



in partnership with Blanche Nevile

Headteacher's Newsletter January 2009



Dear Parents and carers

Welcome Back

Warmer weather may yet seem a way off, but welcome to the Spring Term! It has been lovely to see the children return to school looking so refreshed after the Christmas break. The staff were in school on Monday, completing the preparations for what I'm sure will be a successful and rewarding 2009 at Highgate Primary.

Events last term

As you know, the month of December was an extremely busy time, with so many exciting activities for the children. The highlight for me was the delightful Christmas concerts at the end of term. I'd like to thank everyone who attended and I am pleased to inform you that the school community raised very nearly £400 from the collection for the Congo Relief Fund.

Christmas Craft Fair

I'd also like to thank the PSA and everyone who came along to the Christmas Craft Fair. The afternoon had a very special atmosphere and it was a lovely way for our school community to get together. What's more, it raised an incredible £2500, which will be used to promote children's enjoyment and learning at school.

Art Gallery

I am especially pleased with the new art gallery which has transformed the main corridor in the school. Just before Christmas, children had the opportunity to vote for their favourite piece of work.

The overall winner was Armando Allen who produced a beautiful mixed media piece. The runners-up were Nell Pizey for her wonderful 'Tooth Fairy' and Lola Coombes for her spectacular canvas titled 'Sunset over treetops'. Thank you to all the children who entered the competition and well done to

our winners. This is just the start – other pieces of outstanding work will be added as we go through the year.

Attendance and Punctuality



The start of a new year is an appropriate time to remind everyone about the importance of good attendance and punctuality. Indeed, I propose that this becomes the New Year's resolution for Highgate Primary School!

With regard to attendance, I am concerned to note that overall attendance at school is currently running at around 93% (our target is close to 95%). Clearly there was a lot of illness around in the lead up to the holiday, but there was also a lot of time spent out of school for other reasons. I would like to make the point that time out of school is learning time lost forever, and to ask parents to ensure that holidays are taken during school holidays.

I have also noticed that at the end of term, the number of children in line at 8.55 was on occasions very low. With this in mind we are introducing an important change to the routine at the start of the morning.

Changes to the start of the school day

Children from Reception through to Year 6, are expected to be in school at 8.55 am every day. The playgrounds will be supervised from 8.45 am and teaching staff will be in the playground at 8.55, when parents and carers will have an opportunity to pass on any essential information to their child's teacher. The bell will be rung at 9.00 am, when children will line up. The number of children present in the line will be recorded at this point – if children are not lined up, they are late. The numbers of children on time will be shared in our newsletters and classes with excellent or improving punctuality will be celebrated in school assemblies.



Alessandra Dakovic 'Autumn'

Another change will be that children in Year 1 and 2 will now be lining up in the top playground, which will ease the congestion as the children come in to the school building.

Should your child arrive late to school, it is essential that you report their arrival to the school office immediately.

I ask that parents really support this as I believe it sets the tone for the school day and will have a positive impact on children's learning.

Procedures for the end of the school day

Procedures at the end of the day will remain unchanged, however I again urge parents and carers to ensure that children are picked up promptly at 3.30 pm.

The Giving Machine

Parents and carers who do their shopping online are invited to raise money for the school by shopping through a website called The Giving Machine:

The site gives access to all the main online stores whilst, by selecting Highgate Primary School, London, a percentage of all sales will be forwarded to our school! To register takes no more than a couple of minutes. There is a link to the website on our homepage, or you can go direct by using:

www.TheGivingMachine.co.uk

The Giving Machine™

Free Cash Donations to Highgate Primary School

It only takes a few minutes to register on the Giving Machine website, and then you can start shopping!

You can generate free cash donations for our school every time you shop online. It will not cost you anything extra - the online shop pays the donation on your behalf.

The Giving Machine™:

- Makes shopping online easy
- Has the best selection of top shopping sites including: Amazon, eBay, Dell, John Lewis etc.
- Every purchase triggers a cash donation on your behalf - at no cost to you
- Clearly states how much will be donated
- Respects your privacy at all times
- A not for profit company

“Last year I gave £86 in cash donations to my daughter's school. Why wouldn't I when it cost me nothing personally?”

