



# Newsletter

## Highwood Primary School Issue no.29

December 2017

'Where Individuals Matter'

Dear Parents/Carers,

What an exciting first term we have had - and how quick it has flown by! You will read in this edition the amazing progress that your children are making and how the opportunities in our curriculum are giving your children the chance to really develop our Learning Behaviours in a meaningful way.

We have made a conscious effort this term to increase the amount of parental engagement opportunities by increasing the frequency and regularity of parental workshops, as well as continuing to offer our SPLAT afternoons. This was something identified to us through our parent survey analysis to improve and we will go further in the future with a fully redesigned website that has children and parents as its primary focus.

We are also trialling access to online learning websites to support our homework provision. We have an interesting balance to strike so that the parents who wish their children to have more homework can access activities without an increase in teacher workload. It also allows us the flexibility to have activities available without them being 'set tasks', so that parents who feel we provide enough homework already continue to be happy with our provision. When this is launched, I would appreciate any parental feedback that you may have.

Can I take this opportunity to thank all the families that have sponsored me for my half marathon run in March next year. On the cold, wet mornings, it makes such a difference having a meaningful cause to run for and knowing that the school community is supportive of the effort. For those that would like to, the details of my cause and how to sponsor me are detailed here:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/matt-hickey1>

There is a sponsor form in the school office for those without access to online facilities.

Matt Hickey  
Head Teacher  
@headhighwood







# Foundation 1 News

## Mrs Richards and Miss Nunn

We have had a very busy second half to the Autumn term. The children have all settled in well and are enjoying exploring the indoor and outdoor environments within the setting. The children have built good relationships with each other and with the adults in F1 and are having lots of fun engaging in new experiences.

This half term we have been continuing with our 'How are we unique?' topic. As part of this we have been learning about different celebrations which families take part in and celebrate. This included Diwali, where the children learnt all about the festival of light and enjoyed learning about the story of Rama and Sita. They also made their own Diya lamps out of clay and then decorated them. Children who celebrated Diwali shared their experiences and spoke all about their celebrations at home.



We have also been exploring different types of messy plays. We have been exploring different textures and learning about the words we could use to describe the texture of things. The children used their senses to explore the messy play and speak about what they could see, smell and feel. We have so far explored different coloured rice, spaghetti, oats, flour, shaving foam, lentils and bubble play.

The children have been continuing to develop the muscles in their hands by participating with 'Dough Disco' where they use play dough to manipulate along to music and action songs in order to strengthen their hand muscles. Following on from this, they have been practicing their mark making skills and pen control.



We had a special visit this half term from Mrs Galpin, who is from R.E Inspired. She came along to teach the children all about the meaning of Christmas and the story behind it. The children enjoyed learning about the birth of Baby Jesus and they got really engaged with the story. They then participated with lots of different Christmas activities with Mrs Galpin during her visit to F1.

Thank you to all the parents that have supported us during the second half of this term and we look forward to welcoming the children back in the New Year!

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

**@HighwoodPrimFS1**



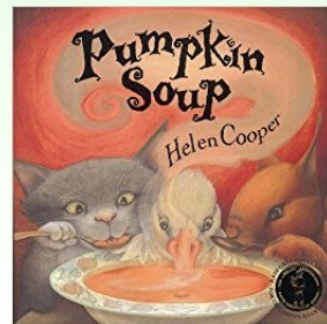


# Foundation 2 News

## Mrs Parker & Mrs Robinson

Welcome to the Foundation Stage Newsletter for this term! We have been really busy continuing with our topic "What makes us unique?" and with all our other learning - take a look!

We started the half term enjoying the story 'Pumpkin soup'. Making pumpkin soup and pumpkin muffins! The F2 children enjoyed eating them! We also learnt about Diwali, the festival of light and harvest festival. The children showed pictures and talked about special events that take place with their families. We made firework pictures using the purple mash program on the iPads.



In maths the F2 children have been learning about sequencing. They have been using unifix cubes to make a 2 colour repeated pattern and a 3 colour repeating pattern! We introduced Numicon and the children have been practising their addition. The children have also been learning about measuring, they have measured their feet and comparing the length of different items found around school.



