impressive and I look forward to it continuing with the Spring Term topics.

This term we also held our first SPLAT Events. Feedback from parents was overwhelmingly positive and plans are afoot for the next event in March. This will become a regular feature at Highwood and provide you with another opportunity to get involved in your children's learning.

I'd like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year - enjoy the break and come back refreshed for an exciting new year ahead!

Matt Hickey
Head Teacher
@headhighwood





Governing Body

Firstly, let me introduce myself. My name is Wendy Sabaroche and I have been a governor at Highwood for just over a year. My husband, Dan and I have a 15-month old daughter and our son is in Year 1 at Highwood. I work for an IT company called CGI based in Green Park and I have a passion for gadgets and technology. Whether it is calculating formulas on an Excel spreadsheet to understanding the latest thing in tech (currently virtual reality using mobiles), I love to understand how things work and how to make lives better. It's partly due to this why I became a governor. I want children to know and appreciate all the different opportunities available to them and who knows, we might have our next tech genius in Highwood!

I became a governor because I wanted to find out more about how education had changed since I last went to school - many, many years ago! To be honest, I was (and still continue to be) amazed at all the hard work, effort and enthusiasm that go into teaching and looking after the children and making Highwood a great place to learn. My role as a governor covers various areas including Information Technology (IT), Health & Safety and Teaching, Learning & Assessment. When I joined, I wasn't sure what to expect. I knew that it would involve meetings, but I have seen and been involved in so much more. I have witnessed how the teaching staff plan and monitor the development of all children. I have had regular school visits with different members of the school team to gain a deeper understanding of school operations and have had training to know exactly how to do some of my governor duties. This academic year, my aim is to get to grips with the IT curriculum and see how my work background can contribute to enrich the school - maybe to help the next generation of app developers or big tech thinkers.

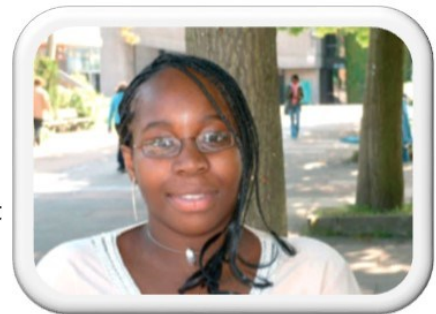
The Highwood Governing body works as a team to support and challenge the school, and we are working together to ensure that you know who we are, what we do and how you can be involved. If you see me or any other governors, we are more than happy to have a chat or you can email us at governor@highwood.wokingham.sch.uk or The Chair of Governors at chairofgov@highwood.wokingham.sch.uk

Have a Great Christmas and see you in the New Year!

Kind Regards,

Wendy Sabaroche

Governor – IT, Health & Safety, Teaching, Learning & Assessment





Foundation News

Mrs Robinson & Mrs Walker

Welcome to the Foundation Stage Newsletter for this term! We have been really busy continuing with our topic "All About Me!" and with all our other learning - take a look!

We started the half term making pumpkin soup and pumpkin muffins! The F2 children enjoyed eating them! We also learnt about Diwali, the festival of light and Guy Fawkes Night. We made some Diwali lamps and Firework pictures using different media!



The F1 children have been learning all about our faces and what features we have. We looked in the mirror and drew what we saw. We learnt about different skin tones and what hair colour and eye colour we have. We even had a try at our own colour mixing!

The F2 children have been learning about repeating patterns. They have used unifix as well as other media, including mosaic tiles. They have made a 2 colour repeated pattern and a 3 colour repeating pattern!



The Foundation Stage children had the lovely opportunity to star in our Christmas Nativity this year. They all looked lovely in their costumes and were amazing in the hall in front of all the parents!



The F2 children had a great opportunity with their trip to see "The Elves and the Shoemaker" at Norden Farm.



Thank you to all the parents that have supported us this half term and we wish you a very Merry Christmas and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year!



Year 1 News

Mrs Vaux, Miss Amor & Mrs Ashby

Another 7 weeks flew by! This half term was quite a busy one!

But first things first, a big thank you to all the parents who helped our Nativity play to be a success by providing the children's costumes. All the children looked fantastic. They worked hard over the last four weeks to make the play a success and persevered with their singing and acting.

The children proved successful in the play as well as in the classroom where they showed their creativity through observational drawings using pastel of bike parts. They created pastel drawings representing different parts of the bike. They looked



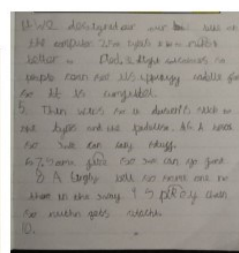
carefully at the colours and shapes and tried to represent them in their work. We looked at the bike parts from different perspectives and talked about how that changed the shapes they could see.

