



# Newsletter

## Highwood Primary School Issue no.50

February 2022

'Where Individuals Matter'

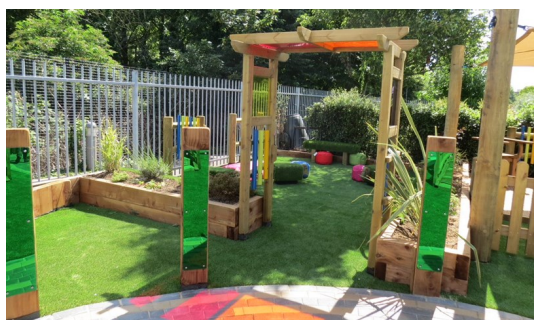
Dear Parents/Carers,

There is always a funny feeling after having an OFSTED inspection, as the length of time between the leadership team knowing the judgement and being able to share the outcome can often take the shine off the achievement.

In order to keep the momentum of school improvement going, we are broadening our focus to start developing the outside area of our school, so that it can provide as many learning opportunities as the inside of our building.

The projects being explored are as follows:

- Developing an outside area for The Orchard (our Speech and Language Resource). This would be attached to the 'The Orchard' at the front of the school near the main reception. The designs could include the following ideas:



- We want to increase the tarmacked area between the Key Stage 1 and 2 playgrounds so that there is more space for children to play, particularly when the field is not in use.
- We are also having a purpose built wildlife area designed with a school pond, science trail and outdoor classroom. This would be positioned on the back field of the school and could look something like this:



- One project inside the building we are exploring is the relocating of our main school library, so that it is a focal point of the school. It would be a purpose built space and offer our children a much more enriched library experience.

Exciting times ahead!!!

Thank you for your support.

Matt Hickey  
Head Teacher





# Governing Body News

Dear Parents and Carers,

Spring term has been very rewarding for Highwood!

Well done to all the children, school team and parents for the amazing Ofsted report we received in January. (Available on the school website >> School Information >> Ofsted Reports)

The governors were also involved in the Ofsted process, through ensuring our reports and minutes were complete, to also being interviewed about the decisions we have taken as a school. Thanks to our virtual way of working, we had almost a full complement of governors involved who were able to support each other and the school leaders through the 2-day inspection.

Now that the report has been published, the governing body and the Senior Leadership Team are working together to ensure the positive success continues and the improvements highlighted are implemented and monitored.

## Summer Term

We are looking forward to Governors Day on 21<sup>st</sup> March, being in school to see the curriculum in action, talk to the children, staff and parents and to answer any questions you have.

Also, we will be holding parent governor elections. We would really like to encourage you to join our team and help the school grow and develop, just as our children do.

The positive progress we have seen over the last few years could be summarised by one quote from the Ofsted report:

*One parent, typical of many, commented, 'The school is amazing and my children are thriving'.*

Let's continue on this journey of growth and improvement and please get in contact with the school office if you are interested in being a governor.

Have a great half term break!

**Highwood Governors**





# Foundation 1 News

## Miss Nunn

Mrs Finch, Mrs Vanka, Miss Ryan, Miss Bailey, Miss Robin, Miss Mubashar,  
Miss Teader

Welcome to our Foundation 1 News. We have had a very busy first half of the Spring Term in F1. We have begun exploring our new topic which is **'Why do things change?'** and have welcomed a new group of F1 children into the setting.

Having learnt all about Autumn last term, we started this term by exploring the other three seasons in the year. The children participated in lots of different craft and sensory activities to help them to explore and learn about each individual season and what they will experience in each one. For example we had a mini beach sensory tuft tray and explored the ice out in the garden when learning about Winter.



The children have also been developing their listening, attention and teamwork skills through activities like parachute games during P.E and ring games during learning zone. These types of activities enable the children to learn how to follow instructions and work together in order to play the game. During P.E, we have also been learning to move in different ways and exploring the different ways our bodies can move.



During this half of term we also celebrated Chinese New Year. It was lovely that we have some children in the class that actually celebrate this festival so they were able to share their experiences and celebrations with us. The children engaged in Chinese themed activities and learnt the story of 'The Great Race'.