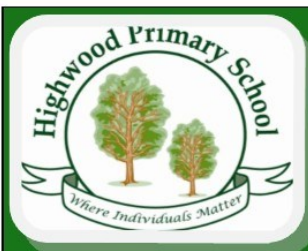
In topic, we have found out about the growing cycle of pumpkins as well as observing and measuring them. The children also got the opportunity to write a letter to Father Christmas, we are hoping for a reply before the end of term. There were some interesting presents requested! The children have also written list of yummy food they would like for a party.

The children had the opportunity to show off their singing and dancing during the Christmas concert. They all looked lovely in their outfits and were amazing in the hall in front of all the parents!



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 - Autumn 2

Miss Abbott,

Miss Amor & Miss Walker

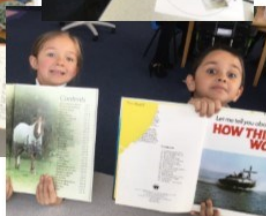
Another great half term for Year 1 and we have packed so much learning and activities into the last 7 weeks! All the children have worked incredibly hard and should be very proud of their efforts, especially with the fantastic Nativity performance. Now, time to relax, unwind and enjoy the festive break!



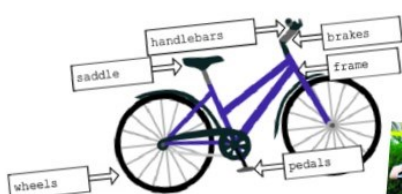
## Why do people ride bicycles?

### English

Non-fiction has been our focus this half term and we started by exploring what non-fiction actually means. Using both story and information books, the children compared the differences and similarities and used Venn diagrams to show what they had found out. Next we looked more closely at the features of non-



fiction texts and worked in teams to find the contents page, index and glossary in our own topic books. Now the children were non-fiction experts, we started to plan our own topic books focusing on the exciting Tour de Highwood. Entitling our mini books 'Racing bikes' the children wrote introductions as well as different sections on 'How to ride a bike' and 'preparing for the race'. We even used ICT to create a labelled diagram for one of the pages and used a search engine to choose images for some of the other sections.



By James and Gracie

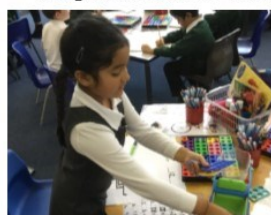


### Maths

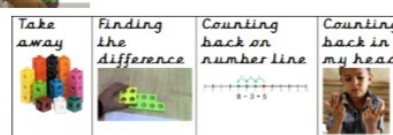
Year 1 have worked so hard in maths this term, learning all about calculation. We started off by finding out one more and one less than a given number to 100 and used 100 squares to help us 'jump' forwards and backwards along the squares. The children then learnt about addition and used different resources to add 1 and 2-digit numbers to 20.



Using Numicon and balance scales we then looked at what



the equals sign means so we could solve missing number problems. Recently the children have been learning how to subtract numbers using 3 different methods.



### Year 1 Bike show and race



It was a rather chilly morning when the children donned their helmets and climbed onto their bikes and scooters for the brilliant bike show and race. They took to the catwalk in style to show off their skills and moves and



showed perseverance in teamwork in the races. What a fun morning!



Follow us on Twitter to find out more about what Year 1 are up to. [@HighwoodPrimYr1](https://twitter.com/HighwoodPrimYr1)





## Year 2 News

Mrs Eatwell, Mrs Wildey & Mrs Kearney

### ***Was the Great Fire of London a total disaster?***

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 children have also created their own Tudor houses whilst thinking about materials during that time period.

They look brilliant!

We continued to learn about animals, including humans and what we need in order to survive and thrive. The children have learnt about a range of offspring and have matched them to the adults. They have also learnt about different types of animals.



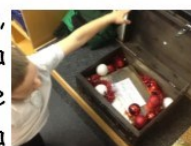
In Maths we have learnt a few concepts based around addition and subtraction. The children have begun to use inverse opera-

tions to check the work of others. They all now have a method for completing additions and subtractions confidently. Perhaps they can show you this at home over Christmas. They have used their methods in context to help them problem solve.



