



Weekly Newsletter

24 July 2019

Making learning an adventure

Our school value for this half-term is happiness.

Dear Parents/Carers

It has been a truly wonderful last week and a half of the school year at High Beeches. Our outgoing Year 6 pupils really excelled last week in their two performances of *the Pirates of the Curry Bean*, a brilliantly entertaining tale of good triumphing over evil and lost and found treasure, with singing, dancing and some side-splitting gags that would be the envy of any professional pantomime. We are pleased to be able to donate £300 from our collection at the play to the Chilterns MS Centre in memory of Josh's mum, Claire. Thank you so much for your generosity. Year 6 also enjoyed a super leavers' celebration on Wednesday evening. Thursday saw a spectacular *High Beeches Got Talent*, in which every class entered an act and the whole school was treated to a performance of one kind or another: be it music, dance, gymnastics or comedy. The standard was very high and the afternoon concluded with a one-time-only performance of the High Beeches staff rap *Too Talented by Far* (pictured above)! On Friday I enjoyed sharing my jobs with Kiera and Cassie whose parents bid for them to be *Head for the Day* at the FoHBS Summer Ball auction and they write about their experience below.

Thank you to all the staff and parents that helped to plan, organise and run all these events, which have made a memorable end to my second term at the school. Like so much of High Beeches life, the events demonstrated what a positive community we have and how well everyone works together for the good of the children. I would also like to thank the Year 6 parents who gave very generous gifts to Year 6 team and to Mrs Shewbridge and me, as well as those who have given gifts to other staff in recent days. Such gifts are by no means expected and your kindness is very much appreciated.

Highlights in the last 2 days have included our science fair open classrooms event on Monday afternoon (pictured below) and the leavers' assembly on Tuesday morning, which built on some of the reflections that took place in a special assembly led by Rev Fellows last week, when the children were given a special survival guide to starting secondary school called *It's Your Move*. This took the form of an awards ceremony and was a final opportunity to celebrate all that our outgoing Year 6 pupils have achieved in their primary years, before we send them off today, ready for the move to secondary school. We also had the opportunity to say farewell to our staff leavers and to a number of leavers from other year groups in a final, final assembly this afternoon! We will miss them all and they go with our love and best wishes for successful futures.

Finally, I am sure the whole school community would want to join me in saying thank you and farewell to our staff leavers. Mrs Mhairi De Kort and Mrs Monique Whales are both longstanding members of the learning support team, having served the school for a fantastic 20 and 15 years respectively and will be sorely missed. We are also saying goodbye to Miss Kerry O'Donovan, our Senior Midday Supervisor who has worked at the school for almost 4 years and Mrs Kim Moore, and Miss Filomena Agriesti both of whom have worked as Midday Supervisors for most of this year. Don't forget that school ends today at 2pm. On behalf of the whole staff team and the governing body, I would like to wish all our pupils and families an enjoyable and restful Summer break. We look forward to seeing everyone again on Wednesday 4 September 2019.

Yours faithfully

Jonathan Walker
Headteacher



Head for the Day

Dear Parents

On Friday 19th July, we were headteachers for the day. We thoroughly enjoyed this and it was interesting discovering what it is like 'behind the scenes' in school.

We started off by welcoming new parents and children before locking the school gates. We then proceeded to walk around the school, looking out for any health and safety issues. Whilst doing this we picked up several pieces of litter and equipment from the school field and playground. After that we popped our head into the working classes, to see if they were behaving. We are happy to say they all were.

We then ran both celebration assemblies, handing out Headteacher Awards (which can be seen below). We also handed out gym badges and sang Happy birthday to lots of children. This included all those with a birthday over the Summer holiday: to be precise, 22 in KS2 and 18 in KS1! We really enjoyed the coffee break, which was in the staffroom, where we had some refreshing squash.

Then we visited both Reception classes, who were extremely well behaved and quite, whilst learning in an interactive phonics lessons. We then moved on to the Year Twos, who were comparing their term 1 English book with their Term 3 English book. They were also showing their group presentations on safaris and Rhinos.

Soon after, we had lunch with Mr Walker and talked about the history of the school. We then went to Year 1 to help out and quickly popped into Year 3. To finish our day, we went back outside to say goodbye to everyone for the weekend.

That was our day as Headteachers!

Yours faithfully,

Miss C McBride and Miss K McBride, Co-Headteachers (for the day!)