In phonics this half term, the older children have been focusing on rhyme which they have really enjoyed. We have made up our own rhyming stories/songs and played lots of different games to expose them to rhyming words. The younger children have been exploring sounds and experimenting with musical instruments and sounds in the environment.



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 their break!

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





# Foundation 2 News

Miss Hargreaves & Mrs Parker

Mrs Newham, Mrs Alleyne, Miss Mair, Mrs Poulton, Miss Quelch

Welcome to the Foundation Stage Newsletter for this term! We have been really busy learning about space as part of our topic: **'How is the World filled with colour'** Take a look!



We started the half term by discovering that a space ship had landed in our outside area! We investigated the clues left behind to work out how it got there. Eventually we had to make a phone call to NASA to see if they were missing one of their rockets!



The children have been exploring numbers' and investigating one more and one less. We have enjoyed learning what makes a 9 or a 4 and what is the same and what is different about them.

We have completed phase 2 phonics and are working our way through phase 3. The children are becoming really confident with writing words and simple sentences independently.



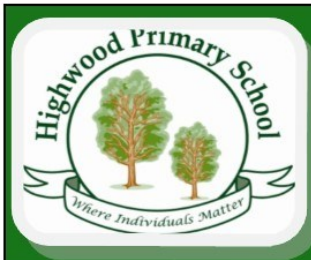
Recently, we have been engaging in new books in our reading corner. We are delighted to see so many children choosing to read in learning zone. They definitely love learning all about Space!



Our topic has inspired lots of role-play and many of the children are keen to become astronauts when they are older!

Thank you to all the parents who have continued to support us this half term and we look forward to seeing you after half term. Enjoy the holidays.

Find us on Twitter : [@HighwoodPrimF2P](#), [@HighwoodPrimF2 H](#)



# Year 1 News - Spring 1

Miss Hughes, Mrs Garner and Mrs Gill  
Mrs Kearney, Mrs Butler, Mrs Turnbull, Mrs Rudroju

Year 1 have had an exciting start to the Spring term, with all the children being engaged and enthusiastic with our new key question. We have seen the children show so much curiosity and creativity.

## Will We Still Play With The Same Toys When We Are Older?

### History and Science

Lots of our topic lessons have focused on history, in particular focusing on how toys and bikes have changed. Thank you



to everyone who brought in older toys for the children to look at, they were thoroughly amazed by how different they were to the toys they have at home. In Science, we have been learning about different materials and what things are made of. It was great to see so many children making links between science and history this term and using their material knowledge as a factor in how toys are different.

### Computing



The creativity we have seen in computing this half term has been fantastic. The children have been thinking about algorithms and why they need to be detailed (with some very funny results if they're not) The children have tried to guide their partner to making a Mr Potatohead, as well as using their Lego skills to create a set of picture instructions.

Check out our new Twitter feed:



@HighwoodPrimIH (Miss Hughes)  
@HighwoodPrimIG (Mrs Garner/Mrs Gill)

### Maths

It feels like we have covered so much in maths this half term. We have looked more into shapes, as well as considering how to draw a bar model to show an addition or subtraction and finding half or a quarter of shapes and amounts. The children have shown amazing confidence with tackling the new concepts and have worked really hard to investigate them together.



### English

This term we have been looking at the story of The Nutcracker. The children have been focusing on making their writing as interesting as possible for the reader and being adventurous with their vocabulary choices. We have seen some fabulous versions of The Nutcracker and the children have shown some superb perseverance to write a longer story! We even had our first attempt at hot-seating! We have also been exploring its songs in music, with the children thinking about how to interpret how the music makes them feel.







## Year 2 News - Spring 2



Miss Amor, Miss Bolger,

Mrs Long, Mrs Tiwari, Mrs Jed, Mrs Nandini, Mrs Platt

Our key question has gone down like a storm and the children have loved packing their backpacks and travelling the world to learn all about the different countries and continents. It seems we have some budding adventurers and explorers!

