

Highnam C of E Primary Academy



@HighnamAcademy

CHILDREN WITH CONFIDENCE

April 2022

Spring is most certainly here and there are signs of new life and growth all around us. I had the privilege of showing visitors from another school around Highnam at lunchtime on Monday and it was, as always, a real treat to see the creativity and hive of activity as children enjoyed the outdoors.



On the subject of lunchtime play, we are delighted that Highnam is now an OPAL platinum school! Following a staff training day in January 2021 and then lots of hard work from Mrs Carpenter, Mrs McGillion and all of our wonderful play team, our OPAL provision has gone from strength to strength, securing the highest possible award. We are proud to say that this puts Highnam in the top 1% of UK primary schools for our high quality play provision. My thanks to all of the staff, parents and local advisors for their hard work and support in ensuring that our children have an outstanding opportunities for play and learning in the outdoors.



Platinum Award

Sporting Success at Highnam

We have continued to enjoy a wide range of sporting activities both at school and also when competing against other primary schools. It is a real joy to see such team work, perseverance and a positive attitude from all our pupils who take part. I am incredibly grateful to the dedicated team of staff who readily volunteer to lead sports clubs, referee/umpire matches, take children to and from events and attend these events after school and on the weekend to cheer our children on! Thank you also to parents who support the teams and help out by offering lifts. The children simply wouldn't have these opportunities without you all.

Netball

A huge well done to our year 5 netball team who played at a netball tournament held at Oxstalls. They played against several schools and won EVERY game with final scores of 3-0, 5-0, 2-0 and 4-0! The team played amazingly, thoroughly enjoyed themselves and were a credit to the school. Absolutely fantastic!



Cricket



A group of children from year 1 and 2 had the opportunity to practise their cricket skills with coaches from Gloucestershire Cricket Foundation at Hartpury College. I was impressed by their bowling, batting and catching skills and how these improved throughout the afternoon!



Football

The girls' football team have had a great season and they managed to get through to the semi-finals. They were beaten by Castle Hill Primary but should be very proud of themselves for all they achieved this season.



Cross Country

Well done to Dan, Jack and Frankie who competed in the county cross country run at St Edwards in Cheltenham. It was a challenging course and they showed real determination and stamina throughout the race.



Finally, I am delighted that both our A and B football teams have made it through to the finals which take place this Saturday at Longlevens Junior School. A huge congratulations to both teams for getting this far – they are a credit to the school. Several Highnam staff are looking forward to being there to cheer them on!

World Book Day Celebrations

We enjoyed celebrating World Book Day in a number of ways. Our first ever Masked Reader event was a great success and children loved guessing which teacher was behind the mask! The bedtime stories evening was as popular as ever and it was lovely to see the children appreciating a good book in front of a log fire (on the screen) while drinking hot chocolate. Thank you to everyone who bought books at our virtual book fair with Books for Bugs; we were able to choose 30 free books for the school!

Well done to Wetherleigh House – the overall winner of our egg book character competition. We were incredibly impressed by the creative and wonderful egg characters that the children made.



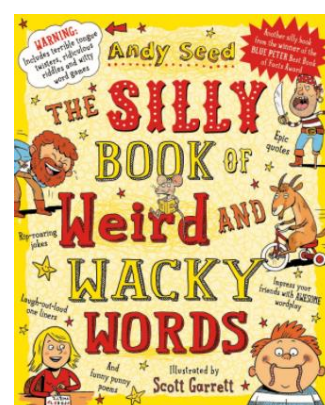
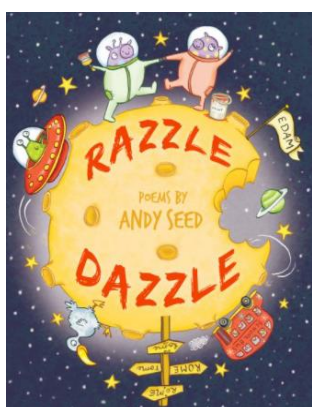
Dance Days spent the day at Highnam and worked with each class on a dance linked to a book. Reception focused on Handa's Surprise, year 1 and 2 on The Three Little Pigs, year 3 and 4 on Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and year 5 and 6 on The Nowhere Emporium.



Year 6 performing their Nowhere Emporium dance

Developing a love of reading is always a priority for us at Highnam and so it was lovely to celebrate WBD in these ways.

We are very much looking forward to a visit on Wednesday 6th April from local award-winning author, Andy Seed. We recently emailed details of how to purchase one of his signed books.



Support for Ukraine



Thank you to everyone who supported our fundraising cooked breakfast last month. As a result of your generosity, we raised £682 which went towards helping the people of Ukraine.

