

Headteacher's Newsletter July 2009

Dear parents and carers,

The school year has now come to an end, and what a year it has been. It has certainly been the busiest I've ever experienced, and the time has raced by. I hope you'll agree that much has been achieved, and the many highlights from the last month are testament to the strength of our school community.

Year 6 Leavers

I have to say that our year 6 leavers' show was indeed a triumph. Rather than describe the performance myself I thought I would quote from a letter I received today:

'The whole show was fantastic, great, terrific, manifique. It couldn't have been bettered. The sheer exuberance and enjoyment shown by the cast ensured that we were all carried along by its message of friendship. Great fun, and a wonderful learning experience in so many ways.'



Congratulations go to all the cast who worked so well as a team, and of course to the Year 6 staff Ruth, Regan, Beverley and Brenda for their enthusiasm and extraordinary commitment to produce something so ambitious.

Today's leavers assembly was a very emotional occasion and reflected the fondness the children have for Highgate Primary. We of course wish the children well at their new secondary schools and look forward to welcoming them back to hear their exciting news. They will be missed.

The Highgate Festival

The sun shone as the school community enjoyed a glorious day at our own Highgate Festival a fortnight ago. There were so many highlights from the day. Top of my list was the quality of the musical entertainment, provided by staff, pupils, past pupils and parents, although the cakes were quite good too!

I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the success of the day, in particular Kate and the PSA for both their dedication and commitment in organising such a great day for the school.



Sports Day

I was delighted with the recent sports days that were held at St Michael's School and the positive feedback from children, parents and staff suggests that the change in format has been successful.

Congratulations to all the children who took part and competed in such a good spirit. Well done to all our medal winners who were presented with their medals in a special assembly last week.

Finally, thank you so much to Stuart and to Regan for their hard work organising the events which ran so smoothly.

The Wizard of Oz



Congratulations to Year 2 for their spectacular performance of The Wizard of Oz, which was presented the school earlier this month. The quality of the acting, singing and dancing was of the highest quality, and the children showed just what a talented year group they are.

Proud to be me

Artwork created through the family learning project was recently exhibited at the Highgate Scientific and Literary Society. It was a great opportunity for the school's artwork to be shown to a wider audience. A private view on the Thursday was a lovely occasion for the artists to share their work with friends and family.



Emilie Jolie

Children in Year 3, 4 and 5 presented their musical production of 'Emilie Jolie' to the rest of the school on Wednesday. Not only did they present the story beautifully, but they did it all in French! The children have got a great deal out of their involvement in this project and thanks go to Nadine for her hard work and enthusiasm for attempting, and succeeding with such an ambitious piece of work.

Leavers

In case you missed last week's letter, I thought it appropriate to give a special thank you to the members of staff for whom today is their last day at Highgate Primary.

Sarah Kennedy is leaving Highgate Primary to take up a post at a school in Hackney, where she will become the school's Special Educational Needs Coordinator. Sarah, who started here as a newly qualified teacher, has been with us for six years. As well as being a fabulous teacher she has been a very effective maths leader and member of our leadership team. She has been a huge asset to the school and will be missed by all. We wish her well.

Emma Zytynski is relocating away from London down to Sussex. Emma has worked in our nursery for three years and has had a significant impact on so many of the children who have started their learning journey in the nursery. We will all miss her.

Maria Beck is leaving Highgate Primary to spend more time with her family. Maria has had a fantastic year in Reception and has also helped the school's teaching of foreign languages to move on. We will miss Maria - we wish her well and await news.

Nicola is leaving Highgate today, to take up the challenge of joining the London Fire Service as a fire fighter. Nicola will be greatly missed by everyone within the school community,

particularly the children whom she has supported so well. We look forward to welcoming her back (along with her new colleagues and fire engine).

Chair of Governors

Nari Gandhi has recently announced that he is to step down as Chair of Governors. Nari has played a significant role in the leadership and development of the school during his six years on the governing body and has been absolutely committed to promoting the school and improving provision for our pupils. I would like to thank Nari for his contribution to the school and will miss his expertise, insight and support.

Dates for your Diary

The term dates were circulated in my last newsletter and are available on the school website, however the really important date is Monday 7th September when we return for the new school year.

In the meantime, thank you so much for your support this year and for helping me to settle in to my new school - next year, of course, I won't be quite so new!

Have a restful and relaxing summer and I look forward to seeing you back and refreshed on the 7th.

Best wishes

William Dean
Headteacher