### Where in the world would we like to explore?

#### English

To help us understand more about different countries and cultures, we have studied various traditional tales from around the world. We looked at other versions of Cinderella in great detail and then used our knowledge to write our own versions of The Korean Cinderella.

#### Whole Class Reading

We have been reading 'The Lost Happy Endings' by Carol Ann Duffy. The children gave such insightful opinions and detailed reasons during the tasks. Our favourite activities had to be making music to match the text and creating watercolour illustrations inspired by the book!



#### Geography



Our atlas and map work has never been better!

The children can confidently name, locate

and discuss facts about the seven continents and five oceans already and we're only halfway through the topic!

#### Maths

Fractions were our main focus this half term. The children have worked hard to develop different strategies such as sharing into equal parts and using bar models to problem solve. We whizzed through the different styles of questions and we absolutely SMASHED our hot assessments as a result!



#### PSHE

Chinese New Year has been a highlight this half term. We were fascinated at the origins of this special celebration and to mark the occasion, we made our own decorations to bring us good luck! We even had a presentation by one of our pupils who told us how she celebrated Chinese New Year!



Follow us on Twitter;

@HighwoodPrim2A @HighwoodPrim2B



## Year 3 News



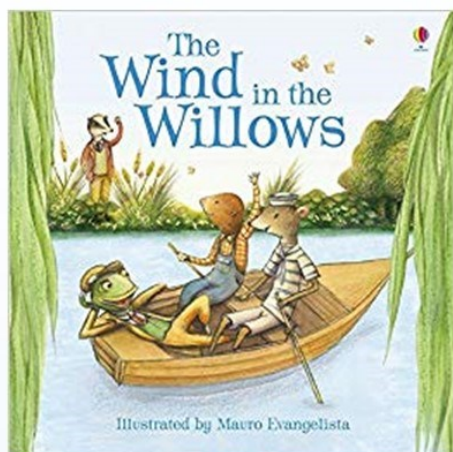
Miss Bicheno, Mrs Hartgrove and Dr Read

Mrs Lawrance, Ms Fouz and Mrs Dharmaraj

# How has water shaped our World?

### English

Year 3 have had an exciting start of term, imagining that they are Mr Mole and writing a diary entry about the day that they ventured into the Wild Wood - scary stuff! We have also enjoyed rewriting our own tale for Toad and spent a long time thinking about how to use sentences effectively, and speech, in our writing.



### Whole Class Reading

We read the classic text 'The Wind in the Willows' this term and the children could see the differences between each of the character's personalities. There is so much wonderful vocabulary in this book! All of this helped hugely in our writing in English. We are also reading 'The River Singers', which is similar to 'The Wind in the Willows' in using animals as central characters. We have met a family of voles, who need to shelter constantly from the dangers that the area around the river can bring.

### Maths

The children have been working hard on proportional representation and understand that an image can be used to represent many units. This has helped us with mental multiplication and division calculations. Year 3 have also been looking at fractions and have been working very hard to understand the quite difficult concepts, such as equivalence. Well done for your great perseverance!

### Topic

We started off our new key question gathering information on the different ways in which water is used daily and worldwide. The children were surprised to see how much of an impact water has on our lives. We learnt about boats through history, and then got to see waterways in our local area too. We are big fans of Henley and the River and Rowing Museum!



Follow us on Twitter;

@HighwoodPrim3B

@HighwoodPrim3RH





## Year 4 News - Spring 1

Mr Allaway, Miss Barrett, Miss Rajput, Miss Hulme, Mrs Tindall,  
and Mrs Mohammed

### What did the Romans Do For Us?

#### English

This term we have been focussing on Roman Myths. We created our own myths using 'The Man who Cut Down Trees' as our inspiration. This allowed the children to develop stories that told a moral, whilst adding in a fair amount of humour and mischievous behaviour from the gods. After this we developed the myth into playscripts, including dialogue and stage direction, before putting on performances for other members of the class.

#### Maths

This term we started with learning the concepts behind division. The children explored how division worked using practical equipment, before moving onto using a variety of different written methods. The children were particularly fond of the part whole model and were able to use them to divide three digit numbers by one digit number, even solving problems involving remainders.

