



HIGHGATE
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Headteacher's Newsletter

June 2021

Dear parents,

Summer has really kicked off at Highgate Primary, with the month of June filled with opportunities for learning in the beautiful outside spaces at school, on our allotment, in the woods and within a hidden garden in Highgate Village...

Michael Batoux's Cookbook



The Cookbook Team are making incredible progress, with five fantastic photo shoots completed for Michael Batoux's Cookbook. The photo above is from the fourth shoot which took place in the woods and our allotment. The team were fortunate to have beautiful weather and lovely spreads, including Michael's legendary tomato soup, to enjoy at the end of the day! The aim is to publish Michael Batoux's Cookbook before the end of the school year.

Sport

The sporting pace has picked up this month with Highgate Primary attending ten different sport competitions. Children from across Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 have represented the school in football, cricket and athletics against other schools in the borough. In every one, the children have performed brilliantly, demonstrating fantastic skills, great teamwork, positivity and enthusiasm. Well done to all!



The British weather certainly didn't dampen the spirits of the Year 4 athletics team, with a spirited performance this week at the New River Stadium!

Nursery



The Nursery children have been making the most of the sunny weather, spending lots of time outdoors. They are diligently ensuring that all of the plants in our garden are well watered and have taken great delight watching the strawberries change colour from green to red.

Reception



In this last half term of Reception the children are cramming in a lot of fun activities for the final topic: 'Growing Up!', which brings to mind how fast the children are doing just that. Their writing has grown this half term, too, with the children writing tiny, sparkly thank you notes from the Elves to the Shoemaker and then moving on to Giant writing for Jack and the Beanstalk. They have also been enjoying their last sessions of forest school in which the children have made magic wands and observed how the woods are in the glorious green of early summer.

Year 1



It's been a thoroughly enjoyable start to our Flowers and Insects topic. The children loved discovering all the tiny animals that live in the different micro-habitats of the playground during an exciting mini-beast hunt. They concluded that the shady areas were the most populated - so many wood lice and worms! Since then, they have been learning how to classify invertebrates and now know what makes an insect special. We have also welcomed some new visitors to the classrooms: some very hungry caterpillars. The

children can't wait to see them metamorphose into Painted Lady butterflies.

Year 2



Year 2 have dived into their new topic, Beside the Seaside! The children thought about what they might pack in a suitcase for a beach holiday and created the perfect sandwich for a picnic. On the first Friday back, they spent the afternoon chopping, cooking and blending vegetables to make a pasta sauce, before, later that day, taking part in the Year 2 camp! The children enjoyed games with Alpha, a scavenger hunt, trying their pasta sauce, roasting marshmallows over a campfire and singing campfire songs with Mags.

Year 3



Year 3 kicked off their final topic of the year, 'Meadowsong', with a visit to OmVed in Highgate Village. Discovering a secret garden,

hidden behind the shops on the High Street at the end of a steep winding path, was such a treat. The children were led around the garden by their guide, Julie, who introduced them to all sorts of plants, vegetables and wild flowers, chatted with the OmVed gardeners and met the Head Chef. Using their pocket guide to wildflowers, the children were able to identify many varieties of British wildflower, and they even came across a couple of beehives! Later in the day, the children went to the school allotment to sow wild flower seeds to create our very own meadow. What an incredible start to this topic and thank you to OmVed for having us.

Year 4



Year 4 began their new topic, Active Planet, by finding out what happens inside the Earth. They studied tectonic plates, built (and tried to knock down) 'earthquake proof' structures and made models of the Earth's core out of home-made play dough. Things got very sticky and some of our Earths turned out rather flatter than expected. It was a useful lesson in how heat and movement can metamorphose formerly solid substances.

Year 5



In Year 5 the children have been looking at the similarities and differences between two schools in totally different settings, our school and the school we had been hoping to visit, Stoke-by-

Nayland Primary School in the Suffolk countryside. The children contrasted both the physical and economic aspects using Ordnance Survey maps and aerial photographs, creating their own versions of the aerial maps.

Year 6



Year 6 are very busy with rehearsals for their show, 'Bugsy Malone'. The tunes are super catchy and the children can't stop humming them. As well as practising furiously, they are also keeping up with Maths and English and exploring the history of the theatre as part of our topic, 'What a Performance'. In Maths, they have been investigating Probability. In their first lesson, we assessed the likelihood of various events happening and this led to some very interesting discussions. Here's some food for thought - what is the probability of us putting on a fantastic show? Almost certain!

PSA News

The new Summer Fair date is Saturday 11th September, which will be a wonderful get together after the summer holiday.

Highgate estate agents, Langford Chase, have kindly agreed to sponsor advertising boards outside of parents' homes. You may have seen similar boards which are a combination of the estate agent's usual advertising board and an additional advert for the school event. For each board erected, the PSA will receive a worthwhile donation which could be a very significant sum if lots of families agree. Look out for a letter with more information from the PSA.

Highgate 150

Last week we launched a consultation to seek your views on the future of Highgate Primary School. In six years' time, the school will be celebrating its 150th anniversary. The question we're now asking is: what do we want Highgate Primary School to be like by the time of our sesquicentennial year? Please do take the time to first read my most recent blog on this subject

<https://www.highgateprimaryschool.co.uk/headteachers-blog/highgate-150> and complete the survey which can be accessed through the following link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/D75KRC8>

Your thoughts will be greatly appreciated.

Important Dates

Wednesday 7 th July	Infants Sports Day
Thursday 8 th July	Nursery Sports Day
Thursday 8 th July	Junior Sports Day
Friday 9 th July	Reception Sports Day
w/c 12 th July	Sustainability Week
Monday 19 th July	Year 6 Leavers Performance Bugsy Malone 6.00pm
Tuesday 20 th July	Open Evening for parents 4.00 – 6.30pm
Thursday 22 nd July	Last day of term 1.30 pm collection

Have a wonderful weekend.

With best wishes

William

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Headteacher

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