



HIGHGATE
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Headteacher's Newsletter October 2017

Dear parents,

A busy term has come to an end with some great celebrations including today's Victorian Day, Year 1's farmers' market and Year 6 Superhero Day (it was great to see Bananaman complete the daily mile). After a very productive seven weeks, I imagine everyone is looking forward to some rest and relaxation before the busy run up to Christmas. I certainly am!

Fireworks Night 2017



Once again happy families filled North London Cricket Club to celebrate our annual Fireworks Evening. Unusually warm weather, hundreds of guests, home-made toffee apples fresh from the allotment, delicious food and great dancing from the BBQ dads and of course a stunning firework display decorating the night sky. An enormous thanks to Jacks and Jo and their brilliant PSA team, and to every volunteer, for not only raising an extraordinary £3000 for the school, but for creating yet another night to remember for the whole school community.

Harvest



Once again, the school's annual Harvest celebrations brought a tear to the eye as all of our children, from Nursery through to Year 6, performed a range of seasonal songs in English, Mandarin and British sign language. The choirs were at their very best with an inspired performance of 'Another Day of Sun' by the older choir and 'My Favourite Things' performed by the younger choir. It was so nice to see our very youngest children perform 'Big Red Combine-harvester' with such confidence and enthusiasm. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the incredible harvest display, and to Caroline and her team of volunteers who worked their magic to make it look so beautiful. The produce has now been distributed to local elderly residents and the Muswell Hill drop-in centre for homeless people.

National Poetry Slam



Highgate Primary and Blanche Nevile celebrated National Poetry Day together with a poetry slam on 28th September. Every child in both schools learnt a poem, which they recited or signed to their class, before the classes voted on their winning performance. The final 13 then performed their poems in a special assembly. The audience enjoyed a variety of daring and dazzling performances, from limericks to Shakespeare, with poems in English, Russian and BSL. What a performance!

Year 3 trip to Bhaktevedante Manor



After a short coach ride to the Hertfordshire countryside, Year 3 arrived at a beautiful manor to be greeted by members of the Hare Krishna household. The children enjoyed a fantastic day riding in a cart, dressing up as Hindu gods, exploring the grounds and feeding the cows. Alongside learning about the Hindu religion and the important aspects of Hindu celebration, the highlight was a fantastic vegetarian lunch offered by our hosts. The day provided a fascinating insight into the Hare Krishna community and the topic, 'Living Together'.

Year 4 at Hampton Court Palace



Year 4 visited Hampton Court to carry out important research into the Tudors and the significance of Cardinal Wolsley and Henry VIII. A guided tour of the palace kitchens was followed by an historical enquiry into key areas of court life, including the King's beasts, the incredible clock and the changes that have taken place over the years.

Science Spectacular



The school was treated to an incredible science show when the truly original and mesmerising Dr Andrew Szydlo, from Highgate School, visited us to present 'As if by Magic'. This introduction to chemistry explained some 'magical' changes that occur when substances react. With plenty of dramatic big bangs and a fountain of liquid nitrogen, the children were suitably dazzled and inspired.

Calligraphy Club



Our Year 6 lunchtime Calligraphy club is proving to be incredibly popular with our pupils and is producing some impressive results. Lower down the school, children in

Reception and Year 1 have been enjoying the early stages of calligraphy; practising strokes in ink and writing in sand.

Green Council News



A number of enthusiastic parents have joined the Green Council this year and we now have four areas of focus: sustainable travel and air quality; energy; recycling, composting and water; and outdoor spaces and indoor plants. Projects will include working towards a wind turbine for the school, improving recycling and composting, 'greening' the classrooms and helping to maintain and improving the outdoor spaces in the school, whilst fundraising to make all of these projects possible. If you would like to get involved, or find out more, then please contact Ollie Parsons.

Some Afternoon Nursery Places Available



A few afternoon places are still available in our lovely Nursery for the January 2018 admission. If you are interested, please call the office as soon as possible. The nursery application forms will be processed at the beginning of November. Help us spread the word about our warm, friendly and inspiring nursery where children love to play.

Ofsted Visit

On the 20th September the school was visited by Ofsted, who looked at a few things and left having given the school a clean bill of health. The full report is available to read on the school website: <http://www.highgateprimaryschool.co.uk/our-school/ofsted>

Training Sessions for Years 5 & 6



John and his team continue to offer free after-school sports sessions on both Tuesdays and Wednesdays to all girls and boys in Year 5 and 6. So far this term, the children have benefited from netball, football and tag rugby training with about 40 children attending the sessions.

