



in partnership with Blanche Nevile

## Headteacher's Newsletter December 2009



Dear parents and carers,

The first term has slipped by, with just a fortnight to the end of term – but a busy couple of weeks they are going to be. The December newsletter gives details of the events surrounding Christmas at Highgate Primary, as well as bringing you news about school activities last month.

### Alice in Wonderland



Rehearsals are well underway for a very ambitious production of Alice in Wonderland featuring a cast of more than 400! Parents are invited to come and see their children perform on the day when they are on stage, which is as follows:

Wed 9th December 10.00 am	Nam, RLM, 1EP, 2LG 3EH, 4MK, 5LB/DB and 6PB
Thursday 10th December 2.00 pm	Npm, RTB, 1SM, 2RV, 3LM, 4JS, 5NL and 6RO

On the day when the classes are not on stage, the children are still performing as part of the chorus. On that day, children are asked to dress as a professional choir, wearing black trousers and white shirts or tops.

### 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. Highlights include a buy and wrap stall, the cake shop, various arts and craft stalls, a tombola, raffle and of course, Santa's grotto!

### Christmas Lunch

The school's Christmas Lunch is being held on Wednesday 16th December. Children who normally take a packed lunch are invited to join in at a cost of £2.00. Please inform the office if you would like your child to have a school meal on that day.

### Post-box

The Christmas post-box for pupil post is currently being dusted down and will be in place in the entrance hall on Monday morning.

### Last month.....

#### Assemblies

November has seen some wonderful assemblies. Year 6 entertained the school with tales from their adventures at both PGL and Aerial Extreme, 3EH entertained us with performance poetry inspired by their visit to see poet Michael Rosen and today 3LM put on a very accomplished production of 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' - in French. The quality of these assemblies shows the excellent learning which is taking place at school.

#### Aerial Extreme

Children at Highgate and Blanche Nevile who were unable to be at PGL enjoyed a brilliant day out at Aerial Extreme in Milton Keynes. The adventure course was hugely challenging and tested the nerve of all the children. As expected the children all rose to the occasion, overcame their fears and had a great day out.

#### Year 5 Theatre Trip

Children in Year 5 took the train down to The Wimbledon Theatre to see a performance of 'James and The Giant Peach'. This was a brilliant way to bring to life the learning which has taken place within their Roald Dahl author study, and a memorable experience for everyone who attended.

#### The Highgate Quiz



Thank you to everyone who attended the PSA Quiz earlier this month, to which nearly 100 people attended. Normal service was resumed as the staff team rightfully ended up 'top of the class' and around £400 was raised during a fun evening.

## Museum of London

As part of their historical study of the Great Fire of London, children in Year 2 enjoyed a lovely day out at the Museum of London. The class learnt all about the fire through the many artefacts and exhibits, and returned as experts of the events of 1666.

## November



Just to say a special thank-you to the children, staff and parents who have supported the school's Movember campaign, which has so far raised nearly £400 for the Prostate Cancer Charity.

## Cake Sales

The cake sales continue to be hugely successful, and this year half of the money is going directly to the classes organising the event - to spend on resources for the classrooms. Thank you to our PSA and everyone who supports these popular events.

## National Tree Week



National Tree week was celebrated at Highgate Primary when children took part in a series of fun-filled sessions in Highgate Woods. The fun included art activities and games as well as tree climbing. Thanks go to former Highgate parent Rebecca Harrison for organising the events. Parents will be able to see some of the children's work produced in the information hut over the Christmas period.

## Ocean Maths

Thank you to all the parents who came along to the Ocean Maths mornings this term, which have now been held for Year 4, 5 and 6. The mornings showed the enjoyment that can

come through the maths games, investigations and puzzles that will form the basis of maths homework this year.

## 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.

Many children entered the 'Letter to Santa' competition, the winners of which will be announced shortly.

## Victorian Day



As part of their history topic about the Victorians, children in Year 5 took part in a Victorian day at school. The day began with a bible reading from the headmaster, after which the pupils took part in range of lessons from the past. During the afternoon Mr Lynch introduced the boys to woodwork, whilst Mrs Berry taught the girls sewing. The day gave our children an insight into how some things at school have changed a great deal, whilst others have stayed the same.

## Inspire



Earlier this week, parents in 5LB came to school and worked alongside their children on a science challenge which resulted in each pair making a rather wonderful lava lamp.

This was the first 'Inspire' event of the school year, and other classes will be following suit after Christmas.

## Other News....

### Playground Buddies

Last month we successfully appointed a new team of Year 6 Playground Buddies. Their job is to support younger children during the lunch break - and we're really pleased to say that they have made a great start! The Buddies have already had some 'playground-games' training and will receive some coaching training in the New Year from Riaan (a professional sports coach known to most of our children through Kickabout Football club).

