



HIGHGATE
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Headteacher's Newsletter

November 2021

Dear parents,

As we approach the Festive Season, please enjoy reading all about our autumn adventures from the month of November

Nursery



As we approach the end of the calendar year, it's clear to see just how far the Nursery children have come over the last term. Firm friendships have been formed and it's wonderful to watch the children playing and learning together so well. Here, the children spent a long time carefully building this very intricate tunnel, followed by lots of fun spying on each other at either end and shouting messages down the tubes!

Reception



The children in Reception are fully engaged in their topic 'Into the Woods', which yesterday included a walk to Highgate Wood in search of the elusive Gruffalo! In class, the children have been reading amazing texts about woodland creatures. As well as reading and retelling 'Owl Babies', the children have made their own collage artworks of Sarah, Percy and Bill. In this photograph, children from RTB are enjoying the beautiful autumn weather and making the most of the outdoor learning in their PE lesson.

Year 1



The Year 1, children have loved exploring the different celebrations this term. They've learned about the historical origins of Bonfire Night, acted out the story of the Hindu festival of light, Diwali, and enjoyed sharing their own experiences of these and other family celebrations such as weddings and birthdays. The highlight was definitely having our very own Bonfire Night party, complete with fireworks, sparklers and hot chocolate. As one child remarked, "It was the best day ever!"

Year 2



Year 2 have been immersed in the story of The Great Fire of London. They enjoyed a walking trip from Monument, all the way along the River Thames to St Paul's Cathedral. 2EH and 2KI performed their class assemblies, telling the story of how the fire started, how it spread and how it changed London. They've even been learning how to make sparks and campfires at the allotment.

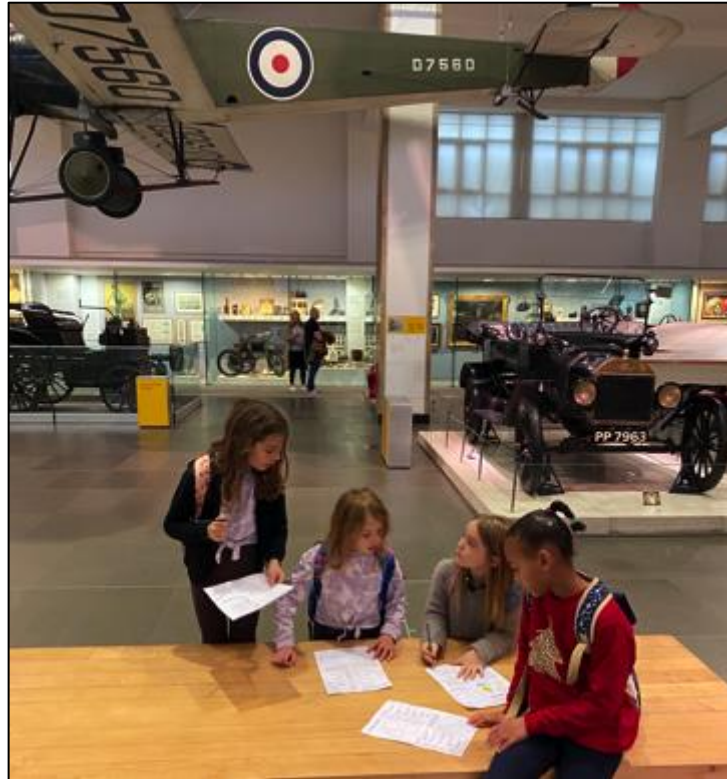


Year 3



In preparation for writing about the rainforest, Year 3 spent a fantastic day at London Zoo, discovering more about a wide range of animals that live in the rainforest environment. The children became rainforest explorers, learning about this unique habitat by taking temperature and humidity readings while peering into the trees, looking for monkeys and sloths. They then searched the zoo for more rainforest creatures and came across tarantulas, snakes, frogs and tortoises. One of our favourites was the mummy sloth who was cradling her newborn baby, tucked safely in a hollow tree trunk.

Year 4



Year 4 have really enjoyed studying light, sound and electricity for our science based topic, Sound and Vision. They have investigated what a shadow is, found patterns in how the size of shadows change, explored which materials are the best reflectors, used Scratch programming to create alarms that detect sound, and carried out a lot of very noisy experiments which prove that a sound is in fact a vibration. They also learned about the inventions of Benjamin Franklin and Alexander Graham Bell. The highlight so far was probably our trip to the Science Museum and the chance to explore its fantastic galleries. It is quite clear that we have a lot of true scientists in the making!

Year 5



Year 5 have been happily engrossed in setting up fair tests to practise their scientific methods. Here they are testing the

solubility of salt and sand in water through mixing and filtration, after which they separated the saltwater solution through evaporation.

