



in partnership with Blanche Neville

Headteacher's Newsletter December 2008



Dear Parents and carers

As we approach the Christmas period, I am writing with details of the many school events that have taken place during November, as well as bringing you news about the many exciting activities we are looking forward to in the final three weeks of term.

Imelda Staunton Visit



Children in Year 5 and 6 had a special treat last Wednesday when actress Imelda Staunton popped in to school to visit their weekly drama lesson. Imelda, who played child hating Delores Umbridge in 'Harry Potter and The Order of the Phoenix', mesmerised her young audience as she slipped into role as the Senior Under Secretary within The Ministry of Magic - before answering all the questions the children had prepared.

Assemblies

November has seen four wonderful assemblies, all very different, but all very special in their own way. 6RO took us on a musical journey through the life of Bob Marley, 2HM put on a very accomplished production of Pinocchio, 1JS presented a show called about Growing up whilst 6RV took us back to the times of Ancient Greece. The quality of these assemblies clearly showed the excellent learning which is taking place at school, and demonstrated the commitment we have to performance.

Professor Szydlo's Science Lecture

Professor Andrew Szydlo, who teaches science at Highgate School, visited our junior children earlier this month to present a lecture entitled, 'As if by Magic.....'



Professor Szydlo, who is known for his children's lectures at the Royal Institute, entertained us with a series of experiments and really caught the imagination of our children.

Football News

Whilst the school football team continues to do well in the Haringey League, I am delighted to report that our Year 3 and Year 4 football teams have also had their first football matches, competing against St Michaels School, Highgate. Although we were narrowly defeated, both teams performed exceptionally well and were really excited by the occasion. Special thanks go to Stuart for his enthusiasm and commitment with coaching and managing our young teams.

National Tree Week

National Tree week was celebrated at Highgate Primary when children took part in a series of guided walks through Highgate Woods, raising awareness of the importance of trees and learning about our native species. Thanks go to former Highgate parent Rebecca Harrison for organising the events. Parents will be able to see the work produced in the information hut over the Christmas period.





PSA News

The Highgate Quiz

The PSA quiz earlier this month was hugely successful, with a turnout of more than 100 people represented in 15 teams. Congratulations go to CJ's All-stars, who had a narrow victory over a very competitive team of teachers! More than £600 was raised during a fun evening, which will certainly be repeated next year.

Cake Sale

The cake sales continue to be hugely successful, with over £200 raised at the sale last Friday. Thank you to our PSA and everyone who supports these events.

Christmas Craft Fair

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at Saturday's Christmas Craft Fair, which is taking place at school between 12.00 and 3.00 pm.

In preparation for Saturday 6th December, the PSA invite everyone in our school community to contribute in some way to make this event an overwhelming success. Here are some of the ways you can help:

- Bring in something in for class hamper – it could be biscuits, a bottle, jam, chocolates, cheese biscuits or anything else.
- Donate something for the 'New or Nearly New' stall - things like books, CDs, soaps, bath oils, games, toys, accessories and candles are all perfect
- Volunteer to help on your class' stall
- Help set up after school - meet in the hall from 4.00 pm on Friday 5th or from 9.00am on Saturday 6th December

Full details of all the ways you can help are in the PSA class letter, which you should have received last week.

Raffle

The PSA invite you to support the school Christmas Raffle, for which the prizes include a child's bike worth £150, Christmas hampers, an Ipod Shuffle, a High school Musical Dance Mat and an M&S £50 voucher!

One book of raffle tickets will be sent home with every child in the next few days. Tickets cost 20p each or £1 for a book.

Highgate Tea Towels

The Highgate Primary and Blanche Nevile tea towels, complete with a picture of all the children in the class, have now come in - and they look great! They will be on sale at the Christmas Craft Fair priced at £3.00 each.

Book Fair



Once again the book fair was a great success. As well as raising the profile of reading in school, your purchases provided the school with over £700 worth of books, which will arrive in our class libraries in the new year.

Over 100 children entered the mask competition, which was celebrated during a special assembly. Well done to all the children who entered and congratulations to our winners Paris, Rico, Lizzy, Armando, Iris, Emily and Katarina.

Museum of Childhood



Year 5 enjoyed a very special day out at The Museum of Childhood in Bethnal Green. Seth from 5LB writes,

'it was interesting to see the difference between what life was like then and what it is like now. I was really interested in the new inventions from the Victorian times, like the children's sewing machines. I also enjoyed the small Greek warriors that richer Victorian children played with. All in all it was a very interesting trip and a good day out'

Anti-Bullying Week

We had some wonderful entries to our Anti-Bullying Week poster competition, the winner of which was Leo in 5LA, who wins a book token. You will soon see his poster displayed around the school

Helping in Schools

Kim Slater is once again organising the WEA course 'Helping in Schools' which is due to start in The Family Centre in January.