### Children's Centre

Building Work on the Children's Centre is well on its way and is on schedule to be open in late February. The roof is on, the windows are in and the painters have begun the final task of decorating the new centre.

There are a whole range of services that have already been commissioned that families will be able to access once we are open, which include:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Baby weighing</li><li>• Breast feeding groups</li><li>• Return to work support</li><li>• Adult learning classes</li><li>• Smoking cessation</li><li>• Parenting classes</li><li>• Toddler and baby sleep support</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Movers and Shakers</li><li>• Homeopathic clinic</li><li>• Family Support</li><li>• Child minder crèches</li><li>• Baby Yoga</li><li>• Baby Massage</li></ul>
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This is not the complete list and a fuller programme will be released nearer to the time of opening. We very much want to know the types of services you would like and in the New Year I will be introducing you to the new Monitoring and Information Officer, whose job it is to meet with the local community and gather this information. Our aim is for a shared service so expect our initial programme to change as needs change.

### School Funding

You may well have read recently that schools in Haringey actually receive less money than schools in neighbouring boroughs, even though the education challenge in Haringey is the same, if not greater, than elsewhere. Next year (2010/11) for example, Haringey schools will receive £1,318 less per pupil than neighbouring Hackney. I am therefore encouraging parents to support a campaign to review this arrangement. Parents can register their support on line at

<http://bit.ly/schoolpetition>

### A Greener School

Being a greener school was identified as a key area for our school vision and our newsletters will aim to keep you up-to-date with the green activities that taking place within school. One of our aims in 2010 is to achieve our Green Flag Eco School Status, having achieved silver in 2009 and bronze in 2008. There will be plenty more news over the year explaining how you can help, but one key aspect is our Parent Mail service.



This was set up to enable the school to e-mail school letters directly to parents. At the moment we have 75% of the school signed up, however our aim is to increase this to 100%. If you are currently not subscribed, please look out for a personalised letter coming to you in the next few days. In addition, you can subscribe via the school's website and download the ParentMail form which can be e-mailed back to school. As well as saving the school a great deal of money, this will help us to dramatically reduce our paper and ink use.

### Leading Parent Partnership Award .....



As the school prepares for our final visit to gain accreditation for the work it does to support parents, the newsletter gives details of some of the things the school is doing under the LPPA heading:

### Black History Celebration

Thanks to everyone who supported the Black History Month celebration evening and bought raffle tickets, from which a donation of £367 will be made to the Sickle Cell Foundation.

### Helping in Schools

Kim Slater would like to remind parents that the next 'Helping in Schools' course will be running at Tetherdown Primary School, starting on 5th January. If you are thinking of doing the course, you will need to phone Gail Dawson from the Workers Education Association to register (tel 020 8677 2993) and complete a forms which is available from the school office.

## Important dates for your diary

Please make sure you have these dates in your diaries

Christmas Craft Fair	Saturday 5th December
Christmas Performance	Wed 9th December 10.00 am
Christmas Performance	Thursday 10th December 2.00 pm
Christmas Parties	Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> December (separate letter to follow)
Christmas Lunch	Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December
Term Ends	Friday 18th December
Staff training day	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2010
First day of term	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2010

As you can see there is a lot of exciting learning taking place in school and November has been extremely busy at Highgate Primary. Let's now enjoy the festivities and look forward to well earned rest!

With best wishes



William Dean  
Headteacher



## Blanche Nevile Primary News

### Gulliver's Land

Thanks to the Variety Club, we had free tickets again this year to see Santa Claus in his grotto and enjoy many exciting activities at Gulliver's Land in Milton Keynes this Friday. All Blanche Nevile children and all Year 3 children from Highgate Primary went again this year - a lovely inclusion opportunity to share a treat! The cost for the coaches was kindly donated by the Hornsey Parochial Charities.

### BSL classes for parents – Blanche Nevile and Highgate

We are delighted to announce that the BSL level 2 course for parents and governors will start on Monday 11th January from 10:00 – 12:00. Those currently on level one will continue onto the level 2 course and you will be joined by parents who already have level 1. If you have been waiting for this course and you have not received confirmation of your place, please see Jenny in the office who will confirm your place.



### Pizza Express trip

Anna Smith's class and Anna Kinsella's class went on a trip to Pizza Express, where they were taught how to make a pizza! They had a lovely morning and enjoyed eating their results!

### Christmas activities

Parents and carers are warmly invited to come along to the school performance of Alice in Wonderland next week – either on Wednesday 9th at 10am or Thursday 10th at 2pm.

Best wishes,

Sarah McLay  
Deputy Head Teacher, Primary Leader