

# Highnam C of E Primary Academy



@HIGHNAMACADEMY

**CHILDREN WITH CONFIDENCE**

4TH MAY 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have had a busy couple of weeks since returning after the Easter holidays. During this time, we have opened the OPAL beach, seen a lovely variety of plants arriving in school - brightening up the site and had a visit from Mrs Trotman and her new baby, Tommy. In the classroom, the pupils have been enjoying their learning and have settled back into good learning habits superbly. I have also been so impressed with the politeness and engagement of the pupils on the gate each morning. The pupils are clearly excited about coming to school which is great to see.

### **Thank you Mrs Honan**

I am sad to announce that Mrs Honan has decided to retire at the end of this academic year. I have worked with Claire for over a decade and I have thoroughly enjoyed every minute. She has been a great asset to Highnam Primary Academy and has been the 'front of house' for hundreds of pupils and their families.

Mrs Honan has been a keen supporter of the school — always involved in the summer fayre, Christmas events and staff social events. Most recently, she was on the end of a shovel moving sand for the pupils' OPAL beach during the Easter holidays! During the past year, Mrs Honan has been the conduit for a lot of correspondence with parents due to Covid restrictions. She will be greatly missed and we wish her a happy retirement enjoy spending more time with the grandchildren.

We will be advertising for a new school administrator and will update you about this later in the term.



### **Didi-Rugby and Wheelchair Rugby**

We are delighted to be working with Keith from Didi-Rugby and Kelsey from Gloucester Rugby this term. The pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will be have two weeks of didi-rugby and Year 1 will be working on the wheelchair rugby programme. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed their first sessions last week.





## Parents Evening

A reminder that the March Parents Evenings have been rearranged for the 18th & 20th May, 4-7pm.

The invite to book virtual appointments will be sent via School Cloud later this week.

## The Big Pedal

Thank you to everyone who has cycled or scooted to school over the past two weeks. The results have been added to the overall Big Pedal leader board and the school finished in 2nd place in Gloucestershire, a great achievement.

As we move towards the summer months, it would be good to continue this healthy way of arriving and leaving school.



## OPAL

A big thank you for all the donations received for the OPAL choosing shed on the playground. Each class is having time at the different zones available. The wheeled play slot and the Highnam beach have been a real hit this term. Thank you to all involved in moving the 30 tonnes of sand over the holidays. The pupils are having a great time!



## Year 4 Brass

This month, pupils in Year 4 have started a 10 week brass programme.

Mr Storer is giving them some expert tuition!

During this time the pupils will have the opportunity to play the trumpet or a baby tuba.

"It is amazing, we get to play brass instruments in school,"

commented Ellen.



### School Calendar

|           |                |                                  |
|-----------|----------------|----------------------------------|
| Wednesday | 26th May       | Y6 and Class photographs         |
| Friday    | 28th May       | End of term 5                    |
| Monday    | 7th June       | Inset Day (pupils not in school) |
| Tuesday   | 8th June       | Start of term 6                  |
|           | 14th-16th June | Cycling Proficiency for Year 5   |
| Tuesday   | 22nd June      | Key Stage Two Sports Day         |
| Mon-Fri   | 5-9th July     | Year 6 residential               |
|           | 6th July       | Key Stage 1 Sports Day           |
| Monday    | 19th July      | Year 6 BBQ                       |
| Wednesday | 21st July      | Year 6 Leavers' Service at 2pm   |

We hope that some of these events will include spectators however this is dependent on guidance received. Currently the GCC advice is no spectators on school sites.

### Reporting Illness

Please can I remind parents to call in to the school office or send an email to:

[admin@highnam.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@highnam.gloucs.sch.uk)

to report your child's absence or any medical appointments.

### Fixed Play Equipment near the playground

A quick reminder the playground equipment should not be used outside of school hours.

### Active RE

A big thank you to Owen, our Children and Families worker, who has been delivering the Psalms Active RE lessons over the past two weeks.

### PQ Planting

Thank you for supporting your pupils with this project at home. We have loved seeing the school site looking so summery on our return to school.



### Collective Worship

Normally we would be sharing the pupils' learning in the hall and we would invite parents from each class to attend. We have not been able to hold these collective worships for over a year so we are going to record them and provide a 'premier viewing' so they can be accessed via the school website. The planned dates are:

|           |                                 |
|-----------|---------------------------------|
| Reception | Friday 9th July                 |
| Year 1    | Friday 2nd July                 |
| Year 2    | Friday 18th June                |
| Year 3    | Friday 16th July                |
| Year 4    | Friday 25th June                |
| Year 5    | Friday 11th June                |
| Year 6    | Weds 21st July Leavers' Service |



And finally, I hope you had a better bank holiday than me - I fractured my ankle playing cricket for Highnam Court. So I might not be on the gate as much as normal in May to aid my recovery.

Kind regards, Stephen Dean, Headteacher