



Highfield Primary School

www.highfieldprimary.co.uk

你好 ! Ni hao! Hello!

Welcome back to school. We hope you had a lovely half-term break.

On 9 February, Highfield welcomed special visitors to the school; the Headteacher Ms Lin, her senior leaders and a group of eighteen pupils from Shunde Number 1 Experimental Middle School in Shunde, China. This, we hope, will be the start of a long and fruitful educational partnership.

We were invited by Winchmore Secondary School to take part and thanks go to Mr Thompson, Deputy Headteacher and Mr Owen, Headteacher for the wonderful opportunity extended to us. They have worked on planning this trip for the last year, forging the links with the school and planning the two week trip to London.

Thanks also go to all our staff and children who made the morning truly magical. Our Chinese visitors were overwhelmed by their short stay with us on 9 February. A special welcome assembly greeted them, with our children singing a beautiful song in Mandarin wishing them a Happy New Year Song. Thanks to Miss Sutton, our Music Subject Leader and Mr Aru, our Music teacher for leading on this; also to Mrs Wren, Chair of Governors, who attended the assembly and welcomed our visitors.



On that day our school was celebrating Mother Language Day so it was extra special to involve our visitors in this celebration. It was a wonderful day and our visitors were impressed with everything they saw and the warm welcome they received. It was a joy hearing all the children greet them calling out "ni hao". What a lovely way to start this educational partnership - who knows where it will lead!

Thanks to Friends

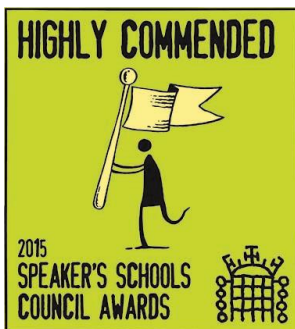
Thank you for helping to fund new style home readers which we are hoping to introduce next September.

Please make sure you read to the end of this newsletter - all the dates for your diary are on the last page!

School Council Speaker's Award

We are delighted to announce that the School Council's work with the North London Hospice in Autumn 2014 has been recognised in the annual School Council Speaker's Awards, House of Commons. The partnership project won a "Highly Commended" award and we can now use the official logo below on School Council letters and on our school website!

Find out more about our School Council and their work with the North London Hospice on our website.



Our other Autumn 2015 project - the UK Parliament 2015 Flags celebration - mentioned in previous newsletters is coming to its launch - look out on 5 March when our school's design will go "live" on the digital exhibition gallery: www.parliament.uk/2015.

Elections for the School Council membership for March-July 2015 took place in the final week of last term. Children worked hard to write speeches to win votes. Congratulations to the following children who succeeded in persuading their peers to vote for them:

Yusuf, Selina 3M, Tia, Viktor 3RM, Diego, Kalina 3MB, Ammarah, Callum 4S, Paris, Deborah 4T, Klaudia, Tarlan 5S, Ellie, Jackson 5D.

Year 6 applied for their roles and following interviews these children were elected:

Ahsen, Mahsheed, Hytham, 6W, Hanan, Sebastian, 6C, Chris 6K

On 12 February the "old" councillors were presented with certificates and medallions and

thanked for their hard work, and the new councillors were given their new badges ready for the new roles and responsibilities in helping to lead the school.

Year 4's Freedom Fundraiser!

On 29 January Year 4 had their fantastic fundraiser. The children performed 'Whatever' by Oasis, a song about being free to make your own choices, which linked to our whole school value, Freedom.

The children sold beautiful magnets, which were in the style of their class' artists, Banksy and Seurat. 4S wrote and sold freedom Haikus on bookmarks and 4T designed badges with a motto about freedom. There were also lots of delicious cakes which sold out very quickly! The fundraiser was a huge success, with over £130 raised! Thank you to everyone for your contributions!

Swimming- A huge hit with Year 5

Since September, Year 5 have been taking part in swimming lessons at Arnos Grove pool. They have learnt important life saving skills and many children, who did not know how to swim before starting the lessons, are now able to swim. Those that could swim have refined their technique as well as learning new skills.

Children have now finished their swimming lessons and found it a very worthwhile experience. They hope that next year's Year 5s will enjoy it as much as they have.



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Maths workshops for parents/carers

Apologies for not giving enough advance warning for the recent Maths workshops. Therefore, on Thursday 19 March there will be a re-run of the KS1 and KS2 maths workshops. The KS2 meeting will be from 9.10-9.40 and the KS1 meeting will be from 2.40-3.10. Please come along.

Topics will include;

Teaching strategies,

The new curriculum content and expectations

How you can help your child with Maths

Year 2 Class Assemblies

2V's assembly was inspired by our RE week, when they learned about the Jewish and Christian version of the Creation Story. They enjoyed acting out the seven days of creation. "I was the sun, God created me on the fourth day of creation. I was created so that plants can grow!" said Angela.

The class had fun using the skills that they have been learning in PE to choreograph and perform the dance. "It was challenging, but we did a very good job because we worked hard." said Melisa.



Meanwhile 2L did a fantastic job of performing a lovely story about crayons who wrote to their owner Duncan, complaining about him using them too much or not at all! Molly was the grey crayon who was very tired from colouring in big animals such as hippos and hump-backed whales. Alex

was the beige crayon who complained that if he was lucky he coloured in turkey dinners! They enjoyed singing "Sing a Rainbow" and dancing to "Box of Crayons". 2L were amazing!

