



HIGHGATE
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Headteacher's Newsletter

April 2021

Dear parents,

The spring sunshine has helped to make it a super positive start to the term with a real sense that children throughout the school are loving being back. As you will see from this newsletter, it's been a tremendous start to the term.

The Big Pedal



The whole school community really got on-board the Big Pedal challenge, clocking up 3,044 journeys to school last week by bike, scooter or foot with more than three quarters of our pupils making active journeys to school – a great achievement. Many congratulations also to 2CW who were delighted to be presented with the Big Pedal trophy for their impressive 281 active journeys! Keep up the good work, everyone: more active journeys means less cars, less pollution and less climate change.

Sport

We're all very excited at the return of Haringey sports competitions which are starting next week with Year 4 boys and girls football, with lots of other competitions against other schools in the borough planned for later in the term including tennis, football, athletics, cricket and... golf. Look out for updates in the newsletters to see how we got on.

Nursery



Children in the Nursery have had enormous fun enjoying their 'Pirate' topic this half term, making treasure maps and telescopes, telling pirate stories and singing sea shanties!

Reception





If you happened to pass the Reception playground over the last couple of weeks, you'll know that the children have been enjoying the traditional tale 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff'. There has been bridge building, trip trapping goats and fearsome trolls shouting 'Who's that trip trapping over my bridge?'

Our 'What a Performance' topic began by practising circus skills in the sunshine and, since then, the children have been busy selling tickets in our box office role-play areas for all sorts of performances including re-telling the story of the 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff' with story spoons. The children are enjoying using different voices for each of the Billy Goats and the Troll. We are expecting some magnificent performances in our first class assemblies at the end of this half term...

Year 1



There was great excitement on the first day of term when the Year 1 classrooms were taken over by amazing architects. The children worked together to explore a range of materials to construct strong and stable houses for the Three Little Pigs from a

range of materials. They showed great creativity making marvelous structures from newspaper, boxes, straws and even toilet rolls. Then came the ultimate challenge: were the houses strong enough to withstand the Big Bad Wolf's huff and puff test? It was a nail-biting moment, but we're pleased to say the Three Little Pigs (and their houses) just about withstood the wolf's best efforts.

Year 2



Year 2's new topic, 'Growing Up', is based around the growth and life cycles of plants and animals (including humans). To start things off, we thought about what plants need to grow before planting seeds to grow edible plants. We also planted salad seeds at the allotment, which we will nurture during our forest school sessions. At the end of term, we will harvest what we have grown to make a salad!

Year 3

In our topic From Source to Sea, the children have been learning about different styles of poetry by reading poems aloud and writing their own. They have also begun crafting highly detailed and ultra-realistic papier mache models of river systems; and will soon be making rain in a jar as they study states of matter and the water cycle.

River Thames

A poem Ivy 3LG

I was born in calm Kemble,
Became a stream,
Some cows ate the grass hungrily
As my waters would gleam.

In Oxford I became a river
And passed a gaggle of geese.
At Richmond I saw deer,
My life was still at peace.

My waters became wide and deep at last
As I flowed under London Bridge.
I passed people on the beach
As I was at the edge.

I was grown at last
And met the estuary.
Now I am part of
The big blue sea.