Highgate School Football Festivals



Football teams from Years 3, 4 and 5 competed exceptionally well at the recent Football festivals hosted by Highgate School. Notably, Year 5 won seven of their nine games, after which they were unanimously voted the team that played the best style of football and showed the most sporting behavior. Congratulations to all the teams who participated with such passion, determination and good spirit.

Cross country



Our Cross Country Club continues to grow from strength to strength, with the after-school club seeing record attendance.

Recently, our runners were proud to represent the school in the Haringey Schools Competition. After racing a tough 2.5km course, the girls' team finished 3rd out of 12 teams, and the boys 2nd place out of 27 teams. We will certainly be aiming to take top spot in races later on in the year.

Run a Mile



Our new, free, before school fitness activity, 'Run a Mile', has enjoyed huge success so far. In the first week alone, 256 miles were completed by children, parents and staff – what motivation! We are keeping a leader board for both children, and adults, and look forward to updating you with future achievements. A huge thank you to John and Rob for this new initiative to get us super fit.

Sprung Wooden Floor

I am pleased to announce that we have been awarded a grant of up to £20,000 from the London Marathon Charitable Trust to install a new sprung wooden floor in the gym. The works will be carried out during the half term holiday and we look forward to a new spring in our step for our indoor sporting sessions in the future. The aim is to expand the range of sports offered to our school community, to increase the safety and enhance the opportunities for our young, and not so young, athletes and performers.

Family Centre Fundraising Support



The Family Centre continues to thrive and flourish with so many of our local families benefiting from the fantastic classes, courses and support network. Thanks to all your fabulous fundraising, we have been able to invest in essential and exciting resources including a new playhouse, sound system, sensory toys, musical instruments, baby changing equipment, gardening

tools and wooden planters for the decking. All these precious items help enormously to maintain and improve the quality of our services, so thank you again for your continued support.

Family Centre Courses

We have a Paediatric First Aid Course coming up on Tuesday 7th Nov from 1pm to 3pm. The course costs £30, which includes a certificate. The next Baby Massage course for babies between 6 weeks and 6 months will start on Thursday 9th November. This 5 week course costs £40. To book either of the courses, please call Katherine at the Family Centre on 020 3213 0004.

Top Brass for the Outside Stage



To help our ongoing fundraising drive to raise funds for lighting, sound and general maintenance for the outside stage, you can still join our list supporters by naming a brass plaque. Your donation will ensure our stage is well equipped and looked after for many years to come. Please pay online and then either get in touch with Jacky Oliver through her website www.jackyoliver.co.uk or show up in the playground after school on the first Friday of every month. Jacks will be there with her hammer! Next date is Friday 3rd November.

PSA's Make Your Own Cards



The PSA is excited to announce a new art initiative to raise funds for the school. It is inviting all children to design, draw or paint their own artwork, which the PSA will professionally print into Christmas cards or celebration cards for your friends and family. Look out for a parentmail soon with all the details.

We are Social

Please do follow us on Facebook, Twitter & LinkedIn now too.



@HighgatePri



HighgatePrimarySchoolLondon



highgateprimaryschool

Our Website



Our revamped and updated website is proving popular amongst the school community. As well as useful tools like the school calendar, term dates and parents pages, you can check out my Headteacher's blog and read the latest news, events, stories and newsletters. It's a great hub to keep you up to date with what's going on at Highgate Primary. If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact Claire at communications@highgate-pri.haringey.sch.uk

Important dates for the diary

Half Term	w/c Monday 23rd October
Start of Autumn 2	Monday 30 th October
Family Centre Cake Sale	Thursday 2 nd November
Parent Consultations	Wednesday 22 nd November 4.00-6.00 pm
Parent Consultations	Thursday 23 rd November 6.00-8.00 pm
INSET Day School closed to children	Friday 24 th November
Christmas Craft Fair	Saturday 2nd December 12.30 – 4.00 pm
Christmas Show	Wednesday 13th December 2.00 pm
Christmas Show	Thursday 14th December 2.00 pm
Nursery & Reception Nativity Play	Friday 15th December 9.30 am
Last Day of Term	Wednesday 20th December Early Finish at 1.30 pm

Have a wonderful half term holiday and I look forward to seeing you on 30th October.

With best wishes

William

William Dean
Headteacher