Guidance - Filming and taking Photographs at school events including class assemblies

We wrote to you last Christmas about the school's policy explaining that filming and photographing children is not allowed. We explained that many parents/carers have not given permission. If staff notice that this is happening, please do not be offended if they ask you to stop. At the end of assemblies, if a child's parent/carer of another child is present and s/he gives you verbal permission to have a photograph taken, this is acceptable. Thank you for your co-operation.

Mr Numbervator's Annual Visit to Highfield

We were visited by Mr Numbervator and five other schools this week. Well done to the group of Year 5 children who took part in a challenging Maths day run by Isaac Anoom. He was very impressed with their knowledge and skills.

The Local Authority organizer, Ms McInstry also wanted to give us some feedback: "Your children were wonderful - real ambassadors for the school". The children from the other schools also made positive comments. One child said "The children are really nice and friendly and made us part of their games. Many of them volunteered to show us around. They were really nice". Another said "The children in Highfield School are very kind and generous. What I like about the school building is that there is so much space and they have a lovely farm".

We are proud that our children have really demonstrated that they know the meaning of our values and act on them.

MyMaths

Please remember that all children have access to Mymaths through the use of unique usernames

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and passwords. Also all children are able to access a range of Maths based games via interactive-resources.co.uk. Simply go to the webpage, click pupil login and the username and password for all children is mathsn21.

Girls' Football Team

Well done to our Girls' football team who played a very competitive match against Hazlebury Juniors on 10 February; unfortunately they narrowly lost 2-1. Thank you to Mr Wilson and Mr Charles for running this club.

As part of our continued links with Winchmore Secondary School, groups of children from Years 3, 4 and 5 have been taking part in dance, trampolining, football and other sporting activities. The children have enjoyed these opportunities and we hope to continue running them throughout the this term.

Book Week

This year's book week is next week: 2-6 March. There are going to be various events at the school including a number of author visits and drama workshops. Sita Brahmachari will be leading an assembly and taking workshops with various classes. Rita Mitchell, author of "Hue Boy" will be reading her story to Years 1 and 2.

To celebrate Book Week, on Thursday 5 March we will be asking the children to bring in a book they have read so they can swap it for another book. So start looking for "unwanted" books (good quality only please) now! Your child will also receive a free £1 book token to use in a bookshop. .

Red Nose Day fundraiser

On Friday 13 March for Red Nose Day we are asking children to donate £1 to come into school dressed in pyjamas and/or their faces painted - Make a funny face! Red noses will also be on sale, so please send in £1 if they would like to buy a red nose. Staff are also being invited to take part in a "bake off" - Mr Kennedy and the Team

Captains will be judging! All in the name of charity fund-raising and for one day only!

New Department for Education Assessment Guidance

Changes in Government guidance are now being introduced, with a move away from "levelling" pupils eg 2b, 4b to assessing without levels using the new curriculum expectations which have been in place since September 2014. This change only applies to Years 1, 3, 4 and 5 this year as the current Years 2 and 6 are still studying under the "old" curriculum.

From September 2015 all year groups will be assessed without levels using the revised National Curriculum Framework. As we are at the early stages of introducing these changes there will be a period of transition as the teachers begin to use the new procedures for assessing without levels.

Later this term we will be running parent/carer workshops explaining the new expectations for each year group and guidance will be published on our website. The first briefings on Maths are:

19 March 9.10 Years 3-6 Maths

19 March 2.40 Reception, Y1-2 Maths

For the current Year 5 we also will cover the new expectations as part of the Year 6 - 2016 school journey briefing which will be held in June. Details will be published in a newsletter nearer the time.

Nut-free and Food Policy

Please do not send in any foods that may contain nuts as we have children who have serious allergies.

Please also remember that if you would like to send in birthday treats, we only allow small snack bags of maltesers or chocolate buttons - no cake or other sweets etc. Children will not eat these whilst in school but will bring them home.

Dates		
2-6 March	Book Week	
5 March	Reception fundraiser	3.20-3.45
5 March (Thursday)	4T class assembly	9.15
5 March	Book Week Book Swap Day - please bring good quality books to swap	
9 March	Parent/carer consultations	4.00-6.30
10 March	Parent/carer consultations	4.00-6.00
13 March	Red Nose Day - charity fundraiser - come to school in your pyjamas and/or Make a Funny Face	
13 March	Red Nose Day - coffee morning in canteen	9.00-10.00
19 March	Years 3-6 Maths briefings for parents/carers	9.10-9.40
19 March	Reception, Years 1 and 2 Maths briefings for parents/carers	2.40-3.10
20 March	1A class assembly	9.15
24 March	Year 6 Contemporary photos	
25 March	Year 3 - Story of Easter	9.30
26 March (Thursday)	1I class assembly	9.15
<u>27 March</u>	<u>Last day of school - closing at 1.30pm</u>	
<u>13 April</u>	<u>Staff training day - school closed</u>	
<u>14 April</u>	<u>School opens</u>	
23 April	Year 2 fundraiser	3.20-3.45
24 April	1E class assembly	9.15

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