



HIGHGATE

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Tuesday 31st October 2023

Dear parents,

Year 1 Newsletter Autumn 2

Welcome to a new half term! It's lovely to see the children happy to be back at school after the excitement of their farmers' market and a well-deserved week's holiday. This half term, we will continue to teach short sessions in English and Phonics every morning and Maths in the afternoons, along with a mixture of adult and child-led activities in the classrooms and the Peace Garden. There will also be topic sessions and activities each week covering history, art, science, RE, DT, computing and PE.

Celebrations

Our new topic is 'Celebrations' which we began by celebrating Hallowe'en today. Over the rest of the week, the children will be learning about Guy Fawkes and the Gunpowder Plot of 1605 to understand why, over 400 years later, we still celebrate the 5th November with bonfires and fireworks. We will end the week with a firework display, sparklers and a bonfire in the Peace Garden.

Over the half term we will explore all sorts of celebrations, including birthdays, cultural events and religious festivals. The timing of the topic allows a specific focus on Festivals of Light including Diwali, Hanukkah and Christmas. It builds on the children's own experiences of celebration, both at home and at school, across a range of religions and cultures. If any parents would like to come into school to talk about a special cultural or religious festival you celebrate in your family, we would be delighted. Please let us know.

English: writing

We have started with news writing this week, giving the children the opportunity to write about what they did during half term. Our focus the next week is on poetry when we will read 'Firework Night' by Andrew Collett and use it as a basis for writing the children's own explosive poems with a similar pattern. In the following weeks, we enjoy the wonderful story 'So Much' by Trish Cook about an extended family celebration from a child's perspective which we use as a model for the children's own writing. We finish the term writing instructions to make festive decorations. Throughout the term, we will continue to practise correct letter formation and to develop the children's sentence skills.

English: reading and phonics

In phonics, we will continue to revisit Phase 3 digraphs and trigraphs (where one sound is represented by two or three letters) while introducing alternative ways of spelling sounds (Phase 5) and practising those 'tricky' words. Reading continues as before. Please make sure you hear your child read their e-book at least once a week and continue to enjoy and discuss other books with your child at home. It really does make a huge difference.



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Maths

We begin the term by further exploring addition before moving on to subtraction. We will be learning different methods of subtracting, such as taking away, finding a part of a whole, and counting back on a number line. We'll then move onto geometry and the properties of shape. We will explore 3D and 2D shapes - naming, constructing, drawing and sorting them and using them to create patterns. It's going to be lots of fun! We will also continue to develop the children's number fluency with lots of number practice: counting forward and backwards from different numbers, recognising small amounts of objects quickly without counting ('subitising') and learning number bonds up to 10.

Other Subjects:

Music: Hilla will be working with each class every week as we prepare for the whole-school Christmas Show which, this year, will be Mary Poppins. More details to follow!

PE: Please make sure your child is wearing appropriate clothing. The days remain the same:

IKL: Tuesday and Wednesday

ITB: Monday and Tuesday

Forest School: We are looking forward to more Forest School sessions in Highgate Woods this half term (please see dates below.) As it gets colder, please make sure that your child comes to school on those days dressed appropriately with thick socks, gloves and a hat for chillier days. It is also likely to become a bit muddier, so we ask that every child has their own pair of wellies in school those days - it can take a long time to find a spare pair that fit! Thank you very much to all of you who have volunteered to help by coming to the woods. We can't do it without you, so please do check your dates and sign up. Thank you, also, for your continued donations of instant hot chocolate powder!

Homework:

We will continue to set a weekly homework assignment each Friday via Google Classroom. Please upload homework by Wednesday at the latest to allow us time to respond.

Trips

Our trips this half term include a visit to All Saints Church and then to Jackson's Lane theatre for a performance of The Three Billy Goats Gruff. More information will follow nearer the time and dates are included below.

Looking forward to a fun-filled few weeks!

Thank you for all your continued support.

With very best wishes,

The Year 1 team

Kate, Tom, Lorraine, Rachael, Jo, Grace



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Dates for your diary

Flu Immunisations	Thursday 16 th November
Parent Consultations	Wednesday 22 nd November 4-6.30pm Thursday 23 rd November 6-8.30pm
INSET Day – school closed to children	Friday 24 th November
All Saints Church trip	Friday 1 st December
Highgate Primary Christmas Show:	Thursday 14 th December 2pm (IKL) Friday 15 th December 2pm (ITB)
Jackson's Lane Theatre Trip	Tuesday 19 th December am
End of term	Wednesday 20 th December – 1.30pm

Forest School dates for Autumn 2

ITB – Mondays		IKL - Wednesdays	
Dragonflies	6 th November	Badgers	8 th November
Otters	13 th November	Hedgehogs	15 th November
Dragonflies	20 th November	Badgers	22 nd November
Otters	27 th November	Hedgehogs	29 th December



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