We continued to learn about materials and their everyday use, looking at their properties and thinking about what parts of a bicycle are made of which material and why.

The children have made a lot of progress in maths, adding and subtracting using many different strategies, from Numicon to number lines and 100 squares and they are getting more and more confident. We have continued to work on their number bonds

and lots of children have achieved bronze stickers, some children are even on silver stickers now.

In literacy, Year 1 have been looking at writing to inform. We have learnt about non-fiction books and how they are similar and different from fiction books. We read lots of different non-fiction books about bicycles. We also used the internet to find out facts. We used all of this information to write our own pages of a non-fiction book about bicycles. The children designed their own bike on the computer and wrote about why their bike had certain design features.



In ICT, the children are becoming more confident in using simple computer programmes. We have focused on how to log on to a computer, writing their name and moving on to writing sentences. They have become more confident as the term has progressed.

Finally we had a bike mechanics day where we learnt how to take bikes apart and put them back together.





Year 2 News

Mrs Eatwell, Mrs Vickery, Mrs Kearney, Mrs Moffat

7 weeks have whizzed by. A lot has happened this half-term.

But first things first, a big thank you to all the parents who helped our Nativity play to be a success by providing the children's costumes. All the children looked fantastic. They worked hard over the last four weeks to make the play a success and persevered with their singing and acting.

The children have persevered this half term to learn all about the Great Fire of London and continue to build upon their knowledge. They now have a secure understanding of the events and how the fire impacted on Britain. In ICT the children have recreated the events of the Great Fire of London on a storyboard. The fire department came to teach us all about fire and what to do in an emergency. The children were really good at taking part and asked lots of great questions!



We continued to learn about animals, including humans and what we need in order to survive and thrive.



In Maths we have learnt a few concepts including inverse operations, looking closely at addition and subtraction in particular. The children can now use inverse to check their work and the work of others confidently. We moved on to multiplication and division in recent weeks. The children can show multiplication as



repeated addition and use this to problem solve. They have begun to understand that divide means share and can solve problems in real life contexts involving division.



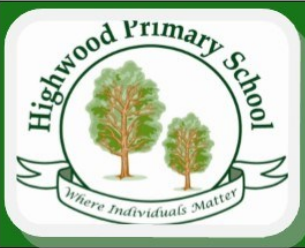
In literacy, Year 2 have been looking at writing to entertain. We have continued our work on Toby and the Great Fire of London. The children designed and described a new Tudor character to include in the story. They then discussed the events of the Great Fire and eventually the children innovated the story to include their character. We shared our stories in a story time lesson. Some of their versions were fantastic!

In the final week of term, Santa visited us and left a mysterious box in the middle of the carpet. Inside was a present for Year 2! It was a magical Christmas book! We have decided to do some writing about what had happened and how Santa could possibly have got into the school. How did he do it?



A huge thank you to all of the parents who came to the SPLAT afternoon. We are looking forward to seeing you again at the next one!

Wishing you all an enjoyable Christmas holidays.



Year 3 News

Teacher: Miss Abbott

Another jam packed half term and the children have worked so hard that they deserve a lovely relaxing break! I am so proud of all the progress they have made so far and I wish everyone a lovely Christmas.



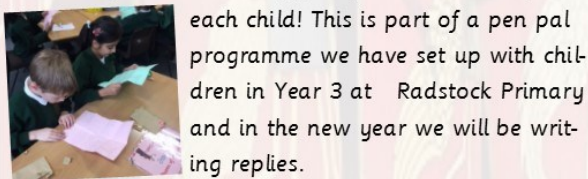
LITERACY

This term we have been learning about writing to inform. We started off learning about the structural and language features of this non-fiction text type and even had a scavenger hunt to find the different features in the playground.



The children then

became experts on all things Roman as they wrote reports about food and drink and leisure activities. We used lots of drama to show off our expert skills and then used key phrases and technical vocabulary to write our interesting reports! Later on in the term the children had a surprise when a bag full of letters arrived for



MATHS

each child! This is part of a pen pal programme we have set up with children in Year 3 at Radstock Primary and in the new year we will be writing replies.

The children have continued to consolidate their knowledge of place value and number this term as well as becoming more confident in solving addition and subtraction problems. Using the context of money, the children were able to 'play shops' as they chose items to buy, calculated the total cost and then worked out how much change would be needed. The topic culminated in a trip to Terry's newsagents where the children were able to part with real cash in exchange for sweet treats!



