



## Headteacher's Newsletter July 2014

Dear parents

Another school year has come to its end and what a successful year it has been for the school.

### Bugsy Malone



The Year 6 leavers' show Bugsy was performed to the school community last week and the reviews we've received have been overwhelming. The quality of the acting, singing and dancing was simply superb - and left its audience totally impressed. This was another example of the quality of the performing arts at Highgate Primary. Special thanks go to the pupils for rising to the challenge of a very ambitious show and to all the staff who contributed in many different ways. Beverley and Andrea's wardrobe department is worthy of professional theatre, our house band gets better and better, Bryan and Dusan's props were fantastic, but particular praise must go to Hilla and the Year 6 teachers Ruth, Nick and Mags, for producing something that will stay in the memory for ever.

### Year 6 Leavers

Today's leavers' assembly was a very emotional occasion and reflected the fondness the children have for their school. We wish the children well at their new secondary schools and look forward to welcoming them back to catch up on how they are progressing.

### Staff Leavers

Very sadly, we said goodbye to our Inclusion Manager, Lara Mitchell. Lara has been connected with school for 12 years as a parent, teacher and governor. Lara has taken the practical decision to avoid the A1(M) and teach closer to her home in North Hertfordshire, where we wish her every success. We also say goodbye to Louise Atherton, who leaves Highgate Primary to embark on an MA in Egyptology, and Dorothy Sun who completes her training as a counsellor. I'd like to thank all

these members of staff for their hard work supporting our pupils at Highgate Primary so well.

### SATs Results

I am delighted to announce that the current Year 6 pupils have achieved very highly in the national SATs tests, continuing a very clear rising trend in both progress and attainment, significantly higher than national levels. Congratulations to our pupils on results for which they should all feel justifiably proud, and thank you to all the staff and parents for supporting the children to achieve so well.

### Albert Hall



The school choir had a fantastic opportunity to sing at the Royal Albert Hall as part of a massed choir concert in support of the children's charity Barnardo's. The children thoroughly enjoyed the experience, singing a wide range of songs from 'Tonight, Tonight' from West Side Story to a Queen medley. Many parents came to show their support and had an amazing time too.

### Music Concerts

The school music concerts continued this term with recorder, violin and guitar concerts taking place over the last couple of weeks. Year 2 have had lots of fun learning to play the recorder this year with Hilla and Billie-Jean and performed beautifully together and in a round. Year 4 violinists showed just how much they have accomplished this year whilst the Year 4 guitarist entertained everyone with a range of tunes in a range of styles from Spanish guitar to rock. Music is clearly thriving at Highgate Primary School.

### Frinton-on-Sea



Year 2 rounded off their seaside topic with a day trip to Frinton-on Sea. Children enjoyed fun on the sandy beach, fish and chips on the greensward and a dip in the sea. Thanks to

Dan and Olly for their energy, enthusiasm and expert planning in organising such a special day for our children.

### Dan Friedman visit

World Cup Fever took hold of Highgate Primary last week as Dan Freedman, author of the Jamie Johnson football novels, visited our school to talk to the children about his intriguing career. Working for the FA, Dan was the journalist for the England World Cup squad, travelling with the team and writing up their stories, before deciding to write books for children telling the story of Jamie Johnson and his rise to football stardom. This inspirational and informative chat was followed by questions from the floor.

### Years 3 and 4 at the Natural History Museum

Following footprints from the past, Year 3 stepped back 200 million years in time with their trip to the Natural History Museum. The children became paleontologists for the day: examining fossils, sketching skeletons and exploring the wonderful world of the Dinosaur Galleries, before coming face to face with the mighty king of the 'terrible lizards' – the Tyrannosaurus Rex! Hot on Year 3's heels, Year 4 visited the museum, furthering their learning on the topic Volcanoes, Earthquakes and Tsunamis. They experienced a 'real life' earthquake in the simulator, studied how the Earth was created, investigated plate tectonics and the different types of volcano. One of the most memorable parts of the day for the children was seeing fossilised remains from Pompeii following the eruption of Mt Vesuvius.

### Book Fair

Thanks to everyone for supporting our Summer Book Fair which was very well attended every day. Children enthused about the books on offer and pestered parents into spending a lot of money! As a result the school can claim over £800 of free books for our school libraries. Your support is very much appreciated.

### The Summer Fair



Highgate Primary braved some rather uncharacteristic Nevada weather and enjoyed a wonderful summer fair with a Wild West theme. There were so many highlights from the day however it was the community spirit that really shone through with so many families involved, taking part and helping in so many different ways. I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the success of the fair, in particular Lizzie Bloom, Claire Bardner, and the PSA for both their dedication and commitment in organising such a great day for the school.

### Sports Day

Our Sports Days this year went extremely well, combining a range of events from the space-hopper relay to the 100m finals. The overall winners in KS1 were the Red team, with the Green team coming out on top in KS2. Our individual winners in the sprint finals received their medals in a special medal ceremony

last week. Thank you to all the parents who supported and to Stuart and Rob for putting on such a well organised event.

### Stoke-by-Nayland



Children in 5RL enjoyed an action packed day in Suffolk as we visited our partner school in the village of Stoke-by-Nayland. The morning included assembly, a tour of the school and a visit to the village and its 13<sup>th</sup> century church. After a picnic lunch and a football match with our new friends, we set off for Flatford Mill, deep in the heart of Constable Country, where the children sketched the famous Hay Wain. Children in 5RB on the other hand had a slightly different experience in Suffolk. They learnt what it feels like to break down, close the A12, causing a 10 mile tailback - and a lucky few had a ride in a police car! Thanks to Blanche Nevile for rescuing us, and for turning a disappointing start into a memorable day out!



### Family Centre

Exciting things continue to take place in the Family Centre, including a Playing Together sessions for two year olds called 'Messy Mixing'. The session featured colourful foam to walk in, painting with hands and feet, a mud kitchen, water play and a cornflour and water mixing tray. The children's faces were a delight as they got busy mixing, experimenting and squelching. The sessions also included going to the school allotment, toddler sports and creating their very own beach on the family centre decking. If you have young children, do come along.

### Dates for your Diary

The term dates for next year are on the school website, however the really important date is Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September when children return to school for the new academic year.

Have a restful and relaxing summer.  
With best wishes

William

William Dean  
Headteacher

