

# Highnam C of E Primary Academy



@HighnamAcademy

**Inspiring Everyone to Shine**

**February 2023**

## Highlights from this Term

In January, the children in key stage 2 were fortunate enough to be joined by Cain Webb and Helen Gregory. Cain, who is 21 years old and lives in Gloucester, has cerebral palsy. Along with Helen, who supports him, he visits local schools with the aim of teaching children about what it's like to live with a disability and how he overcomes daily challenges.



We gained so much from their visit: we all had the opportunity to try writing our name using just our feet and some children were challenged to put on a t-shirt using only one arm. The highlight of the session was watching some of the children feeding the teachers yoghurt! All of this was to demonstrate how hard the simple, everyday things can be for someone with a disability.

Cain answered the children's questions and communicated through his AAC, which is his computer that he controls with his eyes. He told us that the worst thing about his disability is being stared at when he is out and about. We were taught about things we can do to support people who are disabled, mainly to be respectful and friendly, to smile and say hello but never to stare.



Our time with Cain and Helen helped us to see that despite the challenges, living with a disability can be a source of strength and resilience. It can also be an opportunity to help others who are in similar situations. Cain's positive, 'can-do' attitude and wonderful sense of humour is an example to us all.

## A visit from Miss Read!



What a pleasure it was to welcome Miss Read (now Mrs Fitzsimons) to our school. Some of you may remember that after teaching at Highnam, she moved to Mozambique to work with the charity I Reach Africa. This was over five years ago!

During her visit, she spent some time in class and she led an assembly to update the children on the schools she works at in Mozambique. It was fascinating to hear about a day in the life of a Mozambican child and really opened our eyes to similarities and differences to life here in the UK.



## Young Voices

Taking part in Young Voices, the largest children's choir in the world, has to be one of the highlights of the school year for many of the children (and staff)! This year, we had the privilege of singing 'Proud' with Heather Small from M People as well as performing a whole range of songs including 'Don't Worry' by Bob Marley and traditional songs such as 'Over the Hills and Far Away'. We played our air guitars to 'I Wanna be a Rockstar' and finished the evening with a Nile Rogers disco medley. Throughout the concert, the children sang and danced with wonderful energy and gusto, behaved impeccably and represented the school brilliantly.





### Sporting News

Congratulations to the boys' football team who have had a great season so far. Last week they beat Parton Manor (a previously undefeated team) 2 – 0. Great effort boys! All the best for your match this week.



A huge well done to the fantastic netball team who managed to win every game in a netball tournament yesterday. They showed excellent team work skills in all the games that they played.



A group of year 5 and year 6 children recently competed in a cross country competition in Newent. Congratulations to all who took part and represented the school so well, it was great to see so many going through to the next round.



### MJ Leonard Books for Sale

In March, award-winning author MJ Leonard will be visiting us at Highnam. She will speak to all the children in assembly and then lead creative writing workshops with the key stage 2 classes.

We have managed to get hold of a limited number of two of her best-selling books – Twitch and Beetle Queen. The PTA will be selling these books for the bargain price of £4 each. Currently, both books cost more than £7 each on Amazon. If you would like to buy a copy please email [pta@highnam.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:pta@highnam.gloucs.sch.uk) letting them know which book you would like to buy and they will reserve a copy for you on a first come, first served basis.



£4 each

### Morning Arrivals

Thank you to everyone who arrives at school on time every day. I appreciate that the road closure a few weeks ago caused problems for many families and that there are occasional circumstances that do mean children can be late. However, we have a number of children who arrive late to school persistently.

It is very important that children arrive on time. Being on time creates positive, lifelong habits which are vitally important for children to develop. Being late can affect children negatively and mean that they don't have a good start to the school day. It also means that staff time is taken up ensuring children who are late get into class. Please make every effort to arrive at school between 8.45-8.55am.

### A Few Reminders

Medicines – when children need to take medicine, please could we ask that medication is administered out of school core hours (so if it is needed 3 times a day, please consider before school, after school and then before bed).

Sports – there is a specific email address for any sports related communication: [sport@highnam.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:sport@highnam.gloucs.sch.uk)

After school – when the children have been collected at the end of the school day, they must not play on the climbing equipment or in the MUGA. We are not insured for any incidents/injuries that may occur out of school hours.

With best wishes, Liz Coldrick, Head Teacher

### Dates for your diary:

Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> February	World Aspergillosis Day – we are holding a ‘Wear Something Purple Day’ and asking children to pay £1 (or whatever you can afford) which will go towards research into this rare disease.
6 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> February	Place 2Be’s Children’s Mental Health Week
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> February	Safer Internet Day
w/b Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	Oracy competition will take place this week – school heats
w/b Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	Aspirations Week – throughout the week, we are looking forward to hearing from visitors who will be talking to the children about their careers.
w/b Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	Virtual Books for Bugs book fair
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 5 will be performing at the Gloucestershire Dance Festival at Cheltenham Town Hall
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> February	Reception will be visiting the local church as part of their learning in RE
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> February	PTA cake sale (please can year 3 parents provide the cakes)
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> February	Open Classrooms from 3.20-4pm This is an opportunity for parents and carers to come into class straight after school (once all the children have been picked up), spend time in the classroom and see their child’s learning for that term.
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> February	Last day of term 3 (for the children)
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> February	PTA film night straight after school
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> February	INSET day for teachers (children not in school)
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> February	First day of term 4
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	World Book Day Bedtime stories evening at 6pm led by PTA
w/b Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	STEM week (science, technology, engineering and maths)
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	Red Nose Day (more details will follow)
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> March	Parents’ evening 4-7pm (bookings will open at 6pm on 9 <sup>th</sup> March)
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	PTA cake sale (please can year 2 parents provide the cakes)
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Year 2 and year 6 will visit the local church for Experience Easter sessions led by Reverend Heather
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Parents’ evening 4-7pm (bookings will open at 6pm on 9 <sup>th</sup> March)
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> March	PTA spring disco
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> March	Visit from award winning author, M.G. Leonard. This will involve creative writing workshops for all children in years 3 – 6. See <a href="http://www.mgleonard.com">www.mgleonard.com</a> for more info.
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Last day of term 4

### Future Dates:

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April: First day of term 5

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May: Bank Holiday (children not in school)

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May: Bank Holiday for the King’s Coronation (children not in school)

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May: Last day of term 5

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June: First day of term 6

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July: Last day of the 2022-2023 school year