



Newsletter

Highwood Primary School Issue no.27

July 2017

'Where Individuals Matter'

Dear Parents/Carers,

At the end of the Summer term, I always like to reflect on the successes of the current year, prior to planning the improvements required for the next, and this year has provided many things to reflect upon. The children have performed extremely well academically (details inside) and there are exciting times with the expansion that will commence next week (details also inside). These positives are offset, of course, by the sadness of staff members and children moving on, but with change comes opportunity...

Recently I came across the presentation I gave to governors on my interview day: it was titled 'A 3 year vision for Highwood'. I will be completely honest, as I am now officially at the end of my 3rd year, I opened the document with trepidation to find out if my vision had become reality. I was actually taken aback with the closeness of the details I shared with governors on that day and what Highwood has become during the last 3 years. A few snapshots from my vision presentation were:

- **Child centred learning** - Our curriculum has this at its heart and I hope with the approach to mid year reports and the introduction of our child led learning reviews that parents see this as a success.
- **Stimulating learning environment** - I am proud to show current and prospective parents around our school and the opportunities the children have at Highwood are second to none.
- **Succession planning** - This has been vital to our improvements. My mantra in school is 'Judge my leadership on the days I am not in school'. It should never be about one person and, at Highwood, everyone contributes to its success.
- **Learning Behaviours** - This is probably my proudest achievement. Children are children and our learning behaviours make sure that we never forget developing their (and our) capacity to learn.
- **Family centre** - My second proudest achievement. This will continue to play a vital role in the community aspects of our school. Through our Parent Support Advisor, we will continue to invest in families through adult learning and any additional support that is required. This will help with our ultimate aim of giving our children the best chance at being a success.
- **SPLAT** - I think the attendance on the days and the positive feedback speaks for itself with this initiative. Dates have already been set for next year.
- **Developing Partnerships** - From cluster projects such as coding, art, history and science to Communitrees and Woodley choir, Highwood will also be part of these type of projects and more recently have taken the lead in organising many of the events that children can experience.

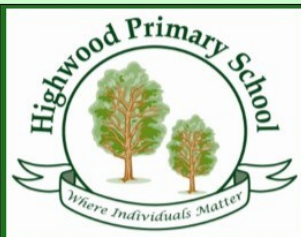
During the Summer, I will be pondering on the vision for the next 3 years and I am confident our new team will be just as successful at making it a reality.



I have made (and will continue to make) many speeches about staff leavers, but I feel it is important to commit to paper one fitting tribute for our whole community to read. Mrs Kearslake is Highwood through and through. Without her the success that experiences you read about in this, and all our newsletters, would not be possible.

On becoming Headteacher, many colleagues told me (and many things I'd read supported this view) that being a Headteacher is a lonely job... **They couldn't have been more wrong.** Until you are in the role, nobody will quite understand what a deputy Headteacher has to do in their day job. Mrs Kearslake has been the constant through many changes during her 15 years and she has made sure that my time here has been rewarding and that at any time I have needed support with anything, she has made the time to do so. I would like to thank her for everything she has done for me; the staff; the governors; the parents; the school community as a whole, but most importantly - the children. You will forever be in our hats!

Matt Hickey
Head Teacher
@headhighwood



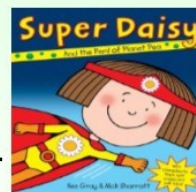
Foundation News

Mrs Robinson & Mrs Richards

Mrs Walker, Miss Richardson, Mrs Williams, Mrs Leigh,
Mrs Early, Mrs Jones, Miss Walker

Welcome to the Foundation Stage Newsletter for the second half of the summer term! We have been really busy continuing with our topic "How do we become a hero " and with all our other learning.

We have been looking at Super Heroes in stories, like 'Super Daisy and the peril of planet pea' and 'Supertato'. The F2 wrote some lovely stories about a super hero adventure and Super Daisy.



The children had great fun on dress up as a super hero day and we had lots of children entering the design your own 'Super vegetable' competition. We even had a visit from 'Batman!' Evil Pea also visited the setting. In F2 Evil pea stole 'Sergai super hero' and the children had to solve the challenges to save him.



In F1 the children had to work as a team to rescue two vegetables who had been kidnapped. The children showed very good team work and had lots of creative ideas as to how to rescue the vegetables.

Throughout this half term we have been setting a variety of challenges for the children to solve. We even had our own superhero den and a challenge centre outside.

In F2 maths the children did the Smarties challenge, they collected data on the colour of smarties that were in their box. We found out which was the popular colour, and that not all the boxes have the same amount of colours in them. Then they got to eat them.

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



Year 1 News

Mrs Vaux, Miss Amor & Mrs Wildey

Here is our last newsletter of the year! The children have been busy this past half term! Here are a few examples of how.

In English, Year 1 has had a phonics screening check. They took a phonics test of 40 words with Mrs Vaux and were very successful and confident! They enjoyed taking the test and took great pride in what they had achieved! Well done to the Year 1 children for persevering! They have improved their reading and their fluency as a result. Phonics will continue in Year 2 next year, and I am confident they will continue to make good progress.

