



in partnership with Blanche Nevile

## Headteacher's Newsletter May 2009

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing with news of the many events which have taken place in the last few weeks at school, and provide you with diary dates for the final part of the school year. As you will see a great deal has happened in recent weeks, and there is more to come!

### OFSTED Inspection

As you know, last week was inspection week. Although the report is yet to be published, the indications are that we will get a report that accurately reflects our wonderful school community. I would like to thank all the staff who worked tirelessly over the Bank Holiday weekend with the final preparations, and to thank you for your support - the lead inspector reported an overwhelming response to the questionnaires. The final report is scheduled to be published soon after half term, and I will forward it to you at that point.

### Choir Festival



Congratulations to Hilla, Stuart and our stunning school choir for their performance at the North London Choir Festival. The choir received an 'outstanding' grade, as well as some excellent comments from the judges. To be runners-up at such a prestigious event represents a fantastic achievement for the school. If you would like to hear our choir sing, their next performance will be at the school music concert, at 4.30 pm on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June.

### Parentmail

Just to let you know that Parentmail, the school's e-mail and texting service, is very close to being up and running. The data has been added to the system and training is scheduled for next week. Expect your first messages next half term.

### English Pocket Opera

The visit by English Pocket Opera to our children was one of the most memorable performances I have ever experienced in a school. To have world class opera singers at Highgate was an inspiration to many, and I know it left quite an impression on

our children. Our choir are now working with the opera company for a performance of Cinderella at the Unicorn Theatre next half term.

### Parent Survey

The results of the school Parent and Carer's survey have now been collated. Although the feedback was overwhelmingly positive, a number of interesting issues were raised. The findings will provide useful information when setting school priorities for next year, and I will be writing to parents with a summary of your responses after half term.

### School Trips



There have been a number of very exciting trips this term. Last week, children in the Nursery went on a mini-beast hunt in Highgate Wood, Year 3 visited Roald Dahl's house and our Year 4 children enjoyed a conservation day on Hampstead Heath.

### Long Service Award

We had a very special assembly last week during which our meal-time supervisors Rita Cook, Doreen Brown and Eileen Hoodless were all presented with long service awards for their contribution to our school. All three have a very long association with the school. Eileen attended the school as a child, as did her own children, Rita's children (and grandchildren) were at Highgate, and Doreen started here as a volunteer in Nursery when her grand-daughter joined the school. I would like to thank all three valued members of staff for their contribution to our children's wellbeing and enjoyment of school.

### Parent Support Advisor

I am very pleased to introduce you to Simona, who has joined our staff as a Parent Support Advisor. As you know, children's achievement is strongly influenced by the school, however the most important factor in their success is our role as parents - and I know from experience that sometimes this is not an easy job. Simona will be working at school every Monday and Tuesday after half term, and her main aim is to support you. The school is hosting a Coffee Morning on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May at 9.15 am in the Family centre. If you would like to pop in for a coffee and a chat, and say hello to Simona, please feel free to come along.

### International Week

Plans are well underway for our International Week which is taking place at school during the week starting 8th June. This event promises to be a fun-filled opportunity for children to

explore the world from both a geographical and cultural perspective. Please contact either Julia or Livia if you are willing to volunteer your services to support or lead an activity during the week.

### School Meals Competition



Congratulations to all the children who entered the School Menu Competition, and especially to our overall winner, Otto Reason for his recipe for Grandpa's Sauce (because Grandpa Imeson makes it) which was presented in the form of a slideshow. All the children are looking at menu options in their classes, and we plan to have the new menu up and running after half term.

### PSA News

This is a busy time for our PSA, with some ambitious events planned for the final half term

Plans are underway for One World Evening, which is being held on Thursday 11th June from 6pm to 8pm. Already booked is African drumming with Adesose Wallace, and a disco with DJ Aldwin Johnson (better known as Molly and Jay's dad). The evening will have a fabulous buffet with international food brought in by parents. It is sure to be a memorable night. Tickets are on sale from next week.

The other important event is of course the Summer Festival on Sunday 5th July between 12 noon and 3pm. Make sure you have this date in your diary.

### School Dates for your diary

The term dates for the rest of the year, and for September, are published below:

Half Term Week	25 <sup>th</sup> - 29 <sup>th</sup> May
Staff Training Day: school closed for children	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June
European Elections school closed for children	Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> June
Junior Sports Day	Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> July (tbc)
Infant Sports day	Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July (tbc)
Last day of term	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July
Children return to school	Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> September

### Owls

Children in Nursery, Reception and Infant Classes enjoyed a fascinating talk and spectacular flying display by eleven different

types of owl. After the show children had their photos taken with a snowy owl on their shoulder! These will be sent home with this newsletter and are available to purchase.

### Malvina's Dancers

At the beginning of term, the school enjoyed a dance performance by the children who have been attending the lunchtime dance club. It was lovely to see the children dance and entertain the whole school so well. Thank you to our Teaching Assistant, Malvina, who has worked so hard this year with the children.

### Maternity news!

Now is the time to announce that Hilla has joined our expectant mothers club, and is expecting a baby in the Autumn. Congratulations to her and her family, and we wish her well in the forthcoming months.

### Music Concert

Our musicians and choir are busy preparing for the school concert, which is taking place in our school hall at 4.30 on Friday 5th June. A separate invitation will come to parents of all performers, however everyone is very welcome to attend what promises to be a very special occasion.

Best Wishes  
William Dean



### Blanche Nevile Newsletter

Dear parents and carers,

### SATs exams

Well done to our year 6 children during SATs. They have tried their best and worked hard. Thank you for all your support at home.

### Trips

The River Cruise trip for Anna Kinsella's class and Nicola's class will now be taking place after half term. Children from Jackie's class and Anna Smith's class will have brought home a letter about their trip to City Airport on Wednesday 20th May, funded by the Variety Club. Please ensure you return the permission slip by Monday.

### Work experience students

We have two work experience students joining us soon. Natasha will be working one day a week in each class next week. Rachel, who is a student at Blanche Nevile Secondary, is joining us for the week after half term. Both girls will be helping in the classes, preparing resources and helping to lead play at playtimes as part of their work experience.

Best wishes,

*SCMLay*

Sarah McLay  
Deputy Head Teacher, Primary Leader

