



May 2021

# Newsletter

## Highwood Primary School Issue no.46

'Where Individuals Matter'

Dear Parents/Carers,

In October 2015, I was invited to an initial discussion about the need for school expansion in the Woodley area. Ironically, Highwood was not on the original lists of schools being discussed (despite the new Cala Homes site being right next to our school.)



As a result of the increase in local population, there is huge demand for Year 5 school places across the local authority, with many of the children needing these places already on our school waiting list. To help ease this demand, after May half-term, we will be welcoming an additional Year 5 class to the school in the same way we did with our extra Year 2 class in 2019. This will mean that an extra 15 pupils will join us and be taught in our spare Year 5 classroom. This plan has already been shared with current Year 5 parents at a meeting earlier this month.

This will mean that, as of September 2021, Highwood will be a Two Form Entry Primary School, which means there will be two classes in every year group all the way through the school. Having two teachers in each year group opens up a raft of opportunity and increases the expertise we have access to - it is an exciting future for us all!

Thank you for your continued support.

Matt Hickey  
Head Teacher



## Governing Body News

With only a few more weeks before the end of another academic year, the governors wanted to let you know what we have been doing to help maintain the school's progress during these challenging times.

The different committees have continued to convene on a regular basis through online meetings. We are all disappointed that we cannot go into school to meet personally with staff and children and I certainly miss the reading sessions which showed me how determined the youngsters were to succeed with this element of their education. However, their safety is paramount and we fully understand the restrictions.

I am sure you are all relieved that Remote Learning has now come to an end (hopefully for good!) but we have been very pleased with the positive responses from parents and students. We have been very aware of the efforts that the staff have made to make this a positive experience whilst ensuring that those in school and those outside continue to receive the same quality of education as far as possible. The support of parents to achieve this has not gone unnoticed. Thank you to everyone!

The Quality of Education Committee have been monitoring the progress in Maths and English and teachers have provided us with a range of examples from the children's books to demonstrate their work so we can be satisfied that students continue to progress. These virtual presentations have meant extra work for staff so once again, thank you!

The Governors were also very aware that, with a return to the busy school environment, some students and staff may well have felt very anxious. Our chair person has regular meetings with Mr Hickey to ensure everyone's wellbeing continues to be monitored and this is now a permanent item on all our meeting agendas. The efforts to give both staff and students "down time" has helped towards reducing some of these pressures. We will keep monitoring this.

Regarding the future Ofsted visit, the Governors and Senior Leadership Team continue to update the SEF (Self Evaluation Form) so that it is in line with the new framework, introduced in September 2020. This is a kind of "health check" to show how the school is getting on and what future plans are in place for continued improvement. Its contents enable the school to be ready for the inspection and to be able to demonstrate its development planning around all aspects of its environment. By the end of May, staff and governors will have met again with one of the Wokingham's School Improvement Officer to have a detailed look at our progress and offer any further advice.

I can only repeat the comments of my fellow governors with their continued appreciation and admiration of everyone who is part of Highwood Primary School and how you all continue to strive to make the school a safe and happy place to encourage learning.

Please continue to stay safe and I hope half term brings calmer weather!

Kay Bridges Co-Opted Governor



# Foundation 1 News

## Miss Nunn

Mrs Alleyne, Mrs Vanka, Miss Mair and Mrs Bailey

Welcome to our Foundation 1 News. We have had a great start to the Summer Term in F1. We have started our new topic which is 'How are all animals different?' and have welcomed another new group of F1 children into the setting.

We started off this half term learning about farm animals which followed on beautifully from having our chicks at the end of last term. The children engaged in lots of farm animal based activities such as sensory trays, farm animal yoga and craft activities.



Moving on from farm animals we learnt about creatures that live in the garden. The children really enjoyed learning about this group of animals. They went on a mini beast hunt around the school grounds, collected some insects in pots to look at and learnt about the importance of being gentle with living creatures.