In English we have been focusing on reflecting on the year through our learning behaviours ready for the end of year learning reviews. This was great fun as we got to think about all the things we have enjoyed throughout the year and look back on everything we have learnt. It was amazing to see how much progress the children have made in all subjects.

In science we continued our journey on learning about plants. The children have kept a weekly plant diary of how their plant is growing and developing. The children have loved this topic! It would be a great Summer holiday activity to have a go at growing some flowers or vegetables.

In PE we have been continuing to develop our game skills and took part in sports day. All of the children showed great teamwork and perseverance!

It has been a joy to teach this class for the last two years and watch all of them develop and grow. I know they will continue to excel in Year 2 and I wish them all the best!



Have a fantastic Summer Holiday!





Year 2 News

Mrs Eatwell, Mrs Vickery, Mrs Moffat and Mrs Kearney

I cannot believe it is coming to the end of your child's final half term in Year 2 and the time has absolutely flown.

The children's SATs results have been finalised and these will be with you shortly. All of the children have learnt so much this year and this has been showcased in their SATs results.



We have continued our Summer topic "what is the difference between a cake and a biscuit?" We have used this topic in all areas of the curriculum. Most recently we have been exploring Huntley and Palmers in preparation for our trip to Reading Museum on the 19th July. The children have learnt all about the history behind Huntley and Palmers and we have explored their tins. The children then designed their own tin in the style of Huntley and Palmer.

In maths we have continued to revisit many concepts, focusing this time mainly on number. We have revised the multiplication and division facts for the 2, 5 and 10 times tables as well as the multiplication facts for the 3s. The children seem very secure in counting in steps of 2, 5, 10 and 3 now.

In Literacy, much of our time has been dedicated to creating our learning reviews, ready for you to come in and discuss with the children. Your child has thought carefully about each learning behaviour and

they have written about how they have used each one this year. Some of their ideas are fantastic and I know that they cannot wait to share them with you.

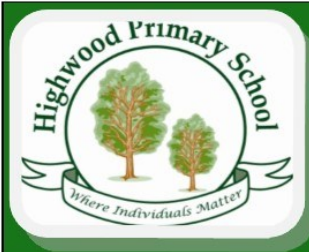
We have used the learning reviews as a stimulus for art and in particular self-portraits. The children looked carefully at themselves using mirrors and a photograph to draw themselves. They then explored the different ways in which they could use the pastels for different effects. These masterpieces have become the covers of their learning reviews!



In science, we have continued learning about plants and asking the question, what do plants need to grow and be healthy? We have reached our conclusions and the results were very interesting. Just look at the images and you will see how shocked we were. The children were so surprised that the plant with no light grew so long and spindly. Can they explain why that happened?



We wish you an amazing Summer break with your family and friends and look forward to seeing you at the start of the new academic year. Get lots of rest!



Year 3 News - Summer 2

Miss Abbott & Mrs Turnbull

It has been a long old term but as always the children have amazed me with their perseverance and continued hard work. I have absolutely loved teaching all of them this year and they should be so proud of all they have achieved in Year 3. Have a wonderful summer and I cannot wait to continue teaching the class more 'Español!' in September.

The Stone Age

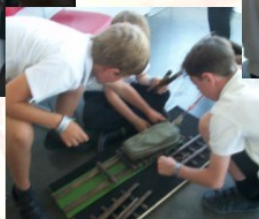
Why did people build Stonehenge?



STONEHENGE

After weeks of learning about the Stone Age, the children finally got to visit the famous Neolithic stone circle.

As the class finally spotted the huge stones in the distance, the excitement was rife! After an up close look and a mini tour of the site, we enjoyed our lunch in the sunshine before taking part in various workshop activities. Some children got to dress up in Stone Age costumes whilst others investigated how the huge stones were moved from one place to another.



The brilliant leaders then

explained how the light shines directly onto the stones during the summer and winter solstice and then the class got to have a go at some real Neolithic life skills such as fence building and rope making!

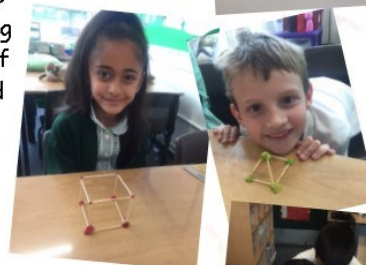
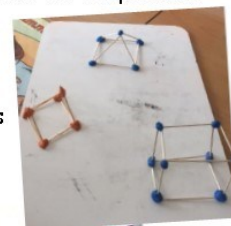


It was a fantastic day!



MATHS

At the start of the term we explored 3D shapes and the children used a range of modelling materials, such as plasticine and wooden sticks to construct our own cubes, pyramids and spheres and many more! We learnt how to describe the properties of 3D shapes by looking at the number of faces, edges and vertices as well as investigating what prisms are by using some very tasty maths equipment!



