



**HIGHGATE**  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

## **Headteachers' Newsletter**

October 2023

Dear parents

Just a few weeks ago the children were settling in to their new classes - and before you know it, it's half term. Where does the time go? Well, the answer to that is that time flies when you're having fun, which has certainly been the case in the month of October. With terrific trips, cracking class assemblies and absorbing topics, so much has been going on over the last few weeks. Enjoy our most recent newsletter to see what we've been up to...

### **Charity Extra**



The school's campaign to protect our creative curriculum is gaining momentum! The generosity of individuals within our school and wider community is creating a sizeable pot of money which will now be used to match all donations made during our high-profile fundraising event.

What we need now are Highgate Primary champions to lead a fundraising team over the 12th/13th November. This would involve calling or messaging your friends and family over these two days, to raise as much money as possible for the school. The school will provide you with more information, media and resources for the campaign nearer the time. If you do feel able to sign up, the link is here: <https://www.charityextra.com/hps>

Here's a link to a short message that gives a bit more information about our campaign. <https://vimeo.com/876391070>

Please help us to Protect our Creative Curriculum by supporting our high-profile, match-funded, fundraising campaign after half term.

## Curriculum Mural



As you know, we are extremely proud of the curriculum we have created at Highgate Primary. Over the last few months, we have been working with artist Louise Soloway Chan to create a mural that depicts all 36 of the topics covered as children progress through the school. Funded by our brilliant PSA, the finished piece of work featuring a time-line of our history curriculum, is about to be printed ready to take its place in the corridor leading down to the hall. We can't wait to see it in situ soon after half term.



More of Louise's work can be seen here:

<https://www.louisesoloway.com/mtrcartwork/project-three-nneef>

## Harvest



The school's Harvest assemblies were every bit as good as ever this year as children from Highgate Primary and Blanche Nevile sang and signed songs in a beautiful celebration of community spirit. The collection of Harvest donations has now been distributed to both local elderly residents and the charity Food bank Aid in Highgate. Thank you to the volunteers who made the wonderful Harvest display and to Hilla for leading the singing so well.

## Sports News



A Year 5 and 6 team travelled to New River on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October to participate in a Haringey-wide football festival. They were blessed with beautiful sunny weather and enjoyed a lot of games – some victorious and some less so! - over the course of the day. Well done to all the children who took part.

## Cookery Studio



There have been some wonderful smells emanating from the Cookery Studio this half term as the children have been busy cooking up a storm every Wednesday and Friday. Within the topic 'The World through our Senses', the little ones in Year 1 got ready to crumble as they practised their peeling and slicing skills to prepare the apples and learnt the rubbing in method to make a delicious oaty topping. The children in Year 4 made delicious Spanakopita, a traditional Greek dish packed full of healthy spinach, and learnt how to work with filo pastry to form these nutritious pastry triangles. Year 5 payed homage to Queen



Victoria herself, making her favourite vanilla sponge cake, working carefully to incorporate as much air into the cake mixture as possible. They succeeded and made the most incredibly tall Victoria Sponges.

## Black History Month



Highgate Primary School celebrated Black History Month each day by learning about the achievements of people from the past. These included: Septimius Severus, Matthew Henson and Mae Jemison to name a few. Parents visited to share their favourite stories and talk about their cultures. The dining centre was transported to Africa with the children tasting food from different parts of the continent which included Jollof rice – a spicy tomato flavoured rice - and Injera - an Ethiopian flatbread. Following the success of the African cuisine, the children's taste buds were then transported to the Caribbean where they enjoyed food from different islands which included jerk chicken, saltfish fritters and plantain.

## Nursery



What a lovely autumnal October we have had in the Nursery. The children have been busy learning about seasonal changes through stories, art and songs, whilst also sharing their own experiences of autumn. They have collected herbs, conkers, acorns, twigs and lots of lovely leaves for our nature table where we used all our senses to discover the look, feel and smell of the autumnal bounty. Using a variety of media and materials, the children have made wonderful tree paintings, printed with fruit and vegetables, painted with conkers and made natural collage, all of which can be seen on display around the nursery classrooms. This week we celebrated Harvest, singing 'Big Red Combine Harvester' and 'Dingle Dangle Scarecrow' at our first ever performance in the school hall. Well done Nursery on a fabulous start to the year!

## Reception



In Reception, the children have been really enjoying our updated outside space (thank you PSA!) and particularly our new bikes. These exciting new vehicles have given rise to all kinds of sharing and taking turns. In our English sessions, the children were inspired by the book 'Super Duper You' and have been thinking and writing about all the things that make each child unique and special. We have also been celebrating Black History Month with some wonderful stories and by eating some delicious fruits from around the world. The children marked the end of their very first term in school with fantastic singing at the special Harvest assembly. What an impressive beginning to their school careers.