The final group of animals we have learnt about this half of term is sea creatures and what it is like under the sea. The children enjoyed watching videos of dolphins, sharks and whales and were fascinated to learn about under the sea creatures that they were not aware of such as a Hermit Crab and a Seahorse. Again, the children participated in lots of under the sea based activities such as sensory trays and making toilet tube octopus'.



This term, the older half of F1 have begun Phase 2 phonics with Fred Frog. The sounds we have learnt so far are M, A, S, D and T. They have really enjoyed the exciting and engaging phonics sessions and we are looking forward to learning more sounds after half term.

Our younger children have been getting into Phase 1 phonics, learning to use their 'good listening ears', exploring different environmental sounds and engaging in lots of musical based activities. I think we have a group of musicians on our hands.



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

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



# Foundation 2 News

Mrs Perrott & Mrs Parker

Miss Rapley, Mrs Jones, Miss Quelch, Mrs Finch,  
Mrs Fitzgerald, Mrs Long, Mrs Pithiya

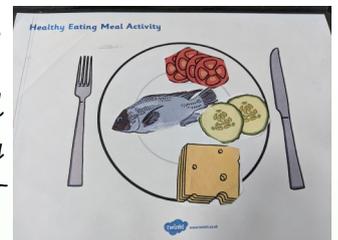
Welcome to the Foundation Stage Newsletter for the first half of the summer term! We have been really busy with our exciting new topic "Who are our local heroes?" We hope that the children have been telling you all about it!

We started our topic by discussing different heroes within our community. We have explored the role of a nurse, a police officer and a firefighter, as well as finding out about animals who help us.



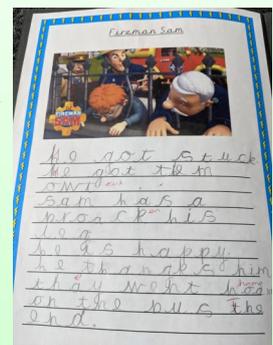
The children have enjoyed pretending to be doctors and patients in the role-play area. We often have a long line of children waiting to see the 'doctor', just like real life! The 'nurses' are always keen to give us Covid vaccinations!

We have explored the topic 'healthy eating' and why it's important to keep our bodies healthy, especially if we want to become a hero. The children enjoyed creating a plate of healthy food that they would like to eat. We discussed different ways of keeping healthy and suggested different forms of exercise. Our 'wake-up, shake-up' was a firm favourite!



In maths the children have been working on their problem solving skills, taking part in some fun investigations. Other topics that we have covered have been money, days of the week, time, measure, addition and subtraction.

We have been really impressed with the children's first attempts at story writing. They used their imagination and creativity to write their own Fireman Sam story. During learning zone, the children have been writing for a variety of purposes including: missing posters and letters/



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

Follow us on twitter @HighwoodPrimFS



# Year 1 News - Summer 1

Miss Schlaefli, Mrs Schofield and Mrs Garner

Mrs Kearney, Mrs Butler, Mrs Long, Mrs La Porte, Mrs Darekar

## Which animal would you invite for tea?

### Topic, Science and Geography

This term we have been learning about different parts of the world and how they are different. We have learnt about climate and discussed if we'd prefer to live in a hot or cold climate. We have learnt about where different animals live and had great fun investigating habitats around the school and making our own to attract different animals.



### English

Our main texts this term have been The

Tiger Who Came to Tea' and 'Six Dinner Sid'. We have loved using the story sacks to help us to retell the stories. We have been writing letters to the Tiger and describing different animals who might go to visit people's houses. We have been working really hard on using conjunctions in our sentences too. We have used the iPads to look at pictures and find out information about our animals. We are beginning to look at some non-fiction texts about tigers so that we can create our own information poster.



### Maths

We have really loved Maths this term because there has been so much practical work! We have learnt how to measure, order and compare lengths and heights of objects. Whilst learning about volume and capacity, we have had some very soggy lessons outside where we have predicted and then checked how many spoons or cups it takes to fill containers.