Later on in the term, we continued to develop our multiplication and division skills as we solved integer scaling and correspondence problems! Once we had worked out what it meant, the children investigated different problems, one of which was to find all the combinations of hats and scarves for a snowman. We had fun dressing him up and even managed to work out the rule!





Year 4 News Summer 2 2017 Team Mr Anderson, Mrs Tindall, Mrs Anil & Miss Rajput.



Welcome to the Summer 2 edition of the Year 4 news! It has been a short but very busy term. The highlight in Year 4 this term was the 'Trip to Swanage.'

Literacy - Persuasive Language

Our English lessons this half term have been focussing on Swanage and using persuasive language to encourage people to want to visit some of the magnificent attractions on offer on the Jurassic coastline.

We used software called Purple Mash to help us to create and design holiday brochures using the persuasive language features.

Maths - Graphs and Data Handling

In maths we have been learning graphs, how different graphs can be used effectively and how we can present collected data.

We looked at how a line graph can be used and why it would be used instead of a bar chart.

We visited the Woodley Precinct to ask shoppers about their shopping habits and we presented this data back at school using Microsoft Excel on the computers.

Science

We have been learning about electrical circuits and problem solving. We had to find out why different circuits would or would not work and investigate why the bulbs would or would not light.

Music - Something to Trumpet about.

The children have been able to continue with the fantastic opportunity to learn how to play the Trumpet this half term. As the weeks have passed the children have really made significant improvements, we performed in front of a parent audience to showcase what we had learnt.

PE - Keep on running.

This half term the children have been improving their athletic skills, Mr Edwards has been monitoring their progress and teaching them new skills to improve their scores. Mr Edwards and I took some year 4 pupils to visit Luckley House School, where we performed admirably, they were a pleasure to watch and take.

Geography/History - Sunny Swanage

The overnight trip to Swanage was the main highlight of the term. Myself, Mr Hickey and Miss Rajput travelled down to the Jurassic coastline of Swanage with 25 children where we were able to bring the Geography and History curriculum to life. The children were able to learn about many aspects of how the coastline has been formed over millions of years. We visited Durdle Dor Arch, and Swanage itself. We learnt about how Swanage contrasts to that of Reading in terms of landscape, jobs and the effects of tourism.



We did have time for some fun on the beach, buying gifts and having lunch, with magnificent views to look at and admire. We were also very lucky with the weather which added to the enjoyment. For some it was their first time visiting a beach and staying away from home. The trip was very successful and I would like to thank Mr Hickey, Miss Rajput and Mrs Westall for their fantastic support to make this visit possible.

ICT - Coding

Mr Hickey and I took 8 pupils to Bulmershe for a very successful coding day. The children paired up with children from other schools. They then presented their own coded games, using 'Scratch' software, to their parents. We were also able to see 3-D models being developed. Photos can be viewed on the year 4 Twitter page, this can be accessed from the school website, Year 4 class page.

I would also like this opportunity to thank all the parents and anyone who has supported us in Year 4 this year. I wish you all a happy and safe Summer holiday.

The Year 4 Team.



Year 5 News

Miss Baker, Mrs Payne & Mrs Chaudhary

Fish Bowl Day at Bulmershe

We had the exciting opportunity to be secondary students for the day at The Bulmershe School. Someone of us started the day with science. Here, we had the chance to test out what happened when different metal compounds were used; this meant one thing: using a Bunsen burner! We found out that we could tell which different metals were used in different coloured fireworks. After science we made our way to PE where we learnt an exciting new game from Denmark: called Tchouckball. After PE it was maths, where we tried out some maths challenges which were great fun! After maths, we had our lunch in the cafeteria and then went off to English. Here, we got to try 'flying saucer' sweets to write our own poems. Some children also got the chance to take part in a music lesson and we all re-told the story of the Lion King in drama. To top the day off, 3 of our pupils won medals in the celebration assembly! Emmanuel for sport, Nadim for music and Tristan for English.



Heroes and Villains at Waingels

Only a few days later, we spent the day at Waingels! This was a day all about Heroes and Villains - fitting perfectly in to our topic question. We



took part in melodrama washing powder adverts in drama, creating pop-art inspired speech bubbles in art and learnt to play the James Bond theme tune in music! We even got to try some of their cafeteria food. It was a superb day - well done to everyone.



Curtains!

One of the final challenges of the term was the Year 5 & 6 production of Curtains! We spent a long time learning lines, practising songs, rehearsing dances and lines, but it all paid off in the end! The pupils put on an incredible performance - all showing off their individual skills to pull together in an incredible team. Great work everyone!



That's it from me. It has been a very special year; I feel privileged to have had the chance to teach your children this year - they are a wonderful group of pupils who all have a very bright future ahead of them. Keep working hard, don't change and I will be back to see you when you are finishing Year 6. Good bye and good luck! (I'll miss you!)

Miss Baker



Year 6 News

Teacher: Mrs Raines

Welcome to your last newsletter from Year 6 and your child's last newsletter from Highwood. The children have come a long way this year – it has been a pleasure to see them mature and grow. Although this last half term has been filled with sporting events, visits to secondary schools, cooking, the end of year production and our trip to bowling and laserquest, we have managed to fit in some more traditional classroom learning.

