

Newsletter

Highwood Primary School Issue no.43

October 2020

'Where Individuals Matter'

Dear Parents/Carers,

The start of this term has gone more smoothly than I could have possibly hoped for and I would like to thank everyone in our community for playing their part. I completely understand that some of our safety measures make drop offs and pick ups more challenging, but they are there to promote social distancing and limit the amount of face to face interaction. These measures will be in place for the foreseeable future and I would appreciate your continued support in abiding by the rules we have set out. As a gentle reminder, please remember to:



You will see from inside this term's newsletter that the Covid-19 situation has not had a negative impact on the quality of education we are able to provide for your children. This issue is still filled with amazing learning opportunities and it is great to see the school once again filled with happy children.

The school continues to follow all the guidance from the Department for Education and our risk assessment is updated when necessary and uploaded onto the school website. As part of this guidance we are currently having all of our visitors and school assemblies through Microsoft Teams. The children have responded really well and have enjoyed the new additions such as 'Where is Mr Hickey hiding this week?' - I need to make my challenges harder, as the children have guessed every single one of them correct, so far!

Thank you for your continued support.

Matt Hickey

Headteacher





Foundation 1 News Miss Nunn

Mrs Alleyne, Mrs Vanka, Miss Chaudhary, Miss Mair and Mrs Bailey

Welcome to our first Foundation 1 News this year. We have had a very busy start to the Autumn Term in F1. All the children have settled incredibly well and have begun making friends. We have begun exploring our termly topic 'what makes us special?' which has allowed us all to get to know each other and explore ourselves as individuals.

We started off this half term by learning all about each other and discovering how we are all different and unique. The children painted their own self-portraits and were encouraged to speak about their own preferences and interests. They made food plates of their favourite foods and participated in circle times where they were able to use their voices to share their interests. We have also been learning about our bodies and the different parts of it.









We have begun exploring our senses, starting with taste and smell. The children have engaged in lots of activities where they have been able to explore different tastes and begin to use words to describe what things taste like. The children participated in a 'sniff and guess' game to explore their sense of smell and also had fun making some magic scented potions.

When continuing to explore our senses, the children learnt about using their senses in the Autumn time. We explored lots of Autumn objects such as conkers and acorns while learning about the different things they can expect to see as the season changes. The children engaged in many different Autumn themed activities such as painting with conkers and leaf sticking hedgehogs.











Throughout this half of term all the children having been trying very hard to develop their independence and do things for themselves. This includes washing and drying their own hands, putting on their own coats, feeding themselves at lunch time and even beginning to get themselves changed for PF

As we move into Autumn, we have been using the change in weather as a learning experience for the children. They have been out in their welly boots to explore the puddles and have also been using the soggy mud to make their own mud pies and develop their own interesting recipes.



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

Don't forget to follow us on Twitter to see what we are up to each week! @HighwoodPrimF51



Foundation 2 News Mrs Parker and Mrs Perrott

Welcome to our first Foundation 2 News this term! We have had a very busy first half of the term, ensuring that all our children settle into their new classrooms. We have also had some new FŽ children start with us, so we have been very busy making new friends!

Our Topic this term is Could dinosaurs live in Woodley? We were all excited to go outside and discover some large claw marks in the outside area. The children came up with lots of theories, including that a giant T-rex had



We received a very interesting letter from the institute of dinosaurs who gave us a dinosaur egg to care for. This sparked huge interest among the children which prompted them to make nests and search for food for the new born dinosaur. They are very disappointed that we cannot keep it!

The children have been enjoying phonics every day which supports

them in learning to read. They have been very creative, practising their letters in sand, salt, with chalk and even with toothbrushes! Thank you for continuing to read at home with them to promote this learning.







In maths we have been starting to learn numbers to 10. Our challenge now is to begin writing them! We also identified different patterns and made some of our own.



This term the children begun their PE sessions with Mr Edwards. They have been perfecting ball skills. Now that the weather is getting colder, please ensure your child has a black tracksuit top, trousers and trainers in their PE kit.

Thank you.



