



# Newsletter

## Highwood Primary School Issue no.61

December 2023

'Where Individuals Matter'

Dear Parents/Carers,

Whilst thinking about what to share in my section of this newsletter, it dawned on me that this is the start of my 10th year as Headteacher of Highwood.

I remember my interview like it was yesterday! The two day process was extremely challenging and oddly enjoyable. It was during the interview process that I first shared with governors my values and principles about education and that developing positive learning behaviours in children is key to them being successful as they grow.

Ten years on and I still believe this more than ever.



Reflection



Perseverance



Teamwork



Curiosity



Creativity



Independence

Over the last few months I have been showing prospective parents around for their children to start with us in September 2024. The feedback has been extremely positive about how calm and purposeful our school is and how polite our children are.

Obviously, some days we have our challenges but on the whole children at Highwood are actively demonstrating our Learning Behaviours every day of the week and that fills me with pride. My hope is that when children move on from Highwood these positive traits go with them and they continually help children to succeed.

A final reflection for this term: when I first joined Highwood, there was not an active PTA. Through the commitment from a small, growing number over the last few years, we have a thriving group of parents that have raised a significant amount of money to support the school. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them, not just for the £2077.28 that was raised at the Winter Fayre, but for all the work that this committee and previous committees, have put in to help the school.

Thank you for your support.

Matt Hickey

Head Teacher





# Governing Body News

Dear Parent and Carers,

## **Orchard Learning Alliance (OLA) – Progress so far**

The journey toward joining the OLA has seen significant strides, marked by meticulous planning, resource allocation, and collaborative efforts from the community of schools involved. Engaging stakeholders and garnering support have been integral aspects of this progress. While the envisioned milestone is yet to be reached, the foundation laid is robust, as we navigate the path towards realising the OLA's full potential.

## **Governor Positions available**

Have you considered taking on the rewarding role of a school governor?

Serving as a school governor offers a unique opportunity to contribute directly to the school's development and success. By joining the governing body, you gain valuable insights into the educational system, leadership experience, and a chance to influence policy decisions. Your involvement not only benefits the school but also enhances your own skills and understanding of educational governance. It's a collaborative effort where your input can make a meaningful impact on the overall learning experience for all pupils. Seize this chance to be an integral part of Highwood's educational journey and contribute to the thriving community within the school.

Email: [admin@highwood.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:admin@highwood.wokingham.sch.uk)

## **Parental & Community Engagement**

If you would like to share any information or feedback for the Governors, please complete this form:

<https://forms.office.com/r/n3L972NxxV>

As we conclude this autumn term, the governors want to extend heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated school staff, supportive parents, and enthusiastic children for your unwavering efforts and commitment to learning and growth. We wish each of you a joyful and restful holiday season. Take this time to recharge, celebrate with loved ones, and return in the new year with renewed energy. We've put together a few activities for the kids to enjoy, thank you for being an essential part of our school family, and here's to a well-deserved and delightful Christmas break for all!

**Highwood Governors**



# Governing Body News



## CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH

Circle words in the puzzle below



- |         |          |         |          |
|---------|----------|---------|----------|
| Santa   | stocking | snow    | toys     |
| elves   | tree     | cookies | ornament |
| Rudolph | star     | present | sleigh   |