English

In English, we worked hard at improving the accuracy of our writing: handwriting, spelling, sentence structure and punctuation. The class was split into two groups and were taught by either Mr Hickey or Mrs Raines. Mr Hickey's group wrote a play about being sent to the head teacher's office and a booklet about what it is like to be in Year 6. My group wrote persuasive letters and articles linked to our Science topic about Living Healthily.

Maths



Our question for this term was, 'Who wants to be a millionaire?' In maths, we learnt about profit and loss as we worked in teams to design and run a theme park. We also

looked at profit, and supply and demand as we tried to get the best deals where possible as we took the roles of customers, greengrocers, and wholesalers in a market place challenge.

Cooking

Undoubtedly, one of the highlights of the term has to have been the cooking.



Every child had the opportunity to work as part of a team to cook a 3 course meal for invited guests. All the children gained such a lot from the experience; all the staff involved complimented the children on how well they worked together and how delicious the food was. Some lucky guests even came back for more!

Curtains'

Our production, 'Curtains', gave us the opportunity to showcase our acting, singing, dancing, art and design.

The children worked really hard to put on an amazing and entertaining performance. Well done!



Bowling and Laserquest

How fantastic that the sun came out for our picnic and bowling trip. It was lovely to be able to have the opportunity to relax and have fun with the children. Everyone (even the adults) said how much they enjoyed it.

Mrs Haden and I would like to wish all the children all the very best as they move on up to secondary school. Keep in touch. Mrs Raines



Speech and Language Resource News

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

So another year comes to a close in the Resource! The children continue to really impress us in all areas of their learning as well as their Speech Therapy. It's a time when we wish our leavers Joe, Leo and Archie well at their new schools. They've been a credit to the school in their attitude and determination during their time with us. We are also sad to lose Mrs Eales. She will definitely be missed by the team and the children. We welcome Mrs Payne and as an experienced member of the mainstream support team I know she'll be an asset to the Resource. All that's left to say is have a lovely summer break and we'll see you in September!

Willow News

Literacy



We have been following and writing instructions in Guided Reading to make a ring box and a rabbit puppet. We hope you liked them! Well done to Sammy, Colleen and Holly for their excellent progress with writing and hard work in producing their Learning Reviews this half term.

Maths



In Maths, we have been having lots of fun measuring with water and learning coins and amounts of money!



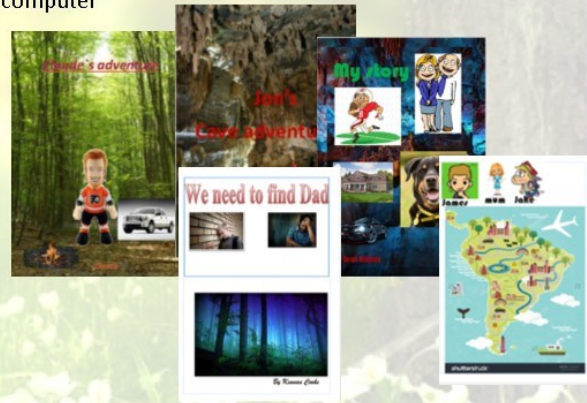
Congratulations on a very successful year! I look forward to working with you again next year when we will be welcoming Noah to join us in the Willow Resource class in the mornings.

Mrs Godfrey

Maple News

Literacy

This half term we have been writing stories based on 'Toms Midnight Garden'. We have had a wide variety of ideas for the stories and they have typed them up beautifully on the computer



These are the covers from the books and I think you will agree that they look very exciting!

On a personal note to all of you, I have thoroughly enjoyed teaching your children. They are wonderful learners and a pleasure to be with.. I wish you all well for the future.

Mrs K

Maths

This term has really seen the children move on with their learning in Maths. They've become much more confident in the strategies that we have covered in the year and it's lovely to see that they can become much more independent now.



We spent time on 'Money' and the children really impressed me with how much they already knew and how quickly they picked up the new learning. Maybe we have a few budding shop owners in our ranks!

Mr Bevan



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



Welcome to Foundation stage, we have a lovely topic called 'What makes us unique? Children seem to enjoy sharing their own experiences, feelings and opinions so this can be a good way of introducing a new group to each other. Starting with themselves we are going to find out just what makes us all so different. We are going to explore families, how we celebrate and where we come from.

Year 1



Welcome to Year 1! During this first term all of the subjects will be interwoven with our topic 'Why do people love to ride bicycles?' The inspiration for this idea has come from Tour de Britain which is starting on 3rd September. In maths, we will focus on counting and working with numbers to 20 and start developing their mathematical concept onto 100. We will look at maps and how we can use them to plot journeys. We will be creating our very own bike route for Tour de Highwood and will be visited by Bikeability again, continually building on the children's knowledge of road safety. On our Tour de Highwood route we will measure the distance and time using non-standardised measure and then move onto using measuring equipment. We will use our creativity to design team jerseys for Tour de Highwood and use musical instruments to develop a theme tune for the tour. In our science lessons we will explore different properties of materials and use this knowledge to help us pick waterproof materials for our Tour de Highwood team jerseys.

