



Headteacher's Newsletter November 2008

Dear Parents and carers

The first half term of the school year has raced past, and there has been much to celebrate. Enclosed within this newsletter are reports about all the activities which have taken place during the month of October, as well as details about forthcoming events.



Harvest

It was lovely to see so many parents at the school's harvest assembly, where we had the chance to hear songs from all of our children, from Reception through to Year 6. We also enjoyed performances from the Kaos signing choir and the Year 5 and 6 advanced choir. Thank you to everyone who contributed so generously to the stunning display of harvest offerings, which were beautifully presented on the stage by PSA. Finally, special thanks to Hilla for coordinating such a special celebration.

Bruce Kent Visit

Veteran peace campaigner Bruce Kent addressed our children in a recent assembly, and led a fascinating question and answer session with our Year 6 classes. The children had earlier watched a film titled 'The Big If', which posed the question, what the world look like if all the money spent on war was instead spent on international development? This prompted a high quality debate, from which our pupils produced some outstanding writing.

Year 6 Journey

Our year 6 children enjoyed a very successful week at the Cardfields Centre at Hatfield Peveral, near Chelmsford. The weather was excellent throughout a week of outdoor and adventurous activities, which included building dens, orienteering in Thorndon Forest and BMX racing, as well as a brilliant trip to

Colchester Castle. Have a look on the school website for photographs and more details.

Football

The school team had its first taste of competitive football when it took part in a recent tournament at St Thomas More School. After a couple of closely contested defeats, the school went on to win two games finishing a very respectable fifth place.

This competition was followed up with our first proper match of the season against St. Johns School, Friern Barnet. The team performed brilliantly against a more experienced side, and even managed to take the lead just before half time. We nearly managed to hold on, but a late equaliser meant our first match ended 1 - 1. Congratulations go to all members of the team, especially goal scorer Devon Bent and player of the match, Kevin Wati-Tutu, who had a memorable game in goal.

Thanks go to Stuart and Peter, who are leading training sessions and supporting school football.

Netball Team

Not only do we have a football team, we now have a Year 6 netball team, which represented the school in a recent tournament.

Emily Craste in 6RV writes, 'On the 26th October the girls in the Highgate Primary Netball Team went to face other schools including Rhodes Avenue and Muswell Hill in a tournament at Hornsey School for Girls. Given that we have only started practising, we did brilliantly, coming 5th out of 13 schools'. Well done to our netballers!

Year 5 assemblies



Both 5LB and 5LA entertained the school with stunning class assemblies on the theme of keeping healthy. As well as putting on two very accomplished performances, Year 5 demonstrated all the exciting learning that has been taking place to do with the human body, the importance of exercise and having a healthy diet. My highlights were definitely the singing heart, 5LB's 'Growing Underground' and 5LA's version of the George Michael's 'Faith', cleverly changed to 'Health'!

Cake Sale

Thank you to the PSA for organising yet another successful cake sale on the last Friday before half term. As well as providing an incredible array of cakes, the PSA raised a further £180 for school funds.

Inspire Event



Thank you to all the parents, family and friends who came in to school last Thursday to make our Inspire event such a huge success. Each child in 5LB worked with a member of their family, to produce artwork around the theme of traditional mask-making. The results were stunning but, more importantly, it was a great opportunity for family members to work with children in their school environment. Everyone who took part is invited to a special assembly which will take place in the hall on Monday 10th November at 9.10 am.

This project will now be extended to other classes; details of which will follow in due course.

Partnership Highgate School

I am delighted to inform you that Highgate Primary is developing its links with Highgate Independent School. This will see a regular programme of their Year 9 children working with our children, and Year 11 children support teaching in our classes as part of their work experience programme. In return we will be able to benefit from a number of opportunities to extend our children's learning through access to Highgate School's many resources.

Parent Consultation Meetings

Parents of children in Reception and Nursery classes will have the opportunity to discuss how their children have settled in to their new classes at the parent consultation meetings which are taking place next week:

Reception will be holding their meetings on Tuesday 11th November between 4.00 and 6.00 pm, and on Thursday 13th between 5.00 and 7.00 pm.

Nursery will have slots available at the end of each session, morning and afternoon, as well as offering a later session on Thursday 13th between 5.00 and 7.00pm.

Parents will shortly receive separate letters containing details of how to sign up for a consultation.

Quiz

Just to remind you that the PSA's Quiz Night is taking place in our school hall on Thursday November 13th, starting at 7.30 pm. I have been compiling the questions which I can guarantee will not be too high-brow! Tickets will be on sale in the playground after school next week - please feel free to come along and join a team, or you could put together a team of your own. Ticket cost £4 and include snacks and a licensed bar. You'll find them on sale at pick up time, or just complete the form on the separate letter coming home this week.

National Tree Week

Children between Year 1 and Year 6 will be celebrating National Tree Week at the end of the month with a guided walk through Highgate Woods. Ex-parent and Park Ranger Rebecca Harrison will be leading the walks on which each class will study one species of tree. This will lead to follow-up work at school, the product of which will be on display in the information hut over the Christmas period. Further details will come by letter in the next couple of weeks, and parents are very welcome to join the classes on their walk.

Gardening Volunteers

Thank you to all the gardening volunteers who have agreed to help with the Peace Garden and school grounds. We have agreed that, weather permitting, Friday afternoons will our gardening time. Volunteers are very welcome to come and join us from 1.30 onwards.

Eat with your children

As a regular consumer of our school lunches, I am well placed to recommend them to parents – and if you don't believe me, you can now try them for yourself! If you would like to try a school lunch with your child before taking the decision to move from packed lunch, please pop into the office and book yourself in. Children's lunches cost £2.00 for children and parents can eat for just £2.75. You'll find the menus available on the school website.

