



Weekly Newsletter

15 February 2019

Making learning an adventure

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



Dear Parents/Carers

This week has certainly been the busiest in school this year with a plethora of performances and events. This has included entertaining and informative class assemblies by both Year 1 and both Year 2 classes on the topics of castles and London. All the assemblies featured speaking parts, singing, dancing, acting and (in the case of Year 2) some very big numbers! Additionally, yesterday's *dJembe* drumming performance by Pine Class was a sight and sound to behold. Congratulations to all of this week's performers.

The highlight of the week has to have been the grand opening of our new library. The library project has been some 4 years in the making and has involved hours of work by the members of the library working party who raised the necessary money, acquired planning permission and helped the children to plan the layout of the new space. I would like to say a huge THANK YOU to Mrs Shewbridge, Mrs Higgins (our chair of governors), Mrs Brine (our school librarian) and parent Mrs Gavan, on behalf of everyone at High Beeches. I would also like to thank FOHBS, the Harpenden Trust, Shanley Homes and Deutsche Bank, all of whom made significant financial contributions to the cost of the build, 50% of which was funded by charitable donations. This has been a massive achievement!



The library was officially opened by local Author Camilla Chester in the presence of the whole school and a group of invited guests and there was a real sense of anticipation and excitement as she cut through the giant ribbon we had tied around the building. We do hope the feeling lasts and that the library is able to engage, inspire and empower the children, giving them a lifelong love of reading. In the words of Dr Seuss and Roald Dahl, 'The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go.' (Dr Seuss) and 'So please, oh please, we beg, we pray, go throw your TV set away, and in its place you can install a lovely bookshelf on the wall.'" (Dahl).

Food for Thought

I was touched last week by the sight of many of our school staff rallying around to put together a whole raft of supplies for the foodbank at the Vineyard Church St Albans. As I understand it, they regularly publish a 'shopping list' of items they need when stock levels are low and the staff had decided to help provide what they need. <https://www.thevineyardchurch.co.uk/compassion>

It occurred to me that this is real way of living out our school values and particularly our current focus value – kindness. In future, we could widen this to involve parents and pupils who could contribute via the school, on a purely optional basis. We could inform parents via text when we plan to make another donation and arrange for the donations to be sent to the foodbank as one collective contribution.

Finally, I would also like to thank all the children, staff and parents for making me feel so welcome in my first half-term at High Beeches. This is such a lovely place to work. I can't stop smiling! I really do already feel at home and look forward to getting to know you better as the year progresses.

Wishing you a safe and enjoyable half-term break.

Yours faithfully

Jonathan Walker Headteacher

FoHBS News

EASTER DISCO FRIDAY 29 MARCH

The Easter Disco will take place on Friday 29 March - Infants straight from school at 3.15 until 4.15pm (Reception included) and Juniors 4.30pm until 5.45pm. Infants (who will still be in school uniform) are welcome to bring Easter accessories in a bag (rabbit ears etc) which can be put on at the end of the school day in time for the disco. Juniors will return to school later in clothes of their choice and are also invited to wear Easter accessories if they wish.

Tickets will go on sale after half term but please get the date in your diary.

Headteacher Awards

Congratulations to the following children for their achievements this week.

- **Reception Oak Class** Alex C – a really positive attitude to learning and super listening skills.
Harry – for always showing kindness to everyone in Oak class.
- **Reception Chestnut Class** Thomas – for having a growth mindset in everything he does.
Bea – for a big improvement her attitude to learning.
- **Year 1 Elm Class** The whole class for a wonderful class assembly this week!
- **Year 1 Cedar Class** The whole class for a wonderful class assembly this week!
- **Year 2 Hazel Class** The whole class for a wonderful class assembly this week!
- **Year 2 Willow Class** The whole class for a wonderful class assembly this week!
- **Year 3 Birch Class** Matthew – for working hard to add description to his writing.
Callum – for making a fantastic prediction in science.
- **Year 3 Redwood Class** William B – for being a good role model for others.
Emily B – for a particularly strong effort in maths more recently.
William – an excellent attitude and effort in maths.
- **Year 4 Maple Class** James – writing an excellent Viking myth.
- **Year 4 Pine Class** Christopher C – demonstrating great growth mindset in English this week.
Shona – demonstrating an excellent attitude to learning all this week.
- **Year 5 Ash Class** Lexi-Mae – for hard work and perseverance in maths.
Oliver – for really pushing himself to improve his writing in English.
Alastair – for showing lots of creativity in his home learning model.
- **Year 5 Hawthorn Class** Cassie – For showing kindness and caring, both in the playground and during her visit to Willow Court.
- **Year 6 Sycamore Class** Ben – improving his work and concentration in maths.
Joshua Tweedy – being a kind and caring Reception partner.