Year I News - Autumn 1

Miss Whight & Miss Schlaefli

Mrs Lawrence, Mrs Kearney, Mrs Darekar, Mrs Butler

All of the pupils and staff have really enjoyed the start to Year !! It has been a wonderful experience to see the children become more independent. Every individual has produced thoroughly impressive pieces of work. Have a great half term!

Where In The World Am I?

Settling in

During our first week in Year I, the children spent lots of time thinking about the learning behaviours. We showed off our teamwork skills with parachute games and quickly became independent at putting away and collecting our home time things!

Topic and Science

In science, we have been finding out about the body. We have been learning about the different parts and organs of the body. We have also been learning about our senses. We practice





There are lote of different parts to our ages. Today we went onto the enfant playground to ase what we could ase. We had to look very carefully at things near and far. Some things we saw close up were builtiflies and leaves. In the distance





using our senses during some exciting experiments and discovered how our bodies adapt when a sense isn't working. We have also been learning about nocturnal and diurnal animals and why they might sleep at night. We

focused on the animals that the children might see in Woodley. We learnt about their habitats and their special adaptations that help them to survive like super hearing! We had great fun creating a fact file for

our favourite animal and making the animals their very own habitat



Check out our new Twitter feed to be up different adjectives to and running after half term! describe how our @HighWoodPrimIW (Miss Whight) animals felt, looked a @HighWoodPrimIS (Miss Schlaefli) smelled

Maths

We have been working hard to represent numbers using different resources. There has been some amazing creativity on display with these activities!

We have moved on to

comparing numbers, missing number

problems and addition and subtraction. We are persevering with explaining our thinking and proving our answers are correct.



am geing an I am going an a

This term our story focus has been 'We're going on a bear hunt'. We loved reading the story and thinking of actions to help us remember it! We also

practiced retelling the story through pictures and acting. Once we learnt the story we made changes to make our very own book! Some of us went on a fox hunt, an elephant hunt and a bunny hunt. We used our 'Give me 5' technique to help us write our stories and focused on using

capital letters, finger spaces and full stops. We were so amazing that we even used lots of different adjectives to describe how our animals felt, looked and smelled.





Year 2 News—Autumn 1

Miss Amor, Mrs Weir,



Mrs Garner, Mrs Turnbull, Miss Rajput, Mrs Lawrence, Mrs Darekar

Waw! We have made a fantastic start to Year 2! The children have loved learning about The Great Fire of London and are still keen for more. We have used this historical event to inspire our writing as well as many other areas of the curriculum.

Was The Great Fire of London a total disaster? English

Everyone has thoroughly enjoyed reading and writing about the fire and it really shows in our writing. First, we wrote a description of the fire and the use of adjectives and expanded noun phrases brought to

life what it would have been like to be there in London. Most recently, we have surpassed ourselves with writing our own version of 'Toby

and The Great Fire of London!' After half term, we will be creating our own timelines of The Great Fire of London and using them to write a chronological report of the fire.

We have really enjoyed the transition to Whole Class Reading, especially

our 'hot seating' task of asking questions of the Very Hungry Lion!



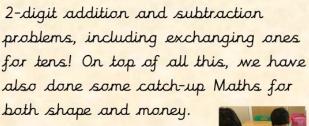
Follow us on Twitter;

@HighwoodPrim2A

@HighwoodPrim2W

Maths

Our understanding of place value and our mental maths skills have helped us greatly when learning about larger numbers and calculation this half term. We can now confidently count in multiples of 3s as well as 2s, 5s and 10s! Not only that, we have responded brilliantly to using resources such as Dienes, place value counters and place value grids. Add all this together and we have worked tremendously hard to solve



Science

Our topic this half term has been everyday

materials and their properties. We have

investigated what makes a material suitable for a specific purpose and even conducted an experiment!



Year 3 News

Mrs Hartgrove, Miss Bicheno & Dr Read

Mrs Tindall, Mrs Garg, Mrs Rudroju, Mr Phillips, Mrs Leslie & Mrs Padhi

What did pre-historic people yabba dabba do?

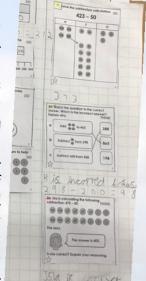
Reading and Writing

We have really enjoyed reading 'Stone Age Boy' in whole class reading sessions. The children have loved using their retrieving skills to find hidden meanings in the illustrations. This



text linked in brilliantly with our story telling unit in English where we have been writing imaginative adaptations of the story. We enjoyed publishing these for our display. We have just

started reading our next book, 'Stig of the Dump' and cannot wait to find out what happens next!



