



Weekly Newsletter

18 January 2019

Making learning an adventure

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



Dear Parents/Carers

The children have continued to work really hard on their topics this week and I have enjoyed getting into quite a number of lessons for a more sustained period of time.

Year 1 experienced a fantastic castles workshop yesterday (pictured right and below) and left school buzzing with information and more questions about what they wanted to learn in the coming weeks. They all came dressed in medieval garb which really helped them to get into role! Thank you to parents for helping them to organise this and a huge thanks to the staff for organising it and the troupe of parent helpers who ran each station.



The children in Year 4 had some extra computing input yesterday with a special robotics workshop in school, which I look forward to hearing more about.

Next week our Year 4 pupils and staff are looking forward to their Viking workshop and Year 5 will be having a visit from Sue Harrison about the *Dementia Friends* project which they will be undertaking with residents from Willow Court.

Please see the extremely long diary of events at the end of this newsletter and note that items in red have not previously been published. We have tried to include all our sports fixtures for your information, although these may only involve a small number of children.

Yours faithfully

Jonathan Walker Headteacher

FoHBS News

A reminder that Movie Night forms need to be returned by next Friday 25th please. The forms were sent out via e-mail and can also be found on the school website:

<http://www.highbeeches.herts.sch.uk/parents/fohbs>

The movie will finish just after 5pm on both showings so please make pick up time 5.10pm from classrooms. If you are able to help on either event please complete the section at the bottom of the form.

Advance Notice

This year our annual Summer Fair takes place on 9th June 2019, from 2 to 4.30pm and the Midsummer Ball falls exactly on the Summer Solstice, Friday 21st June 2019, and will be at Harpenden Golf Club.



Headteacher Awards

Congratulations to the following children for their achievements this week.

- **Reception Oak Class** Grace – for settling so well into Oak class
Lily – for not giving up when Maths gets hard. You wrote a number sentence! 😊
- **Reception Chestnut Class** Chloe – for always being a kind and caring friend
George – for working hard on his targets
- **Year 1 Elm Class** Jack – for always being kind and polite to other children and adults
Hunter – for consistently challenging himself in all subjects
- **Year 1 Cedar Class** Mustafa – for always putting effort into phonics and reading
Hudson – for consistently challenging himself in all subjects
- **Year 2 Hazel Class** Alfie – for working hard on his character descriptions in English
Felix – for showing enthusiasm in all areas of his learning
- **Year 2 Willow Class** Oliver – for showing a positive attitude to our topic
Peter – for supporting his friends to follow the school rules
- **Year 3 Birch Class** Sam – for being very motivated in class this week
Ranye – for being kind and caring towards others
- **Year 3 Redwood Class** Molly – for always trying hard in her learning
Rayan – for being kind to others in the playground
- **Year 4 Maple Class** Tao Tao – for being motivated in all of his work
Finley – for excellent attitude in Maths
- **Year 4 Pine Class** Liam – for showing a positive attitude towards his work this week
Violet – for continuing to be a positive role model in the class
- **Year 5 Ash Class** Alexander – for being very motivated and pushing himself in Maths
Joseph – for always bringing a positive and happy attitude to his learning
- **Year 5 Hawthorn Class** Emilia – for showing a lot of kindness and caring to her peers
Jonah – for undoubtedly enjoying his learning and sharing it with others
- **Year 6 Sycamore Class** Aliza - for having excellent growth mindset in all her work
Max – for working hard in Maths

Further Information and Reminders

Attendance

Congratulations to Hazel, Birch, Redwood and Sycamore classes for 100% attendance this week.

School Closure in Severe Weather

Please note that we always endeavour to keep the school open during periods of severe weather. However, there are occasions when a decision is made to close the school in the interests of safety. Any such decision is not taken lightly, and will be made taking into consideration safe travel on the roads to and from school for staff (many of whom travel some distance into work) and families; safe movement around the school site; and continuity of services on the school site, such as heating and school meals.