Class Assembly

The whole class did a fantastic job with our class assembly in November. The focus was the Roman Gods and Goddesses and the children enjoyed dressing



up as the ancient deities. They learnt 2 Roman myths which they performed brilliantly and danced with flair to Venus in tribute to the goddess of love!



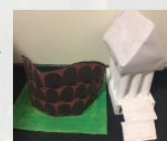
SCIENCE

This term the class have learnt about the human skeleton and the function of the different bones in the body. As well as looking at animal skeletons and identifying vertebrates and invertebrates, the children had a chance to build their own skeleton and even learn some of the scientific words for parts of the bodies. They particularly enjoyed wiggling their phalanges and nodding their craniums in a game of Simon Says!



HOMEWORK

As always some of the children have really impressed me this term with their fantastic home learning projects. These included incredible mosaics, models of Roman architecture and Roman games!



Follow us on Twitter: [@HighwoodPrimYear3](https://twitter.com/HighwoodPrimYear3)





Year 4 News Autumn 2016 (Team – Mr Anderson, Mrs Tindall, Mrs Anil, Miss Rajput.)



Welcome to the Autumn edition of the Year 4 news! Highlights in Year 4 this term were the visitors, class assembly and our successful SPLAT day. Follow us on Twitter: [@HighwoodPrimYear4](https://twitter.com/HighwoodPrimYear4)

Literacy - Persuasive Language

This term we focussed on the senses as our main driver across the curriculum. We started with writing to entertain through poetry and using the school environment to inspire us as well as a variety of poems from the 'Sensational book'. We all really liked writing our own Sound Collector poems and using the learning loops display to map out our journey of learning and what we were aiming to achieve. Ask your children what a WAGGOL is.

We have a class book on display if you'd like to read some.

We also wrote some fantastic descriptive writing about a chosen animal, the children enjoyed having a choice about which animal to write about and how it uses its senses.



Maths - Graphs and Data Handling

In maths we have been learning about decimals, through money, shopping and measures. We have been looking at how we can convert from one unit of measure to another and taking the place value concept a step further.

We have been applying these learnt methods to perimeter and area of regular and irregular shapes.

Science & DT - Musical Instruments

Our Science put theory into practice this half term. We have been learning about the different senses in as many practical ways as possible.

Testing our senses for measuring temperature, how the ear works and where are the moving parts. This was also demonstrated in our class assembly.

We have watched some great animations from a website called 'How the body works' which was a good starting point for each sense. The children also used the iPads to put together class presentations, some of which were continued to produce some fabulous group



homework.

In DT we made some prototype musical instruments before embarking on our DT day which will take place in the last week of term to improve upon our original designs.

SPLAT

The year 4 SPLAT morning was very successful, we had a good turn out of parents and it was lovely to see parents working alongside all the children. They were presented with a maths challenge to design a bedroom, planning what furniture would fit into the dimensions. The children enjoyed having the freedom to design their own rooms and I think secretly showing their parents what they would like (ha ha). Thank you to all of the parents across the school who supported us for this event. Because of its success there will be more to follow, so if you missed the first SPLAT, then you will be more than welcome to join us for the next one. Dates TBC.



Visits

We are grateful to Mr. Conlin from Berkshire Vision who came in to show the children the types of devices used by blind and partially sighted people, how they are adapted and how even sports equipment has been modified to cater for people with visual impairment. The children loved trying out the devices and reading Braille. Olli Clark from



Mr Anderson's band also came in to drum for the children and let the children experience a digital drum kit. We discussed what senses would be required as well as playing rhythms for the movements of different animals.





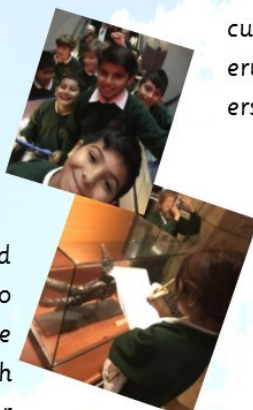
Year 5 News

Teacher: Miss Baker

Has the Earth finished growing? Pt. 2

The Natural History Museum

What a fantastic time we had at the museum! We began our trip in the Red Zone, taking a look at some moon rock and then going through the centre of the Earth! (Well, a model of it anyway.) We investigated earthquakes and volcanoes, looking at how volcanoes are formed and experiencing what it is like to be in an earthquake. There were lots of interactive exhibits which really supported and extended our learning. We then moved on to looking at the Solar System section - our area of expertise! After lunch, we went to the dinosaur section and came face to



face with a life size, moving model of a T-Rex! There were some really exciting things to see here, including whole skeletons, moving models and even footprints from real dinosaurs! It was a very enjoyable and informative day out.

