



Headteacher's Newsletter October 2008

Dear Parents and carers

It has been an exceptionally busy start to the term, and I am delighted to report that four weeks in to my new role I am feeling very much at home within the Highgate Primary school community - thank you to everyone who has introduced themselves and made me feel so welcome.

As ever, October is set to be a very busy month in school, with many activities and events already planned. Details of these, as well as information about other exciting developments, are all in this newsletter.

LPPA Award

This year the school has made a commitment to achieving the Leading Parent Partnership Award. The LPPA provides a challenging framework to enable schools to strengthen their partnership with parents and carers.

Central to the award is a commitment to develop effective communication between home and school, to facilitate more effective participation in children's learning, and to build confidence through participation in lifelong learning opportunities.

I am very excited by this project, which is being led by our teacher with responsibility for parental links, Kim Slater.

Black History Month



Black History Month is a time when we highlight and celebrate the achievements of the black community and uncover hidden history about our communities. To use the words of Archbishop Tutu, 'it is indeed a time to recognise both the splendid contributions and terrible sacrifices endured by Black people throughout the centuries. It is also a time for humanity

to critically reflect on the connections of the past to the present day struggles'.

This year the school will be celebrating BHM through special assemblies in school, class based activities and workshops.

The programme of events started in spectacular fashion this Wednesday when we welcomed Dominican poet Jane Grell to school. Jane entertained our children with traditional Caribbean songs, games, poems and stories, and left her listeners spellbound.

If there are any parents who would like to share aspects of their history or culture with their children's class, we'd love to hear from you.

Parent Consultation Meetings

You should by now have received a time to meet your child's teacher for the first consultation meeting of the year. This meeting will give you an opportunity to meet your child's new teacher. At the meeting you will hear about the achievements they have made so far. It will also be an opportunity to discuss pastoral issues as well as the expectations for the year. Please remember that it is a 10 minute appointment, and we ask for your help in keeping meetings to time.

Proud to be me



4PB entertained the school last Friday with the first of this year's class assemblies. Themed around the topic 'proud to be me', pupils shared their hobbies, interests and undoubted talents in a thoroughly entertaining performance.

PSA - Parent School Association

Please keep an eye out for the PSA newsletter, which will be circulated next week. It gives details of all forthcoming events, as well as how you can get involved with the PSA.

At last week's meeting it was agreed that the PSA would be supporting the school with our project to create a permanent art gallery throughout the downstairs corridor. Outstanding children's artwork will be framed and hung in the gallery, which will be opened at the end of November.

I'd like to thank the PSA and everyone who supported last Friday's cake sale, which raised the grand sum of £230.

Quiz

I'm not quite sure how this happened, but somehow I have agreed to be quizmaster and host of the Quiz Night which will be held at school on the evening of Thursday 13th November. As you read this I am busy collecting pieces of trivia for the night, which I can guarantee will have something for everyone. Details of the evening will follow in due course.

Harvest

Just to remind you that our special Harvest Assembly is taking place at 10.00 am on Wednesday 15th October, to which all parents and carers are, of course, welcome to attend.

We will be starting the collection next week, when children are invited to bring in donations of non-perishable foods for example dried goods, tins and biscuits. Perishable items can be bought in on the day. Each class will have their own harvest collection box, which will go towards the traditional display on the stage in the school hall.

After the assembly your gifts will then be sent to the a local drop-in centre. Please let me know if you are able to help transport the food after the assembly. Any assistance would be most welcome.

Gardening Volunteers

We are very keen to maintain and develop our growing areas in the school grounds, both to provide a stimulating learning environment for our children and to give pupils experience of growing their own flowers, fruit and vegetables.

Work is needed in a several areas, particularly The Peace Garden. If you have expertise in this area or are willing to help out please come along to a short meeting in my office at 3.00 on Friday 10th October. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

Morrison's

To help us with our gardening, the school has registered with Morrison 'Let's Grow' scheme. If you happen to be shopping in Morrison's, please remember to ask for the tokens.

Maths Games

Please remember to pop into the Dining Centre after school on Tuesdays where you can borrow one of the numerous maths games to play at home. They really are an excellent way to develop children's mathematical learning.

Nits



The start of the new school year has once again seen the return of our friend, the head lice! Just to say, please don't worry - lice aren't dangerous and they don't spread disease, but

they are contagious and can be annoying. It's therefore always a good idea to regularly check your child's hair. For sound advice, a good link is:

www.kidshealth.org/parent/infections/common/lice

Breakfast Club

Penny has asked me to mention that we still have a few places available at Highgate Primary'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.

Parent and Toddler Group

Kim is soon to be starting up the successful Parent & Toddler drop-in sessions, for which she will be holding a meeting in the Family Centre at 3.00pm on Friday 10th October. Please come along if you are interested in attending the sessions.

Football News

Congratulations to the school football team which took part in the Festival of Football at St Thomas More School on Thursday. We look forward to reading the match report which will follow in our next newsletter.

Website

Just to let you know that we are constantly updating the school website, which I think is very informative and a really useful way of keeping in touch with what is going at school. You'll even find the full colour version of this newsletter. You can visit it at: www.highgate-primary.org.uk

Very much looking forward to a rich and fulfilling autumn at Highgate Primary.

With best wishes

William Dean
Headteacher