



Spring Term Newsletter

February 2019

Dear Parents,

Lots of children have been enjoying the range of clubs that are on offer. I would like to thank the staff who have run additional clubs over the course of this term. Cookery, Table games and The Greatest Showman clubs have now finished. Netball, Hula hooping and Computing clubs begin after half-term. Places on these have already been pre-booked.

Mr Chance's parents' choir, Reflection, runs at Highbury and practises once a fortnight on a Friday evening. If you are interested in joining the choir, please speak to Mr Chance.

Nursery Applications

Applications for Nursery for next academic year are now open. There is an online admission form on our website. Applications close 15th March. This is for children who were born between 1st September 2015 and 31st August 2016. Nursery tours can be booked through the office.

Wake Up Wednesdays

Wake Up Wednesdays continue in the playground before school. We have used some of the money raised by the PTA to buy a portable PA/sound system for inside and outside. You may have noticed how much better the sound was during the Wednesday sessions. As well as using it for occasions such as Wake Up Wednesdays, we will be able to supplement our hall sound system with it, giving us additional microphones for when we do performances.

World Book Day

We will be celebrating World Book Day on 7th March. Children are invited to dress up as a book character. The children will be bringing a £1 book voucher home which can be used at most bookshops against the price of a book, or in exchange for the £1 special Book Day books. The day will also include a costume parade and a teacher story telling swap.

Parents' Meetings

A reminder that appointments are available for parents' meetings on Tuesday 12th March (and in addition, Monday 11th March for Nursery).

Please visit <https://highbury.parentseveningsystem.co.uk>

Family Fitness

Family Fitness runs evening classes and Saturday morning classes at Highbury School. They help to raise funds for the school through the classes. If you would like to join the classes, as a Highbury parent, you pay a reduced fee. They also offer confidential concessions to those on low incomes. They also have a new circuits class at St John's Community Centre on a Monday morning from 10.45-11.30am. Please take a look at their website www.family-fitness.co.uk for more information.

Highbury Health Day

A few members of staff are organising a Health Day on Sunday 10th March at Highbury in aid of Team Super Seraph. All the instructors are donating their time and all money raised will go to this worthy cause. Sessions include Pilates and Yoga for the family (adults and children), Ladies Dance Fit and an Adult Fitness Class. More information has been sent home. Come and join in.

Parking

Please help us to ensure our roads and school are as safe as possible. Aside from Breakfast Club drop offs **before 8.30am** and Fun Club pick-ups **after 4.30pm** (and even in these instances **parents should not park in the staff car park**), **there should not be parents parking anywhere on the school site**. As always, we ask you to park considerately in the neighbouring area. If you do park onsite before 8.30am to drop off at Breakfast Club, please ensure you drive slowly onsite, as the drive is busy in the mornings with staff arriving.

Attendance

Most children at Highbury achieve a good level of attendance (at least 98%). Later on this term, we will be sending home an attendance certificate for your child and any child who has an attendance of 98% or more will be marked with a sticker. Obviously we realise that genuine illness cannot be avoided, but we ask you to avoid absence due to other things, such as term time holidays.

Absence greatly impacts on children's learning. All children, from Nursery to Year 2 follow a full learning programme, and can find themselves at a disadvantage when their education is disrupted due to absence. It makes such a difference to learning if children are in school regularly and on time. Thank you to all of you who ensure this happens.

Class Assemblies

You are invited to join us for Class Assemblies. We are giving you notice in plenty of time, so that you can put these in your diaries;

- Thursday 16th May, 9.15am - Blue Class
- Thursday 23rd May, 9.15am - Orange Class
- Thursday 20th June, 9.15am - Purple Class
- Thursday 27th June, 9.15am - Red Class
- Thursday 4th July, 9.15am - Yellow Class
- Thursday 11th July, 9.15am - Green Class
- Thursday 18th July, 9.15am - Year 2 Leavers assembly

Other diary dates

- w/b 18th February- Half-term
- Thursday 28th February- PTA meeting, Granello Lounge 7.30pm
- Thursday 7th March- Book day- dress up as a book character
- Monday 11th and Tuesday 12th March- Nursery Parents' meetings during the day
- Tuesday 12th March- Parents' meetings 1.00-6.30pm
- Monday 18th March- Perform drama workshops on the theme of Superheroes
- Tuesday 19th March- PTA Bag 2 school collection
- w/b 25th March- Teacher led clubs end
- Friday 29th March- Sponsored PTA Bunny bounce during the day
- w/b 1st April- Other clubs finish
- Friday 5th April- Term ends 1.45pm. Nursery in as usual but pm session finishes at 1.45pm

Term Dates- PLEASE NOTE INSET DATES MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

2019

- February 18th-22nd- Half-term
- April 5th- Term finishes at 1.45pm
- April 23rd- Term starts
- May 2nd- INSET day, school closed (pending election date)
- May 6th- Bank Holiday
- May 24th- INSET day, school closed
- May 27th- May 31st- Half-term
- July 19th- Term finishes at 1.45pm

- September 3rd- Term starts for children
- October 28th-1st November- Half-term
- November 29th- School closed, occasional day
- December 20th- Term finishes 1.45pm

2020

- January 6th- Term starts
- February 17th- 21st- Half-term
- April 3rd- Term finishes 1.45pm
- April 20th- Term starts
- May 4th- Bank Holiday
- May 7th- INSET. School closed (pending election date)
- May 25th- 29th May- Half-term
- June 1st- INSET. School closed
- July 17th- Term finishes 1.45pm

Thank you for your continuing support of the school.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs H Avey
Headteacher

Governing Body Update from The Governors

Since the governing body has some vacancies at the moment, I thought I would share with you some insight into the things that we do to support the school. Most of our business is conducted during our evening meetings - this is a time to listen to progress reports from the Head, focus on ensuring that the quality of teaching remains high and that the well-being of pupils and staff is at the core of decision making and budget controls. But it's not all about talking - being a governor means that you can take the opportunity to visit classes during the school day too. Personally, I find this an invaluable experience as you get to see first hand how the methods of teaching we might discuss in our meetings, and the techniques for supporting children that we hear about are actually put into practice. Watching the pupils take such an active role in their learning is what makes the governor experience really worthwhile.

Parent Governor nominations must be in by Friday 15th February.

Steven Foster- Vice Chair

Compliments / Suggestions

If you have any **compliments/suggestions**, please feel free to use the slip and return it to the office. Any **concerns** you may have regarding your child, should be addressed separately by speaking firstly with your child's teacher or by making an appointment with Mrs Avey.

Parent's Name:
Child's Name:
Teacher's Name:
Compliment/suggestion: