



in partnership with Blanche Nevile

Headteacher's Newsletter June 2010

Dear parents, carers and pupils,

We have enjoyed a very busy half term with so many events and activities. The theme of the month has very much been around our community, and I have been delighted to welcome so many parents and carers into school to support the work that we are doing with our children. The highlights for me have been the summer fair, sustainability week, One World Evening and our sports days, and the news that we have just achieved the Leading Parent Partnership Award reflects our collective efforts. The newsletter brings you full details about events that have taken place in June, and I look forward to a enjoyable last few weeks.

Sustainability Week



The school's sustainability week has now come and gone, and what a week it was. Throughout the week children enjoyed a wide range of activities and really thought about how their actions and choices can have a positive impact on the world. The outdoor environment was used to the full, with the children out and about in Hampstead Heath, Kenwood and Highgate Woods.

Highlights of the week included a visit to the recycling centre, workshops with Eco-Active, a visit by The Junk Orchestra and a community art project – the results of which will be unveiled next week in the Key Stage 1 corridor.

Many thanks to Mags and Jen for organising such an inspiring week.

One World Evening

One World Evening was a huge success, with a great atmosphere and over 400 people in attendance. The highlight for me had to be the incredible array of food which represented the diversity and generosity of our school community. A number of parents have enquired as to some of

the secret recipes – and plans are underway for a Highgate Primary Cookbook. If you have a favourite family recipe you'd like to be included in the cookbook, please fill in a form and return to the office asap. Many thanks to everyone who supported the evening, especially Lizzie and our wonderful PSA for putting on such a successful event.

Gardening

During the sustainability week many classes had their first experience of planting vegetables. This is the start of our commitment to make Highgate Primary not only be greener but look greener too. In addition Laura Sanchez coordinated the Year 6 children in some 'guerrilla gardening', where the children made seed bombs which they dropped in a range of places in the local area that could do with brightening up!

Science Quiz

Congratulations go to Jay, Zayna, Eloise, Felix, Uygur, Daniel B, Ross and Ha Lim who took part in the National Year 5 Inter Schools Science Quiz. The children competed against eight other schools and did brilliantly well. We are very proud of their achievement! This is the first time that we have entered the science quiz and we will definitely be doing it again!

Sports Day



Once again we were blessed with fantastic weather for the school's sports days. Parents joined the Nursery and Reception in the Infant playground to support our youngest athletes, whilst parents in Key Stage 1 and 2 headed up to St Michael's school to see children take part in a range of races and events. So many parents commented on the brilliant organisation, which I have to say is entirely down to our PE coordinator, Stuart Laurence.

Summer Fair

The sun didn't shine, it was really rather cold, but that certainly didn't stop the Summer Fair from being great fun and a huge success. It was great to see so many members of our school community, including children past and present, come along and join in the fun and help to create a very special atmosphere. And not only was it a great day out, it helped raised a staggering £2000 for the school. Many thanks to Lizzie Bloom, Nikki Tolley and a team of very willing and able parents who helped organise such a successful event



I am delighted to inform you that the school has very recently been awarded the Leading Parent partnership Award, in recognition of its commitment to supporting parents and carers. The assessor, who spent a day at the school looking through files of evidence and meeting with all sections of the school community said, 'The school has a strong and enthusiastic commitment to developing parental partnership', 'parents feel that the school is very welcoming and that the staff are accessible', 'parents are fully involved in the life of the school and are genuinely given a voice' and that 'the school recognises that the parents are their most useful resource for taking their children forward'.

Congratulations and special thanks to Kim Slater who has coordinated work in this area, and championed this important aspect of school life.

Special Assemblies



The month has seen a number of excellent assemblies, including the first ever performances by our reception classes. RTB entertained parents with the story of Little Bunny Foo Foo, a very naughty rabbit who was shown how to be good, whilst RLM showed just how much they have learnt in their minibeasts topic with an assembly about four young explorers on a minibeast hunt.

Earlier in the term, children in Lauren and Debora's class put on an epic version of Robin Hood, which was greatly enjoyed by an enthusiastic audience, whilst earlier in the term Lynne Featherstone MP visited the school to watch a stunning performance of 'Where the Wild Things are' performed by IEP.



Young Robin is rescued by his band of merry men.

Inspire Events



Both Year 2 classes held very successful inspire events last week in which children and parents worked together to bring old and unwanted T-shirts back to life. Children from both classes paraded their creations down the catwalk during the Friday assembly and the results were stunning.

Science Museum Visit



5NL who, who earlier in the term entertained the school with an excellent assembly featuring a series of fascinating experiments about sound, followed up their work with a trip to the Science Museum. The highlight was a 3-D space

extravaganza where the children viewed the latest images from the Hubble space telescope.

Children's Centre Update



National Breastfeeding Week picnic in Highgate Wood

Over in the Children's Centre we've been enjoying the summer weather with a chance for parents to have a cup of coffee in the sunshine while the children are busy playing with sand and water on the deck.

This week, in celebration of National Breastfeeding Week, we organised a picnic in Highgate Woods. It was a lovely event on one of the hottest days of the year so far with 90 mums, babies, toddlers and breastfeeding supporters. Tips and picnic food were shared, phone numbers were swapped and everyone had a great time. Our Dads Club is also organising a family picnic in the woods on Sunday 4th July and they have requested Dads' Club T-shirts. So look out for them!

We are very happy to be welcoming midwives into the centre next month. As of the 8th July the Whittington Midwifery team will be holding their antenatal clinic here every Thursday morning. We are looking forward to getting to know and supporting local families before their babies are even born.

We held a very successful Baby-led Weaning Workshop a couple of weeks ago informing parents of the latest weaning advice and guidelines. It was very popular and we are hoping to run these regularly from the centre.

Finally, we are hoping to increase the number of Childminders in the area as there is such a demand for them. We ran a Childminding Information Session recently but can pass on relevant details to anyone who is interested in becoming a childminder.

If you would like to find out more about anything happening in the Children's Centre just pop in via the entrance on Gaskell Road or call us on 0203 213 0004.

Dates for your diary

Friday 2 nd July 10.00 am	Year 2 Performance
Tuesday 6 th July 11.00 am	4JS Guitar Concert
Wednesday 7 th July 3.00 pm	4MK Violin Concert
Wednesday 7 th July	Nursery PM Inspire Event
Thursday 8 th July	Nursery AM Inspire Event
Friday 9 th July 3.00 pm	4JS Class Assembly
Tuesday 13 th July 4.00 – 6.00	School Open Evening
Friday 16 th July 6.00 pm	Year 6 leaver's performance
Friday 23 rd July	Year 6 leaver's assembly Term ends
Thursday 2 nd September	Children return to school



Year 2 at The Recycling Centre

Nut Free Zone

Just to remind you that the school has a number of children with severe allergies to nuts and as a result Highgate Primary is a 'nut free zone'. It is therefore essential that children and adults do not bring nuts into school.

And Finally

As you can see, the month of June has been incredibly busy at Highgate Primary. Let's hope that the gorgeous weather continues and that we all enjoy a wonderful run in to the summer break.

With best wishes

William Dean
Headteacher