

Highnam C of E Primary Academy



@HIGHNAMACADEMY

CHILDREN WITH CONFIDENCE

1ST FEBRUARY 2019

Dear Parents,

We have had an exciting and thoroughly enjoyable January in school. The pupils have been immersing themselves in their new topics which include China, Digging for Dinosaurs, The Great Fire of London, Lights, Camera, Action and Survival. We are looking forward to sharing all our learning with you at Open Classrooms later in the month. The arrival of snow this morning provided the pupils with a great end to the week!

Young Voices Concert 2019

On Friday the 18th of January, a mixture of Years 4, 5 and 6 went on an amazing singing trip to Young Voices in Birmingham. This is one of the biggest primary school choirs in the world – 6600 children were involved in our concert! The children were required to learn a variety of songs and perform them in the arena. This was a very exciting opportunity for the children to see how the music industry works.

Each child was given a Young Voices t-shirt, a wrist band and a small torch. The artistic director (Andy Instone) taught us dances to some of the songs along with his fantastic dance troop, Urban Strides. We also had four special guests: Beau Dermott, Tony Hadley, Vula Malinga and Connie Talbot. The finale song was particularly popular – it was a Greatest Showman medley! A big thank you to all the teachers who took us and to Miss Coldrick for running the club where we learnt all our songs.



Young Voices at Resorts World Arena

Written by Lucia and Isabelle H



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Girls' Football Team - Football Success

The girls' team continue to have a very successful football season and are off to represent the Forest of Dean in the County Finals later in the year. The team also won the GPSFA 5-a-side festival at Bentham—winning with a golden goal! Thank you to Mr Holmes for supporting the team.



Well done team - a super effort

This year **Safer Internet Day** will be celebrated globally on Tuesday 5th February. The theme for this year is: Together for a better internet.

My thanks to PC Steer who delivered a helpful e-safety lesson for our Year 6 pupils on the first day of this term.



Attendance Update

85 pupils had 100% attendance for the Autumn Term — well done to all those pupils. Please can I remind parents of the government expectations of **90% and above** and the new attendance policy which was circulated at the start of this academic year. Please try to ensure you child / children are in school and on time as much as possible.

Messy Church

Our next Messy Church is on Wednesday Feb 6th, at 3.15pm in the main school hall. It is an invitation to children across the school, to come with their family members for a time of Bible story, activities, crafts and worship. This time we will be thinking about the story of when Jesus was left behind in Jerusalem! There will be a bit of a change from previous times, as there will be a drink and cakes to share at the beginning instead of tea at the end. This will give us longer for the craft time. The next one is on March 27th, preparing for Mother's day.



New Age Kurling Event at Newent School

A few weeks ago we joined with other Forest of Dean schools to be part of a new Kurling festival. **New Age Kurling** is a form of the original curling game, adapted to be played in a sports hall, rather than on ice. We had a fabulous afternoon and it was great to see the skills and teamwork progress. Well done to Jack, Jack, Jacob and Oliver.



Tasty Treats Cooked up Across the School

The Hub is being well used by pupils to produce some tasty topic-inspired food. This term Year 1 pupils made Challah loaves as part of their learning about how Jewish people live. Challah loaves are eaten at Shabbat which is celebrated each week. They tasted very good!



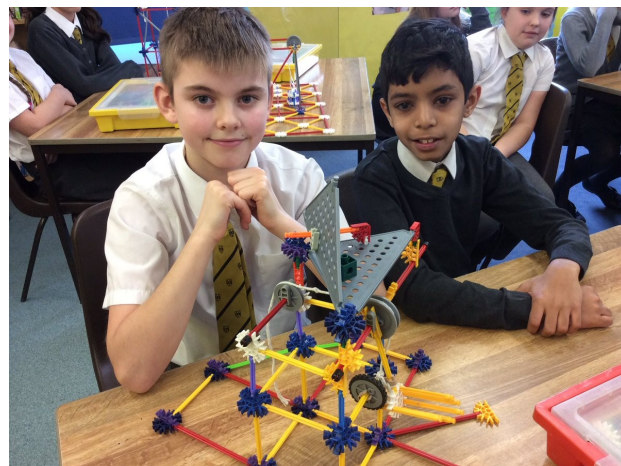
Ted, Eloise and Elliott with their Shabbat loaves

Wonderful Wall of Fame

The Art Wall of Fame is now complete and is expanding. Soon a new wall close to the current Wall of Fame will be populated with even more fantastic pieces of artwork. Some of the winning entries for the house art competition will also be displayed.