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 are looking forward to reading all of the wonderful stories inside.

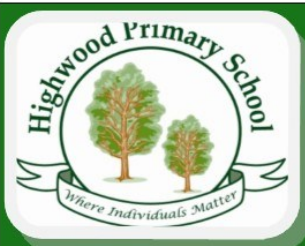


A huge thank you to all of the parents who came to the SPLAT afternoon. We are looking forward to seeing you again at the next one!

Wishing you all an enjoyable Christmas holidays.

Twitter: @HighwoodPrimYr2





# Year 3 News

## Mrs Hartgrove & Mrs Turnbull

We have completed our first term in Year 3. We are getting used to being part of KS2 now and have been trying to use our teamwork skills and finding out 'What was life like as a Roman child?'.

### LITERACY

This term we have looked at non-fiction texts. We retrieved facts from information texts and looked at lots of books to understand the features. Then together we used our knowledge of magnets to write a non-chronological report. After that we used everything we knew about Romans to write our own report. We used the computers to type



up our final copy and then turned it into a class book. Then we started to look at poetry and wrote our own poems to enter into a competition.

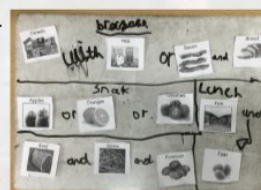
### MATHS

In maths we've been continuing with our calculations. We have been using our written methods to solve missing number problems and start to think about the inverse relationship between addition and subtraction. We had a great SPLAT afternoon where the children were able to show off their number knowledge. Then we moved onto shape where we were identifying right angles and thinking about clockwise and anti-clockwise turns. Next we learnt the difference between horizontal and vertical lines as well as perpendicular and parallel. We learnt a song to help us. Finally we have been finding the perimeter of simple shapes. Also this term we launched Times Table Rockstars that the children have been working hard on and really improving their scores.



### SCIENCE

This half term we have been thinking about nutrition within humans and animals. First we created food chains thinking about producers and consumers. We also learnt about herbivores and carnivores. Then we thought about what humans eat and learnt about the different food groups. We looked at food labels to see how we can spot healthy foods and find sugar and salt content. Then we designed our own healthy meals. Finally we looked at how the skeleton helps us to move and protects our organs. We made our own moving skeletons and labelled the bones.



### TOPIC

In topic we have been continuing with our Roman topic. We had a visit from ZooLab where we met some creatures that the Romans ate and some that inspired their stories. We had a great time preparing for our assembly and everyone did really well. We also looked at the Roman Army and their soldiers. In Art we designed and created our mosaics using small cardboard tiles; the finished products look fantastic. In computing we have been practising our typing skills and getting used to using Microsoft Word.



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







## Year 4 News Autumn 2017 (Mr Allaway and Mrs Tindall.)



**Which of our senses is the most important?**

**Welcome to the Autumn edition of the Year 4 news! Highlights in Year 4 this term were the visitor, time capsule writing and our successful SPLAT day.**

### English - Poetry writing

This term we focussed on the senses as our main driver across the curriculum. We have written several poems using different models and have been learning to perform them in the style of a range of poets. We wrote free verse poems based on the creative poem 'The Magic Box' by Kit Wright. Year 4 used their imagination to create abstract ideas that could be placed in their magical box, including skills such as alliteration to bring their sentences to life.

We looked at Japanese Haikus, learning the specific structure that they must follow. Year 4 then used this style to create interesting poems linked to the school's learning behaviours that are going to be buried in the Highwood time capsule for children to enjoy in 50 years time. We even used ICT skills to create visuals of the learning behaviour characters to accompany the poems.



### Maths - Problem solving and geometry

In maths year 4 have been learning how to add and subtract 4 digit numbers using written methods. The children then used this knowledge to solve and create their own multi step word problems. Those of you at the SPLAT afternoon would probably agree that the children's use of skills and knowledge was quite impressive.

In geometry we have been looking at the properties of 2D shapes, including identifying different angles. The children have also learned how to identify and create symmetrical shapes and patterns in multiple lines of symmetry. We linked this learning to Rangoli patterns and created some visually stunning designs.



