



# Weekly Newsletter

26 February 2021

*Making learning a lifelong adventure*

Our school value for this half-term is responsibility.

Dear Parents/Carers

It has been good to be back at school again this week, after a relaxing half-term. I do hope families were able to have some quality time and some time to reset over the course of the week, despite the ongoing restrictions. Congratulations to all those who have submitted remote governor cup entries earlier this week. I know the teachers are enjoying working through them and members of the governing body are preparing to receive the shortlists. Thank you to parents for supporting the children in this.

This week our Sports Captains have launched their 100 Lap Challenge in memory of Captain Sir Tom and will fundraise for his NHS charity. The children have between now and 8th March complete 100 Laps. This is an optional activity, with no expectations of submitting work on Tapestry or Seesaw, but photographs of children completing the challenge can be emailed to [sportscaptains@highbeeches](mailto:sportscaptains@highbeeches).

World Book Day takes place next week on Thursday 4th March 2021 and we have declared the whole week World Book Week! As the children will still be learning from home this year, we are inviting them to dress up as their favourite book character and/or to bring their favourite book or prop to their year group assembly. Those children who are attending the keyworker group in school are welcome to do so for the day too. Please note that this means that year groups will be dressing up on different days as follows:

- Monday 1st March - Years 4 and 5
- Tuesday 2nd March - Years 1 and 6
- Wednesday 3rd March - Year 2
- Thursday 4th March - Reception and Year 3

Additionally, there will be another staff story to enjoy on Tapestry and Seesaw and some other World Book Day activities for each year group on Tapestry and Seesaw during the week or on the day.

## Looking Forward

There is an air of optimism around this week as we begin to take stock of the government's plans for easing the lockdown and I was delighted to have confirmation on Monday evening that schools are expected to reopen on 8th March. We are all really looking forward to welcoming the children back to school then. However, we are mindful that some children may find re-adjusting to in-person schooling difficult. We are already working to support them through additional Zoom sessions and other forms of contact and will also make any necessary adjustments to the curriculum on their return.

I am pleased that school staff are now included in the lateral flow testing (LFT) programme. As well as giving peace of mind to colleagues and school families, this will mean we can act quickly in the event that a staff member has contracted the virus. However, there continues to be a responsibility on all of us to follow the current restrictions, to help ensure there is not a further spike in cases and to play our part in making the proposed easing dates a reality.

Unlike their secondary counterparts, primary pupils are not included in the LFT programme and parents should continue to follow existing expectations for self-isolation and PCR testing, if they or any other members of their household develop any of the [three main COVID symptoms](#). In the case of a member of staff or pupil testing positive, we would instigate the same contact tracing process as before and may be required to ask a class or year group to self-isolate. In such cases, assuming staff members are well enough to do so, we would revert to remote learning similar to that of the lockdown period since Christmas.

Expectations for managing social distancing and for keeping contacts to a minimum in school through the use of consistent bubbles remain in place and, as such, we do not envisage significant changes to our school routines from the Autumn term, including the staggered start and finish times. However, we will need to confirm the details of these arrangements next week, when plans are further developed.

### **Communicating with Parents about Children's Achievement**

Once the children have returned to school and had an opportunity to settle in and readjust to school routines and expectations, we will be assessing them to help us better understand the progress they have made since the Autumn term and to identify areas for development. Given that there will only be 3 weeks from the re-opening of school to the start of the Easter break, we feel that conducting parent consultations before the Easter break will have limited impact and would rather report to parents early in the Summer term, once there has been enough time to understand this more fully and accurately.

This would allow us to report verbally to parents through online parent consultations on Tuesday 20 and Thursday 22 April and we would still expect to send a written report, similar to that sent out last year, at the end of the school year. Pupils on the SEN register, who usually have an SEN review instead of the parent consultation would have a more general parent consultation with the class teacher and an SEN review later on in the term.

Yours faithfully

*Jonathan Walker* Headteacher

### **Headteacher Awards**

Congratulations to the following children for their achievements that were celebrated in our online year group assemblies this week.

