



HIGHGATE
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Headteachers' Newsletter

November 2023

Dear parents

It's hard to believe that we're in the run up to Christmas already. The children are busy rehearsing their songs for Mary Poppins and thanks to our very generous parent, Tom from the Woodman, our beautiful tree is up in the hall.

Charity Extra



Thank you so much to every one of the thousand people who supported our campaign to protect our creative curriculum. It was a massive undertaking but hugely uplifting and extremely successful financially. The generosity of individuals and businesses in and around our school and wider community was amazing, with so many people donating generously of their time and money. Overall, we were able to raise a whopping £132,000!

And although the campaign is to all intents and purposes over, we do still have an online auction running. Please visit the auction website to check out the wonderful prizes. But be quick - it closes at 10pm on Sunday! <https://www.jumblebee.co.uk/POCC>

Pupil Premium Funding

Haringey Council has recently run a campaign to raise awareness about the extra funding available to schools through the Pupil Premium Grant. PPG funding is based on the number of children who would be eligible for free school meals. However, this is more complicated now the Mayor's Office provides free school meals for all. If you think your child might have been eligible for free school meals, there is still very good reasons to apply as this generates additional funding for schools. If you think you might be eligible and would like support with making an application, please speak to someone in the office, or William or Becca on the gate. <https://www.haringey.gov.uk/children-and-families/schools-and-education/school-application-forms/free-school-meals-fsm-and-clothing-grant>

Pendarren



Year 6 enjoyed a truly memorable week immersed in experiences that will undoubtedly stay with them for the rest of their lives. The trip to Pendarren was brilliant from start to finish. The children withstood rain, wind and hail, plunged to the depths caving under the Brecon Beacons, canoed and climbed, then partied the night away at Jimmar's disco. For many of the children, though, pond dipping in the pouring rain was the favourite session of all. Netting and identifying nymphs, newts and all manner of pond life was a magical activity and the children impressed us with their knowledge of the natural world.

Curriculum Mural



After many months of hard work, the Highgate Primary Curriculum Mural was recently installed by acclaimed artist Louise Soloway and the team from Coloursonic. Comprising 42 separate tiles, our mural depicts every one of the topics within the school curriculum, arranged beautifully, including a history timeline running from 'The Stone Age' to 'The Swinging 60s'. This piece is generating a lot of discussion from the children about what they have learnt already, what they are learning about now and what is yet to come – and crucially, how it all fits together. Please feel free to pop in to see this amazing artwork for yourself in its new setting.

Sports News

A mixed Y5 and 6 netball team went to Highgate School at the beginning of the month for a Hi-5 tournament. The team did really well and played in some very close games, finishing the afternoon with a well-deserved victory over Tetherdown.



Another mixed netball squad went to St Michaels school recently for some friendlies. Although their Y6 team outclassed us, we more than held our own against the Y5 players.

We also took a boys' team and a girls' team to a Year 3 and 4 football tournament at New River sports centre. Both teams played well against more than 20 schools from across the borough. Of special note was the performance of Layna from 4JS, who scored 12 goals and was named player of the tournament, helping the girls to secure an overall finishing position of fifth. On Monday, it was the turn of the boys' Y5 and Y6 football teams to travel to St Michaels school for friendly matches. Although the Y6 team narrowly lost in a 7-5 defeat, the Y5 boys managed a 3-3 draw.

Anti-bullying week



During the week of the 13th November, all pupils took part in fantastic workshops organised by the Stage Academy to challenge bullying, empowering children to think about the different types of bullying they might encounter in life and how to respond. They loved the drama activities and games and took away a very positive message.

Show Racism the Red Card



On Friday 3 November, children came to school wearing red as part of our 'Show Racism the Red Card' day. We even managed to get William into a red Arsenal top. Had he attended the anti-bullying workshop, this would never have happened. The message at Highgate Primary Schools is very clear: Say No to Racism!



Cookery Studio



The Cookery Studio has seen a lot of culinary action again this half term. Year 2 discovered the science behind breadmaking and what a workout it is, kneading their dough for a full ten minutes before shaping and proving their rolls. While they waited for the dough to rise, the children made their own butter, learning about where this staple food comes from.

As part of the design process in DT, Year 3 designed then made their own chocolate bars, which they will also package and market by writing an advert which includes their own unique slogan.

In their topic Sound and Vision, Year 4 have made beautiful stained-glass window effect cookies, mastering the skill of rubbing in and rolling out. There's a chance that a Christmas tree or two might be decorated with these mini masterpieces this year!

Year 6 have had a taste of the Caribbean, making Jamaican style patties, a popular dish brought to this country by those who immigrated to the UK in the 1950s and 60s. The children used a range of skills to prepare the filling, which they encased in golden turmeric pastry. Some were really adventurous, adding extra fresh chilli! The school has never smelt so good.