Maths

We have covered a lot in maths this term including counting in 3s, 4s, 8s, 50s and 100s! We have also built on our place value knowledge by working with numbers up to 1000. We have been trying very hard with our column method too!



Our science has linked in well with our big question and the Stone Age. We can now sort rocks and soils into groups based on their properties and have tested their strength using different experiments. We have enjoyed looking at different materials and comparing and contrasting Stone Age and modern day cutlery.



So, what did prehistoric people yabba dabba do? We began to answer this question by plotting some key events on a timeline. It helped some of us to realise that this period of time wasn't during the time of the dinosaurs! We have really enjoyed looking at the geography of Stone Age people too—we recognise the stone blocks in this picture! We know that Stonehenge is located in Salisbury, and we learnt about Avebury and Maiden Castle—all very famous Stone Age sites. In art, we have looked at the work of Pablo Picasso. Did you know when he saw cave paintings he said that modern artists invented nothing new? The pictures of cattle he drew were very similar to the pictures that were thousands of years old!



Follow us on Twitter;

@HighwoodPrim3B

@HighwoodPrim3RH



Year 4 News

Mr Allaway, Miss Barrett, Miss Gibson and **Miss Fulleylove**

Welcome to the first edition of the Year 4 news! We are pleased to say that we've had a fantastic start to the school year, with lots of exciting opportunities and lots of new learning going on. Please read on to find out more!

What is More Precious - water or gold?

Year 4 have been busy N investigating the Ancient Egyptians and how their wealth and the river Nile were important to their rise to power success as a civilisation.



We learned all about

ating our own tomato Pharaohs, filling them with salt and leaving them to dry out.

Science

In Science, we have been looking at classifying animals scientifically and created classification trees where we have sorted animals native to Egypt and the UK through scientific observation.

Maths

In maths this term the children explored and concreted

their understanding of numbers and place value. They learned how to round numbers to the nearest 10, 100 and 1000, using their knowledge of place value. The children have explored Roman



Numerals and are able to use their knowledge to create numbers up to 100. We have been working on our multiplication and division facts, using this to help discover factor pairs of larger numbers.

In catch up maths we have covered how to identify the perimeter of a shape and have moved onto 3D shapes.

Our times table knowledge is coming along well, but any extra practise that could be squeezed in at home would be beneficial!

English

In our writing, we have

written excellent character and setting descriptions, full how Pharaohs were mummified in Ancient Egypt by cre- of adjectives, powerful verbs, adverbs and an assortment of fronted adverbial phrases. In the last week of term we are going to pull all of this together and write a whole narrative all about our explorer's adventures.

> Year 4 have been reading 'Secrets of a Sun King' and the class seem to be thoroughly enjoying it. We have been exploring exciting new vocabulary and learning 1920's slang such as privy and drat (which the children have loved obviously!).

History

In history, we have been looking at the chronology of Ancient Egypt and just how long the civilization lasted before their demise. We have been exploring all the different Ancient Egyptian inventions that have impacted our society today, such as toothpaste, eye make up and the plough.

Geography

In Geography we have begun to look at the water cycle and the features of rivers.



I look forward to continuing this hard work after half term! The year 4 team



Year 5 News

Team: Miss Majer, Mrs Haden and Miss Rodgers

Has our Earth finished evolving?

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

English



We've spent a lot of time this term writing about volcanoes! As a stimulus, we used 'Escape from Pompeii' to elicit write some brilliant setting descriptions, using a range of descriptive vocabulary and paint some very vivid pictures for the

reader of a volcano exploding! In guided read- separate materials and looking at what might ing we have been reading 'Holes', which we've be soluble or insoluble! been thoroughly enjoying! We used our setting description knowledge to write holiday brochures about Camp Green Lake, changing what Finally, all our topic lessons this term have we knew into positives to make it sound like a place we'd all want to visit and then have finished evolving. As a 'big bang' we actually started rewriting one of our favourite chapters in the book!

