



HIGHGATE
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Headteachers' Newsletter

March 2024

Dear parents

We've had a fantastic week at school with so much excitement, including numerous trips and visits, an array of end-of-topic celebrations, the much-anticipated Highgate's Got Talent and an incredible circus performance by our troupe of Year 2 acrobats, clowns and gymnasts. Everyone is definitely ready for a well-earned rest and a load of chocolate.

World Book Day



World Book Day was celebrated in style at Highgate Primary as the tables were turned and children read bedtime stories to their parents (grandparents/brothers/sisters/toys/pet lizards). In a special assembly the entries to the film competition were shared on the big screen where the winners were Phoebe (reading to her pet dragon 'Godzilla'), Mayanshi (reading to her very badly-behaved teddy) and Silja (reading to her very well-behaved sister Frida). Thank you to everyone who dressed up, donated a book to

the Big Book Swap, the PSA for excellent Wonka Bars and Emma for organizing such a special day.

Nursery



Having returned to Earth from the lofty heights of space exploration, the nursery children have, shiver me timbers, immersed themselves in the wonderful world of Pirates. They have created tea-stained treasure maps, made their own telescopes, danced to sea shanties, walked the plank from the 'Good Ship Highgate', and even spied some real parrots! Using the series of books 'Captain Flinn and the Pirate Dinosaurs' by Giles Andreae, we followed the piratical theme with a Jurassic journey back in time to meet the dinosaurs. The children have also been observing seasonal changes by looking out for the first signs of spring, and creating their own gorgeous paint and collage representations of the cherry blossom in bloom around school. It has been a fabulous term, well done me hearties!

Reception





This term, Reception have completely immersed themselves in their 'Amazing Animals' topic. They began learning about animals from across the globe, followed by animals that we might find closer to home in the zoo. The well-loved text 'Dear Zoo' by Rod Campbell really captured their imaginations, inspiring them to write their own letters to the zoo asking for a class pet. They couldn't believe it when their letters were answered and received a very special delivery of eggs! As the eggs hatched into ducklings, the children learnt about lifecycles and showed great care and diligence looking after their new pets. The children finished the term with a wonderful trip to Freightliners City Farm, enjoying a felting workshop and meeting many more animal friends!

Year 1

Following 'Whatever the Weather' was always going to be a hard act to follow, but the Year 1 children have loved our Toys topic this half term. The term began by creating a toy museum to exhibit the children's favourite toys from home (displayed with beautifully written labels) before visiting a real toy museum, the Young V&A in Bethnal Green. The collection of dolls houses, early video games, Paddington Bear and the magnetic construction area were the favourites - along with the tube journey there and back!



The children have also thoroughly enjoyed reading the classic texts, 'The Winter Bear', 'While You Were Sleeping' and of course, 'Dogger', which inspired lots of wonderful writing. The highlight of this half term however, has to be the fantastic class assemblies, IKL's 'The Lost Property Office' and ITB's interpretation of 'While You Were Sleeping' which explored the themes of losing (and then being reunited with) beloved lost toys and finding out what happens to toys when we're fast asleep –

'Goodness knows what they get up to at night'! What a fun half term!



Year 2



Year 2 started the half term with a fantastic circus workshop, learning all the skills and tricks needed to be the best circus in town. They learnt to juggle, spin plates, use a diablo and even balance a peacock feather on their chins. In the classroom, the children wrote great stories based around the adventures of 'Cannonball Simp', created their own clown face paint designs and looked at circuses around the world. The classes even found time to cook-up their own multi-vegetable pasta sauce. The topic ended with the annual circus performance which was a wonderful celebration of all the new skills the class have learnt, and a brilliant way end the term. Well done our Year 2 circus performers!



Year 3



The spring term has been so much fun in Year 3. The children have found out so many fascinating facts about the polar regions including solar winds, polar bears, sunken ships, mountaineers and magnets. They've become experts on the exploits of Scott, Amundsen and Shackleton and enjoyed a fantastic trip to the iMax cinema to experience Antarctica. A great topic thoroughly enjoyed.

Year 4



Year 4 has had a very full and busy half term which has absolutely flown by. The highlight of our 'Flight' topic was undoubtedly the show, 'One Small Bird', with musical director, Kate Stilitz, who helped the children to conjure up a highly creative performance of song and movement that told the story of the migration of the Red-Necked Phalarope. Alongside 'One Small Bird', the children

crafted their own phalarope puppets, made shadow puppet from wire and created beautiful paper birds in the creative style of Mark Hearld. Both classes visited the London Wetland Centre on a fantastic day trip, and during Science Week enjoyed the 'Geodome' in an immersive encounter with dinosaurs, thought to be ancestors of birds! The children have also learned all about the workings of birds to make them efficient flyers and survivors, and turned their research into fact-file posters. It's been a month of great fun and learning.

