



# Weekly Newsletter

1 February 2019

*Making learning an adventure*

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



Dear Parents/Carers

This week, in addition to the fun of the frosty/snowy weather, we have enjoyed a number of special events that the children can tell you about at home.

Year 5 pupils participated in an excellent workshop, given by the people from Hazard Alley, all about gas safety. They learnt about how to smell leaking gas and what to do in such an instance and about staying safe around camp fires and barbecues.

Yesterday, our Year 2 pupils experienced the sights, sounds, tastes and smells of 17<sup>th</sup> century London, as part of their history topic on the Great Fire of London. Thank you to all parents who volunteered to help with this workshop.

Also yesterday, I was privileged to accompany 20 of our Year 5/6 pupils to the O2 Arena for the Young Voices concert, along with Mrs Sands and Mrs Jordon. The children were exceptionally well behaved and performed beautifully. I was thrilled to be part of such an engaging and creative event, singing and dancing (though more just singing in my case!) with 6,756 other children and joining with a number of professional artists, headlined by Tony Hadley (of Spandau Ballet fame)... We were all a bit star struck!

Please keep yourself up-to-date with future events through diary overleaf and on our website. New or updated items are shown in red. This week, you will see we have amended the time for the Reception maths parent workshop and are confirming the time for their Mothers' Day celebration.

## High Beeches Vision and Aims

I hope parents will take some time to look at the new plaque displayed on the front of the Meadow Building, displaying our school strapline, *Making learning an adventure* using the impressive graphic design (shown right). A group of parents worked with Ms Lawrence and other school staff during the course of last year to review our vision and aims and to present it in an engaging and meaningful way and I would like to thank all those involved for their hard work. I'm sure parents will agree it looks fantastic. The strapline itself has remained unchanged, but it has been presented in a way that better reflects our newly revised vision statement and values.



*Our vision is to ignite passion for life and learning, whilst embracing individuality and fulfilling potential.*

Our aims spell out *High Beeches*, like an acrostic poem:

- *Happy and healthy in body and mind*
- *Inspired, encouraged and motivated*
- *Growing the curiosity of our minds*
- *Having enjoyment and fun through learning*
- *Believing in ourselves and being proud of our achievements*
- *Encouraged to be positive and resilient*
- *Embodying our school values*
- *Caring for our environment and developing a responsibility for our world*
- *Holding onto our integrity and trust*
- *Enabling our life skills to grow*
- *Showing empathy, respecting each other and nurturing friendships*

Yours faithfully

## FoHBS News

Unfortunately, the snow closure has meant that we have had to postpone the KS1 Movie Night due to take place this afternoon. We have arranged for this to take place on Friday 1 March. Children can use the ticket allocated for tonight and any who are unable to attend should let us know via the school office. **KS2 Movie Night** will be next week, Friday 8th February 2019 - the same details apply.

We are delighted to tell you that the money raised at the summer fair has allowed us to carry out a much needed update to the School hall sound system which will enrich school assemblies, PE/Dance lessons and school productions and will be fantastic for events, such as our forthcoming movie nights. We are waiting for details for the new stage lighting and will update you as soon as we have news. THANK YOU so much for your donations and support at the events which means we can do these great things for High Beeches.

Please look out for e-mails over the coming weeks for the infamous Quiz night on Friday 22nd March (flier has been emailed out today) and Disco night for pupils on Friday 29th March. Kerry and Gemma have been working hard to set up electronic payment systems for our events (which we really hope will make the process of booking tickets much easier and quicker). Please follow the links on each poster that is sent out.

Lastly, we presented Anna Davies, who recently stepped down as Co-Chair, with some flowers and chocolates this week and would like to say a huge thank you from us all for her incredible hard work and dedication to FoHBS over the last 3 years. Anna you have been brilliant and we are so grateful for everything you have done for FoHBS and school.

## Further Information and Reminders

### Support for Families – Staying Safe Online

Further to last week's item on internet safety, it has been brought to our attention that a number of children have been playing the popular, but inappropriate video game *Fortnite*. *Fortnite* is rated as a 12+ because of *frequent scenes of mild violence* and has been described as gruesome by some. I have experience of children who have played this game becoming quite upset and of it impacting negatively on their behaviour and relationships. This is also a game whereby, in some formats, players can interact with and talk to other players.

This week, thanks to a helpful parent, I came across an excellent website that provides guidance for parents and schools on internet safety. The site has a helpful article on *Fortnite* and had guides to internet safety based on different age ranges. Please do have a look at it yourself. [www.internetmatters.org](http://www.internetmatters.org)

The website also has some useful information on an apparently popular social media site called *TikTok*. *TikTok* used to be called *Musical.ly* and has a 13+ minimum age rating. This is because children can make and distribute videos of themselves miming along to pop songs and, in so doing, are vulnerable to looking older than they might actually be and to the images being passed on without consent.

Please help your child by monitoring what they play with and explaining to them why they should wait until they are of an appropriate age.

### Support for Families – Courses for Parents

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](mailto: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.

### **The Book People School Fundraising Scheme**

If you are purchasing books from The Book People we would be grateful for your support under their School's Fundraising Scheme, which gives us 10% of your purchase price in commission to purchase books for school. We are especially keen to purchase extra books to top up our Reading Scheme for Reception, Years 1 and 2. Please visit [www.thebookpeople.co.uk/school-fundraising](http://www.thebookpeople.co.uk/school-fundraising) and input fundraising code VcBkdFk. By inputting this code you will also get a special offer of £5 off a purchase of £25.

### **Sporting Success!**

Congratulations to our netball teams (both A and B) who played brilliantly against St Helens CE Primary School. Both of our teams won, with the A team winning by an astonishing 15:1. Well done teams and thank you Mrs Shewbridge and Miss Jackson! Reports to follow next week.

### **Headteacher Questions**

*This week, one parent has enquired why the communication regarding our snow closure was so late this morning.*

Firstly, we would like to thank parents, friends and families for their cooperation on this matter. We appreciate that it is hard to plan for the day ahead at short notice and that such closures impact significantly on parents' own work and travel arrangements.

We would always endeavour to make the decision by 7am, in order to give a reasonable amount of notice. Unfortunately this morning the text message to parents was sent out at 7:08am and there may, of course, have been some delay in parents receiving it, dependent on network coverage/signal strength. I can certainly testify that the text message to staff, sent out after the message to parents at 7:09 arrive on my phone almost instantaneously.

The decision to close the school is never taken lightly and the reason for our not managing to get the message out by 7am this morning, was simply dealing with and assimilating the sheer volume of different information required to make such a decision. We always try to take account of travel conditions both for staff travelling from further away and for staff and pupils on local roads and it took some time to find out about weather in the areas from which staff members would have been traveling. At the same time, we are in communication with the network of local schools through email and given the number of schools in the group, this creates a considerable number of messages to read and respond to. However, we do try to make our decision consistent with as many local schools as possible, to avoid creating a situation where some family members' schools are open and some are closed. This may, for example, include those who work in one school and send their children to another, who may have difficulty coming into work if their children are off school.

## Diary Dates

- 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 – Reception Maths Parent Workshop 2.30pm
- 12 February, 9am – Elm Class Assembly
- 13 February, 9am – Hazel Class Assembly
- 13 February – Official opening of the school library
- 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
- 1 March, 3:20 to 5:10pm - KS1 FoHBS Movie night (postponed from 1 Feb)
- 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 2.00pm
- 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