Parent, Herts & Essex High School, Bishop's Stortford

You shop, they give

www.TheGivingMachine.co.uk

Events this term

Once again this promises to be a very busy term. Below are details of some of the events that are planned for the Spring Term:

Children's Centre

We have just received the excellent news that planning permission has finally been granted for the building of the Children's Centre at Highgate Primary School - which means that we are now in a position to go full steam ahead for its opening in the Autumn Term this year.

As you may know, our Deputy Headteacher, Anthony David, is leading this project and invites all members of the school community to a short presentation in the family Centre at 9.00 am on Wednesday 11th February, when plans for the Children Centre will be unveiled!

Year 6 SATS Meeting

Parents and carers of children in Year 6 are invited to an important meeting to give information about the forthcoming SATs, which take place throughout w/c 11th May. The meeting will provide information about the teaching arrangements this term and address the ways in which parents can best support their children in the preparation for the tests.

The meeting will take place at 6.00 pm on Thursday 15th January in the school hall. Please could parents and carers make every effort to attend.

Proud to be me

This term's course for parents/carers and their children is an art and photography project, providing the opportunity to work with artists to produce family portraits. The course runs on Friday afternoons in the Family Centre starting on Friday 16th January. For more information there is a separate letter going home, or speak to Kim Slater, either at school or by giving her a call on 07950 334111.

Helping in Schools

The next 'Helping in Schools' course starts on the 13th January, for which there are still a few places left. Please speak to Kim on the above number if you are interested in attending.

Women like us Coffee Morning



A coffee morning is being held in the Family Centre at 9.15 on Wednesday 21st January to introduce interested parents to an organisation called 'Women like us' - an award-winning social enterprise, supporting women with their working lives while specialising in part-time recruitment for local employers.

Everyone is welcome to attend, however I should point out that a small BBC film crew will be present! They plan to use the footage within a two-part documentary entitled 'Women and

Work', which will be broadcast later in the year (please note that it is possible to attend and not be filmed, so please don't let this put you off!). There will be a separate letter about this event coming home next week.

Breakfast Club

The school breakfast club has now been running for two years and celebrated its birthday with a party at the end of last term.

We still have a few places. The club is open from 8.00 am and offers children a substantial breakfast, the chance to chat with friends and play a variety of games, both inside and out - all before school starts.

If you are interested in sending your children along, please pop into the Dining Centre before school and speak to Penny.



Children at Breakfast Club celebrate its 2nd birthday

Year 1 and 2 Multi-skills League

We have just learnt that our Years 2 team has won the 'Haringey Multi-Skills League', whilst our team from Year 1 were runners-up. At the end of last term 20 children represented the school in a series of sporting challenges. The scores from all the schools who took part were collated, and Highgate Primary came out on top! Well done to all our sporting stars of the future.

As you can see Highgate Primary continued to be a vibrant community, and plans are afoot for another rich and fulfilling term,

With best wishes for 2009

William Dean
Headteacher



Blanche Nevile Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year to all our families!

Unicorn Theatre trip

Next Friday, all Blanche Nevile children will be on a trip to the theatre to see a British Sign Language integrated performance of Sleeping Beauty. Please see the separate letter for details and send back the permission slip.

BSL classes

We are very pleased to be starting our new BSL level 1 course for parents of Blanche Nevile and Highgate children. The course is now full and the first lesson is on Monday 12th January starting at 10am. Please come to the group room upstairs in the Blanche Nevile department. Emma Iliffe, our BSL Tutor, is looking forward to working with you.

Weather

Whilst the weather is so cold, please could you make sure your child has adequate clothing to keep them warm at playtimes. Any hats, gloves and scarves must have your child's name on to avoid items being lost.

Thank you and best wishes for 2009,

Sarah McLay
Deputy Head Teacher, Primary Leader



Cherylle Manzeke 'Sunshine on tall buildings and houses'