



HIGHGATE
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Headteacher's Newsletter

April 2022

Dear parents,

What a fabulous start to the summer term with One World Evening, whole-school assemblies and the excitement of the new topics. It feels as if we are almost back to normal...

One World Evening



Firstly, a heartfelt thank you to everyone who attended our One World event last week. From the outstanding entertainment by the choir, parents and staff, to the sumptuous food; it was an evening to warm the soul. Thank you to the PSA for fantastic organisation as ever, and to everyone who helped on the night – an incredible effort raising over £1700 for Save the Children's Ukraine Appeal.

Royal Albert Hall Concert



On 1st April, the school choir joined partner schools at the Haringey Music Festival at the Royal Albert Hall. It was a spectacular event, bursting with a diverse selection of musical styles performed by Haringey's finest musicians. The mass choir of primary and secondary schools sang a collection of original songs on the theme 'Songs for Unsung Heroes' composed by Haringey's own music teacher and leader of Vox Choir, Tayrone Lowe.

Nursery



The Nursery children have had a fantastic start to the Summer term. Kicking off our topic 'Fairy Tales' with Jack and the Beanstalk, they have enjoyed exploring height; building incredibly tall towers that even a giant would be proud of! The children have also been painting beanstalks and planting their own beans. We are all wondering how tall they will grow and if, perhaps, they will find a castle at the top.

Reception



This half term, Reception's topic is 'What a Performance' and the children got off to a flying start with a day practising Circus skills and having a wonderful time role-playing characters from the

traditional tale The Three Billy Goats Gruff. They have read several different versions of the story, comparing the different texts and, of course, had great fun writing and reciting the repeated refrain: "Who's that trip trapping over MY bridge?"

Year 1



Year 1 began their Amazing Architects topic with a huff and a puff! After reading the much-loved traditional tale 'The Three Little Pigs', the children used a range of materials to build houses for the pigs. There was great enthusiasm to test whether the houses could withstand the Big Bad Wolf's huff and puff test. A few did blow down, but most were remarkably resilient! The children are now looking forward to learning more about different buildings, locally and around the world, and the different materials they are made from.

Year 2



Eliot Jones, Midnight Superhero, miraculously dropped in to Highgate Primary to answer some excellent questions about his life. Apparently he only discovered he was a superhero on his 10th

birthday and will often add ice cubes to his bath water, when his mum wasn't looking, so he can train for icy water missions. Eliot Jones has inspired some fabulous character description writing in Year 2.

As part of their Growing Up topic, Year 2 thoroughly enjoyed a visit from Matilda and Rani. The children asked lots of questions about the amazing changes that occur in the first year of life.



Year 3



What better way to begin a new topic than to spend the morning in one of our glorious local woods. The Year 3 children searched for the start of the River Moselle in Queen's Wood, by looking for signs of a stream and tracing it back to its source. They have learnt how rivers are formed and about all their many interesting

features; stop a Year 3 child and ask them what a meander or confluence is, or how an oxbow lake is formed, and they'll be able to tell you.

On your next visit to Queen's Wood, see if you can find the stream, also known as the Moselle Brook, which flows through Tottenham and Highgate to Lea Valley where it meets the River Lea, a tributary of The Thames.

Year 4



Year 4 have enjoyed starting our new topic, 'Away From Home', which is all about the experiences of London children during WW2. We have listened to Neville Chamberlain announcing the start of the war on the radio, we have discussed primary and secondary historical sources, and we have attended a workshop with an Air Raid Warden from the RAF Museum, who told us what to do in an air raid. We have also used modern computer technology to animate and the speeches that war time leaders gave during the war.

Year 5



Year 5 has successfully begun their research about the ancient African kingdom of Benin. The rise of Benin and the life of its citizens, including its trade, medicine, farming and religion during the Golden Age of Benin City (now in modern Nigeria) will become beautifully produced factual books. Above is an illustration of Queen Mother Idia who was powerful member of the ruling Oba's family.

Year 6



Year 6 have begun an exciting half term of historical discovery, delving into ancient Chinese history in their topic: The First Emperor of China. They will be learning that a lot can be achieved in a 10-year reign if you are a terrifying and well-organised despot. For our 'in-day' we celebrated the arrival of Spring by embracing a Chinese cultural tradition and painting cherry blossom in watercolour.

Sport



It's been tournaments galore in the sporting world at Highgate Primary. Gymnastics for Years 3, 4, 5 & 6, where the children all competed admirably and Lottie won best overall gymnast of the

tournament! The Year 3 & 4 tennis tournament was also a huge success, as was the joyful Year 5 & 6 basketball tournament. Congratulations to everyone who took part with such skill, determination and good spirit.

Gardening News

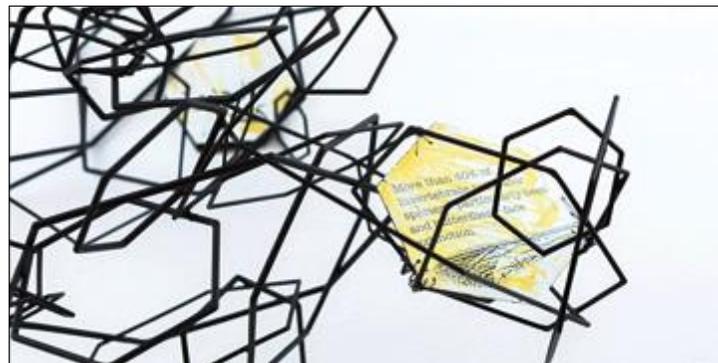


Flo and the children are as busy as ever in the gardens and allotment. The grapes are beginning to grow in the greenhouse, Year 2 have planted salad crops, onions and shallots and Flo planted plenty of wild garlic. Hopefully in a few years, wild garlic pesto will be on the menu for everyone. Flo has also created BSL gardening signs which is a great help for all the children and grown ups!

Kindly, Carole Salmon, a friend of Highgate Primary, has donated lots of pots and plants which are now blooming outside the new Family Centre – for which we are truly grateful.



Summer Adult Art Workshops



I am extremely excited about our upcoming art workshops: **Concept to Creation**, led by renowned metalworker, Jackie Oliver on 5th May and **Time to Reflect** led by award-winning photographer, Jasper White on 19th May.

The workshops are open to everyone in our community, so please spread the word to family and friends. You will find all the information here:

<https://highgateprimaryschool.co.uk/story-of-the-week/summer-grown-up-art-workshops>

Easter Raffle

Thank you to everyone who donated, bought tickets and organised the much-loved Easter raffle. An impressive £950 was raised for the school and many chocolate treasures were enjoyed by the children.

Auction of Promises

It's only three weeks to go now until the PSA's biggest fundraising event on Friday 20th May. Tickets are now on sale through ScoPay with further information available through this link:

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

New Baby Group at the New Family Centre



A new baby group for babies under 12 months will be starting in the new Family Centre from 12th May on Thursday mornings from 9.30am to 11.30 am. Please help us spread the word – it will be a bundle of joy.

Important Dates

Monday 2 nd May	Bank Holiday – School Closed
Friday 13 th May	Year 6 Cake Sale
Friday 20 th May	Auction of Promises
Friday 27 th May	Last day of Summer I
w/c Monday 30 th May	Half Term Holiday

I hope you all have a wonderful bank holiday weekend.

With best wishes

William

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Headteacher



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