



"Making learning an adventure"
14th December 2018

Our value for this half term is Empathy

Dear Parents/Carers,

High Beeches news

First of all, a huge thank you on behalf of the children and staff at High Beeches to FoHBS for a really lovely Christmas Fair on the 9th December. There is a lot of hard work which goes into such a wonderful event and it is much appreciated by all.

Another lovely week at High Beeches as we approach Christmas! This week our Reception children shared their beautiful Nativity with us. They performed so well and I am sure their Parents and Grandparents were very proud. The whole school had a wonderful time at the Pantomime and the children were so well behaved. Some children from year 1 visited Willow Court to sing carols which was much appreciated and they represented the school beautifully. This afternoon, Year 1 sang their carols around the tree to their families which was a lovely way to finish this week. Next week, we look forward to the year 2 Nativity. A wonderful time of the year to be in a Primary School!

High Beeches is a 'Healthy School'!

We are proud to announce that we have been awarded a 'Healthy School' quality mark for health and well-being. The school council, and Year Six tour guides, did a fantastic job of informing the assessor of how we incorporate mindfulness, values and well-being into our everyday school life.

On the day, our visitor commented that as soon as she walked in she could feel the nurturing and caring environment of our school and was amazed at even our youngest children's confidence and understanding of the importance of a healthy body, mind and overall well-being.

Clubs

There will be no lunchtime or after school clubs next week, including the morning Maths club. However, Mrs Burley's Year 1 groups on Tuesday and Thursday will still go ahead.

REMINDER: Bookings for all clubs opens this evening at midnight (sorry but this is out of our hands). Please double check you are booking the correct club for your child as refunds cannot be given once paid for online.

Parking

Please remember there is no parking in the staff car park after 8.15 am or before 4.30pm. When parking please park within the marked lines and use the correct entrance and exits. Thank you.



Lunch payments

Please settle any outstanding lunch payments by the end of today.

Choir Shirts and Ties

We are missing lots of our brand new ties that were borrowed for the Carol Services. Please can you check if you have one and return it on Monday. We should have 35 and only have 12! Also, please return any of our white shirts which we are also short of. Thank you.

Head Teacher Questions

1. Please can you explain to us why our children did not get ice-cream at the Panto, but other schools did?
When the initial pantomime letter was sent to parents we stated that an ice cream would be included in the cost of the trip. The trip was subsidised by FoHBS thankfully, but we consider £17.50 quite expensive for a trip especially in families with more than one child. We were informed by the Alban Arena just before the trip that an ice cream would not be included unless the cost was increased by £2.50 for each child. The trip is about children enjoying the Pantomime experience along with their friends, so we felt that an ice cream was not an essential part of the trip and that it would be better for parents to keep the cost as low as possible. The children were provided with refreshments in the interval.
2. The results for 2018 have tailed off in all areas compared to 2017, which is disappointing to see. Why does the head think this is and what are the plans to turn these figures around?

The results in Maths in 2018 for year 6 were slightly below those achieved in 2017. Our internal data which tracked this particular cohort of children throughout their Primary education had predicted that their results might be lower in Maths, because of the nature of the children in the cohort and their particular needs. Internal assessments completed throughout year 6 showed that they made good progress in all areas, but it is important to realise that the data produced at the end of year 6 is reflective of those children across the whole of KS2. We were aware that they might not achieve so well, so interventions were planned throughout the year which did have a positive impact on the results.

It is really important, though, to consider the 3 year average as this is much more representative of the achievement data at High Beeches. From 2016-2018 77% of pupils at High Beeches achieved the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths compared to a Herts average of 64% and a National average of 60%. 20% of our pupils reached the higher standard compared to 11% Herts average and 8% National. Trends in data are much more significant than focusing on one year's results and it is clear that we exceed Herts and National averages over time.

Our results are externally monitored by the Local Authority and during their visits they focus upon trends over time rather than looking at one particular cohort of children.

In 2018 in English, results were mostly in line with or exceeded Herts at the expected standard and at Greater Depth.

The results across the rest of the school in KS1 and Phonics tests were very strong exceeding Herts and National averages.

Our predictions for data at the end of year 6, and in KS1, in 2019 remain strong.

Achievement data is used to inform developmental areas for the school and this year we are focusing upon achievement in Maths for all pupils.



FoHBS

FOHBS would like to say an enormous thank for making our Christmas fair such a success. We hope you enjoyed it. Thank you to the class reps for all their hard work, FOHBS members, all the staff in the cafe, all volunteers and each and everyone of you who was involved in preparing for this event. Thank you parents for all the fantastic donations, for coming to the fair and in turn raising over £3,500. We are able to grant each class teacher their wish lists, which is fantastic.

We would also like to say a huge well done to year 6 for their brilliant stalls and to Sam Clift for his busking.