Year 5



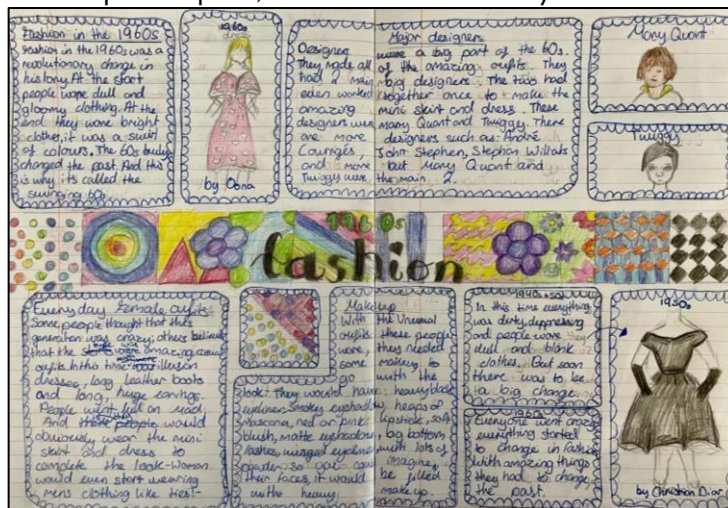
With an impressive five trips out and about in the local area and six weeks full of geography, history, art and storytelling, Year 5 has really enjoyed the topic 'Highgate N6'. The children have made models of local shops, visited Waterlow Park (twice), toured Lauderdale House, explored Highgate Cemetery and ventured a little further to Alexandra Palace. To top it all off, our fantastic Year 5s planned, resourced and taught their own science lessons about local animal life cycles to the Reception classes. They showcased their knowledge and took their roles very seriously. Well done Year 5.



Year 6



It's also been a busy half term in Year 6 where the children have thoroughly enjoyed learning about the Swinging Sixties. They have explored the changing ideas, music, art and fashion of that revolutionary era, as well as researching the Civil Rights Movement in the USA. They've relished learning about electricity and light in Science and exploring the geography of California, which inspired so much great 1960s music and art, and which feeds much of America today. Above is some of our onomatopoeic Pop Art, based on the work of Roy Lichtenstein.



News from the Cookery Studio



This half term, the children in Reception have had an animalastic time creating their very own 'cheesy-chick crackers', developing

their spreading and cutting skills, and learning about how cheese is made. Year 1 have also made their own afternoon snack, in the form of an edible 'funny-face wrap'. They made choices for fillings from a selection of healthy vegetables, cream cheese and homemade hummus, which they crafted into hilarious 'toy' faces by using their slicing and grating skills.

In advance of their topic 'Growing Up', the children in Year 2 peeled, sliced and diced no less than seven vegetables (pepper, courgette, carrot, butternut squash, celery, onion, garlic and tomato) to make their own pasta sauce. Remarkably, they all left the cooker school plaster-free with all fingers and thumbs firmly attached to their hands. The children's knife skills are really coming on.

Year 3's cooking this half term was based on an historical investigation into how small adjustments in a recipe can make a world of difference to the nutritional value. They made two different types of sledging biscuit eaten by polar explorers, one from Scott's adventure, the other from Amundsen. The children evaluated each on flavour, texture and nutrition (and learnt that for polar explorers, getting the right nutrition really can be a matter of life or death!).



Birds make nests and so did Year 4, who this week made 'Flightfully Good Mexican Stuffed Pepper Nests', filled with brown rice and beans - and topped with grated cheese. Delicious!

PSA News



The PSA continues to keep our school community on its toes with such a rich calendar of events. The recent 'One World Evening' was such a fantastic celebration of our international community, with incredible food, brilliant entertainment and such a warm and

happy atmosphere. Thank you to everyone who came along, cooked and performed on the stage.

Yesterday's Easter Raffle was another highlight of the PSA year with a total of 22 hampers taken home by this year's lucky winners. A special thank you goes to Tony's Continental in East Finchley for providing all the baskets – helping to raise nearly £900! Thank you all for your kind donations and ongoing support.

Coming up

Next on the school calendar is the Easter holiday! Have a wonderful break and a good rest after such a full term. We look forward to welcoming you all back to school on Monday 15th April.

With best wishes

William and Becca

William Dean
Co-Headteacher

Becca Lewis
Co-Headteacher