In the second half of the term we have been learning all about 2D shapes. We explored types of angles, triangles, quadrilaterals and a variety of other 2D shapes.

#### History

With our key question being all about the Romans, the children have been focussing a lot on History this term so far. We have explored who the Romans were, looking at their armies, gods, leisure activities and artefacts. The children were equal parts



fascinated and horrified to learn all about how the Romans bathed themselves!

#### Geography

Year 4 have been using digital devices to explore the world the Romans inhabited. We learned how to find a site suitable for starting new settlements and had a go at identifying one on a map.

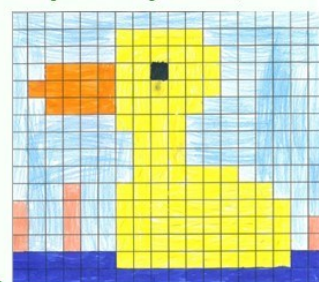


#### Science

This term we have been learning states of matter, exploring the differences between solids, liquids and gases.

#### Art

The children have been learning all about Roman mosaics this term and have created designs to make their own after the half term break. We explored the work of Gaudi to draw inspiration for our plans.



#### Music

The children have been lucky enough to have Kevin from Berkshire Maestros come in and teach them how to play the cornet and everyone has been trying really hard to play this tricky instrument - easy to use but hard to master! The pupils have been doing very well and are making some "interesting" music!



Have a lovely Half Term break.







## Year 5 News

**Team: Miss Majer, Mr Robinson, Mrs Nice, Mrs Nielsen and Mrs Pyle**

### Is Invasion Ever Justified?

Welcome to the first spring edition of 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!

#### English

All our English this term has been around the story of Beowulf, the Anglo Saxon hero who saved a town from the perilous death that Grendel was spreading! We've spent a long time analysing the text and collecting crucial vocabulary. After this, we created our own, vile monsters for Beowulf to defeat, using character descriptions to create wanted posters for the town of Heorot. During the final week of term, we've been writing our own Beowulf saga using these creatures too!



#### Maths

Our focus in maths this term has been fractions. Throughout the term, we have looked at equivalent fractions, converting mixed/improper fractions, as well as ordering and comparing fractions with different denominators. It has been a

tricky process for us, but by using our times tables and division facts to find equivalent fractions to help us along our journey.

#### Key Question Lessons

Our key question for this term is 'Is Invasion Ever Justified?', where we are basing our learning all around The Vikings and The Anglo-Saxons. To kick off our topic, we started by completing our very own archaeological dig where we dug for Anglo Saxon artefacts and asked historical questions to try and learn more about the civilisations. Through the topic, we have also looked at what physical and human geography features might come into play when deciding on why you would invade a country, learnt about the different Anglo-Saxon kings and learnt about how the country was split into seven key kingdoms.



*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 and @HighwoodPrim5R*



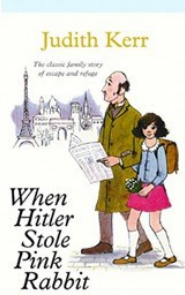


# Year 6 News

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

The term we have really immersed ourselves in our topic question, **'What would a world without war look like?'** So far we have concentrated on the causes of WW2 and the effect of the war on Britain - The Home Front.

## English



In whole class reading we studied 'When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit'. We learnt so much about the rise of Hitler and the Nazi party through the eyes of Anna and her family. We enjoyed the humour in the book, and it provoked many debates such as whether Switzerland should have stayed neutral during WW2.

In writing, we wrote a powerful description about The Blitz. We used lots of the figurative language (personification, similes etc) that we had learnt about in the Autumn Term. After that, we wrote a story from the point of view of an evacuee. We were able to include plenty of historical detail from our history lessons.



## Maths

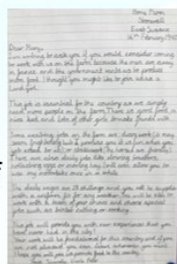
This term we have been learning about fractions: finding equivalents, converting between mixed numbers and improper fractions, converting between decimals, fractions and percentages. We then learnt how to calculate with fractions. Arithmetic has also been a focus. We are excited to see our arithmetic scores improve each week!

