



in partnership with Blanche Nevile

Headteacher's Newsletter March 2009



Dear Parents and Carers

Enclosed in the newsletter are details of some of the many events that have taken place during the month of February and news of forthcoming activities.

World Book Day

The school celebrated World Book Day yesterday with children dressed as book characters, story readings by the teaching staff and lots of book related activities. Thanks to everyone who contributed to the wonderful costumes which made the day so special.

Love Your Bike Day

Many children took up the invitation to cycle to school last Thursday and have their bikes overhauled by Doctor Bike! I am delighted with the numbers of children who are now cycling to school as part of the 'Round the World Challenge'. Good luck to all those taking part and I look forward to tracking your progress.

The Recycling Magician

The importance of recycling was explained to children from Year 1 through to Year 6 with a thoroughly entertaining performance by the recycling magician, Professor Phineas Nuts, who came to Highgate Primary last week.

Sophi in 6RV said: 'He was really amusing. As well as performing magic tricks, he told us all about recycling and how to do it. I learnt about the importance of recycling for the environment and found out that old cars can be recycled to make pens!'

Home Learning Projects

I have been very impressed by the quality of the home-learning projects that have come in to school this year. This work can play a significant role in enriching the learning that is taking place in school, develops children's independence and helps parents to be involved in children's learning. Photos of the

children's work will soon be appearing on the class pages of the school website.

Year 5 Football

Congratulations to both our Year 5 footballers who took on local rivals St Michaels in a re-match following a narrow defeat in December. After a tight first half the teams were level at 3-3, thanks to goals by Ethan and Carlos, along with an own goal.

Highgate played even better in the second half with another goals from man-of-the-match Carlos, to add to one by Oscar. A brilliant game ended up honours even with a 5-5 draw!

Thanks to Stuart and Peter for their expert coaching and commitment to helping our footballers do so well.

Gardening Club

If you happen to wander down to The Peace Garden, you will notice the brilliant work that has been going on by our team of parent gardening volunteers. With spring just around the corner, we are looking to really develop our grounds and the range of plants and produce we grow. If you have expertise in gardening, or are an enthusiastic novice, please feel free to join in. The gardening team meet at school on Friday afternoon. Let me know if you are interested in coming along.

Special Assemblies

There have been a number of spectacular assemblies in the month of February.

5LAs performance of a spoof game show, 'Going for Goals', brilliantly demonstrated the importance of determination in achieving success. Really well done to teachers Lou and Nick and the children in 5LA class for a thoroughly entertaining assembly.



Last Friday 3LM and 3EH performed an assembly titled 'One Sunny Day'. The assembly told Aesop's story of 'The Tortoise and the Hare', which was followed by performances of new fables written by the children in their literacy lessons. Altogether it was a stunning assembly of which the class were rightly very proud.

ParentMail

We have had a good response to the letter which went out recently regarding the school's new e-mail and text messaging service. If you have yet to send back the slip, the deadline is officially today, however if you return the slip on Monday it can be included in the first batch of data to be inputted onto the system. Copies of the letter are available on the school website.

Sainsbury's Active Kids

Just to let you know that we are collecting Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers. These can be added to the collection box in the entrance hall.

Channing Concert

Just before half-term, children in Year 6 took up an invitation to attend Channing School's concert for strings and choir. It was a lovely afternoon out and nice to extend links with our local schools.



Opera comes to Highgate

The school will soon be partaking in a very exciting opera project, which will involve our school choir performing at the Unicorn Theatre in a production of Rossini's 'Cinderella'. This project starts with a performance by English Pocket Opera to Key Stage 1 and 2 on Friday 3rd April.

Sticking with the opera theme, congratulations go to Jordan Parker in Year 6, who is currently performing in the highly acclaimed English National Opera production of La Boheme.

PSA News

As ever, the PSA have been busy fundraising to enrich the education of our children. Year 1's recent cake sale raised a brilliant £208.00, and there are many more events planned this year. Make sure you pop the following dates in your diaries.

Year 2 Cake Sale	Fri 13 th March
Rainbow Day	Thu 26 th March
Year 3 Cake Sale and Easter Raffle	Fri 3 rd April
Year 4 Cake Sale	Fri 1 st May
Year 5 Cake Sale	Fri 22 nd May
One World Evening	Thu 4 th June
Year 6 Cake Sale	Fri 26 th June
Summer Fair	Sun 5 th July

Rainbow Day

The now well-established Rainbow Day will soon be upon us, when children are sponsored for the number of colours they can wear to school. Look out for the PSA details on the sponsorship forms, which are coming out soon. Volunteers are needed on the day to help count colours. If you are able to help, for about an hour in the morning, please meet in the hall after drop off.

And finally

I am aware that there has been some speculation in the playground as to the status of our teachers in 1AP/JT. Well, the official announcement is that congratulations go to both Anjali and Julia, who are now officially pregnant! As luck would have it, both teachers plan to be with us right up until the end of the school year, when they will start their maternity leave. I'm sure you will join me in wishing them well.

Best Wishes
William Dean

Blanche Nevile Newsletter

Dear parents and carers,

Trips

The whole school has been to visit Newham City Farm this week and we were very lucky with the weather over the two days! Thank you for your donations towards the cost of the trip – as you know, these trips are very important and are part of the curriculum. For some children, this visit was related to topic work, so they prepared for the trip before they went and the visit has made their learning come alive. Other children will



be using the visit as a stimulus for developing language and literacy skills. All children will be doing follow up work related to the trip in their classes over the next few weeks.

NDCS Assembly

A reminder that the Deputy Director of the National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS) is coming to the secondary department on Thursday 12th March to talk to children and parents about how the NDCS can support young people and their families. Anna Smith's class will go by minibus to attend the assembly. Parents of all children are invited to come along. If you would like a chance to find out what the NDCS can do to support you and your child, please do come along to the secondary department next Thursday at 2pm.

World Book Day

It was lovely to see so many children dressed up as book characters for World Book Day! Your child has been given a free £1 off voucher, which you can spend in any bookstore. Please see the details on the voucher. Have fun choosing, buying and reading a book with your child!

Best wishes

Sarah McLay
Deputy Head Teacher, Primary Leader