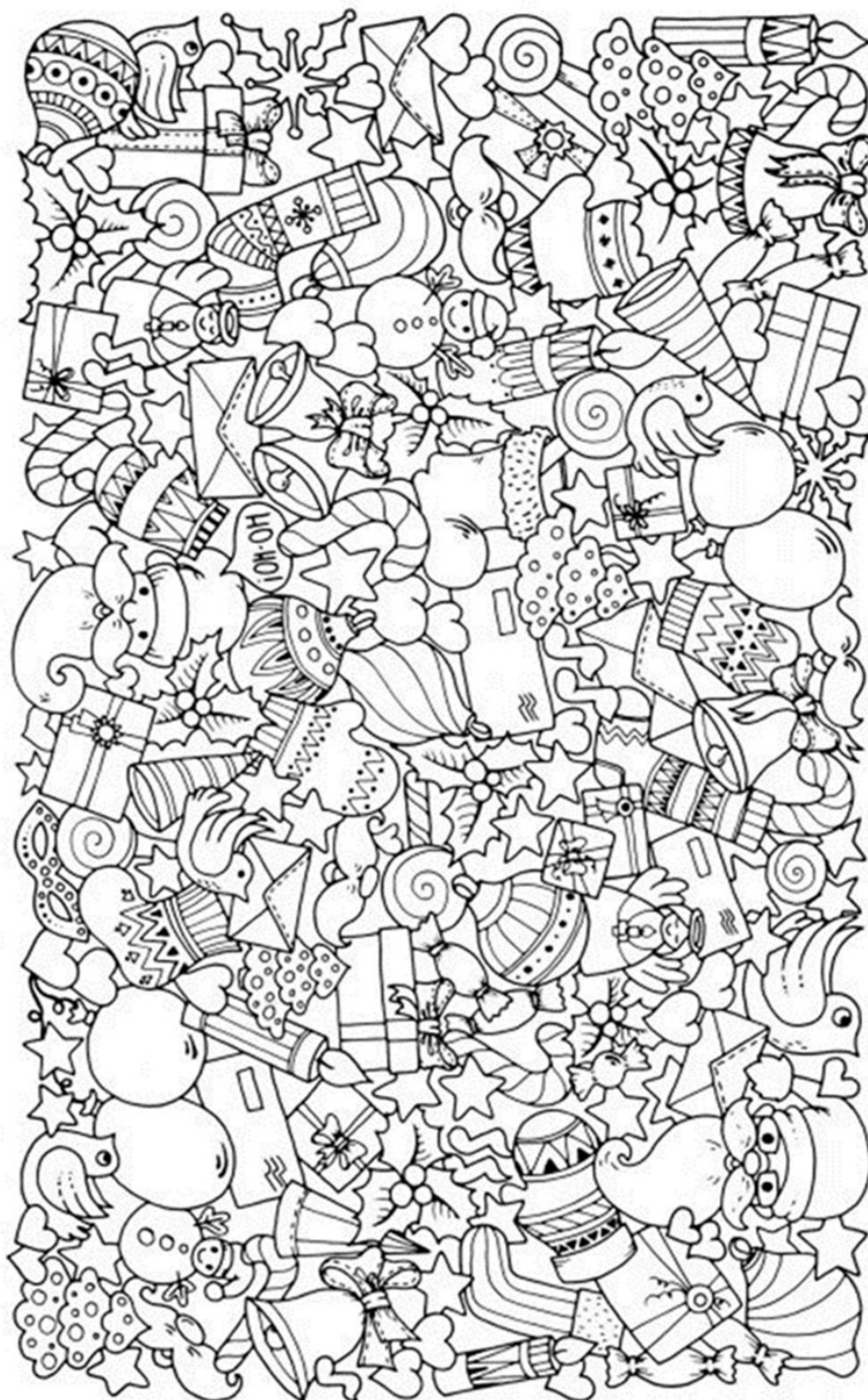


### Christmas Cheer ☐

- How can you tell Santa is good at karate? *He has a black belt!*
- What kind of holiday songs do fish sing? *Christmas Corals.*
- What kind of cereal do snowmen eat? *Frosted flakes!*
- What do you call Santa when he stops moving? *Santa Pause!*
- Who gives presents to baby sharks? *Santa Jaws.*
- What do you get if you cross Santa with a detective? *Santa Clues.*
- What did the grumpy sheep say when his friends wished him a Merry Christmas? *Baaaa humbug!*
- Who hides in a bakery at Christmas? *A mince spy!*
- How does Rudolph know when Christmas is coming? *He looks at his calenDEER!*
- What did one Christmas tree say to the other? *Lighten up*



# Governing Body News





# Foundation 1 News

Mrs Atkinson

Mrs Vanka, Miss Mair, Mrs Bailey, Mrs Cooper, Mrs Hargreaves and Miss Wilkins

Welcome to our Foundation 1 News. We have had a very busy second half of the Autumn Term in F1. We have been continuing to explore our termly topic 'What makes us special?' by looking at our senses of touch, taste, smell, hearing and sight.



We have learnt about the other senses which we use every day - sight, taste and hearing. We learnt all about firework night and the different sounds we might hear and made our own binoculars and telescopes when we learnt about sight. The children have also been focusing on listening in phonics, learning to distinguish between different sounds they hear with their ears.

Our favourite sense was our sense of taste! We explored the four parts of taste - salty, bitter, sweet and sour. Sweet food is our favourite but we disliked the bitter taste. We also tasted some new kinds of fruit and made our own fruit kebabs. The children made shopping lists to make sure Mrs Atkinson bought the right ingredients.



We've also enjoyed learning about Halloween, Bonfire Night and Diwali, which some of our children celebrate with their families. We pretended to be fireworks, made spooky sounds in phonics and we've collected some pumpkin seeds to plant in Spring. The children especially loved the breadstick sparklers! Yummy!

And of course, who can forget our fabulous Welly Walk! The weather was much kinder this year and we noticed that many trees still had leaves on. We used our super observation skills to complete an Autumn scavenger hunt and collected lots of natural objects to use them in our craft and messy play activities too. Thank you so much to the grown-ups who gave up their morning to help us.