### Science - Food chains and classification

Year 4 have been learning all about different types of organisms and how they combine to create food

chains. After some interesting discussions about which organism would consume the other (yes, Great White Sharks could consume a Zebra, but they're unlikely to find one swimming in the ocean!) we were able to use scientific language to describe them.



### SPLAT

The year 4 SPLAT afternoon 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 where they had to use the skills covered this year so far to identify where Rio was hidden on the island. All the children had a enjoyable time, especially when they got to show off to their parents. Thank you to all of the parents 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.

### Visits

Year 4 were very lucky to have a visit from Zoolab at the beginning of the term, where they got to meet a millipede, a tarantula, a giant African land snail, a hissing cockroach, a rat and a corn snake. They learned about how they use their senses to hunt, survive and navigate their habitats.



After the visit, the children did lots of excellent research on their favourite animal, collecting as many interesting facts as they could. They then grouped these under rhetorical questions and wrote an information text all about them.

From all of year 4, we hope you have a wonderful Christmas. Twitter: [@HighwoodPrimYear4](https://twitter.com/HighwoodPrimYear4)







## Year 5 News Autumn 2 2017 Team: Mr Anderson, Mrs Raines, Mrs Anil & Mrs Shakeel.



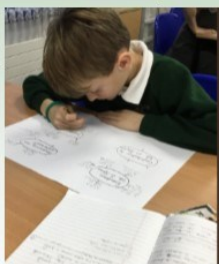
### Has the Earth finished growing? - Space

Welcome to the Autumn 2 edition of the Year 5 news! I am pleased to say that we've had a fantastic term with lots of exciting opportunities and lots of new learning going on. Please read on to find out more!



#### Literacy - Space writing—Non Fiction

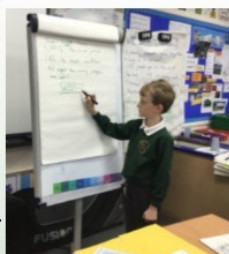
This half term we have been finding out about the planets of the Solar system, researching and writing about them in a variety of ways. We have linked this to both our new Class reading where we have been finding evidence and developing our comprehension skills. We have also used videos and a range of different media to summarize information about the British astronaut Tim Peake, then developing our writing, placing the notes we made within categories and Sub-Headings.



Our reading helped us to pick out key information, develop descriptions and using fronted adverbials.

#### Maths - Rock stars

Our maths lessons this half term have helped us to develop our times tables skills. We learn times tables using the new Time Table Rock stars software, together with regular paper tests to improve our average time to answer each question. Remember you can further improve by logging on at home. We have also been comparing angles and learning to use a Protractor to measure and draw angles as well as identifying angles within a shape.



Music. In Music we have been thinking carefully about Space. We have been listening to composers such as Holst and Jean-Michel Jarre, we have thought carefully about what the music represents, the sounds and then creating artwork from this.

PE - Hockey and Zumba This half term the children have been improving their hockey skills, Mr Edwards has been monitoring their progress and teaching them new control skills. My class have been fortunate to have Zumba lessons from professional dance teachers, they have been developing their dance moves and building on them each week.

#### Topic/Science - Has the Earth finished growing

We enjoyed making Papier-Mache Planets, but we have gone beyond just making the planets themselves. We have been learning about the different planets and thinking about how we were going to present them through colour mixing, making comparisons to Earth and composing music using Holst as an inspiration. We will be presenting our work to our parents in the final week, showcasing some of the great teamwork and many other of our learning behaviours.



We have also been creating moving planets within a Solar System using the Purple Mash animation

*We would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year We look forward to continuing this hard work after the Christmas break.*

*Mr Anderson & Mrs Raines,*

Twitter: @HighwoodPrimYr5





# Year 6 News

## Teacher: Mr Pearce

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

### PGL—Marchant's Hill.



Many of us ventured into the new half term with a visit to PGL Marchants Hill. It was clear from the days building up to the trip that there was a lot of excitement and a little bit of trepidation: being away from home for four nights; tackling challenges involving heights and putting up with Mr. Pearce for a whole solid week were just some of them. However, I have to admit that, as a whole, the Year 6s tackled every challenge with enthusiasm and a real team-spirit. Staff at Marchants Hill were very complimentary of how encouraging and motivational the pupils were with each other which did make their teacher glow with pride a bit! What I personally enjoyed most about the trip was seeing strengths in pupils that I hadn't seen in the classroom: incredible climbing skills, fearless determination and being worryingly good with a bow and arrow! It was an extremely enjoyable trip and the Year 6s really showed their maturity.