- **Reception Chestnut Class** Amy - for being such an enthusiastic home learner with a strong desire to keep on improving.  
James - for consistently working to a high standard at home.
- **Reception Oak Class** William - for always putting maximum effort into his home learning activities.  
Sophie – for working consistently hard at home and having a fantastic attitude to learning.
- **Year 1 Cedar Class** Harrison - for his excellent retelling of The Princess and the Pea.  
Yasmin - for brilliantly sounding out words in phonics.
- **Year 1 Elm Class** Daisy – having a great attitude to learning and always trying her best with her home learning.  
Luke – for his brilliant retelling of the Princess and the Pea story.
- **Year 2 Hazel Class** Leo – for producing a fantastic tiger story and video.  
Max – for great effort in all his home learning and a huge improvement in his handwriting.
- **Year 2 Willow Class** Francy – for persevering and producing work to a high standard while home learning.  
Jessika - for approaching tasks with a positive attitude and trying her best.
- **Year 3 Birch Class** Elsie - for great commitment to her learning, always trying her hardest and producing great work.  
Marnie – for a fantastic attitude and effort in school this past week.
- **Year 3 Redwood Class** Leo - for writing a terrific diary entry and editing to improve it so well.  
Lily - for some brilliant roleplay in English.
- **Year 4 Maple Class** Rosie – for always trying her best with her remote learning and showing great enthusiasm in the catch-up sessions.  
Joss – for really working hard at improving his English work and for great playing of the spoons!  
Lottie – for always trying her best in everything she does.
- **Year 4 Pine Class** Finn – for having a positive attitude towards his learning both in school and at home.
- **Year 5 Ash Class** Luis – for always working independently and showing kindness to others in school.  
Henry – for a detailed opening speech and argument for our live debate.
- **Year 5 Hawthorn Class** Mikey – for putting maximum effort into his remote learning activities.  
Theo – for taking the time to give thoughtful contributions to his Guided Reading and English.
- **Year 6 Rowan Class** Theo – for a permanently positive approach to his learning, excellent 'biome in a bottle' writing and sharing his creative talents.  
James – for his conscientious approach to his work throughout this half term and showing what he is capable of.
- **Year 6 Sycamore Class** Eve – for maintaining high standards of work in all her learning and for her levels of enthusiasm in video submissions!  
Seth – for a fantastic effort in writing to create his Biome in a Bottle.

## Community Matters

While we are apart and unable to run our traditional Book Fairs in School, why not browse the [Scholastic's online shop](#). They have a good selection of books at reasonable prices. When you register for an account, please be sure to select High Beeches School as we will earn rewards for every £10 spent by our school parents.

## Further Information and Reminders

### Communication from School

Please make sure you are properly logged into the School Jotter App to ensure you receive *messages* from school. Whilst the *newsletters* and *notices* can be seen by anyone with the app installed, messages can only be seen if you are logged in. If you can't see messages, it may be that you need to update the app and log in again. See image below.

### Parking

Just a reminder, once we are back on 8<sup>th</sup> March, to please park in our designated car park in Waldegrave Park and not on the neighbouring streets. Please be considerate to our neighbours. Thank you.

### Diary Dates

Monday 8 March	School reopens following national lockdown and school closure
Friday 26 March	School closes for the Easter break. Times to be confirmed.
Monday 12 April	Staff Training Day
Tuesday 13 April	Summer term begins
Tuesday 20 April	Parent Consultations
Thursday 22 April	Parent Consultations

## High Beeches Primary School - Home-school Communication



Parents can receive all our latest newsletters and other communication by downloading the *School Jotter* App (by *Webanywhere*) from the Appstore (for iPhone users) or Google Play Store (for android). Once you have downloaded it, simply search for High Beeches and login using the username and password provided by the school, when or shortly after your child is enrolled at the school.

- The school will provide parents with a username and password and they should log in by clicking on the padlock icon to receive messages.
- Once logged in, the messages icon will appear and parents will receive private or targeted messages which are only visible when logged in.
- All app users receive weekly newsletters and community information flyers via the Newsletters area and these are also published on the school website.
- Short generic messages, visible to all app users come via the Notices area.
- Users should check their phone settings to ensure they receive notifications for new newsletters, messages and notices.

[www.highbeeches.herts.sch.uk](http://www.highbeeches.herts.sch.uk)

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