



in partnership with Blanche Nevile

Headteacher's Newsletter

April 2010

Dear Parents and Carers

Easter is upon us and after an exceptionally busy term, I think that everyone has earned themselves a well earned break! I have been engaged in pupil progress meetings this week, and it is clear that our children have made considerable progress this term. There have however still been plenty of enrichment activities to support the learning - and my newsletter brings you details of all that has been happening at school during the month of March, along with information and dates for the Summer Term.

Special assemblies

This month we have seen three hugely enjoyable class assemblies.

1EP performed their own very cleverly scripted version of the children's book, 'The Storybook Wolves' which wove all the children's favourite fairytale characters into a brilliantly acted play. 2RV performed their assembly on World Book Day, and introduced their audience to a host of book characters in a thoroughly entertaining performance. And last week class 2LG gave us a grammar lesson into how to write lively and imaginative stories with an assembly based the book 'Room on the broom'.



Inspire Events

March has also seen a number of spectacular Inspire events when the parents and children of both Year 1 classes have worked together to produce the most incredible display of houses from around the world, created from junk. I'd like to thank all the parents who came in to work with the children for what was a very rewarding and productive morning.

Sport Relief

The Sports Relief Run in Highgate Woods was a great success as all children completed four laps of the field. Thanks to Stuart for arranging this event, and to everyone who bought the rather brilliant Sports Relief socks raising over £400.

Glasses

Throughout the course of the year the school office has acquired a very impressive collection of children's spectacles. If your child has mislaid a pair, please ask in the office.

Next term's lunch prices

Just to let you know that the cost of school lunches for next term is as follows:

1st half term	£56.00
2nd half term	£70.00
Whole term	£126.00

Family Learning



This term Kim Slater has run a family learning course called 'Round and round the garden' which was attended by children and parents from Reception to Year 3. It covered aspects of plant growth, incorporated a visit to plant house in Wood Green, and finished with pond dipping in our very own pond. Thank you to all the children and parents who attended.

Rainbow Day

Our traditional Rainbow Day was celebrated at Highgate last week. Children dressed up in an incredible display of colours, we enjoyed a fun assembly, complete with a rather spectacular fashion show, and during the afternoon we arranged for a real rainbow to be present, which caused great excitement.

The children in 3LM duly retained their cup with a stunning total of 3190 colours (representing 106 colours per pupil). This is the fifth consecutive year that this cohort of children has won! And congratulations to the winners of the infants 'Rainbow Cup' which this year was 1EP with a total of 1896 colours.

Thank you to the children who dressed up and raised money for the school, and to the parent volunteers who helped count all the colours.

Writing celebration Event

Thank you to all the parents and children who attended the writing celebration event on Tuesday. This gave parents the opportunity to hear about how writing is taught throughout the school, partake in writing workshops and learn how to help support and develop children's writing at home. We have received some lovely feedback following the event, one parent saying, 'the event was excellent in every respect - please could you put this on every year?' In light of such positive feedback

the school will certainly be organising other such events in the future.

Rhythms 4 Life

Thank you so much to all the parents who completed the sample questionnaires for Rhythms 4 Life, a further questionnaire will be circulated more widely in the summer term. The group is currently developing ideas to expand horizons and create learning opportunities for children and parents of Black African and Caribbean heritage. Parents are invited to drop into the school's meeting room on Tuesdays at morning drop off or afternoon pick up, to share ideas further.

Sustainability Week

I am pleased to announce that this year the school's special curriculum week will be themed around sustainability. During the week commencing 14th June, all children will engage in a series of activities with a green theme. If you are able to contribute to the programme of events, or have any ideas or suggestions, please speak to William, Anthony or Mags, who are leading this project.

Attendance and Punctuality

The upward trend of improving attendance has continued through March, with the great majority of classes exceeding the school's target of 95%. Please could parents make every effort to continue this throughout the summer term.

Dates for Your Diary

A full diary for the summer Term will be circulated when the children return after the Easter break. If you are booking holidays, please note that we return in September slightly earlier than in previous years.

Staff Training Day School Closed	Monday 19 th April
Children return for Summer Term	Tuesday 20 th April
One World Evening	Thursday 27 th May
Half Term	w/c 31 st May
Polling day – school closed (to be confirmed)	Thursday 6 th May
Term Ends	Friday 24 th July
Autumn Term Starts	Thursday 2 nd September

Wishing you all a very happy holiday and a relaxing time over the Easter period.

Best wishes

William Dean
Headteacher



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Ofsted Inspection

Following our Ofsted inspection last week, we have had initial feedback and a draft report from the inspectors. We are thrilled with the initial response, which was very complimentary and recognised all the hard work across the community. Many areas that have been judged as particularly strong include care, guidance and support of pupils, the curriculum, the behaviour of the pupils and the extent to which they feel safe and make healthy choices. We are also particularly pleased that our partnerships were judged highly, including with you, our parents/ carers, and with Highgate Primary. We await the final report and will let you know when it arrives!

Staffing

We are saying goodbye to Jane Beavis this week, who has worked in many of the classes over the last two terms. She will be missed by the children and staff and we wish her well.

Chicken Pox

We have now had several cases of chicken pox at Blanche Nevile Primary. If your child has any symptoms, please be aware that they may have chicken pox and seek advice from the doctor if necessary.

Dates

We have had a busy, happy Spring Term. We have had many visitors to the school this term, including the two Ofsted Inspectors, and they have all remarked on how happy and confident our children are!



Terms starts again for children on Tuesday 20th April. Have a lovely holiday.

Best wishes,

Sarah McLay
Deputy Head Teacher, Primary Leader