Year 2




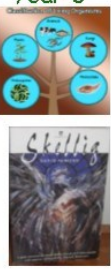


Welcome to Year 2! During the first half-term the children will be asking the key question 'Was the Great Fire of London a total disaster?' We will begin by ensuring that they know clearly how to use full stops and capital letters correctly. We will then move on to describing and sequencing the events through different writing genres, for example, newspaper articles. Eventually, the children will imagine living through the event and we will use this as a stimulus for some fiction writing. Throughout this time your children will be taught how to use a range of literary features, for example, adverbs, expanded noun phrases etc. In Maths, we will begin by consolidating their understanding of number from Year 1 and introducing new number concepts from Year 2. This work will also be linked to the Great Fire of London. In addition to learning about the fire, the children will learn about London and other capital cities in general. By the end of the term, they should be able to identify, name and locate the capital cities of the British Isles, in addition to describing some of the attractions there. In Science the children will be learning about animals, including humans. In order to link well with our topic, we will focus on the human life cycle from birth to adulthood. We will learn about body parts and what humans need to thrive.



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>This term we will explore the fascinating period in history when the Romans dominated the world. We will ask ourselves the question, 'What would life have been like for a Roman child?' Using our Geography skills we will find out where Rome is and learn a little about the landscape of Italy including the famous volcano Vesuvius! In Literacy we will be learning how to write non-chronological reports about the Romans as well as exploring some of the famous Roman and Greek myths and legends. Our maths lessons will focus on number and consolidate our understanding of place value and we will begin to learn and recall our times tables facts. Art and DT will centre around designing and creating Roman mosaics and in Science we will learn about forces and magnetism.</p>
<p>Year 4</p> 	<p>'Which of our senses is the most important?' will be our key question during the Autumn term. We will be writing poetry and performing plays using the book by Roger McGough 'Sensational' as our inspiration. In Maths, we will begin by consolidating their understanding of number from Year 3 and introducing new place value concepts from Year 4. Science will focus on the senses. We will look at how animals use their senses to hunt (smell etc.) and we will be making comparisons to that of humans. We will also be looking at animal habitats. In DT we will be planning, designing and making our own musical instruments, thinking about how the shape and material can affect the outcome of the sound. In addition to this we will be having visits from 'The Guide Dogs Trust' and someone who is deaf/blind and how they cope on a daily basis.</p>
<p>Year 5</p> 	<p>Surely the Earth has finished growing? Well, what if...? We will kick start Year 5 with an incredibly exciting topic, which ties together the Earth's creation, the life and times of dinosaurs, space and the solar system, volcanoes, and much, much more! We will take a trip to The Natural History Museum in London to further explore each of these exciting areas of our topic in order to find a definitive answer to the question: Has the Earth finished growing? I think you'll be surprised and amazed at what we find out! (Remember to complete your summer topic project to give you a head start!)</p>
<p>Year 6</p> 	<p>How often are things discovered for the first time? This term we will be thinking about this question in our English, Topic and Science work. We will start the term by studying 'Skellig' by David Almond. It is a story about a boy who discovers something unique in his garage. As scientists, we explore our local environment and discover the different organisms that live in it. We will investigate how we can categorise these living things and how they are named. If we discover an unknown animal, how could we know what it should be called? We will then move on to studying a different civilisation and find out what they discovered for the first time. Or did they...?</p>



PE/Sports News

Sports coach: Mr Edwards

Welcome to the last "PE & Sports News Page" of the 2016/17 academic year.

PE Lessons:

The classes have been concluding the suite of athletics events, learning cricket skills & playing full matches accumulating points week on week. Year 6 have completed their final assessments pulling all of their learning into the last 3 weeks of their primary school life. Year 2 have also had an extra session taking part in Zumba/Dance with our instructor Miss McNulty. This is still proving to be a fantastic hit with the children of all ages, boys and girls, so we are pleased to still be able to offer this opportunity to the children of Highwood.

This term's sporting stars in these lessons have been Pheobe Garner, Rose Stemp, Sarmed Raja, Ben Twigg, Nojus Armonaitis & Angus Helyer.

Interhouse Rounders:

This half term has seen the conclusion of the Inter-house Rounders competition with Falcons triumphing with Hawks in 2nd, Red Kites in 3rd place and Eagles in 4th place.

Matches & Tournaments:

This term we have been involved again in the Wokingham Schools Cricket League. We have played games against Woodley C Of E, Rivermead, Beechwood, Willow Bank and The Coombes. Highwood have this year

placed 4th in our league in division 2 out of 3. We are hoping to push for promotion next year as most of the children in the team are only

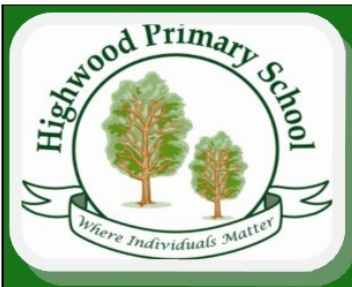
current year 5s so eligible to play next year! There has been so much improvement over the 5 matches especially in our fielding.