Nursery



The Nursery children were so happy to see all their friends after the half term break and quickly settled back into the routine. They enjoyed a lovely November celebrating a range of festivals including Halloween, Bonfire night, Diwali and Remembrance. The children have been busy exploring spaghetti filled pumpkins in the messy tray, creating fabulous firework paintings at the easel and making beautiful bonfire collage at the art table. We have also marked Remembrance Sunday through art and with a respectful (if challenging) two-minute silence! Well done Nursery, the next stops on the festival tour are Hanukkah and of course Christmas!



Reception



The Reception children were delighted to discover a Gruffalo Cave in their classroom which they enthusiastically decorated with Gruffalo characters before re-enacting the story and writing beautifully illustrated fantastic story maps. Our Into the Woods topic concluded with an exciting trip to Highgate Woods, where the children hunted for a Gruffalo and set some traps – just in case!

Year 1



Year 1 is having an amazing time enjoying their topic Celebrations. The children have explored stories and traditions around the Hindu, Jain and Sikh festival of Diwali, and searched the school cellar for the rogue Guy Fawkes! The classes had our very

own fireworks display, complete with sparklers, a bonfire and hot chocolate for everybody! Speaking of hot chocolate, the wintry woods have been a wonderful setting to explore art influenced by Andy Goldsworthy and to lash together sticks into natural picture frames. We began our celebration of Christmas today with a visit to All Saints Church in Highgate where the children met Highgate Primary dad and vicar, Rev Timothy. The children learnt about the church and the Nativity and loved searching the stained glass windows for Mary and Joseph. In the church hall they made their own stained-glass nativity scenes and contributed to a wonderful community weaving to celebrate the church's 160th birthday early next year. And with Christmas and Hanukah coming up, there is still time left for even more celebrating.

Year 2



Year 2 have become expert historians, learning all about the causes and consequences of the Great Fire of London this half term. Both classes performed brilliantly in their assemblies and have started writing their own information books all about the Great Fire. The children have baked delicious bread, started constructing Tudor houses and have even created sparks with a fire steel during Forest School, building a campfire to toast marshmallows!



Year 3



Year 3s are really enjoying their topic 'Chocolate', which kicked off with a tasting session that included ancient Mayan hot chocolate with a touch of chilli. This experience helped the children to plan the ingredients for their own chocolate bars which they carefully created in the cookery studio. In science, the children learnt about changing states of matter, linking this to chocolate. In Geography, the children have been learning about cacao plants and where they are grown. This led them to locate and research tropical rainforests around the world. The children are looking forward to their trip to Kew Gardens, which will give them the opportunity to experience a rainforest setting, observe the different layers and understand how the rainforest habitat effects the people and animals who live there.

Year 4



For their topic, 'Sound and Vision', Year 4 has measured both light and sound with data loggers, thereby learning about lux, bels and decibels. The children also made shadow puppets and with accurate measuring, discovered how to make their shadows change size by moving their light source forwards and back. They have also investigated the vibration and frequency of sound and music with the help of a myriad of instruments! Today, the children have explored both the science of music at the Science Museum, and early inventions which they had previously researched at school. An exciting, loud and fun-filled series of science experiments!

Year 5



Year 5 has been exploring the scientific advancements of the industrial age in great detail. They have also considered the opposition to advancement as demonstrated by the Luddites and other radical groups reacting to economic change. The children have been on several trips including to the Royal Institute to create motors, magnetised propulsion systems and electromagnetic cranes. The children are now moving on to discuss the impact of such modern inventions as AI, driverless cars and virtual reality. There is even word of an inter-class debate on whether teachers should be replaced by robots.

Year 6



As if Pendarren wasn't enough, our Year 6 children returned to school and within a week had embarked on an exciting new project – a dramatic production of the Anglo-Saxon story of Beowulf. The year group had just under a week to create, write, rehearse and perform under the expert guidance of Kate Stilitz. By Wednesday afternoon, it felt as if we were at a performing arts school: every child was focused and determined to put on a spectacular show packed with dramatic dance, superb singing, fluent narration and amazing acting. Unsurprisingly, the children rose to the challenge and astounded us with dramatic and

captivating performances all round. What an amazing show they put on!

Silent Disco

In the middle of the month, across two evenings, children from Year 1 to Year 6 really enjoyed themselves at the silent disco. Instead of music blasting through the speakers, brilliant music was transmitted directly into the children's headphones, leaving parents to have a good catch-up. A good time was had by all!

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. With fewer items lost and extra income for the school, this really is win-win! Order your stickers online and use our school code: 9634
<https://www.stikins.co.uk/>

Winter Fair



The annual Winter Fair is all set to take place tomorrow, Saturday 2nd December, with the school gates opening at 2.00pm. There will be all the usual stalls and events to enjoy, including great food, drinks and a visit from the real Father Christmas. The weather is set to be deep, crisp and even, so wrap up warm and come and join in the fun.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the winter fair tomorrow afternoon.

With best wishes

William and Becca

William Dean
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