### Music and Art

We have been learning about printing in Art and have looked at the work of William Morris. We have practiced printing with different stencils and then designing our own using polystyrene tiles. We then used these to create our own repeating patterns using an animal theme.

In music we have enjoyed using some of the instruments. Our listening and concentration skills have improved so much.



Check out our Twitter feeds at;  
@HighWoodPrimISG (Mrs Schofield/Mrs Garner)



@HighWoodPrimIS (Miss Schlaefli)



# Year 2 News - Summer 1



Miss Amor, Mrs Weir,

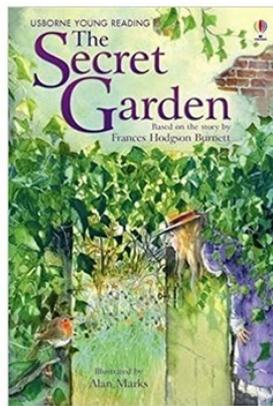
Miss Rajput, Mrs Lawrance, Mrs Darekar, Miss Gunbie, Mrs Turnbull

How lovely it has been to be back in the classroom for the entire half term! It's been a period of growing...literally! Not only have we seen the children making great progress, but we have been growing produce for our upcoming Best British Banquet. We hope to harvest a bumper crop this year!

## What could go in our Best British Banquet?

### English

To kick start our writing cycle, we applied all what we are learning in Science to help us write a setting description of "The Secret Garden". Also, we worked hard to produce beautiful illustrations to accompany our tremendous writing. Finally, we wrote the whole story of "The Secret Garden". We set our stories in different continents, drawing on what we learnt in the Spring Term!



### Whole Class Reading

The children have loved reading "Alice in Wonderland". We have enjoyed boo-ing The Queen of Hearts and giggling at the Cheshire Cat's mischievous ways! We cannot wait to get started on writing our own Alice stories in Summer Term 2!



### Maths

Maths that we use in our everyday lives has been our focus this half term. First, we tackled how to handle and represent data and then we moved onto the all important skill of telling time on an analogue clock. We are now currently learning all about length and height, mass, temperature, volume and capacity. We are sure that the children would love to put these newly acquired skills to the test in the kitchen! Maybe some baking is on the cards for the half term?



### Science

We are very quickly developing green fingers! Most of our seeds have germinated and are well on their way to becoming either a flowering plant or a tasty addition to our banquet menu. During our growing journey we have learnt all about the different parts of a plant and their functions as well as the lifecycle of a sunflower.



Follow us on Twitter;

@HighwoodPrim2A @HighwoodPrim2W

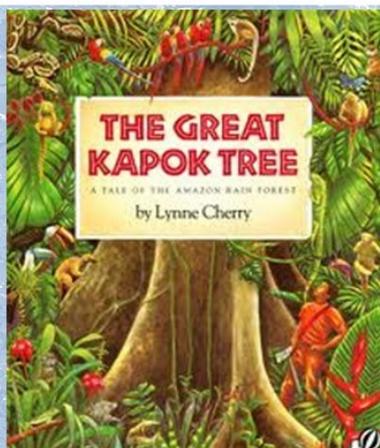


# Year 3 News

Mrs Hartgrove, Miss Bicheno & Dr Read

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

## How can we help protect our planet?



### LITERACY

We have been looking at the story of "The Great Kapok tree" in English. In the story, animals from the rainforest tell a huntsman why he should save the rainforest and not cut down the great tree. We retold the story using our own descriptions of the animals. We are also enjoying learning more about the rainforest and the Maya civilisation in whole class reading.

### MATHS

In maths, we looked at both 2D shapes and 3D shapes, before moving on to mass, volume and capacity. We enjoyed measuring using scales and cylinders. We have also looked at statistics, including pictograms, tables and bar charts. We even created our own data through class votes.