Well done to all of the boys and girls that have taken part. We have even played a number of "B Team" games which included a large number of our girls team.

Wokingham Schools Quadkids Tournament.

Our athletics team made their way to Palmer Park Athletics Stadium to compete in this year's tournament. There were some incredible individual performances from Melissa Koc who came 10th overall out of 122 girls and Jack Palmer in 35th overall again out of 122 boys. This year was again very close but unfortunately we missed out on county finals. Maybe next year?



PE/Sports News 2

Sports coach: Mr Edwards

Luckley House "Sports For All"

Mr Anderson and myself took a team of 4 boys and 4 girls from year 4 to compete in an afternoon of fun games and athletics at the Luckley House School. The weather was truly magnificent and the days activities were professionally run by their year 10 PE GCSE students. Our children performed brilliantly even coming first in a number of the events. We are very much looking forward to joining in again next year especially for the tea and cake.



Highwood Primary 2017 Sports Day.

This year sports day looked a little doubtful due to the weather but fortunately we were very lucky as the rain stayed away just leaving cloud cover. Sports day was completely revamped last year as we were keen to give every child in the school the opportunity to take part in every event plus work as a team and have the individual competitiveness at the same time. This year we kept the same format for KS2 plus a golf activity due to our application for a sports mark.

KS1 reverted to the carousel of activities plus every child being entered into a running race. Sports day wouldn't be the same without the parents and toddlers races and again they didn't disappoint.



After a whole mornings events in the KS2 sports day, only 1 point separated 1st & 2nd place with the Falcons winning with 3666 points. This just goes to prove that every child played their part and every last ounce of extra effort makes the difference. Once the scores from KS1 & KS2 were added together, the overall winners were indeed the Falcons. Once again I want to thank all of the staff, year 6s and the parents for their support of this years sports day.

I would like a final mention to our year 6 leavers wishing them all good luck in their new secondary schools. I am hoping to see your names on various team sheets in senior school. I hope you all have a great Summer break and I look forward to seeing you next academic year.

Mr Edwards



Highwood ICT News



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

Phone App

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

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

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

How to download the app

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

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

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

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



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

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

Don't forget to set up your notifications to receive class messages and urgent whole school messages.

Coding day.



Mr Hickey and I took eight of the Year 4 pupils for a day of coding at Bulmershe school. The children were paired up with pupils from the other five cluster schools, which are also involved with this annual event. The children were introduced to their partners and took part in some ice breaker and problem solving activities. They then had time to work with the software whilst being tutored and put into practice what they had been learning during the coding club sessions.

The children were also treated to some demonstrations from the Protek team, firstly a drone with a camera to show how the drone had been programmed with code in order for it to operate. Secondly, the adults and children were fascinated by the 3-D printer, which was programmed to print a model of an owl, this and a previously printed model were presented as prizes as were some VR goggles and printed mugs.

The children presented their coded games to their parents and were asked by Mr Hickey to explain how they worked as well as their educational value and the coding that took place behind the scenes.

The games were then judged by code club leaders and prizes were awarded accordingly.

Each of the participating schools were given a pack for use in their ICT coding clubs. They contained some VR goggles, an Orange pi which is a mini quad core computer with its own graphics, it can be programmed to perform tasks using code, this again was kindly donated by Protek.

A big thank you to Mrs Andrews for organising and putting the event together, Mr Hickey for the idea of running a coding day, to the Bulmershe school ICT department and of course to the teachers and parents. Without their support the day would not have been possible.

Mr Anderson - ICT Coordinator.





Family Centre



It has been a busy fun term at the family centre as sessions are coming to a close for the Summer. English and Maths courses are finishing for the term as learners do their final assessments. We've had confirmation that the courses will run in the Autumn term so keep an eye out for the information and assessment mornings. We are also talking to adult learning at Wokingham about running some new courses in September, so if you have anything you would particularly like to see, please do get in touch. We've also had a lovely group for stay and play – some of whom will be graduating up to nursery in September.

It is with some sadness that this will be my last contribution to the Highwood newsletter – I will miss the school hugely. I have been made to feel very welcome and thank you to all the families who have accessed the family centre, or attended one of the many sessions that we have run.

The role of the parent support advisor is a very varied and interesting one, as it is something that is led by YOU as a member of the Highwood Community. Please do pop in and say hi to Kerry, our new PSA who I'm sure you will make feel as welcome as you did with me. I'm sure she will welcome your feedback of what you would like to see happen in the next academic year! I'll let her have the final word from the family centre J

“Hi I am Kerry and I will be the new PSA at Highwood. I would like to take a moment to introduce myself and I am looking forward to meeting you all in September! I genuinely look forward to having the opportunity to meet you all in person, and am excited about the projects we will be working on together”.