Further Information and Reminders

Perfect Parking

We are very fortunate to have a dedicated park and stride location for the school and parents who live further away and are unable to walk to school are requested to park in the Indoor Bowling Green, just a short way past the school on the right. Parents are not expected to park in nearby residential roads (such as Ashwell Park and Waldegrave Park), where excessive parking can cause a dangerous obstruction and risks the safety of children and parents who walk to school. Please help us to keep everyone safe.

Look Smart – Think Smart!

We expect all of our pupils to take pride in their personal presentation, by wearing the correct school uniform in a clean and tidy fashion and the vast majority do so and look really smart. This helps them to have high expectations of themselves and to aspire to be the best that can be in their learning and behaviour. Please help your child to do this and particularly note the following:

- Children in Year 3 upwards may wear watches to school. We are happy for them to wear fit-bit type fitness trackers, as long as they are able to do so without being distracted by checking it or by the desire to get their number of steps up outside of break times! As with all watches, pupils are required to take them off for PE/games (in order to prevent injury or damage to the watch) and they should be able to take responsibility for them independently. We will, of course, take reasonable steps to help the children do so, but are unable to accept responsibility should items be lost or damaged.
- All those with long hair should ensure that it is tied back for all lessons, preferably with an elastic hair band drawing it completely away from the face. Long hair that is not yet shoulder length and will not stay in an elastic hair band, should be held back with an Alice band. All hair bands should be plain in appearance; black, green or of a colour consistent with colour of the hair.

Healthy Snacks

Children in Reception and Key Stage 1 all receive free fruit or vegetable snacks as part of the government scheme. This is often consumed in the classroom as part of the morning timetable and to ensure they practise good food hygiene skills and enjoy the social aspect of eating.

In Key Stage 2, pupils are encouraged to bring a healthy snack to school for their break time. This should be fresh fruit or vegetable or bread sticks. We are unable to allow processed fruit chews or similar, as these often contain added sugar or other added ingredients that contain allergens.

Music Matters

Next half-term we have our annual community concert. This very popular evening showcases the musical talent of our Year 3 to 6 pupils in a relaxed setting. Everyone who learns in school with Mrs Walton, Mrs Lewis Lim and Mr Morcher will be taking part alongside our school orchestra and choir. There will also be a limited number of solo spots. If you would like your child to perform a solo, group instrumental or vocal piece, please email the office detailing their name, instrument and piece. More information about how to book tickets will be available nearer the event and FOHBS will be running a bar on the night.

We have also had some contact from St Alban's Cathedral, who are looking for boy choristers from Years 3 to 5, to join their choir. If you would like to find out more about this, please email lizzie.smyth@stalbanscathedral.org or call Lizzie on 01727 890245.

Attendance

Sycamore Class have the best overall attendance in school for the academic year so far, with 98.9%. Their attendance for Spring 1 was 98.5% and so was just pipped to the post by Pine Class, whose attendance for Spring 1 only was 98.9%. The best attendance for Reception and Key Stage 1 was Hazel Class who have 98.3% for the year to date and for Spring 1 on its own. Congratulations to all of them!

Street Party

There will be an information session for any residents interested in organising a Summer Street Party in 2019 at the Harpenden Arms from 10:30 to 11:30am on Tuesday 5 March.

WANTED – Wooded Pallets

The Gardening club are looking for wooden pallets. Should you have any, please contact the school office.

Sporting Success!

Congratulations to our football and netball teams, all of whom have enjoyed some notable recent victories. Sophie and Nathan report on the football and Mary and Aliza, the netball below.

On Wednesday 6 February, High Beeches football team played Markyate and won 6-0. After lots of shots, the ball finally found the net and afterwards, the shots just kept going with beautiful passes from the keeper, defenders, the midfielders and the strikers. Altogether the team (Will, will, Meg, Nathan, Sophie, Max, Zach, Ollie, Oliver and Tom) played beautifully thanks to brilliant coaching. The squad exceeded expectations and acted like a new team!

On Monday 11 February, the netball squad had two excellent matches against the Lea at home. The A Team won 6-2. At half-time, the score was 2-0 to us and by the end Mary had scored 5 and Raphaëlle had score 1.

The B Team, captained by Aliza, also had a wonderful match, winning 3-1. By half-time, they were also 2-0 up, both goals having been scored by Darcey. They continued to shine and Clara scored a further goal. Hopefully the squad's run of good luck will continue into more wins in the future.

Diary Dates

- 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
- 7 March – World Book Day, *The Day the Crayons Quit*
- 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