Sports Desk



Congratulations to those in Year 1 who attended the athletics event at the Grove Infant School last Tuesday morning.

Congratulations are also due to Emelia in Year 5 who not only came third in the Coventry Open National Skating Competition, but also somehow found time to have a fair proportion of her hair cut off for the Princess Trust to help children with hair loss and also to raise money for vital research into childhood cancer.

Headteacher Awards

Congratulations to the following children for their achievements this week:

- **Reception Oak Class**
Agnes – for always showing the value of Happiness and Kindness
Harry – Always keeping on trying – no matter how hard the tasks
- **Reception Chestnut Class**
Sam – for having courage to perform in Reception Got Talent
Izzy - for having courage to perform in Reception Got Talent
- **Year 1 Elm Class**
Amelie – for always trying her best and inspiring her classmates
Jack G – for always setting a good example by showing enthusiasm for learning
- **Year 1 Cedar Class**
Taaha – for always showing a positive attitude to his work
Fiona – for excellent effort and enthusiasm in every lesson
- **Year 2 Hazel Class**
Felix – for always being happy and positive at school
Rosie – for always trying her best and pushing herself
- **Year 2 Willow Class**
Johnny – for approaching computing group work with a resilient, co-operative and happy attitude

- **Year 3 Birch Class** Jodie - for approaching computing group work with a resilient, co-operative and happy attitude
Aiden – for producing some lovely pieces of writing
Alex T – for making so much progress with his writing
- **Year 3 Redwood Class** Barney – for exceptional effort with their final piece of writing in Year 3
Sam - for exceptional effort with their final piece of writing in Year 3
- **Year 4 Maple Class** Alfie – for his continued excellent attitude to learning
Scarlett – for showing enjoyment in all her learning
- **Year 4 Pine Class** Olivia Mc – for being an awesome member of Pine class throughout the year
Ishika – for making great advances in reading and becoming a free reader
- **Year 5 Ash Class** Harry – for showing enjoyment in his learning in Maths
Caitlin – for showing a happy and enthusiastic attitude in all her learning
- **Year 5 Hawthorn Class** Clara – for creative scriptwriting and presenting HBGT with enthusiasm
James K – for creative scriptwriting and presenting HBGT with enthusiasm
- **Year 6 Sycamore Class** Sophie Birkett –for always pushing herself to do her best
William Rodger – for always having an excellent attitude in everything that he does



Harpenden in Bloom – Gold Award

We were delighted to learn last week that the school has been awarded a Gold in the town council's Harpenden in Bloom 2019 awards, for its gardening activities and wildlife areas. This is a real honour and testimony to the hard work of the children involved and of Mrs Gavan and Mrs Shafer who lead much of this work on a voluntary basis. Thank you to you both.

Further Information and Reminders

Upcycling School Uniform and Lost Property

Thank you to all those who have donated clean second hand uniform already. We have had collection crates in the main entrance foyer for this, this week and these will be available for any further donations in the first few days of next term. The uniform will then be offered to parents in September for a small charge or will be recycled. This will help us to reduce our carbon footprint as a school.

School Uniform: Look Smart –Think Smart!

Can we please take this opportunity to remind parents who may be buying uniform for the new term that trousers/skirts/pinafores should be grey and not black. Boys' socks should be grey/black not coloured, girls' socks/tights should be white/grey/green. We have seen coloured socks and black trousers/shorts creeping in recently. Hair ties etc should be green or grey. Should you wish to have your child's ears pierced, please do so at the very beginning of the holidays so that they are healed for the Autumn term. Infant children should not be wearing any jewellery, Juniors can wear a watch and small, plain gold/silver stud earrings but at their own risk. Although children are allowed watches in Key Stage 2, we do not recommend that children wear fitness trackers, as we have had tears from children losing them recently. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Mobile phones

Children in Year 5 and 6 only are allowed to bring mobile phones to school but these must be handed in to the school office switched off and collected at the end of the school day. All at owners' risk.

Lost Property

Any lost property not claimed by the end of the term will either be disposed of or given to the eco-committee for sale in September.

Diary Dates

- Monday 22nd July, 2:45pm – Classrooms open for Science Fair
- Tuesday 23rd July, 9am – Year 6 Leavers' Assembly – Y6 parents welcome.
- **Tuesday 23rd July – Volunteers Tea Party – 3.15pm Invitations being sent out**
- Wednesday 24th July – End of Term – **2pm**
- **Wednesday 4 September – school opens for Autumn Term 1**