



Weekly Newsletter

11 January 2019

Making learning an adventure

Our school value for this half-term is kindness/caring.



Dear Parents/Carers

Happy New Year and welcome back to school...Christmas already feels like it was a long time ago!

I have had a fantastic first week at High Beeches and would like to thank the staff, pupils and parents for giving me such a warm welcome! I haven't been able to stop smiling. It has been good to meet so many parents already and I will continue to be around at the beginning and end of the school day to speak with parents most days next week and in future, so do come and introduce yourself.

On Monday we had a successful staff training day undertaking some self-evaluation of our provision and training in best practice in maths and subject leadership. I know the teachers have been busy preparing their topics for the coming half-term and there will be plenty of information in the Year group Newsletters which will be published next week.

I have enjoyed visiting classes around the school I have enjoyed seeing the children working hard in English and Maths as well as beginning their new topics. Next week Year 1 have a special castles workshop in school on Thursday.

Please do note the full list of events overleaf and particularly the dates for Spring term parent consultations which have not previously been published.

Yours faithfully

Jonathan Walker - Headteacher

FoHBS News

Happy New Year from everyone at FoHBS! We are looking forward to our various events this term, including the film nights and discos. We are always keen to enlarge the number of active parent helpers for planning and running our events and our next meeting is this coming Monday 14th January at 8pm at the Plough and Harrow in Southdown. We hope you can join us - all welcome!

As some of you may already know, I have decided that it is the right time to step down from my role as co-chair of FOHBS to concentrate on my work and other commitments I have coming up this year. It has been a huge pleasure being chair of FOHBS over the last 3 years - building the school community with wonderful events, raising funds and investing in equipment and tools to enhance the environment for our children. My co-chair, Carolyn Berg, will continue to oversee many of the FOHBS events we have in the diary for the rest of this school year, but will also be gradually stepping down as co-chair by the end of this school year.

We are both delighted to let you know that Kerry McNally and Gemma Randall have agreed to take on the role of joint chairs of FOHBS. Both have children in Reception classes and will be a fantastic new leadership team for the group. We will be giving them our full support for a smooth transition and I hope you will join us in welcoming them to these roles.

Many thanks to everyone's help over the last 3 years - parents, staff and pupils - and I look forward to enjoying all the great events FOHBS have planned this year.

Anna Davies

Headteacher Awards

Congratulations to the following children for their achievements this week.

- **Reception Oak Class** Elijah– for working hard and achieving his target
Emily – for showing a good attitude to her learning
- **Reception Chestnut Class** Christiaan– for showing the value of kindness to his friends and teachers
Erin– for showing more confidence and being willing to have a go
- **Year 1 Elm Class** Aiza – for putting lots of effort into her tricky words
Kiara – for showing kindness to her friends
- **Year 1 Cedar Class** Holly – for always showing a positive attitude to her learning
Henry – for increased effort in English
- **Year 2 Hazel Class** Emily – for always showing kindness and seeing it in others
Sophia– for always having a go in lessons
- **Year 2 Willow Class** Lucy – for showing kindness and seeing it others
Lauren – for working hard and showing a positive attitude to learning
- **Year 3 Birch Class** Bella– for showing lots of enthusiasm for her learning
Thomas - for always showing kindness to other members of the class
- **Year 3 Redwood Class** Xavi – for making a really good start with good effort in class
Sam – for being really on the ball in lessons this week
- **Year 4 Maple Class** James – for fantastic effort in Maths and Science
Ella – for showing her value of kindness to children and adults
- **Year 4 Pine Class** Noah – for being an excellent role model in class at all times
Eva – for showing a positive attitude to her learning this week
- **Year 5 Ash Class** Zach – for contributing well and pushing himself in Maths
Sam– for showing kindness and seeing it in others
- **Year 5 Hawthorn Class** Annemarie – for showing a caring and considerate attitude to children of all ages
Tom – for concentrating really hard in his learning
- **Year 6 Sycamore Class** Joshua – for making a big effort to improve his handwriting
Nathan – for showing kindness and caring to his friends and to his reception partners

Further Information and Reminders

Applications for a Reception Place for September 2019

Don't forget that applications for children to start in Reception in September (for children born between 1 September 2014 and 31 August 2015) close next Tuesday (15 January 2019). Applications must be made through Hertfordshire County Council, via the online portal

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/school-admissions

If you require any help with this, please talk to our school office staff ASAP on Monday.

Positive Playtimes

Please note that we provide a supply of playground equipment, such as balls, bats and skipping ropes, for the children to use during break and lunchtimes. Many children use this equipment and, during reasonably dry periods in Spring, Summer and Autumn, children may spread onto the field. They also have the option of using our climbing equipment or of sitting in quiet areas.

In order that we can safely manage the various activities going on across the playground and field areas, children are not able to bring in toys, balls or other equipment of their own from home. However, children in Key Stage 2 (Years 3 to 6) may bring in things to occupy themselves in the quiet areas, such as a notepad or colouring book.

Ms Lawrence's Leaving Gift

Ms Lawrence was given her leaving gift from parents and children in the final assembly of last term. She has since sent a card thanking you all for the very generous John Lewis vouchers (£350) with which she is hoping to purchase a special painting for her new home.

Dinner payments

Please check your child's bag for dinner invoices. We would be most grateful for prompt payment. Don't forget you can pay in instalments but full payment should still be paid by the deadline given please.

Clubs

Clubs start again next week apart from the following:

Karate – 22nd January

Dance Like Crazy – to be advised by Cassie and Ross themselves.

Please remind your children which clubs they should be attending and to bring any kit/equipment required.

Piano Teacher

Mrs Huntley, past parent and governor, has spaces available for piano lessons. If interested please ring 07796 283007.

Headteacher Questions

None this week.

Diary Dates

- 14 January, 8pm - FoHBS meeting at Plough and Harrow
- 16 January - Swimming lessons begin for Year 5
- 17 January- Year 1 Castles workshop at school
- 21 and 22 January- Year 4 Viking workshops
- 29 January – Year 5 Hazard Alley Safety Workshops in school
- 31 January – Year 2 Fire of London workshop
- 31 January- Young Voices Visit/Performance
- 1 February- KS1 FoHBS Movie night
- 5 February- EY and KS1 drama workshops
- 7 February – Year 6 visit to Darwin Museum
- 8 February- KS2 FoHBS Movie night
- 11 February- Year 5 K'nex challenge - in school
- 15 February – school closes at normal time for half-term break
- 18-22 February- half term
- 25 February- school opens for Spring 2
- 28 February – Maple Class drumming starts
- 4 March, 4 to 7pm – parent consultations – booking information to follow
- 6 March, 5 to 8pm – parent consultations – booking information to follow
- 14 March- Year 2 visit to Living Rainforest
- 15 March- Year 5 visit to Duxford Air Museum
- 18 March – Y4 pedestrian skills training
- 20 March, 7pm - Harpenden Schools Spring Festival
- 22 March- FoHBS quiz night
- 26 and 27 March – Y2 scooter training
- 29 March- FoHBS discos
- 1 April- Year 3 visit to British Museum
- 1 April – Year 4 pedestrian skills training
- 4 April- Community Concert time tbc
- 5 April- Break up for Easter
- 23 April- INSET day
- 24 April- School opens for Summer term