## Topic

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

## History

History has been the main focus of our topic this term. We have learnt about the women's land army (and the role of women in WW2) and we wrote a letter to a young woman trying to persuade



her to come and work at our farm. We found out about evacuees and how they were different from refugees. We were amazed about rationing and what people actually ate in the war. Perhaps our question should have been, 'How could people live in a world without pizza or McDonalds!?'.

More recently we have learnt about the music people used to dance to.

## Art

As artists, we evaluated WW2 propaganda posters. How successful were they at conveying their message? What makes a propaganda poster visually appealing. We then designed our own, and we are looking forward to creating them.



## Science

We have been investigating light in Science and thinking about how the properties of light were used for attack and defence during WW2. We know you need to have light in order to see and that the blackout prevented German bombers from identifying targets.

## PE

In PE, the children have been learning racket skills. This has involved tennis with Mr Edwards and badminton with Miss Bocutt and Mrs Raines.

We hope you all have a healthy half-term break.

The Year 6 Teams

**Follow us on Twitter @HighwoodPrim6R & @HighwoodPrim6B**





# The Orchard Speech and Language Resource News

Mrs Godfrey, Mrs Payne, Mrs Khan, Mrs Pithiya, Mrs La Porte

## Literacy: Beasts of the Past



In Literacy, we have been writing to inform with a focus on dinosaurs. The children buried dinosaur skeletons in oobleck (cornflour and water which sets hard!) and completed their own dinosaur dig. They have all been working on dinosaur fact posters ready to share with the parents and carers at coffee morning.



## Maths: Money, Shape and Fractions



After completing the unit on money, we have been busy with identifying 2D and 3D shapes and programming beebots using position and direction knowledge. The children have completed lots of practical work with fractions, ready for our hot tasks this week.

Follow us on Twitter @HighwoodPrimR







# PE/Sports News

## Mr Edwards

**Welcome** to the first "PE & Sports News Page" of 2022. I will 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**, lunch & after school clubs plus of course the future sports dates.

### PE Lessons:

This half term the children have been learning skills required to play Tennis & Basketball and really honing our striking, control, target, hand eye coordination and strategy.

Over the last 6 weeks we have been developing our skills especially Key Stage 2, getting into full games by the end of the programme. We have seen some great work over all of the school years especially our FS2 class who have all completed their pass & receive task. I have also had the pleasure of teaching 4A Gymnastics. The class have been working really hard in their teams to improve their "Tumble, Floor & Vault" skills and then choreograph routines in all 3 areas. Show week is the last week of half term and I am really looking forward to the results.

Year 1 have also had their extra session taking part in Dance lessons with Miss Coleman working on routines that continue challenging even our "funkiest" dancers.

What has also been a highlight of this half term has been the effort and enthusiasm from many of the children. This is visibly noticeable in the many pictures and videos we have taken during the lessons then shared on the PE twitter page. If you do not already follow, this is our twitter page **@HighwoodPrimPE**

### Next Half Term

**PE Lessons:-** Golf & Circuits

### After School Clubs:

In Spring 2 we will have:-

**Wednesdays:** Year 1 Multisports

**Thursdays:** Year 2 Multisports

Robbie in year 3 had a great week this half term at his rugby club. Not only did he get to be the guard of honour at the Reading Rugby Club 1st team game, but he also got player of the week in his own age group. Well done Robbie!



**PE Kit required:-** Shorts, Highwood Green PE T-Shirt, Black Plain Tracksuit, trainers. (Gloves and beanie style hat recommended) No Earrings!

Have a great half term break and I look forward to seeing you all again for another fun filled PE Spring term 2.