As we are coming towards the end of the term, we are doing all things Christmas! The children have been busy rehearsing for their play 'The Nativity' which we are very excited to share with parents and also engaging in lots of Christmas/winter themed activities and crafts. The children also enjoyed their Christmas party and Christmas lunch and decorating the classroom to make it very festive.

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 the Christmas break!

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

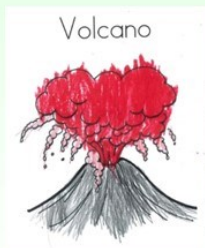


# Foundation 2 News

Miss Hargreaves, Mrs Parker,  
Mrs Bolton

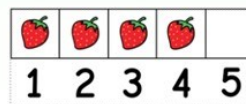
Miss Webb, Mrs Alleyne, Miss Finch, Mrs Newham, Mrs Poulton

Welcome to the Foundation Stage Newsletter! It has been such a busy and exciting half term, continuing with our topic question 'Could dinosaurs live in Woodley?', and with all of our other learning - take a look!



### Topic

We started the term looking at the different ways that dinosaurs move; we compared animals that we see today who resembled dinosaurs and discussed extinction and how it might have happened. Our WOW event, a dinosaur day, was very exciting. We baked dinosaur biscuits and looked closely at fossils.



### Maths

In maths, the F2 children have been learning about numbers 1 to 5. We have practised subitising, representing and showing the composition of each number. We have also looked at 2D Shapes (Circle, Triangle and 4 sided shapes), talking about what we notice and trying to spot shapes in the environment!



### Phonics/Writing

We have been recapping Phase 2 phonics this half term, solidifying our recognition of each sound and learning how to blend the sounds to read words. The children have also worked very hard learning how to write their names, and can now sign their signatures on all of their pieces of work! Well done. Next half term we will move on to Phase 3 phonics.

s	a	t	p	i	n	m	d
g	o	c	k	ck	e	u	r
h	b	f	ff	l	ll	ss	



### Wriggly Nativity

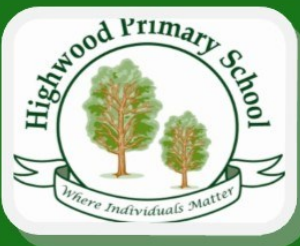
*"We're very excited, we can't sit still!"*



The children had the opportunity to show off their singing, acting and dancing during our nativity 'Wriggly Nativity'. They all looked lovely in their outfits, and were amazing in the hall in front of so many parents and relatives! We hope that you all enjoyed watching it.

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!

Follow us on Twitter: @HighwoodPrimF2H @HighwoodPrimF2P



# Year 1 News - Autumn 2

Miss Bolger, Mrs Garner and Miss Ahmed

Mrs Tiwari, Mrs Wheeler, Miss Mubashar and Mrs Chaurisia

Year 1 have had a fantastic Autumn term. We have seen the children put so much effort into all of their work over the past few weeks and they have shown our Learning Behaviours really well.

## Where In The World Am I?

### English

This term we have been securing our use of capital letters, full stops and finger spaces. We have also been trying hard to use a variety of adjectives in our writing. We have based our English around the story of The Nutcracker. The children have been really creative in describing The Land of Sweets and have also created their own lands too. We were shocked when our Nutcrackers went missing but were glad that our Missing posters worked and helped them to be found and returned.



finger spaces. We have also been trying hard to use a variety of adjectives in our writing. We have based our English around the story of

The Nutcracker. The children have been really creative in describing The Land of Sweets and have also created their own lands too. We were shocked when our Nutcrackers went missing but were glad that our Missing posters worked and helped them to be found and returned.



### Maths

We have loved our maths over the last couple weeks as we have been focusing on 3d and 2d shapes. We have been naming them and sorting them according to their properties. We have investigated which ones would roll or build the most stable tower, based on their properties.



### History and Geography

As part of our Key Question, we have been looking at the history of the school and of Woodley. We can explain some of the key ways the school and Woodley has changed and even



how we think they will change in the future! We enjoyed having one of our parents coming in to talk to us about when she

came to Highwood when it was called William Gray. We have enjoyed looking for similarities and differences in old photos of the school. In geography we have enjoyed exploring maps and drawing our own maps of the school and local area.



### DT

We have also completed our first DT project, making Christmas biscuits. We started by researching different types of biscuits to decide what we liked and what we wanted our biscuits to be like. We then made different designs of Christmas



inspired biscuits and evaluated which was our favourite. We took some biscuits with us to Woodlands Court and shared them with the residents. They were delicious!



