



in partnership with Blanche Nevile

Headteacher's Newsletter February 2009



A few who made it to school!

Dear Parents and carers

January has come and gone and much has been achieved. The Spring Term always seems to be a productive one with the focus very much on teaching and learning - we look forward to telling you about your children's progress at the parent consultations next week.

February's newsletter contains news about events so far this term and has some important reminders that will help to make for a successful term.

Attendance and Punctuality

Thank you to all the parents and children who have been making a special effort to be in school on time. The new lining-up procedures seem to be working well, with several classes seeing a dramatic improvement in their punctuality. We have introduced a cup for the class with best punctuality each week, our first two winners have been 4MK and 5LA.

There is however definitely room for improvement and I ask all parents and carers to really try to get children to school for the start of the day. Please have a look at the notice-board to see how well your class is doing.

Snow Days

Thank you for being so understanding of my decision to close the school earlier in the week. Faced without school meals, a skeleton staff and a forecast of more snow, it seemed the sensible thing to do. It did however raise a few questions about how we communicate with parents and carers at short notice. For your information, we are in the process of setting up a system enabling us to send e-mail and text messages, which should be operational in the Summer Term. In the meantime, information is always available on the school website, which can be found at:

www.highgate-primary.org.uk

Inconsiderate Parking

I am becoming increasingly concerned at the parking situation in the neighbouring roads at collection and drop off time. Whilst the school does not have responsibility for policing the roads, it does have a duty to promote the safety of children on their journeys to and from school.

Suffice to say that research very clearly shows that double parking, and parking on the protected zone outside schools, where children are crossing the road, increase the chances of an accident. Please could parents take this advice on board in order to keep our children safe.

Parent Consultations

Just to remind you that parent consultation meetings are taking place on Wednesday 11th and Thursday 12th February. You should by now have received a slip advising you of the meeting time. If you are unable to make these two dates, your child's teacher will be happy to arrange an alternative time in order to share your child's learning targets for the rest of the year.

Pupil Numbers

I am delighted to report that the annual school census shows that pupil numbers at Highgate Primary have increased since this time last year, and we now officially have 398 children on roll.

Fortismere consultation

All Haringey schools have been asked to advise parents of the official consultation process regarding the proposed changes to the school's admissions arrangement for September 2010. The main change is the proposed admission of up to ten percent of students on the basis of musical aptitude.

If you have any comments that you would like them to consider, please submit them in writing by March 1st 2009 to: The Clerk to Governors, Fortismere, Tetherdown, Muswell Hill, London, N10 1NE.

Further information can be found at www.fortismere.haringey.sch.uk/?_id=481

Yellow Pages Challenge



We have made a brilliant start to our defence of the Yellow Pages Challenge, which we won last year. Just to let you know, the last day for collection is Monday, so if you have any old Yellow Pages that can be recycled, please bring them to the school reception area.

Nits

The start of the new year has once again seen the return of our friend the head lice! Just to say, please don't worry - lice aren't dangerous and they don't spread disease, but they are contagious and can be annoying. It's therefore always a good idea to regularly check your child's hair. For sound advice, a good link is:

www.kidshealth.org/parent/infections/common/lice

Sugar Plum Storytime

CBeebies Radio came to Highgate Primary at the start of term to record 'Sugarplum Storytime'. A group of children in Reception and Year 1 worked with a professional cellist and pianist, and contributed to a new children's story which will be broadcast later in the year.



Special assemblies

Last week children in 4MK entertained the school with a splendid assembly which looked at the lives of children in Britain during the Second World War.

Earlier in the week children from Year 1 to Year 6 celebrated the start of The Year of the Ox with a Chinese New Year assembly. Hopefully your children will be able to tell you why the Ox is the second animal in the Chinese zodiac!

The school also marked Martin Luther King's birthday with a special assembly which looked at issues of prejudice and how they can be overcome – quite fitting the day before the inauguration of the new President.

The Giving Machine

A number of parents and carers have already registered with 'The Giving Machine' and are raising money for the school every time they shop online. If you are yet to do so, please consider registering by going to:

www.TheGivingMachine.co.uk

The site gives access to all the main online stores whilst, by selecting Highgate Primary School, London, a percentage of all sales is forwarded to our school. To register takes no more than a couple of minutes.

That's all for now. Wishing you fun and fulfilling February.

William Dean
Headteacher

Blanche Nevile Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are very pleased to announce that we can now update our website regularly! Weekly newsletters are now available to view - Let us know what you think of the website at www.blanchenevile.org.uk

Chinese New Year



children enjoyed working and learning with each other.

We had a lovely Chinese New Year celebration last Monday afternoon. Children took part in various activities and learnt about Chinese culture and the story of Chinese New Year. It was a lovely opportunity to all work together across the year groups and the

Parent consultations

Our Blanche Nevile parents evening is on Wednesday 4th March from 4pm to 6:30pm. You will have a chance to discuss your child's progress with their teacher. A letter will be sent out next week inviting you to choose times that suit you.

NDCS assembly

The Deputy Director of the National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS) is coming to the secondary department next Thursday 12th February to talk to children and parents about how the NDCS can support young people and their families. Anna Smith's class will go by minibus to attend the assembly. Parents of all children are invited to come along. If you would like a chance to find out what the NDCS can do to support you and your child, please do come along to the secondary department at 2pm on Thursday 12th February.



This has been a short but exciting week at school! It has been lovely to see the children enjoying the snow safely, and it has stimulated some lovely work in the classes. Thank you and best wishes for 2009

Sarah McLay
Deputy Head Teacher, Primary Leader

