



Weekly Newsletter

1 March 2019

Making learning an adventure

Our school value for this half-term is responsibility.



Dear Parents/Carers

This week the Reception children enjoyed a Lego workshop (pictured above) on Tuesday morning, where they were challenged to construct houses and other buildings to specific dimensions, and had to work together to construct a town of their own. This was an opportunity to develop skills in a number of different areas of learning, including maths, physical development and communication and language.

On the same day a group of Year 6 pupils enjoyed an engaging Young Writers' Day at Aldwickbury School and our netball teams played St Nicholas School on Wednesday afternoon. See sports report below.

Next week the netball A team play Beech Hyde School and a group of Year 6 pupils will be participating in Saracens rugby tournament at Harpenden Rugby Club. Additionally, some Year 5 mathematicians will be taking part in a maths master class at Aldwickbury School.

Lastly, don't forget that World Book Day takes place next Thursday and we will be having a creative curriculum day based around the story *The Day the Crayons Quit*. Pupils are invited to dress as a coloured crayon or can simply come as their favourite story character. We do hope that this does not create too much pressure for parents and hope it will make the day more enjoyable and engaging for the children!

I am planning a number of parent coffee mornings during this half-term and next to meet informally with parents (see diary dates). Any parent wishing to attend should let the school office know during the week of the event, so that we can have idea of numbers to prepare for. I also look forward to seeing parents at the consultation evenings next week, where I will be available, where possible, for any parents who have not yet met me or those wishing to talk to me on a more individual basis.

Yours faithfully

Jonathan Walker Headteacher

Staying Safe Online

www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-47393510

You may well have seen recent media coverage concerning the new *Momo* Challenge. It appears that much of the coverage about this has been hoax or hype and it may not have been responsible for a number of teenaged suicides in South America and Asia, as was originally reported. See link to BBC News.

However, I have seen some of the images, circulating on Youtube (spliced into a Peppa Pig video) and Facebook and they are in themselves distressing for children (and adults!). We have had reports of children at school telling others that 'Mom is going to kill them' and, easy as this is to dismiss as an adult, this can be genuinely distressing for children. We would therefore remind all parents, carers and children to be vigilant and to take steps to avoid seeing such images online. Please talk to your child about this and, if they are aware of these images, help explain how and why they are safe.

It is recommended that parents/carers:

- ✓ Enable the privacy settings on all apps and games young people are using
- ✓ Disable live locations settings
- ✓ Ensure children understand the importance of not talking to or sharing personal information with anyone they do not know

Headteacher Awards

Congratulations to the following children for their achievements this week.

- **Reception Oak Class** Teddy – for being a kind and supportive friend in the classroom
William – for working really hard in Phonics
- **Reception Chestnut Class** Izzy – for challenging herself in her Writing
Callum – for being a kind and supportive friend
- **Year 1 Elm Class** Olivia – for her lovely ideas in English this week
Theo – for putting lots of effort into all his work
- **Year 1 Cedar Class** Taaha – for working hard to write rhyming couplets
Milla - for showing responsibility in her approach to learning
- **Year 2 Hazel Class** Harry – for consistent hard work in Maths
Freya – for always trying her best and being an excellent role-model
- **Year 2 Willow Class** Erin – for using her value of responsibility in her approach to Maths
Jodie – for using her value of responsibility in her approach to Maths
- **Year 3 Birch Class** Alex B – for working really hard in class
Ella – for being will to challenge herself
- **Year 3 Redwood Class** Xavi – for showing enthusiasm for our new topic
Rayan M – for taking responsibility for his learning
- **Year 4 Maple Class** Alfie – for taking a responsible attitude to his learning
Scarlett – for showing an excellent growth mindset in Maths
- **Year 4 Pine Class** Beatrix – for continuing to take responsibility for all her learning
Aya – for continuing to take responsibility for all his learning
- **Year 5 Ash Class** Izzy – for taking a risk in Maths and making progress
Isla – for showing responsibility in her learning in Maths and English
- **Year 5 Hawthorn Class** Alastair – for showing enthusiasm for our new topic
Tom – for enjoying his learning
- **Year 6 Sycamore Class** Raphaelle – taking responsibility for her own learning in all subjects by listening carefully and always working hard
Joseph – for working hard to improve his writing

Sporting Success!

Congratulations to our netball teams, who continue their unbroken run of victories: Sophie and Darcey report below:

On Wednesday 27 February, High beeches had an astonishing victory against St Nicholas School. The A Team won 5-0 with Mary scoring 4 goals and Raphaelle scoring 1, all made possible by excellent teamwork from the whole team from defence to attack. Also the B Team put another victory in the bag, winning 7-1! Darcey scored 4 and Sam scored 3 with help from the tireless energy in midfield and attack.

