

Highnam C of E Primary Academy



@HighnamAcademy

Inspiring Everyone to Shine

March 2023

I hope you all managed to enjoy some time with your children last week. It's been a pleasure to welcome everyone back to school for another term. It's a short, yet busy half-term ahead with lots planned so do check the diary dates listed at the end of this letter.

We ended last term with our aspiration week where we enjoyed visits from parents who talked to the children about their jobs. Throughout the week, the children found out about all sorts of careers; they showed such enthusiasm and curiosity, asking some very insightful questions. We are very grateful to everyone who took the time to visit us and clearly explain what they do to the children. It really helped to broaden their horizons and inspired them to consider the wide range of opportunities that are open to them in the future.



House Netball

Our latest house competition was a netball tournament between the four houses. The children showed great energy, skill and team work as they competed against the other houses. Congratulations to Lassington, the overall winners.



Well-Being Updates

In February, it was Children's Mental Health Week. The theme this year was Let's Connect and so we spent time thinking about making meaningful connections. When we have healthy connections with family, friends and those in our community, this can support our mental health and our sense of well-being.

For free resources and practical advice for parents around supporting children's mental health, check out the following links:

<https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk>

<https://mindedforfamilies.org.uk/young-people/>

<https://mentallyhealthyschools.org.uk/resources/parenting-smart-mental-health-advice-for-parents/>



TIC + provides support to children and their parents age 9+ and this includes:

Counselling

An anonymous chat service for children

Parental support and advice

<https://www.ticplus.org.uk>

TIC + is a local charity which provides a range of advice and support to children, young people and their families.

Particular highlights are:

- A list of family support in Gloucestershire put together by TIC

<https://www.ticplus.org.uk/2022/05/24/gloucestershire-helplines-online-support/>

- InterAct online free sessions for children age 9 upwards

<https://www.ticplus.org.uk/interact/>

Look Who's Talking Oracy Competition

This year, we are taking part in the Gloucestershire Look Who's Talking competition. The class and school heats took place in February and it was clear that we have some incredibly talented and articulate public speakers at Highnam! The children were invited to speak for up to two minutes on a subject of their choice. This included a wide range of topics such as favourite hobbies, animals, books and places, as well as current affairs such as climate change and endangered animals. We were hugely impressed with the children who took part; they spoke with confidence, enthusiasm and composure and had clearly put time and effort into preparing their speech.

Congratulations to Nell, Oscar, Evie, Lillia, Harry and Summer who were the overall winners for their year groups.

After showing a great deal of courage when presenting to the whole school, three winners were chosen to represent the school when competing against other primary schools. It was a difficult decision and the votes were close. Well done to Summer, Lillia and Nell who will go through to the next round.



Year 5's Fabulous Performance!

Once again, we took part in the Gloucestershire Dance Festival at Cheltenham Townhall. The children in year 5 performed a wonderfully joyful dance and should be very proud of themselves. Thank you to Miss Poole and the year 5 team for preparing the children and allowing them this fantastic opportunity.



Sporting Updates



Last term, this team played excellently in all their matches and as a result, are through to the next round.



Congratulations to the girls' team who have won nearly all their matches and always play with excellent team work.



Well done to our netball team who have won almost all of their matches this season and continue to play with skill and determination.

None of this would be possible without your support. We are grateful to all the parents and grandparents who give lifts, attend events and stand on the sidelines cheering on the children in all weathers. Our teams always feel well supported. A huge thank you to Mr Adcock who kindly agreed to coach the girls football team this year. He has trained with them since September and prepared them so well for all their matches. We are very thankful for such supportive parents.

World Book Day at Highnam

We are excited for World Book Day tomorrow (Thursday 2nd March). Don't forget to look out for your child's £1 book token which can be used for a range of specially produced books for this year's World Book Day.



A reminder that we are also organising the following:

Bring in a Favourite Book

We would like the children bring a favourite book into school. We will be having 'DEAR time' (Drop Everything And Read) at various points during the day so that the children will be able to enjoy reading their book.

Bedtime Story Evening and Parent Reading Meeting

The children of Highnam are welcome to come back to school at 6pm on World Book Day. They can come wearing their pyjamas, for cookies, a drink and a bedtime story, read by staff in the classrooms. Don't forget your teddy bears!