### Topic

We delved a little deeper into our understanding of biomes in geography and the pupils led their own investigation of the world's various biomes through creating questions to satisfy the curiosity of a read-



er keen to gain a full understanding of the subject knowledge. The Year 6s worked in teams to produce a range of posters that were certainly both engaging and informative.

### English

It's been hard graft with English this half term and the pupils have been tackling some very ambitious text types to innovate upon: a balanced argument about the issues surrounding Fair Trade (to link with our focus on the Americas, The Maya and chocolate production) and now an origin story in the tradition of Rudyard Kipling's *Just So* stories and inspired by the Mayan creation myth. The Year 6s are working very independently and producing some very entertaining pieces indeed!

### Science

In science, we concluded our study of classification and delved into the subject of inheritance and adaptation with an insight into how life evolved on planet Earth from water-based molecules all the way up to the complex, multi-celled organisms we are today. We even created a composition as a soundtrack to the evolution of single molecules becoming single-celled organisms - abstract!

### SPLAT

I cannot thank the family members who made it to our SPLAT day this half term enough for helping to make it the energetic, engaging and focused event that it was! The maths investigation certainly was a challenging one and it was great to see the pupils revising and applying their learning for parents to see. Many parents remarked on the sophistication of the mathematics involved which reminded me just how hard the Year 6s have been working.

Find us on Twitter: @HighwoodPrimYr6





# Speech and Language Resource News

**Mrs Godfrey & Mr Bevan**  
**Mrs Payne, Mrs Wright, Mrs Jenkins and Mrs Weir**

So the first term comes to a close and we've been really pleased to see the progress with all of the children in the Resource. I hope that those of you who are using our new APP 'SeeSaw' have found it useful in helping you have a bit more of an insight to their day-to-day learning. We've welcomed two new members of staff to the Resource team - Mrs Jenkins and Mrs Weir this term too. All that's left is for us to wish you and your families a restful holiday and a Happy New Year.

## Willow News

### Literacy—What makes Animals Amazing?

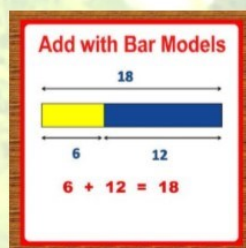


After a superb trip to The Living Rainforest, KS1 Resource have concentrated on non-fiction writing about animals including top trumps cards, riddles and fact files. We hope you enjoy visiting our zoo in the sensory room where we will be showcasing all of our work!

### Maths - Solving Calculation Problems

In maths we have been working on solving addition and subtraction problems. We have used counters, Numicon, number lines and bar models to do this, including finding the answer to missing number problems. Well done to all the children for their hard work with the number bond cards. Knowing our number bonds is really helping us to solve calculation problems. We have also shown lots of perseverance with writing numbers as words.

Number Words					
1	one	11	eleven	30	thirty
2	two	12	twelve	40	fourty
3	three	13	thirteen	50	fifty
4	four	14	fourteen	60	sixty
5	five	15	fifteen	70	seventy
6	six	16	sixteen	80	eighty
7	seven	17	seventeen	90	ninty
8	eight	18	eighteen	100	hundred
9	nine	19	nineteen	1,000	thousand
10	ten	20	twenty	1,000,000	million



## Maple News

### Literacy—What Makes Animals Amazing?



Our key question has continued in the second half of the Autumn term and therefore we've focussed on more non-fiction work after our really exciting trip to The Living Rainforest. The trip itself was a great experience for the children and it allowed them to see and learn about animals that they hadn't be aware of before. The sloth was particularly popular!

