



HIGHGATE
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Headteacher's Newsletter

May 2021

Dear parents,

It's official - summer is finally here! As you will see from this newsletter, despite a rather cold and wet May, the children have been enjoying themselves at Highgate Primary.

Michael Batoux's Cookbook



After three fantastic photo shoots, with so many incredible people donating their time and talent, the cookbook team are making enormous progress. Thanks to the hugely successful Egg and Spoon Race and fantastic help from our school community, we have exceeded our fundraising target for Michael Batoux's Cookbook, with a phenomenal £4256 raised so far. We are so grateful for everyone's support for this very special project and we will keep you posted regarding the publication date for the book. <https://www.highgateprimaryschool.co.uk/support-us/make-a-donation>



The New Community Centre



In September 2020, we relocated our expanded Nursery provision to the Family Centre to create more space and an improved environment for pupils and staff. However, as we ease out of the pandemic, we know from speaking to our community that our Family Centre services are needed more than ever. As a result, we are transforming the former Nursery space on North Hill into a new Community Centre for local families and residents – our whole community. You can keep up to date on our website here: <https://www.highgateprimaryschool.co.uk/family-centre> where you will also find a link to an article which featured in the Ham & High this week about the Community Centre and Michael Batoux's Cookbook.

Walk to School Week



Following the success of the Big Pedal and our School Street, the whole school community once again demonstrated their commitment to sustainable travel by enthusiastically embracing the annual Walk to School Week with this year's theme of Walking Superpowers. At the end of the week, each child also pledged to walk, cycle or scoot to school at least once a week from now on. Fantastic!

Sport



What a return to sport for Highgate Primary School! Our Year 4 Girls Football Team won the Haringey competition demolishing everyone in their path, and our boys finished a fantastic fifth! In tennis, Year 4 couldn't be beaten again winning gold; and our Year 5 and 6 team put in a great performance taking home bronze. Our Year 6 football teams also impressed with the girls finishing 4th overall and the boys 7th. What a tremendous achievement and well done to all!



Nursery



This half term the Nursery children have loved learning about dinosaurs. We built a palaeontologist's camp where we measured dinosaur teeth and dug for fossils! We began to think about the shapes of different dinosaurs: triangular spikes, circular spots and rectangular legs. We had great fun drawing around and cutting out shapes to make our own collage dinosaurs.

Reception



How exciting that we were able to invite a small audience into the hall to watch Reception's wonderful assemblies, RKI presenting a The Gingerbread Man (with not one, but four naughty gingerbread men) and RTB performing 'The Little Red Hen'. And what brilliant and confident performances they were with great songs, beautiful sets, homemade costumes, excellent acting and even the

delicious smell of baking wafting around the hall for the fully immersive experience.

The children knew all their words, the song lyrics and the stage directions and projected their voices all the way to the back of the hall. They even had the resilience and determination to carry on through a few cases of nerves. Bravo Reception, we can't wait for your future performances!

Year 1



The Year 1 children continued their Architecture topic this month with their first class assemblies. It turns out that not only are the Year 1 children amazing architects, but they are also pretty perfect performers! IRG expertly demonstrated the benefits of different materials in a charming retelling of The Three Little Pigs, while ILJ put on a fantastic performance of Roald Dahl's classic, The Minpins, about how tiny people living in trees defeat a bloodsucking, toothplucking Gruncher!

Year 2



Despite the rain, Year 2 have had a lot of fun getting out and about, including a trip to the kitchen garden at Waterlow Park where the children tried some salad and herbs. They also found some living creatures, including frogs and wrens. For maths and science, they walked to Highgate Woods to carry out an investigation comparing the number of living creatures in two habitats.

Year 3



Year 3 have made fishcakes as part of their topic From Source to Sea. Children had a whale of a time preparing the ingredients, forming their fishcakes and shallow frying them. Parents were so impressed, several asked for the recipe to make for the whole family!

Year 4



While continuing with our topic 'Away From Home' - all about evacuation of London children during WW2 - Year 4 have also been investigating how humans get energy from food. Last week they made models of the digestive system to turn half a banana and a digestive biscuit into quite a convincing, but mercifully pong-free, poo. They used kitchen utensils as the teeth, a see through plastic tube as the oesophagus, orange juice in a zip-lock bag for the stomach, and one leg of an old pair of tights as the intestine. It was gruesome, messy, stomach-turning fun. Making the poo come out through the model rectum was the best part!

And on the last day of term, children in Year 4 got to re-live children's experience of the war years, taking shelter from the bombs falling on London in the school's newly-built Anderson Shelter and enjoying jelly at the VE Day celebrations!



Year 5



As Year 5 come towards the end of their topic 'Benin: An African Kingdom', they are now knowledgeable about Ogios and Obas; the lost wax process involved in the making of Benin bronzes and how to write a setting and characters for a story set in an ancient West African rainforest! They have also been fully engrossed in their Reading Adventure, enjoying Samba music lessons and even

designed and sewed their own piece of appliqué, inspired by ancient Dahomey examples. The children also baked Focaccia Bread in the Cookery Studio. What a very busy term it has been!

Year 6



Year 6 have worked very hard this half term and become experts on the life of the First Emperor of China. They've enjoyed finding out about his tomb and writing a balanced argument on whether it should be opened or remain closed. They've also studied the evolution of Chinese characters, as well as producing fantastic artwork of dragons and the Terracotta Warriors. The topic ended with the children creating their own warriors out of clay. Next, we turn our attention to starting work on our Year 6 production which we are all very excited about!

Summer Fair

Planning is in full swing for our Summer Fair, which this year is on Saturday 3 July. Having missed it last year, we are confident it's going to be better than ever. The PSA are planning a mini summer festival including music, food, wellbeing, spoken word and children's areas - making full use of the stage and our wonderful outside spaces. We look forward to seeing you all there.

Important Dates

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 restful half term break.

With best wishes

William

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Headteacher

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