Year 4

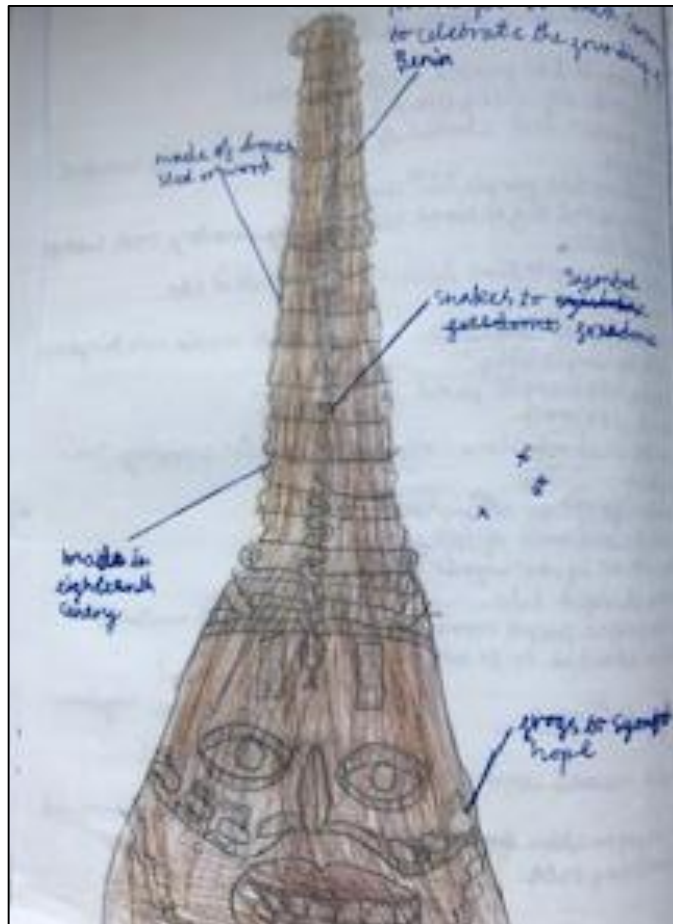


Year 4 have been busy covering under their desks to the sound of air raid sirens, while exploring our new topic, Away from Home. This half term they are investigating the experiences of London children during World War 2. They have listened to Neville Chamberlain announce the start of the war, watched original news reports, studied old photos, met an Air Raid Warden over Zoom (thanks to the RAF Museum) , written our own id labels to tie around our necks and packed imaginary suitcases for our evacuation to the countryside. It's been interesting comparing what children went through then, to what we've been through over the last 12 months, and to see how resilient wartime children had to be too.

Most fun has been designing our own Anderson shelters and testing them to see if they would withstand a German bomb. Julia's Lego version is well and truly bomb proof!



Year 5



The children in year 5 have been enjoying their new topic, 'Benin - an African Kingdom', discovering where the kingdom was located and learning about the countries that make up the continent of Africa today. They have also been researching what life was like for the people who lived during the time when Benin played a major role in the history of the continent. This research will ultimately lead to each group producing their own group book all about the amazing kingdom of Benin. Something to look forward to!

Year 6



Year 6 have travelled over 2000 years back in time and across the world to China to the reign of the First Emperor who ruled from 221 to 210 BC. They have discovered that he achieved many amazing things, but his people suffered greatly as a result. Building our own version of the Great Wall of China on our In Day prompted us to draw parallels with other border walls built to keep unwanted peoples out, such as Hadrian's Wall, the Berlin Wall, the US-Mexico Border walls and others. In the coming weeks, they are looking forward to finding out why the First Emperor was obsessed with immortality and investigating his elaborate tomb guarded by the famous Terracotta Warriors.

Green Council News

With so many children now cycling to school, the Green Council is very pleased to announce that the new KS1 bike shelter has arrived and is currently being assembled in the lower playground. Thanks to the generous contributions of parents, plus a grant from Haringey Council, we can now order a second new bike shelter for the top playground. The visit by Dr Bike this week was another boost for our cycling community, with the free bike maintenance proving extremely popular!



The Green Council children have been busy keeping the playground and Peace Garden tidy with regular litter picking sessions and are looking forward to seeing the new playground recycling bins, which should be arriving soon.

The Green Council parents are busy planning this year's Sustainability Week in July. We'd love more parents to get involved. To find out more, please contact Claire highgategreencouncil@gmail.com.

Michael Batoux's Cookbook

As you may know, we are creating a cookbook to commemorate our school chef, Michael Batoux, who tragically died last summer. The book will celebrate Michael's passion for international food and celebrate Michael's inspirational work at Highgate Primary. Any profits raised will go towards funding cookery lessons at school.

In the month of May, we are raising funds to make the cookbook happen. To support this wonderful project, please visit <https://www.highgateprimaryschool.co.uk/support-us/make-a-donation>

Do look out for an email from the school with more information.

Important Dates

Monday 3 rd May	Bank Holiday – school closed
w/c Monday 31st May	Half Term Week
Monday 21st June	Inset Day – school closed
Saturday 3rd July	Summer Fair
Thursday 22nd July	Last day of term 1.30 pm collection

Wishing you all a wonderful Bank Holiday weekend.

With best wishes

William

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Headteacher

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