Volcanoes

Another exciting part of our topic work this term, centred around volcanoes, so of course we had to make them! We enjoyed the mess of the Papier-Mache and we also worked on our mixing of colours to paint them in a realistic way. Then, they were ready to test out using our science knowledge. We mixed bicar-



bonate of soda with vinegar and stood back to see the reaction! It was great to see the volcanoes in action; however, we were also curious to find out why some eruptions were better than others. We then tested the amount

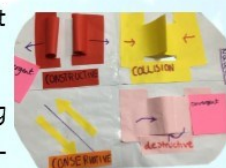


of carbon dioxide gas that was released using balloons over plastic bottles. We still have some thinking to do about the best ratio of bicarbonate of soda to vinegar though.



Layers of the Earth

Did you know that the earth is a bit like a hard boiled egg? We made playdoh models to show how the earth's layers are made. We cut through the models to show what the layers look like and we investigated the properties of each of the layers. We also found out about tectonic plates, making paper models (inspired by Nadim's homework) to show what happens at each of the four different types of plate boundary.



We have done some thinking about whether the earth has finished growing. If you want to know our thoughts, just ask!

Well done, Year 5, on making this topic so incredibly interesting and thought-provoking. I hope you have learnt as much as I have!

Have a happy Christmas break!

Follow us!



@Highwood PrimYr5



Year 6 News

Teacher: Mrs Raines

Explore and Discover: 'How often are things discovered for the first time?' Part 2.

PGL—Marchant's Hill.



Most of us started this half-term with a residential trip to PGL at Marchant's Hill. I think we were all a little nervous at the prospect of staying away from home for 4 nights. Lots of questions were asked: *How would I sleep with strange people in the room?*



What would the food be like? Am I scared of heights? Would it be cold? 5 days later and all questions were answered as the children

discovered new things about themselves and each other. We had a fantastic time and thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience. It was such a pleasure to see how well the children got on with each other and how they challenged themselves to attempt and usually complete scary (and high) tasks. Well done Year 6.



Class Assembly

Thank-you to all the parents who were able to come to the class assembly where we shared what we had been doing during the PGL week. I was impressed with the way in which the children performed with such confidence.

Topic

We have continued our topic, Explore and Discover this half term, but changed the focus from science to history by finding out how the Maya discovered things for the first time. We compared the Mayan civilisation with the Anglo Saxons and were amazed at the scale of the Mayan buildings. We then carried out our own research on an area of Mayan culture that interested us. As a class, we looked at Mayan writing and have created our own clay tablets with our names carved in glyphs—just like the Maya!



English

It is thought that the Maya were the first people to discover chocolate; it played a vital part in their culture. We found out about the history of chocolate and used this information to write non-chronological reports. More recently, we have studied creation myths and stories (Maya creation myth and Rudyard Kipling's Just So Stories) and we are in the process of making up our own explanations of how different animals got their distinctive features.

Science

We have rounded off the term by returning to science. This time, studying evolution and inheritance. We have looked at how different living organisms have adapted to their environments and have even 'designed' our own creatures that could survive in extreme conditions. Who knows, one of these creatures may be discovered for the first time one day!



Speech and Language Resource News

Teachers: Mrs Godfrey and Mrs Kearslake

What a busy first term it has been in the Resource! This term is the longest in the school calendar but it always seems to go by so quickly. It's been lovely to see so much progress from the children already and I can't wait to see how they get on in the New Year. The staff would like to say a big thank you for all your support this term and wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Willow news

Literacy

Take a look at what we can do!



It certainly has been an action packed second half to the Autumn Term in KS1 Resource! The children have enjoyed acting, baking and writing about The Gingerbread Man. They deserve a big WELL DONE for their hard work with phonics, reading and rhyme awareness in our sessions with Mrs Walker.

Maths



The children have been working just as hard in maths and are proud to know 1 and 2 digit numbers on the 100 square to be able to use Numicon to do addition and subtraction within 20. Keep looking out for 2 digit numbers and practising your number stories!

Have a very Merry Christmas and see you in 2017! Mrs Godfrey

Maple news



Literacy

In Literacy we have been writing to inform about animals. We had to decide which animal it would be best to do. Here are the ones we chose.



Be sure to ask your child which one they chose and why they chose it. Also ask them to name five facts about their animal. We have researched our work from books and the internet. We wrote our non chronological reports in paragraphs from the notes we made.