If you are interested in attending the course, there will be an introductory meeting at 2.00 pm on the 9th December in the Family Centre. Please feel free to come along or give Kim a call on 07950 334111.

Christmas Concert

Rehearsals are well underway for our Christmas performance of 'Top of The Pops' which promises to be great fun. Please come along, either at 10.00 am on Wednesday 10th or at 2.00 pm on Thursday 11th December to see the show. Without giving too much away, I can promise all your favourite Christmas tunes through the decades!

Christmas CD

On Wednesday, a professional recording studio is coming to record the children perform all the songs that you'll be hearing in our Christmas performance. This will then be produced into a Highgate Primary Christmas Top of Pops CD, which will be on sale for £10. If you would like to order a copy of the CD, please fill in the slip and return it, with the correct money, to the office by Monday 8th December, so that they can be delivered before Christmas.

The Highgate top of the Pops CD - It's the ideal Christmas gift!

Parent and Toddler Group

Just to remind you that the Parent & Toddler drop-in sessions are continuing in The Family Centre. Everyone with young children is free to pop in for a chat and a play.

Links with The Phoenix

On Monday and Tuesday, children from Year 1 right through to Year 6 will be visiting The Phoenix Cinema to see the film 'How The Grinch Stole Christmas'. This is the first event in a partnership with The Phoenix Cinema, who are developing an education programme to run during their centenary year.

Children in Reception and The Nursery will be the first children in the school to use the brand new projector and screen in the hall, which has been generously provided by both the PSA and the Hornsey Grammar School Foundation. A screening of the film 'Olive the Other Reindeer' is scheduled for next week!

Art Gallery Opening

There was an overwhelming response to the half-term art competition, and we now have many pieces of art which have been selected to go in our gallery. These pieces have all been framed ready for the public opening.

Everyone is welcome to attend this event, which will also give you the chance to see the fabulous displays in the hall. Please pop in to the lower corridor and the hall after school on Friday 5th of December.



Do you recognise these stars from the 1980s?

Important dates for your diaries

With so much going on, here is a reminder of the key dates for the rest of term.

Fri 5th Dec	Opening of Art Gallery 3.30 pm
Sat 6th Dec	Christmas Craft Fair 12.00 – 3.00 pm
Wed 10th Dec	Christmas performance 10.00 am
Thu 11th Dec	Christmas performance 2.00 pm
Tue 16th Dec	Children's Christmas Parties
Fri 19th Dec	Term Ends
Mon 5th Jan	Training Day – School Closed
Tue 6th Jan	Children return to school

School Photographs

You should by now have received samples of your child/children's photos. If you haven't yet placed your order, please return your form to the office as soon as possible. If you are paying by cash, please could you enclose the exact money in the envelope provided.

The deadline for photographs is 12.00 noon on Friday 12th December. Unfortunately any late requests cannot be accepted by school, however you can order direct from Churchbury Photographers by calling them on 017076 53473.

Traffic and Parking

I am aware that in recent weeks there have been a couple of potentially serious incidents which have arisen as a direct result of inconsiderate or unlawful parking around the school. Please could parents who either drop off or collect children from school ensure that the zig-zag area is kept clear and that double parking is avoided. I thank you for consideration on this matter.

Website

Thank you to Nicole Taub, who is regularly updating our website to ensure it is both current and informative. Please visit us at:

www.highgate-primary.org.uk

As you can see, there is a great deal to look forward to during what I know will be a very busy last three weeks of term. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the fair on Saturday, which promises to be a very special event.

Kind regards

William Dean
Headteacher

Stop press... I have just been reliably informed that it is the real Santa who will be at the Christmas Craft Fair on Saturday.



Lynne Featherstone MP visiting school earlier this month

Blanche Nevile Newsletter



Floella comes to Blanche Nevile....



We had a special visit from Floella Benjamin on Friday to present a special prize to Theo Thomas Afonso. Theo won the Variety Club 'Easy Riders' Christmas card competition and we had a special assembly where Floella presented Theo and Blanche Nevile School with a prize. Theo won a digital camera and the game 'Frustration' and the school now has two new digital cameras to use for school projects and class work. Well done Theo!

NDCS Fingerspellathon

Thank you to all the families from Blanche Nevile and Highgate Primary who supported our fundraising event. We raised a total of £224.10, which will go to the National Deaf Children's Society towards helping deaf children and their families.

Whole school community events

Please see the dates for the Christmas Fair and the Christmas performances – all parents and carers are welcome to join us. We look forward to seeing you there.

Looking forward to a rich and fulfilling end of term

Sarah McLay