Should it be necessary to close the school from the beginning of a school day, the decision will be made as early as possible and once all the necessary information about the road network and school site has been gathered. Parents will be informed by text message and a message will also be posted on the school website, the Hertfordshire County Council site and local radio.

Christmas DVDs

For those parents that have fulfilled payment for a DVD of their child's Christmas performance, the DVDs should be in book bags today. Only paid orders completed by the final date on Thursday 24th January will be fulfilled. All proceeds will be donated to FoHBS. To order and payment details, contact Joanne Tang as follows:

For Reception Nativity: HB.Eyfsnativity@gmail.com

For Y1 songs: HB.Yr1songs@gmail.com

For Yr2 play: HB.yr2play@gmail.com

Coats

As the weather gets colder, we would ask parents to remind children to bring their coats to school and to wear them at break and lunchtimes. They are reminded by staff but we are still finding children in the playground without them.

Headteacher Questions

Year 6 Residential – Year 5 parents take note

The Year 6 residential is an important part of many schools' provision. It is an opportunity to develop a wide range of important (largely non-academic) life skills such as team working, resilience and independence as well as physical skills in the various outdoor and adventurous pursuits, such as climbing and canoeing. Many of these skills can also have a positive impact on academic development, but the activities often also provide an opportunity for pupils to experience and celebrate success in a way that they may not always do from conventional in-school learning.

In many schools the residential takes place after the KS2 tests in May and the visit will also be something of a celebration of the end of school, before moving on to secondary school. As with any commercial market, this peak in demand does have the effect of inflating prices. Going at this time can be very expensive and this can be a barrier to attendance for some families. As you can imagine, we want everyone to go so that all may benefit from the experience and for it to have maximum impact on the group as a whole.

Some schools opt to take their pupils earlier in Year 6 and, in addition to reducing the cost to parents, this can be of benefit to class, making the most of the life skills developed and helping them to gel together as a team ready to return with high expectations of themselves for the year to come. We have followed this approach at High Beeches for the last two years and have seen some benefit. However, we can see benefits to both models are now of the view that the residential should return to the end of the academic year for the 2019/20 year. We are currently looking at cost and availability and will provide more information for parents in the current Year 5 as soon as possible. As before, we would give as much advance notice as possible and will provide parents with the opportunity to pay for the trip in instalments.

Diary Dates

- 21 and 22 January- Year 4 Viking workshops
- 23 January – Football fixture. The Lea at home
- 28 January - Netball fixture. St Helens away
- 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
- 4 February - Netball fixture. Harpenden Academy at home
- 5 February- EY and KS1 drama workshops
- 7 February – Year 6 visit to Darwin Museum
- 7 February – KS2 Tag rugby tournament
- 8 February- KS2 FoHBS Movie night
- 11 February- Year 5 K'nex challenge - in school
- 11 February, 3pm – Reception Maths Parent Workshop
- 12 February, 9am – Elm Class Assembly
- 13 February, 9am – Hazel Class Assembly
- 14 February, 9am – Cedar Class Assembly
- 15 February, 9am – Willow Class Assembly
- 15 February – school closes at normal time for half-term break
- 18-22 February- half term
- 25 February- school opens for Spring 2
- 26 February – Reception Lego Workshop
- 27 February - Netball fixture. St Nicholas at home
- 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
- 11 March – Football fixture. Kimpton at home
- 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 – Reception visit to Dinoland
- 20 March – Football fixture. Beech Hyde away
- 20 March, 7pm - Harpenden Schools Spring Festival
- 21 March - Netball fixture. Sauncey Wood at home
- 22 March- FoHBS quiz night
- w/b 25 March – Clubs finish this week
- 26 March – Reception Lego workshop
- 26 and 27 March – Y2 scooter training
- 28 March - Netball Rally at St George's
- 29 March Reception Mothers' Day Celebration
- 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