Maths

In Maths the children have been working really hard to learn their times tables and we now have a weekly "5 Minute Challenge" to help them work on the speed of their recall. We have also been focussing on addition and subtraction and it is subtraction that the children have found the hardest! This will be something we continue with in the New Year





PE/Sports News

Sports coach: Mr Edwards

Welcome to the final half term "PE & Sports News Page" of the 2016. I will endeavour to continue to keep the children and parents informed about our recent achievements in sports tournaments, what we have been learning in PE, **PE Kit required**, after school clubs and of course the future sports dates.

PE Lessons:

This half term the children have been learning about the games of Tag Rugby and Netball.

Over the last 7 weeks we have been developing our skills in these games in preparation for the continuation of the Six Nations Tag Rugby league and Netball friendlies. next term. We have seen some great work over all of the school years especially our year 1s. I am optimistic about Highwood Primary and their potential in the future.

Year 5 have also had an extra session taking part in Zumba/Dance 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.

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 preparation for Highwood's entry into the "Gymnastics" competition which is again being held at Reddam gymnastics club in January. This year the format has changed into a "Team gym" competition so I am particularly excited as this also has an entry requirement of no previous gym club experience. Therefore, it will be a level playing field for everyone.

The development that has occurred this term in all lessons has been fantastic.

What has also been a highlight 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 and KS2 Boys & Girls Football Club. A huge thank you to Mr Anderson for his help running the girls football.

Wednesdays: Zumba dance lunch club for KS1

Thursdays: A new first come first serve lunch club where anyone can join in and play different games every week. KS2 Tag Rugby Training after school.

Fridays: KS1 Multisports after school club

These are all very popular with large waiting lists. I am continuing the "3 strikes" rule for next term but I have seen an improvement in attendance. Remember, if children sign up for a club they must persist for the whole term.

Final Autumn Half Term Matches & Tournaments:

Wokingham Primary School Football Association.



This half term we have seen the conclusion of the Wokingham District football. We are currently competing in "Woodley Central" league battling with near neighbours to see which league we compete in next term for the district championships. We have had some great battles and over the last few weeks have had the following results:

Highwood Vs Beechwood 3-1 Win

Rivermead Vs Highwood 3-3 Draw

Highwood Vs Southlake 12-1 Loss

Our B teams have also had the opportunity to play which has been fantastic as we have never previously had enough players to field 2 teams. This just shows how we are growing in numbers and ability. They have done fantastic and there is more to come next term.



PE/Sports News

Sports coach: Mr Edwards

Invitational Six Nations Tag Rugby.

We have been really pleased to have been invited back this year to compete in what is arguably the best standard rugby competition in the county. After last years results shocking many oppositions with our quick paced running and passing I was keen to get our latest boys and girls out for this years tournament. Playing 5 games in a row over 4 rounds (20 games in total) every Friday during November and December we have had a great if not unlucky time in tier 2. We have had some incredibly close games with very strong opposition. We will remain in tier 2 for next term when we resume in February.



Crosfields 3/4 Football Festival.

One of my favourite events of the year is the football tournament at Crosfields. There is always a fantastic atmosphere and it is incredibly well attended with over 55 teams competing.

This was many of the children's first time playing in a football match but they were fantastic. Every one of the boys played really well and put in so much effort. Our stand out stars were Raheem Ali in goal, Sarmed Raja, Alfie Allen and Kennan Cooke. We only lost 1 game which was to local rivals Willow Bank. I would like to encourage all children to attend an outside sports club.

Wokingham Borough Sports Awards 2016

4 years ago, Highwood won the award for "Best Primary School For Sport". We have been nominated every year since.



This year we were again nominated and we also had a winner in Louis Hutchings as he won the U14 Male Sportsman of the year. This was for his sporting achievements throughout his time at Highwood. I was immensely proud to accept our medal from Team GB Judo Olympic athlete Ben Fletcher.



PE/Sports News

Sports coach: Mr Edwards

Next Half Term

PE Lessons:- Hockey and Basketball.



Mr Edwards Message For The Term.

This half term has been no different from any other in the fact that I have seen some amazing performances and achievements. This has been largely due to the children's enthusiasm and working to task. In my last newsletter I made a request to parents to sign the children up into sports clubs outside of Highwood and I am pleased to say that has been really evident this term and I thank you. We are still well below the national average for child participation outside of school but I am sure with your continued help we can change this. I am so pleased that Mia, Mahak, Andreea, Charlotte and Safiyah from year 5 have joined Woodley United Girls team. Ethan their coach has told me how pleased he is with them and he is looking to play them in their first matches in January. Good luck girls. We have also had new club participants such as Ammar in year 5 and Sarmed in year 4. I will be putting together my latest report on the participation figures next term so look out for those.