The children have enjoyed researching other animals to create 'Top Trump' cards, posters and leaflets which are all on display in the 'Highwood Zoo'. We will be adding pictures and a video to your child's 'SeeSaw' account so if you haven't joined yet—make sure you do!

### Maths - Calculation

In Maths the children have worked really hard to develop their understanding of the formal written methods of addition and subtraction. I was really pleased at the speed that they picked up the skills taught and also how they persevered with some of the problem solving.

The children have also really taken to "Times Tables Rock Stars" and I hope they've been showing off their skills at home too! It's definitely something to encourage during those quiet Christmas holiday moments!

Follow us on Twitter: @HighwoodPrimR





# PE/Sports News

## Sports coach: Mr Edwards

**Welcome** to the final half term "PE & Sports News Page" of the 2017. 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, Hockey and Disability Games.

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 House matches. We have seen some great work over all of the school years especially our year 3s. I am optimistic about Highwood Primary and their potential in the future.

Year 5 have also had an extra session taking part in Dance lessons with both Miss King and Miss Coleman (whilst Miss King is performing in panto). This is still proving to be a fantastic hit with the children of all ages, boys and girls plus they have been learning a new Christmas themed dance.

I am also continuing to teach the indoor PE to year 5 which has focused on Disability Games such as Boccia, New Age Kurling and Seated Volleyball. This has given me the opportunity to utilise the new equipment that the whole school successfully fundraised for, plus the children learning new skills, teamwork and strategy. The development that has occurred this term in all lessons has been fantastic. This shone through in our House Rugby Competition.

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:-

**Mondays:** KS2 Tag Rugby Club with Mr Allaway

**Tuesdays:** Year 1 & 2s Multisports lunch club and After school club. KS2 Hockey club led by Mr Anderson.

**Thursdays:** House Competitions at Lunch, KS2

Football Club Training & a Boccia & New Age Kurling Club with Mrs Eatwell after school.

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 the "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 ending with an 8-0 win over Earley St Peters to clinch 3rd place in the league. This means we will be in division 3 next term. The footballers are now starting to play as an organised unit passing and moving, supporting their team mates.





# PE/Sports News

## Sports coach: Mr Edwards

Our Boys B team & our 5/6 Girls team have also had the opportunity to play which has been fantastic. They had a great game with Woodley C Of E. Our boys are working hard but recorded a narrow loss but the girls recorded a great 4-1 win. This has proved what I have encouraged for years. This time last year, 4 out of the starting 6 joined a football team and are now extremely competitive, thus gaining great results straight away this year.

We are looking forward to the girls competition next term. They have done fantastic and there is more to come next term.

### 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 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 time in tier 3. We have had some incredibly close games with very strong opposition but winning 11 of the last 12 games we have secured runner up place in our league and gained promotion to tier 2 next term. This was my target for this year so I am very proud of the children.



### Wokingham Schools Level 2 3/4 & 5/6 Sporthall Athletics.

Over 2 consecutive weeks, our athletes competed against 24 different schools in this years event held at Bohunt School in Arborfield. Our 3/4 children had lots of success on both the track and in the field winning several races, throws and jumps. Unfortunately due to rules around numbers attending, we are unable to progress to county finals.

Our 5/6s again had a very successful night coming 10th out of 22 schools which is a very commendable result.







# PE/Sports News

## Sports coach: Mr Edwards

### Next Half Term

**PE Lessons:** - Netball and Basketball.



### Next Term Competitions:

**Interhouse Hockey & Netball**

**Continuation of Six Nations Rugby and Play Off Finals**

**WPSFA 5/6 Boys Division 3 Football League**

**WPSFA 5/6 Girls Football Tournament**

**WPSFA 1/2 Mixed Football Festival**

**Spring Term School Games**

**Hockey, Netball, Football etc friendly matches.**

### Mr Edwards Message For The Term.

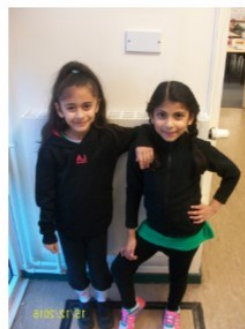
This half term has been no different from any other in the fact that I have seen some amazing performances and achievements. This has been largely due to the children's enthusiasm and working to task. Thank you to those parents who came to see me at parents evening. I hope that you found it informative, 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 of 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.