A huge thank you also to Mr and Mrs Gorman who kindly organised for essential goods to be transported to the border of Ukraine.

As we watch the events in Ukraine unfold, we are aware that there is still very much a need to help in any way we can. Josh in year 5 has come up with a great idea of how we can raise further money.



"My idea is to walk/run the distance from Highnam to Kyiv around the track at school, which is 1526 miles. Each person will log their distance and hopefully, by the end of the term, we can see if we have completed the distance."



Well done to Brecon in year 1 who completed a sponsored silence for the day and raised an incredible £472 for British-Ukrainian Aid.

We will aim to complete this challenge from Tuesday 3rd May and we will send a Just Giving Link out nearer the time for anyone who would like to donate/sponsor this event.

Gardening News

One of the Highnam parents, Mrs Hutchinson, has kindly offered to come into school once a week to do some gardening in the school grounds. Already we can see an improvement and far fewer weeds around the place!

Thanks to Mrs Hutchinson, we have received donations of pots, seeds and soil from some local garden centres and we are looking forward to planting these next term in gardening club.



This year, Primary QuEST will be showing a garden at the RHS Malvern Spring Festival. We will be preparing this before the show with some pupils from each of the PQ schools. The theme is the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. I hope we see some of you there!

Wildlife Quiz Team



Congratulations to Ellen, Edmund, Freddie and Jack who have been competing against other local schools in the Gloucestershire Primary Schools Wildlife Quiz. They had to answer questions about British wildlife and identify all sorts of interesting items from nature in the specimen and photo rounds.

The first round of the quiz ended in a draw. They then went on to win the second round! Their general knowledge was impressive and it was a fantastic team effort.



Lost Property

We have a growing number of jumpers, cardigans and other items in our lost property box. Please do check it by the end of this term, otherwise it will be sorted and redistributed over the Easter holidays.

Defibrillator at Highnam!

We were overwhelmed by the way the Highnam community came together to raise money for a defibrillator at Highnam Academy. In under 24 hours, we raised more than the target amount! A huge thank you to every person who contributed to the £1195 we finally raised. Your generosity and willingness to give so quickly is much appreciated. This means that we will soon have this life-saving piece of equipment available for use in the event of an emergency.

Best wishes

Liz Coldrick, Head Teacher

Dates for your diary:

Friday 1 st April	Break the Rules Day
Wednesday 6 th April	Author visit – Andy Seed (www.andyseed.com)
Thursday 7 th April	Year 3 trip to Grey Stones Year 5 trip Ufton Court Year 6 PC Steer visit Year 2 cake sale after school
Friday 8 th April	Last day of term 4 (school ends at normal time) Last day of swimming for year 6
Monday 25 th April	Start of term 5
Thursday 28 th April	Active RE with Owen for year 5 and year 6
Friday 29 th April	Active RE with Owen for year 3 and year 4 Year 5 flash mob dance practice – time TBC
Saturday 30 th April	Year 5 dance performance in Kings Square around 6pm
Monday 2 nd May	Bank Holiday
Tuesday 3 rd May	Our lap challenge to raise money for Ukraine begins
Thursday 5 th May	Active RE with Owen for year 5 and year 6
Friday 6 th May	Swimming at GL1 starts for year 4 Active RE with Owen for year 3 Spring disco 3.30pm
Thursday 5 th May – Sunday 8 th May	Malvern Spring Show – the Primary Quest schools will be showing a garden that we have designed and created!
Monday 9 th – Thursday 12 th May	Year 6 SATs
Monday 16 th May	Y3 visit to Eastnor Castle with other Primary Quest Y3 pupils Y6 visit to Skillzone
Friday 20 th May	Young Voices Concert at Genting Arena

Wednesday 25 th May	Archery event 1.30pm – 3.30pm – Viney Hill Adventure Centre (group of year 4/5/6)
Thursday 26 th May	School photographer in for class photos – all children to wear school uniform Year 1 cake sale
Friday 27 th May	Last day of term 5
Monday 6 th June	Inset day – children not in school
Tuesday 7 th June	First day of term 6 for children
Thursday 16 th June	Year 6 leavers service at Gloucester Cathedral
Friday 17 th June	Summer Fayre 3.30pm
Monday 20 th – Friday 24 th June	Year 6 residential to Butlins
Monday 11 th – Friday 15 th July	Year 5 Bikeability
Tuesday 19 th July	Year 6 leavers collective worship in school hall 2pm
Wednesday 20 th July	Last day of the school year for children
Thursday 21 st July	Inset day