Maths

This half term we have focused on place value learn about tecof numbers up to a million, as well as decimals. tonic plates and Through this journey we have looked at place learning about values of digits, rounding and counting in pow- why ers of 10! We've also done lots of problem solv- choose to live in ing and reasoning around the unit too.

Science



Our Science topic this term has been all about properties of materials. To begin with, we learnt the scientific language to group different materials and then did a series of experiments, including how to

Key Question lessons

been around our key question: Has our Earth made our own papier-mâché volcanoes that we set off. Other highlights include: learning about

the Ring of Fire, using biscuits to people volcanic areas.



It has been a super start to the year. We look forward to continuing this hard work after half term



Year 6 News

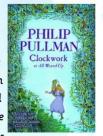
Teachers: Mrs Raines, Miss Bocutt, Mrs Chaudhary, **Mrs Nielsen and Mrs Anil**

Welcome to the first newsletter for Year 6. Although we have only been back in school a matter of weeks, we have already achieved a lot. Our topic this term is, 'Does Change Always Lead to Progress?', and we have been thinking about this through English, History and Art.

English

In English, we have been studying a fantastic book,

'Clockwork' by Philip Pullman. It is a gothic fairy story in which invented characters come to life. The story actually has 2 separate plot lines that gradually weave into each other. Each plot has its own twists and turns, and its own element of suspense. We have thoroughly enjoyed learning the maca-



bre and sinister vocabulary in the story, and are using it to create our own version. We have also started to read 'Cogheart' by Peter Bunzl. This book includes many of the themes we have learnt about in Clockwork.

We have been using our perseverance learning behaviour PE to read lots of books and complete Accelerated Reader quizzes. Don't forget, the expectation is for 20mins reading every night!

In writing, we have taken the idea of 'inventions' in order to write explanation texts. The children were inspired by a book, 'Can I Build Another Me?' written by a Japanese author named Shinsuke Yoshitake, to create a robot version of themselves. They also invented a machine that could make their lives easier. It was amazing how many explained how a 'money machine' might work!

Maths



So far in maths, we have been securing our understanding of place value. We have been learning how to read, write and compare large numbers (up to 10,000,000) and numbers with 3 decimal places. We have been investigating negative numbers and rounding. We have been working

hard on improving the speed and accuracy of our arithmetic. We started by solving word and number problems @HighwoodPrim6B that use our arithmetic skills.

In Science, we have thought about how living things are classified. We have learnt about Karl Linneaus and realised that he was successful because he used so many of Highwood learning behaviours!

History

We have been studying the Industrial Revolution and the changes that occurred between 1750 and 1900. So far we have concentrated on looking at population growth, urbanisation and technological changes. We have found out about the process of making cotton and really enjoyed creating a double-page spread to show our learning.

In PE we have been improving our fitness through circuit training. We learnt how to take our pulse before and after exercise and had fun doing power squats and attempting press-ups! More recently, we have been honing our football skills.





Art

Both classes have enjoyed using their new sketch books. The children have been learning how to create landscapes using colour, texture and tone.

Follow us on Twitter @HighwoodPrim6R



The Orchard Speech and Language Resource News Mrs Godfrey & Mr Bevan

Mrs Payne, Mrs Pithiya & Mrs Viliunas

Firstly, a warm welcome to our new families in the Resource this year. We're excited to have you with us and I'm sure the children will have a great time here. This term has been a very different return than normal but we're so pleased with how the children have settled in. The excitement at being back to school was lovely to see.

<u>Literacy KS1 - Writing to Entertain - We're Going on a Bear Hunt</u>









The younger children have been developing their letter formation and using the phonic sounds that they know to write Bear Hunt stories. They then planned and wrote their own adventure stories including super heroes and treasure!

<u>Literacy KS2 - Writing to Entertain - The Iron Man</u>









The KS2 group have really enjoyed the exciting story of 'The Iron Man' by Ted Hughes so far. They made their own Iron Men to help them to write a character description and used their senses to write some very impressive setting descriptions.

Maths - Investigating Number Systems and Pattern Sniffing











Starting with a number treasure hunt, the children have enjoyed lots of hands-on maths this half term, counting, ordering, representing and comparing numbers and finding out about number patterns. The KS1 group have made good progress with forming and matching numerals. The KS2 group have been challenged to improve their recall of number bonds, tables and mental strategies for addition and subtraction.