Twitter: @HighwoodPrimPE







# MFL—Autumn 2

Miss Abbott

It has been an exciting half term for MFL as now every class in KS1 and KS2 is now learning a modern foreign language! The MFL masters are continuing to shine and it's such a pleasure to see how many young linguists are enjoying their language lessons. Feliz Navidad and Joyeux Noel!



This term, Year 6 and 5 have been learning the colours in French as well as parts of the body. Playing games such as build a tower, pin the part on the human and Jacques a dit (Simon Says) helped the children develop a secure understanding of the vocabulary. We then learnt how words in French are either masculine or feminine and how adjectives must 'agree' with the



Mon monstre due Luc



noun they are describing! Tricky stuff, but the children demonstrated a great understanding and were able to show this when designing and introducing their 'Monstres'!



At the start of this half term, the Year 3 and 4 children learnt all about the Mexican festival 'El dia de los Muertos' (the day of the dead). The children were fascinated by this incredible fiesta which is a celebration of life and enjoyed singing along to songs whilst developing their intercultural understanding.



Next the children learnt how to talk about their likes and dislikes using the phrase 'Me gusta...'. They enjoyed playing a game to find another person who shared their favourite things. Using drama, the children learnt words for hobbies such as singing and dancing which enabled them to talk more about their likes.



Follow our brand new Twitter page to find out more about what Highwood are learning in MFL. [@HighwoodPrimMFL](https://twitter.com/HighwoodPrimMFL)



## MFL MASTERS

This term's MFL Masters have really shone with their attitude to learning a new language. A huge well done to the whole of the Year 5 class who also won the award this term.



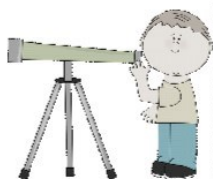




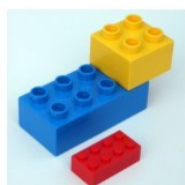
# Hot Off The Press...

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 2



Our key question for the Spring term will be 'Why is the sky blue?'. We will be learning about the amazing topic of space. We hope to be able to take the children to visit a planetarium at the end of the term. In literacy we will be continuing to put our phonics into practice by beginning to read and write simple sentences. In maths, we will be learning to describe 2D and 3D shapes and we will be developing their confidence with numbers to 20. During topic lessons, we will investigate different materials and we will also be exploring our creative side by making space rockets!



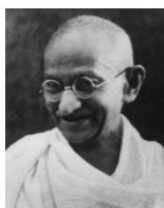
## Year 1



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 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 learn 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 recreate rangoli patterns from India using a range of resources.





# 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>What would happen if we ran out of water? This term we will be exploring all things water. In English we will be looking at stories based around water and trying to write our own. Then we will be writing to persuade people to save water. We will look at the water cycle and start thinking about rivers. We will look at how rivers impact our lives and how we have an impact on rivers. In relation to rivers we will look at the importance of the Nile on the Ancient Egyptians. In Science we will be looking at the impact of water on plants as well as take part in an engineering project. In Art we will be exploring paintings and trying to use watercolours to recreate some river scenes.</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.</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 science we will be looking at the human digestion system.</p>
<p>Year 5</p>  	<p>What is the fascination with fairgrounds? In this 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>Does change always lead to progress? 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 Britain (and more locally, Reading) changed as a result of the introduction 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 a Victorian-themed novel for inspiration for our own writing. 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 half term! We started the term with the amazing Bertie Slippers show. We had a marvellous uptake, with over 100 pupils coming to watch this and enjoy his silly jokes, magic tricks and dancing. The children came home buzzing and talking about it for weeks.



We have also had a few non-uniform days to collect donations for our tombolas. It was lovely to see all the children in their own clothes and thank you for your donations. This really made the basis of a good Winter Fair.

Well done to Year 1 who won the jolly jam jars competition for a second year running. They brought in an extraordinary amount of jars and were rewarded with a treat afternoon. Last Wednesday they had an afternoon of free play and FOH provided them with a treat bag each, consisting of a drink, snack, a few sweets and small prize. They all had a lovely afternoon and are determined to win it for a third time next year!



