

Highnam C of E Primary Academy



@HighnamAcademy

Inspiring Everyone to Shine

January 2023

Welcome Back!

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back and a very Happy New Year to you all! I hope that you had an enjoyable, restful Christmas break. Looking back at the end of last term, it was wonderful to see so many of you at the Christmas carol services and nativity performances. All your lovely comments and feedback were very much appreciated by myself and the staff. As always, thank you for your continued support in all we do at Highnam.

It has been a pleasure to welcome everyone back to school today for term 3. As I have gone around visiting every classroom this morning, I have seen engaged children, enthusiastic staff and a real sense of purpose in all the learning that is going on.

Looking ahead, we have lots planned for this term. A whole school oracy event (see attached letter), weekly swimming lessons for year 4, our annual house music competition, a visit from an author which will include creative writing workshops for children in key stage 2, Safer Internet Day and lots more! All of this alongside our core purpose – ensuring each child is inspired to shine in all they do. It is great to be back!



House Quiz



A huge well done to all the children who took part in our Christmas house quiz competition which took place on the last day of term 2. Children from all year groups represented their house and did a great job of answering Christmas related questions. It was very close, with just one point between first and second place! Congratulations to Maidenhall who were overall winners.

Community Coffee Morning

What a joy it was to be able to hold our annual Christmas Community Coffee Morning again – the first one in three years. Despite the freezing icy weather, a number of friends, neighbours, parents and grandparents joined us for some mulled wine, mince pies and general Christmas cheer. Well done to all the children who sang songs, played instruments and recited poetry; we received incredibly positive comments from our audience who were impressed with the children's confidence, joy and enthusiasm when performing.



PTA Update

It's great that more parents have got involved with the PTA recently. Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to attend meetings, help at events and suggest ideas for future events.

Last term, we raised £524 from the Christmas raffle, £878.18 from the disco, £236.90 from the last two cake sales and £298.52 from the car boot sale. This term, we are looking forward to another cake sale and a spring disco.

A reminder that this year, it is the PTA's aim to raise enough money to purchase an outdoor shelter for our playground.

Finally, I would like to clarify the following about the PTA:

The PTA committee is made up of (currently four) parents of children at Highnam – a chair, vice-chair, treasurer and secretary. Mrs Hands and I attend every AGM and have regular contact with the committee members throughout the year to discuss each event and the funds raised for these. Highnam staff, as well as a team of parents, volunteer to stay on and help at events such as the disco, summer fayre, quiz night and the bedtime stories evening.

PTA updates (including the way in which money is spent) can be found in school newsletters and also on posts/reminders on Class Dojo. For more details, plus the chance to express your views on how future money is spent, all parents are welcome to attend the AGM which takes place every September.

We are excited about future events that have been planned for the rest of the school year and are immensely thankful for everyone who contributes towards these, particularly to our wonderful and hard-working committee members.

Gloucester Cathedral Concert



Once again, we were invited to perform in Gloucester Cathedral for the Meningitis Now Christmas Concert in December. The children sang O Holy Night, Christmas Calypso and Little Donkey, including solo singing and harmonies. We are very grateful to Mrs Smith from Voice Academy (<https://www.philippasmithcreative.com/>) for doing such a wonderful job of teaching and preparing the children and getting the very best from them, and also to Mr Smith for accompanying the choir on the piano. The children sang beautifully and made us feel enormously proud.

Healthy Snacks

A reminder that children in the infant classes (reception, year 1 and 2) have a piece of fruit provided everyday free of charge that they can have as their mid-morning snack.

Years 3 – 6 can bring a snack for playtime of:

- fresh or dried fruit
- vegetable/salad (carrot sticks, cucumber, etc.)
- small snack such as cheese and biscuits, fruit/cereal bar

Charitable Giving

Last term, we had the opportunity to raise money for a number of charities. Thank you to our Academy Council for helping to decide on which causes to support and to everyone who contributed to the following:

The British Legion Poppy Appeal – £223.66

Children in Need – £615.22

Save the Children (Christmas jumper day) – £145.40

Gloucester City Mission – £376.95

Congratulations Mrs Carpenter!

We have wonderful news – Mrs Carpenter gave birth to a beautiful baby boy called Jude Arthur on 31st December, weighing 7lb 10oz. Mother and baby are at home and doing well and we can't wait to meet him. Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Carpenter!

With best wishes, Liz Coldrick, Head Teacher

Dates for your diary:

Tuesday 3 rd January 2023	First day of term 3
w/b Monday 9 th January	Extra-curricular clubs start again this week
Monday 9 th January	Junior children will be visited by Cain Gregory, a local man who helps to educate children on living with a disability
Friday 13 th January	Swimming at GL1 starts for year 4
w/b Monday 23 rd January	Oracy competition will take place this week in classes (see attached letter for more details)
Friday 27 th January	Young Voices Concert at Genting Arena, Birmingham
6 th – 12 th February	Place 2Be's Children's Mental Health Week
Tuesday 7 th February	Safer Internet Day
w/b Monday 13 th February	Oracy competition will take place this week – whole school (see attached letter for more details)
Wednesday 15 th February	PTA cake sale (please can year 3 parents provide the cakes)
Thursday 16 th February	Last day of term 3 (for the children)
Friday 17 th February	INSET day for teachers (children not in school)
Monday 27 th February	First day of term 4
Thursday 2 nd March	World Book Day Bedtime stories evening at 6pm led by PTA
Thursday 30 th March	Visit from award winning author, M.G. Leonard. This will involve creative writing workshops for all children in years 3 – 6. See www.mgleonard.com for more info.
Friday 31 st March	Last day of term 4

Future Dates:

Monday 17th April: First day of term 5

Monday 1st May: Bank Holiday (children not in school)

Friday 26th May: Last day of term 5

Monday 5th June: First day of term 6

Friday 21st July: Last day of the 2022-2023 school year