Defences in both teams were strong, only letting in 1 goal altogether and we would add that midfield sent beautiful passes across the court. So far neither of our netball teams have lost a game and we hope it stays that way for the rest of the season! Teams are as follows:

A Team		B Team	
Emma	Goal Keeper	Aliza	Goal Keeper
Anna	Goal Defence	John	Goal Defence
Annabel	Wing Defence	Joanne	Wing Defence
Sophie	Centre	Isla	Centre
Daisy	Wing Attack	Louisa & Catlin	Wing Attack
Mary	Goal Attack	Sam	Goal Attack
Raphaelle	Goal Shooter	Darcey	Goal Shooter

FoHBS News

Infant Movie Night is tonight - pick up time is 5pm from your child's classroom.

The **Infant and Junior Disco** invitations were sent out via e-mail this week. **They will take place on Friday 29th March.** We are continuing to implement our new payment system (Ticket Tailor) which seems to be working well so far. If you don't have a paypal account you can still use this system - choose to 'check out as a guest' and you will then be directed to a card payment page. Please do let us know if there are any problems.

Information about the **Midsummer Ball on Friday June 21st** and table forms will be sent out early next week. The initial table plans (Strictly a maximum of 10 per table) will be done the old fashioned way, i.e. on paper and a list of people on each table and each table will need a host name. Once we have the tables and host names we can then set everything up to purchase tickets online, this saves the table host having to collect money from everyone or submitting a cheque for the whole table. You will also be able to make your menu choices when the tickets are purchased....so the table hosts are also relieved of this duty!

Thanks as always for your continued support.

Further Information and Reminders

Attendance

Congratulations to Elm Class who have 100% attendance this week.

Requests for absence

Please remember to attach your appointment letter when requesting leave of absence for any appointments.

We are not able to authorise absence for family holidays, but should parents need to request leave to travel abroad for a one-off special event, this may sometimes be possible. Any parents wishing to apply for such leave should make an appointment to see the headteacher and should complete the leave of absence form, outlining what the event is, when it is and how you are related to the people involved.

Communicating with Class Teachers

Teachers are not available to see parents first thing in the morning. This is because of the staggered start operated at High Beeches where children may arrive any time between 8:45 and 8:55. When they arrive, the children are expected to undertake a quiet task, linked to their recent learning, in class and this needs to be supervised by their teachers who can support them as required before starting the timetabled day promptly. This helps the children to get into *learning* mode for the day ahead and is an opportunity to practise key skills before lessons begin.

Teachers are generally available to talk to parents informally at the end of the day and can be contacted via the teacher email address where parents wish to pass on information that may be of use to them in supporting their child's learning: teachers@highbeeches.herts.sch.uk

Uniform

Please make sure all uniform including coats, shoes, scarves, etc are named. We have a huge pile of lost property, please check this on a regular basis as at the end of this term ie 5th April any property that isn't named will be disposed of. We do not have the space to store all these items.

Also, can we please remind you that earrings are not allowed to be worn in school by infant children? Junior children should only wear small, plain studs which must be removed for all PE and swimming lessons.

Parking

We have had further complaints this week from our neighbours about dangerous parking. Please park considerately and should use our designated carpark at the bowls club in Waldegrave Park only a few yards from school. Please also note that there should be no parking in the staff car park between the hours of 8.15am and 4.30pm. The entry and exit gates should be used appropriately to avoid any collision.

Diary Dates

- 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
- **15 March – Comic Relief, Red Nose Day, mufti and cake sale. See letter from School Council.**
- **15 March, 9am to 9:30am – Headteacher Coffee Morning for KS2 (Years3 to 6) Parents**
- 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, 9am to 9:30am – Headteacher Coffee Morning for KS1 (Year 1 and 2) Parents**
- 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

Hertfordshire Teacher Recruitment Fairs 2019

At [Teach in Herts](#) (managed by [Herts for Learning](#)), we work on behalf of over 525 Hertfordshire shareholding schools to raise the profile of our job search website on which schools can manage all of their school vacancies. Applying for posts advertised on Teach in Herts means that schools do not have to pay agency fees to recruit their staff. Encouraging people to career change in to teaching or to consider teaching as their first career is a vital part of our work and we would like you and your extended family and friends to support us in getting the word out about our next events.

The Teacher Recruitment Jobs Fairs taking place in 2019 are for experienced teachers looking for teaching jobs in Hertfordshire, those looking to secure their first NQT teaching post or those looking for support and advice to return to teaching; delegates will be able to meet schools with vacancies face to face. There will also be an opportunity to meet teaching schools and university training providers face to face for an informal discussion about starting or changing in to a career in teaching. There will be a series of workshops which support each of these groups. Attached with this message is a flyer and further information can be found on our Teacher Recruitment Events pages along with a link for delegates to book on to each one of the remaining 2019 events.

To register for either of the events please click on the correct link below:

[Teacher Recruitment Jobs Fair at Letchworth - Saturday 23rd March 2019 9:30am – 1:00pm](#)

Location: Fearnhill School, Icknield Way West, Letchworth, SG6 4BA

Delegate registration survey - <http://bit.ly/TRF23rdMarch>

[Teacher Recruitment Jobs Fair at Cheshunt - Saturday 11th May 2019 9:30am – 1:00pm](#)

Location: Goffs-Churchgate Academy, College Road, Cheshunt, EN8 9LY

Delegate registration survey - <http://bit.ly/TRF11thMay>