The year 3 games stall would like to congratulate the winners of their games:

Rudolph's Nose - Junior - Jamie in Hawthorn class, Infant - Harry in Hazel class.

Snowball keepie Uppie - junior - David Cowper year 6, infant- Ruby Sim in Chestnut. Well done all!

Andy Clift who ran a great Putt Out challenge had 2 winners: the adult winner was Adam Collins and the junior winner was Zach Bullock in Ash class. Well done to you guys!

FOHBS would like to wish you everyone a very merry Christmas and a wonderful new year. Look out for our newsletter in January with more details of the events in 2019. Our next FOHBS meeting is on Monday 14th January at the plough and Harrow at 8pm. All welcome.

Thank you!

A very big thank you for all the parent helpers who support in school with book change, supporting children and trips. We really do appreciate your help. Please remember, especially with respect to changing books, that it is the decision of the teachers to move children within schemes as they are professionally qualified to do so.

Thank you to the McBride family for their very kind donation of our lovely Christmas tree once again this year. Also to Mr and Mrs Bresler for the huge task of organising the High Beeches tea towels. There are still some left if anyone needs a last minute Christmas present, just ask a member of FoHBS or the office. Thank you also to all our Parent Forum Reps. Thank you to Heather, one of our neighbours who has donated a large amount of lovely books for our library. Thank you also to Mrs Tang – see message below.

Nativity recordings

I am a parent of High Beeches and each year I offer out copies of my video recordings for reception, year1 and year2. DVDs are £6 with all proceeds being donated to FoHBS.

Please email me at the relevant email address and I will email you a link to the order form. Email addresses follow:

hb.eyfsnativity@gmail.com for reception nativity;

Hb.yr1songs@gmail.com for year Xmas songs;

Hb.yr2play@gmail.com for the year 2 play.

Sir John Lawes Consultation

The Scholars' Education Trust and the Admissions Committee for Sir John Lawes school are currently determining proposed admission arrangements for September 2020. Please see the link below so that you can contribute to the consultations if you wish to do so.

<https://www.sjl.herts.sch.uk/782/admissions>



Sunday Times

It gives me great pleasure to inform you that High Beeches is in the top 200 of Primary schools this year. Well done to all the staff and children!

Ofsted Parentview

Just a reminder that at High Beeches we constantly reflect on our provision and it is always good to have feedback. If you get a moment, please contribute to the Parentview survey on the Ofsted website. Governors will also be sending out a more detailed questionnaire in the Spring Term to gather views.

<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>

Pupil achievement

Congratulations to:
None this week!

Headteacher awards

Oak

All of Oak class for an amazing Nativity play.

Chestnut

All of Chestnut class for an amazing Nativity play

Elm

*Arianna for putting lots of effort into her phonics
Hasnain for showing enthusiasm for learning*

Cedar

*Saffron for consistently showing empathy for others
Ted for showing enthusiasm in Maths*

Hazel

*Max for showing enthusiasm and patience when practising our Nativity
Georgia for working hard and pushing herself in Maths*

Willow

*Cara for showing enthusiasm and resilience in all areas
Timothy for having an excellent attitude to his learning in maths*

Birch

*Thomas for beginning to enjoy challenging himself
Ella for approaching school more positively*

Redwood

*Emily for trying her best with learning this week
Jude for being such a positive influence on his friends*

Maple

*Max for being an empathetic friend to his class mates
William for always showing perseverance with all his work*

Pine

*Eve for always being keen to progress and succeed in spellings
Max for showing excellent Growth Mindset in maths this week*

Ash



Immy for working well with others in Maths

Sam for being an empathetic friend

Hawthorn

Dhilan for working hard to contribute actively in class by putting his hand up regularly

Hawthorn class for showing empathy to your class teacher

Sycamore

William for working conscientiously in all subjects this term

Darcey for working hard to improve her maths

Have a lovely weekend,

Best wishes,

S. Lawrence

Headteacher

Diary dates-updates in red

18th December- School Christmas lunch

19th December 9am- Governor's Cup assembly

19th December 2pm- Year 2 Nativity

20th December 2pm- Year 2 Nativity

21st December 2pm- End of term

7th January INSET

8th January- term starts for children

17th January- Castles workshop at school for year 1

21st and 22nd January- Viking workshops

24th January- Roman workshop

31st January-Fire of London workshop

31st January- Young voices- more info to follow

5th February- drama workshop

8th February- Movie night

11th February- Year 5 K'nex challenge tbc

18th-22nd February- half term

25th February- school starts

14th March- Year 2 trip to Living rainforest tbc

15th March- Year 5 trip to Duxford

20th March- Spring Festival

22nd March-Quiz night FoHBS

29th March- FoHBS disco

1st April- Year 3 British museum trip

4th April- Community Concert

5th April- Break up for Easter

23rd April- INSET day

24th April- Children back