Follow us on Twitter for more updates::

@HighwoodPrim1BG (Miss Bolger/Miss Ahmed )

@HighwoodPrim1G (Mrs Garner)



# Year 2 News - Autumn 2



Miss Anderson, Miss Hughes,

Miss Roberts, Miss Briggs, Miss Haywood and Mrs Moore

It's hard to believe that another 7 weeks have whizzed by. We have been very busy this half term continuing to learn about The Great Fire of London and rehearsing for our Nativity. All the Year 2 children have continued to display an excellent work ethic and have showcased their learning brilliantly.

## Was The Great Fire of London a total disaster?

### English

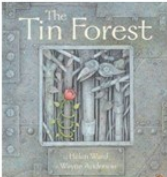


This term the children have been learning about Samuel Pepys and why he remains a significant person. The children had great fun researching facts about him and enjoyed writing their own diary entries.

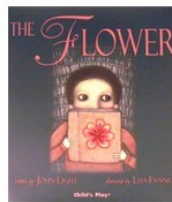
### Maths

We have continued to learn the methods of addition and subtraction and enjoyed investigating shape where we learnt about symmetry, 2D and 3D shapes.

### Whole Class Reading



We have loved reading The Tin Forest and The Flower in whole



class reading and have developed all our reading skills.

### Science

We have enjoyed investigating materials and their suitability for different purposes. We have also expanded our knowledge of properties when learning new vocabulary.



### Nativity

The children have been very proud to lead the Nativity this year. All children performed their lines brilliantly and highly enjoyed singing the songs.



### Computing:

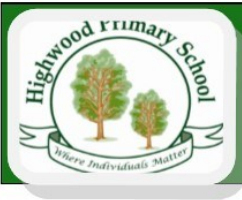
Our computing unit this half term was photography. The children have enjoyed learning how cameras have evolved and how to take a good picture. They have had so much fun exploring the different effects you can use when taking and editing photographs.

Follow us on Twitter;

@HighwoodPrim2A

@HighwoodPrim2H





# Year 3 News

Miss Bernardes and Miss Rumbold

## What did pre-historic people yabba dabba do?

### Reading and Writing

The children have had lots of exciting writing opportunities! The children discovered fossils on the field and then wrote a recount to Mr Hickey informing him of everything that happened! The children also have been writing instructions for the Year 2's so that they can learn 'How to be a Stone Age child'. We have also really enjoyed reading 'The Boy with the Bronze Axe' and gaining a greater understanding of the prehistoric times and of the mystery of Skara Brae!



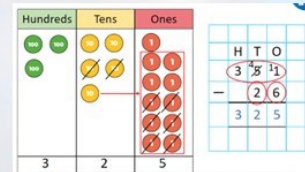
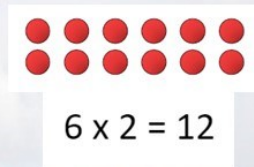
Recount  
On Tuesday afternoon we were off out on the football field and had found some 'looking things' buried in the muddy dirt.  
I had been on English lesson something strange happened and I had these 'looking things' buried in the muddy dirt. After the end of the lesson I had my friend and his friend something happened! The sand in the ground started to move and the things that were buried in the ground came out. I was so happy to see them. I had found some very old things and I was so happy to see them. I had found some very old things and I was so happy to see them. I had found some very old things and I was so happy to see them.

### Topic

What did prehistoric people yabba dabba do? We have been learning lots about how change has occurred over time and how prehistoric people were constantly inventing and creating new tools to make life easier - we even compared this with modern day! Most recently, we have thought about the materials that were available to Stone Age people and wondered how Stone Age people would fix their tunics Et la francais? C'est super! We have even been learning about Ancient Britain in French!

### Maths

We have been trying so hard with our maths column addition and subtraction. We have now begun to work on multiplication and division. We have used arrays to help us visualise, and have enjoyed using the counters to help.



### Science

We have been learning all about bodies in science, focusing on skeletons. We discovered the different type of skeleton names, and that some animals even have skeletons on the outside of their bodies! We have also been thinking about why humans and animals need food.

Je suis un homme  
de l'âge de la pierre.

J'ai un silex.

J'habite dans  
une grotte.



Follow us on Twitter;

@HighwoodPrim3R

@HighwoodPrim3B



# Year 4 News

Mrs Partridge, Mr Williams, Mrs Strong, Mrs Mohammed, Mrs Trayhorne, Miss Harris & Ms Nasser

Welcome to the second edition of the Year 4 news! All the Year 4 children have continued to take pride in their learning and have produced some amazing work. Please read on to find out about the incredible learning the children have been doing!

## What is More Precious - water or gold?

In Year 4 we have continued our investigation into the Ancient Egyptians and how their wealth and the river Nile were important to their rise to power and success as a civilisation.

We learned all about why the River Nile was so important to the Egyptians, explored an Egyptian textile Khayamiya and have mummified tomatoes!

Thank you to all of the parents who came to the Maths SPLAT event! The children loved learning with you.



