



Weekly Newsletter

25 January 2019

Making learning an adventure

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



Dear Parents/Carers

The children in Year 4 have enjoyed a really inspiring and engaging Viking workshop (pictured right and below) this week to help kick-start their topic and to experience something of life in Viking Britain.



Next week, we look forward to more curriculum enrichment with a *Fire of London* workshop for Year 2; *Hazard Alley* workshops, helping children in Year 5 to understand how to keep themselves safe; and a trip to the O2 in London for a group of Year 5 and 6 pupils who will be joining the 5,000 strong choir of primary school children from across the country. That will certainly be an evening to remember!

Safeguarding – Staying Safe Online

It is really important that parents keep a very close watch on their child's online activity. Always make sure they use devices in common parts of the house, where they can be seen, talk to them about what they are doing and have a look for yourself.

This is particularly the case if children are playing games where they can interact with other users, be it through a phone, tablet, computer or other gaming device. Children should not use social media and all of the main social media apps have a minimum age requirement of 13 or above (see diagram overleaf). However, some games that are intended for use by children do allow an element of interaction. One example which recently came to our attention is a game called Roblox. In this game, children can talk to other users by typing on screen or through the use of a headset. Clearly these other users should and may well be children of a similar age, but it is equally possible that young people or adults may be posing as children and may use the game for inappropriate contact with, or even to groom, vulnerable children.

If your child uses Roblox, please ensure their membership has been verified through your own email and the settings are used to protect their privacy, such as their real name, age, where they live or where they go to school; talk to your child about not disclosing such information and ensure they will ask for help if they feel uncomfortable with anything they read, see or hear online. For more information visit www.thinkuknow.co.uk and to report online abuse go to www.ceop.police.uk.



Yours faithfully

Jonathan Walker
Headteacher

FoHBS News

SAVE THE DATE!

Our ever popular quiz night is back on Friday 22 March. Tickets will be limited, so do please start thinking about teams, team names and babysitters ASAP!

A huge thank you to Emma and Ian for their photographic services and everyone who participated in the family photo shoot before Christmas which raised £328.

Headteacher Awards

Congratulations to the following children for their achievements this week.

- **Reception Oak Class** Kai – for working hard in Phonics
Leo - for showing very good values when sharing
- **Reception Chestnut Class** Freddie – for beginning to try harder in his learning
Rhea – for always showing kindness in the classroom
- **Year 1 Elm Class** Rory – for putting lots of effort into writing instructions
Lily – for putting lots of effort into all her work
- **Year 1 Cedar Class** Olivia – for always showing a positive attitude to her learning
Leo – for always showing the values of kindness and caring
- **Year 2 Hazel Class** Isabelle H – for working hard in Maths
Chloe – for not giving up when work gets tricky
- **Year 2 Willow Class** Jackson – for always showing kindness and friendship to others
Sophie – for being a kind and caring class member
- **Year 3 Birch Class** Alex T – for trying hard to improve his handwriting
Blake – for caring for members of his class
- **Year 3 Redwood Class** Isla G – for being a kind learning partner this week
Amber – for being kind to others
- **Year 4 Maple Class** Toby – for being a resilient member of Maple class
Aiden – for helping his friends during Maths lessons
- **Year 4 Pine Class** Jessica – for continuing to show great growth mind set in Maths
Sami – for some contributions to lessons this week
- **Year 5 Ash Class** Maisie – for showing perseverance and resilience in all lessons
Toni – for creating a number of humorous examples in English
- **Year 5 Hawthorn Class** Josh – for showing kindness and caring to everyone
Ollie – for showing unfailing concentration and participation in all lessons
- **Year 6 Sycamore Class** Oskar – for making a big effort to make improvements in Maths
Joe – for being a kind a caring friend

Further Information and Reminders

Support for Families

Harpenden Partnership Plus is running two excellent, free parenting courses later this year at Sauncey Wood School on Friday mornings from 9:30am to 12 Noon. To find out more information or to book, please contact Donna Marsden: dmarsden@saunceywood.herts.sch.uk or 01582 623676.

- *The Family Toolkit* is a 4 week course, starting on 8 March. The course covers understanding your child's needs, managing behaviour, praise, rewards and consequences.
- *Families Feeling Safe* is a 9 week course, starting on 26 April. The course covers recognising, trusting and expressing feelings, problem-solving, communication and building your child's confidence and self-esteem.

Staying Safe Online continued

Please see article on front page regarding safe use of the internet for children. Minimum age requirements for social media sites are given overleaf.

Age Restrictions for Social Media Platforms



Communications

Please remember when contacting school either by email or phone to state the name of your child and their class name. Also, if you have a message for your child's teacher regarding their work etc (not absences or general queries) please use the teachers@highbeeches.herts.sch.uk address, again stating their name and class. Thank you.

Attendance

Congratulations Pine class on 100% attendance this week. Very well done!

Requests for Absence

Please note that pupils are expected to attend routine appointments (such as a six monthly dental check) outside of school hours. Requests for leave of absence for medical appointments will be granted for emergency appointments or those for which there is no facility to select an appointment outside of school hours, such as specialist referrals or clinics. When making a request for these kinds of appointment or for activities such as a music exam, please attach a copy of your appointment letter together with the leave of absence form available from the school office and our website.

Diary Dates

- 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
- **14 February, 2.40pm - Pine class drumming performance to parents**
- 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 – Last week of clubs
- 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
- **3rd April, 1.15pm – KS2 Speaker's Cup Final (finalists' parents to be invited)**
- **4th April, 9am – KS1 Speaker's Cup Final (finalists' parents to be invited)**
- 4 April, **6pm** - Community Concert
- 5 April- Break up for Easter 2pm
- 23 April- INSET day
- 24 April- School opens for Summer term