During this time, parents are invited to stay in the hall to attend a session all about reading. Refreshments will be available. We will show videos of the children reading throughout the school and hopefully give you an idea of the way in which children learn and practise reading skills and how this develops throughout their time at Highnam. This session and the bedtime stories will finish at approximately 6:30pm. A big thank you to the PTA for organising the refreshments for this.

Book in a Box

Children are invited to enter our Book in a Box competition. More details were posted on Class Dojo two weeks ago. Entries are due in on Thursday; we have already had some in and they are looking fabulous!

Aspergillosis Day

Thank you to everyone who took part in our 'Wear Something Purple Day' last term. Below is a message we received from Aspergillosis Trust:

Thanks for your donation, Highnam

£163.04



Jill Fairweather



Thank you very much for your donation. It really means a lot to the Aspergillosis Trust. Our aim is to preserve and protect good health of people suffering from aspergillosis by:

- *Raising awareness of aspergillosis and increase the understanding of the condition amongst medical professionals and the public at large*
- *Supporting sufferers globally by providing information and creating real and virtual support networks for sufferers of the most common forms of the disease*
- *Circulating up-to-date information about the condition with all forms of aspergillosis and help them understand the disease and treatments*
- *Raising funds for research, with the aim of making aspergillosis far more readily recognisable than at present*
- *Via joint initiatives, educate healthcare professionals of the symptoms and treatment of aspergillosis as it is often missed and can take years to reach the correct diagnosis*
- *Represent aspergillosis patients in wider lung health networks.*

Your donation will now be transferred safely to Aspergillosis Trust so they can continue their amazing work.

With best wishes, Liz Coldrick, Head Teacher

Dates for your diary:

Thursday 2 nd March	World Book Day – book in a box entries due in today. Bedtime stories evening 6-6.30pm led by staff and PTA. Parents are invited into the school hall for a session on reading progression through the school.
Friday 3 rd March	Swimming starts up again for year 4
w/b Monday 13 th March	STEM week (science, technology, engineering and maths) Each class will complete a STEM challenge during the week
w/b Monday 13 th March	Neurodiversity Celebration week This is an initiative that aims to help the world understand, value and celebrate the talents of neurodiverse minds. During the week, we will find out about neurodiversity and what this means. We hope to challenge stereotypes and misconceptions about neurological differences.
Tuesday 14 th March	Year 6 dental checks take place today.
Wednesday 15 th March	Reception and year 6 screening visit from Gloucestershire Health & Care NHS Foundation Trust
Wednesday 15 th March	Virtual internet safety meeting for parents 6.30-8pm
Friday 17 th March	Red Nose Day This will be a non-uniform day. Children and staff will be asked to wear something red and bring in £1, or whatever you can afford, for this charity.
Friday 17 th March	STEM workshops for year 5 and year 6 take place today led by an ambassador from STEM Learning.
Tuesday 21 st March	Parents' evening 4-7pm Bookings will open at 6pm on 9 th March. Here is the link https://Highnam.schoolcloud.co.uk/

Wednesday 22 nd March	Year 1 class assembly 9am in the school hall – parents and carers are warmly invited to this. PTA cake sale (please can year 2 parents provide the cakes)
Thursday 23 rd March	Year 2 and year 6 will visit the local church for Experience Easter sessions led by Reverend Heather.
Thursday 23 rd March	Parents' evening 4-7pm Bookings will open at 6pm on 9 th March. Here is the link https://Highnam.schoolcloud.co.uk/
Friday 24 th March	PTA spring disco
Monday 27 th March	House music competition (this takes place in school during the school day). Oracy competition held at Hartpury College at 6pm (we will inform parents of the children involved in this).
Wednesday 29 th March	Year 4 class assembly 9am in the school hall – parents and carers are warmly invited to this.
Thursday 30 th March	Visit from award winning author, M.G. Leonard. This will involve an assembly for all children and 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
Monday 17 th April	First day of term 5
Wednesday 19 th April	Photographer in school to take class photos and year 6 individual photos.
Monday 1 st May	Bank Holiday (children not in school)
Monday 8 th May	Bank Holiday for the King's Coronation (children not in school)
Tuesday 9 th – Friday 12 th May	SATs for pupils in year 6

Future Dates:

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