



HIGHGATE
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Headteacher's Newsletter

December 2021

Dear parents,

Despite the backdrop of uncertainty, it has been an absolutely joyful December at Highgate Primary, full of festivities, fun and learning.

Nursery



Over the last few weeks the Nursery children have had so much fun learning about festivals of light. They made Diya lanterns and Rangoli patterns for Diwali. They lit candles on the hanukkiyah and ate donuts during Hanukkah and put on a wonderful concert with plenty of festive singing and signing to celebrate Christmas!

Reception



In Reception, the children have had a joyful experience performing songs from the Nativity. They loved choosing their costumes, learning to sing and to sign the songs and performing to a large and enthusiastic audience on the school stage. As the term comes to an end, we can see a very confident and talented year group who are happy to be in school and are really enjoying the curriculum.

Year 1



Over the last few weeks, there has been a very festive atmosphere in Year 1. The children have continued their Celebrations topic by learning the stories behind the religious festivals of Hanukkah and Christmas. They absolutely loved their first trip of the year to our local Synagogue on North Hill, receiving a very warm welcome from Rabbi Liss who explained the significance of lighting the eight candles of the hanukiah. Back at school, the children have had great fun exploring how the two different faiths celebrate these special times of year.

Year 2



Year 2 have had the most fantastic time studying The Great Fire of London. The excitement reached fever pitch this week as the events of 1666 were recreated at Highgate Primary School, 355 years later. Throughout the week, the children made the most incredible Tudor houses, complete with wooden beams and thatched rooves, perhaps not the most sensible materials to choose given what was to happen next. Unfortunately, a fire broke out in Thomas Farriner's bakery, and in just a few minutes Pudding Lane was ablaze. Despite the use of fire-hooks and squirters, London was burnt to the ground.

Year 3



This term, the children in Year 3 have really enjoyed finding out about rainforests, biodiversity, fair trade and the best way to move a large number of baby Orangutans. It turns out that the answer is in a wheelbarrow. They loved visiting the zoo and meeting real Amazonian animals. They rather enjoyed tasting, designing, packaging and advertising their own fair trade chocolate bars too, which should be in the shops very early in January.

Year 4



Year 4's exploration of electricity has reached new levels over the last couple of weeks. The children have built circuits, been part of a circuit (yes, electricity passes through the human body) and used circuits to make illuminated Christmas cards. Best of all, for homework they had to make model circuits out of sweets. However, our favourite activity was probably using playdough to make a shadow landscape, complete with monstrous creatures. Dinosaurs still roam in Year 4...

Year 5



To explore the radical innovations of the Industrial Revolution, Year 5 visited The Science Museum, tracing inventions and machines right back to the first steam and coal-powered engines. The entire autumn term has been about the Victorians, which we rounded off with baking a good-old-fashioned Victoria Sponge. The children had a delightful and delicious time; a particular highlight was the eating of the 'hill' they cut off the top of their cakes in order to stack them!



Year 6



Year 6 couldn't possibly finish off their topic 'Our Island History' without looking into The Battle of Hastings in 1066. It was fascinating to learn that, since digital technology wasn't an option in the 11th century, these important events were recorded by skilled seamstresses who sewed a 70 metre-long tapestry filled with scenes telling the story of William the Conqueror of Normandy's victory over the Anglo-Saxon King, Harold Godwinson. You could say that this was the 11th century version of a comic strip.

Inspired by this amazing artefact, the children set about making their own version. They didn't quite have time to sew it, so they used coloured paper instead, faithfully reproducing the images that appear on the original tapestry. Even this modified version did take quite a long time, so the picture you see here is work in progress!

Christmas Performances

Congratulations to everyone who took part in all the wonderful Christmas concerts in the last few weeks and to the parents for their support. It was a treat to hear and see Christmas tunes such as Rocking Around the Christmas Tree, Silent Night and We Wish You A Merry Christmas sung and signed. Readings were projected with confidence, JJ and Polly's piano and violin playing was highly accomplished and the Year 5 violinists played Jingle Bells beautifully. Thank you Hilla and all the staff for producing such uplifting performances.

Sport



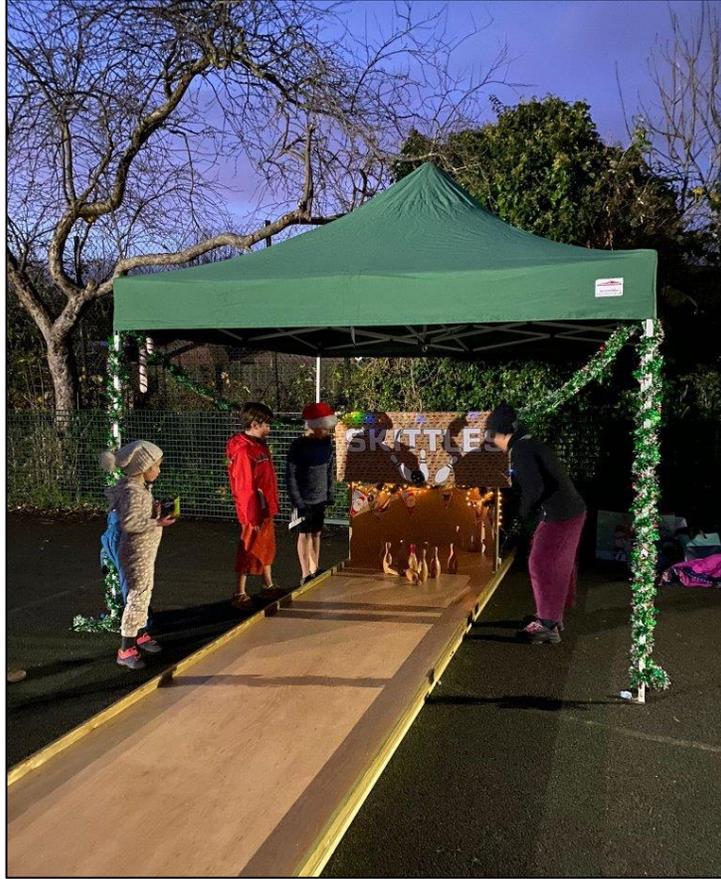
From the first ever Haringey Dodgeball tournament to boys and girls' football tournaments, the children have been busy enjoying plenty of sport in the last few weeks. Well done to everyone who took part and who played with such determination, courage and tenacity!



PSA News



Thank you all the staff, parents and children who took part in our Winter Festival in the playground. The magical, festive atmosphere was very special and plenty of funds were raised for the school too! The beautifully decorated grotto was a particular hit and how lucky we were to actually have the real Father Christmas come along too. A special thank you to Jenny and Julie and the PSA Team for another great community event.



Thank you too to parent Ian Holloway for making our rather brilliant skittle alley which made a fantastic addition to our range of festive stalls. Special thanks go to local timber merchant, PO Joyce Timber Ltd, a family company in East Finchley, who supported the school by donating the timber.

Easyfundraising and Amazon Smile

If you are still doing some online last minute Christmas shopping, please do consider signing up to Easyfundraising and Amazon Smile via the links below to help raise funds for the school.

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

Christmas Trees



A big thank you to Tom from the Woodman for donating this magnificent Christmas tree to light up our school.

Important Dates

Please add to the family calendar the most important date of all...

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Thursday 6 th January | Return to School! |
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Thank you to all of you, staff, parents and children, for your incredible support this term.

May you have a restful and joyful holiday.

Merry Christmas.

With best wishes

William

William Dean
Headteacher

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