Follow us on Twitter @HighwoodPrimR





PE/Sports News Sports coach: Mr Edwards

Welcome to the first half term "PE & Sports News Page" of academic year 2020/21.

PE Lessons:

As I am sure you are aware, many changes have had to take place within our school day due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. PE lessons have also had to change considerably. We have had to be incredibly creative within our lessons to make sure that we still offer a rounded physical experience whilst covering all of the curriculum dials, targeting and challenging appropriately. We are very fortunate that we have a wide and varied range of activities along with plenty of equipment to use. This has made lessons much easier as there are now many guidelines around sharing of equipment. The children and staff have adapted brilliantly and I am very proud to be part of an amazing team.

This said, we have still been able to carry out our annual fitness testing of KS2 and introduce KS1 to healthy living both physically and mentally. We have been able to test the children's overall fitness together with heart rate results. KS1 have learnt about the heart and its importance to keep healthy. They have also been testing out the circuits in readiness for recording their data in KS2. In KS2 the children were partnered up to encourage motivation and score keeping and to discourage inflated figures! There were 6 stations working different parts of the body to gain an overall picture of the children's fitness. All of their repetitions were recorded and input into a data sheet. I am happy to share your child's individual results if you are interested.





We have also been working on skills such as control, pass & receive, targets, positional & strategy work, using footballs. I have definitely seen this year, more and more boys and girls in K51 more competent with a football. This is a great positive once we are able to put the teams together.











Miss Amor's class have also had Dance lessons with Miss Coleman.

We hope to be able to continue with our swimming teaching after Christmas but of course, we are awaiting updates on the guidelines from government and Blue Coat School.



PE/Sports News

Sports coach: Mr Edwards

Lunch & After School Clubs:

Due to the guidelines of not being able to mix bubbles in sporting events, we have not been able to run any clubs this term. We are hoping to start again after Christmas.

Autumn Half Term Matches & Tournaments:

Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, there are no matches or tournaments being held against other schools to minimise the spread of infection. However, we do have more "Virtual School Games" that have been devised by "Get Berkshire Active". There are 5 tournaments this term and we are taking part in all of them.

The 1st one was "Jungle Fever" for KS1 and "Futsal" for KS2. The results were published this week and Highwood Year 2s came 1st out of all schools in Wokingham so went through to county finals. Unfortu-



nately no medals this time. Year 4s came 4th in Wokingham which is a great result. We have also been awarded the "Spirit of the Games" certificate for participation levels which for me is a huge result as this just shows how seriously we as a school are taking the physical side of our education. Next week (this week once you read this) I will be rolling out the 2nd tournament to the whole school so we should have nearly 300 children representing Highwood which we have never managed before.

** HUGE NEWS ** - Aafreen in 5M has attended trials and has been selected this season to represent Wokingham District Football team. She will get to play against all of the best girls teams in the South East plus games against Reading and Chelsea.

Next Half Term

PE Lessons:- Outdoors - Tag Rugby & Netball. Indoors-Gymnastics

PE Kit required:-Winter Gear. Shorts, Highwood PE T-Shirt, Black Plain Tracksuit, sturdy trainers or Football Boots not plimsolls. No Earrings!

Please ensure your child has plain tracksuits, both long trousers and long sleeved top as it is too cold for them this time of year to be dressed in shorts and t-shirt! Unless it is heavy rain or deep snow they will still do PE outdoors. Too many children are expecting to do PE without long sleeves and trousers.



Achievements outside of school:

Please send in details and pictures of something physical you have done outside if school.

Have a great Half term break everyone.

Mr Edwards.



Family Centre

Parent Support Advisor



Hello! My name is Mrs Sayer, and I will be joining Highwood Primary School as your Parent Support Adviser at the start of next half term.

I have had lots of experience working with children and their families, as I have been the PSA at another school for the last eight years. I am also a busy parent too, so understand that family life can sometimes be a juggling act!

