



in partnership with Blanche Nevile

Headteacher's Newsletter January 2010



Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome Back

Warmer weather may still be 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 and enjoying the seasonal weather. As you know, the month of December was an extremely busy time, with so many exciting activities for the children, the highlight of which was of course the amazing performance of Alice in Wonderland.

Fun in the Snow



Firstly I would like to formally say a big thank-you to our wonderful staff who made it in through the snow this week and enabled the school to remain open. It was lovely to see so many children having so much fun. The snow on Wednesday enabled us to have a whole school art and design technology lesson. All children had the opportunity to enter an art competition as our playground was transformed into a stunning sculpture park. My personal favourite was a snow massage

chair complete with TV and remote control, and the overall winner was a beautiful snow seal made by Eloise Lamb and Mae Oakley in Year 5.

The school will endeavour to do it's best to remain open whenever possible, however there are some circumstances which could necessitate closure, for example sufficient staff being able to make their way in, being able to provide hot meals and ensuring the site is safe. We will continue to keep the website up-to-date, post notices around the school and use Parentmail as appropriate.

Alice in Wonderland



The school has received so many comments about our performance of Alice in Wonderland which was performed to parents in December. As I said at the time, the thing that pleased me most was the enjoyment and learning that came through the process, with all children enjoying the story, learning new songs, producing art work and participating in dance. In addition, the quality of the acting was exceptional. Thank you to all the staff who contributed such a lot to make this project so worthwhile.

Aladdin

On the last day of term the children enjoyed another superb performance by The Highgate Players, who once again visited the school to put on a performance of Aladdin.

Guitar Concert

Another highlight at the end of last term was the Year 4 guitar and violin concert performed to children and parents. It was lovely to see the progress that all the children (and staff) have made in learning their instruments as well as the pride which they showed. The lessons will be continuing throughout the year and we look forward to hearing the children again later this term.

Children's Centre

With the building work nearing completion and key personnel now in place, I am very pleased to announce that the date for the opening of the Children's Centre at Highgate Primary is Monday 22nd February 2010.

Working alongside our Head of Centre, Anthony David, is Information Officer, Kate Imeson and Admin Officer Katherine Nashnush. Many of you will know Kate from her work with the PSA and our Reception classes, and Katherine from the school office. They are currently working with organisations to provide the broad range of services which the centre will offer.

Attendance and Punctuality



The start of the New Year is an appropriate time to remind everyone about the importance of good attendance and punctuality.

Clearly there was a lot of illness around in the lead up to the holiday, and many families have found it difficult to get in with the snow. However there has also been 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. Please could parents make every effort to ensure that children are in school wherever possible and that holidays are taken during school holidays.

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 are scheduled to take place throughout w/c 10th 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 in the school hall at 6.00 pm on Thursday 21st January. Please could parents and carers make every effort to attend.

Action Aid Collection

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Christmas collection for Action Aid. A total of £270 was raised, enough to equip four classrooms in a school in a developing country as well as provide it with one teacher for a year.

Building Reading Communities

As part of World Book Day, the school has made a commitment to support a project called 'Building Reading Communities', through which groups of children will have the opportunity to be read a story in an unusual or exciting location. Please speak to me or Ruth if you have any ideas with regard to locations.

And finally

I have attached all the key dates for this term. As you can see, a great deal has been planned. I look forward to a successful and rewarding 2010 at Highgate Primary.

With kind regards

William Dean

Important dates for your diary

Year 6 SATS meetings 6.00 pm	Thursday 21 st January
5NL Class Assembly	Friday 29 th January
Nursery Cake Sale	Friday 29 th January
2RV Inspire Event	Wednesday 3 rd February
Year 3 Science Museum Trip	Wednesday 3 rd February
2LG Inspire Event	Thursday 4 th February
1SM Class Assembly	Friday 5 th February
3LM Inspire Event	Thursday 11 th February
5LB Class Assembly	Friday 12 th February
Half Term Week	w/c 15 th February
Children's Centre Opening	Monday 22 nd February
5NL Inspire Event	Friday 26 th February
3LM Class Assembly	Friday 26 th February
2RV World Book Day Assembly	Friday 5 th March
Parent Consultations 4.00 – 6.00 pm	Wednesday 10 th March
Parent Consultations 6.00 – 8.00 pm	Thursday 11 th March
1EP Class Assembly	Friday 12 th March
2LG Class Assembly	Friday 19 th March
Year 2 Cake Sale	Friday 19 th March
Rainbow Day	Friday 26 th March
Year 6 Legoland Trip	Tuesday 30 th March
Term Ends	Thursday 1 st April
Staff Training Day School Closed	Monday 19 th April
Children return for Summer Term	Tuesday 20 th April