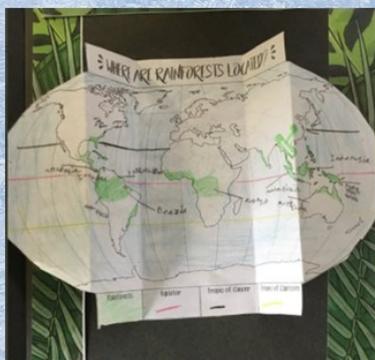
### SCIENCE

In science, we have been exploring the different rainforest layers with a focus on plants. We have discovered some of their unique adaptations and even spotted some bromeliads (pineapples) in the school kitchen at lunchtime! After learning how important the rainforest is, we held a class discussion on deforestation to explore different perspectives.



### TOPIC

We began our topic by learning about tropical rainforests, in particular, the Amazon. We learned about the layers of the rainforest and what vegetation and creatures are found in each layer. We know where tropical rainforests are located and have compared our local area with Iquitos, known as the gateway to the Amazon.







## Year 5 News

**Team: Miss Majer, Mrs Haden and Miss Rogers**

### How do you build an empire?

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

# How do you build an empire?

## English



All our English this term has been about Greek myths, linking it to our key question 'How do you build an empire?' We spent a long time looking at Greek myths and learning what would go in our 'tool kit' for writing a myth, before exploring the different characters and settings we might see. From here, we created our own mythical creatures for our hero to defeat, creating character descriptions and then writing our own Greek myths where a hero defeats the monster!

## Maths

Our focus this term in maths has been geometry and measure. We have looked at shape, angles and finally area and perimeter! We were able to use everything we knew about shape, space and measure to reason and problem solve, explaining why something might be true or looking for patterns across a range of statements. We've also been working hard on our mental maths knowledge, ensuring we know all our times tables!



## Key Question Lessons



Our key question this term is 'How do you build an empire?' and our focus is on the Greeks and how they have influenced the modern world. We've spent a long time exploring where Greece is and the land that they occupied during the Ancient Greek reign, as well as looking at the human and physical geography of Greece and comparing it to where we are in the south of the UK. Since then, we've moved on to look at the history side, exploring Greek Gods and making our own top trumps cards, as well as exploring the difference in life in Athens and Sparta and thinking about where we would prefer to live.

## Science

Finally, in science, we've been looking at life cycles of humans and plants, as well as puberty. We have learnt all about the changes the human body might face and dissected flowers to learn all about the different parts of a flower!



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

Follow us on Twitter @HighwoodPrim5M



# Year 6 News

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

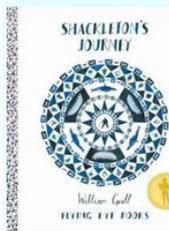
This term we have worked hard to answer the question: **'What is the secret to success?'**

## English

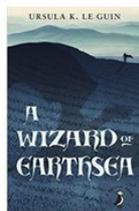
As readers, and writers, we immersed ourselves in the story of Ernest Shackleton and his ill-fated expedition to the South Pole. We thought about the question: 'What does it mean to be successful?' and debated whether Shackleton achieved success (as he never made it to the South Pole). We took inspiration from the beautifully illustrated book by Will Grill,



'Shackleton's Journey'. We have authored an encyclopaedia entry, a persuasive letter to Shackleton, and a quest story based on his heroic expedition.

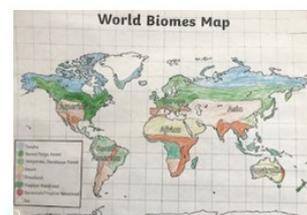


During class reading lessons, we have been studying 'A Wizard of Earthsea' which is a challenging and thought-provoking read.



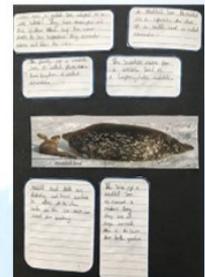
as we have thought about how Woodley (as a successful community) has developed over the years. We then thought about how it might develop in the future.