I'm really looking forward to meeting your children, and meeting as many of you as possible in the coming weeks. Once I am settled into Highwood life, I'm planning to put together a timetable of information events, training and social events that we can all, (current restrictions allowing!), enjoy as a school community. I'd also welcome any ideas you have about events, so please get in touch if there is anything you think would benefit the families of Highwood School.

Whatever you have planned for half term, I hope it is a happy and restful one. See you all in November.



There individuals shatter

Governing Body News

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, 2020 has been a challenging year for everyone, with numerous unforeseen changes and the entire school community (pupils, parents, staff and governors) have had to adapt quickly. For those of you new to school, here is a short introduction to the governors of Highwood Primary School.

What do we do?

A school governing board has three primary duties:

- 1. To set the vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school.
- 2. To hold the head teacher to account for the educational performance of the school.
- 3. To oversee the financial performance and ensure that money is well spent.

We are not involved in the day-to-day management of the school. Operational decision making is performed by the School Leadership Team (SLT) - Head Teacher, Deputy Head and senior leaders.

Instead we are focused purely on the strategic and the longer term.

We are all volunteers and are dedicated to making Highwood a great school for pupils, parents, staff and the local community.

We have regular meetings every term, each with a specific focus to meeting our objectives:

Full Governing Board – To set and review the whole school's strategy, aspirations and goals Resources – To manage finances and school spending Quality of Education – To review and analyse the school data and curriculum opportunities

What do we plan to do this year?

Since the start of lockdown, the governors have moved to virtual meetings and have been fully apprised and involved with Highwood adapting to the current situation.

Virtual ways of working - Finding ways with the SLT to monitor and interact with Highwood

Highwood Wellbeing - This is a standing item on our agenda to monitor wellbeing for all

Catch up premium – All schools have additional funding to help pupils remain on track due to the lockdown. Our Resources committee will be monitoring how this is spent.

Blended Learning – The Government has a new requirement for all schools to provide a 'remote' learning offering (due to COVID); which will be monitored by our Quality of Education committee

If you want to find out more information or have any questions, just check our page on the school website or email admin@highwood.wokingham.sch.uk

Stay safe & enjoy the half term break!

Highwood Governors

Reminders

EARRINGS



Please note that our school policy is for earrings to be removed for PE, for the health and safety of the children.

It is recommended that ear piercing is only done in the first week of the summer holidays to allow the time for them to settle. Please ensure that your child has practised taking them out as well.

Only stud earrings are allowed in school.

ABSENCE

Please contact the school office by 9.30am if your child is absent stating the reason for the absence. This can be done via ParentMail or by phone on 0118 9265493.

If your child is going to be late and requires a hot dinner this must be booked by 9.30am.

<u>All requests</u> for leave of absence must be made on the absence form available from the school office. Routine appointments should be made outside of school time.

Please see the latest Attendance Policy on the school website regarding Penalty Notices.

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHER

The school photographer will be taking individual photographs of the children on

Wednesday 11th November
Unfortunately we are unable to have sibling photos this time.





WE ARE A NUT FREE SCHOOL

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

This includes Nutella.

Diary Dates



DATE	EVENT	TIME
Friday 23rd October 2020	Last day of the half term	
Mon 26th - Fri 30th October 2020		
	Half term holiday	
T 1 400 N 1 2000		Virtual Tours at 9.30am, 1.30pm and
Tuesday 10th November 2020	Open Days	6.00pm
Thursday 12th November 2020	Open Days	Virtual Tours at 9.30am, 1.30pm and 6.00pm
Wednesday 11th November 2020	Town Council Remembrance Event	TO BE CONFIRMED
Wednesday 11th November 2020	Individual school photos	AM
	priores	
Thursday 12th November 2020	Year 5 parent meeting for PGL 2021	3.30PM TO 4.30PM
Friday 27th November 2020	Maths Workshops - available to parents online	
Tuesday 1st December 2020	New to Nursery parents meeting for January starters	1.30pm - 2.30pm
Friday 18th December 2020	Last day of Term - school finishes at 1.30pm	School finishes at 1.30pm
Mon 21st Dec 2020 - Fri 1st Jan 2021 inclusive	Christmas holidays	
Monday 4th January 2021	Inset Day - school closed for staff training	All day
Tuesday 5th January 2021	School starts for the Spring Term	