

Highnam C of E Primary Academy



@HighnamAcademy

CHILDREN WITH CONFIDENCE

20th July 2022

As we come to the end of what has been another challenging school year, I would like to offer our collective thanks for the support you have given to your children, the staff and the school. Back in September, we were hopeful that this year would see us return to normal with children once again mixing across year groups, extra-curricular clubs, parents in to the school and school trips. However, with high numbers of staff and children off with Covid-19 throughout the first half of the school year, and the new variant of Covid-19, we had to cancel whole school gatherings, face to face parent meetings, clubs and visitors at various points in the year. We could never have envisaged that this year would present us with so many last minute changes and challenges. Nevertheless, we managed to remain open for the whole year due to the hard work and commitment of the Highnam staff, who often went out of their way to work extra hours and cover classes and lunch duties to ensure the day to day running of the school continued as smoothly as possible. Thank you to parents and families for your patience and understanding through all of this.

We continue to place the children at the heart of every decision and every action we take, and it has never been more important for home and school to work together. We are extremely grateful for your support during an unusual year and we look forward to continuing working with you in the next school year.

Goodbye Year 6



It is the time of year where we wish farewell to our superb year 6 pupils. They have been a credit to the school and have risen to the challenge of setting a good example for the rest of our pupils. We are proud of their achievements and know that we send them on to their new secondary schools having had some wonderful, memorable learning experiences, with strong basic skills. This month we received our KS2 SATs results (see the next page) and we were thrilled with how well the children performed. However, it is not just about academic success. We value many things here at Highnam – things that are not always so measurable – sport, music, art, social skills, the ability to persevere when faced with a challenge, we are proud that the children have excelled in these areas as well as achieving academic success.

I want to personally thank the year 6 children and their families who come to the end of their Highnam journey for being a part of our community, and I wish you all the brightest of futures. A special goodbye to those families who have been a part of Highnam for many years. We will miss you all!

Other Goodbyes

As well as saying goodbye to the year 6 children, we also say goodbye to Rachel Thomas, Holly Cook and Dan Bailey. Rachel will be focusing on her child psychotherapy work, Miss Cook will be heading to Redmarley Primary Academy, and Mr Bailey is planning to spend some time travelling before pursuing a career in sports teaching. We have loved working with them, we thank them for all they have done for us at school and wish them all the best with their future endeavours.

We also say farewell to Daisy and Liesl, who will be moving to Scotland this summer. We will miss both girls hugely and we wish them and their family all the best in their new home.

Highnam and National SATs Results 2022

<u>Subject</u>	<u>% of Highnam children who reached the expected standard in 2022</u>	<u>% of children nationally who reached the expected standard in 2022</u>
Reading	94%	74%
Writing	84%	69%
Maths	94%	71%
GPVS	94%	72%
Science	87%	79%

Percentage of Highnam children working at the expected standard in all areas = 81% (national = 59%)

The assessments for reading, maths and GPVS (grammar, punctuation, vocabulary and spelling) are from the SATs tests that children completed in May. The assessments for writing and science are decided on by the class teacher.

A huge well done to all the teachers and teaching assistants that have worked with and supported these children during their time at Highnam. My thanks to Miss Gent, Mrs Tirel, Mrs McGillion and Mrs Duan who have supported this class brilliantly this year; finally, congratulations to all of the children for their hard work and perseverance.

Our School Vision

You may be aware that we have spent time this year looking at the Highnam vision. After consulting the children, parents, staff, local advisors and advisors from the education team at the Diocese, we compiled everyone's contributions and here are details of our new vision:

Inspiring Everyone to Shine

This is based on this Bible verse:

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

Matthew chapter 5 verse 14 – 16

At Highnam, through our vision 'Inspiring Everyone to Shine,' we strive to enable each child to develop and flourish and to let their light shine before others. Our Christian values are embedded through everything that we do and provide a strong foundation which inspires and motivates our whole school community.

Together, we recognise, in the eyes of God, that we are all special and have unique talents which we support and nurture so that each of us has the opportunity to become the very best person that God intended us to be. All members of our school community are encouraged to have faith in themselves and in others as well as understand how faith in God can impact our lives. We want our children to feel inspired to do well but to also do good and for the light of their lives to shine and make a difference in their classrooms, throughout the school, at home and into their community.

We are excited about launching our new vision in September and we will be in touch early on in the new term to give you more details of this.

Parental Feedback

I am grateful for the time and care that so many of you took in responding to our recent online parent survey. It is lovely to read positive comments and observations from many of you. Miss Owen and I have also listened to and carefully considered the constructive feedback and particular areas, like our communication to parents, will now be a focus for us for the next school year. There will be a letter sent out to all parents at the start of the school year with more details.

Summer Reading



It is so important that children read, share books and are read to consistently during school holidays to emphasise reading as a habit for the whole year, not just when they are at school. Attached to this newsletter is a letter from Mrs Carpenter about a summer reading challenge that we often run at Highnam called Get Caught Reading. We would love it if as many children and family members as possible could get involved in this and look forward to seeing the photos.

Please also encourage your children to take part in 'Gadgeteers' which is the library summer reading challenge. It aims to encourage children aged 4 – 11 to enjoy reading and visit their local library to choose books and also take part in a range of free events and activities over the summer. Happy reading!

Update on School Dinners for September

Please note that from September, the cost of a school lunch will increase from £2.30 to £2.35. This is the first price increase that we have seen since Cater Cater took over our school catering some years ago, and we hope that this slight increase will be understandable due to their increasing costs for provisions.

Tuesday 6th September 2022 is the first day of the new school year for children

Wishing you all a wonderful summer

Liz Coldrick, Head Teacher