

Highnam C of E Primary Academy



@HighnamAcademy

CHILDREN WITH CONFIDENCE

December 2021

This term

The autumn term seems to be whizzing by and we are fast approaching Christmas! November has once again seen a real sense of purpose right the way across the school.

Last week, our reception children did a fabulous job of making delicious vegetable soup. The year 1 children have continued to enjoy their forest area sessions and produced some wonderful tree rubbings. Year 2 have been practising their balancing skills in PE.



In year 3, the children have been learning about The Stone Age and created beautiful cave paintings using chalk. The year 4s have shown impressive design and technology skills when making their own Roman chariots.



I was blown away by the quality of the writing produced in year 5, which was based on World War II. And last but not least, the year 6 children have been finding efficient ways to multiply fractions.



It's always a pleasure to walk around the school and see the buzz of activity and see first-hand the enthusiastic approach our children have towards their learning. Thank you to all the Highnam teachers and TAs for planning and delivering such an engaging curriculum.

Update on COVID Measures

Unfortunately, we have seen on a very real level that the pandemic is far from over. Whilst we had quite a number of cases in October and November, as I write this, we have two confirmed cases of COVID in the school, plus some pupils awaiting PCR results. We hope that this number remains low. However, we must remain vigilant and take extra care, especially in light of the recent news of a new strain of the virus.

Within school, we continue with many of the mitigations we've put in place. Our aim is to maintain the safety of the whole of the Highnam community and we will, as always, work as a collective to do that. To that end, can I remind all parents and carers that when they enter the school for any reason, they should be wearing a mask unless medically exempt. We also highly recommend the wearing of masks for drop off and pick up times, especially when gathering around areas that are potentially busy, such as the school gates and outside the classrooms.

In terms of our Christmas productions, we have made the difficult decision to make the junior carol service virtual. The children will still go to the church on the afternoon of Monday 6th December; we will record the service and share the link with you. For the infant nativity, provided the number of positive cases within our school remains low, and there are no further restrictions or guidance from the Department for Education, then we will go ahead with this in school (9.30am on Tuesday 14th and Wednesday 15th December). Sadly, we have had to limit the numbers for these performances. We also ask adults to wear masks. We will keep windows open to ensure there is good ventilation and we have also arranged to use an air filter system for each performance.

We hope you understand the reason for these decisions, and we apologise for any disappointment it may cause.

Charities

We had a great day raising money for Children in Need and raised an impressive £771 through our non-uniform day and selling a range of merchandise. Thank you to Pudsey Bear and the volunteers from Newent and District Rotary Club who came to visit all the children.



The Gloucester Foodbank also wanted to pass on their appreciation for the harvest donations they received in October. In total, Highnam provided them with nearly 50kg worth of food. Thank you to everyone who helped to support these worthwhile charities. Your generosity will benefit so many who are in need.

K'Nex Challenge

Last week, we enjoyed another visit from Mo at STEMworks. This time it was year 3's turn to design and create models using K'Nex. They were given the task to build bridges that were strong and stable with a span of at least 30cm. The children showed excellent team work and perseverance to create their bridges.



Year 4 Trip



As part of their learning in history, year 4 enjoyed a trip to Chedworth Roman Villa last week. They learned lots of interesting information about life in Roman Britain and they got to make a beautiful mosaic.

Sporting Success

Highnam have taken part in several sporting fixtures over the last month. A huge well done for everyone who has been involved – it is a pleasure to watch and cheer you on at both home and away matches!

The A and B football team have both proved to be incredible and so far they remain undefeated.



A team of year 3 and year 4 footballers took part in and won the Primary Quest indoor football festival.



Meanwhile, the netball team are going from strength to strength. In their most recent match they played incredibly well and drew 1:1.



Books!

Thank you to everyone who supported the book fair last month. Your purchases resulted in a fantastic 32 free books for the school. We hope to hold another book fair in the spring term and will let you know when we have a date for this.



A big thank you to Brecon and his family for providing us with some fabulous wildlife books. These books have been written and signed by the author and BAFTA Award-winning television producer, Martha Holmes, who is known for her wildlife documentaries such as Life and Blue Planet.

We are hoping that Martha will be able to visit us at Highnam to talk to the children about her experience of filming some of these programmes later on in the school year. In the meantime, we are really enjoying looking through these books!

Late Arrivals

Can I remind parents and carers that the school gates open at 8.45am and children should be in school by 8.55am. Anyone arriving later than this will need to come into school through the main entrance and sign in at the office.

All children need to be in class at 8.55am for the register and to start lessons, so please ensure that your child is in school by this time. Children who repeatedly arrive late for school can miss considerable amounts of learning time, for example, arriving 5 minutes late every day adds up to over 3 days lost each year.

Christmas Arrangements

Children are welcome to send Christmas cards to their friends (this is a great opportunity to get children writing for a purpose!). However, please can this be limited to sharing cards just within their own class. We won't have the Christmas post box this year; children can bring the cards into class to give out.



We are looking forward to celebrating Christmas in a number of ways:

Thursday 2 nd December 7pm	<u>Y6 Highnam Choir</u> We are excited to once again sing at the Meningitis Now Christmas Carol Concert at Gloucester Cathedral. Thank you to Mrs Smith for preparing the children for this. The concert is due to finish at 9pm. Please can parents collect their children from the cathedral at the end of the concert. Children will need to wear school uniform for this.
Monday 6 th December 1.45pm	<u>Key Stage 2 Christmas Carol Service at Holy Innocents Church, Highnam</u> For pupils and staff only. We will take the children to and from the church for the afternoon performance. They will all need to wear school uniform for this.
Thursday 9 th December 1.15pm	<u>Panto!</u> We have a visit from the Rainbow Theatre who will perform Sleeping Beauty for the children.
Monday 13 th December	<u>Christmas Party for Y5/6 in the afternoon</u> Children will be provided with a hotdog and other refreshments. They can wear party clothes to school that day.

Tuesday 14 th December	<u>Christmas Dinner Day</u> Please order in the usual way through Cashless Catering/School Money. Children can wear their Christmas jumpers on this day.
Tuesday 14 th & Wednesday 15 th December 9.30am	<u>Infant Nativity in the school hall</u> Tickets have been issued
Wednesday 15 th December	<u>Christmas Party for Y2 in the afternoon</u> Children will be provided with a hotdog and other refreshments. They can wear party clothes to school that day.
Wednesday 15 th December	<u>Messy Church Christmas Takeaway</u> This will be a virtual event
Thursday 16 th December p.m.	<u>Christmas Party for Y3/4 in the afternoon</u> Children will be provided with a hotdog and other refreshments. They can wear party clothes to school that day.
Friday 17 th December p.m.	<u>Christmas Party for Reception and Y1 in the afternoon</u> Children will be provided with a hotdog and other refreshments. They can wear party clothes to school that day.

Other dates for your diary:

Thursday 9 th December	Cake sale after school – cakes will be provided by year 4
Friday 10 th December	Last day of swimming for year 3
Friday 10 th December	Musical Quintet to visit year 5 for a musical workshop
Friday 17 th December	Last day of term – end of the school day is 2.30pm

Next term:

Tuesday 4 th January 2022	Inset training day for teachers – children not in school
Wednesday 5 th January	First day of term for children

Best wishes, Liz Coldrick, Head Teacher