



Headteachers' Newsletter

September 2023

Dear parents,

Welcome back to the new school year at Highgate Primary - and a special welcome to all the new children and parents who have joined us this year. It is lovely to see so many happy, enthusiastic and positive children, parents and staff around the school, excited about the year ahead. The month of September has seen the children start their new topics with class assemblies, school trips and harvest preparations now in full swing. Read on to find out exactly we've been up to over the last few weeks

Nursery



A big warm welcome to all our new children and families who have started with us in Nursery this September. We have been so impressed with how quickly and calmly they have settled into their new environment and routines. A heartfelt well done from us all. What a busy time we have had in Nursery this month where creativity and new friendships have blossomed. The children have immersed themselves in all the activities on offer from Duplo, sand, water and trains to stories, playdough and plenty of paint!

Reception



The Reception children have settled into their new classes brilliantly, making new friends, learning the rules and routines and, most importantly, having lots of fun! The children have been enjoying reading 'Dirty Bertie' and were very excited when the real Dirty Bertie actually came to visit them at school. This story has inspired lots of impressive early mark making as the children have designed signs and posters to teach him to make good behavior choices!

Year 1



Year 1 put into practice all they have been learning about their five senses as they went on a Bear Hunt. It was indeed a beautiful day and they weren't at all scared as they made their way through swishy-swashy, long, wavy grass; traversed a deep, cold splashy-splishy river; got stuck in thick, oozy squelchy-squerchy mud, stumbled through a dark, gloomy forest and were caught in a swirling whirling hooo-wooo snowstorm. Finally, they tiptoed into a long, dark, gloomy cave to find... A BEAR!

When not bear hunting, the children have been enjoying the Eric Carle books 'Polar Bear, Polar Bear, what do you See?' and 'Brown Bear, Brown Bear, what do you Hear?' They loved their

visit from Elif and Khloe in Blanche Nevile who talked about hearing aids and cochlear implants and demonstrated their expertise in British Sign Language. The children have also been fascinated by the story of Louis Braille who invented the Braille alphabet at the age of 15. They carefully studied the patterns of dots to write their own names in Braille. What an exciting start to Year 1 – and we still have Smell and Taste to come!

Year 2



Year 2 has had a great start to the year. The children have already met so many animals including a real live crocodile when 'Safari Pete' came to visit. They've been writing all about 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears' and have been learning about habitats and food chains in science. They even made it to the zoo. Being an adventurous lot, both classes went for a day trip to London Zoo - travelling on the London Underground for a wonderful time spotting lions and tigers, and marveling at the giraffes and penguins. Year 2 are most definitely now animal experts.

Year 3



The Year 3 children have been honing their historical and scientific skills this month in our fantastic topic 'From Palaeontology to Archaeology'. First, as Palaeontologists, they explored the playground and searched for the remains of dinosaurs. Then as Geologists, they observed and compared the properties of sedimentary, igneous and metamorphic rocks. These two sciences came together rather neatly as they learned the remarkable story of the pioneer Mary Anning and her fantastic fossil discoveries. The Year 3s have also been enjoying their computing lessons. Recently they were challenged to complete the task of: 'Avoid the Dinosaur', where they had to program floor robots to navigate a

course and avoid colliding with the dinosaurs, which were placed as obstacles on the course.

Year 4



Year 4 children have loved their introduction to the year and all things ancient Greek within their topic 'Masks and Minotaurs'. With great enthusiasm, they have studied and reenacted myths such as *Theseus and the Minotaur* and *Perseus and the Gorgon Medusa*. They can locate Greece and describe its geography in great detail. The children have also honed their skills as young historians on their recent visit to the British Museum. Here they closely observed artefacts, including amphorae, after first designing and drawing their own, which now impressively adorn the classroom displays.

Year 5



The children in Year 5 have embraced life as Victorian school children with aplomb. They have visited a ragged school, performed two outstanding assemblies, learnt what it was like to

live in the workhouse and will soon be experts at Victorian playground games. We can't wait for Victorian Day.

Year 6



Year 6 have hugely enjoyed exploring their topic on mountains - writing metaphor filled poetry, crafting adventure stories full of terrifying near-misses, and writing detailed biographies of Tenzing Norgay, one of the first mountaineers to conquer Everest. Here are our wonderful mountain pastels, and a great example of the landscapes we made in the art studio with Andrea.



Sports News

It's been a busy start to the sporting year at Highgate Primary. A group of children from Year 4, 5 and 6 recently competed in the Haringey Cross Country competition at New River: it's a long course and the children all got round in one piece! This week has also seen two Year 5/6 football teams – boys and girls – take part in tournaments. Sadly, there was no silverware to bring home this time, but the boys did win one of their games 6-0, and the girls managed to finish in 5th position overall. Well done to all who took part!

PSA News



It's been a busy start to the PSA year with a well-attended meeting for new parents, the first of our cake sales and preparations are in full swing for the first major event of the PSA school year - the Highgate Primary autumn Laser Show on Friday 13th October. Those who came last year likened it to a night out at Pacha, only much closer and back home by 8 o'clock. Tickets are available in advance from Scopay and cost £5 per adult and £2 per child.

We are thrilled to announce that we raised just over £5K at the 2023 Summer Fair. Well done everyone for all your hard work – and special thanks to parent Denise Nelson, who ran a 10k race in July, raising a whopping £1260 for the school. The funds have been used for Year 1 community blocks, a fantastic learning resource that many children will benefit from. Thank you so much Denise, you're an inspiration!

The key PSA dates for the rest of 2023 are:

Harvest Collection	9 th October – 16 th Friday
Autumn Laser Show	Friday 13 th October
Year 5 Cake Sale	Friday 20 th October
Year 1 to Year 3 Silent Disco	Thursday 16 th November
Year 4 to Year 6 Silent Disco	Friday 17 th November
Year 4 Cake sale	Friday 1 st December-
Christmas Fair	Saturday 2 nd December

That's all for now. Enjoy the weekend sunshine. We look forward to seeing you all in October!

With best wishes

William and Becca

William Dean
Co-Headteacher

Becca Lewis
Co-headteacher