

Highnam C of E Primary Academy



@HIGHNAMACADEMY

CHILDREN WITH CONFIDENCE

1ST DECEMBER 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have been enjoying our class-led Collective Worship this term. It has been great to see the enthusiasm and confidence shown by all the pupils. Last month we enjoyed a visit from an Olympian, Joe Roebuck, had a visit from Pudsey Bear and went on a 'Countryfile-inspired' ramble around the village. The girls' football team were crowned champions of Gloucester and we had a visit from Miss Capener, Mozambique Education Director for iReachAfrica and our field path was opened - another exciting month at Highnam Academy.

Children in Need 2017

A big thank you to all involved in our Playground Pudsey coin challenge for the BBC Children in Need Appeal. It was fantastic to see the whole community involved in the challenge.

Our thanks to Mrs Hazelden for sketching out the Pudsey, all who donated cakes for the cake sale, the BBC Radio Gloucestershire team for their coverage of the challenge and to Pudsey himself for a surprise visit. Overall we raised a massive £956.24 for Children in Need.



Operation Christmas Child

Thank you to everyone who has supported the 2017 Shoebox Challenge. 42 shoeboxes have been made and collected by the team distributing them around Eastern Europe.

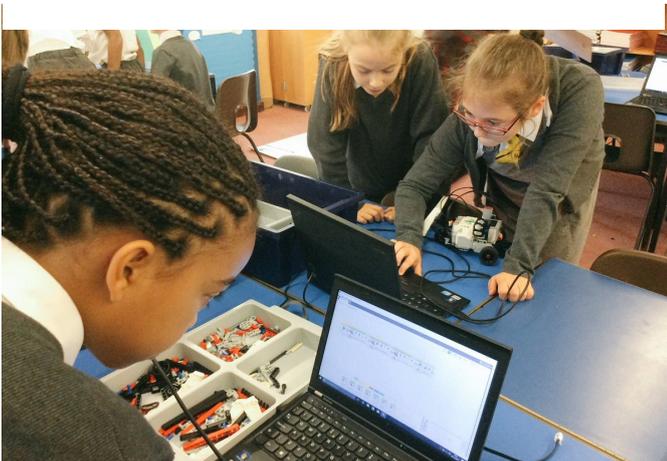
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STEM day for pupils in Year 5

Year 5 recently had the exciting opportunity to take part in a STEM workshop. Lego was the main resource used in their own robots that they built in groups of 3. The Mindstorms EV3 block made the robot come to life and this component allowed them to programme the robot, through using software on the computer. Different challenges were set in order to allow them to develop their computing and programming skills. The challenges were initially easy, moving the robot in a straight line, but they soon became more difficult! Each team was awarded points for their level of computing accuracy and there was eventually a winning team. My thanks to Miss Gent and Mo from STEMworks for facilitating the exciting day.



Isabelle, Phoebe and Tiella hard at work

Thank You and Sad Goodbyes

I am sad to announce Mrs House and Mrs Organ will be leaving Highnam Academy at the end of this term.

Mrs House has been appointed as the new Music PPA teacher at Longlevens Junior School. Mrs House has been a dedicated member of the team here for over 14 years and we have all enjoyed the various productions she has overseen.

Mrs Organ will be finishing at the end of this term after working in Years 4, 3 and currently 2. It has been a privilege to work alongside Mrs Organ and see the difference she has made in the classroom.

We wish them both the very best.



Thank you Mrs House and Mrs Organ

Christmas Performances and Parties

This year pupils in Key Stage Two will be performing 'Away in A Manager' on Thursday 14th December at 2pm and 6:30pm in Highnam Church. There will be 2 tickets available to families for each performance. The Reception and Key Stage 1 show — 'Behind the Stable Door' will take place on Wednesday 13th in the morning at 9:30am or in the afternoon at 2pm and 2 tickets will be available per family per show. Tickets will be sent home next week.

The children's parties will be held in school time on the afternoon of the following dates:

Friday 15th December	Year 5 and 6
Monday 18th December	Year 3 and 4
Tuesday 19th December	Rec, Year 1 and Year 2

Children may wear non-school uniform on their party day.