## Maths

In maths this term the children explored and concreted their understanding of addition and subtraction of 4 digit numbers and have been challenged to multiple exchanges within one calculation. We continued our work on addition and subtraction to find answers to multistep problems. We then investigated different techniques in working out timetables we didn't know. Their timetables knowledge has come so far over the past few weeks but any extra practise that could be squeezed in on the school run or at home would be beneficial!

## English

In our writing, we have created excellent setting descriptions, full of adjectives, similes, personification and an assortment of fronted adverbial phrases. We have pulled all of this learning together with show don't tell emotions and have started writing a comic book story based on Marcy and the Riddle of the Sphinx! We are so proud of the creativity and perseverance the children have put into their writing!

Year 4 have continued reading 'Secrets of a Sun King' and the class have loved the excitement and adventure within the story. We have been improving our predicting skills for what we think is going to happen next and summaries of chapters to help us remember all the key events throughout the book.



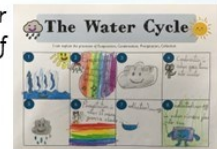
## Science

As scientists we have continued to investigate states of matter. We particularly enjoyed our two investigations: one where we melted ice, butter and chocolate; the other where we created a water-cycle-in-a-bag and we saw water evaporate! Spending a whole term exploring states of matter has really helped us consolidate all of our understanding.



## Art

As artists we have looked at the Egyptian textile Khayamiya. The children created their own elaborate patterns in the Egyptian styles and painted them onto fabric. We've used our sewing skills from DT to sew a channel using running stitch ready to insert a dowel rod. This will help our beautiful tapestries to hang properly. We've found this whole process really exciting!



## Design and Technology

We have been extremely creative in D&T this term. The children designed a logo for Ancient Egypt, practiced their sewing skills into binca and used these successfully in their art!



Follow us on Twitter:

@HighwoodPrim4P & @HighwoodPrim4W



## Year 5 News

Team: Mrs Downes, Mrs Hansford  
Mrs Laksmanaman, Mrs Panahpoori,  
Mrs Rudroju, Mrs Kamath

### Has our Earth finished evolving?

Welcome to the second 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

During the second part of the Autumn Term, we began by studying the



poems of Kate Wakeling and learnt about different styles and features of poetry. This ended with a very exciting Poetry Slam where everyone performed their own space-themed poem. We then moved on to focussing on writing newspaper reports, linked to the moon landing. We looked at all the features first, introducing a new idea of relative clauses, before doing lots of research and interviewing key players in the landing. We are now in the process of publishing our newspaper articles like real journalists.



#### Maths

We've been looking at the four operations including looking at 'special numbers', such as prime numbers and factors. We have focused on multiplying and dividing, learning new formal

methods that can help us calculate answers. This side of half term, we have been exploring fractions: find equivalent fractions, converting between improper fractions and mixed numbers, comparing fractions and adding and subtracting fractions - phew!

#### Science and Key Question Lessons

Our Key Question 'Has Our Earth Finished Evolving?' led us to outer space. We learnt about the planets and the Lunar Cycle. This knowledge fed into an art project where we looked at the work of two different artists:

Jackson Pollock and Michael Carroll, and produced our own fantastic space art.



Then the children built working CAMs toys with a space theme in DT. This topic was finished off beautifully with a session inside a huge inflatable



planetarium which took over our school hall! The children got a whole new perspective on our position in the galaxy and learnt lots of new, interesting facts.

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

Follow us on Twitter @HighwoodPrim5H and @HighwoodPrim5D



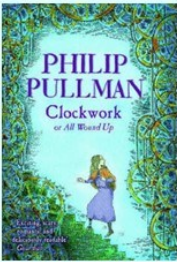
# Year 6 News

Teachers: Mr Robinson, Miss Bicheno, Mrs Shahzadi, Ms Yu, Mr Edwards and Miss Anderson

Looking back over this Autumn Term, we can't believe how much we have learnt and done. We have continued to address our question '**Does Change Always Lead to Progress?**' through English, History, Science and the Arts. Year 6 would like to wish a Happy Christmas to all our families and friends.

## English

In Reading, 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 two 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 macabre and sinister vocabulary in the story, and are using it to create our own version.



When writing, we have studied influential men and women at the time of the Industrial Revolution, how their lives contributed to their successes, and how we benefit from their legacies today. This included writing biographies on Charles Darwin and Mary Anning - two incredibly important scientists.

## Maths

We have continued to hone our arithmetic skills and use them to solve mathematical problems. We have had a huge focus on skills involving fractions: addition and subtraction of fractions, multiplying and dividing; and fractions of an amount. The children have worked incredibly hard and have made excellent progress.

