

# Headteacher's Newsletter

## September 2010



Year 6 are first to use the new computers

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome back to the new school year. Much work has been carried out within the school over the holiday period and children have returned refreshed and enthusiastic about the year ahead. The signs are good for a successful year.

This newsletter tells you about some of these changes that have taken place at school, and provides details about the events that are coming up this term.

### New staff



There are four new members of staff who have joined our team. We welcome our new teachers Dan Norman and Lucie Capel. Dan, who is teaching in Year 3, returns to Haringey having taught in an international school in Nepal during the last year. Lucie joins us from a Southwark school and will be teaching in Reception.

In addition, we welcome Joanna Brown and Sarah Griffin to our talented team of teaching assistants.

### Building Work over the summer

You may well have noticed some of the changes to the school that have taken place over the summer period. Besides much redecoration, the most significant changes have been to the gym and the nursery and reception classrooms. The gym now has an acoustic ceiling, air conditioning and a huge storage cupboard, leaving the space free for PE, dance and drama activities. The nursery and reception classrooms have been completely modernised, with new flooring, toilets and kitchen.



2RV in the newly refurbished gym

Special thanks go to Terry and for his management of the various projects, and to his team for their excellent work. Please feel free to come in at the end of the day and have a look at the changes.

### Parents Meetings

Teaching teams from Year 1 to Year 6 will be holding welcome meetings for parents over the next week or two, in which they will outline the daily routines, the learning which will be taking place and how you can support this at home. They will also give you the opportunity to ask any questions you may have.

All meetings are taking place in the classroom and start at 3.00 pm on the following dates

Year 1	Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> September
Year 2	Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> September
Year 3	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> September
Year 4	Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> September
Year 5	Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> September
Year 6	Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> September

### School Lunches

The school continues to provide a healthy and varied lunch menu, catering for the requirements and tastes of all children. If your child would like to take a school meal, lunch money must be paid in advance, at the start of each week in the morning. Half-termly paid lunches must be paid for at the beginning of the term. If you are unable to come to the office, please send money in a sealed envelope to your child's teacher (with your child's name and class clearly marked). If your child wishes to change from packed lunch to school dinners, or vice-versa, the school office requires one week's notice. This term's lunch prices are as follows:

Weekly @ £2 per day	£10.00
First half of term	£74.00
Second half of term	£68.00
Full Term	£142.00

## Attendance and Punctuality

There was a good improvement in children's attendance and punctuality during the summer. In our final assembly, a significant number of children received certificates for 100% attendance throughout the whole year, which was a fantastic achievement. There is however definitely room for improvement in some parts of the school and I ask that parents support their children in this matter.

We ask children to arrive at school promptly at 8.55 am, and I ask parents to avoid arranging holidays during term time. If a planned absence is unavoidable, parents are requested to complete an absence request form requiring authorisation from the headteacher. If permission has not been given, absences will be recorded as unauthorised.

## Assembly times

During the summer term we held some of our class assemblies at the end of the school day. For this term we have decided to revert to the original time 9.30 am, however we will be consulting with you later in the year as to whether we hold the second class assembly at 3.00 pm. Class assemblies taking place this term are as follows:

5NL	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> September
5LBLA	Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> September
3DN	Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> October
Year 6	Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> October
Year	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October
3APBC	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October
4JS	Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> November
4MK	Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> November
2RV	Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> November

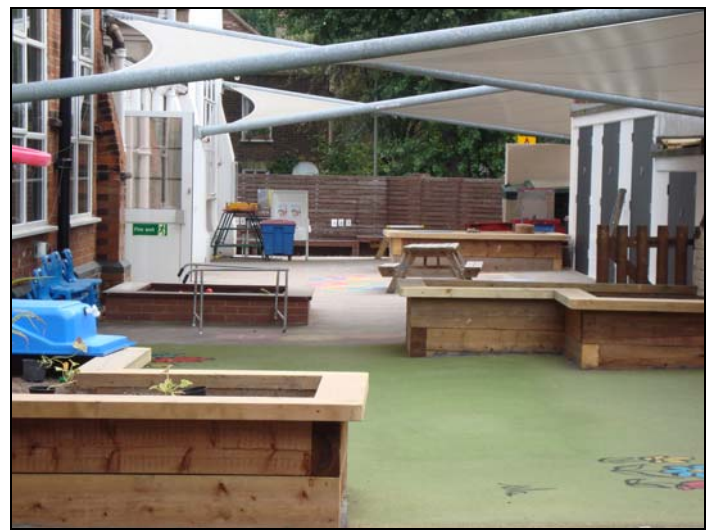
## Term Dates

Important dates for the Autumn Term are as follows:

Year 6 PGL Week	w/c 4 <sup>th</sup> October
Parent Consultations (Y1 Y6)	Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> October 4.00 – 6.00 Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> October 6.00 – 8.00
Harvest	Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> October 10.00 am
Half Term Week	w/c Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> October
Staff Training Day (School Closed)	Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> November
Christmas Performances	Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> December 10.00 am Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> December 2.00 pm
Term Ends	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> December

## Pupil Medication

If your child requires medication such as an asthma pump or an EpiPen, please ensure that the school has been informed and that you bring updated, labelled medication to our Welfare Assistant, Mrs Cook.



New planters in the Foundation Stage outdoor area

## Black History Month

Kim Slater is currently recruiting parents to help lead the school's celebrations surrounding Black History Month, which celebrates black history, achievement and culture. If you are willing to share an activity with a class at school (for example story-telling, music, cookery or family history), please speak to Kim, who can be contacted on 07950 334111.

## English lessons for parents

One of our TAs, Malwina Sadowska, has recently qualified as a teacher of English and will be running a class for parents wanting to develop their their English language skills. Classes will take place in the Children's Centre on Friday afternoons between 2.00 – 3.30. Registration takes place this Friday from 2.00 pm

As you can see, plans are well underway for a full and productive year at Highgate. I look forward to working with you this year for the benefit of all of our pupils.

Kind regards

William Dean  
Headteacher



Reception children on their first day at school