Year 6



Year 6 have been exploring the topic 'Our Island History', looking at the people who have migrated and settled in the British Isles, focusing in particular on the Anglo-Saxon and Viking invasions. The children are becoming experts on Viking life and have even taken up some Viking handicraft, weaving their own braids - which proved to be a wonderfully mindful activity. In English, the children thoroughly enjoyed immersing themselves in the gruesome and riveting story of Beowulf. They looked at the story from the perspective of the anti-hero, Grendel, and rewrote an excerpt from his point of view. In the coming weeks, we will be bringing the topic up-to-date with discussions on modern-day migration including the plight of refugees.

Sport



The children have been enjoying and benefiting enormously from all the sport at school and during the recent tournaments. Our year 5 and 6 tag rugby team showed great determination and teamwork in a Haringey tournament earlier in November.



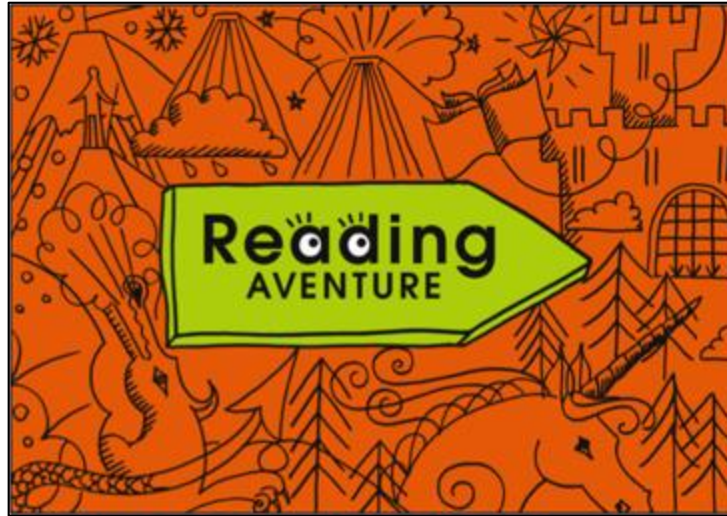
Art Studio



This term, our new Art Studio Manager, Andrea, has been working with the Nursery children on a Friday afternoon. Amongst other activities, the children loved making clay tiles. Once dry, they carefully painted them with stunning results.



Reading Books Fundraising Appeal



Our reading books are in desperate need of updating; so to ensure all our children have access to the highest quality books at school and home, we have launched a Reading Books Fundraising Appeal in the run up to Christmas. Our target is £5000 by 25th December. If you are able to make a donation, or perhaps know someone who might be interested in supporting us, please visit: <https://highgateprimaryschool.co.uk/support-us/make-a-donation>

Winter Festival Saturday 4th December



We are looking forward to seeing you at our Winter Festival on Saturday 4th December in the playground. Come for a fully festive afternoon filled with Mince Pies and merriment!

Christmas Tree Offer



We have partnered with Christmas on the Hill who supply pot-grown rental trees, fresh wreaths and sustainable cut trees from their Alexandra Palace base. Use our unique school code HIGHGATE21 and do share it with friends and family. For more information about the Christmas tree offer and the Winter Festival do visit:

<https://www.highgateprimaryschool.co.uk/parents/fundraising-project/psa-events>

School Merchandise

Still looking for unique Christmas presents to buy? Check out our school merchandise page with many beautiful school gifts:

<https://www.highgateprimaryschool.co.uk/parents/school-merchandise>

Easyfundraising & Amazon Smile

If you are planning to shop online the festive season, please do consider signing up to Easyfundraising and Amazon Smile via the links below to help raise funds for the school at absolutely no extra cost to you!

<https://www.highgateprimaryschool.co.uk/support-us/easyfundraising-amazon-smile>

Important Dates

Please add these dates to the family calendar...

Winter Festival	Saturday 4 th December 2.00 – 6.00pm
Year 6 Christmas Concert	Monday 6 th December 3.00pm
Year 1 Christmas Concert	Tuesday 7 th December 9.30am
Year 2 Christmas Concert	Tuesday 7 th December 3.00pm
Year 3 Christmas Concert	Wednesday 8 th December 9.30am
Year 4 Christmas Concert	Wednesday 8 th December 3.00pm
Year 5 Christmas Concert	Thursday 9 th December 9.30pm
Reception Christmas Concert	Tuesday 14 th December 9.30am
Nursery Christmas Concert	Wednesday 15 th December 9.30am
Last Day of Autumn Term	Friday 17 th December 1.30 pm

Looking forward to seeing you all on Saturday!

With best wishes

William

William Dean
Headteacher

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