

Highnam C of E Primary Academy



@HIGHNAMACADEMY

CHILDREN WITH CONFIDENCE

26TH MARCH 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are thinking of the whole school and village community at this time. We are pleased to be able to support our critical workers by providing childcare and we thank those parents for all they are doing at this time. My thanks to all staff who have been in school this week supporting the pupils. To the parents with children at home, we are all beginning to get used to this complete change in routine - thank you for the positive feedback received about the home-learning packs. A massive thank you to all staff and parent volunteers for creating these and organising them before school closed on Friday 20th March.

Here are a selection of Highnam pupils busy learning at home...



A lot happened in the first 3 weeks of March — so here is a brief reminder...

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Year 6 girls celebrate International Women's Day

On Thursday 12th March the Year 6 girls were invited to Babcock Aviation at Staverton Airport to celebrate International Women's Day. It was very interesting learning about what they did there and we were made to feel very welcome by all the Babcock employees.

First of all we were met by Jen who had organised the programme for our visit. She explained to us the plan for the day and what Babcock the company were involved in. The site at Staverton is the Babcock Mission Critical Services Training centre and one of the first things we saw was a flight simulator for helicopter pilots.

The first presentation we had was from the lady who heads up the whole team. She spoke inspirationally to us about her responsibility in the business and her career so far.

Next we were split into groups and were given timetables so we knew what we were doing for the morning. Group 1 (my group) went on a tour of the building and even got to see some helicopters close up in the large hanger where helicopters are repaired and serviced.

The majority of helicopters they keep in the hangers are air ambulances some of them are police helicopters. The mechanics do an amazing job to keep the aircrafts safe and ready for use.

Group two stayed in the conference room and completed two activities. One was using a wind tunnel which demonstrated how planes take off and how air pressure and air resistance works. The other activity was to make specially designed paper aeroplanes – which we got to fly at the end!

After a quick drink and a biscuit we headed back to Reception where we were all given goodie bags, we said thank you to the team, jumped back into the minibus and headed back to school. We'd had such an exciting morning – thank you to the Babcock team at Staverton.

Written by Jess M



The new OPAL shed is installed and ready for use. We will be looking for donations of dressing up clothes and old vacuum cleaners amongst other things!

More information to follow on our return to school.

2nd Place in Hockey Festival

Well done to our Year 6 hockey team who won the silver medal in the Forest of Dean Quicksticks hockey festival. The team finished top after all the pool games but narrowly lost in the final. A super effort from Gethin, Dylan, Harrison, Amie, Jess H and Emily.

A big thank you to Miss Hepburn for supporting the team and braving the cold afternoon!

Year 6 Boys Trip to the River Severn Bore

When we went

On Thursday 12th March we came into school with our trainers ready for a walk. We planned to walk down to the River Severn to see the natural phenomenon which is the Severn Bore. We left at 9:45am and walked down the cycle path to Over Farm market. We then followed the cycle track round and found a great viewing area on the bridge. Excitedly, we gathered to wait for the Bore...

What we did

Before we left school we sat with a partner to make up some questions to ask people that were going to be on the bridge to watch the Bore. While we were waiting we began to ask people where they had travelled from, whether they had been to see the bore before and have you surfed on the bore?

Was it good?

When we arrived we talked to a variety of people. We found that some people had travelled as far as from Stourport in the West Midlands. We waited for a while but once 10.25am had been and gone we realised the Bore had actually been and due to the extensive flooding the 4* Bore was more like a 1* Bore! We all saw the water rising but we didn't see a wave or a surfer!

On the way back we headed back to school via Highnam park for break time.

Dog watch

After a long walk we found that we were being accompanied by a golden Labrador. We eventually found out that the dog belonged to Over Farm and had followed us up the cycle path. We helped the dog back to Over Farm and head on our way back to school!

Written by Piers and Jay



Oakridge win House Music

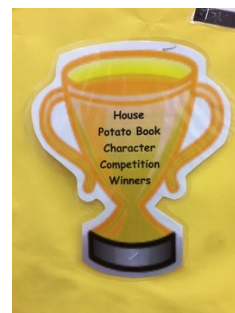
A big congratulations to all the pupils who took part in the annual house music competition. We had a wonderful afternoon of music which began with vocal solos from pupils from each house and were followed by instrumental solos.

We ended with the house songs which all had a European theme. A big thank you to our judges: Miss Rudge, Mrs Smith and Mrs Hanbury and to all the staff for supporting the pupils during the practices.



Wetherleigh Win Potato Challenge

Well done to all the pupils who entered the House Potato Book Character competition. We were amazed by the variety of entries. Congratulations to our winners from each class. Thank you to Mrs Trotman for organising the challenge.



World Book Day

On Thursday the 5th March we celebrated World Book Day. The pupils all dressed up in their pyjamas and all of the staff dressed up as book characters nominated by the classes. In the evening over 50 parents joined us for the reading workshop led by Miss Coldrick whilst the pupils enjoyed a hot chocolate and cookie listening to a bedtime story with a member of the Highnam team. Thank you to Miss Coldrick for leading the workshop, the staff for dressing up and reading the stories and to the PTA team for supplying the hot chocolate and cookies.



Visit from author and historian Chris Lloyd

We were delighted to have a special visit from Chris Lloyd from 'What on Earth Books' last week. He took each class on a magical journey through time. He brought along his massive historical timeline and wowed his audiences throughout the day.

"With my class Chris dressed up in a special cloak which had 15 pockets. He shared a variety of objects in the pockets and used them to talk to us about a special time in History."

Commented Alannah in Year 6.



Gloucester Rugby Wheelchair Rugby Visits

Pupils in our Reception class have been working with a team from Gloucester to learn some new skills. They have been having 40 minute tutorials on how to play wheelchair rugby. It has been good to see how their understanding and confidence has developed over the past few weeks and we look forward to welcoming the team back to Highnam Academy soon.

"I have found the lessons exciting! The best bit was learning how to turn." said Isaac in Reception.



We will continue to share with you via class dojo and educational updates will be provided for Term 5 after what would have been the Easter holidays. Thank you for all your personal messages of support over the past few weeks — they have been much appreciated.

Finally, may I wish you all a Happy Easter.
Kind regards, Stephen Dean, Headteacher