Thank you to those parents who came to see me at parents evening. I hope that you found it informative, helpful and I was pleased to see you.



PE Kit.

PE Kit required:- Shorts, Highwood PE T-Shirt, Black or Navy Plain Tracksuit, trainers. **No Earrings!** Please ensure your child has a plain navy or black tracksuit consisting on both long trousers and a long sleeved top as it is too cold for them this time of year to be dressed in shorts and a t-shirt! We have noticed too many children this term who are not in tracksuits. If they do not have the correct kit they go outside in their school uniform and this may get wet and dirty and then they have to wear this all day. The cost of a new school jumper is vastly greater than a whole tracksuit from one of the big supermarkets. So please follow the Uniform Policy and ensure your child has the correct kit in school every day.

We have reintroduced my "Model of the day" where I select children with 100% perfect kit on, take their photo in model pose and give house points. Here are a few from this term so that you can see what we require.



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



Highwood ICT News



Welcome to the first edition of ICT news at Highwood Primary. This is aimed to give you some advice regarding ICT at our school and to keep you informed of the latest developments.

Phone App

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 you will need to install separately on each one.



E Safety

E-Safety at Highwood is an integral part of our computing curriculum and is taught across the curriculum rather than just as a stand-alone ICT lesson. However, we should take every opportunity to remind our pupils about the importance of staying safe online.

These days children learn how to use new technology so quickly and you will probably find that they can access websites, apps and more, that perhaps you don't even know about!

Our website features some fantastic links which can help you discuss the importance of e-safety with your child and there are links which will help to support you, including interactive animations and games to teach your child about the importance of staying safe online.

Under the Parents tab, you can navigate to e-safety and simply click on the links which interest you. If you would like to discuss e-safety with myself, I would be more than happy to offer some advice.



Software to support your child at home.

You may or not be aware that because your child is a member of the Highwood community, that they can have free access to a FREE download of Microsoft office 2016. Microsoft have invested in schools and feel that all children with access to a PC should have access to their Office suite in order for you to be able to complete projects and homework tasks at home with your child. This includes, Word, Publisher, PowerPoint, Excel.

If you are interested, please leave your name and child's class with the office and I will ensure that you are provided with a username and password to access this fantastic download.

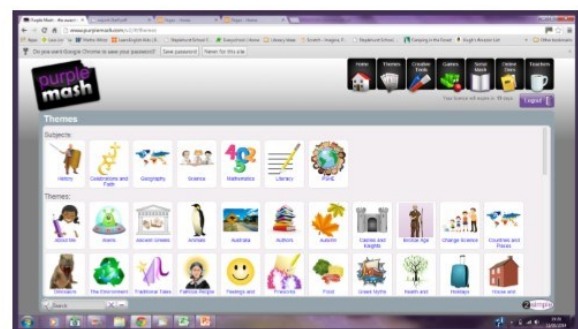
Please note that this will expire once the child leaves the school.



Your child will have recently been provided with a username and password at school for the Purple Mash Software. This can also be used for home access. Purple mash has a wide range of tools which are aimed at the primary child in mind. Paint packages, graphs, coding, publishing and even games to help support you and your child at home.

Purple mash can also be accessed on tablets.

Usernames and password cards can be reissued if you would like to take advantage of this software which the school pays for to enable you to have home access.





Highwood ICT News

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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.

If you search **@HighwoodprimPSA** you can access the Twitter feed from the Parents Service Advisor, this has updates on up and coming events which support parents and families within our school.

If Sports is your interest and you like to keep up to date with the latest sports results and information about our school teams and up and coming events then you might like to take a look at the **@HighwoodPrimPE** page. Mr Edwards will keep you up to date on this Twitter Feed.

Mr Hickey a very keen Tweeter **@headhighwood** and is worth following to keep you up to date with news, events, educational discussion and a general overview of what is happening within the Highwood community.

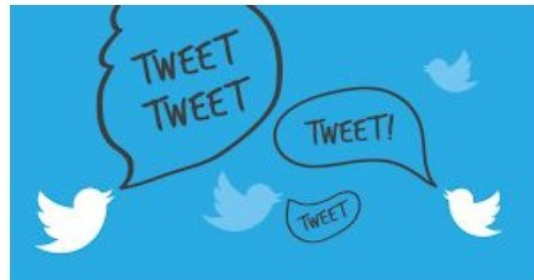
A new Twitter page to feature shortly will be Friends of Highwood. Watch this space.

Accelerated Reader—Home connect.