FRIENDS OF HIGHWOOD



What a busy year. This half term we have supported a lot of school projects. The biggest being the Woodley Carnival float in the Harry Potter theme which we paid for, helped decorate and walked alongside. We also funded the Foundation Stage Father's Day breakfast and the stickers for Sports Day.



This half term saw a very successful cake sale raising over £130. Thank you to Year 3 and 4 for all the donations.

We have also been lucky enough to have had good weather and been able to sell ice lollies every Friday.



This half term is finishing with the family picnic, which as this is being written is still to happen. We are hoping the weather will hold and it will be a huge success with everyone enjoying themselves. Thank you to everyone who donated a tombola prize and bought raffle tickets. We will also be revealing the winner of the FOH logo competition – thank you to all that entered. Look out for the new logo to be used on our future correspondence.

Next term we are holding our AGM on Tuesday 26th September and we invite everyone to join us. Please come along and find out who we are and what we do. We are always looking for new ideas and it would be great if people could give just an hour or two during the year to help support.



We are also holding a new parents afternoon tea for Foundation Stage parents on Friday 22nd September, as well as a film night on Thursday 19th October. After the success of the magician last term, we have booked Bertie Slipper, a children's entertainer, for Thursday 16th November. Then we will be looking forward to the Winter Fair that is on Saturday 9th December.



From everyone in Friends of Highwood we hope you enjoy half term.





Governing Body

Beth Rowland - Local Authority Governor

I have been a school governor for over 30 years – I became involved when my now 38-year-old son started nursery – and have just stayed as I enjoy this work that is so important to our children. My aim is to make a difference – when I cannot do that I will retire.

As the elected member for South Lake ward on Wokingham Borough Council I am especially interested in the standard of education that is provided for our children. The standard of teaching has a direct effect on the learning that our pupils have and therefore their achievement. Part of the job of the governing body is to be the critical friend to the headteacher – I also hold the local authority to account in my regular meetings with the Education department.

I also have a special interest in Special Educational Need and Disabilities, Pupil Premium and Looked after Children (that is those that are in foster care) and Safeguarding.

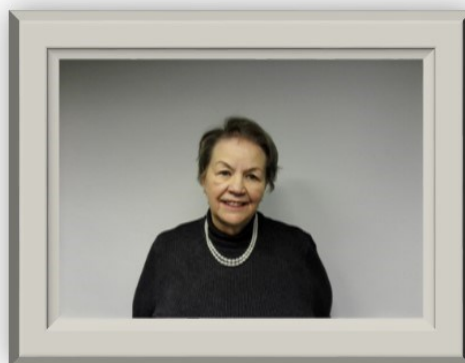
As an elected member, I hold the portfolio for Education for the opposition – and have done for some years. My role as a governor helps me to see how the local authority are delivering for our children and to speak up for our school. I am involved with the expansion project and hope that the building work will start soon.

I also work in finance so am very interested what money we get from the Local Authority and how we spend it. Using our money to have the very best of staff is very important to me – our staff are our best asset – to enable the governing body to ensure that your children have the best education that we can give them. We also need to be properly resourced.

My role as an elected member also allows me to support residents not only with problems they may have in school but with all other aspects of life that involve the local authority – please feel free to contact me should you need my help.

Beth Rowland

Vice Chair of Resources Committee



End of Year Data Headlines

2016 — 2017

This year's results showed improvements in **EVERY** single area that is tested in schools at a national level! Our Key Stage 2 results showed us above the national average in Reading and Writing, but highlight areas such as Maths and Grammar (spelling in particular) that we need to continue our improvements.

Key Stage 1 saw significant improvements in all areas and, based on last year's information, will be well above the national average.

Our Phonics data and our good level of development at EYFS have increased significantly and show the impact of our investment in these areas over the last few years.

Well done to everyone involved!

KS2:

- ▶ Reading - 74% - National Average was 71%
- ▶ Writing - 78% - National Average was 76%
- ▶ GPS - 65% - National Average was 77%
- ▶ Maths 70% - National Average was 75%

- ▶ Reading, Writing and Maths combined - 52% - National Average was 61%

KS1: (National Average not yet released for comparison) (2016 National Average)

- ▶ Reading - 80% (74%)
- ▶ Writing - 77% (65%)
- ▶ Maths - 80% (73%)
- ▶ Reading, Writing and Maths combined - 67% (60%)

Phonics Screening

- ▶ 97% pass rate in Year 1; 86% pass rate in Year 2 and 93% pass rate combined.