Beautiful artwork — well done!



Well done Danny and Albin

K'Nex Challenge

Well done to Danny and Albin for winning the school K'Nex challenge. They will go on to represent the Academy in a County K'Nex construction challenge in March.

Ready, Steady, Race!

Congratulations to the Year 4, 5 and 6 runners who represented Highnam in the district race at Newent School last week.

In the Year 5 girls race Jessica finished in 9th place. In the Year 5 boys Oliver finished in 1st place, Gethin 8th and Dylan 9th. In the Year 6 girls' race Martha finished 1st, Lucia 2nd, Ilsa 4th and Gracie 9th. Finally, in the Year 6 boys' race Woody was 1st and Ellis was 8th. A big well done to all who took part. Highnam had the largest number of pupils taking part — a great team effort!

Well done to all the pupils who ran the races and to Miss Owen and Miss Gent for preparing them so well.



Some of the runners from Years 4 and 5

Open Classrooms

A reminder that Open Classrooms will take place for this term on **Wednesday 13th February** between 3:20-4pm. The Books for Bugs book fair will also be held at the same time — £2.50 per book.

Fire Engine Visit

A big thank you to Mrs Trotman who organised a fire engine visit last week for Year 2 pupils. The fire engine arrived in the afternoon and pupils had the opportunity to sit in the cab, direct a fire hose and Mrs Trotman wore the special protective equipment.

"I really enjoyed it because we got to sit in a proper fire engine and squirt the hose in the air!"
Corey, Year 2.



PTA Update

Thank you to all involved in the recent PTA meetings and events. Here are a few dates for your diaries:

Friday 15th February - Cake Sale after school

Friday 1st March - Film Night

Friday 29th March - Spring Disco 3:15-5:15pm.
Please let Mrs Honan know if you are able to help out.

Tickets will be available through School Money.

Sporting Chance After School Club

Thank you to Gary Sutton and Mrs Wilson for their support of our new after school club - Sporting Chance. The pupils enjoy a variety of sporting opportunities aimed to develop self-esteem and confidence. Earlier this week we enjoyed learning some fencing skills.



Parking near to school

Thank you to all who continue to use the walking zone to free up space on Wetherleigh Drive. Please can I remind parents not to park / wait on the white lines outside the school gate.

Secondly, some parents are parking on some of the paths which is making it difficult for pushchairs and bikes to get by. Please park considerately near to the school.

And finally, my thanks to all staff for their hard work and dedication every month. There are so many items which could be included in the newsletter - it is a privilege to be in the classrooms, be greeted by the classroom ambassadors and see so much inspired learning.

Visits to Newent School

On Tuesday Years 5 and 6 were invited to watch Beauty and the Beast, which is the drama department's production for this year. It was most impressive and good to see ex-Highnam pupils so involved. Miss Coldrick and Mrs Harris made an impromptu stage appearance!



2nd Place in GPSFA 5-a-side Finals

Well done to the boys team who finished runners up in the football finals at Bentham last week. The team won the group stage on the Tuesday afternoon and returned for the finals on the Friday.

They met Hempsted School in the final losing to a golden goal. A great team effort. Thank you to all who came along to support the team.



Kind regards,

Stephen Dean, Headteacher

Dates for your diary — Spring Term**February**

Wednesday	6th	Messy Church
Thursday	7th	B Team Festival at Oxstalls (4-5pm)
Wednesday	13th	Open Classrooms + Book Fair
	13th	Reception China Day
Friday	15th	Year 1 Cake Sale
		End of Term 3
Monday	25th	Start of Term 4
	25th	Year 2 Mosque Visit
	25th	Life Bus Visit
Tuesday	26th	Life Bus Visit
		Year 1 All Things Wild Trip
Wednesday	27th	House Music Competition
Thursday	28th	Gloucestershire Dance Festival (Year 2/3 Dance Club)

March

Friday	1st	Film Night
Saturday	2nd	County Cross Country Races in Cheltenham
Saturday	9th	Girls' Football Team trip to Cheltenham Town
Thursday	21st	Parents Evening 1
Friday	22nd	Year 5 Collective Worship
Tuesday	26th	Parents Evening 2
Wednesday	27th	Messy Church
Friday	29th	Year 2 Collective Worship
	29th	Spring Disco

April

Wednesday	3rd	Key Stage 2 — Experience Easter at Highnam Church
Friday	5th	Year 1 Collective Worship
	5th	End of Term 4 (normal finish time)
Saturday	6th	Girls' South-West Football finals