The Accelerated Reader system can be accessed at home on both iPad/tablet and PC's, it enables you to monitor your child's progress, quiz scores, their bookshelf (which books they are reading) and how well they are doing in relation to the target which has been set by your child's class teacher.

This can be quite a powerful tool and home/school partnership to maximise your child's reading progress.

<https://hosted6.renlearn.com/373877/HomeConnect/>



ICT & Clubs -

There has also been a wider use of ICT in the form of the school newsletter which is sold weekly. Miss Abbott and her team of journalists produce this during the after school Newspaper club and it features news, competitions, stories and work by the children.

I will again be starting a coding club, with a difference, after our successful coding enterprise event which took place earlier in the year in conjunction with Bulmershe School. We are keen to teach the children the benefits of coding in order to prepare them for the ever developing world of technology and computing.

This year some of year 5 children who took part in the event masterminded by Mr Hickey, which involved a local cluster of schools. Now that they have this experience behind them. I will be able to run the coding club with the support of his new digital leaders. They will be recognised by their Yellow Digital leader badges which were awarded during the last celebration assembly.

Well done to those children!

I look forward to bringing you more advice and updates in the next edition of the newsletter.

Have a very merry Christmas.



Happy computing - Mr Anderson (ICT Lead)





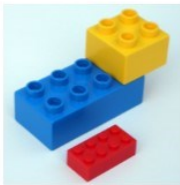
Hot Off The Press...

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



In the spring term we are going to look at and think about the question 'What colour is the sky?' If we asked you, you would probably say blue. We are going to find out what affects and influences the sky colour, and why. We will link our literacy to the sky topic by looking at the book 'Why is the sky blue?' by Geraldine Taylor. We are also hoping to have a visit by the Science museum with their bubbles workshop. We will be writing some facts about the sky and looking at some poetry, In maths we will be thinking about shape, symmetry, patterns, doubling and halving. We will also be continuing to build the children's confidence in working with numbers.



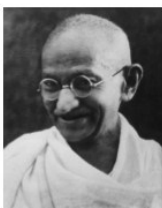
Year 1



Our topic for the Spring term will be focused around this question: "Will we play with the same toys when we are older?". We will have a large focus on the LEGO which will include a trip to Legoland at the end of the SPRING term. This will involve learning about the creator of Lego; Ole Kirk Christiansen. In mathematics we will learning about doubling and halving, which will then lead onto one step multiplication and division. We will also start to learn about fractions and learn the different coins and notes and their value. In literacy we will be writing to persuade by writing posters, leaflets, letters and adverts to encourage people to buy Lego and visit Legoland. In history we will look at how toys have changed throughout time. This will involve looking at the toys the pupils parents used to play with. Then leading onto our topic question we will consider what toys we might use when we are older and whether we think children will continue to play with the same toys. As part of our science topic we will learn about different animals and in art we will create sculptures and models of the different creatures.



Year 2



Our theme for next term is 'be the change you want to see in the world'. In Literacy we will be focusing on writing to persuade. The children will be thinking about which changes they would like to see in the school and possibly in wider society. We will write a persuasive argument with the aim of making these changes happen. Within this topic we will be learning about Mahatma Ghandi and his influence on India. In Maths we will continue our work on multiplication and particularly division and begin to focus on arrays. Eventually, we will move on to fractions, first looking at finding fractions of shapes before moving on to objects and numbers. As part of our Science Topic we will learn about living things and their habitats by comparing native UK and Indian animals. In Art we will create sculptures and models of the different creatures.