## Science

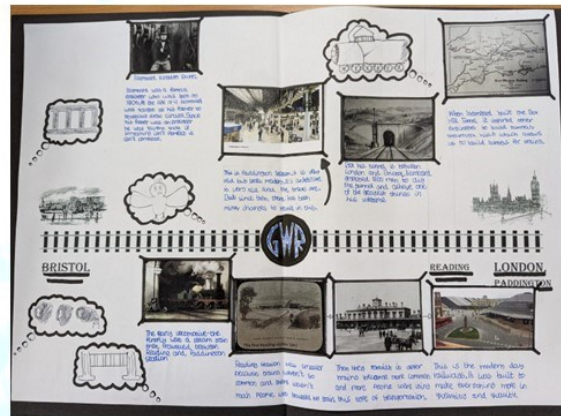
In Science, we started off finding out about Darwin and how he developed his Theory of Evolution. We investigated how the different beaks of finches had adapted over many generations so that they were better able to survive on the food that grew on different islands of the Galapagos.

Recently, we have begun to build on our knowledge and understanding of electricity. We have learned the scientific symbols for electrical components, and how these can be combined to make a circuit.

## History

As historians, we studied the impact that railways had on the people of Britain. And asked, whether they were a change for good or bad? We then looked at the development of the Great Western Railway and how Reading Station has changed over time.

## Geography



We have been learning about the British Empire and the countries that were impacted by the actions of the British. We studied their locations and found them on a map.

## PE

In PE, we have been focusing on invasion games, including hockey, netball and handball (which the children loved learning about for the first time). We have continued with swimming, being a key component of the curriculum and 6B have enjoyed regular lessons at Blue Coat School.

*Follow us on Twitter*

**@HighwoodPrim6R & @HighwoodPrim6B**



# The Grove Speech and Language Resource News

Miss Barrett, Mrs Payne, Mrs Gale, Mrs Pithiya, Mrs Harris and Mrs Godfrey

## Literacy: Continuation of This Is Not My Hat and Hansel and Gretel

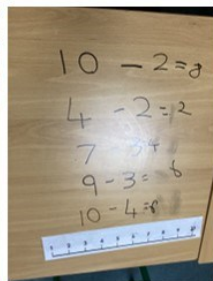
As the children loved This Is Not My Hat, we have created a missing scene using Colourful Stories planning structure to decide what happened to the missing little fish. We have used past tense verbs and used inverted commas to show speech!

Some of the children have focussed on Hansel and Gretel. They have been re-enacting the section of when Hansel and Gretel find the witches house and enter it. They have used finger puppets to retell and have even created their own sentences using Colourful Semantics.



## Maths: Continuation of Place Value, Capacity and Patterns

There has been a range of learning going on this term across resource. We have explored more challenging Place Value questions and exploring how we can answer questions. Some children have looked at Capacity and created a range of potions and materials based on half, full and half full quantities. Also some children have explored patterns and created their own! A very full on term in maths in resource!



After a full Autumn term, we could not be prouder of the children in The Grove! Especially with their teamwork making gingerbread houses. We all wish you a well deserved Christmas break and a Happy New Year!

Follow us on Twitter @HighwoodPrimR



# PE/Sports News

## Mr Edwards & Miss Coleman

**Welcome** to the final half term "PE & Sports News Page" of 2023. 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 Hockey, Badminton, Handball and Netball so a huge focus on Hand-Eye Co-ordination, pass & receive, striking, teamwork, target and agility. Key stage 1 are still making great use of the Uni-Hoc equipment whilst KS2 are using the wooden sticks.

Over the last 7 weeks we have been developing our skills in these games in preparation for the tournaments which historically run in the Spring Term. The development that has occurred this term in all lessons has been fantastic.



Year 2H have also had an extra session taking part in Dance lessons with Miss Coleman. 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.

What has also been a highlight has been the effort and enthusiasm from many of the children.

Year 6B have enjoyed a fabulous half term in the pool learning or improving their swimming techniques and abilities. Many children are showing amazing bravery overcoming their fears of either the water, lifting feet or even swimming in the deep end! The smiles and excitement from the children makes it all so worthwhile and we are forever grateful for the opportunity Blue Coat School gives us in using their facilities.

### Sporting After School Clubs:

This Half term we have been able to run a few more clubs across the school and we are endeavouring to give every opportunity we can to as many children as possible. There will be new clubs in the spring term :

#### Mondays

KS1 Football - **Mr Williams**

#### Tuesdays:

KS2 Girls Football - **Mr McGlone**

KS1 Multisports - **Mr Edwards.**

Year 5/6 Tag Rugby- **Mr Robinson**

#### Wednesdays:

KS2 Paddles & Raquets - **Mr Edwards**

#### Thursdays:

KS2 boys Football - **Mr Edwards.**

As ever, these clubs attract large numbers and long waiting lists, remember, if children sign up for a club they **must persist for the whole term.**

### Final Autumn Half Term Matches & Tournaments:

This half term we were fortunate enough to venture out into the community for both Football & Tag Rugby.

