



Weekly Newsletter

7 June 2019

Making learning an adventure

Our school value for this half-term is happiness.

FoHBS News



This Sunday, 2-4.30pm

The forecast looks good, the games are set, the drinks are chilling and fire engine is ready. Don't miss out on a jam packed afternoon of summer fun!

Giant inflatables, Fort building, music, crafts, whack a rat, test your strength, Pottery painting with Glazetime, beer tent, second hand uniform, delicious baked goods, plants, handmade cards and gifts and don't forget the teachers will be in the stocks ready for you to take aim with some wet sponges!

It's going to be a great afternoon so don't miss out. The fun begins at 2pm

Ps we still need lots of gazebos. If you can loan us yours please email

contact.fohbs@gmail.com

Dear Parents/Carers

It has been good to welcome the children back to school this week after the May half-term break. Our value for the half-term is happiness. This seems a fitting value as we look to celebrating the success of the school year and head towards its close in July. It also fits well with the events that have been taking place for some members of our school community who have been celebrating Eid, to mark the end of the holy month of Ramadan. Over the course of the half-term, we will be exploring what makes us happy, how we can make each other happy and how different behaviour can impact on people's happiness.

Summer term 2 has started with an enjoyable art focus this week and it was a joy to see how well the children worked in their mixed-age groups yesterday for our house art day. The idea of the day was to provide an opportunity for older and younger pupils to work alongside each other in a supportive and collaborative way. As well as benefitting from additional artistic experiences, each house group's activities focused on a particular continent which added a cultural dimension to their learning. The children's work can be viewed in school, at our informal exhibition, this afternoon from 3:15 pm.

Alongside this, all the children have been working with our resident artist, Liz Sergeant, on our fantastic new library mural, which can be seen from the staff carpark to the left of the main school building. The mural has certainly brightened up the building and, no doubt, the children will feel great satisfaction from having left their mark on it for some years to come!

We are all really looking forward to our annual FoHBS Summer Fair this coming Sunday from 2 to 4:30pm. This is, I gather, always one of the highlights of the school year and really brings the whole community together for an afternoon of fun and fundraising. Don't miss out!

Next week, the children in Year 4 Maple Class will be off on their residential trip to Dell Fam at Whipsnade and pupils in Year 2 will be visiting Affinity Water to learn about freshwater habitats. We also look forward to our Dads' afternoon in Reception next Friday. One male relative per child will be welcome to join Chestnut and Oak classes at 2pm or if this is not possible at all one female relative will be welcome instead.

Problem Free Playtimes

The children are free to choose from a number of different activities during break and lunchtimes. The recent dry weather (up to today!) has meant that we have been able to use our school field for most of the Summer term and we have divided the field up to ensure each year group (from Year 1 to Year 6) has a zone in which to play football. We also have a number of basketball goals, fixed climbing equipment, landscaped areas and smaller equipment for the children to use. We continue to be grateful to FoHBS who help fund renewal of some of this equipment.

In order to avoid arguments, to manage pupil safety and to avoid loss of or damage to children's belongings, each class is provided with a football, a basketball and a sponge ball. The children are supported in organising themselves and in working together to play sensibly and to share resources. For this reason, we are unable to allow pupils to bring in their own footballs, basketballs or netballs, unless this has been arranged with their class teacher as a replacement for one of the class balls.

Given the high level of demand for playing football and the variety of other activities that are going on at the same time, we are unable to supervise break and lunchtime football as closely as would be the case at a football club or in a PE lesson, where each group would have a coach and/or referee. This means that, guided by their class teachers, the children have to manage their own games to some extent. Additionally, class teachers work with their different year groups to help the children manage and share the zones they have been allocated, according to their level of development and need. This may mean, for example, classes alternate days (with each class having separate football time every other day) or it may result in a decision to mix pupils up from classes to encourage them to collaborate with a wider or different group of children.

Additionally, in order to ensure football is managed safely and appropriately and to encourage those children who can be more reluctant to join in, we will be holding *Female Football Fridays* for the next few weeks from next Friday (14 June). This means that some of our girls who are keen to play, yet reluctant to join in with the more confident footballers (the vast majority of whom are boys), will have an opportunity to develop their skills and confidence and those regular footballers, who can be highly focused on football, are encouraged to explore some of the other activities on offer.

Staff News

Finally, I would like to welcome Mrs Richardson back to school after her maternity leave. Mrs Richardson has been working in Year 2 today and will be covering a number of one-off days in this way throughout June before returning to a regular pattern of 3 days per week towards the end of term and in the next academic year.

