



HIGHGATE

PRIMARY SCHOOL

10th January 2022

Year 1 Newsletter Spring 1

Happy New Year and welcome to 2022! We hope you have had an enjoyable break and are refreshed for the term ahead.

This term marks another step in the children's transition from learning through play to more formal 'lessons'. Over the next few weeks, we will begin teaching English, Phonics and Maths in the mornings, with whole class teaching followed by all the children completing activities at tables, working independently or in groups. Free flow between the classrooms, with a choice of play activities, will continue in the afternoons, along with use of the outside space. In addition, the classes will now join Year 2 for a daily mid-morning break in the upper playground, while continuing to attend William's Celebration Assembly and Hilla's Singing Assembly each week.

Whatever the Weather

This half term we have a Geography-based topic, 'Whatever the Weather', which explores both weather and climate. The children started with an exciting In-day 'trip' around the world to visit some of the major climate zones. As they explored each location, they learned about the typical weather, appropriate clothing, possible activities and even which animals might live there. Next, they will learn more about the weather patterns in the UK, and find out how to describe, measure and record the weather each day using a homemade weather station.

We continue the weather theme in other areas of the curriculum. In Design Technology, the children design and make their own weather vanes, while in Art they create weather pictures in different mediums. Our focus in Science is animal classification, including how animals are adapted to different climatic conditions. In Music, we use compositions about the weather to develop the children's sense of rhythm and their singing and musical skills.

PE and Forest School sessions continue on our regular days. The Forest School sessions provide the opportunity to think about seasonal changes; our PE lessons will focus on Fitness and Gymnastics. Please see the email sent out last week for full Forest School dates and details, including the new groups for 1LJ. Finally, we are thrilled that this term the Year 1 children will start having short Mandarin lessons twice a week with our new Mandarin teacher, Julie Zhou.

English - writing

We begin by reading 'Maisy's Wonderful Weather' by Lucy Cousins, a lovely rhyming narrative featuring the ever-popular Maisy Mouse. The children will then have the chance to write their own weather book for a friend. The weather theme continues in our poetry unit, which provides lots of opportunities to explore and play with descriptive language. Finally, we enjoy 'Handa's Surprise' by Eileen Brown, a beautiful story set in Kenya with a clever twist at the end of the tale.



Headteacher: William Dean Highgate Primary School, Storey Road, London N6 4ED

: 020 8340 7023 | fax: 020 8341 6266 | www.highgateprimaryschool.co.uk | office@highgate-pri.haringey.sch.uk

A key aim for the remainder of the year is to build writing stamina, and so the children will have regular opportunities to write their 'News' to tell us what they have been up to outside school. We will continue to develop their writing skills: writing in complete sentences that are marked by capital letters and full stops, exclamation or question marks. The class will also have more time to practise handwriting in regular short sessions.

English - Phonics and Reading

Reading continues as before, with the children developing their reading fluency as well as their comprehension skills, including beginning to use inference to 'read between the lines.' Thank you for reading with your child each day, if possible, and for returning the Reading Record with at least one comment each week. We ask that you please continue to put their Reading Record and reading book in their book bags **every Wednesday** so that we can send a new book home each **Friday**.

In Phonics, the children will be learning alternative spellings for different phonemes, such as **coin** and **toy**. We will also have a focus on reading common exception words – those words that we use frequently, but which are harder to decode with phonics. Thank you for your work on these in last term's final Home Learning (Friday 10th December). If you haven't yet had a chance to do this important home learning, it's never too late! Please do have a look at the word lists we sent out on Google Classroom and let us know how your child gets on.

Maths

In Maths, we will continue to explore addition and subtraction within 20, focusing on adding by counting on from a given number. The children will discover that addition is commutative (can be done in any order) and can be more efficient if you start from the largest number. They will use concrete objects such as cubes, ten frames and number lines to help them calculate, drawing on their knowledge of number bonds to 10 to help them find bonds to 20. With subtraction, the children will begin to understand the different structures of subtraction (taking away, partitioning, difference) and will explore links between addition and subtraction. We then move on to explore numbers to 50, with lots of counting forwards and backwards. The learning will explore grouping in 10s and reinforce the important concept that 1 ten is equal to 10 ones.

Home Learning

Arrangements will continue as before, with weekly Home Learning activities set on Google Classroom each Friday, to be completed and uploaded by the following Wednesday.

Morning drop-off arrangements

We would like to make a minor adjustment to the morning drop-off arrangements in order to help the day's learning start more promptly. A member of the KS1 team (Year 1 or Year 2) will open the North Hill gate as usual at 8:50am and stay to welcome the children until the gate shuts at 9:05am. We ask that you either say your goodbyes as before at the North Hill gate, or if you need to speak to one of the Year 1 team, you are welcome to bring your child in and drop them at the Peace Garden gate. Afternoon pick-up arrangements will continue as before.

Finally, we have listed a few key dates below, which we hope is useful. Many thanks again for all your continued support. It is going to be a great term!

With all best wishes

The Year 1 Team: Louise, Rochelle, Alena, Rachael



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Key Dates

Monday 14 th February	Half term week
Monday 21 st February	Spring 2 Term begins
Thursday 3 rd March	World Book Day
Friday 18 th March	ILJ Class Sharing Assembly
Friday 25 th March	IRBS Class Sharing Assembly



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