### Wokingham Primary School Football Association.

Due to the difficulty fitting in many fixtures, our league decided to all convene at Floreat Montague Park School and play all of our matches in one afternoon. This was a great idea and an opportunity for the boys to get lots of playing time.



# PE/Sports News

## Mr Edwards

We played against Floreat first in a tough match that saw Highwood win 2-0 and then a close game with Wheatfield Primary which ended in a 2-2 draw and then finally a game vs Southlake which we lost 6-1 but had many missed chances.

Next term, the boys team will be put into new leagues with schools with similar abilities based on their results in this Autumn league. We hope to have some more fabulous games in the Spring term.

### Wokingham Schools Rugby Event

5 schools competed in a round robin of games, 10 minutes each game. They were Hawkedon, Highwood, Colleton, Dolphin & Hillside. All of the teams performed amazingly. They ran, passed & scored lots of Try's. I was also pleased to see parents supporting their children. I always like to encourage this when possible so please come along if your child is selected.



### Outside School Gallery



Holly has completed her first dance exam this term and she even got a trophy for her hard work. Well Done Holly!

### PE Kit.

**PE Kit required:-** Shorts, Highwood PE T-Shirt, Black Plain Tracksuit, trainers.

Here are 4W. The first "whole class" in correct PE kit



(Winter Gear) being expertly led in the warm up by Alice.

Also Riley & Max from 2A again displaying the correct kit as my "models of the day".



### Next Half Term

**PE Lessons:-** Basketball, tennis, Disability games & Gymnastics

**Swimming:-** 5D

**Dance:-** 1BG

**Next Term Competitions:**

Six Nations Rugby league

WPSFA 5/6 Football League

Spring Term School Games

Handball & Basketball House Games.

**No Earrings! Please remember 1st week in summer holidays only for new piercings just in case it's on your list you have sent to Santa!**

Please ensure your child has a plain 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!

It just remains for me to wish you all a very happy and safe Christmas break.  
Mr Edwards.



Twitter:  
@HighwoodPrimPE



# SENCO

Dear Families,

It has been great seeing all the Foundation and KS1 pupils enjoying rehearsing and producing their Nativity performances. While for some children, Christmas can be an exciting and enjoyable time of year, others may find the changes to routine and normality challenging. At school, we have put in support to assist pupils in the last few weeks of the Autumn term including whenever possible sticking to our familiar school timetable, clear visual timetables, warned of changes and social stories. Below, I have added links to advice for supporting SEND pupils at Christmas.

I hope you all have an enjoyable Winter break and a Merry Christmas to all who celebrate.

Lindsay Padbury

Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo)



Lindsay Padbury - Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo) A special educational need/ and or disability (SEND) can cause barriers to a child's learning. My role in school is to identify the children's strengths and manage any extra needs they may have. I liaise with teachers and Learning Support Assistants (LSAs) to help support the pupil's needs and discuss appropriate actions that will help reduce any barriers to their learning. If you have any SEND concerns, please initially talk to your child's class teacher.

Here are some services you can access for additional SEND support.

## Supporting SEND at Christmas

[10 Tips for Enjoyable Christmas with a Child with SEN | SENSational Tutors](#)

[Seven tips for a calm Christmas for children with special needs - Special Needs Jungle](#)

[This Christmas, teach children the wonderful life skill of cooking, with Food – a fact of life • SEN Magazine](#)



## Speech and Language support

[Home - Afasic](#)

[Words for Life | National Literacy Trust | Words for Life](#)

[Learning to talk 3 to 5 years - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)

## Sensory Processing

[What is Sensory Processing? - YouTube](#)

[Sensory Processing: The Tactile \(touch\) System - YouTube](#)

[Sensory processing: Body awareness \(proprioception\) - YouTube](#)

[Sensory processing: movement and balance \(the vestibular system\)](#)

[Sensory Processing: Alertness Levels - YouTube](#)







# SENCO

## **Local SEND Support**

[Local Offer for 0 - 25 year olds with additional needs - Wokingham Borough Council](#)

[Homepage \(sendiasswokingham.org.uk\)](http://sendiasswokingham.org.uk) free, confidential, impartial advice, guidance and support for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

[Children with additional needs \(CAN\) network - Wokingham Borough Council](#)

[Home Page - PSC \(parentingspecialchildren.co.uk\)](http://parentingspecialchildren.co.uk)

[Home | Camp Mohawk](#) a multi-functional day centre for children with special needs and their families, set in 5 acres of beautiful countryside, just outside Wargrave, Berkshire.

