

Highnam C of E Primary Academy



@HighnamAcademy

CHILDREN WITH CONFIDENCE

November 2021

Term 2

Welcome back everyone. I hope you managed to have a restful half term break and were able to do some special things as a family. As always, the children were keen to be back in school this morning, coming in with smiles on their faces and telling us all their news.



Some photos of our learning from last term

Hopefully, you have all managed to read the letter that was emailed out to parents last Friday around measures we are putting in place to reduce the spread of COVID19. A few reminders:

- We are pausing indoor after-school clubs for at least the first two weeks of this term.
- Parents are advised to wear masks during drop off/pick up.
- Staff will wear masks in communal areas such as corridors.
- We will reduce indoor mixing of children from different year groups.

Thank you for your cooperation with this.

Cars on Wetherleigh Drive

Recently, we have received several reports of people parking irresponsibly on Wetherleigh Drive and therefore placing children and adults in danger. I need to remind you that we must maintain a safe journey to school for all. We can do this in a number of ways:

- Ensure that the immediate vicinity outside the school gates is car free (apart from the disabled parking space and one other space).
- Be considerate of our neighbours and do not block access or park across drives.
- Ensure that those walking to school can access the pavements at all times. It is not acceptable to partially park on the pavement and therefore force people to walk on the road.
- Where possible walk/cycle/scoot to and from school.

A few years ago, the children who were on the Academy Council at the time, worked out a **Five Minute Walking Zone** (see next page) around the school to encourage children and families to walk for at least part of their journey to and from school. The purpose of this was to increase the opportunities for healthy exercise, reduce traffic around the school gate and improve the local environment for the whole community.

Highnam Primary Academy's 5 minute walking zone map



We encourage all families who live within, or near the zone to walk to and from school every day, while those with longer journeys are asked to park safely outside the zone and walk the last few minutes of the journey to school. Thank you to all those who are already doing this. We would love more of our families to join in.

The aim is for children and adults to breathe clean air, live healthy, long and fulfilling lives and for our school and Highnam to be a clean and safe place to be.

Staffing News

Mrs Hazelden has announced that she will be retiring from teaching at Christmas. She has worked at this school for 17 years and will be hugely missed. She has contributed to our success both academically, as an excellent teacher, and creatively. Her passion for art and design will be sorely missed but we wish her all the best for the future. If you have any memories of Mrs Hazelden that you would be willing to share, either as a parent, or as a pupil in her class, please send them to school via email at admin@highnam.gloucs.sch.uk We would be very grateful for any contributions.

In October, we appointed a new teacher, Daniel Bailey, and he will be starting in Year 2 in January 2022 (more details will be shared with Year 2 parents later this term). We really look forward to welcoming him to the Highnam team.

Homework

Last term, the focus of our homework was on reading. We would like to continue with this and strongly encourage your child to spend at least 20 minutes per evening reading their book/listening to a story/enjoying a library book borrowed from school. In addition to this, children will be set some weekly maths homework. More details of this will be shared by your child's teacher on Class Dojo.

Cashless Catering

From this term, parents are able to go online to book school lunches. Copies of the menu will no longer be sent home as you will be able to order and pay online via school money. We would appreciate it, where possible, if you could book and pay for all four weeks in advance.

Colour Run

Parents, children and staff had a fantastic time at the PTA Colour Run last term. What a joy it was to see the air filled with bright colours as everyone ran around Highnam! Thank you to everyone who helped to organise this. We are still counting the sponsor money to find out how much we raised, but it is over £1,500! My thanks to our brilliant PTA for putting on such exciting events throughout the year for the good of the school.



Year 2 Collective Worship

The children in Year 2 produced an informative and entertaining virtual class worship all about the Great Fire of London. This can be viewed on the school website. A big thank you to the children, Mrs Hazelden, Miss Owen and the rest of the Year 2 team for all your hard work on this. I am really looking forward to other classes sharing their learning virtually this term.



Remembrance Day



At 11 o'clock, on the 11th day of the 11th month, we remember those who have given their lives for the peace and the freedom we enjoy today. We will be selling Poppy items from Mrs Bottomley's office for the Royal British Legion. They will be on sale this week and next. Children who are part of Rainbows, Beavers, Brownies, Cubs, Scouts, etc. are welcome to wear their club uniform on that day to mark the occasion.

Children in Need Non-Uniform Day



On Friday 19th November, we will be supporting this worthwhile charity. We are hoping that Pudsey Bear will fit in a visit to Highnam the day before. Children are encouraged to wear non-uniform on the Friday and pay £1.

Christian Values

This term in school, we will be focusing on the value COMPASSION. Follow the link below to download some ideas that will help you explore the value together as a family:

<https://www.highnam.gloucs.sch.uk/links/home-school-values>

Parents Evening

As we have already made you aware, virtual parents evening takes place on Tue 16th and Thu 18th November. Additional information for you to sign up for your appointments and the log on details will be emailed out on Friday at 6pm. If you have changed your email address or contact number recently and have not informed us, please email: admin@highnam.gloucs.sch.uk

Photographs – take two!

It was great to have Ed, the school photographer from Astracolour, in before half term. We are aware, however, that with quite a number of children off in the last week, many missed out on having their photo taken. Therefore, Ed has kindly agreed to return to Highnam on Wednesday 3rd Nov to take photos of any children who missed this.

Cross Country Success

We thoroughly enjoyed the Highnam House Cross Country competition last term. It was lovely to see the children cheering each other on and celebrating each other's successes. Well done to all who took part and congratulations to Lassington, the winning house!



The following week, Miss Owen took some members of the cross country club to the Forest of Dean Schools competition. The children's competitiveness and determination really showed and produced brilliant results. There were 21 schools that took part. Overall, the girls' team came fifth and the boys' team came first – a fabulous achievement!



Charities

Thank you to the Year 6 children who planned and organised the recent cake sale. There were some delicious cakes available and thanks to everyone's generosity, we raised over £330 for Gloucestershire Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers.



It was disappointing not to be able to celebrate Harvest in the church as we had originally planned. However, we were still able to make donations to Gloucester Foodbank. Thank you to all who contributed to this.

Message from Mr Dean

A massive thank you for all the cards, presents and messages received in the summer. I have such great memories of being at Highnam for the past 13 years, working with dedicated staff, supportive parents and positive pupils. It was lovely to see so many families at the Staunton and Corse fireworks evening a couple of weeks ago and I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the various Primary QuEST events planned for this academic year. Kind regards, Mr Dean.

Best wishes, Liz Coldrick, Head Teacher