## Geography



We used our geography lessons to help us evaluate the enormity of Shackleton's expedition. We learnt about longitude and latitude to have

an understanding of just how far he travelled; we learnt about day length and seasons in the Antarctic and how the Earth's tilt causes it to have opposite seasons from the Arctic; we learnt about biomes and revisited the idea of adaptation to understand the extreme polar conditions that living organisms need to survive.



## Maths

This term has focussed mainly on shape (transformations) and reasoning with measures (area and perimeter). We have also revised multiplying and dividing by 10, 100 and 1000 as we converted units of measurement. We have now begun to understand ratio and use it in problem-solving.

## Topic

Over the last few weeks, our topic has focussed on art, history, geography and science.

## Art

As artists, we have taken inspiration from William Grill and drawn our own illustrations of aspects of Shackleton's expedition.



## History

In History we have studied the changes in our local area

## Science

In order to answer the question, 'What's the secret to a healthy body?', we have begun to study the circulatory system and how the heart works. This will help us to understand what we need in order to lead a healthy lifestyle.

## PE

The children have been choreographing their own routine to 'Heroes' by Alesso to celebrate the NHS and keyworkers. We are looking forward to watching the other classes perform their routines on Friday. With Mr Edwards, the children have been taking part in athletics and did themselves proud in the 600m!

## Music

In music we have been looking at women in the music industry to inspire us in writing our own compositions. So far, we have had fun creating rap lyrics to a backing track.

[@HighwoodPrim6B](#) [@HighwoodPrim6R](#)



## The Orchard Speech and Language Resource News

Mr Bevan, Mrs Godfrey, Mrs Payne, Mrs Khan and  
Mrs Pithiya

*The first half of the summer term has gone so quickly this year! It's been lovely that the whole school community has started to be able to take some more steps back to "normality". As you'll see, the children have really enjoyed the opportunity to explore our local area and link it to their Literacy work. We look forward to seeing how they get on in the second half of term and start to prepare for transition to the next year group!*

### Literacy: Hansel and Gretel



We had so much fun walking in the woods like Hansel and Gretel. We dropped breadcrumbs (oats) to find our way out, spotted trees and flowers and sat quietly to hear all the woodland sounds. We used what we heard to write our 'Listen' poems back in school. We hope you enjoyed reading them.

### Maths: multiplication and division, shape and measure



We have been busy with lots of practical activities in maths this half term. Identifying and sorting 2D and 3D shapes has been a big hit for both key stage groups. We are looking forward to some better weather to do our measuring and pouring investigations outside soon!





# PE/Sports News

Mr Edwards & Miss Coleman

**Welcome** to the Summer 1 edition "PE & Sports News Page" of academic year 2020/21.

## PE Lessons:

This half term I have been testing the children's overall strength, agility, speed and fitness via a "quadkids" style programme. This has been through sprints, standing long jump, Vortex throws and a long distance run. They have been scored against national average statistics and I have been pleased with many of the results, despite the effect the lockdowns have had on our children's overall fitness. That said, there have been a number of children that have actually improved their fitness as they have found enjoyment out of many physical activities with their parents as we have been thrown together. This is a huge positive, I think you will all agree. I would like your support to continue to encourage your children to participate in sports out of school now that many have restarted so that we can improve on these results. It is very important that children keep active as much as they can.

Due to the cancellation of Woodley Schools Sports Week and the opening dance ceremony, I tasked the class teachers to choreograph a dance linked to the NHS to be performed, recorded and shown in a ceremony on the last day of half term. I am really looking forward to it!

## Lunch & After School Clubs:

Due to the guidelines of not being able to mix bubbles in sporting events, we are still unable to run any clubs this term. We are hoping to start again as soon as we can.





# PE/Sports News

## Sports coach: Mr Edwards

### Summer Half Term Matches & Tournaments:

Again, unfortunately, due to the pandemic, there are no matches or tournaments being held against other schools to minimise the spread of infection. We are hoping (rules applying) to enter a Wokingham schools cricket tournament in July.