As always, we need volunteers to make cakes to be brought in on the morning of the Key Stage Two parties. If you are able to make or buy a dozen cakes please email the office. Once again CaterCater will be cooking the sausages for us and a big thank you to CaterCater for providing the food for the KS1 party.

Girls' Football Team

Well done to Isabelle M, Gracie, Katie, Hattie, Lucia, Martha, Megan, Eilidh and Alana. The team have won their Gloucester Schools' League and won the Super Cup last week — a fantastic achievement.

A big thank you to Mrs Townsend, Miss Phillips and Mr Holmes for training and supporting the team over the last few months.



Parking near the Academy

We have noticed a rise in the number of cars dropping pupils off across the drives next to the school on Wetherleigh Drive. Please respect the white lines and the local residents.

The Field Path is now open!

Our thanks to GB Swimmer Joe Roebuck for visiting the Academy last week and taking two inspiring PE lessons. At break time Joe officially opened the field path and it has been fantastic to see pupils and staff making the most of the new facility. Pupil well-being and overall fitness is important to us and this is another opportunity, alongside PE lessons and the great range of after school clubs.



PTA News

Christmas Disco — The Christmas disco will be on Friday 8th December straight after school until 5:30pm. We are looking forward to working with the school staff. All pupils can wear 'disco' non-uniform on Friday.

Hampers — The PTA need your help to fill Christmas hampers and raffle tickets will be sent home on Monday.

Dogs near the Academy

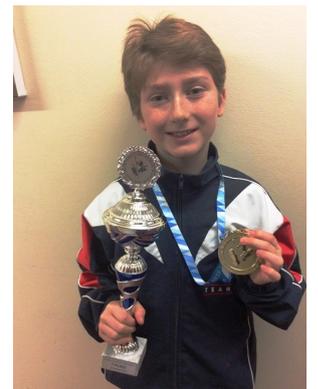
Please can dog owners remember the request to tie dogs up on the far side of the school gate, to allow clear, dog-free access into school.

Bench of Honour

Congratulations to the following pupils who appeared on the 'Bench' in November: Ellie G, Joseph W, Lola, Grace B, Belle, Ffion, James B, Belle, Amie, Jack T and Josh H.

World Champion

A big congratulations to Macauley who is a world champion in tap dance! He has been in Germany this week and was awarded the GOLD medal for his paired routine - a super effort!



iReach Africa Visit to Highnam Academy

Our thanks to Miss Capener, for visiting school this week to share updates from the Mozambique school that Miss Read will be teaching in January. Miss Coldrick visited the school in the summer to help train teachers, and we are planning to develop further links. It was great to see the difference the school is making in the locality.



Christmas Post-box

The post box will be available in the school's entrance area next week. Children are welcome to post their cards. These are sorted and delivered by pupils from Year 6. Please make sure the envelope has the child's surname as well as their first name and their class to aid our sorters!

Theatre Visit

We have booked the Daylight Theatre company to perform on the last day of term which is Tuesday 19th December. This year the show is Cinderella and we look forward to ending a wonderful term with this show.

And finally... We will be having our Christmas dinner together on Monday 11th December. All staff and pupils are involved and we'd like to invite everyone to wear a Christmas jumper with their school uniform. So it would be great to see parents, staff and pupils in their Christmas jumpers on that day (not compulsory but encouraged)! School finishes at **2:30pm on Tuesday 19th December**. Term 3 begins on **Thursday 4th January**.

On behalf of all the staff may I wish you all a very Happy Christmas.

Kind regards, Stephen Dean, Headteacher

Reindeer Food For Sale

Again this year £1 bags of magic reindeer food will be available to buy during December from either Mrs Kirby or from the school office. All money raised is donated to the Cystic Fibrosis Trust.

Sport News

Congratulations to Alana, Gia, Lucia, Danny, Ewan and Finn for competing at the Quicksticks Hockey festival at Newent a few weeks ago.



Community Coffee Morning

On Monday 18th December we will be hosting a Community Coffee Morning from 9:30am-11am with friends from Highnam Church. There will be a performance from the choir, some of our musicians and mince pies to accompany your refreshments.

If you know of any neighbours who would enjoy a visit to school please encourage them to join us.