## **Family and adult Support**

[Wokingham Borough Council family support](#)

[Young Sibs](#) for siblings

[Talking Therapies](#) self-refer for support with emotional and mental health (17years and above)

[Samaritans](#) are available 24/7 to listen, even if you just need someone to listen whilst you offload, they don't have to provide advice unless you ask for it.

[Parenting and mental health](#) – the Mental Health Foundation

## **Mental Health**

[little-blue-book-of-sunshine.pdf \(berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk\)](#)



## **Sleep Issues, Anxiety and Behaviour Support**

FIRST [Wokingham Directory | Family Intervention Resources & Support Team \(FIRST\) - supporting families with sleep and behavioural issues](#)

First Video: [Supporting children with disabilities - YouTube](#)

## **Autism and ADHD Support**

[Waiting times for ADHD and Autism Assessments](#)

[Right to Choose - ADHD UK](#)

[Centre for Autism - University of Reading Centre for Autism](#)

ASSIST Team [Wokingham Directory | ASSIST Team \(Autism Spectrum Service for Information Support and Training\)](#)

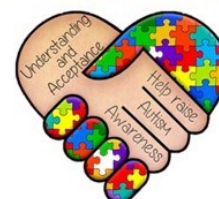
Assist video [Supporting autistic children and their families - YouTube](#)



[Neurodiversity Hub - Resources for Students, Employers & More](#)

[Autism Berkshire Reading - Autism Berkshire](#)

[Neurodiversity News September 2023 \(newsweaver.com\)](#)



## **Fine Motor Skills**

[Fine Motor Skills | Children Young People and Families Online Resource \(berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk\)](#)

# Reminders



## SCHOOL UNIFORM

School uniform can be purchased direct from our supplier Michael Hope at the following [link](#)

Please note that free delivery to school is only available up to October Half Term. Otherwise there is a delivery charge of £4.50 to home up until Easter.



## 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. The price of a school dinner is **£2.53 per day**. Payment should be made via SCOPAY in advance.

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

**Please note that we are a NUT-FREE 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 the Arbor Portal/APP 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.

## EARRINGS



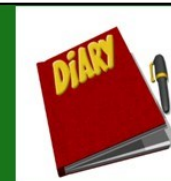
Please note that our school policy is for earrings to be removed for PE, for the health and safety of the children.

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.

# Diary Dates



Please find a list of forthcoming dates.

Friday 15th December	Last day of term - school finishes at 1.30pm
Monday 18th to Friday 29th December	Christmas Holidays
Monday 1st January 2024	Bank Holiday
Tuesday 2nd January 2024	Inset Day - School closed for staff training
Wednesday 3rd January 2024	School starts for all children
Wednesday 31st January	Year 1 trip to Milestones Museum
Tuesday 6th February	Safer Internet Day
Wednesday 7th February	Woodley Cluster Year 5 Bake-Off (selected pupils)
Thursday 8th February	Parent Book Look - 3:15 - 3:45pm
Friday 9th February	Inset day - school closed to pupils
Monday 12th - Friday 16th February	Half Term - school closed
Monday 19th February	Second half of term starts
Friday 1st March	Reports out to parents
Monday 4th March	Year 6 SPLAT - 1:30 - 3pm
Tuesday 5th March	Year 3 SPLAT - 1:30 - 3pm
Wednesday 6th March	Year 1 SPLAT - 1:30 - 3pm
Thursday 7th March	F1 SPLAT - 10:30 - 11:30am
Thursday 7th March	F1 SPLAT - 2pm - 3pm
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day
Sunday 10th March	WASMA
Monday 11th March	Year 2 SPLAT - 1:30 - 3pm
Tuesday 12th March	F2 SPLAT - 1.30 - 3pm
Wednesday 13th March	Year 5 SPLAT - 1:30 - 3pm
Thursday 14th March	Year 4 SPLAT - 1:30 - 3pm
Friday 15th March	Red Nose Day
Monday 11th - Friday 22nd March	Big Walk and Wheel
Tuesday 19th March	Year 1 Phonics Screening Check parent workshop - 3:30 - 4:30pm
Thursday 21st March	Year 6 SATs parents meeting - 3:30 - 4:30pm
Thursday 28th March	Last day of spring term - school finishes 1:30pm
Friday 29th March to Friday 12th April 2024	Easter holidays
Monday 15th April	Start of Summer Term

## BEE ON TIME!



Making sure your child is at school and ready to learn is vital to ensuring they don't miss out on key learning and start their school day unsettled.

The school day starts at 8.50am and we expect all children at Highwood to be in class by this time. You will now be expected to sign a register if you come in late detailing why your child is late for school.

Please note that you will not be allowed to park in the school car park to drop off late children unless you have a pass to do so.