

Highnam C of E Primary Academy



@HIGHNAMACADEMY

CHILDREN WITH CONFIDENCE

3RD FEBRUARY 2020

Dear Parents,

We have had an exciting and thoroughly enjoyable January in school. The pupils have been immersing themselves in their learning which include studies into North and South America, the Stone Age, a visit to Storybook Land, changes to life at home over the last 100 years and learning about China. We are looking forward to sharing all our learning with you at Open Classrooms later in the month.

Young Voices Concert 2020

On Friday the 17th 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 – 5800 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.

We got on the bus, and soon we were there. When we got to Resorts Arena we had a warm welcome from the stewards and we quickly ate our lunch. Next we went in to the arena to practise with over five thousand children singing - it sounded amazing! After a few hours it was teatime and some people had their photo taken with Urban Strides (a dance group). Next it was the real thing and the audience were there we had a fabulous time - singing and dancing. A big thank you to all the teachers who took us and to Miss Coldrick and Miss Gent for running the club where we learnt all our songs.



Young Voices at Resorts World Arena

Written by Amie and Bella



Girls' Football Team Through to Finals

The girls' team performed very well at the Forest of Dean football south festival last month. They finished second in the competition and now progress to the Forest of Dean final this month. Thank you to Miss Harris for training the team on a weekly basis.



Well done team - a super effort

Reading Evening at Highnam Academy

On **Thursday 5th March**, to celebrate World Book Day, we will be hosting a bedtime stories evening as in previous years.

Pupils are encouraged to **return to school at 6pm** in their pyjamas / dressing gowns / onesies. During this time, teachers will share a story with their pupils in the classroom and enjoy a drink and biscuit.

Whilst this is going, on Miss Coldrick will leading a reading workshop to help you support your children's reading at home. The evening will end about 6:45pm.

Attendance Update

90 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**. Try to ensure your child / children are in school and on time as much as possible.

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 Jake, Adam, Preston and Dillon.

Tasty Treats Cooked up Across the School

This term, there has been a lot of cooking going on in the Hub. Recently, pupils in Year 1 enjoyed some bubble and squeak, a popular Monday meal for Victorians! Pupils in Reception have been trying some Chinese nibbles as well as they learn about China.



Year 1 pupils tucking into bubble and squeak

This year, **Safer Internet Day** will be celebrated globally on Tuesday 11th 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 last week.



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





Acorns Hospice Toy Sale

My thanks to Mrs Stephens, Mrs Tirrel and the Year 6 pupils for hosting the Acorns toy sale a couple of weeks ago. It was great to see the buzz of excitement in the hall as the pupils picked a new toy to buy and supported a great charity in the process.

£205.84 was raised for Acorns Children's Hospice - thank you for all your toy donations.



How has life at home changed in the last 100 years?

In Year One this term, they have been learning about life in the home since 1920 and how entertainment, toys, washing and food has changed. The pupils have had the opportunity to experience this by trying out a range of artefacts and resources.



Charity Walk

A few parents are on a mission to conquer Snowdon to raise money for Cheltenham and Gloucester Hospitals Charity. It will take place on May 16th. If you would like to support this challenge please follow the link below:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/missionsnowdonwales>



Year 1 Dance Show Performance

Well done to the Year 1 pupils and a big thank you to Miss Coldrick for creating the dance which was performed at the Cheltenham Town Hall earlier this week.

It was great to see the pupils enjoying their moment in the spotlight and thank you to all parents who came along to support.

Open Classrooms

A reminder that Open Classrooms will take place for this term on **Wednesday 12th February** between 3:20-4pm.

Primary QuEST Football Festivals

Over the past few Thursdays the Primary QuEST academies have been at Hartpury College taking part in an indoor football competition. It has been good to see the pupils enjoying the experience and demonstrating super teamwork. My thanks to all who came along to support and helped to transport to the events.



PTA Update

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

Friday 7th February - Film Night

Friday 24th April - Spring Disco 3:15-5:15pm.

Please let Mrs Honan know if you are able to help out.



Nora meeting Henry and Tallulah

1st Place in GPSFA 5-a-side Finals

Well done to the boys' team who won the football finals at Bentham last week. The team won the group stage on the Wednesday afternoon and returned for the finals on the Friday. They played superbly throughout the event.

Thank you to all who came along to support the team.

**Nora visiting Highnam Academy**

My thanks to Mrs Duan and Nora for being in school to support reading. Nora has behaved impeccably on her first two trips to school and pupils have enjoyed meeting her and reading with her. We look forward to seeing her most weeks!

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. It has also be noted a number of cars are keeping engines on whilst parked near to the school. Please can we protect our pupils and their families by turning engines off when stationary.

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.

Kind regards,

Stephen Dean, Headteacher

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

Tuesday	4th	Oliver Performance at Newent School for pupils in Years 5 & 6.
Wednesday	5th	Year 2 Cricket Festival at Dene Magna School
Thursday	6th	B Football Team Festival at Oxstalls
Friday	7th	Fossil Hunting trip for pupils in Year 6.
Friday	7th	PTA Film Night
Wednesday	12th	Open Classrooms
Friday	14th	Reception Class Collective Worship
		End of Term 3
Monday	24th	Start of Term 4
Wednesday	26th	Messy Church after school

March

Thursday	5th	Bedtime Reading Evening at school — for pupils and parents
Thursday	12th	Quick Sticks Hockey Festival in Lydney
	19th	Author and educator visit from Christopher Lloyd
Friday	20th	Year 5 Collective Worship
Saturday	21st	Mothers' Day Messy Church (3:30-5pm) in the school hall
Mon-Fri	23rd-27th	Erasmus Week in School
	31st	Year 3 rivers trip to Greystones
Tuesday	31st	Parents Evening 4-7pm

April

Thursday	2nd	Parents Evening 4-7pm
Friday	3rd	Year 1 Collective Worship
Friday	3rd	End of Term 4 (normal time)
Saturday	10th	Good Friday Messy Church (to be held at the Old School) 10am-12
Monday	20th	Start of Term 5
Monday	20th	Dr Tom Robson — Parent meeting at Hartpury School
Wednesday	22nd	Primary QuEST Year 4 Tag Rugby Festival
Friday	24th	Spring Disco (after school until 5:15pm)