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>It's time to head way, way back to the land of pyramids, mummies and pharaohs as next term the children will be learning about the Ancient Egyptians and their rich and fascinating culture. Answering the question "Can we survive without water?", the children will learn about the River Nile as they understand more about water ways and the water cycle. This will also link to our science topic of plants and as the weather turns warmer we will investigate what plants need to grow. Through our maths topic we will be looking at 2D and 3D shapes and we will make our own mini deserts of pyramids! In literacy we will be writing to discuss and writing to entertain as well developing our use of figurative language. We will be writing our own shape poems linked to rivers as the children really consider their use of language. Later on the children will be writing to persuade as they try to convince someone to choose Ancient Egypt as a time travellers destination of choice!</p>
 <p>Year 4</p> 	<p>In Year 4 we will start with the question 'Has the invention of the aeroplane had a positive impact on the world?' We will link this to how flight is used within different contexts and imagine the world without flight. We will make links to World War II with a focus on local war hero Douglas Bader. Literacy will focus on Biographies, diary writing, war propaganda posters with an element of persuasion as part of writing to inform and entertain. We will read the book 'Friend or Foe' which looks at the dilemma two boys have when two German Pilots crash land near to their village.</p> <p>Maths will focus on measure and fractions and looking at the decimal equivalents. Time will be a large focus as this life skill is crucial and all children should be able to tell the time in digital and analogue formats. In Geography we will locate the world's countries, using maps to focus on Europe. In music we will be composing war songs and writing our own lyrics. To encourage people to join the war effort. Our trip will be a visit to the Woodley Air Museum which has a tribute to Douglas Bader.</p>
 <p>Year 5</p> 	<p>What is the fascination with fairgrounds? In this new and exciting topic, we will be exploring many different aspects of what fairgrounds are, why people go to them and how the mechanics behind the rides work. The topic will focus largely around Design and Technology, making models of rides, using circuits to make them work and testing out the models using figurines. We will also be looking at poetry and art related to fairgrounds and the rides. In science, we will study forces, paying particular attention to how forces affect how fairground mechanics work. The topic will culminate in the exciting 'Highwood Fair', where you will be able to see the pupils; work and take part in some of the more traditional fairground attractions. Prepare to be won over by our convincing persuasion posters too!</p>
 <p>Year 6</p> 	<p>Is change always a force for good? This term we will be considering the effects that technology and inventions have had on the way we live. In particular, we will be focusing on the industrial revolution and how Reading changed as a result of the induction of the railways. In Science, we will be looking at light (how it travels and how we see), and electricity. We will look at how the invention of electricity changed the way people live and just how dependent we are on electricity today. In English, we will study Pandora's Box and think about unintended consequences of change. In Art, we will study the work of significant artists and how they have portrayed technological advances. The topic will culminate in our own 'Great Exhibition' where we will showcase inventions of the past, and our predictions for the future.</p>



FRIENDS OF HIGHWOOD



What a busy term it has been! Thank you to everyone for your donations and support for the Winter Fair. The fair was an amazing success raising a record-breaking £1,169. There was a lovely atmosphere and fun seemed to be had by all. Thank you to all of you who came along.

Congratulations to F2 who won the Jolly Jam Jar competition, bringing in over 80 jam jars! They have each received a selection pack as a prize.



The money we have raised has been spent in many ways this term. We bought the projector, wall decorations and laptop safe for the Dance/Drama Hall. We also provided the book presents for the Foundation Christmas Party and the crackers and squash for the Christmas Dinner that all the children in the school enjoyed.

Congratulations to Lorraine (Breanna's Mum, Year 3) for winning £26.50 in the 100 Club this term. What a lovely early Christmas present that was for her!

Next term the following events will be happening:

Jan – Y5/6 Cake Sale

Feb – School Disco

March – Easter Trail



Look out for more details next term.

Don't forget we have a Facebook page (Parents and Friends of Highwood). Please search for us, like us and share our posts. We may will be advertising upcoming events, asking for your opinions and may even have competitions to win prizes on there!

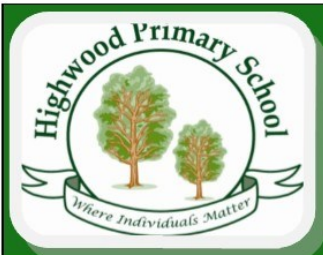


We hope you all have a very merry Christmas

From

The Friends of Highwood





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.





Diary Dates

Friday 16 th December 2016	Christmas Jumper Day – Save the Children
Monday 19 th December	Whole school Christmas parties Year 5 Walk to the Woods
Tuesday 20 th December 2016	Last Day of Term – School closes normal time
Wednesday 21 st December 2016 to Tuesday 3 rd January 2017	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS
Wednesday 4 th January 2017	INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED
Thursday 5 th January 2017	Start of Spring term
Friday 20 th January 2017	Year 5 & 6 cake sale
Tuesday 24 th January 2017	F1 Parents evening – 5pm to 8pm
Thursday 26 th January 2017	F1 Parents evening – 3.30pm to 5pm
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 22 nd February 2017	Year 1 & 2 Joint Class Assembly – 2:30pm
Thursday 2 nd March 2017	FS & KS1 SPLAT (parents into school) day – afternoon
Friday 3 rd March 2017	Reports to be sent home
Monday 6 th March 2017	KS2 SPLAT (parents into school) – afternoon
Wednesday 8 th March 2017	Sign2sing Year 5 class Assembly – 2:30pm
Tuesday 21 st March 2017	Year 3 and 4 Production – afternoon performance
Wednesday 22 nd March 2017	Year 3 and 4 Production – evening performance
Friday 24 th March 2017	Year 1 Trip to Legoland
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

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**)

