



# Spring Term Newsletter

February 2018

Dear Parents,

This week is Book week in school and the children are enjoying a variety of visitors, including drama workshops and an African story-teller. On Friday, children are invited to dress up as a book character. There will be a Book Fair in school that day, open from 12.00-12.15 for Nursery children and their parents, and after school until 4.00pm for the remainder of the school. The children will be bringing a £1 book voucher home this week, which can be used to get £1 off any book on sale. Please note we will not have the £1 special book day books on sale here. They are available from WH Smiths and other book stockists.

Our school is a busy place, even when the school day has finished. This term there have been additional teacher led clubs for Key Stage 1. We have had about 100 children doing one of the after school teacher led clubs this term and in addition about 80 other club spaces filled in the clubs led by external providers. I would like to thank the staff who give up their time to run the clubs.

After children disappear from the school site, provision for adults then takes over. Family Fitness runs evening classes at Highbury School. They help to raise funds for the school through the classes. If you would like to join the classes, as a Highbury parent, you pay a reduced fee. They also offer confidential concessions to those on low incomes. Sessions include Dancefit on a Monday evening and Saturday morning, Circuits on a Wednesday evening and Fitness Pilates on a Thursday evening. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Maggie Hackney on 07815 196910 or [maggiehackney@hotmail.com](mailto:maggiehackney@hotmail.com) ([www.family-fitness.co.uk](http://www.family-fitness.co.uk)).

Another evening event is Mr Chance's parents' choir, Reflection, which runs at Highbury and practises once a fortnight on a Friday evening. The choir has now performed at quite a few school and community events. If you are interested in joining the choir, please speak to Mr Chance.

## **Nursery Applications**

Applications for Nursery next academic year are now open. There is an online admission form on our website. Applications close 16<sup>th</sup> March. This is for children who were born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2015. Nursery tours can be booked through the office.

## **Closure Notification System**

A reminder about our schools closure notification system which Hertfordshire is now using. You are invited to sign up to receive messages by SMS and email. This is in case the school ever needs to close in an emergency, including severe weather. To sign up, you need to go onto the following link; [member.everbridge.net/index/892807736725489](http://member.everbridge.net/index/892807736725489)

This link will direct you to the "Sign Up" page where you should click "Sign Up" button located at the top right hand side of the page on the grey strip and follow the instructions from there. It should take no more than 5 minutes to register and you can edit your information at any time should you change your mobile number or email.

Each contact within the system can have 2 devices added for each communication type if they wish to, so in addition to adding your own mobile number and email address, you can include the mobile and email address of a partner or a grandparent. They would then receive messages in relation to the school's closure. Alternatively, they could register themselves. If you have a child at more than one school, you can register for those schools too in a single registration process by selecting schools you have children at. Once you have signed up, you will receive messages relating to the status of the schools you have indicated.

Please also ensure that your emergency contacts are always kept up to date in the office. If your child is unwell or we need to contact you in an emergency, it is essential that we have up to date numbers for yourself and an alternative emergency contact.

If a child is unwell, please phone the school on the first day of absence and send a letter of explanation into school on their return.

## **Wake Up Wednesdays**

Wake Up Wednesdays are on hold for the moment, but we plan for them to resume next term.

## **Parents' Meetings**

We have introduced a new online appointment booking system which allows parents to choose their appointment times at meetings selected by the school (this includes parents' meetings and other information meetings). The school will let you know when a particular event/meeting is posted on to the system.

A reminder that appointments are now available for Parents' meetings on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March (and in addition Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March for Nursery).

Please visit <https://highbury.parentseveningsystem.co.uk>

This link will explain how to login.

If for any reason you find any difficulty booking on for an event/meeting, please contact the school office who will be happy to add appointments on your behalf.

### **Attendance**

Most children at Highbury achieve a good level of attendance (at least 98%). Each term we send home an attendance certificate for your child and any child who has an attendance of 98% or more is marked with a sticker. Obviously we realise that genuine illness cannot be avoided.

Absence greatly impacts on children's learning. All children, from Nursery to Year 2 follow a full learning programme, and can find themselves at a disadvantage when their education is disrupted due to absence. It makes such a difference to learning if children are in school regularly and on time. Thank you to all of you who ensure this happens.

At Highbury, we expect parents to work with us to address attendance problems. If a pupil has at least 15 sessions (half day= 1 session) unauthorised absence in a term (including unauthorised holidays) the Headteacher may ask the LEA to issue a Penalty Notice. The penalty is £60 (per parent) if paid within 21 days of receipt of the notice, rising to £120 (per parent) if paid after 21 days but within 28 days of receipt of the notice. If the penalty is not paid the LEA may prosecute the parents for their child's irregular attendance. It is important to be aware that poor attendance or unauthorised absences will form part of the child's records.

### **Class Assemblies**

You are invited to join us for Class Assemblies;

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March**, 9.15am - Blue Class  
**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> March**, 9.15am - Purple Class  
**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> May**, 9.15am - Orange Class  
**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> May**, 9.15am - Red Class  
**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> June**, 9.15am - Green Class  
**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> July**, 9.15am - Yellow Class  
**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> July**, Year 2 Leavers assembly

### **Governors**

We welcome Mr Steven Miller to our governing body. Steven is a co-opted governor. He previously sat on our governing body several years ago as a parent governor. Steven has a background in education and currently works for Cambridge Assessment. He is able to bring a wide understanding of the current educational climate.

### **Term Dates- PLEASE NOTE INSET DATES MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

#### **2018**

**March 29<sup>th</sup>**- Term finishes at 1.45pm  
**April 16<sup>th</sup>**- Term starts  
**May 3<sup>rd</sup>**- INSET day, school closed.  
**May 7<sup>th</sup>**- Bank Holiday  
**May 25<sup>th</sup>**- INSET day, school closed  
**May 28<sup>th</sup> - June 1<sup>st</sup>**- Half-term  
**July 20<sup>th</sup>**- Term finishes at 1.45pm

**September 4<sup>th</sup>**- Term starts for children  
**October 29<sup>th</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> November**- Half-term  
**December 21<sup>st</sup>**- Term finishes 1.45pm

#### **2019**

**January 7<sup>th</sup>**- Term starts  
**February 18<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>**- Half-term  
**April 5<sup>th</sup>**- Term finishes 1.45pm  
**April 23<sup>rd</sup>**- Term starts  
**May 2<sup>nd</sup>**- INSET. School closed (pending election date)  
**May 6<sup>th</sup>**- Bank Holiday  
**May 24<sup>th</sup>**- INSET. School closed  
**May 27<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> May**- Half-term  
**July 19<sup>th</sup>**- Term finishes 1.45pm

Thank you for your continuing support of the school.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs H Avey  
Headteacher