Yours faithfully

Jonathan Walker
Headteacher

Headteacher Awards

Congratulations to the following children for their achievements this week

- **Reception Oak Class** Grace – for working so hard on your writing
Alex C – for showing his value of happiness every day
- **Reception Chestnut Class** Megan – for brightening up the class with her happiness
William – for always being happy at school
- **Year 1 Elm Class** Hasnain – for showing enthusiasm on Art day
Sophie – for putting lots of effort into her work
- **Year 1 Cedar Class** Elsie – for settling in so well in her first week at High Beeches
Uri – for a fantastic attitude to learning all week
- **Year 2 Hazel Class** Sam – for showing an excellent attitude to learning
Edward – for always being positive and happy
- **Year 2 Willow Class** Lucas – for always challenging himself and trying his best
Lauren – for showing resilience and working hard
- **Year 3 Birch Class** Thomas G – for being a happy, helpful and hardworking member of Birch class
Bella – for always working hard and approaching her learning positively
- **Year 3 Redwood Class** Issie – for showing our value of Happiness through her writing this week
Josie – for always sharing happiness with our class
- **Year 4 Maple Class** Joel – for being a supportive learning partner
Harry – for always enjoying learning and showing our value of Happiness
- **Year 4 Pine Class** Christopher C – for making a huge effort to improve his handwriting
Sami – for an increased effort in his last Big Writing
- **Year 5 Ash Class** Toni – for helping the younger children and setting an excellent example
Maisie – for spreading happiness with her work on Art Day
- **Year 5 Hawthorn Class** Cassie – for playing together with children across all year groups at break & lunch
Jonah – for spreading happiness everyday with his jolly attitude & cheerful smile
- **Year 6 Sycamore Class** Annabel – spreading the value of happiness by being a supportive and loyal friend
Archie – for always working hard and doing his best in every situation

Sports Desk

Congratulations to the Y5/6 pupils who attended the Harpenden Schools' Rounders Tournament yesterday. Miss Jackson reports that they 'represented the school beautifully', coming joint-second in their group and missing a place in the semi-final by only half a rounder! Well done everyone. Archie, Mary and Nathan report below:



On Thursday 6 June, High Beeches Rounders Team competed in the Rounders Tournament at Redbourn Junior School. The team consisted of Archie, Mary, Max, Daisy, Seth, Sophie, Will M, Anna, Nathan and Annabel.

Firstly, we played St Helen's and won. Then we won our second game against St Nicholas. Unfortunately, we lost our game against the hosts, Redbourn, but our hopes rose as we beat Crabtree. We lost against the Grove, but luckily won our last match against Beech Hyde.

Overall, we came joint second in our group so, to decide who went through, to the semi-final, they went on goal difference. Unfortunately, this meant we lost by half a rounder, with Crabtree and Redbourn going through. All things considered, we had a great day and really enjoyed it!

Further Information and Reminders

Year 4 Multiplications Tables Check

Our Year 4 pupils will be undertaking a new multiplication tables check at some point over the next 3 weeks. The test is taken on a computer and takes about five minutes to take each child through a random selection of times tables questions up to 12 x 12. Given the high expectations of the current mathematics curriculum, it is felt that knowledge of the times tables is more critical than ever as a basis for maths learning in subsequent years. For this reason, the Department for Education will be making the test mandatory in Year 4 from 2020. We have agreed to pilot the test this year, to help ensure it is useful to teachers and parents when it goes live next year. We also expect the results to provide us with useful assessment information to help us plan for the current Year 4 pupils as they prepare to move into Year 5.

Parents Eco Team

We would like to put together a small team of parents that work towards making High Beeches as sustainable as possible. Meeting regularly, the team would work alongside the school Eco Council which is run by Mrs Waterworth, work closely with the gardening team and work with FoHBS to make fund raising as 'green' as can be. Willow mum Michelle is putting the team together so if you are interested in joining please email her at mish@ignitehospitality.com. Let's aim to be the greenest school in Harpenden, with a name like High Beeches we have a good start

Diary Dates

- Friday 7th June, 3:15 to 4pm – Art exhibition, School Hall
- Sunday 9th June – FoHBS Summer Fair – 2pm to 4.30pm
- W/b 10th June – Y1 Phonics Screening Test
- Tuesday 11 June – Team Photos
- Wednesday 12th to 14th June – Maple Class Dell Farm Residential
- Thursday 13th June – Y6 Computing Workshop
- Thursday 13th June – Reserve date for Y5/6 Rounders Tournament
- Friday 14th June, 2pm – Reception Fathers' Day Celebration
- Tuesday 18th June – Y1 Woburn Trip and Y5/6 Kwik Cricket Festival
- Thursday 20th June – Reserve date for Y5/6 Cricket Festival
- Friday 21st June – INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED
- Friday 21st June – FoHBS Summer Ball
- Tuesday 25th June – KS2 Athletics Tournament
- Wednesday 26th June - Maple Class Assembly – 9am
- Thursday 27th June – Reserve date for KS2 Athletics Tournament
- Friday 28th June – Hawthorn Class Assembly – 9am
- Friday 5th July – Ash Class Assembly - 9am
- Monday 8th July – LAST WEEK OF CLUBS
- Monday 8th and Tuesday 9th July – Year 6 Production – Evening
- Tuesday 9th July – No Karate Club
- Thursday 11th July –Transition Day
- Friday 12th July – Pupil reports sent home
- Tuesday 16th July – Volunteers Tea Party – 3.15pm
- Wednesday 17th July – Year 6 BBQ – Evening
- Thursday 18th July – High Beeches Got Talent
- Wednesday 24th July – End of Term – 2pm

ADVANCE NOTICE (How's this for planning?!)

Our Christmas Carol Services this year will both take place on the same evening. This is principally due to availability of the church, but it will also contribute to staff well-being at probably the busiest time of year, by reducing the number of evenings we are asking staff to work. We hope that by giving advance notice, parents will be able to make arrangements to be there if at all possible.

- Wednesday 11 December, 5pm – Red and Yellow Houses
- Wednesday 11 December, 6:30pm – Blue and Green Houses