

# Highnam C of E Primary Academy



@HIGHNAMACADEMY

**CHILDREN WITH CONFIDENCE**

1ST FEBRUARY 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have had an exciting and thoroughly enjoyable January at school. The pupils have been cooking, dancing, exploring, building and diving into their new topics which include China, Victorians, Treacherous Tides, Passport to Europe and Ancient Greece. We are looking forward to sharing all our learning with you at Open Classrooms later in the month.

## **Young Voices Concert 2018**

Last Friday, 31 pupils, staff and parents joined with thousands of children to sing at the Young Voices Concert at the Genting Arena. It was the first time the school had taken part and were joined by the other Primary QuEST academies: Staunton and Corse and Redmarley.

The whole experience was amazing with pupils, staff and parents singing (and dancing) together. My thanks to Miss Coldrick for organising the choir and to Mrs Harris, Miss Spry and Miss Thomas for their support. Finally, thank you to Mrs Honan for her administrative support to make the event run so smoothly. The feedback has been great - we look forward to another song-filled evening next year.

## **Live at the Genting Arena!**



## **Thank You to our helpers**

It is wonderful to see the large numbers of helpers around the school on a regular basis. The staff and I would like to thank parents and friends of the Academy who give their time so freely to support the teachers and pupils. Your help is very much appreciated.

If you are able to help out for an hour or so in school please see your child's class teacher.

## **Visit from Poet James Carter**

The pupils and staff had a fabulous poetry-inspired day with children's poet James Carter. He brought along a number of instruments and spent time with all pupils in the school.

Pupils shared their poems in a great Collective Worship at the end of the day and pupils in Year 5 even combined their work to produce a super class poem.

Our next literacy inspired event will be on the 1st March - World Book Day and our bedtime stories with teachers.



An inspiring visit from James Carter

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### Girls Team - 2nd in Newent Festival

The girls' team continue to have a very successful season and are off to represent the Forest of Dean in the County Finals later in the year. We are looking forward to the GSPFA knock-out matches later this month. Thank you to Miss Phillips and Mr Holmes for supporting the team.



Well done team - a super effort

### Tasty Treats Cooked up Across the School

The Hub is being well used by pupils to produce some tasty topic-inspired food. Reception have been tucking into stir-fries and spring rolls, whilst Year 1 made delicious Victorian sponges. Year 3 pupils have been following recipes to make their own tasty soup and pizza. Thank you to all involved in preparing for these lessons.



Cassidy tucking into a homemade stir fry



This year **Safer Internet Day** will be celebrated globally on Tuesday 6th February. The theme this year is Create, Connect and Share Respect! Next month Year 4 pupils will be hosting the 'In the Net' theatre show which also focuses on staying safe online.

### 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 considerably near to the school.

### Attendance Update

67 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** as currently 7% of pupils are below this figure and this is higher than previous years.



### House Update

This term pupils are preparing for house music. We look forward to hearing all the pupils in each house contribute to the music spectacular. Currently, Wetherleigh are leading the house point overall leader board with 2269 but there is still time for the other houses to catch up!

It has been a privilege to hand out so many Headteacher Awards and Housepoint Cards. There are three awards: 50 house points = the bronze award; 100 house points = the silver award; and 200 house points = the gold award.



### Wonderful Wall of Fame

The Art Wall of Fame is virtually complete... well done to everyone who has a piece of art-work on the wall. We are currently celebrating DT work around the school as well as in our new display cabinets. There is such a richness to the curriculum; it is good to celebrate the hardwork of pupils in a variety of ways.



Well done Jack and Josh



Beautiful work on display in the Year 5/6 corridor

### K'Nex Challenge

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

### Open Classrooms

A reminder that Open Classrooms will take place for this term on **Wednesday 7th February** between 3:20-4pm.

### Ready, Steady, Race!

Congratulations to the Year 5 and 6 runners who represented Highnam in the district race at Newent School on Tuesday. In the Year 5 girls' race Martha finished in 1st place, Ilsa in 4th and Lucia in 9th. In the Year 5 boys' race Woody finished 1st and Louis 2nd. Finally, in the Year 6 boys' race Nathan finished in 1st place and Sam in 3rd place. Well done to all the pupils who ran the races and to Miss Owen for preparing them so well.



Great racing - Nathan, Jesse, Jack and Sam



### Messy Church

A big thank you to our friends from Highnam Church for a great Messy Church this week. We have been following the Lifesavers programme during our Thursday Collective Worships and team have provided the pupils with a variety of activities to learn the importance of being cheerful givers. We are looking forward to the Bank of Highnam being piloted by Year 1 this term as well.

The next Messy Church will be on Wednesday 28th March.

**500 words**

Pupils have been working hard to produce a story in just 500 words. This year Gia was briefly part of the BBC Live Lesson to help inspire their story ideas. I am looking forward to reading the stories once they are all completed.

**World Thinking Day**

On Thursday 22 February, members of the Girl Guide and Scout movements celebrate World Thinking Day. All Scouts, Guides, Rainbows, Brownies, Beavers are invited to wear their uniforms on this day.

**Bench of Honour — January:**

A big thank you to the pupils who have been keeping the school smart and tidy, demonstrating the value of service and putting other pupils first.

On the bench this month were: Megan, Ellie G, Hattie, Katie, Harrison, Bonnie, Gethin, Jessica, Talia, Kate, Daisy, William H, Olivia S, Thomas, Jack, Poppy, Jasmine, Emily H and Daniel O.

**Visits to Newent School**

This week pupils in Key Stage 2 have had two exciting trips to Newent School. Firstly, pupils in Years 3 and 4 headed to the cookery room for a lesson with Ms Palmer. I hear there were lots of tasty pasta dishes created.

On Tuesday Years 5 and 6 were invited to watch Fame, which is the drama department's production for this year. It was most impressive and good to see ex-Highnam pupils so involved.



Gia — sharing her ideas on the 'BBC Live lesson'

**PTA Update**

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

Friday 2nd February - Cake Sale after school

Friday 23rd February - Film Night

Friday 16th March - Spring Disco 3:15-5:15pm. Please let Mrs Honan know if you are able to help out.

**Miss Cooney's Visit to Sweden**

Miss Cooney had a very informative trip to a number of schools in Sweden. The trip was organised by the University of Gloucestershire and has provided Miss Cooney with a some ideas for her own classroom and the outdoor learning across the school.

Term 3 ends at the normal time on Friday 9th February.

Term 4 begins for pupils on Monday 19th February.

Bedtime story and Reading information Evening - Thursday  
1st March at 6pm.

Parent Workshop - Dr Tom Robson Wednesday 14th March  
at 6:30pm

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 and see so much inspired learning.

Kind regards,

Stephen Dean, Headteacher