



# HIGHGATE

PRIMARY SCHOOL

25<sup>th</sup> April 2022

Dear Parents,

## Reception Class Newsletter Summer 1

Welcome back to the start of the summer term. We hope you had a wonderful Easter holiday. The children have bounded in full of energy and enthusiasm after their break.

Our topic this half term is 'What a Performance'. We started our new topic last week with a circus-themed 'in-day'. The children have had the chance to try out lots of the circus tricks and have really enjoyed showing us their new skills. Our latest role-play areas are theatre box offices and a performance stage.

This term the children will learn the skills associated with performance, as well as how to be a good audience member. The topic's grand finale will be the children performing for you!

### Class assemblies

The children's very first class assemblies are this half term. They take place on a Friday morning at 9.30 am and last for half an hour. We would appreciate your help in helping your child learn their part and providing costumes and props. Further details will follow about these. RRP's assembly will be taking place on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May and RTB will follow on the last day of the half term on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May.

### Timetable

The varied and busy timetable will continue as it did last half term, with daily English, maths and phonics sessions, reading practice sessions and PE. We continue to have Mandarin lessons and Forest School adventures too. This still leaves plenty of time for play and exploration in our indoor and outdoor environments.

### English

The children continue to enjoy a range of exciting role-play, speaking and listening, and writing activities based around stories that we think they will love. We have started by reading 'The Fabulous Foskett Family Circus' to introduce our 'What a Performance' topic.

For the next few weeks, we will be continuing our performance theme through looking at traditional tales such as 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff' and 'The Gingerbread Man'. We will encourage the children to get to know these stories inside out through role-playing them and retelling them with small figures and puppet shows. Writing activities will include producing captions for pictures from these stories, using the repeated refrains such as 'Who's that trip trapping over my bridge?' The children are continuing to use their



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knowledge of phonics more and more in their writing and are remembering how to write some “tricky words” independently.

### Phonics

In phonics we are revising the letter names and sounds that we learned last term and will now move on to learning the next set of graphemes, which all make ‘long’ vowel sounds: ai, ee, igh, oa, oo, ar, or. The children refer to these as digraphs (two letters making one sound) or trigraphs (three letters making one sound). We are also continuing to learn how to read and write high-frequency “tricky” words like *was*, *you* and *they*.

### Maths

This half term we will continue to practise our counting; forwards and backwards and starting from different numbers, not just 0 or 1. We will be playing lots of games ordering numbers from 1-20, counting groups of objects and recognising numbers to 20. We will also be counting given amounts of objects from a larger group.

The children will be learning about adding and subtracting small groups of objects and will be starting to record their thinking using marks and written numbers and symbols. We will also revisit 3D shapes and patterns and begin to use mathematical language around money and time.

### Forest School

Forest School got off to a great start last half term. The children know all about ‘no picking and no licking’, the route to our site, including all the different waiting trees, and what to do if we see a dog. We are looking forward to seeing them grow in confidence with their navigation skills and expertise in climbing, scrambling and jumping on and off logs and trees.

This half term each Forest School group will go to the woods twice. As you know, we rely on volunteers so please check the dates below and let us know if you are able to come with us. We really appreciate your time and it is a lovely way to spend an afternoon with your child and their Forest School friends. We are also always grateful for jars of instant hot chocolate powder (that can be made with water, not milk). Thank you very much for your help.

### Forest School Dates

#### RRP

RRP Rabbits	Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> April
RRP Foxes	Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May
RRP Rabbits	Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> May
RRP Foxes	Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> May

#### RTB

RTB Badgers	Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> April
RTB Hedgehogs	Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> May
RTB Badgers	Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> May
RTB Hedgehogs	Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> May



## Contributions

We really appreciate all the donations you have made to our nature kitchen, junk modelling and other resources. Currently, we are short of gluten-free flour, table salt, cream of tartar, bubble bath and vegetable oil. We also always need plenty of “ingredients” such as plant cuttings, herbs, petals, shells, pebbles etc. for our nature kitchen.

## Reminders

**Toys:** Please ensure toys are left safely at home, unless they are for a topic-related or pre-agreed ‘show and tell’. Thank you.

**Book bags:** Please continue the habit of bringing in and taking home book bags every day, with reading records inside.

**Reading books:** Please encourage your child to show you their progress by reading their Collins eBook to you each week. We will also be starting to send them home with a book which they have chosen from the class library. This is a book which you can share together, fostering your child’s love of reading. It is the talk around the book that is of most importance, and the book will often be one that they would struggle to read independently; in this case, please do read it to them! Also, please return the book on Thursday so that our class library remains fully-stocked. Thank you.

**Homework:** We set a new homework each Friday on Google Classroom. This is intended as a fun activity which relates to the learning going on in school. We encourage every family to get involved and upload photos and videos to the Google Classroom. We will comment on all homework submissions and we often share examples in the classroom as well.

## Student in Reception

We are lucky enough to have Reham returning this half term. Reham is a first year student working towards a Primary Education Teaching Degree and will be based in RTB.

## Summer 1 Important Dates

Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> May 9.30 am	RRP Class Assembly
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> May 9.30 am	RTB Class Assembly
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> May	Finish for half term holiday

Thank you for all your continued support.

With very best wishes,

The Reception Team

