



**HIGHGATE**  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Headteacher's Newsletter

July 2021

Dear parents,

It's a wrap! What an extraordinary year for everyone. As you will see from this newsletter, as a school we have remained busy right up to the last moment.

### International Cuisine from a School Kitchen



'International Cuisine from a School Kitchen' is on sale! This family cookbook was created to commemorate our much-loved school chef, Michael Batoux, to celebrate his life and ensure his culinary legacy lives on at Highgate Primary. Thank you very much to Sharon and the talented Cookbook Team and all the wonderful volunteers for contributing so much time and energy to this truly collaborative community project. Thank you also to Yotam Ottolenghi, for giving us a child-friendly recipe for the cookbook and also to the Shangri-la at the Shard for donating a tea-for-two voucher. If you find a dog sticker in the dessert section of your book, the voucher is yours!

## Sustainability Week



This year's Sustainability Week, organised by Louise Joll and the Green Council, had the pressing and pertinent theme of Climate Change. Classes learned more about the causes and solutions through an excellent talk from Greenpeace, before participating in an inclusive Eco Summit, led by Green Council parents. Here, the children shared their thoughts and feelings about climate change, before coming up with their own ideas to tackle the issues going forward. Each child then wrote a personal pledge of action to display in the playground. Classes self-isolating at home didn't miss out either with their own virtual summit! Back in the playground, 'Peddle My Wheels' second-hand bike market provided another great opportunity to get cycling and promote sustainable travel.

## Mandarin Competition



This month, children from Highgate Primary entered the Chinese Bridge Mandarin Speaking Competition for schools. Our children did exceptionally well and the judges were very impressed. Coralie (4EJ) and Fleur (3LG) took part in the final round for individual submissions. Fleur also represented the Year 3 group in the final

round and their group submission achieved the award of 'Most Creative Submission'. Evelyn (5MK) and Airat (5JS) represented their Year 5 group in the final round. Well done to everyone involved!

## Sport



There have so many sporting highlights this half term, none more so than the return of Sports Day. Although, spread over multiple days and with no crowds, it may have felt a little different, it was wonderful to see such fantastic sporting endeavours and great sportsmanship from everyone. Whether it be competing in space hopper races, obstacle courses, egg and spoon or the 400m, we loved seeing the smiles and enthusiasm from everyone from Nursery all the way up to Year 6. Also a huge well done to our Year 5 footballers who competed brilliantly in a Haringey football competition. The girls made it to the semi-finals and the boys finished third overall, narrowly missing out on the final on penalties - before bouncing back and scoring 5 goals in the third place playoff. What a great way to end the year!

## Nursery





In Nursery, the children considered Superheroes; imaginary ones with magical powers, as well as all the people who help us everyday. They have read some brilliant stories such a 'Supertato' and 'Ten Little Superheroes'. These books have inspired some wonderful artwork, plenty of imaginary play and a fair bit of dressing up. Children had lots of fun making superhero vehicles from a cardboard box; working brilliantly as a team, taking turns pushing each other around the classroom.

## Reception



As we reached the end of a wonderful year, the children in Reception have been writing personalised versions of Jack and the Beanstalk. Everyone has very much enjoyed the outdoor life, hunting for ladybirds in the allotment and cutting armfuls of wonderful smelling herbs for the classroom. The children also enjoyed a brilliant Sports Day, when they ran egg and spoon relays, water races and sprints, and then chilled in the Peace Garden with a lolly!

## Year 1



The Year 1 children have shown great resilience and determination this month, despite the challenges of being in and out of remote learning. They have worked incredibly hard and continued to move forward with their learning. As the year draws to a close, the theme of change and transition has been apparent in many ways. Our sunflower seedlings grew big enough to plant out on the allotment, where we hope they will survive the slugs. Our class caterpillars completed the final transformation in their life cycle and emerged as beautiful Painted Lady butterflies, ready to be released into the Peace Garden. The children have also been getting ready for their move up to Year 2 by reflecting on their favourite memories of the year and writing informative 'All About Me' books for their new teachers.



## Year 2



Year 2 ended the school year with the topic 'Beside the Seaside'. They learnt about seaside towns, the highlight being a lovely, sunny day at Westcliff-on-Sea, paddling in the sea, making sandcastles and eating ice cream!

### Year 3



Through the power of song and connected learning, the Meadowsong topic has given children in Year 3 the opportunity to support biodiversity in creative and active ways. The highlight of a very busy term was, without doubt, the incredible collaboration of songs, dance and poetry, performed to a very appreciative audience of parents.

### Year 4



It's been a busy time for year 4, both in school and at home. 4EJ had to isolate twice, but made up for it by having their own individual Sports Day. The children were so supportive of one another that they chanted 'Everyone, Everyone' as their classmates competed. 4IO have continued working brilliantly at school, absorbing new children and members of 4EJ while making, painting and erupting papier-mache volcanoes. We've had a lava laughs...





## Year 5



All the children have worked very hard in the final weeks of our topic 'A Village School' to produce pamphlets persuading families to move to the countryside. It's been an art-filled term too, with oil pastel pictures and water colour paintings of the countryside, and beautifully illustrated Haiku poetry. What a fantastic effort to finish a wonderful year of effort and attainment. The classes really enjoyed the Citizenship and Progress assembly, with awards this year going to Anna, Chaiyon, Pheobe and Zahra



## Year 6



Year 6 have had a supremely busy few weeks rehearsing for their show and preparing for transition to secondary school. The Chicken Shed Theatre group visited and ran a superb workshop in which the children created their own raps on 'issues' they might come across at secondary school. The results were brilliant. We also enjoyed an action-packed Year 6 'Fun Week', during which the classes went out and about in the local area. The children climbed in the tree-tops at Go Ape, went rambling with William on Hampstead Heath, immersed themselves in a day of cookery, capoeira and computing at school and had an active day at the Pavilion Sports including tennis, capture the flag and a massive water fight. The day was then polished off with a sleepover in school. What a week! This was closely followed by a brilliant performance of Bussy Malone and a dazzling disco in our final week of school. Well done everyone for a brilliant last half term at HPS!

## PSA News

The new Summer Fair date is Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September, which will be a wonderful get together after the summer holiday. As soon as term begins, the PSA will be collecting donations for the tombola and a nearly new clothes stall. And for the fair itself, contributions of salads, cakes and, if anyone would like to batch cook, something delicious for the food stall...

## Important Dates

Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	First Day of the Autumn Term
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> September	Summer Fair

Thank you for your support and trust this year. I am so proud of the resilience staff, children and parents have shown in this most challenging year, and am confident that, over time, the experience will only make our children stronger. Now it's time for summer – see you in September!

With best wishes

*William*

William Dean  
Headteacher



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