

Highnam C of E Primary Academy



@HighnamAcademy

CHILDREN WITH CONFIDENCE

March 2022

Term 4

Welcome back! I hope that you all had a super half term break and are looking forward to everything that we have planned for term 4. Do look out for this term's year group curriculum overviews which will all be emailed to you and on our website in the next few days; these are a great opportunity for you to find out more of what your child will be learning throughout this term.

Some of our recent learning at Highnam



World Book Day



We are looking forward to celebrating World Book Day this Thursday. Don't forget that all Highnam children are invited to return to school in their pyjamas/onesies for our bedtime stories and hot chocolate evening which starts at 6.00pm. Parents are welcome to come into the hall for refreshments and a short session on how to support your child with reading. We will be finished by 6.30pm.



Don't forget to look out for your child's £1 book token.

Covid-19 Update

The government announcement on Monday 21st February has meant several changes for schools this term. The guidance is as follows:

- Routine asymptomatic testing is no longer advised in mainstream settings.
- From 24th February, the government removed the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test. In addition, the government will no longer ask fully vaccinated close contacts and those aged under 18 to test daily for 7 days, and routine contact tracing will end.
- Adults and children who test positive on a PCR, or LFD test, will continue to be advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least 5 full days and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received 2 negative test results on consecutive days.
- For staff or children who have any of the main symptoms, the public health advice remains unchanged and is to stay at home and avoid contact with other people. They should order a PCR test and are advised to stay at home while waiting for the result.

Outdoor Play and Learning

At Highnam, we are committed to ensuring that quality play opportunities are available to all our children. Most of our best childhood memories are from playing outdoors and exploring the wide world around us. OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) gives us the opportunity to give those memories to your children. It is all about using natural and man-made resources to allow children to be inspired and creative at playtime.



On Tuesday 8th March, we are holding an open afternoon to allow parents to come into school and find out more about our OPAL times. Please join us in the hall at 1.30pm, where Rachel Murray (our OPAL advisor) will explain more about the OPAL philosophy. This will be followed by an outdoor session for parents, staff and children to enjoy together!

Parents' Evening

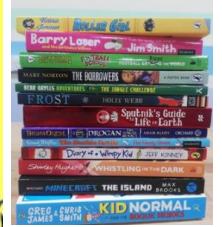
The spring consultations - your chance to touch base with the class teacher on how your child is progressing academically and socially within school - are taking place on Tuesday 29th and Thursday 31st March between 4pm and 7pm. These meetings will continue to be held remotely and a link will be sent to you soon. If you would like to see your child's work, we will be having Open Classrooms on Wednesday 30th March which means you are welcome to come in to your child's class between 3.30pm and 4.15pm to look through their books.

This Term's Value

This term, we will be thinking about the Christian value of Forgiveness. You can download more information and ideas to help you explore this further at home on our school website, following the link below.

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

Virtual Book Fair



A reminder that our virtual Books for Bugs Book Fair is taking place all of this week (wb 28th February). Please do visit the website to see the fantastic range of books on offer. Imagine how many free books we would have for the school if every child in Highnam ordered just one £2.50 book!

Extra-Curricular Activities

This week, after school clubs start up again including some new choices such as cheerleading, cookery and cricket. We are very fortunate to have such dedicated staff who are willing to provide such engaging activities for the children at Highnam.



Coding Club



Art Club



Cheerleading Club



Netball Club

Message from our Education Welfare Officer

Due to the disruption of the last two years, children have lost a significant amount of their educational time in the classroom. Highnam has high expectations for attendance, and we are keen to avoid any further disruption and to support our pupils to take advantage of their educational opportunities. Our policy states every child should be in school every day that they are required to attend.

Whilst we appreciate the disruption that the pandemic may have caused, holidays should not be taken in term time. Absence for leave in term time may only be authorised in exceptional circumstances. The application for leave must be made in advance and in line with our attendance policy. We will consider each individual request but must be satisfied that there are truly exceptional circumstances based on the individual facts and circumstances of the case.



I Reach Africa

Many of you will remember Miss Read who used to teach at Highnam before moving to Mozambique to work with the charity I Reach Africa. We are still in regular contact with Miss Read and the schools that she is involved with. Recently we received the following request:

We love playing with these dolls in our crèche programme but as you can see, they are a bit worse for wear! If anyone has a child who has outgrown their 'barbie' dolls and wants to donate them to us, we would be very happy!

If you are able to make any donations, please let us know and we would be happy to pass them on.

And finally...

Congratulations to Owen Westall (the church family worker) and his wife Amy, on the arrival of their first baby! They had a little boy, Elian Joseph, on the 20th February. We wish them all the best.

Best wishes

Liz Coldrick, Head Teacher

Dates for your diary:

Monday 28 th February	Start of term 4
Monday 28 th February – Friday 4 th March	Virtual Book for Bugs book fair
Tuesday 1 st March	Shrove Tuesday
Wednesday 2 nd March	Gloucestershire Dance Festival for year 5 pupils
Thursday 3 rd March	World Book Day Children are invited to return to school wearing pyjamas for bedtime stories and hot chocolate from 6 – 6.30pm.
Friday 4 th March	Swimming at GL1 starts for year 6
Monday 7 th March	Dance Days workshops for all classes
Tuesday 8 th March	OPAL open afternoon for parents 1.30 – 3pm
Friday 18 th March	Comic Relief Red Nose Day Non-uniform day - children can wear red to school
Tuesday 22 nd March	Year 5/6 Primary Quest football event at Hartpury College 3.30pm
Tuesday 29 th March	Parents' evening
Wednesday 30 th March	Open classrooms 3.30 – 4.15pm
Thursday 31 st March	Parents' evening
Thursday 7 th April	Year 3 trip to Grey Stones Year 6 PC Steer visit
Friday 8 th April	Last day of term 4
Monday 25 th April	Start of term 5