Breakfast Club

Penny has asked me to mention that we still have a few places available at Highgate's award winning Breakfast Club. 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.

Book Fair

Our School Book Fair, with a safari theme, is taking place during w/c 17th November. Throughout the week there will be a book fair set up in the Dining Centre, which children will have the chance to visit during the school day. Please do drop in after school and buy a book, safe in the knowledge that your purchase will be supporting the school to keep our class libraries stocked with the latest and best titles.

Meeting for New Parents

Thank you to all the parents who attended the meeting for new parents earlier in the month, which I felt was very successful.

The meeting stressed the ways in which children, parents and school can work together in partnership, and highlighted how parents can become involved in the daily life of the school. Special thanks again to the PSA for hosting this event.

Helping in Schools

Thank-you to all of the parents who have taken part in the WEA course 'Helping in Schools'

Congratulations go to Satoko Kuniyoshi, Lisa McGovern, Michelle Hayden, Gillian Paton and Nicole Taub, Alexandra Robson, Jenny Bouchami and Christele Juma, who all receive a certificate at level 2 (which is equivalent to a GCSE grade A – C)

This course is currently running in the family Centre, and we are hoping to repeat it next term. If you are interested in being involved, please speak to Kim Slater, or ring her on 07950 334111.

Anti-Bullying Week

The school will be celebrating Anti-Bullying Week during w/c 10th November. During the week I will be running a competition for children to design a poster which must communicate a strong anti-bullying message. Entries, which can be any shape or size, and use any media, should be handed in to me by Thursday 13th November, and will be shown in assembly that day. As well as getting a prize, the winning entry will be reproduced and displayed throughout the school.

Highgate Art Gallery

Thank you to all the children who have already entered the school's art competition, the closing date for which is this Friday, 7th November.

The corridor has now been re-decorated and is ready and waiting to be turned into the school art gallery which is due to be opened on the 5th December 2008.

Lost Property

We now have quite an impressive collection of lost property. This week all items will be put out in the gym for children to claim, and remaining items will be displayed in the Dining Centre after school on Friday. After that date items that remain unclaimed will be recycled. Please come and have a look and claim anything that might be yours.

Children not collected from school

There have been one or two occasions this term when children have not been collected at the end of the day, and it has not been possible to contact parents or carers. Please could all parents ensure that children are collected on time, and that the school is notified of changes in contact details, especially changes to mobile telephone numbers.

Christmas Performance

I am pleased to announce that the school Christmas performance this year will be a special Christmas edition of Top of the Pops! Every child will be learning songs from the different decades, will be learning about the fashions of the time and the important news events of the day. Please make sure you have the dates in your diaries for what promises to be a fine celebration.

Parents and Toddler drop-in

Drop-in sessions for parents/carers and toddlers are taking place every Wednesday (from 9.00 - 10.30) and Friday (from 2.30 - 3.30) in the Family Centre. Everyone is welcome to come along and make some friends over a cup of tea, while your little ones play.

As you can see there is a great deal to celebrate and some wonderful events to look forward to in the run up to Christmas.

Looking forward to a happy and successful term

Kind regards

William Dean
Heateacher

www.highgate-pri.org.uk





Blanche Nevile Primary News

NDCS Fingerspellathon

This week we are launching a sponsored fingerspell to raise money for the NDCS and for the school. Children from Blanche Nevile and Highgate have been asked to learn to fingerspell a list of words and to raise money. Please see the separate letter for more information - help us to raise money by supporting your child to ask safely for sponsors from friends and family. Thank you.

BSL classes

The level 1 and level 2 classes from last year are continuing, now that Emma is back. The level 1 course is due to finish in December, so we will be starting a new level 1 course in January for parents from Blanche Nevile and Highgate Primary. If you are interested in learning to sign, please watch out for the letter, which I will send out in early December.

Special events

We held an Eid party for all our children last half term; here's another photo! We also joined the secondary department for 'The Big Draw' and everyone had a go at the different art activities based on 'Super Heroes'



Coming up...

Coffee morning!

We are holding our next coffee morning on Thursday 27th November 2008. Blanche Nevile parents, carers and governors are all welcome to come along to our special assembly and coffee morning.

Dates for your diary

Fri 7 th Nov	6RO Class Assembly 10.10 am
w/c 11 th Nov	Nursery Parent Consultations
Tue 11 th Nov	Rec Parent Consultations 4.00 - 6.00 pm
Thu 13 th Nov	Nursery and Rec Parent Consultations 5.00 - 7.00 pm
Thu 13 th Nov	PSA Quiz Night 7.30 pm
Fri 14 th Nov	2HM Class Assembly 10.10 am
w/c 17 th Nov	Book Fair Week
w/c 17 th Nov	Anti Bullying Week
Wed 19 th Nov	Reception Meeting for parents 2.30 pm
Wed 19 th	Individual photographs
Fri 21 st Nov	1JS Class Assembly 10.10 am
w/ 24 th Nov	National Tree Week
Fri 28 th Nov	6RV Class Assembly 10.10 am
Fri 5 th Dec	2SK Class Assembly 10.10 am
Fri 5 th Dec	Opening of Art Gallery 3.45 pm
Sat 6 th Dec	Christmas Crafty Fair 12.00 - 3.00 pm
Wed 10 th Dec	Christmas performance 10.00 am
Thurs 11 th Dec	Christmas performance 2.00 pm
Tue 16 th Dec	Children's Christmas Parties
Fri 19 th Dec	Term Ends
Mon 5 th Jan	Training Day - School Closed
Tue 6 th Jan	Children return to school