Mr Edwards







# SENCo & Parent Support Adviser

Information about: schools and education, special educational needs, and support groups. [www.wokingham.gov.uk/local-offer-for-0-25-year-olds-with-additional-needs/](http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/local-offer-for-0-25-year-olds-with-additional-needs/)

Providing free, confidential, impartial advice, guidance and support including advice about EHCPs, helping to understand reports and paperwork and helping you express your views. [www.sendiasswokingham.org.uk](http://www.sendiasswokingham.org.uk)

Provide specialist support for Berkshire Families who have Children and Young People with Special Needs. [parentingspecialchildren.co.uk](http://parentingspecialchildren.co.uk)

Dear All,

FIRST DAYS CHARITY

## MOBILE SUPPORT HUB



### Our Mobile Support Hubs

The best way to access support from First Days is to come along to one of our Mobile Support Hubs across Wokingham Borough.

Here you can meet our Family Support Team, let us know what you need and how we can help.

No one knows better what a child needs than their parent or carer. We're here to support you and give you choices.

**Finchampstead: FBC Centre (from 1st February)**  
Open every other Tuesday 10:00 - 12:00

**Woodley: Woodley Precinct (from 9th February)**  
Open every Wednesday 10:00 - 12:00

**Winnersh: Rainbow Park (from 9th February)**  
Open every Wednesday 13:00 - 14:30

**Wokingham: Norreys Church (from 11th February)**  
Open every other Friday 12:30 - 14:30

For further information, please call  
Lindsay 07578 144611  
or email [referrals@firstdays.net](mailto:referrals@firstdays.net).



Registered Charity in England & Wales 1157855

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

It is slowly beginning to look a little bit like spring and, like the flowers we are starting to see shoot up, our children seem to manage a growth spurt at this time of year too!

Recent years have made things difficult for many, and local charity First Days is offering support with everything from day to day school uniform to dress up outfits for World Book Day. They will be running a mobile drop in at Woodley Centre every Wednesday 10am—12pm, but please see the attached flyer for more details.

I hope you all have a fantastic half term, and look forward to greeting you all when we return!

Lucy/ Mrs. Sayer – Parent Support



# PHOTOS





# Reminders

## SCHOOL UNIFORM



All uniform orders must be made and paid for via SCOPAY. Please contact the school office if you do not have a login.

We sell logoed jumpers/cardigans, PE tops, Book bags and PE bags.

Once ready the uniform will then be sent to your child's class or can be collected from the School office.

## SCHOOL DINNERS

Children in Reception, Years 1 & 2 are entitled to universal free school meals, funded by the government. If your child would like a school dinner please let the class teacher know and this will be booked for them.

Children in Nursery, Years 3 to 6 are required to pay for dinners at a cost of £2.15 per day. Payment should be made via SCOPAY in advance. Dinners are booked in the morning in class when the register is taken and booking closes at 9.30am.



If you think your child may be eligible for benefits related free school meals please contact the school office for a form.

Applicants in receipt of Universal credit must receive a net earned income of less than £7,400 to be entitled to free school meals. This may also entitle your child to other benefits in school i.e. free trips etc.

## 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.

# Diary Dates



Date and Time	Activity
Friday 18th February 2022	Inset Day
Monday 21st - Friday 25th February 2022	Half term
Monday 28th February to Friday 4th March 2022	World Book Week
Thursday 3rd March 2022	World Book Day - see letter for more information
Friday 4th March 2022	Book Swap
Friday 4th March 2022	4A start their swimming sessions at Blue Coat
Tuesday 8th March 2022	KS1 SPLAT - 1.30pm to 3.15pm - to be confirmed
Friday 11th March 2022	Reports out to parents
Tuesday 15th March 2022	Lower KS2 SPLAT - 1.30pm to 3.15pm - to be confirmed
Wednesday 16th March 2022	F1 & F2 SPLAT - 1.30pm to 3.15pm - to be confirmed
Thursday 17th March 2022	Upper KS2 SPLAT - 1.30pm to 3.15pm - to be confirmed
Friday 18th March 2022	Red Nose Day
Friday 8th April 2022	Last day of Spring term - School finishes at 1.30pm
Monday 11th April to Friday 22nd April 2022	Easter holidays
Monday 25th April 2022	Inset day
Tuesday 26th April 2022	First day of summer term



Please note that some dates are subject to change based upon current guidance.

## 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.

All requests 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.