EYFS

- ▶ Good Level of Development (GLD) was 87%



Expansion Update

The expansion project will begin in earnest on Wednesday 26th July. Over the 6 week break the following works will take place:

- Creation of a new entrance from Woodlands Avenue into Highwood.
- Conversion of current F1 (nursery) and F2 (reception) classrooms into a larger space with increased capacity for Nursery aged children. Changes will include:
 - A new changing station / shower facility
 - A larger vinyl flooring area for indoor wet / messy play as well as a designated space for snacks.
 - Redecoration
- Conversion of current Year 1 and Current Year 2 into 2 new F2 classes. Changes will include:
 - A soundproof retractable door added to allow 'free flow' between the two learning spaces.
 - New double doors on the external corridor wall to allow safer access to the redesigned outside area (see photo)
 - Carpeting and decoration.
 - New outside area
- The Dance / Drama will be converted into a temporary classroom for Year 1. Changes will include:
 - Carpet being laid
 - Electronic blinds being installed
 - Display board installed
- ICT suite being converted into temporary classroom for year 2. Changes will include:
 - White board installed
 - Display boards installed
 - Cloakroom pegs installed
- A link will be created between the entrance on Woodlands Avenue and the KS1 and KS2 playground. This will utilise the existing doors with a partition wall and key fob doors being installed.
- The grass mound at the front of the school car park will be removed for additional car parking capacity to be created.



One further thing for parents to note will be that the small gate entrance (directly opposite the pedestrian crossing) will NOT be in use from September. This is because the contractors compound will be created in the space close by and it is vital we keep all children away from that area. The main gate entrance will not be affected and our new entrance on Woodlands Avenue should be fully operational by the start of term.

I would like to thank you in advance for your support during the expansion project. Our main aim is to guarantee safety of all in school; ensure there is minimal disruption during the process and have a fantastic school building once all the work is done. I will keep you updated with any further developments.

Diary Dates



Wed 26 th July to Friday 1 st September 2017	Summer Holidays
Monday 4 th & Tuesday 5 th September 2017	INSET DAYS – School closed for staff training
Wednesday 6 th September 2017	Start of Autumn Term for Years 1 to 6 Foundation closed due to home visits
Thursday 7 th September 2017	Foundation closed due to home visits Meet the Teacher at 3.30pm & 4.30pm
Friday 8 th September 2017	Foundation closed due to home visits
Monday 11 th September 2017	New F2 children staggered start – am or pm Existing Nursery/F1 children start
Monday 18 th September 2017	F2 pupils fulltime Staggered starts for new Nursery/F1 children during week Year 1 Literacy parent workshop – 3.30 to 4.30pm
Friday 22 nd September 2017	FOH afternoon social for F1 & F2 parents at 2.15pm
Tuesday 26 th September 2017	Year 2 Literacy parent workshop – 3.30 to 4.30pm FOH AGM – 7.30pm
Thursday 28 th September 2017	F2 Literacy parent workshop – 3.30 to 4.30pm
Thursday 5 th October 2017	Year 3 Literacy parent workshop – 3.30 to 4.30pm
Thursday 19 th October 2017	FOH Film Night – more details to follow
Monday 23 rd October to Friday 27 th October	HALF TERM SCHOOL CLOSED
Monday 3 rd November 2017	Year 3 Maths parent workshop – 3.30 to 4.30pm
Monday 6 th to Friday 10 th November 2017	Year 6 Trip to Marchants Hill
Monday 6 th November 2017	Year 1 Maths parent workshop – 3.30 to 4.30pm
Tuesday 7 th November 2017	Year 2 Maths parent workshop – 3.30 to 4.30pm
Friday 10 th November 2017	F2 Maths parent workshop – 3.30 to 4.30pm
Monday 13 th November 2017	Foundation SPLAT – 1.30pm
Tuesday 14 th November 2017	New Parent Tours – 9.30am, 1.30pm & 6pm KS1 SPLAT – 1.30pm
Wednesday 15 th November 2017	KS2 SPLAT – 1.30pm
Thursday 16 th November 2017	New Parent Tours – 9.30am, 1.30pm & 6pm FOH 'Bertie Slipper' Magician show – after school
Wednesday 22 nd November 2017	Parents evening – 3.30pm to 6pm
Thursday 23 rd November	Parents evening – 5pm to 8pm
Tuesday 5 th December 2017	KS1 performance – morning
Wednesday 6 th December 2017	KS1 performance - afternoon
Saturday 9 th December 2017	FOH Winter Fayre
Tuesday 19 th December 2017	Last Day of Term
Wed 20 th December to Tuesday 2 nd Jan 2018	Christmas Holidays
Wednesday 3 rd January 2018	INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED
Thursday 4 th January 2018	Start of the Spring Term

Foundation SPLAT – Tuesday 6th March 2018 – 1.30pm

KS1 SPLAT – Thursday 8th March 2018 – 1.30pm

KS2 SPLAT – Monday 12th March 2018

Year 3 & 4 Production – Wednesday 21st – afternoon & Thursday 22nd March 2018 - evening

KS1 SPLAT – Tuesday 12th June 2018 – 1.30pm

Foundation SPLAT – Wednesday 13th June 2018 – 1.30pm

KS2 SPLAT – Tuesday 19th June 2018 – 1.30pm

KS2 Sports Day – Tuesday 26th June 2018 - morning

F2/KS1 Sports Day – Thursday 28th June 2018 – morning

Year 5 & 6 Production – Wednesday 11th & Thursday 12th July 2018 – evening

Year 6 Leavers event – Wednesday 18th July 2018 – 6.30pm