## Year 1



This afternoon's Farmers' Market was a wonderful celebration of our topic 'The World through our Senses'. What better way to explore our senses than by harvesting and washing new potatoes,



gathering herbs, pressing apples into apple juice and smelling a whole variety of fresh fruit and vegetables to sell to parents. Some of the most persuasive captions were: 'This mint tastes like tooth pasty and it is so yumee!'; 'These apples taist lighc kandee and thai are mowworturing'; and, 'These potatoes are good for chips!' The price labels show that children have clearly understood the need to boost the school budget – mouth-watering produce at eye-watering prices. A whopping £84.65 was raised!



## Year 2



After a fantastic trip to London Zoo, Year 2 wrote brilliant recounts of their day out, which was followed up by the children's own version of 'The Tiger Who Came for Tea' in which all sorts of animals got up to all sorts of mischief. In science, the children created food webs, learnt about micro-habitats, and produced collages to show how different animals use camouflage to hide. In RE, we have learnt about Rosh Hashanah, Diwali and Harvest Festival as well as hearing the story of China's Mid-Autumn Festival where everyone got to taste mooncakes. The topic culminated in a brilliant trip to Hampstead Heath where everyone had a go at pond dipping and hunted for mini-beasts in a secret garden!

### Year 3



The lucky Year 3 children have already had two wonderful trips this term. The first was to the always Natural History Museum, where we encountered dinosaurs big and small. They explored the dinosaur gallery and experienced first-hand the extraordinary marine reptile fossils discovered by pioneering palaeontologist, Mary Anning. They also took part in a fantastic workshop where they learnt about the different dinosaurs in each period.



To complete the topic, the classes travelled back in time to the Stone Age. During an immersive day in Hertfordshire, the children experienced life in a pre-history settlement, complete with flint knapping, fire lighting, den making and crushing herbs for a nutritious soup. As the saying goes, 'Tell me and I forget, involve me and I learn.' We're sure this day out is something the children will remember for a long time!



## Year 4



The last few weeks have been action-packed with all things Ancient Greek. Both classes performed outstanding assemblies presenting Greek mythology, society and history to riveted audiences. We were impressed by their excellent delivery, singing and dancing! In English, the children wrote their own Greek myths featuring self-made mythical creatures and heroes, who receive help from the Greek gods. They also investigated the origins of democracy, experimented with the Greek alphabet and named and drew the three styles of classical Greek architecture (another Greek word). Finally, the children indulged in Greek cuisine by baking their own delicious Spanakopita.

## Year 5



The Victorian topic has been a great way for the children in Year 5 to understand the lives of children from another age. To finish the term, we had a memorable Victorian Day for which children learned a wide range of Victorian playground games. Everyone in Year 5 is now an expert at hopscotch, penny up the wall, marbles and tin cans. Victorian Day finished with woodwork for the boys and needlework for the girls. This was followed by a debate on gender stereotyping and whether it still exists today. Mr Lynch and



Ms. Oliver where delighted by the children's excellent behavior, with the cane hardly required.

## Year 6



Year 6 ended the half term and their mountains topic by thinking about National Parks. Children debated whether our National Parks are overused and in danger of being spoiled by tourists, or whether everyone should use them more regularly to improve our physical and mental health, and deepen our appreciation of nature. Despite our differences of opinion, everyone agreed that our National Parks are hugely important places! So, the classes wrote highly persuasive letters to Trudy Harrison MP, the minister with responsibility for National Parks, asking her to give them greater protection. Our year 6s will certainly be well prepared for their visit to the Brecon Beacons after half term.



In Science the children have been researching micro-organisms: bacteria, viruses and fungi and we spent a very exciting day at 'New Scientist Live!', an interactive exhibition with interesting speakers in STEM subjects with hundreds of stalls offering robots to control, molecules to build and weird, digital instruments to play. The classes particularly relished hearing about Mike the headless chicken, who really did carry on living despite losing his head.

## PSA News ...

### Laser show



In true Highgate Primary fashion, the heavy rain did not dampen the spirits and a large crowd gathered for games, food, drinks, music and an incredible laser show! Thank you very much to Maria and Clara, and all the dedicated parents who helped to organise such an entertaining night out for our families.

### Stikins

Does your child lose their clothes on a regular basis? Have you scoured the playground or the dreaded lost property cupboard one too many times? The PSA has partnered with a great company - Stikins - that prints and delivers good quality washable and durable stickers to label your children's items. The PSA earns up to 30% in commission. Fewer items lost and some extra income for the school! Order your stickers online and use our school code: 9634 <https://www.stikins.co.uk/>

### Christmas cards

Look out for the Christmas cards instructions that will be sent via google classroom for the children to do during half term. Forms will be sent in your child's bag.

The key PSA dates for next half term are:

Year 1 to Year 3 Silent Disco	Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> November
Year 4 to Year 6 Silent Disco	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> November
Year 4 Cake sale	Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> December-
Christmas Fair	Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December

Have a great half term. We look forward to seeing you back at school on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October.

With best wishes

*William and Becca*

William Dean  
Co-Headteacher

Becca Lewis  
Co-Headteacher