On the note of the Winter Fair, Thank you to everyone who came along and supported us. I'm sure you'll agree that it was a lovely atmosphere, with a good mix of stalls, games, tombolas and of course visits to the big man himself. There certainly seemed to be a lot of happy faces around on Saturday morning.

Thank you to the volunteers who helped run stalls this year, it was great to have a few more parents involved and enjoying the atmosphere as they helped us out.

This year's Winter Fair was another huge success, with it even breaking last year's record. In total we raised over £1300 pounds, which we look forward to using to sponsor future events and projects around the school.



This term we supported the school Christmas dinner, by providing all the crackers and squash for the whole school. I'm sure you will agree that these small touches really help make it an even more special experience.

We also sponsored the Foundation Stage party, by providing some of the food and of course helping Santa with his delivery of presents.



We finished this term, as we will be on the last Thursday of every half term, with a second hand uniform sale. At these we will be selling school logo jumpers and cardigans for just £2 and uniform skirts, dresses and trousers at even less! We even have a small amount of PE kit. We have some uniform in good condition so come and grab yourself a bargain!

Next term we are planning an art event with the children in school and are hoping to run a disco in February.

We hope you all have a very happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you all in the new year.



# 50th Celebrations



The Deputy Mayor of Woodley, Councillor Sam Rahmouni, visited Highwood Primary School today to help us bury a time capsule to celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The school opened in 1967 as Bulmershe County Primary to provide places for the children moving into the new estates being built in the area. In the desire to ensure these children had a school to go to at the start of the school year, parts of the school were still being finished as the children were being taught in their brand new classrooms. Echoes of this can be seen today as Highwood Primary is currently undergoing expansion works to double its capacity over the next year. The new Nursery and Foundation areas opened this September, and the rest of the work will be completed by Autumn 2018 providing fantastic new spaces for the children.

The children all worked hard on their items for the time capsule, with each class contributing something different to show the pupils of the future what life is like at Highwood today, and the behaviours and values that are important to us now. Some children wrote stories based on our Learning Behaviours, and others made booklets to show how they spend their time at school. Also included were a letter from the current Headteacher, Mr Hickey, and a school jumper. We hope that the future staff and pupils of Highwood enjoy seeing how school life was in 2017 when they open the capsule in 2067!





# Expansion Update

The building works are coming along really well despite the recent cold and snowy weather. As part of our written updates, we have purchased a drone to be able to share visual progress with you as well. Below are a couple of aerial shots of the 6 classroom extension and the completed Foundation stage outside area.





# Diary Dates



Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> December 2017	F2 & KS1 Christmas parties
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December 2017	Last Day of Term – school closes at 1.30pm
Wed 20 <sup>th</sup> December to Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> Jan 2018	Christmas Holidays



## SPRING TERM

Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January 2018	INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2018	Start of the Spring Term
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> January 2018	Year 5 Literacy Parental Workshop - 3.30pm to 4.30pm
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> February 2018	Year 4 Literacy Parental Workshop - 3.30pm to 4.30pm
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> to Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> February 2018	HALF TERM
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2018	Reports to parents
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> March 2018	Foundation SPLAT – 1.30pm
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> March 2018	Year 5 Maths Parental Workshop - 3.30pm to 4.30pm
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> March 2018	KS1 SPLAT – 1.30pm
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> March 2018	KS2 SPLAT – 1.30pm
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> March 2018	Year 3 & 4 Production – afternoon
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March 2018	Year 3 & 4 Production – evening
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> March 2018	Last Day of term – school closes at 1.30pm
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> March to Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> April 2018	Easter Holidays
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> April 2018	Start of Summer term

### Significant forthcoming events from April 2018

KS1 SPLAT – Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2018 – 1.30pm

Foundation SPLAT – Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2018 – 1.30pm

KS2 SPLAT – Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2018 – 1.30pm

KS2 Sports Day – Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2018 - morning

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

Year 5 & 6 Production – Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> & Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2018 – evening

Year 6 Leavers event – Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2018 – 6.30pm

Family Picnic – Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2018