

Highnam C of E Primary Academy



@HighnamAcademy

CHILDREN WITH CONFIDENCE

October 2021

This Term

I am extremely impressed with how well the reception children have settled in this term. They have quickly learnt and adapted to the new structure and routines of school and they have enjoyed exploring their new classroom and outside area. The Reception team have noticed how enthusiastic they are about their learning and it's been a joy to watch them make plenty of new friends. We look forward to a great year ahead!

It has also been encouraging to see the children in other year groups continuing to reconnect with their friends and classmates in the September sunshine as they settle back in to the more familiar routines of school life. We have seen some fabulous active learning taking place across the school recently: from OPAL fun to Forest School adventures; from swimming to multi-skills sessions and daily mile training - a very active month for everyone!



Generosity in Action!

The value that we are focusing on this term is generosity. Here is the link to some fun activities that can be completed at home and help you as a family to explore the value further: <https://www.highnam.gloucs.sch.uk/links/home-school-values>

This value certainly has been on display amongst the Highnam pupils this term in a number of ways.

Being mindful of the situation in Afghanistan and the many refugees that have had to flee their homes, pupils in key stage two felt strongly that we should do what we can to support Afghan families who have recently moved to the UK. They have planned a Highnam cake sale (today!) and all proceeds will go to a local charity called GARAS (Gloucestershire Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers).



Meanwhile, Amelia in Year 5 was keen to raise money not only for GARAS but also for Balkan Underdogs – a charity that rescues and rehomes street dogs from Serbia. She came up with the idea of designing and making book marks to sell to pupils at Highnam for 50p each. Again, all proceeds will be split between these two worthwhile causes. Please let Amelia know if you would like to purchase a bookmark.

Thank you everyone, for helping to make a difference.

Harvest

Our Harvest Celebration will be held on the afternoon of Tuesday 19th October at Holy Innocents Church. Currently, Owen Westall – the church's children's worker – is working alongside our Worship Council to plan our time together. Unfortunately, we are unable to open up this event to parents. However, we will require a small number of parent helpers to escort us to the church; more details to follow, including information about food donations for the Gloucester Foodbank.



KNex Challenge

Well done to all our Year 6 pupils who competed in the KNex challenge organised by STEMworks UK. The children were given the task to design and make eco-friendly houses. They worked in pairs and created some fabulous models. Congratulations to Harvey and Dan for their winning model. The Year 5 pupils will be taking part in their own KNex Challenge today.



Academy Council

The children on the Academy Council have had their first meeting with Miss Gent. Their task was to consider what's special about our school and the most important things that children need to learn during their time at Highnam. They came up with some insightful and interesting contributions and these will contribute towards our school vision. Thank you also to all the parents who completed the online questions around our vision.



House Captains



Earlier this term, the vote was held for the House Captain positions. All children in Year 6 had the opportunity to stand for election. Well done to all those who chose to put themselves forward, they presented their thoughts and ideas confidently and articulately to the rest of the children in their house. Congratulations to our eight new House Captains: Amelia and Charlie for Lassington; Darcey and George for Maidenhall; Harriet and Jacob for Oakridge and Matilda and Freddie for Wetherleigh. I look forward to working with you all during the coming year!

After School Clubs

It is such a joy to be able to hold extra-curricular clubs once again. The Young Voices choir are enjoying learning the Lion King medley and some Beatles songs; the children in the Mindfulness club are having a calming, relaxing time; the children in the apparatus club are very brave at climbing and jumping and the cross country club are doing so well at developing stamina! The football clubs are back into the swing of things and it was great to cheer the girls' team on in their first home match. The boys' A Team will be starting their matches against other schools soon.



The Wilderness Residential

The Year 4 pupils are currently enjoying their wilderness adventure in The Forest of Dean. Some of the Highnam staff visited them during their stay and it was lovely to see them out and about, taking part in challenges and full of enthusiasm. You can catch up on all they've been up to on our Twitter page: @HighnamAcademy A big thank you to Mrs Carpenter, Mrs Gilchrist, Mrs Barter, Mrs Wood and Miss Phillips for looking after the children while they are away from home.



PTA

We are very fortunate at Highnam to have such an active and dedicated PTA. Despite the challenges of the last year, they still managed to raise over £3,400! This has gone towards new books for every classroom and some exciting Forest School resources. Thank you to everyone, especially those on the committee, for all your efforts and support.

In September, we held the AGM and lots of exciting events have been planned for this school year such as a colour run, pumpkin trail, cake sales, a bedtime stories evening, a spring disco, a bounce-a-thon and of course the summer fayre. Do keep an eye out for further details.

Best wishes, Liz Coldrick, Head Teacher