### Disaster Emergency Committee Fundraiser for India.

Due to the tragic situation in India regarding the Covid-19 Pandemic, the "Schools Learning Alliance" which Highwood are part of, decided to fundraise



and do our little bit to support. This is of course very dear to our hearts as it is effecting many of our own Highwood families. The children took part in various cricket activities converting points into a fundraising target for our parents. At the time of writing, the target is £1301.00 of which we have raised £830.00. I am so proud of all the support given. #TeamHighwood.

### Next Half Term

#### PE Lessons:-

Outdoors- Athletics & Cricket, Indoors - Benchball

**PE Kit required:-Summer Gear.** Shorts, Highwood PE T-Shirt, trainers, not plimsolls (Black Plain Track-suit optional). **No Earrings!**

#### Achievements outside of school:

With many sports clubs returning to training, I would again like to see pictures to add in this section of the newsletter of the fun sporty things you get up to outside of school.

I hope you all have a fun, relaxing and hopefully sunny, Half Term break.

Mr Edwards.



# Family Centre

## Parent Support Advisor

Dear all,

It is hard to believe that we are at the end of another half term, and that the end of the academic year is in sight. This is in no small part to the fact that the weather has usually improved by now, it still feels like winter! A huge thank you to all of you for your smiles and greetings through the cold and windy mornings on the school gate. It certainly makes things feel sunnier!

Please remember that although things are still more distanced than we would like, I am available for support throughout the week. I can be reached through contacting the school office, or by 'phone or text on 07880 898 883. My days of work are Monday, 8.30am—12.30pm, and 8.30am—4pm Tuesday through to Friday.

Many of the services and support agencies that have been running reduced programmes are beginning to offer events again to families; please let me know if there is anything specific that you are interested in, and I may be able to signpost you in the right direction.

One such service is First Days charity. They can support families in a number of ways, but are currently working hard on helping families access new and pre loved uniforms for the next academic year. Their service can be accessed at [www.firstdays.net](http://www.firstdays.net). Alternatively, their Woodley school uniform Hub is open for donations and referrals at Woodford Park Leisure Centre every Wednesday 12:30 - 14:30.

I would also welcome any thoughts or ideas you may have for events, (educational and social), that you would like to see running from the Family Centre next year. Let me know your thoughts—my email is [lsayer@highwood.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:lsayer@highwood.wokingham.sch.uk)—and I can start making plans for an exciting programme of events starting in September 2021!

Looking forward to seeing you all in June, Lucy, (PSA).



First Days Children's Charity are here to offer support to any Year 6 parents/carers who require help with providing school uniform for children moving to secondary school in September.

Should you need support, please complete this short form before **Friday 11th June** and a member of our team will be in contact.

[www.firstdays.net/year7transition](http://www.firstdays.net/year7transition)

**We believe every child should**



For further information, please contact **Lindsay** (First Days) on 07578 144611 or **Lucy Sayer** (Highwood School) [\*\*www.firstdays.net\*\*](http://www.firstdays.net)

Registered Charity in England & Wales 1157855

# Diary Dates



Please see below for dates for forthcoming events and term dates.

DATE	EVENT	TIME
Monday 31st May to Friday 4th June 2021	Half Term	School closed
Wednesday 9th June 2021	Class photos & Year 6 leavers	AM
Tuesday 22nd to Tuesday 29th June 2021	Book Fayre in school	
Wednesday 23rd June 2021	Secondary transition day	
Friday 9th July 2021	Reports to parents	
Wednesday 14th July 2021	Parents evening	3.30pm to 6pm
Thursday 15th July 2021	Parents evening	5pm to 8pm
Wednesday 21st July 2021	Last day of summer term	School closes at 1:30pm
Thursday 22nd July to Tuesday 31st August 2021	Summer holidays	School closed
Wednesday 1st September 2021	Inset Day	School closed
Thursday 2nd September 2021	First day of Autumn term for Years 1 to 6	School open to Years 1 to 6
Thursday 2nd to Friday 3rd September 2021	Foundation closed for home visits/calls	School closed for F1 & F2